

RELICS OF REDEMPTION

Written by
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Based on the novel
Relics of Redemption

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FADE IN

We open on a black screen

TEXT TYPES ON SCREEN

Not Every Relic that is above all doubt must be false.....Hippolyte Delehay

SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPH SHOTS (STOCK MATERIAL): Sudarium of Oviedo, Shroud of Turin, The True Cross.

CUT TO BLACK

EXT. STREET ACROSS FROM CATHEDRAL OF SAN SALVADOR, OVIEDO, SPAIN - NIGHT

A light mist falls to the ground. The Cathedral of San Salvador displays ornate spires of architectural styles, from Pre-Romanesque to Baroque, including Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance parts. It's bell tower over five stories tall.

Standing in the shadows across in an alley way VINCENT D'AMICO, thirty-something, long hair, dressed in black. His gloved hands open a blueprint of the entire of the cathedral. His earpiece cracks to life with the voice of NATALIA, twenty-something, Russian beauty, long black hair in pony tail.

NATALIA (V.O.)
(whispering) Vincent, we're in position. The guards are on their rounds, and the cameras are down. It's now or never.

INT. CATHEDRAL ENTRANCE-NIGHT

Vincent leaves the shadows and approaches the massive bronze doors. He moves deeper into the cathedral. Candles provide illumination. Near the entrance to the inner chamber where the Sudarium is located, he meets ELARA, short female pink hair, master locksmith, twenty-something, thin, nerd-looking, and ANDREI, tech genius, twenty-something, short hair, tall.

MONK (V.O.)
Who goes there?

Everyone freezes in position staring in the direction of the voice. A robed figure comes out of the shadows. A standoff takes place.

Natalia, hidden in the shadows, takes out her silenced .22 caliber semi-auto and fires one shot hitting the monk in the forehead killing him. Vincent and his team advance towards large bronze door the leads to the inner sanctum where the relic is stored.

INT. DOOR LEADING TO SANCTUM-NIGHT

The group stand in front of a large bronze door to the room containing an ark that holds the Sudarium.

ELARA

This should only take a few seconds.

She inserts a set of specific crafted tools into the locking mechanism on the exterior of door. Vincent and the others can hear the tumblers fall in place. The door groans as it opens.

INT. INNER SANCTUM-NIGHT

Candles light up the room. There in the middle is the large golden ark 4' by 6' by 4'. Andrei heads to the security panel on the wall. He begins to dismantle the alarm. Natalie waits for the all clear.

ANDREI

Alarm is off. It is all yours.

In one graceful motion, a gloved Natalia leaps onto the pedestal and gentle twist the doom release. She then reaches in and secures the relic. Vincent looks at it while she holds it.

VINCENT

Excellent.

INT. JEANNIE'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

JEANNIE LOOMIS, blond, attractive, 5'8", 125, snaps open her eyes and is greeted by a throbbing in her temples. She massages them but it does not help. She throws her comforter and sheet and turns to her clock reading 4:10 a.m.

JEANNIE

Ugh.

She tries to go back to sleep but tosses and turns. She kicks her covers off and gets out of bed wearing his SF 49ers t-shirt and gray sweatpants.

INT.DINING ROOM - DAYBREAK

Her aquarium lamp where her koi swam, provides enough light to feed her fish and stare at them. She walks to her dining window and looks outside at her Japanese garden with a large outdoor koi pond with large waterfall. As she sat, her headache seemed to get worse. She rubs her temples.

EXT. CASTLE NORTHERN SPAIN- DAY

The colossal stone castle took over the entire summit of the mountain.

INT. CASTLE STAIRCASE - DAY

Vincent descends the staircase to the dungeon. Gas-fed lamps resembling torches are mounted on the wall illuminating the stairs. He arrives at a metal door and enters a code into a key pad. A rush of air escapes as he opens the door. There, on display is the Sudarium of Oviedo.

VINCENT

You are going to make me a lot of money.

His voice echoes in the large stoned room as he studies the relic.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

What do people see in you? Advanced deterioration marked by symmetrically arranged yet imageless dark flecks. This is supposed to be the image of Christ face after being taken down from the cross? Sorry. I don't see it.

INT. JEANNIE'S KITCHEN-DAY

Jeannie pours herself a cup of coffee and place some sausage links in her fry pan. As she moved the sausage around, her head begins to spin and a wave of dizziness overcomes her. She holds on to the kitchen counter for balance.

JEANNIE

You know, maybe you're starting to get migraines. You're not getting any younger. Note to self: schedule an appointment with the doctor on Monday.

INT. FRONT ROOM- DAY

Jeannie sits on her couch and turns on the television. Newsmax is presenting a story.

FEMALE REPORTER

In a breaking announcement today, a Vatican representative confirmed the theft of the Sudarium of Oviedo, the cloth believed to have been used to cover the face of Jesus, from the Cathedral of San Salvador in Oviedo, Spain. Details surrounding the theft, including any involvement of Italian authorities, have not been disclosed by the Vatican at this time. We will stay tuned to this developing story for further updates.

JEANNIE

Huh. I remember studying about those holy relics. The Sudarium, the Shroud of Turin, and the True cross. I bet it is a private collector who couldn't wait to have possession of the holy relic. Probably on the black market already.

She laid down on the couch due to her headache and tried to take a nap. She woke with the hum of her cellphone. Caller ID showed Ismail Flores.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Good morning, Ace. How's everything with you and the family on this sunny Saturday?

ISMAIL FLORES, forty-something, male pattern baldness, mustach.

ISMAIL

(laughing)Well, aren't you in a bright mood today? What's the occasion? Did you have a scintillating date last night? Is the charming gentleman still lingering around?

JEANNIE

Oh my goodness, Ismail. You won't believe it.

(MORE)

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

He was like a real-life superhero, a towering figure of a man. The moment I laid eyes on him he took my breath away. And when we went to bed, oh my God!(laughing)

Pause

You've got it all figured out, huh? But you're wrong. I did consider driving home after work, taking a relaxing shower, donning my comfy pajamas, and settling in front of the TV. You didn't mention the delivery of my pizza.

ISMAIL

Alright, alright. The reason I'm calling is because the wifey wants to invite you over for dinner tonight. She's whipping up some mouthwatering shredded beef enchiladas, chili rellenos, and to cap it all off, she's baked by all-time favorite devil's food chocolate cake paired with Rocky Road ice cream. Sound tempting?

JEANNIE

Oh my God. That menu sounds irresistible. Let her know that if I can shake this headache, I'll be there with bells on.

ISMAIL

Hey, boss. I couldn't help but notice that you've been having these headaches quite frequently. You know, as a highly trained FBI agent, I've honed my skills in observing subtle nuances in human behavior, and I thought it was worth mentioning.

JEANNIE

Yes, Inspector Clouseau, I'm well aware of my headaches, and I've already made a mental note to call my doctor on Monday to schedule an appointment. I wouldn't be surprised if she tells me it's stress-related, given the demands of collaborating with a highly trained FBI agent. So, 5 p.m.

(MORE)

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

it is. Would she like me to bring something?

ISMAIL

Nah. Just yourself. She you this evening.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH- NIGHT

Jeannie attends mass as is drawn to the homily where her priest examines the Gospel of John.

PRIEST

An he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head.

JEANNIE (V.O.)

Huh. He is talking about the finding of the Sudarium and the Shroud of Turin. What are the odds?

INT. ISMAIL'S DINING ROOM-NIGHT

Jeannie is sitting at the dining room table surrounded by Ismail's children all excited about "Aunt Jeannie" being present. Jeannie gives each of them a gift.

ISMAIL

Hey! What about me?

Ismail's wife, forty-something, black hair in bun.

ISMAIL'S WIFE

I'm sorry Jeannie. My husband is such a big baby.

JEANNIE

(laughing) Oh, you don't have to remind me.

Jeannie turns towards Ismail.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Hey, buddy, this is for you and the entire family.

She hands him a vanilla folder.

ISMAIL

What is it?

JEANNIE

I thought you said you were a highly-trained FBI agent. May I suggest you open it to find out?

Laughter fills the room. Ismail opens the folder and finds a picture of Jeannie's beach home in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and airplane tickets. Ismail looks puzzled.

ISMAIL

Whose house is this? Man, look at the view of the ocean from inside the house.

JEANNIE

Look, Ace. You're long overdue for a vacation. Those plane tickets to and from Myrtle Beach are your escape. My house is right on the beach.

Ismail's family gathers around him looking at the picture of the house, all excited.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Once you and the family arrive, I've arranged for an Uber driver to pick you up and drive you to the house.

ISMAII'S WIFE

Wouldn't it be better if we just rented a car at the airport?

JEANNIE

No need. I have a car at the house, waiting for you to use. There should be a picture in there of the car.

Ismail pulls out a picture of a sleek new Porsche.

ISMAIL'S OLDEST CHILDREN

I want to drive it. No me.

Everyone laughs. Ismail pulls out a smaller envelope and opens it. He is still puzzled.

JEANNIE

You're not such a great investigator after all. Inside you'll find tickets to the Pirate Voyage Dinner Show, the Alligator Experience, Ripley's Hollywood wax museum and Aquarium, a Dolphin Cruise, and the largest water park in South Carolina.

Yells screams of excitement fill the room. Jeannie smiles.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

And since it is going to be hot in Myrtle Beach, I've arranged for you and the family to enjoy parasailing, jet skis and a thrilling ride on a banana boat.

She turns to Ismail's wife.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Make sure you takes pictures of Ismail on the banana boat. I want it for my office.

More laughter.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Once you tell me the date of your arrival, I will make the necessary calls and have all the events lined up for you.

Ismail's wife starts to cry while his children provide small talk about the events they will partake in.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Let it be known that, here and now, in the presence of your entire family, I'm issuing a directive. You have seven days to submit your vacation date preferences to me so I can facilitate the necessary arrangements. Consider it a mandate.

Ismail still in shock has a huge smile on his face.

ISMAIL

Yes, boss lady. I'll handle that during our breakfast tomorrow and you can expect it on your desk bright and early Monday morning.

INT. RESTAURANT ITALY BACKROOM - DAY

La Pergo Restaurant perched on a hill overlooks the Eternal City. Three Cardinals wearing traditional garments are sitting at a table.

CARDINAL RODGER McCORMICK, sixty-something, sits with CARDINAL AGOSTINO VALLINI, seventy-something, and CARDINAL FRANCIS MAHONEY, sixty-something.

CARDINAL VALLINI
(whispering) I received a communication earl this morning, informing me that the Sudarium is now in our possession. The party expects payment within one week.

He turns to Cardinal Mahoney.

CARDINAL VALLINI (CONT'D)
I believe it falls upon you to transport the funds to Spain.

Cardinal Mahoney nods.

CARDINAL MAHONEY
This will not be an issue. However, have we determined the appropriate location to house the relic once the transaction is complete and I hav taken possession of it?

He looks at the other Cardinals.

CARDINAL MCCORMICK
Indeed, we have a plan in place. You will convey the Sudarium to Father Paul at the Church of Santa Maria de le Corte. He is prepared to receive you and has a secure facility ready to ensure the relic's meticulous care.

CARDINAL MAHONEY
Do you believe it is wise to place the sacred relic so close to the very place from which it was stolen?

Cardinal Vallini leans in, a sly smile on his face.

CARDINAL VALLINI

What better place than right under the vigilant eyes of the Italian police and the Vatican security force? It's the last location they would suspect. Let them guard the vaults and archives while we maintain our grip on the prize.

He raises his wine glass and makes a salute.

CARDINAL VALLINI (CONT'D)

To the new Catholic Church.

The three cling their glasses together.

INT. JEANNIE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jeannie wakes to a bout of vertigo and the headache. She finishes dressing while holding on to her dresser. She proceeds downstairs.

INT. JEANNIE'S KITCHEN-DAY

She struggles to eat an English muffin and cup of coffee. She feeds her fish and walks to the garage.

JEANNIE

Come on girl. Just make it to work and hopefully the headache will pass.

Stuck in traffic she calls her doctor's office to set up an appointment.

PHONE RECEPTIONIST (V.O.)

Dr. Shelby's office. Can I help you?

JEANNIE

Hello, this is Jeannie Loomis. I have been battling server headaches and would love to set up an appointment with Dr. Shelby when she has an opening.

PHONE RECEPTIONIST (V.O.)

Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. Let me take a look.

Pause

PHONE RECEPTIONIST (V.O.)

She just received a cancellation
and I can get you in at 2 p.m.
today, if you are available.

INT. FBI BREAK ROOM-DAY

Jeannie makes her way to the break room where she runs into her supervisor, SAC (Special Agent in Charge) LOMAX, sixty-something, heavy set.

LOMAX

Good morning. How was your weekend?

JEANNIE

Uneventful. I was nursing a
terrible headache most of the time.
I have an appointment today at 2
p.m. with my doctor so I will be
heading out early.

LOMAX

My wife experiences migraines
occasionally. She mentions seeing
spots in her vision when she closes
her eyes, and over-the-counter
drugs don't provide much relief. Her
doctor prescribed some medication
to take when she feels a migraine
coming on. Perhaps your doctor will
offer a similar solution.

JEANNIE

Hell, I hope so. I was up for most
of the night. I'm hoping that once
I immerse myself in my work, the
headache will dissipate on its own.

LOMAX

(frowning) Well, if it doesn't
improve, I want you to take it easy
and leave the office. There's
nothing here that's so urgent we
can't manage without you.

INT. STRETCH LIMO - DAY

A stretch limo was waiting for Cardinal Mahoney at the Asturias airport. From the backseat of the limo after a long drive, Vincent's castle came into view. Cardinal Mahoney was in awe of the craftsmanship of the castle.

INT. CASTLE-DAY

As Cardinal Mahoney enters the huge castle carrying a large suitcase. He is welcomed by Natalia. He is struck by her beauty.

NATALIA
Please follow me.

They make their way through the castle until they reach a large library. Vincent rose from his desk. Behind him is a large salt water aquarium.

VINCENT
Thank you Natalia.

She turns and leaves the Cardinal with Vincent. He gestures for the Cardinal to take a seat opposite him. He gazes at the Cardinal.

CARDINAL MAHONEY
I have brought the agreed upon sum
for the relic. Would you like me to
place it on your desk for
inspection?

Vincent leans back in his chair with an expression of authority.

VINCENT
No need for that, Cardinal Mahoney.
A man of your stature and standing
with the Catholic Church wouldn't
risk tainting your reputation.
Imagine the scandal it would cause
if it ever came to light that you
and your fellow Cardinals
orchestrated the Sudarium's theft.

An imposing muscle-bound male figure enters and promptly picks up the suitcase and disappears as silently as he arrived.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
Now, before we proceed to the
Sudarium, I believe you and your
fellow Cardinals have the authority
to negotiate the next holy relic's
retrieval, correct?

He stares at Cardinal Mahoney making him uncomfortable.

CARDINAL MAHONEY

Yes, we have reached an agreement regarding your price for acquiring the next sacred artifact. Do you have an approximate timeline for its retrieval?

A sardonic smile is on Vincent's face.

VINCENT

The endeavor requires meticulous planning that takes time, but rest assured, you shall have the article before Easter. A fitting timeline, wouldn't you say?

(Pause)

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Now, let us lay our eyes upon the cherished cloth that you and your fellow conspirators covet so dearly.

Cardinal Mahoney follows Vincent to a long spiral staircase that leads to a dark dungeon.

INT. DUNGEON STAIRCASE-DAY

As the pair make their way to the bottom of the staircase, Vincent continues to brag.

VINCENT

I selected this underground chamber precisely for its utility. It allows me to maintain precise control over the humidity and environmental conditions required to safeguard the relic. It's already been placed within a suitable container, designed to preserve the specific conditions until you can secure it at a more permanent location.

They arrive at the base of the staircase.

INT. DUNGEON-DAY

Cardinal Mahoney stares at the Sudarium in the center of the room and makes the sign of the cross.

Vincent gestures towards a chair directly in front of the relic.

VINCENT

I've taken the liberty of sitting here several times since coming into possession of the Sudarium, and honestly, I fail to see what all the fuss is about.

(pause)

VINCENT (CONT'D)

To my eyes, it appears to be nothing more than a piece of deteriorating fabric, adorned with what could be bloodstains but might as well be fading red paint. Yet, if the faithful continue to place their unwavering trust in it and are willing to compensate me generously for the retrieval of the next relic, then, by all means, be my guest.

Cardinal Mahoney did not reply. The muscular male reappears and after receiving a nod from Vincent, picks up the relic and motions for the Cardinal to follow. Cardinal Mahoney turns halfway up the stairs to reply to Vincent but he was nowhere to be seen.

INT. FBI HALLWAY-DAY

Ismail sees Jeannie preparing to leave for the day.

ISMAIL

Hey, boss lady. I hope the doctor can work some magic and get your some relief from that pesky headache.

JEANNIE

Thanks, buddy. If you need to reach me for anything while I'm out, don't hesitate to call.

ISMAIL

Well, I mean, if you decide to take a couple of weeks off, I can start moving my things back into your office.

JEANNIE

Not going to happen, Ace. Besides, you and the family have that getaway to Myrtle Beach coming up in a few weeks. Don't forget or your wife might just skin you alive.

She waves as she departs.

INT. DOCTOR'S EXAMINATION ROOM -DAY

Jeannie is sitting when DR. PAM SHELBY, fifty-something, gray and black hair, wearing lab coat enters.

DR. SHELBY

Hello, Jeannie. How's my favorite secret agent doing today?

JEANNIE

Hello Pam. It's always nice to see you. I've been dealing with some rather bothersome headaches that come and go. I try over-the-counter meds, but they only provide minimal relief.

Dr. Shelby begins her examination.

DR. SELBY

Have you had any recent head injuries of bumps?

She takes Jeannie's blood pressure.

JEANNIE

Not that I recall.

DR. SELBY

Well, your blood pressure is slightly elevated but it's still within the normal range, so I can rule out hypertension. Have you been more stressed than usual?

JEANNIE

No, actually my workload has been relatively low. It's almost as if it's the calm before the storm.

Dr. Shelby processes Jeannie's response.

DR. SELBY

Hmm. You're probably already aware, but migraines can cause severe throbbing pain or a pulsing sensation, usually concentrated on one side of the head. They often come with nausea, vomiting, and extreme sensitivity to light and sound. Some attacks can last for hours to days, and the pain can be so intense that it interferes with your daily activities. Have you been experiencing any of these symptoms?

Jeannie nods.

JEANNIE

Yes, and sometimes I feel lightheaded with a touch of vertigo.

DR. SELBY

Has anyone in your family ever had migraines?

Jeannie takes a moment to reflect on the question.

JEANNIE

My stepmom did experience hours of vertigo and the occasional headache, but I don't recall her describing them as migraines.

DR. SELBY

What about your biological mother?

JEANNIE

Well as I've told you before, I never had the chance to meet or get to know my mom. In fact, I didn't even discover her existence until after her passing.

(pause)

DR. SELBY

Understood. For now, I'm going to prescribe a mild dose of Migranal, a nasal spray that is most effective when taken shortly after the onset of migraine symptoms. It tends to provide relief for a little longer than 24 hours.

(MORE)

DR. SELBY (CONT'D)

Now there could be some side effects such as vomiting and nausea but that should pass as your body gets use to the medication.

JEANNIE

Thank you.

DR. SELBY

Additionally, I'll going to prescribe Maxalt-MLT pills, which work to block pain pathways in the brain. Take these twice a day. I want to see you in two weeks. Do you still use the same pharmacy we have on record?

Jeannie stands and almost loses her balance. Once steadied she looks at Dr. Shelby.

JEANNIE

Yes. That would be great. I'll head over there now and wait for them to get it ready. Thank you.

INT. CASTLE LIBRARY-NIGHT

Vincent D'Amico has his crew in the library. Once they take a seat, he lowers a screen covering the large aquarium and turns on his laptop.

VINCENT

Alright, gang. Let's begin. This is our next target.

A picture of the Shroud of Turin is displayed on the screen.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

This is the Shroud of Turin. For you non-believers, it is supposed to be the burial cloth of Jesus after he was taken down from the cross. As you can see, there appears to be an image of a person who suffered a tremendous amount of violence.

NATALIA

I'm not sure what I'm looking at.

Vincent stands behind his desk.

VINCENT

Picture a long sheet maybe 15 feet long and 3 feet across. We place a bloody body on it and then take the opposite end and pull it over the corpse.

He picks up a laser and points to two areas of the Shroud.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

This area here is the back of the individual, and this is the front.

NATALIA

Okay. Now I see it.

The others in the group nod in agreement.

ANDREI

So how did the image get on the cloth. I mean, I can understand a bloody body being placed on a sheet will leave blood but how could a person's face and outline of his body be absorbed by the cloth?

VINCENT

Great question, and if you didn't play video games all the time my tech genius, you would have recently heard that scientists around the world have now come to the conclusion, that the only way the image you are looking at could have been placed on the Shroud, was due to a blast of radiation that we are incapable of reproducing.

ANDREI

Wow! That's far out man.

VINCENT

I digress. We must acknowledge that the security surrounding this relic is, without doubt, as sophisticated, if not more so, than that of the Sudarium.

The crew exchange glances with each other. Vincent retrieves several sealed envelopes from his desk drawer having the individual names of his crew on the front.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Ladies and gentlemen, as we've done in the past, these envelopes contain your respective missions. Each one of you, except Natalia, has a window of ten days to meticulously devise and finalize your plan.

He turns to Natalia.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Natalia, as in our previous endeavors, your charm and finesse will be key to gaining invaluable insights that are otherwise unattainable. You've been granted a more generous timeframe of 21 days to work your magic and secure the information we need.

Vincent looks at his crew before continuing.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

The value of this theft far exceeds that of the Sudarium, but it's imperative to note that, following our last operation's resounding success, the Catholic Church is likely to have bolstered its security measures considerably. This challenge won't be a walk in the park. Alright. Let's get started. Natalia, if you would be so kind and stay behind.

Members leave with the final member closing the door leaving Natalia stays behind.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Natalia.

Natalia does not say anything but walks behind the desk towards Vincent will slowly undoing the buttons on her blouse.

INT. VATICAN CHAMBERS- DAY

Nine Cardinals, the Council of Nine) occupy imposing chairs flanked by eight trusted advisors and a secretary waiting the arrival of Pope Francis. The Pope enters.

POPE FRANCIS

As all of you are undoubtedly aware, several days ago, audacious transgressors infiltrated the sacred confines of the temple that safeguarded the revered Sudarium. Our security forces have been collaborating with Spanish law enforcement authorities in the wake of this grievous incident. Regrettably, as of today, the ongoing investigation has not yielded any significant insights into the identity of those who orchestrated this brazen theft.

CARDINAL RODRIGUES, seventy-something in tradition garb raises his hand and receives a nod from the Pope.

CARDINAL RODRIGUES

Your Holiness, might it be possible that those responsible for the theft were motivated by opposition to the transformative reforms you've been tirelessly championing with the Church? There are traditionalists among us who fervently resist those changes and may see the Sudarium as a symbol of the Church's sacred traditions. They might view its theft as an act of defiance, an attempt to undermine your progressive agenda.

The Pope considers the cardinal's words.

POPE FRANCIS

Your observation is astute, Cardinal Rodriguez. The resistance to our reforms has been palpable, and some individuals may, indeed, resort to desperate measures to oppose them. However, let us not forget the more pragmatic possibility. The prospect of financial gain, the allure of a substantial reward from the Church or other interested parties, could be a powerful incentive for those with less noble intentions.

INT. FBI HALLWAY-DAY

Jeannie rubbing her brow, enters the building and immediately runs into Ismail.

ISMAIL

About time you showed up. Now I have to cancel the moving crew who were all set to deliver my hot tub to your office.

JEANNIE

Well, Ismail, you better watch out. All those donuts and hot tub sessions might add a few inches to your waistline, and that handsome Portuguese physique you keep bragging about could go to pot.

Ismail laughs and studies Jeannie.

ISMAIL

No offense, boss, but you look tired as hell. Did you get any sleep last night? I did tell you to send the guy home early so you could catch some much needed rest.

JEANNIE

(sighs)Oh, it's quite heartwarming to have someone looking out for me. As a matter of fact, I had another headache attack throughout the night.Unfortunately, It's still too early for the meds I got from my doctor to take effect. Thank you very much buddy for caring, now get to work.

She heads to the breakroom but the smell of coffee makes her nauseous so she turns and goes to the bathroom where she splashes water on her face.

INT. BATHROOM-DAY

She steadies herself using the counter and places a cold compress on her forehead. Feel better she returns to the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY-DAY

She walks towards her secretary's desk and gets dizzy, placing her hand on the desk.

ISMAIL

Are you okay?

He places his hand on her shoulder and she grabs it for support.

JEANNIE

Yeah. Thanks. It's that damn headache.

Lomax enters.

LOMAX

What's happening?

ISMAIL

Jeannie's having a little dizzy spell. Her doctor prescribed some medication but it hasn't kicked in yet.

Jeannie regains her balance.

JEANNIE

I'll be okay; I just need to sit down in my office.

LOMAX

No, you're not, young lady. Ismail, take Jeannie home. Find Darcy and have her follow you i Jeannie's car. Jeannie, I want you to take the rest of the week off. Those are my orders.

He looks at Ismail.

LOMAX (CONT'D)

I'll stay here with Jeannie.

JEANNIE

I'm sorry. It is just a damn headache.

LOMAX

Nonsense. When my wife gets hit with a migraine, it takes hours, sometimes days, to bounce back.

(MORE)

LOMAX (CONT'D)

Go home, lay on the couch with a cold compress, and follow the doctor's orders.

Ismail arrives with DARCY, thirty-something, nerdy looking.

DARCY

Jeannie, are you okay?

Jeannie smiles.

JEANNIE

Just a darn headache. The boss says I need to go home. Sorry to take you away from your work.

ISMAIL

There's nothing to be sorry about especially since I will get to drive your Ferrari.

DARCY

Hey, why can't I drive the Ferrari?

INT. OFFICE- DAY

SEAN DELANEY, forty-something, dressed in suit, British accent knocks on the door. DIRECTOR, fifty-something, wearing suit calls out.

DIRECTOR

Come in.

He sees Delaney.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Good morning, Delaney

DELANEY

Good morning, Sir.

Delaney takes a seat opposite the director who is sitting behind his desk.

DIRECTOR

Your handling of the Chinese bioweapons specialist was nothing short of impressive. The explosion you orchestrated at his research facility was a stroke of brilliance.

(MORE)

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

You not only eliminated the target,
but you also wiped out the
biohazard materials and all of his
research.

DELANEY

Thank you, Sir.

(pause)

DIRECTOR

Are you a religious man, Delaney?

Delaney squirms in his seat, off balance from the question.

DELANEY

I believe in God, but I'm not
affiliated with any particular
church or denomination. May I ask
why you're inquiring?

The director does not answer.

DIRECTOR

What do you know about the
Sudarium, the relic that is said to
have covered the face of Jesus
after he was taken down from the
cross?

Delaney's eyebrows furrow.

DELANEY

The Sudarium of Oviedo. I've heard
it mentioned in historical and
religious contexts.

DIRECTOR

(nods) Some claim that it bears the
image, imprinted during that
fateful moment of his passion and
crucifixion.

DELANEY

I've heard the cloth has been
subject to extensive research and
debate, both from scientific and
religious perspectives. Some
consider it an important relic with
significant historical and
spiritual significance.

The director leans forward and displays a slight smile.

DIRECTOR

It has, and this cloth holds a special place in the mission you're about to undertake, Delaney. Your unique background and perspective might prove invaluable. You're being tasked with a mission that combines history, faith, and secrecy.

(pause)

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Several days ago, a shocking incident occurred. The Sudarium was stolen from its revered location in Spain.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

(nodding) The Cathedral of San Salvador, in Oviedo, Spain.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

What?

DEAL

That's the place where the Sudarium was safeguarded, to the best of my recollection.

DIRECTOR

Oh, yes, the cathedral in Spain, indeed.

He lights his pipe before continuing.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

When the Sudarium was first taken, the National Police Agency in Spain undertook a discreet investigation, striving to maintain an air of confidentiality. However, the gravity of the situation unfolded. The Vatican's formidable security force, renowned for its unyielding commitment to safeguarding religious artifacts and historical relics, asserted jurisdiction over the case.

DELANEY

I understand.

DIRECTOR

In a somewhat unexpected turn of events, the Vatican's security force then reached out to your former agency, Interpol, extending an invitation for their collaborative expertise. Their belief is that the culprits behind the theft will ultimately aim to sell this relic to the highest bidder.

Delaney processes what the director has just relayed.

DELANEY

I assume they haven't identified any suspects or received any ransom demands at this point?

DIRECTOR

You're correct on both counts. Your flight to Spain is scheduled in three hours. Good luck, Delaney.

The director begins to light his pipe again signaling the meeting is over. Delaney leaves his office.

INT. DINING ROOM-DAY

Jeannie is sitting at her dining room table with a cold compress on her forehead as she waits for a call from Dr. Shelby. The phone rings. Caller ID indicated it is the doctor.

JEANNIE

Hello, Pam. Sorry to bother you but it has been three days on the new meds and the headaches seem to be getting worse.

DR. SELBY (V.O.)

I'm sorry to hear that Jeannie. I've pulled a few strings and if you are available I would like you to see Dr. Goldsmith, an outstanding neurologist tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. Before your appointment, I've scheduled an MRI at 2:15 today in Fremont. Can you make both appointments?

INT. MRI OFFICE -DAY

Jeannie enters the MRI devise and hears the hums of the machine through the earphones.

INT. VINCENT'S LIBRARY - NIGHT

Everyone is present except Natalia. Vincent has lowered the screen behind his desk and has a slide showing the Shroud of Turin. He looks at his crew.

VINCENT

Let me paint the picture for you. The Shroud of Turin is no ordinary artifact. It's a fragile treasure, meticulously safeguarded in a highly secure environment. This irreplaceable relic resides beneath lays of laminated bulletproof glass encased in an airtight chamber.

He stares at his crew.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

The conditions within this chamber are precisely controlled, maintaining a consistent temperature and humidity. I won't bore you with the atmosphere it must be contained in but it is essential to preserve the cloth's integrity. The Shroud rests on an aluminum support that can slide on runners and it's stored flat within a secure case. Any questions so far?

He looked at everyone. No one had any questions.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Understand that security for the Shroud of Turin is exceedingly tight. It is rarely unveiled to the public eye, and when it is, it's under the vigilant watch of security cameras and more layers of bulletproof glass.

Vincent laughs and then regains his composure.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

A significant security challenge arose in 1997 when a fire broke out in the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist. Firefighters had to breach four layers of bulletproof glass to protect the Shroud, underscoring the lengths taken to safeguard it.

He pauses.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Due to its extremely delicate state, it remains hidden from public view except during very infrequent public exhibitions. The most recent public viewing was in 2015 and drew millions of visitors. There are not current plans to show it at this time.

He looks at everyone again.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

This is why we are heavily reliant on Natalia's insider access to gain more critical information before we can proceed. I wanted to provide you all with this update to make it clear just what challenges we face on this mission. Alright, let's get back to work.

EXT. CATHEDRAL OF SAN SALVADO-DAY

Delaney stood across the street from the cathedral that had safeguarded the Sudarium prior to its theft. He approached the front door and knocks. A priest dressed in traditional clothing answers.

DELANEY

Hello, Father. I'm Agent Richard Trotter of Interpol. I'm here to meet with Father Marino.

FATHER MARINO—sixty something, smiles and nods.

FATHER MARINO

Good morning, Agent Trotter. I'm Father Marino. We have been anticipating your arrival. Please come in.

INT. ENTRANCE HALL-DAY

Delaney admires the decor of the vast cathedral while walking with Fr. Marino. They reach the chamber that once held the Sudarium. There to greet them is FATHER RICCI, seventy-something wearing traditional priest clothing.

FATHER MARINO

This is Father Ricci. Father, meet
Interpol Agent Trotter.

Fr. Ricci rises from his seat and extends hand to Delaney.

FATHER RICCI

I hope your journey to Oviedo was
without incident.

He directs Delaney to a chair opposite him and the three sit.

DELANEY

Yes, fortunately, my arrival
allowed me the rest of the day to
explore the city, and I must say, I
was thoroughly impressed.

(pause)

DELANEY (CONT'D)

So, could you both enlighten me on
what transpired? I understand
you've recounted the events before,
but I've often found that with
time, certain details that may have
been overlooked tend to resurface.

Before Fr. Ricci or Fr. Marino replied, a tall, slender gentleman with jet-black, slicked back hair enters the room. His gazes fixes on Delaney. Delaney rises to his feet and the two exchange handshakes.

ANTONIO MORETTI

I'm Antonio Moretti (forty
something, wearing a blue suit and
tie). I represent the Vatican
security force in the investigation
of the Sudarium theft and the
unfortunate murder of Father
Marchetti. It brings me great
satisfaction to learn that Inter
pol is now collaborating with us in
this crucial inquiry.

DELANEY

Pleasure to make your acquaintance.

The two share a cordial smile.

DELANEY (CONT'D)

As I've discussed with Fr. Marino and Fr. Ricci, I understand that Interpol has entered the investigation at a late state, and numerous interviews have already been conducted. However, I believe it's beneficial for everyone to undergo a reinterview. With the passage of time, certain details that may have eluded discovery early on tend to come to light.

ANTONIO MORETTI

I agree.

He turns his attention to Fr. Marino.

ANTONIO MORETTI (CONT'D)

Maybe, Father, we could arrange for some refreshments.

Without uttering a word, Mr. Marino stands and exits.

ANTONIO MORETTI (CONT'D)

Now, how would you prefer to proceed?

He returns with a serving tray with coffee and pastries. The three indulge. Finishing his pastry, Delaney begins.

DELANEY

So, who would like to kick things off by sharing when the crime was first discovered? Once I have that foundation, I can chart the course for the rest of my inquiry.

The two Fathers exchange glances, agreeing that Fr. Ricci would be the first to comment.

FATHER RICCI

It was around 5 p.m. when I started my routine walk from my bedroom to the cathedral, as I've been doing since my assignment from the Vatican. I immediately spotted Fr. Marchetti lying on the floor.

Fr. Ricci makes the sign of the Cross before continuing.

FATHER RICCI (CONT'D)

At first I thought he might have taken a fall, but then I noticed the pool of blood beneath his head and his fixed stare. I called out for assistance and Father Marino arrived. While he examined Fr. Marchetti, I went to the room where the Sudarium is stored and discovered it missing.

(pause)

FATHER RICCI (CONT'D)

I called the local police department and immediately notified the Vatican.

DELANEY

I understand. Thank you. Now, my next set of questions may delve into some uncomfortable territory, and I appreciate having you here, Mr. Moretti, representing the Vatican security force. I'll be focusing on the security measures that were in effect leading up to the Sudarium's theft.

Both Fathers seemed to be uneasy and looked at Moretti.

ANTONIO MORETTI

Agent Trotter, my directive comes directly from the Holy Father himself, and it is to offer you any necessary information and assistance to facilitate the retrieval of the holy relic. Perhaps, as a starting point, a tour of the cathedral, beginning in the room where it was normally housed, would be beneficial. We can then elaborate on the various security systems that were in place.

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY

Jeannie sat in the examination room waiting for the arrival of Dr. Goldsmith. She sits on an examination table. Dr.GOLDSMITH, fifty-something, bald, wearing lab coat.

DR. GOLDSMITH
Hello, Ms. Loomis. I'm Dr.
Goldsmith. Nice to meet you.

He places his reading glasses dangling on a string to his brow and looks over some notes on a clipboard.

DR. GOLDSMITH (CONT'D)
Dr. Shelby indicated that you have been experiencing a series of debilitating headaches and that the prescribed medication isn't bringing relief.

JEANNIE
Yes. They've become less frequent taking the meds, but the pain is excruciating when they strike.

DR. GOLDSMITH
I see. I have to tell you this is a first for me treating a highly decorated FBI agent.

JEANNIE
Well, I'll take that as a compliment, doctor, but this FBI agent is starting to feel the weight of aging.

They both chuckle. Dr. Goldsmith's demeanor turns stark.

DR. GOLDSMITH
Ms. Loomis..

Jeannie intervenes.

JEANNIE
Please, Doctor, call me, Jeannie.

DR. GOLDSMITH
Jeannie it is. Do you have anyone here with you today?

JEANNIE
No, are you planning additional test? If so, I could arrange for an Uber driver to take me home and return for my car later.

DR. GOLDSMITH
No, that won't be necessary, Jeannie.

(MORE)

DR. GOLDSMITH (CONT'D)

Unfortunately, your MRI scan has revealed the presence of a tumor in your temporal lobe.

He raises the scan and points to a circle he has drawn around the ominous mass. Jeannie studies the scan.

JEANNIE

(nervous) And the prognosis?

DR. GOLDSMITH

Well, I prefer not to make assumptions. We'll need to conduct a biopsy to determine the nature of the tumor.

JEANNIE

(apprehensive) A biopsy? That sounds quite serious, Doctor.

DR. GOLDSMITH

We've made significant advancements in biopsy procedures. You will be under general anesthesia and it should take less than an hour.

JEANNIE

When can we arrange for the procedure?

DR. GOLDSMITH

I'll have my scheduling nurse prioritize your appointment and get you in as soon as possible. I'd like to add one more medication to what Dr. Shelby has already prescribed. While this won't cure the tumor, it should provide relief for the pain, vertigo, and other symptoms you're experiencing until we proceed with the necessary intervention.

INT. SUDARIUM CHAMBER-DAY

DELANEY

Thank you for the very comprehensive review of the security system in place at the time of the theft.

ANTONIO MORETTI

Have you formulated any thoughts about the theft, Agent Trotter.

(pause)

DELANEY

Due to the sophistication of your security system, I've come to a troubling deduction: there had to be an insider, someone intimately familiar with the cathedral's defenses. I think the murder of Fr. Marchetti was an obstacle that the thief or thieves had not anticipated, but that was immediately resolved with his killing.

No one spoke for several seconds until Delaney continues.

DELANEY (CONT'D)

Mr. Moretti. I can't help but wonder about the level of sophistication displayed in this theft. The security measures are state-of-the-art. So again, it begs the question: was there someone in the inside assisting them? I need the names of all those who has the knowledge of the inner workings of the cathedral and the security system.

The two priests stare at Moretti who seems to be deciding what to share.

ANTONIO MORETTI

Agent Trotter, the Vatican, based on my investigation, aligns with your premise. Regrettably, it appears that someone from within the cathedral was involved in the theft of the Sudarium. What I'm about to share I hope remains in confidence.

DELANEY

Understood.

ANTONIO MORETTI

We have diligently working to identify the individual or individuals responsible.

(MORE)

ANTONIO MORETTI (CONT'D)

The name that surfaced as the most prominent is Brother Giuseppe Renaldi. He held a position within the cathedral that granted him access to the inner workings and security protocols.

DELANEY

(excited) And where is this Brother Renaldi?

ANTONIO MORETTI

Unfortunately, he has vanished without a trace since the theft, making our efforts to locate him challenging.

INT. WAITING ROOM MRI BUILDING-DAY

Jeannie in a wheel chair arrives in the waiting room where an Uber driver, posing as Jeannie's brother, opened the car door allowing her to enter.

UBER DRIVER

How did it go if you don't mind my asking?

JEANNIE

As well as it could I guess. I won't know the results for a few days.

INT. FBI HALLWAY-DAY

Jeannie is greeted by those in the hallway when she gets off the elevator to her floor. She makes her way to her office where, on cue, Ismail shows up bearing a cup of coffee and a chocolate donut.

ISMAIL

I figure you need to keep up your strength since you're getting old and everything.

JEANNIE

(smiling) Your bedside manner sucks, but thanks a ton for the coffee and refreshments. Now, spill the beans on the diamond heist in Burlingame. Any progress? Have you ruled out the security officer?

ISMAIL

Yeah, they all submitted to polygraphs and passed with flying colors. I'm leaning toward the theory that it's an inside job, perhaps an insurance rip-off.

JEANNIE

Huh.

She takes a bite of the donut and sip of coffee.

ISMAIL

So, boss, how are the headaches? You know, a stiff drink of Portuguese red wine might just do the trick.

Before Jeannie to reply, SAC Lomax enters.

LOMAX

I assume you're feeling better?

JEANNIE

Much better, thanks. Now, how's the transfer of Agent Ismail Flores to Fairbanks, Alaska going?

ISMAIL

(smiling) I'm right here.

LOMAX

Not going to happen. They're looking for a much younger agent.

Ismail chuckles.

LOMAX (CONT'D)

Since you're both present, I must bring to your attention that the State Department has specifically sought your collaboration with Interpol on a case pertaining to the theft of a highly significant religious relic.

JEANNIE

The Sudarium?

LOMAX

The very same. Are you acquainted with this relic?

JEANNIE

Yes, I took several art history classes during my undergraduate studies, and relics such as the Sudarium, the Shroud of Turin, and the True Cross always held a captivating fascination for me.

ISMAIL

Sorry, I don't know any of the items Jeannie just mentioned.

LOMAX

When you start getting older, your memory is one of the first things you lose.

ISMAIL

Very funny. So, we need to check in with Interpol?

LOMAX

Interestingly, the Vatican specifically requested you two for this task. I don't have all the particulars yet, but I just got off the phone with Washington, and you are to head to the Interpol office as soon as possible. There you'll be briefed on the details.

JEANNIE

The Vatican? I can see the connection between the Vatican and Interpol, but how did Ismail and I get dragged into this?

LOMAX

I wish I had more information for you, but I'm sure Interpol has more background on how this came about.

INT. CASTLE LIBRARY-NIGHT

Vincent assembles his team this time including Natalia.

VINCENT

In 24-hours we leave for Italy. For the past several weeks, Natalia has been using her captivating charm to seduce the main person responsible for the Shroud's security.

He flashes a picture of an individual on the screen behind his desk using his laptop.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Natalia, if you would do use the honor.

Natalia stood and walked up along side of Vincent.

NATALIA

This is James Hartfield, the security expert that has intimate knowledge of the protective measures surrounding the revered Shroud of Turin. I first met him as he was giving a lecture on the history of the Shroud. He verified that the cloth is protected by layers of bulletproof glass.

On cue, Vincent advances to the next slide.

NATALIA (CONT'D)

The glass is reinforced with cutting-edge polymer composite, layered to withstand even the most advanced attempts at intrusion. Access points are limited and guarded by state-of-the-art biometric scanners. It's a fortress, really.

ELARA

So that's it? We can't steal it?

Vincent looks up at Natalia and the two exchange a glance.

NATALIA

No. James does not hold his liquor well. Or, perhaps it was the drug I introduced into his drink.

Everyone laughs.

NATALIA (CONT'D)

He forgot to log off on his iPad which held the secrets we need to pull off the theft.

Vincent smiles and advances through several slides, each showing codes and the procedure to turn off all of the security measures.

NATALIA (CONT'D)

So, there we have it. Everything we need including the schedule of the guards that patrol the area.

INT. HOTEL ROOM -NIGHT

Delaney lays on his hotel bed, looking at the ceiling. His cellphone begins to vibrate. Caller ID shows his supervisor.

DELANEY

Good evening, Sir. I was about ready to call you to see if my suggestion about bringing Agents Loomis and Flores into the case has been approved.

DIRECTOR

The Pope has agreed that both agents assist in the investigation. They have been instructed to reach out to your old agency in San Francisco, likely today or tomorrow. Now, on a more pressing matter, we've managed to triangulate the location of your missing Brother Giuseppe Renaldi. It seems he's on the run but has halted in Tuscany. I'll send you the coordinates. Happy hunting.

INT.INTERPOL OFFICE - DAY

Jeannie and Ismail step into the receptionist's area of the Interpol office. Jeannie seems lost in thought.

ISMAIL

Hey, boss, you with me?

JEANNIE

Huh? Yeah. Sorry. Just remembering the last time we were here. You know. Sean and everything.

ISMAIL

Yeah, I know what you mean. I miss 007, too. He was a great guy. I wonder if the new director here or whatever they all the branch supervisor at an Interpol office, will have refreshments?

JEANNIE

(laughing) You just had coffee and donuts at the bureau, and you're already hungry again?

ISMAIL

Hey, what can I say? When you have a finely tuned body like I have, you must keep providing it with energy.

She shakes her head trying to dispel an oncoming headache.

ISMAIL (CONT'D)

You going to be okay?

The receptionist area was empty until a young female entered the room.

RECEPTIONIST

Hello. Can I help you?

JEANNIE

Yes. I'm Agent Loomis and this is Agent Flores from the FBI. We have an appointment.

RECEPTIONIST

Oh, yes. Mr. Evans is expecting you. Please, follow me.

INT. EVAN'S OFFICE-DAY

When they entered they saw MR. EVANS, fifty-something, tall lanky, graying hair who rises when they enter. He extends a welcoming hand.

MR. EVANS

Agents Loomis and Flores, how nice to meet you. Please, have a seat. I'm so glad you could break free from your investigations to assist Interpol. Would you care for some coffee or tea? I believe we also have some scones.

ISMAIL

That would b great. Coffee for me, and I'd love a scone.

Jeannie shoots him an evil eye. Ismail smiles.

JEANNIE

Yes, I'd also love some coffee,
than you.

Mr. Evans calls out to his receptionist.

MR. EVANS

Florence, could you please get some
refreshments for our guests?

Florence nods and leaves the office.

MR. EVANS (CONT'D)

Well, I must say that your
reputations precede you, even in
the Vatican. The request Interpol
received from Rome was quite
impressive.

Jeannie leans forward, her curiosity piqued.

JEANNIE

Mr. Evan, I'm sorry, but Agent
Flores and I were only told of the
Vatican's request and that of
Interpol through our supervisor,
SAC Lomax, who is just as much in
the dark as we are. Could you
possibly bring us up to speed?

MR. EVANS

Oh, quite so. I'm sorry. I just
assumed you had already received
that background on the case we are
investigating.

The office door opens and Florence enters pushing a serving
cart laden with coffee, tea, cups, saucers, sugar and cream,
plus a bowl of scones.

MR. EVANS (CONT'D)

Thank you, Florence. Please,
agents, help yourselves while I get
my file.

Ismail is the first on at the card and receives a stern look
from Jeannie. Mr. Evans opens a file on his desk and starts
off after Jeannie and Ismail are reseated.

MR. EVANS (CONT'D)

I assume you are aware of the
recent theft of the Sudarium from a
cathedral in Oviedo, Spain?

JEANNIE

Yes, I have been following the news concerning the theft. My supervisor did tell us your agency is requesting the FBI to assist in the investigation, but I am still unclear why we were specifically named.

Mr. Evans pulls out of letter from his file.

MR. EVANS

Perhaps this will enlighten you.

He hands letter to Jeannie who see the official Vatican gold letterhead and the signature of a Cardinal Kosina. Jeannie reads the letter to herself as Ismail goes back for a second cup of coffee and another scone.

ISMAIL

So, what does it say?

JEANNIE

Well, I'll paraphrase. Apparently, the Vatican received a note addressed to the director of Interpol who, in turn, received an email suggesting that we should be involved in the investigation due to my knowledge of holy relics. The original email implies that the best chance of recovering the Sudarium and returning it to the church lies in our assistance.

Jeannie turns and faces Mr. Evans.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Do you have a copy of the email sent to the Chief of Interpol?

Mr. Evan looks inside his folder and retrieves a document.

MR. EVANS

Here you go.

Jeannie, with Ismail looking over her shoulder, scrutinizes the email. She looks at Ismail.

JEANNIE

Does this email address look strange?

ISMAIL

Sure does. It looks like some of the dead-end drops that Darcy and Burk find during a paper chase.

He looks at Mr. Evans who seems lost.

ISMAIL (CONT'D)

When organized crime sets up offshore accounts and communicates, they usually route their emails through multiple servers, making them challenging to trace. This seems similar.

JEANNIE

Yes, but the way it's written also resembles those emails Lomax received when we were chasing down the missing Hitler clone.

She turns to Mr. Evans.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Would it be possible to obtain a copy of your entire case file as well as this email?

MR. EVANS

Certainly, I'll get Florence on it right away.

Mr. Evans rises and leaves the room with his file. Ismail makes another run on the coffee and scone tray.

JEANNIE

God, I can't take you anywhere, can I?

Mr. Evans returns.

MR. EVANS

I just learned from a call from your supervisor, that the two of you are requested to fly to Rome and meet with Cardinal Kosina. They are expecting you in a few days.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP-DAY

Vincent and his crew and having coffee at a table across the street from the Cathedral of John the Baptist.

VINCENT

That is where our prize is. As you can see, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist is a relatively simple place compared to many of Italy's major cathedrals.

His team, while sipping coffee or tea look at the facade of the cathedral. No one speaks.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Much of the original building suffered damage from a 16th century fire, leading to extensive restoration. The Shroud of Turin was removed and is now stored in a large, expanded wing situated behind a large altar under where you see the bell tower.

The team continues to look at the structure.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Thanks to Natalia, we now have the information needed for a successful operation. However, As always, be prepared for any unanticipated obstacles that may arise.

INT. SAC LOMAX'S OFFICE-DAY

Jeannie and Ismail check in with Lomax.

SAC LOMAX

I had a brief phone conversation with Interpol who told me you two were on your way back here. I have this gut feeling again that someone is using us as puppets. Your assumption about the anonymous email bouncing around so much that it can't be traced to its source is spot on. Someone is pulling the strings behind the scenes, manipulating not just our government but also Interpol and the Vatican.

(pause)

SAC LOMAX (CONT'D)

Get your plane tickets and take the rest of the day off to be with family. Cover each other's asses, and that's an order.

INT. PLANE-DAY

Ismail and Jeannie are sitting next to each other waiting for their plane to Rome to take off.

ISMAIL

You know, you told me to take a nice long vacation after you blew the wifey and me away with such a generous gift at Christmas. Now look, I'm flying to Rome. Maybe, if we have time, we can visit where the gladiators fought.

JEANNIE

You dummy. I meant a non-work-related vacation with your wife and kids. You were supposed to fly to Myrtle Beach, enjoy my beach house, and take in the attractions. Instead, I'm stuck with you for God knows how long.

Ismail keeps a straight face.

ISMAIL

Hey, where would the Lone Ranger be without his Tonto? Or Batman without his Robin?

JEANNIE

Or Wile Coyote without the Roadrunner?

Jeannie smiles.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

I'm going to try and take a nap. Wake me when they start serving dinner.

ISMAIL

You got it, bossy lady. I'm going to see what movies are on.

EXT. SAINT PETER'S SQUARE-DAY

ISMAIL

Jesus Christ. This place is huge.

JEANNIE

I suggest you don't use that language here, buddy.

Ismail flashes a sheepish grin.

ISMAIL

Well, I guess even the big guy upstairs would be impressed with this setup. Can't blame me for being a little awestruck.

JEANNIE

Fair enough. Just keep the reverence intact. We're not here on vacation, you know.

ISMAIL

As if I could forget. But hey, a little banter helps lighten the mood. Keeps us on our toes.

JEANNIE

True. But let's save the irreverence for when we're not standing in the heart of the Vatican. I don't want any lightning bolts striking us down.

ISMAIL

Agreed. Lightning bolts and secret missions don't mix well. Now, let's try to find our way around this maze of holy grandeur.

Ismail looks at the ceiling and his surroundings and is amazed.

ISMAIL (CONT'D)

So, boss, you're the practicing Catholic. Tell me about this place and what I can expect inside. How do I refer to everyone?

JEANNIE

We're standing in St. Peter's Square.

(MORE)

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Look straight ahead, and you've got St. Peter's Basilica, the Pope's official hangout here in Rome.

ISMAIL

So that's were the Pope does his thing? And who are all these statues supposed to represent on the top of the roof?

JEANNIE

(laughing) Am I your personal tour guide now? I don't have all the 140 names memorized, you know. But sure, there's John the Baptist, Christ the Redeemer, St. Andrew, St. James...and the list goes on.

ISMAIL

Wow, boss, you've got this down pat. Color me impressed. No wonder they requested you to help on the investigation.

JEANNIE

Thanks for the compliment. Now, if we have time, we could head over there to the right and visit the Sistine Chapel by Michelangelo. It is mind blowing.

INT. BASILICA-DAY

Ismail is once again amazed at the size of the interior and the decor.

ISMAIL

Good Lord. I've seen this place in the movies, but a guy could genuinely get lost in here, even with my stellar investigative skills.

JEANNIE

I'm starting to wonder if the Pope has a psychiatrist on standby for you while we're in Vatican City.

They made their way to an area where tourist seemed to be gathering and a priest, FR. PAUL RICARDO, thirty-something, in priest gown, approaches them.

FATHER PAUL RICARDO
Hello, I'm Fr. Paul Marino. Are you
Agents Loomis and Flores?

JEANNIE
Yes, we are.

Ismail is curious.

ISMAIL
How did you pick us out in the
crowd?

Without directly answering, Fr. Ricardo gestures to the
ceiling where Jeannie and Ismail see surveillance cameras.

FATHER PAUL RICARDO
Interpol sent us your pictures, and
facial identification alerted us to
your presence. Please follow me.
Cardinal Kosina is waiting.

INT. PRIVATE ELEVATOR-DAY

The trio boards a private elevator and travels to the second
floor, where they exit.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY-DAY

ISMAIL
This place is like a labyrinth of
hallways.

FATHER PAUL RICARDO
Tell me about it. I've been here
for three years, and I still catch
myself getting lost now and then.
The basement is a whole other story-
it's reputed to be a maze I've
never dared to venture into.

ISMAIL
There's a basement too? What do
they stash down there?

FATHER PAUL RICARDO
The treasured Tomb of St. Peter,
one of Jesus Christ's twelve
apostles, is buried under St.
Peter's Basilica. It's been an
important historical and religious
burial site since the 1st century.

ISMAIL

So, you're telling me the real deal, St. Peter's body, is right beneath us.

Jeannie smiles at Ismail curiosity.

FATHER PAUL RICARDO

Yes. St. Peter is considered the first official Pope of Christendom.

They arrive at an office door.

FATHER PAUL RICARDO (CONT'D)

Here we are.

He knocks before opening inviting Jeannie and Ismail to enter. CARDINAL KOSINA, seventy-something, wearing Cardinal clothing, rises from his seat behind a desk.

CARDINAL KOSINA

Agents Loomis and Flores. On behalf of the Holy Father, we thank you for coming to Vatican City to aid us in our investigation of the theft of the Sudarium.

He motions for the two to take a set opposite him.

CARDINAL KOSINA (CONT'D)

Shall we get right down to it.

He pulls an email from a folder on his desk.

CARDINAL KOSINA (CONT'D)

Agent Loomis. Shortly following the theft of the Sudarium, an anonymous email reached us, emphasizing the urgency of involving you in the investigation. Any idea as to the identity of the individual who strongly recommended your inclusion?

JEANNIE

No, your Eminence. The FBI has diligently attempted to trace the origins of the email. However, the sender employed a sophisticated network of servers spread across the globe, intentionally obscuring the initial point of origin.

ISMAIL

Your Eminence, throughout out long flight, Jeannie and I meticulously analyzed the theft from various perspectives. Our conclusions consistently pointed to a critical factor-namely, that the perpetrator or perpetrators must have had access to significant insider information.

Cardinal Kovina takes a thoughtful pause.

CARDINAL KOSINA

You are astute in your assessments. Regrettably, we reached the same conclusion. It appears that the breach in our security emanated from within the cathedral. Someone with intimate knowledge divulged the intricate details of how to circumvent our elaborate security system.

He reaches into this file and pulls out a picture.

CARDINAL KOSINA (CONT'D)

Today we received yet another anonymous email. The sender seems to be a few steps ahead of our Vatican security team. According to the message, Brother Renaldi has been located and interrogated. He confessed to providing the valuable information to the thief.

He handed the picture and email to Jeannie who, after studying the picture, gave it to Ismail and begins reading the email aloud.

JEANNIE

To the esteemed hierarchy of the Holy Catholic Church. You need not further expend your valuable resources in the pursuit of Brother Renaldi. I have located him. He fell victim to blackmail and was coerced into divulging the details of the cathedral's security protecting the Sudarium. He played no direct role in the theft, only providing information. You will not see him again.

Jeannie stops and looks at Ismail before continuing

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

I assume that, by now, your investigative team includes FBI Agents Jeannie Loomis and Ismail Flores. Please provide them with the name 'Vincent.' I understand it's not much, but this person must be a master thief to execute such a daring heist. While concentrating on Vincent, I also suggest investing more effort in uncovering the motivation behind the theft. It's possible he is an art aficionado or acting as a middleman for a buyer. They will figure it out.

Jeannie passes the email to Ismail who glances at it with little interest since Jeannie had read it out loud.

Cardinal Kosina rises.

CARDINAL KOSINA

Let's take a brief respite before delving further. I understand your bodies might still be adjusting to the time change from your flight. Come, let's find repose by the fireplace.

As they sit near the fire, Ismail breaks the silence.

ISMAIL

Father, I mean, Your Eminence, we were informed that St. Peter is buried beneath the Basilica-his actual body.

Cardinal Kosina nods.

CARDINAL KOSINA

Yes, St. Peter's tomb is a sacred site beneath St. Peter's Basilica, encompassing several graves and a structure erected by Vatican authorities to commemorate the location of St. Peter's final resting place.

(pauses)

CARDINAL KOSINA (CONT'D)
Visits to the Tomb of St. Peter and the Necropolis are only permitted with special permission granted from time to time by the museum. If you wish, before your return to the United States, I can arrange for a comprehensive tour of the Vatican.

ISMAIL
That would be fantastic.

He turns to Jeannie and winks.

JEANNIE
Cardinal Kosina. As the anonymous email suggests, perhaps our focus should extend beyond Vincent. We should delve into potential motives behind the theft.

CARDINAL KOSINA
The Church entertains two plausible scenarios. The first, as the email writer alluded to, is that a singular thief or a group of thieves targeted the relic either for personal gain or with the intention to sell it to a collector.

(pause)

JEANNIE
And the other possibility?

Cardinal Kosina hesitates.

CARDINAL KOSINA
The other, more disquieting, possibility involves a schism within the Church itself. There's an internal struggle, a rift, and it pains me to say that traditionalists within our ranks may have played a role in this theft.

ISMAIL
I'm sorry. I don't follow. What schism are you referring to?

Jeannie was prepared to answer but Cardinal Kosina responds quickly.

CARDINAL KOSINA

Agent Flores, the Church has experienced a transformation of sorts, stemming from the contrasting beliefs of our current Pope Francis and the late Pope John Paul II, now Saint John Paul. Pope John Paul was a staunch traditionalist, his belief firmly anchored in biblical doctrine, while Pope Francis, hailing from a socialist background, embraces a more liberal perspective. This ideological dichotomy has resulted in a rift within the Church, akin to the divisions seen in your country.

JEANNIE

So, what you are alluding to? Are you suggesting that individuals within the hierarchy of the Catholic Church might be responsible for the theft of the Sudarium? And if so, what purpose could they possibly have in mind?

Cardinal does not answer quickly, processing what Jeannie has asked.

CARDINAL KOSINA

Agent Loomis, it's a distressing possibility but one we cannot dismiss outright. The schism within the Church, exacerbated by differing ideologies, has led to factions with varying degrees of allegiance to tradition and reform. Some individuals, disillusioned or motivated by their beliefs, may perceive the Sudarium as a symbol to be used for their cause.

ISMAIL

What cause would that be?

CARDINAL KOSINA

Whether it's to oppose the Church's current direction, to assert a particular interpretation of its doctrines, or for personal gain, the motives could be complex and multifaceted.

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT-DAY

Jeannie and Ismail regroup in the hotel restaurant.

JEANNIE

I reached out to both Lomax and Darcy, providing them with the updates from our conversation with Cardinal Kovina. Darcy seems determined and ready to take on the task of locating this supposed master theft, assuming he even exists. What are your thoughts on the motives Cardinal Kovina suggested the Church might be grappling with?

ISMAIL

Well, much like you, I can envision a skilled suspect or a group driven by the direct desire to steal the relic, possibly for personal gain or to hand it over to an art collector for a substantial sum. However, I believe the other potential motive warrants consideration, especially by someone who attends church regularly like you do. It's something I'm now contemplating after my experience inside the Vatican.

JEANNIE

Oh, my God. You're going to start going to church now. Just give me a heads-up, so if it happens to be the same church that I'm in, I can make a swift exit in case the roof decides to collapse when you walk in.

ISMAIL

Funny. Very funny. Aren't you supposed to be encouraging me?

Dinner is brought to their table and the two dine until Ismail asks a question.

ISMAIL (CONT'D)

So, as a practicing Catholic, how do you feel about all this schism stuff the Cardinal was talking about?

JEANNIE

There is a lot of truth in what he said and it could easily be a motive for the theft. The present divisions within the Church have deep political roots, mirroring a profound rift between Pope Francis and predominately Western Catholics. The tension has created a conspicuous divide within the Church's global community.

Ismail pauses before taking the matter on again.

ISMAIL

What do you think about your new Pope? Personally I don't care for him. I really like Pope John Paul.

JEANNIE

I have to admit, I'm not a fan. I thought his selection was a mistake. He aligns with a progressive socialist ideology, and I was concerned that he might try to inject that into a Church that thrived under the leadership of Pope John Paul.

ISMAIL

How did the fall out start?

JEANNIE

The schism started when the new Pope told parishes they could no longer hold Mass in Latin unless they received permission from their bishops. It continued with a decline in Catholics' engagement about the quality of the liturgy. Too progressive for many.

ISMAIL

And not you?

JEANNIE

Oh, yeah. He is too progressive for me, but I got to Mass where I interact with God, not the Pope. I guess you could say I tolerate him.

ISMAIL

Hum. Let's assume, for argument's sake, that a group of priests are upset with the Church. What good does stealing the Sudarium do for their cause?

Jeannie looks at Ismail as if lost in thought.

JEANNIE

To me, that is the missing piece. This anonymous email writer is on the right trail, I think. If we can discover the motive, we will be on the fast track to catching the suspect or suspects and retrieving the relic. Let's get some sleep. Hopefully, Darcy and Burk will come up with something tomorrow.

INT. JEANNIE'S HOTEL BEDROOM -DAY

Jeannie wakes and turns on her laptop. She finds several emails from Darcy and Burk, her IT experts. She reads the first.

JEANNIE

Vincent D'Amico. Described as an entrepreneur, and billionaire. He is known as a ruthless businessman likely inheriting old money. A playboy surrounded by an entourage of stunning women wherever he goes.

She finds an attachment showing a picture of Vincent. Talk, dark raven hair, sophisticated. Jeannie rubs her forehead feeling a headache coming on. She takes a few pills and attempts to continue with her reading, but the pain is too sever. She looks at her watch and determines that with the time difference, Dr.Goldsmith should be in his office. She makes the his office.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Hi, this is Jeannie Loomis. I found a text message from Dr. Goldsmith.

RECEPTIONIST (V.O.)

Yes, Ms. Loomis. I have a note her to immediately transfer your call to him directly. One moment.

(pause)

DR. GOLDSMITH (V.O.)

Hello, Jeannie. I'm afraid the biopsy indicates that you have gliosarcoma. I'd like to see you in my office as soon as possible and go over the results.

JEANNIE

Dr. Goldsmith. Currently I'm on a case in Italy so it will have to be after I return. But, I implore you not to sugarcoat anything. The mere name gliosarcoma is ominous enough.

Dr. Goldsmith hesitates before responding.

DR. GOLDSMITH (V.O.)

Jeannie, typically, I prefer to discuss these matters in person with the comforting confines of my office and ideally with the presence of a relative or close friend for support.

JEANNIE

I understand, Doctor, but given my current official duty here in Rome, that's just not possible right now. So, if you could, please be straightforward with me.

(pause)

DR. GOLDSMITH (V.O.)

I regret to inform you that gliosarcoma is currently incurable. Our treatment approach aims to manage and restrict the tumor's growth for as long as feasible. Typically, surgery to extract the tumor is the initial step, but due to the infiltration of healthy brain tissue, complete removal of all cancerous cells is often impossible.

Jeannie remains silent, her hand over her heart.

JEANNIE

How long can someone live with gliosarcoma?

Dr. Goldsmith answers compassionately.

DR. GOLDSMITH (V.O.)
 This high-grade malignant tumor carries a grim prognosis. The average survival time ranges from 4 to 18 months. However, it is exceptionally rare for it to exceed 4 months.

(pause)

JEANNIE
 What signs should I be on the lookout for as the cancer progresses?

DR. GOLDSMITH (V.O.)
 Hallucinations and, in some cases, psychosis. Loss of appetite, bouts of nausea, and, of course, worsening headaches.

JEANNIE
 How will I know I'm approaching the end of life?

Dr. Goldsmith clears his throat.

DR. GOLDSMITH (V.O.)
 In the final weeks, you may experience drowsiness or loss of consciousness. Lethargy, confusion, and a reversal of night and day may occur. These symptoms tend to intensify.

JEANNIE
 Well....I guess hospice is in my future.

Dr. Goldsmith does not immediately answer.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)
 I hope to be back in the States in a week or two and I will arrange to see you. Thank you doctor.

Jeannie hangs up and starts to cry. She lays on the bed. A short time later her hotel phone rings.

ISMAIL
 Hey, boss lady. You ready for breakfast? You think that since we are so close to Portugal, they might have linguica here?

JEANNIE

Give me 20 minutes and I will meet you in the hotel restaurant.

INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT-DAY

After placing their order, Jeannie gives Ismail an update from the emails she received from Burk and Darcy.

JEANNIE

Darcy and Burk have come up with this guy as a possible thief.

She hands a printout picture of Vincent D'Amico.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

My gut instinct strongly suggests that Mr. D'Amico is somehow linked to the theft. He's not only an art connoisseur but also possesses substantial wealth, appearing to be a thrill-seeker at heart.

Ismail studies the photograph while eating his breakfast.

ISMAIL

You okay, boss? You don't seem to be yourself. You haven't touched your food.

JEANNIE

It's the damn headaches. Kept me awake all night long. I have a follow-up appointment waiting for me when we get home.

INT. TURIN RESTAURANT-DAY.

Vincent and his team are having breakfast.

VINCENT

In just a few minutes, we'll make our move on the church. We're all familiar with the layout. Tim, disable the alarm system. Rafael, Thomas, get the Shroud ready for extraction. It's likely that Ruben and Samuel will also be needed to lift the relic. Natalia, as usual, hang back in case any unexpected obstacles arise.

Natalia raises her suppressed handgun.

NATALIA

I'm prepared for any obstacles that come our way.

VINCENT

Now, once we secure the Shroud, we backtrack to the waiting van where Miguel will be stationed. I'll provide the address for our destination. This part is a bit tricky. We lack intel on where the priests will meet us. We'll showcase the relic, but it stays in the van. After they make payment, Natalia and I will handle them. Then, we take a leisurely drive back to the castle. Alright, let's move out.

EXT.OVERLOOK OF VINCENT'S CASTLE-DAY

Jeannie and Ismail have their cab stop at an overlook where they can see Vincent's medieval castle.

ISMAIL

Damn, you're right. This guy must have some bucks. Look at the scale of this. It's like we've gone back to the Middle Ages. I would not be surprised to find knights covered in armor rushing out of the castle over that manmade moat, waving their swords.

They arrive at the front gate where they pulled a rope ringing a bell. After several attempts, no one answers.

ISMAIL (CONT'D)

Huh. Guess no one is at home.

Using her head motion, Jeannie shows two sets of surveillance cameras.

JEANNIE

Well, whether they are home or not, they know we are here.

They walk back to their waiting cab and leave.

INT. VINCENT'S VAN-NIGHT

Vincent receives an alert that someone was at the castle gate. He enlarges the video on his laptop showing Jeannie and Ismail and then hands the computer to Tim.

VINCENT

If possible, use your facial recognition software and see if you can identify these two individuals. I suspect they are law enforcement.

As Tim does as told, they arrive outside the Cathedral of Turin.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Remember, once we breach the cathedral, our destination is the chapel in the back. That's where the Shroud is kept.

EXT. OUTSIDE CATHEDRAL OF TURIN-NIGHT

They park the van in the shadows and exit. Vincent leads the way followed by Natalia. As they reach the front door, Natalia neutralizes the locking mechanism. The interior is aglow with candles. They enter. Vincent points to a picture on the wall. Tim removes it, revealing a large display panel. Tim pulls diagram from his pocket and manipulates several wires. He gives the thumb's up to Vincent. The team enters the chapel.

TIM

It's not here. The Shroud is not here.

VINCENT

Take it easy my friend. Remember, as I explained in my briefings, seeing the authentic Shroud of Turin isn't actually feasible. However, replicas and exhibits in the nearby museum effectively convey the Shroud's significance and unravel its mysteries. The actual relic is housed in this concealed space.

He gestures towards a section of the wall, deftly turning a hidden handle. The door opens, unveiling an interior room.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Our treasure lies within this climate-controlled enclosure in this specially constructed chapel. Due to its exceptionally fragile condition, the Shroud remains hidden from public views except during rare exhibitions.

The group stands transfixed at the sight of the Shroud.

THOMAS

Looks heavy with all those layers of glass.

VINCENT

Yes, and not just any glass, but bulletproof. Alright, let's stop staring and transport it to the van.

EXT. VAN-NIGHT

They carry the relic to the van and place it on a layer of foam rubber. Once secured they leave the area.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY-NIGHT

Ismail and Jeannie enter the lobby.

JEANNIE

Sorry, buddy, but I feel a headache coming on. I think I will skip dinner. Not hungry anyway. See you in the morning.

ISMAIL

What did your doctor say?

JEANNIE

He prescribed new pills, but they tend to make me drowsy. Why don't you grab dinner and go explore the city?

INT. JEANNIE'S HOTEL BEDROOM -NIGHT

Jeannie sits at a small desk and pulls some stationary out of her purse. She reviews her list speaking out loud.

JEANNIE

Make sure my will and living trust are up to date. Verify that all legal documents are correct to give Delores and Walter my house in Newark. My housekeeper gets the beach house in Myrtle Beach. Have her cremate my mom's cat when she passes. All assets go to Ismail and his family.

She starts to cry.

EXT. VINCENT'S CASTLE - NIGHT

Delaney, dressed in black, and wearing leather gloves, approaches the castle. Avoiding the front of the castle due to the surveillance cameras he goes around to the rear. He fires a grappling gun toward the summit of the castle wall. Once secure, he climbs. He heads to the center of the structure's interior. He finds Vincent's office/library and enters.

INT. VINCENT'S LIBRARY -NIGHT

Delaney enters the office as is amazed with the large saltwater aquarium behind the desk taking up the whole wall. Using a pen light, he examines documents of Vincent's desk. Scattered among the documents is a diagram of the interior of the Cathedral of San Salvador, Oviedo, Spain along with a printout of an alarm panel. He notices a hidden button on the underside of the desk and pushes it. A concealed door opens leading to a spiral staircase. Delaney cautiously climbs down the stairs.

DELANEY

I have to admit Mr. D'Amico, you really designed this castle down to the last details....hidden doors, hidden rooms, spiral staircase leading down to what looks like a dungeon. Well done, chap.

INT. DUNGEON-NIGHT

The main room looks like a dungeon with various replicas of torture machines. He notices a side door and enters.

INT. DUNGEON SIDE ROOM -NIGHT

He enters the room. Feeling secure this deep in the castle, he turns on the lights and the Sudarium on display. Next to the Sudarium, he comes face to face with the Shroud of Turin. He becomes transfixed facing the two Holy relics. His cellphone vibrates. Caller ID shows headquarters.

DELANEY'S SUPERVISOR (V.O.)
Delaney. Where are you?

DELANEY
Sir, I'm inside D'Amico's castle.

DELANEY'S SUPERVISOR
Well, finish up there. The Shroud of Turin has just been reported stolen.

DELANEY
Sir, I'm standing in a room where the Shroud of Turin and the Sudarium are on display.

DELANEY'S SUPERVISOR (V.O.)
What? What's that you say? Delaney, that is impossible. The theft of the Shroud of Turin was just discovered; how in the hell could it be in Spain? Get to it and report back as soon as you have anything.

The call ends abruptly. Delaney decides to take a closer look at the two relics.

DELANEY
How is this possible. I'm not an art expert, but these sure look like the genuine articles. Think Delaney. Think.

INT. VINCENT'S LIBRARY -NIGHT

Delaney returns to the library hoping to find anything that would solve the puzzle. He opens a side drawer to the desk and files a thick file.

DELANEY
What do we have here Vincent?

Numerous documents and correspondence are found about the use of artificial intelligence replicating a near-identical Shroud of Turin and the Sudarium.

INT.DUNGEON-NIGHT

He returns to the dungeon and closely examines the relics.

DELANEY

Bloody hell. The son-of-a-bitch has created an almost exact replica of the relics. But why? If D'Amico has successfully pilfered the genuine Shroud and Sudarium, what purpose could these counterfeits serve?

Before leaving the dungeon, Delaney affixes tracking devices to both of the fake relics.

INT.JEANNIE'S BEDROOM-DAY

Jeannie's slumber is interrupted by the ringing of her cellphone. Caller ID shows Ismail.

JEANNIE

What's up, Ace?

ISMAIL

You going to sleep he day away? I already ran with the bulls and got hit on by several senioritas.

JEANNIE

In your dreams. Where are you?

ISMAIL

I'm ready to grab some lunch. Interested?

JEANNIE

Yeah. I'll be right down.

As soon as she put her cellphone down, it went off again. She Did not recognize the number.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Loomis.

CARDINAL KOSINA

Agent Loomis, this is Cardinal Kosina. Add the theft of he Shroud of Turin to your investigation.

INT. LA PERGO RESTAURANT-DAY

Cardinal Rodger McCormick, Cardinal Vallini, and Cardinal Francis Mahoney sit in a corner booth.

CARDINAL MAHONEY

The Shroud has been successfully acquired. However, due to its considerable size, our procurer insists on a personal exchange and has chosen a location suitable for the transfer.

CARDINAL VALLINI

And where do they propose this exchange to take place?

CARDINAL MAHONEY

It is supposed to be a modest room, already outfitted with the necessary environmental controls the ensure the Shroud's safekeeping until we can make further arrangements.

CARDINAL VALLINI

What do you know about the owner of such a place?

CARDINAL MAHONEY

He is a devout believer and considers it an honor to assist us in this sacred endeavor to establish the New Church.

Silence fills the room until it is broken by Cardinal McCormick.

CARDINAL MCCORMICK

This meeting might be an opportune time to address the acquisition of the final relic-the True Cross. Have we reached a consensus on the payment we are willing to offer?

Cardinals Vallini and Mahoney nod in unison.

CARDINAL MCCORMICK (CONT'D)

Excellent. In the past week, I've maintained communication with Cardinals and Bishops in the United States, keeping them abreast of our progress in securing all three relics.

(MORE)

CARDINAL MCCORMICK (CONT'D)

The response from America has been overwhelmingly positive, with a robust enthusiasm for the establishment of the New Catholic Church.

EXT. OUTDOOR CAFE-DAY

Jeannie and Ismail are sitting at a table near the street enjoying a light lunch. Jeannie hardly eats her's.

ISMAIL

Did you watch any television last night? Specifically the local news?

JEANNIE

No. I just tossed and turned all night. Anything interesting?

ISMAIL

Strange actually. Last night, probably while the Shroud was being stolen, the news outlets aired recent scientific discoveries about the Shroud. For decades, people have tried to provide that the relic was a fake, yet no one can prove how it was done...you know, living the image on the cloth.

JEANNIE

Go on.

ISMAIL

Well, scientists from around the world have just discovered that a blast of radiation could only account for the image to be placed on the cloth. And get this. The radiation came from the inside of the cloth...meaning the part that was actually on the deceased.

JEANNIE

Wow, aren't you a walking Wikipedia? Please, professor, enlighten me further.

ISMAIL

(chuckling) Well, I do watch the History Channel.

(MORE)

ISMAIL (CONT'D)

I'm not all about sports and bathing suit competitions. Now, The blood on the Shroud is quite fascinating. It's of the rare AB negative type, yet there's a peculiar absence of the Y chromosome, indicating a sole maternal origin. Further analyses have revealed traces of extreme suffering, with heightened bilirubin levels and minute particles of sand near the ankle and injured knee bearing a distinct mineral combination exclusive to the path of Golgotha.

JEANNIE

(smiling) Gee, you should retire from the bureau and become an art professor. I bet people would beat down the door to get into your classroom.

ISMAIL

(grinning) Please, I'm on a roll here. Pollen examined from the Shroud are only found in and around Jerusalem, specifically produced around March-April. Examination Of the mouth area of the deceased found particles of vinegar. But what really got me, is that they compared blood samples from the Sudarium and the Shroud of Turin, and they match.

JEANNIE

So, you and I believe the same person was covered with the facial cloth and has their image on the Shroud?

ISMAIL

Exactly. It's like a napkin, and recent revelations suggest the Shroud isn't a funeral cloth but a tablecloth, possibly hurriedly acquired for Jesus' burial. Traditionally, in Israel, a person's book is buried with them.

JEANNIE

Well, my new believer, the Gospel of John hinted at the cloth covering Jesus' head being folded and laid aside in the stone tomb. Recent findings disclose that the carbon-dated sample originated from a corner of the Turin Shroud, placing the cloth to around 1400 AD was taken from a piece sown onto the garment after it was in a fire. When they retested an older area, it places the Shroud at the time of Christ.

ISMAIL

(excited) You know, the only hiccup is, well, we're still missing Jesus DNA to wrap it all up.

INT. JET CABIN-DAY

Jeannie and Ismail are sitting next to each other on a flight to Spain.

JEANNIE

I can't shake the feeling that we and the Vatican security detail are a few steps behind the elusive anonymous emailer who seems to be orchestrating this intricate puzzle.

Ismail looks out the plane's window before responding.

ISMAIL

Yeah. It sure seems reminiscent of those anonymous emails that played a crucial role in guiding us through the Hitler clone case. Let's call this mysterious figure the Phantom. It appears the Phantom is operating with an uncanny proximity to the unfolding events, much closer than we currently find ourselves.

JEANNIE

I was thinking about the Shroud itself. The relic is no petite item. It measures 14 feet 3 inches long and 3 feet 7 inches wide.

(MORE)

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Couple that with the layers of bulletproof glass, akin to what encased the Sudarium, and it becomes a substantial weight for just a handful of individuals to maneuver.

Ismail nods as Jeannie was speaking.

ISMAIL

You're right. It's not something a lone thief could manage. This mastermind must have assembled a highly organized crew to pull off these daring thefts.

No one speaks for a few seconds.

JEANNIE

Well, Ace, any ideas on our next move?

ISMAIL

Either we backtrack to Vincent D'Amico's castle and give the door a good pounding, hoping someone will finally answer, or we play the waiting game to see if the Phantom drops more breadcrumbs for us to follow.

JEANNIE

That waiting game doesn't sound too shabby, but before we decide, I've got a little detour in mind.

EXT. SPAIN DOWNTOWN-DAY

Jeannie gets directions to an electronics store.

ISMAIL

And why, may I ask, are we making a pit stop at an electronics store?

Jeannie leans into Ismail.

JEANNIE

Imagine this scenario: we find ourselves once again at D'Amico's castle, and once again, the only response we get is silence. Now, there's only one way in or out that I saw.

(MORE)

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

So, my plan is simple - we swing by an electronics store and pick up a discreet alarm. We attach it to the door, and if it opens, we get a subtle heads-up that someone's on the premises.

ISMAIL

(grinning) Well, well, boss. That not a half-bad idea. Let's turn the tables on this Vincent D'Amico and make sure he and his crew can't slip away unnoticed.

EXT. VINCENT'S CASTLE ENTRANCE-DAY

Ismail shields Jeannie from the surveillance cameras as she discreetly installs the invisible alarm system. After that is completed, Ismail rings the bells several times getting no answer. They leave.

EXT. CASTLE OVERLOOK-DAY

Delaney, armed with a sniper scope, watches Jeannie and Ismail plant the alarm device on the castle door.

DELANEY

Nice move, Jeannie. A tad deceptive, but I can't help but admire it.

INT. SPANISH HOTEL BAR/RESTAURANT-DAY

Jeannie and Ismail are sitting at a table waiting for their early dinner items. Jeannie checks her cellphone.

JEANNIE

Listen to this information Darcy and Burk have dug up about D'Amico. He was a playboy born into the lap of luxury. He has a lavish lifestyle and a professed passion for art, a self-proclaimed aficionado who travels the world in search of the most exquisite masterpieces. But a search of the dark Web, hints of allegations of heinous crimes of murders and thefts. He apparently thrives on manipulation and deceit.

(MORE)

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

He is described as a narcissist of unparalleled proportions and has an insatiable appetite for power. His squeeze is a Russian beauty known as Natalia. Here's a picture of the two of them.

Jeannie hands her cellphone to Ismail who studies the photo and then passes it back to Jeannie.

ISMAIL

So, what's the verdict?

JEANNIE

I've got a gut feeling that taking down Vincent D'Amico and his entourage won't be a walk in the park.

EXT. DESOLATE STREET-NIGHT

D'Amico and his crew park at the house address given to him from Cardinal Mahoney. Vincent leaves the van and knocks on the door to the residence. Cardinal Mahoney answers.

VINCENT

Cardinal Mahoney.

Cardinal Mahoney backs up allowing Vincent and Natalia to enter seeing two other Cardinals.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

I assume you've brought my payment?
And who might these individuals be?

Mahoney introduces Cardinal McCormick and Cardinal Vallini.

CARDINAL VALLINI

Before we make payment, can we proceed with the inspection of the Shroud?

(pause)

VINCENT

You may, but my question remains unanswered. Do you have my payment.

CARDINAL MCCORMICK

Yes, we have your payment, but we'll only release it after we've examined the relic.

Vincent looks at Natalia who touches her weapon under her leather jacket, before answering.

VINCENT

Very well, then. Follow me,
gentlemen.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF VAN-NIGHT

The three cardinals follow Vincent and Natalia to the waiting van. As Miguel sees their approach, he exits the van and opens the rear doors. The three cardinals advance and look at the relic, each making the sign of the Cross.

VINCENT

So, are you three satisfied with
the merchandise? And if you are,
perhaps we can now make our way
back to the residence so I can
collect my payment.

INT. RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Cardinal Mahoney disappears to an adjacent room and returns with a substantial suitcase in tow. Vincent looks at Natalia letting her know that soon he wants her to kill the cardinals.

CARDINAL MCCORMICK

Mr. D'Amico, before we proceed,
there is one final relic we would
like you to retrieve for us.

D'Amico grasps Natalia's arm making her relax on her grip of her weapon.

VINCENT

Another relic? Pray, enlighten me.
I'm familiar with the Sudarium and
the Shroud of Turin. What else is
there?

CARDINAL VALLINI

Are you acquainted with the True
Cross?

He does not wait for a reply.

CARDINAL VALLINI (CONT'D)

According to Christian tradition, the True Cross is believed to be the actual cross upon which Jesus of Nazareth was crucified. Historical accounts and legends tell of Helena, the mother of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, discovered the True Cross at the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem between the years 326 and 328.

VINCENT

And the Catholic Church is convinced it's genuine? Never mind, continue with your story. It piques my interest.

Vincent leans against a wall.

CARDINAL VALLINI

St. Helena unearthed three crosses believed to have been used in the crucifixion of Jesus and the two thieves, Dismas and Gestas. According to late 4th-century historians Gelasius of Caesarea and Tyrannius Rufinus, one cross bore the titulus inscribed with Jesus' name. Helena, initially uncertain of its authenticity, reportedly witnessed a miracle that confirmed it as the True Cross.

NATALIA

What kind of miracle are we talking about here?

Cardinal McCormick studies Natalia before answering.

CARDINAL MCCORMICK

As Cardinal Vallini said, St. Helena wanted to make sure it was the True Cross. A lady of high-standing, who had long suffered from a debilitating ailment, became the vessel for this divine inquiry. She placed pieces of each cross on the forehead of the woman who only became instantly healed when the cross that had the titulus on it touched her. The woman would not have known this. St. Helena was convinced it was the True Cross.

Natalia dismisses the narrative earning a disapproving glare from Vincent.

CARDINAL MAHONEY

The Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Orthodox Church, Oriental Orthodox Church and the Church of the East all lay claim to the relic purported to be the True Cross, using them as revered objects. But, to your point, the True Cross we are in pursuit of is of paramount importance to our faith, akin to the significance of the other two artifacts you've successfully acquired for us. This is a picture of where the True Cross is located.

Natalia peers over Vincent's shoulder.

NATALIA

It appears slightly larger than the Sudarium. I assume we will need to take the base as well, considering it seems securely attached.

Cardinal Mahoney looks at Natalia and then back at Vincent.

CARDINAL MAHONEY

Yes. Attempting to separate them could result in irreparable damage to the relic. (pause) So, are you prepared to help us one last time and secure the True Cross for the Church?

Vincent studies the three cardinals before answering.

VINCENT

This would require a greater deal of planning due to the current situation in the Middle East. But, yes, if we can come up with an agreeable price, I can get you the True Cross. I will contact you tomorrow with my price.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF RESIDENCE-NIGHT

With a lot of work including the three cardinals, the Shroud is transferred from the van to the residence. Vincent and his crew enter the van.

INT. VAN-NIGHT

NATALIA

Do you honestly buy into all this nonsense about the True Cross possessing magical healing powers?

VINCENT

My dear Natalia, would you not agree that I am a pragmatic man? Let's approach this with reason. The Cardinals would have us believe that centuries after Christ's crucifixion, Queen Helena, Constantine the Great's mother, miraculously discovered the very cross on which Jesus was hung. Not only that, but she also stumbled upon two additional crosses that purportedly supported the thieves. And, to add a touch of authenticity, they claim that the True Cross healed a sick person on contact. I place as much belief in that tale as I do in the notion that the three Cardinals possess the genuine Sudarium and Shroud of Turin.

Laughter fills the van.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Let's be practical here. Legends often carry a weight of exaggeration, and I suspect these relics are no different. The allure of miracles adds value to their endeavor, but we're dealing with a business of belief, not necessarily fact.

The van continues down the road when Tim tells D'Amico he got a match of the two people at the castle.

TIM

Vincent. I got a match on the individuals that arrived the other day using facial recognition.

He hands his laptop over to Vincent who studies a picture of Ismail and Jeannie.

VINCENT

Who are they?

TIM

They are both FBI agents. The woman is Agent Jeannie Loomis and the guy is her partner, Agent Ismail Flores. Both are highly decorated agents with impressive track records. If you open the second file, you can delve into their case histories.

Vincent does so and reads to himself.

VINCENT

Listen up everyone. This complicates things, but it also adds a layer of excitement to our endeavors. Both of these agents have accumulated many years of service with the FBI. Agent Loomis holds the position of Assistant Agent in Charge at their San Francisco office. Wow! She also holds a Ph.D. In Social Psychology and was once an instructor at their highly acclaimed behavioral analysis unit in Washington, D.C.

TIM

I agree. Underestimating them would be a mistake. They've proven themselves to be exceptionally skilled at their craft.

VINCENT

But the question is: why are U.S. agents involved in the investigating of the Sudarium theft in Spain and the Shroud here in Italy?

No one had an answer.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Okay. We have to anticipate that they will return to the castle in the new future so we must be prepared. Our priority is to ensure there's no traceable evidence they can link to us. It's likely they were brought in by either Interpol of the Vatican, though at this point, it's mere speculation. They're in the dark for now, and we need to keep it that way.

EXT. MOTEL-NIGHT

Delaney parks across the street from a motel where Vincent and he crew decided to rest for the evening following the signals from the device he placed on the fake relics. In the shadows he creeps up to the van and places a more powerful tracker. He checks himself in to the same motel and calls headquarters.

DELANEY'S SUPERVISOR

Delaney. We concur with your assessment regarding Vincent D'Amico's illicit trading of selling counterfeit relics for cash while covertly retaining the genuine articles, ostensibly for his personal gain. The green light for a raid on his castle and the subsequent return of the relics to the Catholic Church, likely the Vatican, is pending your request. Proceed when you're ready.

DELANEY

Sir, I successfully tracked D'Amico and his crew to a small cottage, a residence, whatever. They removed the fake Shroud and placed it inside the residence, and three Catholic Cardinals assisted in carrying in the object.

DELANEY'S SUPERVISOR

(shocked) Cardinals? What in the world are Cardinals doing with fake Church relics?

DELANEY

Sir, I don't believe they're aware of the switch. It appears they genuinely think they're in possession of the authentic items. I propose following D'Amico's team back to his castle to ascertain their next move.

DELANEY'S SUPERVISOR

It's your call, Delaney, but we need to secure the Sudarium and Shroud as soon as possible, preventing D'Amico from reselling them.

The phone call ends abruptly not allowing Delaney to reply.

INT. JEANNIE'S HOTEL BEDROOM -DAY

The alert system planted on the castle gate activates. Jeannie looks at her watch. 3:30 pm. She calls Ismail's room.

JEANNIE

The gate alarm just activated. I'll call for a cab. Meet me in the lobby.

INT. BACKSEAT OF CAB-DAY

ISMAIL

Do you think we should involve the Spanish police?

JEANNIE

I don't believe so. The element of surprise is our ally in this situation. D'Amico is a seasoned master of thievery, and I doubt we'll discover any incriminating evidence immediately upon entering that would warrant an arrest. No, this is an opportunity to rattle his cage, hoping he panics and makes a mistake.

INT. DUNGEON-DAY

Vincent and his crew admire the two authentic relics. A red light indicates to them that someone is at the front gate to the castle.

NATALIA

(nervous) Should we hide?

VINCENT

No. If we ignore them, they'll persist. It's better to engage with them.

Rushing upstairs the crew disappears into different rooms leaving Vincent and Natalia to handle the approaching visitors. Vincent and Natalia answer the door. Natalia has her handgun under her loosely fitted blouse. Her arm casually draped around Vincent's waist.

EXT.INT. CASTLE DOOR-DAY

VINCENT
Yes, can I help you?

Jeannie lifts her FBI badge.

JEANNIE
I'm FBI agent Jeannie Loomis and
this is Agent Flores.

VINCENT
Well, well, the Federal Bureau of
Investigation gracing my humble
castle. Please, do come in.

Jeannie and Ismail enter.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
I'm genuinely intrigued to know
what has brought such distinguished
guests to my door.

Vincent plays the role of a host, escorting Jeannie and Ismail through the castle's opulent corridors and ornate rooms.

VINCENT (CONT'D)
I must say I'm both honored and
curious about our visit. What could
possibly have drawn the attention
of the esteemed FBI to this quiet
corner of the world?

Neither Jeannie or Ismail respond. The group arrives in the library.

INT. VINCENT'S LIBRARY-DAY

ISMAIL
Nice place. Love the aquarium.

VINCENT
This castle has been in my family
for generations. I'm sure you'll
find it quite fascinating, even if
I'm not entirely sure why you're
here.

He gestures towards two chairs facing him. Natalia stood my his side.

JEANNIE

Mr. D'Amico, we appreciate the hospitality, but we're curious about something more specific. Are you truly just an art aficionado, or is there more beneath the surface?

D'Amico makes a subtle shift in his chair cut does not answer.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

We've heard rumors, you know. Whispers of a different kind of art-masterpieces that exist in the shadows, changing hands in ways that avoid the spotlight. You wouldn't happen to know anything about that, would you, Mr. D'Amico.

Vincent's lips curl into a half smile, his eyes gleaming with a mixture of amusement and defiance.

VINCENT

Agent Loomis, Agent Flores, you flatter me with your imagination. My interests are confined to beauty that can be openly appreciated, not the clandestine world you seem to be hinting at.

Jeannie leans forward resting an arm on his desk.

JEANNIE

You see, Mr. D'Amico, we're not here just for a chat about art; we're also here to understand the full spectrum of our endeavors. The kind that might not be captured on the pages of those impressive leather-bound books you have on your library shelves.

The room fills with tension. On cue, both Jeannie and Ismail rise from their seats.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

Thank you again, Mr. D'Amico for the tour of your castle. I think we will need you to guide us back to the exit.

No one speaks as D'Amico leads Jeannie and Ismail to the front door. Natalia follows closely behind. Jeannie turns towards D'Amico and offers her hand, before leaving.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

It's been a pleasure, Mr.
D'Amico. We will be in touch if we
have further questions.

EXT.OVERLOOK OF VINCENT'S CASTLE-DAY -DAY

Delaney once again watches the action through his sniper scope.

DELANEY

Okay D'Amico. I think Jeannie and Ismail have shakened you up. What will be your play with the really Sudarium and the Shroud of Turin? Keeping them here in your castle is no longer an option. No, you need to relocate with your prizes and use the cover of darkness to do so. Yes, the game has changed. What will be your next move?

INT. VINCENT'S CASTLE -TWILIGHT

Vincent assembles his team in his library.

VINCENT

They know we stole the relics. Their next recourse is to either contact the Spanish authorities or watch for our next move. We can't afford to underestimate them. They know more that we anticipated.

EXT.OVERLOOK OF VINCENT'S CASTLE-TWILIGHT

Delaney hides in the shadows as the cab containing Jeannie and Ismail passes. He returns to his position to view the activity at the castle. Night comes and the outside lights of the castle dim. Two additional vans arrive at the castle.

DELANEY

Nice move D'Amico. The old shell game. Which van has the stolen relics.

(MORE)

DELANEY (CONT'D)

If Jeannie and Ismail chose the wrong van, it will be too late to find the other two. Bravo, D'Amico.

Delaney turns his attention to another spot down the road from the castle heavily forested. He sees Jeannie and Ismail sitting in a rental car.

INT.TIM'S CASTLE BEDROOM-NIGHT

As many of Vincent's crew readies for their move. Natalia silently enters Tim's bedroom. He is in the shower. She undresses and rolls back the glass shower door entering the shower with a surprised but delighted Tim.

TIM

Where's Vincent?

NATALIA

He's locked away in his library immersed in his grand plans for our next heist. The man fancies himself a master planner of theft, but you and I know the truth. Without my ability to charm those with insider information, we wouldn't have gotten our hands on either the Sudarium or the Shroud of Turin.

TIM

So what's our next move? I thought once we got the money from those three Cardinals, we'd be rid of Vincent and make our way to South America.

NATALIA

Relax, I've got it all mapped out. Once we've transitioned to our new hideout with two relics, we'll let Vincent orchestrate our move to Jerusalem. Just like before, he'll rely on me to gather crucial insider information, and I'll play along. But this time, after we snatch the relic and have it safely stashed in our van, I'll take care of Vincent once and for all.

TIM

But what about the rest of the crew?

(MORE)

TIM (CONT'D)

They'll be expecting their cut for those three successful thefts.

Natalia soups up a wash cloth and begins rubbing Tim's chest.

NATALIA

Once the True Cross is safely stowed in the van, we'll make our way back to our concealed hideout. Once the relic is placed alongside the Sudarium and Shroud, I'll propose a toast. And after that, it'll be just the two of us.

INT. HOTEL BAR-NIGHT

Jeannie's cell vibrates on the bar table where she and Ismail is sitting. She looks at Caller ID.

JEANNIE

It's the boss. Hello, Sir. Let me put you on speaker phone so Ismail can hear. Okay, go ahead.

SAC LOMAX (V.O.)

I just received another anonymous email similar in nature to the ones we got during the Hitler clone investigation. It's addressed to me. Let me read it verbatim. 'By now, you and your agents have likely discovered that the mastermind behind the thefts of the relics is Vincent D'Amico and his crew. He has a castle in Spain, where the first two stolen relics, the Sudarium and the Shroud of Turin are currently stored. However, he has a different motivation. He's been using artificial intelligence to replicate the relics, which he then sells to three Cardinals from the Catholic Church for huge sums, while keeping the originals for himself.'

Jeannie exchanges a glance with Ismail.

SAC LOMAX (V.O.)

'These three Cardinals are from the Vatican and from what I've learned from various sources, they are attempting to use the relics for the formation a new Catholic Church made up of traditional Catholics unhappy with the liberal direction in which Pope Francis is taking the institution. Soon, D'Amico and his team will leave the castle for an unknown new location. They'll attempt to play a shell game, sending out three identical vans in different directions from his castle. Tell your agents not of fret, as I've placed a tracking device on one of the relics, and will notify you as soon as I find their new location.' That's the end of the email.

ISMAIL

Who is this guy? A spy? And how did he gain access to the castle?

JEANNIE

All good questions. I think we need to start heading back towards D'Amico's lair. I'll fill you in later, boss.

INT.VINCENT'S LIBRARY -NIGHT

Vincent address his crew.

VINCENT

Alright, let's move out!

Natalia gracefully climbs into a van alongside Vincent, with Miguel once again at the wheel. Tim drove the second van. Marco took the third

EXT. OVERLOOK OF VINCENT'S CASTLE-NIGHT

DELANEY

(mumbles to self)Okay, assholes, this is where you'll split up.

He turns his sniper scope to the area where Jeannie and Ismail are seated in a rental.

As the three vans approach the crossroads where Miguel steers his van straight ahead, the second van goes right, and the third veers left. D'Amico sees in the side mirror that a vehicle is now tailing the second van.

VINCENT

Good evening FBI. Have fun following the wrong van.

Jeannie and Ismail follows the second car to a fast-food restaurant. The driver exits and unlocks the rear doors.

ISMAIL

Obviously, we picked the wrong van. I was never good at playing the sell game. Now what?

JEANNIE

Well, we head back to our hotel room and wait until we get new information. What bothers me the most about this cat-and-mouse routine is that, so far, we've never had any leverage. We're always in a position of waiting , whether for D'Amico's move or another cryptic email to guide us.

INT. VAN CONTAINING VINCENT-NIGHT

D'Amico's cell rings.

TIM

They gave up and have left without even looking into the rear of the van.

EXT. INT. SAFE HOUSE FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

The first two vans meet up again at a shabby safe house. They removed the Sudarium placing it in the house. They did not see Delaney pass their location and stop.

DELANEY

Must be waiting for more many power to move the Shroud into the residence. Yes, here comes the third van now.

Upon the third van's arrival, Vincent and his entire crew removed the Shroud of Turin and place it in the house.

VINCENT

Gentlemen, and lady, I apologize for the limited space in this temporary accommodation compared to my beloved castle. We will only be here for tonight. Tomorrow, We embark on a journey to the State of Israel, our destination being Jerusalem. This marks our last heist, and rest assured, it will be our most challenging. Yet, the rewards awaiting us will set us all up for life.

The room fills with cheers.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Tim, go out and fetch us some pizzas and drinks.

He hands Tim some cash. He turns to Natalia.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

I'm afraid this time, you'll need to leverage all your seductive prowess. I have no specific suggestions on how you can obtain the insider information we need. The Holy Sepulchre is in the shittiest part of the world.

Vincent approaches Natalia with deliberate intent, his hands skillfully unbutton her silk blouse. As the silk falls away, Natalia reaches for Vincent's pants zipper.

(Two weeks later)

INT. HOTEL ROOM-JERUSALEM-NIGHT

The crew gathers around Vincent who once again, has set up a screen and laptop.

VINCENT

I've recently gleaned valuable information through Natalia's impressive seductive talents. There lies another artifact beyond the primary relic we're set to steal: a significant portion of the sign that adorned the Cross bearing the inscription 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews'.

(MORE)

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Therefore, beside taking the True Cross, we will also take the titulus.

He turns on his laptop and a detailed plan of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre takes up the screen.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

This won't be as smooth or tidy as the thefts of the Sudarium and the Shroud. The presentation I'm about to show you outlines what we'll be dealing with in a few hours. (slide advance)

VINCENT (CONT'D)

According to traditions dating back to the 4th century, this site holds two locations revered in Christianity. One is the place where Jesus was crucified, known as Calvary or Golgotha, and the second Jesus' empty tomb, the site of his burial and resurrection. (slide advance)

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Yesterday, Natalia and I took a tour of the location we seek, and this is our prize, the True Cross. At first glance, it might not look like much, but our benefactors are compensating us generously for its possession. Natalia has managed to secure the security codes that Tim will use to circumvent their security systems. We leave at 1 a.m. so get some rest.

INT.EXT. BEN GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT-NIGHT

Jeannie and Ismail hurry to collect their luggage in a race against time to capture Vincent and retrieve the relics. They hail a cab and head directly to the Holy Sepulchre.

EXT. STREET ACROSS FROM SEPULCHRE-NIGHT

Delaney, ahead of Jeannie and Ismail, is set up across the street from the Sepulchre. Two vans approach turning off their headlamps.

DELANEY

Let the games begin.

Tim gets out of the lead van and with a penlight clenched between his teeth, he punches in a code on a concealed panel. He turns and give the thumbs up to the waiting two vans. Shortly thereafter, Vincent, Natalia, and the rest of the crew follow Tim into the church.

INT. HOLY SEPULCHRE-NIGHT

Vincent gets his bearings.

VINCENT

This way.

The crew follows him to the room containing the True Cross.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

There it is.

The crew surrounds the True Cross and the titulus. Vincent motions for Tim to an adjacent wall where a concealed panel awaits. He bypasses the circuits and nods to Vincent. Suddenly in the shadows, a male speaking Arabic is heard. Natalia walks towards the source and a sound of a suppressed gunshot echos through the room. As the crew orchestrates their retreat, Vincent raises the titulus admiring it. He turns to show it to Natalia and is shocked seeing her point her weapon at him.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

What are you doing? We must hurry back to the van and make our escape.

Natalia does not lower the weapon.

NATALIA

Vincent, I have long grown weary of being nothing more than your sexual pawn, catering to your whims at a moment's notice. However, even more intolerable is your callous exploitation of me as a means to gather insider information for every theft we've executed-whoring me out of anyone as long as I succeeded.

VINCENT

What are you talking about? Put down the gun.

NATALIA

The moment has arrived for the true mastermind to take command of both the revered relics and the proceeds we've garnered. Farewell.

She shoots Vincent in the forehead. He falls to the ground. Natalia picks up the titulus and secures it under her shirt. She retraces her steps to the waiting vans.

EXT. HOLY SEPULCHRE-NIGHT

MIGUEL

Where's Vincent?

NATALIA

Didn't you hear the gunshot? There was an armed guard on the scene. He took a shot at Vincent, and I retaliated, neutralizing the threat. But when I rushed to Vincent's side, he was dead.

Natalia turns to the crew and takes over command.

NATALIA (CONT'D)

Hurry. We must quickly get out of here. Someone must have surely heard the shots. Let's get back to our hideout and secure the two new relics.

She pulls out the titulus and hands it to Miguel.

NATALIA (CONT'D)

Put this with the True Cross. I'm sure we will get a handsome price for it.

As the two vans cautiously leave the area, Jeannie and Ismail arrive with Delaney looking on from a rooftop.

DELANEY

(to self) Little late Jeannie. I will let you know where you can find the relics soon.

EXT. INT. HIDEOUT-NIGHT.OVERLOOK OF VINCENT'S CASTLE-DAY.

The two vans arrive. Natalia continues to issue orders.

NATALIA

Quickly, we must secure the Sudarium and Shroud of Turin in the larger van alongside the True Cross and titulus. One van traveling along a night road attracts far less attention than a pair, especially after what just transpired.

The crew remove the two other relics from the house (Sudarium and Shroud of Turin) and place them in the larger van. Once completed they all enter the hideout.

INT. HIDEOUT-NIGHT

Natalia gives everyone a cup and pours champagne.

NATALIA

I propose a toast. To Vincent and a lifetime of wealth.

Everyone raises their cups in a toast and quickly finish their drinks. Several members begin to chock and stumble, suffering the effects of the poison. The crew falls to the floor. Tim and Natalia watch their final moments.

TIM

So, do we make our getaway now?

NATALIA

No, not yet. We need to unwind and get a decent night's sleep.

She turns to Tim and begins to unbutton her shirt.

NATALIA (CONT'D)

You and I need to celebrate.

She begins to unbuckle his pants.

EXT. HIDEOUT-NIGHT

Delaney traverses the adjacent residences until he arrives at the large van. He tries the doors but they are all locked. He could see the relics in the rear.

DELANEY

So much for safeguarding the artifacts in a controlled setting.

Delaney advanced on the hideout. He turns the doorknob cautiously and finds it open. With gun in hand he pushes the door open. He sees most of the crew dead on the floor minus Tim and Natalia. He sees a closed bedroom door and hears intimate passion. He quickly pushes the door open finding Natalia in the dominate position on Tim. Tim reaches under his pillow and pulls out a hidden gun. Delaney fires a single shot killing him. Natalia screams as the pillow fills with blood. Ignoring her lack of modesty, Natalia moves away from Tim.

NATALIA

(shock and defiant) Who the well
are you? Do you get your kicks
watching people fuck?

Delaney closes the door behind him watching Natalia the whole time.

DELANEY

Would you like to get dressed?

NATALIA

Fuck you. What do you want?

Completely nude, she stands up from the bed and starts advancing towards a nightstand.

DELANEY

Reach for a gun you might have
hidden, and you'll join your lover
here.

She reaches down and pulls a sheet to cover herself.

NATALIA

So what do you want?

DELANEY

I would like you to provide me with
some answers. Where is Vincent
D'Amico?

NATALIA

Who is Vincent D'Amico? You've
broken into the wrong house. Leave
now before I call the police.

Delaney smiles before continuing.

DELANEY

Vincent D'Amico. A man involved in matters that transcend the ordinary. I know he's connected to the operation. Where is he?

Natalia does not answer. Delaney places his suppress gun barrel to her right knee.

DELANEY (CONT'D)

I will ask one more time. If you do not tell me what happened to your leader, I will shoot you in the knee. You will never walk normally again.

NATALIA

(contempt) My leader. He was not my leader. He was an egotistical asshole who reveled in collecting things of value, using pawns like me to obtain them. But he's no longer among the living.

She displays a hideous smile on her face hoping her statement would shock Delaney.

NATALIA (CONT'D)

Vincent met his end in a place of supposed sanctuary, a church. How fitting for a man who sought redemption through his sins.

INT. JEANNIES HOTEL ROOM-NIGHT

Jeannie is struggling with her headache placing a cold wash cloth on her forehead. Her cell phone vibrates. She steadies herself walking over to the nightstand.

JEANNIE

(to self) Please, God, help me solve this case and return home. This is all I ask. I'm in your hands.

She retrieves her phone as finds a text message from Lomax. She calls Ismail's room.

ISMAIL (V.O.)

What's up?

JEANNIE

I just got a text from Lomax. Meet me in the lobby.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY-NIGHT

ISMAIL

No offense, boss, but you look like crap. Did you sneak out of your room and hit some nightlife?

JEANNIE

(smiling) I wish. Just another headache, and before you ask, I did take my pills for whatever good they're supposed to do. The text message said we need to go to this address and wrap the case up. Obviously he got information from the anonymous emailer.

ISMAIL

Conceited bastard, isn't he.

Jeannie asked the hotel clerk to call for a cab.

INT. HIDEOUT-NIGHT

DELANEY

Natalia, I must admit, Vincent D'Amico had quite the grand scheme in play. Steal relics, utilize artificial intelligence to craft convincing replicas, and then sell them to unsuspecting benefactors. A clever stratagem. And, when they eventually realize they have been duped, you would be long gone, with both the loot and the authentic relics. Bravo.

NATALIA

Fuck you.

DELANEY

(smiling) By chance, did D'Amico ever explain the Cardinals motivation to hire you to steal the relics? I mean, there had to be an ultimate goal, correct?

NATALIA

Vincent wasn't the mastermind you make him out to be. Tim here was the brains of the outfit, especially when it came to handling finances and bypassing those sophisticated alarm systems we had to overcome to steal those relics. Vincent was all fluff.

Natalia noticed Tim's gun partially concealed by a blanket.

NATALIA (CONT'D)

Vincent might have had charisma, but Tim was the one who ensured the success of our operations. The priests, or Cardinals, or whatever they fancy themselves, had a plan to breakaway from the Catholic Church in Rome. Their aim was to establish a new Church, one that clung fervently to traditional teachings. Frankly, we didn't give a damn about their motivations.

Natalia deliberately allows the sheet covering her nudity to fall in hopes to distract Delaney and grabs Tim's gun. Delaney reacts swiftly, fires two lethal shots killing Natalia.

INT. EXT. HIDEOUT-NIGHT.OVERLOOK OF VINCENT'S CASTLE-DAY.

The cab containing Jeannie and Ismail arrive two houses down from the address given to them from Lomax's text. They advance on the house. Delaney is observing down the street in the shadows.

ISMAIL

(whispering) Looks like one of the three vans that came out of the castle. Must be the place.

JEANNIE

Something doesn't feel right. I'm going to sneak up on the van and see what is inside. Cover me.

She finds the van rear doors locked. She pulls out a flashlight and points its beam into the interior revealing several large objects. She returns to the cab. Ismail exits and the cabby it told to leave.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

I saw something in the back of the van. I think they are the relics.

ISMAIL

So, what's the next move. Do we reach out to the local authorities? Waiting for them could escalate things if the suspects are inside. It's a tricky situation. Good thing you're calling the shots, boss.

Delaney continues to watch their progress from the shadows.

DELANEY

(to self) Damn it you do. Damn if you don't. You'll have to make the call, Jeannie.

JEANNIE

We're on thin ice here, Ace.

ISMAIL

Understood. Be careful.

They advance on the hideout. Ismail goes to the rear as Jeannie tries the front door and finds it unlocked. Ismail returns.

ISMAIL (CONT'D)

Back door is locked.

Jeannie looks at Ismail and raises three fingers and starts to count down. She slowly opens the door and see bodies on the floor.

JEANNIE

We've got bodies. Lots of them.

ISMAIL

Well, in the States, I would say we have more than enough probable cause.

INT. HIDEOUT-NIGHT.OVERLOOK OF VINCENT'S CASTLE-DAY.

They enter the room and notice vomit around the bodies.

JEANNIE

(whispering) Poison I think.

Jeannie points to a closed bedroom door and the two advance. The door is unlocked.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

FBI!

Jeannie and Ismail enter the room finding Natalia's and Tim's lifeless bodies.

ISMAIL

Don't see old Vincent.

JEANNIE

I bet old Natalia here shot him in the Holy Sepulchre. It wouldn't surprise me if she wasn't the true mastermind behind all these thefts and finally decided it was time to take over as leader.

Ismail's brows furrow.

ISMAIL

If Natalia orchestrated this and eliminated D'Amico, we might be dealing with a whole new level of criminal sophistication. It's possible she saw an opportunity to seize control and capitalize on the chaos.

Jeannie nods.

JEANNIE

We'll need to dig deeper into her connections, find out who might be pulling the strings from the shadows. This could be more than just a series of thefts; it might be part of a larger more sinister plan.

Jeannie sees the van's keys on the nightstand and picks them up.

JEANNIE (CONT'D)

I'm going to search the van.

Ismail stays in the hideout.

EXT. VAN-NIGHT.OVERLOOK OF VINCENT'S CASTLE-DAY.

Jeannie selects the right key and opens the rear doors of the van. She sees a medium-sized box tucked beside the larger container she believes is the Shroud of Turin.

She unravels layers of bubble wrap and until her fingers met the ancient relic—the True Cross.

JEANNIE

(to self) Not much of a relic.

In a spontaneous moment, Jeannie kisses the True Cross. She continues her search and finds the Sudarium and the Shroud of Turin. She recovers the relics in bubble wrap and relocks the doors to the van. She reaches for her cellphone and calls Lomax.

LOMAX (V.O.)

Jeannie, what's happening? Are you and Ismail okay?

JEANNIE

We're both fine. The investigation has reached its conclusion, and I'm pleased to report that all three relics are now in our possession.

LOMAX (V.O.)

Great news! I'll get in touch with the State Department immediately. We need the Israeli authorities to take over from here and ensure the safe return of the relics. Outstanding work. I'll also reach out to Interpol and expedite communication with the Vatican to prevent the relics from vanishing into the shadows. Just hold tight until I can get the Israel police to respond and relieve you.

Jeannie returns to the hideout and meets up with Ismail.

INT. HIDEOUT-NIGHT

JEANNIE

The relics are in the van. All of them. I called Lomax and he is making arrangements with the Israel police, Interpol, and the Vatican. I sure hope they get here soon. For some reason, I'm famished. A hot roast beef sandwich, chips and Diet Dr. Pepper would go good right now.

INT. HOTEL DINING ROOM-MORNING

Jeannie and Ismail, to hyped at the conclusion of their investigation, are in the hotel restaurant sitting in a corner booth.

JEANNIE

I think I'm going to take on the breakfast buffet. I could eat a horse.

ISMAIL

Glad to see you appetite is back.

JEANNIE

Yeah. Must be the drugs. I need to see my doctor as soon as I get back. I feel great. And you know, I forgot to take my pills before going to sleep and I slept like a baby.

FADE OUT

(CONT'D)

