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The Frenchman

by Jack Rice



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EXT. MANILA, PHILIPPINES - DAY

In Uniform, US Army Captain Brian Ami makes his way towards "La Madre de Dios Hotel" in Manila. Along the way he sees a fruit vendor and stops to pay for a bag of seven fresh peaches. After months of hard fighting in the "boondocks" of Mindanao, and a steady diet of salt beef and canned beans the simple fruit proved too much to pass by. He readily dismisses the odd look on the fruit vendor's face and with a spring in his step continues on. Dodging the prostitutes who move with the grace of cats near the Madre de Dios's entrance, Brian passes through the front doors of his temporary residence.

INT. LA MADRE DE DIOS HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

With a brief nod to the clerk at the front desk, Brian vaults up the hotel's wide wooden stairway and quickly reaches his room. After entering the room and locking the door, Brian begins to hum "Frere Jacques" as he tosses his wide brimmed campaign hat onto his freshly made bed. Pulling up a chair next to the small table that occupies the center of the room, Brian withdraws a single peach and places it on the blue and white plate resting before him. Brian places the dish towel that had been hanging on his chair to the left of his plate. Just as he is about to pick up the peach, he sees a spider emerge from the hole created by the now missing stem. The spider moves with surprising speed and vaults through the air to the floor below. In an instant, Brian is on his feet as he tries in vain to crush the fast moving spider beneath the double leather soul of his garrison shoe. The spider quickly exits under the tiny gap created by the room's single door.

BRIAN

What's wrong with me? That spider made me
look slow as molasses!

Brian then pulls his chair away from the table while setting his plate and dish towel on the floor. This done, Brian removes the kris blade that had been hanging from his neck and under his shirt. One at a time, Brian places each of the remaining peaches on the center of the small table alternating between the edge and the flat part of his kris blade only to watch as one nimble spider after another avoids his best efforts at sending them on to the next life.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Unbelievable. Seven spiders in a row got
the best of me. If my Acadian ancestors
were here they'd be screaming.

(MORE)

BRIAN (CONT'D)

An omen like this can only mean one thing. I've got seven rough years ahead of me.

INT. RIVINGTON STREET, NEW YORK CITY - DAY

We see a single room apartment with a bathtub located a few feet from the stove. Two single beds are situated next to and parallel with the two longest walls of the room while in the center of the room, sits a sturdy wooden table and a pair of straight back chairs. Brian is sitting on the edge of his bed already dressed as his younger brother Daniel struggles to adjust his tie. Brian gets up and takes over.

BRIAN

Let me give you a hand.

Brian quickly adjusts Daniel's tie producing a Windsor knot that looks neat and lies flat.

DANIEL

How come you know how to do everything?

BRIAN

If only that was true. I was older when dad was with us and was lucky enough to pick up on some of the lessons he passed on. Anyway take a look in the mirror.

Daniel stands in front of the small mirror that hangs on the nearby wall.

DANIEL

Perfect!

BRIAN

Now get going before you blow your interview. I know your college professor recommended you but that will all fade if you're late.

DANIEL

You're right. And good luck to you!

Daniel exits as Brian picks up a newspaper and opens up the want ads.

BRIAN

I guess I'm just one of too many guys who came back from the war. Two positions. Not much, but better than zip.

Brian writes the addresses from the want ads on a notebook and after bringing his coffee cup to the nearby sink, he locks the apartment's front door and makes his way down the narrow stairway to the street below.

EXT. HERALD SQUARE - DAY

Brian walks through Herald Square in New York amazed at the mix of horses, bicycles, cars and pedestrians that fill the streets. As he passes under a theater announcing the showing of a play entitled "The Man With Three Wives", Brian looks up and, momentarily distracted, collides with a messenger on a bicycle wearing a newsboy cap. No harm is done other than causing the messenger's hat to fall to the ground, allowing her waist length hair to cascade around her revealing an extremely attractive young woman. Brian picks up her fallen head covering while attempting to dust it off before handing it to her.

MESSENGER

Why don't you watch where you're going!?

BRIAN

Excusez-moi! You're right and I'm sorry. If there's a way to make it up to you I will.

MESSENGER

Forget it. My bike's okay, that's all I care about.

BRIAN

A Raleigh no less. I bet you can hold your own in a race.

MESSENGER

We race every Saturday morning at 5:00 AM in Central Park. You can give it a go if you can wake up at that time.

The messenger gets on her bike and starts to leave.

BRIAN

I didn't catch your name?

MESSENGER

Damaris.

Damaris quickly speeds away while Brian notes a well dressed middle age man leaving by the stage door exit.

As the man heads for a nearby alley where his car is parked, four hard looking individuals who had been lingering across the street enter the alley and surround him, while pulling a variety of edged weapons. Brian reacts quickly by closing on the group unannounced and from the rear. He then delivers a quick kick between the legs of the individual who is closest to him.

ATTACKER #1

Ahh!

Attacker #1 immediately doubles over, dropping a wicked looking dagger that falls to the ground. Brian quickly picks it up and slashes at attacker #2's wrist causing a deep cut. He too drops his knife and runs away from the area. The middle aged man draws a claw hammer from his belt and stepping in while in a crouch knocks attacker #3 senseless. Seeing that he is outnumbered, attacker #4 flees the area.

MIDDLE AGED MAN/DAVID ROTH

Are you okay?

BRIAN

No worse for wear.

MIDDLE AGED MAN/ABRAHAM
ROTH

You certainly know how to handle yourself. You don't mind if we take a quick walk to a nearby lunch car. I feel like I owe you.

BRIAN

Well...why not.

As the pair head towards the lunch car we see Brian thinking of his time in the Philippines, training in edge weapon fighting under the guidance of the father in law of his now deceased wife. Both men are holding wooden blades that reduce injury but can still cause discomfort if not successfully parried.

FATHER IN LAW

Remember Brian, cut using shoulder, arm and wrist. The wrist is fastest but the others are stronger. Imagine that your standing in front of an open door and defending the space in front of you.

Brian's father in law makes a shoulder strike towards Brian's center.

At this, Brian steps in and parries the blade bringing his own weapon near his father in law's exposed neck without making contact. Both stop as Brian's father in law comments.

FATHER IN LAW (CONT'D)

You're a good student.

Continuing on with their walk, Abraham and Brian enter a nearby lunch car where they are immediately greeted.

MANAGER

Mr. Roth, how nice to see you. How many people in your party?

Abraham holds up two fingers.

MANAGER (CONT'D)

Your usual table?

MR. ROTH

Sounds great.

Mr. Roth and Brian are seated at a nearby table where a nice looking waitress immediately pours cold water into their empty glasses.

WAITRESS/NANCY

Good morning Mr. Roth would you like your usual? Chicken pot pie and coffee?

MR. ROTH

Sounds great.

Brian nods in agreement.

BRIAN

I'll have the same, please.

NANCY

Coming right up. Nice manners and good looking. You have good taste Mr. Roth.

Brian blushes as Mr. Roth smiles.

MR. ROTH

You really have some intense skills. I didn't catch your name.

BRIAN

Brian, Brian Ami.

MR. ROTH

Ami, sounds French

BRIAN

French by way of Louisiana.

MR. ROT

I boxed when I was younger but you pulled some moves I haven't seen before.

BRIAN

A combination of boxing, and Savate.

MR. ROTH

I've heard of Savate. Emphasis on use of Hands and feet. Use whatever you have.

BRIAN

Exactly but best done when the movements are fluid and graceful.

MR. ROTH

Back in the alley how do you explain what you did with the knife?

BRIAN

That's a result of training in the Philippine art of edged weapon fighting known as "Kali".

MR. ROTH

Then I take it you were in the army?

BRIAN

Three years of fighting in the Philippines. Some urban fighting but a lot of time in boondocks. I stayed in Country for over a year when I left the army. Managed a rubber plantation even got married.

MR. ROTH

Why did you leave?

BRIAN

My wife was killed and the plantation burned when the Moros attacked. ...That's in the past. My younger brother is in the city. Works in finance. The only family I have now.

MR. ROTH

I didn't mean to pry. I saw my older brother killed when a Cossack took him down with a saber. They were clearing the way for the Czar and didn't want to be delayed by some unknown tailor trying to cross the street. Getting back to the present, a lot of people are interested in killing me. I'm a Broadway producer and the gangs that seem to be everywhere follow the the money. I just don't like the idea of paying extortion money to any of these bums. I think my odds of survival would go up considerably with someone like you close by. Do you drive?

BRIAN

I grew up on a farm. If I didn't drive a truck we couldn't get our crops to market.

MR. ROTH

If you take the job, I'll pay you fifty dollars a week and cover your expenses.

BRIAN

That's a fortune and you don't even know me.

MR. ROTH

The demonstration you put on in the alley was enough for me. I cast a lot of shows and never hesitate when the right person comes along.

BRIAN

When should I start?

MR. ROTH

Meet me in front of the theater at 8:00AM tomorrow. I'm casting a new show and would like to have you close by. Plenty of time to go over the nuts and bolts of the job.

BRIAN

Sounds good. I'll be there.

Mr Roth extends his arm and both shake hands.

INT. BANKER'S TRUST OFFICES - DAY

Three weeks later we see Brian's brother Daniel at a desk with a series of ledgers. He is busy making notes and making entries on a "Sunstrand Adding Machine". Mr. Patton knocks as Daniel responds.

DANIEL

Come in.

Daniel stands as Mr. Patton enters the but Mr. Patton waves this away pointing to Daniel's chair. Mr. Patton seats himself in the chair that faces Daniel's desk.

MR. PATTON

So how are things going with the audit?

DANIEL

Good Sir. But there are some irregularities.

MR. PATTON

How so?

DANIEL

Some of the expenditures are not backed up by purchase receipts and some of the accounts are under reported. This is especially noticeable with loans made to Germany before the war in Europe.

MR. PATTON

Have funds gone missing?

DANIEL

Technically no. But some of the entries are grouped together and not broken down sufficiently.

MR. PATTON

I'm glad I hired you. Your professor said you were a wiz and from what I can see he was right. You wouldn't mind handing me the books covering our off shore accounts?

DANIEL

Of course.

Daniel hands several large ledgers to Mr. Patton who then stands.

MR. PATTON

Thank you Daniel. I'll have Jennings, one of our senior analysts, take over from here. My secretary will bring some other ledgers in for you to examine.

DANIEL

Yes sir.

MR. PATTON

Admirable work. By the way, some of the of division heads and myself will be stopping by one of our spots after work. A chance for you to bond with some of the higher ups. Do you think you might be interested in joining us?

DANIEL

Oh yes sir. Thank you very much.

Daniel stands as Mr. Patton exits his office. On his way down the hall, Mr. Patton passes a hulking individual seated outside of his office. He has a color by numbers work book opened in front of him and a collection of colored pencils in a round can by his feet. While coloring he is oblivious to all that is taking place around him.

MR. PATTON

Daren.

Daren immediately shoots to his feet dropping his coloring book on the floor. Daren picks up the book and holds it open for Mr. Patton to see.

MR. PATTON (CONT'D)

Lovely sunflower Daren. You're staying mostly within the lines and getting more and more of the colors right. Soon your work will be hanging at the Met.

DAREN

Thank you sir! A lot of people make fun of me, well not to my face. But you always treat me good.

MR. PATTON

Of course! Daren would you mind stepping into my office and having a brief word with me?

DAREN

Yes sir. Right away!

Daren quickly throws his pencils and coloring book into a canvas bag and follows Mr. Patton into his office. Mr. Patton's secretary, Lola, looks up and smiles briefly as they pass. After taking a seat Mr. Patton points to an oversized straight back chair that faces his desk. He then points and Daren promptly takes a seat.

MR. PATTON

Daren do you know who Mr. Jennings is?

DAREN

The skinny fair haired guy who wears glasses? He gives me some pencils every now and then.

MR PATTON

Excellent. I'm sorry to tell you this Daren but Jennings is not a good guy. He has been stealing from the bank and not only that, he likes to make fun of your artwork.

Daren is so angry that his eyes cloud over as he grasps both arm rests of the sturdy oak chair and breaks them off as if they were match sticks. He then looks around and realizes what he has done.

DAREN

Sorry sir.

MR PATTON

That's quite alright Daren. Chairs can be replaced. Not so easy when it comes to all of the money Mr. Jennings has stolen. Daren, do you know where the Chelsea piers are?

DAREN

Yes sir.

MR. PATTON

Well, Jennings is often seen walking his dog along the piers around eight o'clock at night. I want you to make sure that all of us have seen the last of Mr. Jennings. Take your time and don't let anyone see you.

Daren stands, nods his head, picks up his bag, and heads for the door.

MR. PATTON (CONT'D)

Thank you Daren. I'll have some new coloring books waiting for you when you're done.

DAREN

Yes sir!

EXT. LOWER MANHATTAN - NIGHT

Daniel, Mr. Patton and several older men walk towards a side street and arrive at what appears to be a restaurant/bar with Chinese lanterns suspended over each of the door posts as well as red Chinese characters on the door itself. After looking through a peep hole in the center of the door, Mr. Patton, Daniel and three executives from the bank are allowed entry. An elderly Asian man wearing dark traditional Chinese clothing including a skull cap and a Mandarin collared jacket bids them enter. The dining area is small and without customers. Daniel tilts his head indicating confusion. Mr. Patton notes this and with a point of his hand indicates that they should follow their host. They are then directed into a large room that is filled with well dressed older men and young Asian women wearing silk dresses with slits along the side giving an unrestricted view of their legs. The small party is seated at a large circular couch. Obviously uncomfortable, Daniel speaks softly into Mr. Patton's ear.

DANIEL

This looks like an opium den. My older brother warned me to stay away from these places.

MR. PATTON

Did you ever take the time to ask your brother if he had ever visited such a place? You mentioned the fact that he served in the Philippines. It's highly unlikely that a soldier fighting a bunch of fanatics in the mosquito infested boondocks would have denied himself a bit of recreation when the opportunity presented itself. Besides, do really think that I or any of my esteemed colleagues seated here would steer you wrong?

DANIEL

I guess not.

MR. PATTON

On top of that you wouldn't want to offend a group of high ranking and career influencing managers by shunning a chance to bond and establish true friendship, or would you?

DANIEL

No sir. I'm my own man. My brother will have to learn that it's time that I made my own decisions!

MR. PATTON

Now you're cooking with gas!

Mr. Patton then beckons to the man who opened the door to the establishment. After this the elderly man walks to the bar at the center of the room and speaks briefly to an attractive Asian woman sitting on one of the nearby bar stools. The girl walks gracefully to where Mr. Patton and Daniel are sitting. She extends her hand to Daniel who stands and shakes it.

MAE LING

My name is Mae Ling.

DANIEL

I'm Daniel. Wow you're really pretty.

Mae Ling covers her mouth with an elaborate fan and giggles briefly.

MAE LING

Mr. Daniel, do you think that I could sit next to you?

DANIEL

Of course! I mean be my guest.

As Mae Ling seats herself next to Daniel Mr. Patton and the other men smile. They too are soon joined by other women as several inhale on the opium pipes that are brought forth.

EXT. CHELSEA PIERS - NIGHT

Few individuals are seen as bank analyst, Jennings is seen walking his Pomeranian along the sidewalk that runs along the area known as the Chelsea Piers. Daren is coloring while sitting on a park bench. Jennings recognizes Daren and greets him.

JENNINGS

Daren fancy seeing you here. Still working on your art?

DAREN

Mr. Patton told me how you were stealing from the bank. He also told me how you made fun of my coloring.

Jennings tries to move away as Daren moves with surprising speed and grabbing him by the front of his suit jacket lifts him into the air with his left arm.

JENNINGS

I only did what Mr. Patton told me and I never would have made fun of you!

DAREN

Still lying. That's not good!

Daren then reaches out with a massive right hand and twists Jennings' head until an audible breaking of his neck is heard. Daren then throws Jennings' body into the Hudson and walks quickly away while Jennings' Pomeranian produces a series of frenzied barks.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - MORNING

Brian makes his way towards the south end of Central Park passing through a wooded area south of the carousel. While walking, he becomes dizzy as he relives a nightmare which took place on Mindanao in the Philippines 18 months before. Brian is in the middle of a "V" formation when the squad of Filipino Constabulary soldiers he is accompanying is attacked from all sides by juramentados wielding kris blades. The lieutenant standing next to him empties a 38 cal revolver with little affect as he falls from a sweeping strike to his neck. At the last second, Brian is able to draw his 45 colt semi-auto pistol and drops three combatants before they can inflict more damage. The remaining Constabulary soldiers form a tight perimeter while Brian does what he can to comfort his dying companion. As Brian emerges from the park he comes upon the bike racing club and sees the girl named Damaris, dressed in pantaloons and along with a white shirt and waist coat leading a group of women riders as she streaks across across the finish line in first place. Damaris raises her hand in victory and still riding her bike, makes her way over to Brian.

DAMARIS

You made it!

BRIAN

Congratulations! You're some rider.

DAMARIS

Thanks but if you don't mind my saying,
you look like you just saw a ghost.

BRIAN

I was thinking back to my time in the
Philippines. It's nothing.

Damaris looks on not quite understanding what was said.
Damaris's brother notices Brian talking to his sister and
walks his bicycle over to where they are standing.

TOMMY

Well Damaris, am I going to stand here
all day or are you going to introduce me?

Damaris is confused for an instant and then speaks.

DAMARIS

This is my brother Tommy. Tommy, this
is...

BRIAN

Brian.

TOMMY

What brings you to the park?

BRIAN

Your sister mentioned the fact that
people liked to race a bit so I thought
it would be interesting to come and take
a look?

TOMMY

Do you bicycle much?

BRIAN

It's been a while. I never road on
anything as fancy as some of the models I
see out here today.

TOMMY

My friend Eddy isn't racing today. What
do you say to borrow his bike? We're
about to take a quick spin around the
park.

Tommy walks over to Eddy and Eddy nods his head in
agreement. Both walk over as Eddy shakes hands with Brian
while handing him his single geared bicycle.

EDDY

Just go easy on her.

BRIAN

I will and in case something happens,
I'll take care of any repairs.

EDDY

That sounds fair enough.

Brian takes off his cap and folds it over his belt as all of the riders line up. Damaris stands to the side and gives a thumbs up to indicate the fact that the race is about to begin. After all of the racers go silent, Damaris blows a whistle and the riders race toward the north end of the park. As the race begins, a rider on his left gives his bike a shove with an extended leg causing Brian to place both feet on the ground to keep from falling. The fall temporarily places Brian last in the group. As the riders disappear around a turn Brian slowly closes on the last rider. By the time the riders have reached the more elevated north end of the park, Brian finds himself in the middle of the pack. Coming out of the down hill portion of the race and holding a tight line out of the turn, Brian can see that he is in the number three position behind Tommy in the lead followed by the rider who shoved him at the start of the race. As Brian passes the unscrupulous rider who delayed him at the start he makes a slight drift into his lane and brushes the front tire of the offending rider with his rear wheel. This individual nearly falls and has to break and use both legs to keep from being upended. By this time the pack has caught him causing him to struggle to rejoin the other racers. Brian now finds himself in second position and maintains this spot till he and Tommy cross the finish line at the south end of the park. When they cross the finish line, Damaris is cheering wildly. She gives her brother a hug and walks over to where Brian is holding his borrowed bicycle.

DAMARIS

Nice going newcomer!

Eddy also makes his way over and shakes Brian's hand. Brian then returns his bicycle. He looks it over briefly.

EDDY

Good race Brian. And thanks for taking
good care of my bike.

BRIAN

Thank you. I owe you.

Eddy looks over at the other riders and notices the rider who pushed Brian at the start of the race making his way over.

EDDY

Oh no. Here comes Rolf. Don't let him push you around.

Rolf grabs Brian by the shirt and pulls him close

ROLF

No one pushes me and gets away with it!

Brian grabs Rolf's wrist and twists it causing him to release his grip. He then takes a step back as Rolf takes a swing at him. Brian moves his head to the left avoiding the blow and then springs forward giving a well executed axe kick to Rolf's head knocking him out cold.

EDDY

Wow! That was impressive.

TOMMY

I'll say. Rolf has been causing trouble ever since he showed up a few months ago. It's about time someone put him in his place.

Damaris is speechless as she looks on from the side. The other riders start to leave as Damaris and Tommy mount their bikes.

DAMARIS

Remember, we're here every Saturday, 5:00AM sharp!

BRIAN

I'll be here.

Brian walks away from the park with a spring in his step. As Brian approaches Central he passes a young boy selling copies of the "New York Herald" dated 7 May 1915.

NEWS BOY

Read all about it! "THE LUSITANIA IS SUNK". "1,000 PROBABLY ARE LOST"

Brian give the news boy a quarter.

BRIAN

Keep the change.

NEWS BOY

Thank you sir!

Brian holds the newspaper while he quietly reads the clearly visible headline.

BRIAN
Mon Dieu! (my God)

INT. ONE ROOM APARTMENT SHARED BY BRIAN AND DANIEL - DAY

Several weeks pass. Brian is already dressed and ready to start his day when he notes that his brother is still sleeping.

BRIAN
Daniel wake up!

Frustrated, Brian hurls his brother to a seated position and hits the bottom of his feet with a folded newspaper. Daniel!

DANIEL
What in the hell?

BRIAN
Daniel you might be a math genius but you still have to show up for work. If you blow it after getting such a great position you'll develop a reputation that will follow you closer than your shadow. If your tired don't stay out till all hours. Save your recreation for the weekends and if you do go out, just have one drink.

DANIEL
Enough already! Your jealous because I make more than you do.

BRIAN
That's not true! I'm clapping my hands together when I think about how you're doing. I hope you surpass me in every single way. That's the way dad would have wanted it!

Brian exits as Daniel reluctantly begins to dress.

EXT. SAINT JAMES PARISH LOUISIANA 1905 - DAY

Brian and Daniel are seen planting their fourth row of tobacco seedlings when their father makes his way over to where they are standing. He places his large hands on both of their shoulders and looks on with pride.

JOHN AMI

Great work boys! Your mother would have been proud of you. You two wash your hands and get supper started. It's getting dark and feels like rain. I'll get as many seedling in the ground as I can.

Both boys race to their simple cabin. Brian allows Daniel to pass him as both stop by a ceramic bowl filled with water resting on a large tree stump. They pick up the single bar of soap resting on a well used towel and perform a quick wash of their hands and face. After emptying the bowl, they hang the towel on a nearby tree limb and head inside.

INT. FAMILY'S ONE ROOM HOME - CONTINUOUS

Daniel brings a basket filled with a freshly baked loaf of corn bread to the kitchen table while Brian brings a plate of cut ham and freshly heated greens. Both brothers bow their heads as Brian says grace.

BRIAN

God we thank you for our food and pray for anyone who doesn't have enough to eat.

BRIAN AND DANIEL

Amen!

Brian and Daniel both serve themselves some ham and greens while taking some sliced corn bread.

DANIEL

In another month, I'll be off to college while you'll be heading to West Point.

BRIAN

Time goes fast. This tobacco crop is so important to dad so that he'll have enough money to come and visit us.

DANIEL

No kidding. If I didn't get that scholarship, I don't know where I'd be going.

By the time they finish eating the rain is coming down in sheets as a full fledged storm is unleashed. Brian opens the door and turns to his brother.

BRIAN

I've got to check on Dad! It's getting crazy outside!

Daniel looks on as they see their father running towards their tiny home with a wall of water following closely in his wake.

JOHN AMI

Boys! Get to the roof! The levee broke!

John holds the ladder while the boys climb to the top of the roof. Just as he is about to reach the roof, John Ami is knocked off of the ladder by a the limb of a tree that rushes past the house. Caught in the encircling branches, John is dragged along with the rushing water. Before he goes under he cries out.

JOHN AMI (CONT'D)

Brian! Take care of your brother!

BRIAN

(CRYING) I will Dad! I will!

EXT. MANHATTAN BOXING CLUB - DAY

As late afternoon approaches Mr. Roth and Brian make their way past a group of protestors standing outside the main offices of the New York Herald newspaper. They are holding signs that read "Keep America Out Of Europe's War" and "Only The Rich Profit From War" and "Jewish Bankers want war!"

MR. ROTH

What do you think of those signs Brian?

BRIAN

I think that war is evil. I also think that blaming your problems on someone else is way too easy. But, if the struggle involves good versus evil doing nothing is also wrong.

Mr. Roth pauses for a moment and then responds.

MR. ROTH

Good answer.

After both pass two police officers show up and pointing with their night sticks, direct the small gathering of sign carrying protesters to leave the area. They gather near a nearby alley way as Rolf, the aggressive bicycle rider from Central Park approaches them. He presses a few dollars into their outstretched hands and comments.

ROLF

Wait a few hours and then go back with your signs. By then the cops will be long gone.

The protesters nod their heads in agreement as Rolf walks quickly from the area.

INT. MANHATTAN BOXING CLUB - DAY

Brian and Mr. Roth are seen inside a local boxing gym. Both are wearing shorts and soft shoes. Brian works the speed bag while Mr. Roth spars with a trainer. As Brian works the bag, he attracts the attention of two friends he hasn't seen for some time, Jake Powers and David Levine.

JAKE POWERS

The Frenchman is the one of the few guys I know who can make a bag sing like that.

Brian stops and gives Brian and David a hug.

BRIAN

Jake! David!

Mr. Roth stops and listens to the exchange.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Mr. Roth these are my friends, Jake Powers and David Levine. If it wasn't for them I wouldn't even be above ground.

DAVID

This guy's too modest When we were in the Philippines, he saved us more times than I can count. Always put his men first and himself last.

The gym goes silent as a sign of respect. Mr. Roth steps out of ring and shakes hands with Jake and David.

MR. ROTH

It's an honor to meet both of you. Brian, I've got to get a move on. My wife is expecting me.

BRIAN

Yes sir. Are you sure you don't need me?

MR. ROTH

Enjoy your time with your friends.

Mr. Roth heads for the locker room while Brian turns to his friends. As if on cue all flash back to the same event.

EXT. BUD DAJO LAST COTA STRONGHOLD OF THE MOROS 1913 - DAY

The Cota/Camp located within the protective walls of a volcanic crater contains a force of over 1,000 fighters in addition to women and children. Brian/Captain Ami addresses his troops before shelling of the cota begins.

BRIAN

I want to thank you all for what you did last night. We lost eight of our men from raiders who got past our barbed wire but would have lost more if you didn't think more of the man beside you than you did of yourselves. When the shelling lifts we'll be heading into the crater. Listen to your sergeants and make sure of your targets. Whatever happens; it's an honor for me to call you brothers.

COMPANY BUGLER

Thank you sir!

In unison the men render a crisp salut as the shelling begins. After an hour the howitzers stop firing as Captain Ami's company approaches the crater in an undulating line of men who attempt to take advantage of whatever cover they can find as they advance. When concentrated small arms fire from the crater slows the advance, Sergeant Powers directs the crew manning the Hotchkiss belt fed machine gun to concentrate their fire on the thick bamboo gate that blocks access to the crater. Chips of bamboo fly into the air producing small powdery clouds as the bullets slam home. When enough structure is removed the final barrier gives way. By this time Captain Ami makes his way to the front giving hand signals to the remaining troops to move forward.

As they begin to run towards the space formerly occupied by the reinforced bamboo gate Ami takes out his 45 semi-automatic pistol and yells to Powers

BRIAN/CAPTAIN AMI

Watch my back! The Moros are sure to be waiting on either side of the crater walls.

SERGEANT POWERS

Will do sir!... Corporal Levine Watch my back!

CORPORAL LEVINE

Yes Sergeant!

Corporal Levine gives a thumbs up in reply and seeing that there is no one following him, shakes his head at the unfairness of his position. As they enter the Cota, Ami and Powers quickly empty their 45 caliber Colt semi-automatics as Moros wielding sword and spear rush them from all sides. Captain Ami picks up a large discarded bolo knife parrying and slashing as opportunity presents while Powers takes hold of a two handed war sword bringing it down in a series of overpowering vertical chops. A bolo wielding moro hiding in a crevice near the now destroyed main entrance is prevented from delivering a death blow to Sergeant Powers due to a well placed shot by Corporal Levine holding his own freshly reloaded Colt. All three return to the present. Brian speaks directly to Jake and David.

BRIAN/CAPTAIN AMI

I don't know how we survived our time in the boondocks, but I know for sure that I never want to experience anything like that again while I'm still above ground.

JAKE

You won't hear any argument from us.

DAVID

No way in Hell.

BRIAN

Listen, why don't we make a quick stop by Duffy's? On me. I hear that they make a great roast beef sandwich.

TOMMY

Sure.

DAVID

Yes sir.

BRIAN

Please call me Brian. As far as I can tell, our army days are over.

DAVID

Okay.....Brian then.

Brian pats David on the shoulder as the three bothers in arms rejoice in being reunited.

INT. BANKER'S TRUST BUILDING - DAY

Daniel is busy going over past ledger books when an alarm clock goes off on the edge of his desk causing him to shoot to his feet. He grabs his notebook and walks briskly down the hall pausing in front the desk of Mr. Patton's Secretary, Lola.

LOLA

Good morning Daniel. Mr. Patton is expecting you.

Mr. Patton calls to Daniel as he sees him through his partially opened door.

MR. PATTON

Come on in Daniel

Daniel enters Mr. Patton's office as Mr. Patton motions with a closing motion towards his door. ... Daniel is confused for a moment and then closes the door. Mr. Patton then points to the single chair positioned in front of his desk.

MR. PATTON (CONT'D)

How's the audit going?

DANIEL

Good. I haven't found any irregularities. These books are much cleaner than the ones you started me off with.

MR. PATTON

Good. Jennings was a good deal more diligent when he started out but then he got sloppy. Daniel, why do you think Jennings got sloppy?

DANIEL

I don't know sir.

MR. PATTON

I'll tell you why. Because Jennings got comfortable. You don't plan on getting too comfortable, do you Daniel?

DANIEL

No sir. This work is too important. I plan on keeping on my toes.

MR. PATTON

Good. That's how I read you. That's also why I have good news for you. You can keep a secret?

DANIEL

Definitely!

MR. PATTON

Good then, in strictest confidence, I can tell you that I've been given a directorship in the newly formed New York branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. In this position I get to bring some of my own people along with me. I've seen how you work and would like to offer you a senior analyst position. Of course the new position comes with a twenty percent raise in salary.

DANIEL

That sounds great! Yes. Yes.

Mr. Patton stands and shakes Daniels hand.

MR. PATTON

Lola will fill you in on all of the details. I'll be expecting to see you at our new job at eight o'clock Monday morning. I suspect that you may want to celebrate with Mae Ling but hush hush as to the details. Enjoy yourself and stay away from the pipe.

DANIEL

Yes sir. My brother told me to just have one drink when I go out and I've stuck to his advice.

MR. PATTON

Your brother sounds like a smart man.

Brian exits and is seen stopping at Lola's desk where she hands him a brown manila envelope.

DANIEL

By the way, any word on Mr. Jennings?

LOLA

Nothing seems to have surfaced as of yet.

Daniel nods his head thoughtfully and as he exits, Lola looks into Mr. Patton's office. Both smile malevolently.

INT. MR ROTH'S THEATER - DAY

After passing a group of stage hands busy preparing a new set, Brian makes his way to Mr. Roth's office and knocks on the door.

MR. ROTH

Yes.

Mr. Roth opens his office door and quickly locks it after Brian enters.

BRIAN

Is anything going on?

MR. ROTH

No, I just don't want to be disturbed.

Mr. Roth motions to the chair facing his desk.

MR. ROTH (CONT'D)

Please.

Brian what are your thoughts on working for me?

BRIAN

I'm grateful.

MR. ROTH

Do you still buy what I first told you about being pressured by gangs and unions for payoffs?

BRIAN

Yes.

MR. ROTH

And do you think that's all there is to it?

BRIAN

Not really. You could employ two Pinkerton agents for what you're paying me. There has to be something more.

(MORE)

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Whatever it is I thought you'd get around to telling me when you were ready.

MR. ROTH

You never disappoint. Truth is I work for the Secret Service. With the sinking of the Lusitania we're in perilous times. Even with no desire on the part of the general public to enter the war I'd give us a year, two at the most before we're dragged into the war. Operatives working for the German government have already attacked food storage facilities and arms factories. They're also attempting to infiltrate research facilities and obtain whatever information they can. I had a thorough background investigation done on you and your friends Levine and Powers. All of you are more than qualified. A man named Colonel Wilton tried to Court Martial you but that went no where. Apparently you had friends in high places. General Pershing himself gave you glowing reviews and insisted that you be given an honorable discharge. You don't have to enlighten me on the subject if you don't care to.

BRIAN

That's okay. I refused an order to execute 100 enemy prisoners after Bud Dajo was taken. When I was first commissioned, I swore to uphold the Constitution. I never said I'd be a war criminal. If it wasn't for the guys you met at the gym, Jake and David, getting word to General Pershing, I would have been hung out to dry.

MR. ROTH

That's good enough for me. Interested in joining the service.

BRIAN

Yes.

MR. ROTH

Just sign on the dotted line.

Mr. Roth hands Brian a pen that Brian uses to sign the documents placed before him. Mr. Roth shakes Brian's hand and then passes him a wooden box that had been placed under the table. Brian opens it and finds a Colt 45 semi-auto pistol as well as 3 spare magazines.

MR. ROTH (CONT'D)

It's loaded and ready to go so be careful...Also, I had a friend make these rigs for yourself, Powers and Levine. I think I got the measurements right. After all, I spent a lot of time in a tailor shop when I was growing up.

Mr. Roth reaches into a canvas bag and hands Brian a shoulder holster with carriers for two magazines. After placing his 45 and the spare magazines in the holster, Brian takes off his suit jacket and tries it on.

BRIAN

Perfect.

As Brian puts on his suit jacket, Mr. Roth places the remaining, 45s, magazines and holsters as well as several boxes of spare ammunition into a sturdy canvas bag and hands it to Brian. He also hands Brian his identification papers and badge neatly placed in a leather billfold. Brian looks at the ID and nods his head in a way that indicates he's impressed.

MR. ROTH

Identification for Powers and Levine is also included.

BRIAN

What if they say no?

MR. ROTH

It's as good as done. They were just waiting for you to say yes. I suggest that the three of you take a drive into the country this weekend so that you can brush up on your shooting skills. We have an isolated piece of land next to a potato farm on the north shore of Long Island that should do nicely.

Mr. Roth hands Brian a small note book.

MR. ROTH (CONT'D)

The address is on the first page.

BRIAN

Good idea. Thanks.

Brian picks up the canvas bag and exits.

INT. CHINESE OPIUM DEN/RESTAURANT WHERE MAE-LEE WORKS - NIGHT

Daniel and Mae Lee are seen sitting at a table shielded by elaborately painted folding panels depicting blooming cherry blossom trees and pheasants. Both are enjoying tea and plumb cake.

DANIEL

Mae Lee, can you keep a secret?

MAE LEE

Daniel, you know I would do anything for you. Your secrets are safe with me.

An brass horn of plenty is located directly over Daniel's head. The horn passes through the wall and connects directly to an Edison recorder. The pair of individuals manning the recorder struggle to keep from laughing stopping only when the elderly man who owns the establishment waves a meat cleaver in their direction.

DANIEL

I knew I could trust you. The thing is, on Monday my boss and I well be starting new jobs at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. I'll be taking on a senior analyst position while my boss Mr. Patton will be one of the directors.

MAE LEE

I'm so proud of you!

Mae Lee immediately embraces Daniel as the couple engage in a passionate kiss. Daniel stops only to catch his breath as he pants in ecstasy.

EXT. JONES BEACH - DAY

Brian and Damaris enjoy a picnic in a quiet section of the beach back from the ocean. They enjoy their food, grateful for the shade provided by their rented beach umbrella.

2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

DAMARIS

Brian it's so wonderful when we spend time together.

BRIAN

It's like being in heaven.

DAMARIS

Agreed. ..I don't want to ruin the mood but I'm worried about Tommy.

BRIAN

He seemed fine last time I saw him.

DAMARIS

It has something to do with that guy Rolf. I know he hasn't been racing since the day you put him in his place but Tommy still does odd jobs for him. Lately Tommy just hasn't been feeling right about the guy.

BRIAN

Did something happen?

DAMARIS

When Tommy told him about the sinking of the Lusitania, Rolf said they got what they deserved.

BRIAN

Including passengers and crew, eleven hundred and ninety nine people perished, including one hundred and twenty eight Americans.

Brian and Damaris hold each other close as they look out into the sea.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

When my father was fighting in the bare knuckle circuit he was in Chicago in eighteen ninety three for a match. It was the same time as the Chicago World's Fair. While there he visited the Krupp exhibition. They were showing off some of the world's biggest artillery pieces. The innocent people who passed through the displays were "ooing" and "awing" without considering the purpose of such things. Maybe it was the shine of polished steel or the idea that artillery pieces were now able to hurl a shell that weighed a ton at a target fifteen miles away. Some of the guns on exhibit were used in nineteen fourteen to shell Paris. When my father returned home he told my mother that something terrible was coming round the bend.

DAMARIS

Sounds like you father was a wise man.

BRIAN

Not an educated man in the formal sense,
but smart enough to see things for what
they were.

EXT. SENECA LAKE UPSTATE NY NEAR WATKINS GLEN - DAY

A group of men stand on the deck wooden framed pleasure boat of approximately thirty feet in length as it makes its way into a covered dock, guided by its' on board diesel engine. They are met by a professorial looking individual holding a clipboard.

PROFESSOR SIMONS

So how did we do boys?

FRANK TIMMONS

We were able to get reliable sounding out
to 15 Kilometers!

PROFESSOR SIMONS

Looks like we hit this one out of the
park. For now this could help to give our
sailors a fighting chance against the
subs.

With a nod from the professor, a young assistant pops a magnum of champagne and pours the contents into the glasses on the long table. All grab their glasses as the professor offers a toast while raising his glass high.

PROFESSOR SIMONS (CONT'D)

To the success of our hydrophone project!

All present cheer and drink.

EXT. SCENIC OVERLOOK JUST ABOVE THE SENECA LAKE TEST SITE
- CONTINUOUS

Rolf holds a pair of binoculars while commenting to two hard looking individuals standing beside him. All are dressed in dark suits and have newsboy caps atop their heads.

ROLF

Looks as though they've been successful.
We make our move tonight.

(MORE)

ROLF (CONT'D)

First priority will be the plans and if that doesn't work out we take the hydrophone.

The men next to Rolf nod their heads in agreement.

EXT. NEARBY WOODEN PLEASURE BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Roth, Brian, Jake and David all appear to be fishing. Mr. Roth speaks after taking a quick look through his binoculars.

MR. ROTH

Looks like they did it. If any of the operatives for the Central Powers are going to make their move; tonight is a safe bet.

EXT. ON A WOODEN CABIN CRUISER ONE MILE NORTH OF THE SERANAC LAKE TEST SITE - NIGHT

Mr. Roth, Brian, Jake and David are all dressed in dark clothing and have their hands and faces darkened with grease paint. The skipper of the small boat stays on board while the rest board a medium size row boat. After landing just out of sight of the test site, they make their way along the shore. Rolf and three others have already started their approach. On their way to the test site, Rolf and the saboteurs wait for one guard after another to turn their backs. Emerging quickly from the darkness they use their knives to send the hapless watchmen to the next life. When Mr. Roth comes upon the bodies of the slain men he shakes his head in silent fury. Following the hand signals given by Roth, he and Brian remain by the north side of the facility while Jake and David approach from the south. When available cover runs out all low crawl until the near the edge of the boat house is reached. Sensing the approach of an individual lacking the uniform of normally assigned personnel, Brian signals to Mr. Roth to freeze as he presses his body against the near side of the building. He then silently removes his leaf shaped bolo knife from his sheath and waits. When Mr. Roth sees a bloody head roll in the direction of his feet, he knows that the saboteurs' lone lookout has been neutralized. From within the test boat, Rolf holds his clenched hand in the air and speaks to one of his men.

ROLF

Dieter, something must be going on with Werner. I can't hear him walking back and forth.

Dieter sees no sign of Werner but is able to observe a fleeting glimpse of David as he darts forward and kneels next to a wooden barrel. As Dieter prepares to fire his Luger in David's direction, Brian unholsters his Colt 45 semi-automatic and sends a round in Dieter's direction. The bullet smacks into Dieter throwing him back across the dock as he departs this life in an instant. All in Brian's party now fire as Rolf and an individual named Helmut take cover on the opposite side of the test boat's wheel house. Rolf points to the Winchester pump shotgun held by Helmut.

ROLF (CONT'D)

Cover me and we'll get them in the cross fire.

Helmut begins to work the shotgun causing all before to momentarily stop behind available cover. As Rolf, canvas bag in hand, moves to the left he forgets about his pledge to provide cross fire and jumps on board his Indian motorcycle which had been parked out of sight behind a nearby shed. As Helmut stops to reload his now empty shotgun, Mr. Roth rushes forward and sends a round into the center of Helmut's forehead, putting an end to the gunfight. Brian, Jake, David and Mr. Roth make a quick assessment of the boat house and secure the area. Mr. Roth heads to a nearby pay phone and calls for reinforcements while the others await his return.

EXT. SMALL TOWN - DAY

Early the next morning Mr. Roth finishes his communication on a pay phone and walks back to his limousine where Brian, Jake and David are waiting.

MR. ROTH

I just spoke with Professor Simons. Apparently they weren't able to get their hands on the hydrophone but were able to get a copy of the plans for the device. Apparently these diagrams are incomplete and of use mainly for installation purposes. The main configuration for the internals are secured in a safe located in the Portsmouth Naval Ship Yard in Kittery, Maine.

BRIAN

That's a partial relief.

MR. ROTH

I notified our people in Kittery to double their security in case another attempt is made. Unfortunately, other agents working for Germany have been able to get their hands on a prototype of our latest depth charges from the naval station in Portsmouth New Hampshire which could allow them to render them ineffective.

JAKE

Any ideas as to how we can get the device before it's shipped?

MR. ROTH

We don't have enough agents to cover the entire Eastern seaboard.

BRIAN

Why not just focus on the ships that are bound for Bremerhaven?

MR. ROTH

That's a great idea. Brains plus brawn. No wonder I hired you guys.

DAVID

Talk about qualifications; for a Broadway producer, you handled yourself pretty well back there.

MR. ROTH

Let's just say that while growing up I had a somewhat checkered past.

All nod their heads in quiet agreement.

EXT. CHELSEA PIERS - NIGHT

Tommy is seen parking a small truck in a designated area leading to a collection of moored ships taking on cargo. Tommy exits the vehicle and both he and Rolf unload a steamer trunk equipped with wheels. They both reach the designated craft where Rolf ensures that the securely padlocked over sized trunk is properly loaded. Rolf then speaks to the officer supervising the watch.

ROLF

I'll be back in just a few minutes.

DECK OFFICER

Yes sir. We'll be waiting for you.

Rolf then turns to Tommy.

ROLF

Hang on just a second Tommy. I have a gift that I want to give you.

TOMMY

Oh thanks. I wasn't expecting anything.

ROLF

For all you've done, you deserve something special.

Rolf leads Tommy to an unlit section of a nearby pier and pretends to fish inside the pocket of his suit. Daren then steps out from the shadows and throws his arms around Tommy, placing him in a vice like grip.

TOMMY

What is this?!

ROLF

Let's just say I'm tying up a few loose ends. American authorities are becoming suspicious and I wouldn't want you spilling the beans.

Rolf finally finds what he's looking for as he deftly removes a switch blade from the liner pocket of his suit. He then pushes on a button that relieves tension on an internal spring causing a double edged blade to appear. With a practiced upward thrust Rolf pierces Tommy's heart ending his life. Daren then drops Tommy's lifeless body into the Hudson river. After this, Rolf passes a manila envelope to Daren.

ROLF (CONT'D)

You'll find the money we promised you in the envelope. You'll also find a new set of colored pencils from Germany, finest quality guaranteed. Oh and here are the keys to the truck. Obey the speed limit and leave it in the place I showed you.

Daren takes the car keys from Rolf and places them in his pocket.

DAREN

Yes Mr. Rolf I'll do exactly what you told me.

ROLF

And Daren, wait here for just a bit until I'm out of sight.

DAREN

I will sir, I sure will.

ROLPH

Also, keep up the art work. Some day your drawings will be hanging in the Louvre.

DAREN

Yes sir! Thank you sir!

Daren continues to wait and then comments to himself in a hushed voice.

DAREN (CONT'D)

The Louvre, what's the Louvre?..I'll ask Mr. Patton. He's sure to know.

After Rolf and Daren exit the dock area, Tommy, David and and Jake arrive on scene.

DAVID

Damn the Ship is already leaving.

BRIAN

There's still time. Stand by while I Make a call.

Brian runs to a nearby phone book where he makes a series of frantic calls.

JAKE

Seems like Brian never gives up.

DAVID

I have yet to see it.

Brian then returns to where Jake and David are standing.

BRIAN

A radio dispatch is being sent to all naval and coast guard vessels in the area. The coast guard has two fast patrol boats located near the mouth of the Hudson River. We should be able to stop the ship before it heads for open waters.

JAKE

Maybe we weren't too late after all.

EXT. WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK - DAY

Brian and is seen sitting on a park bench patiently waiting for his brother. A homeless man approaches him.

HOMELESS MAN

Sir, can you spare a nickel for a former veteran?

BRIAN

I will if you promise to get yourself something to eat.

HOMELESS MAN

Oh I will. I'm sworn of hard liquor that I am.

Brian gives him a dime and watches as a mostly empty bottle of whiskey is seen resting in his coat pocket.

HOMELESS MAN (CONT'D)

Thank you sir. Thank you. I'll keep you in my prayers.

BRIAN

I'll do the same for you.

The homeless man continues on. Brian then sees his brother Daniel making his way towards him. Brian raises his hand to make sure that he is not missed. When Daniel arrives, Brian gets up and gives him a hug.

DANIEL

I would have been here sooner but your directions could have been better.

BRIAN

You probably thought I said north end instead of south end. Doesn't matter. Important thing is that I get to see you.

Brian hands Daniel his wrapped bagel and his cup of coffee. Daniel looks at the bagel and smiles.

DANIEL

My favorite, everything with butter.

Daniel takes a bite and then takes a drink of his coffee.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Milk, one sugar. Brian, you never forget a thing.

BRIAN

I try. Settled in your at your new apartment?

DANIEL

Bit by bit. Fancy place but it seems like I spend most of my time at work.

BRIAN

Do you like what you're doing?

DANIEL

Mostly though Mr. Patton does seem to be under a lot of pressure. Things at the Federal Reserve are pretty high level. We get a lot of people from Europe but I'm not supposed to talk about that.

BRIAN

Good advice. Daniel because I'm your brother, it's okay to talk to me. Try and keep your work related information to yourself. The kind of money you're dealing with attracts a lot of attention sometimes not so good.

DANIEL

I'm the one who got the high paying job! You always think you know everything!

BRIAN

Daniel, the way you work those numbers; you're way out of my league.

DANIEL

I'm sorry for yelling. Brian how come you're always so good to me?

BRIAN

You're my only brother. I can't help it.

Both brothers enjoy their coffee and bagels. Both rise as Brian puts their trash in a nearby garbage can. Daniel starts off in the wrong direction then turns around as Brian points to the south end of the island.

EXT. WOODLAWN CEMETARY - DAY

The casket containing Tommy's body is next to his burial plot. Damaris, Brian, Tommy's parents and a few members of the bicycle club are standing together as a priest comes to the end of the eulogy.

PRIEST

The bible tells us from dust we are and to dust we shall return and yet because of the resurrection we have the sure hope of salvation. Thomas, this is not the end.

ALL

Amen.

As all gather to leave, Damaris takes Brian to the side and speaks in a low voice.

DAMARIS

Thank you for all you've done Brian. If it wasn't for you, Tommy would have ended up in Hart Island. Just one thing, Brian you know I'm attending Hunter Teaching college. I've got bills due for books and have to make up Tommy's portion of the rent.

BRIAN

How much do you need?

DAMARIS

If you have it, three hundred would be a big help.

BRIAN

I don't have that much, but I could lend you two hundred.

DAMARIS

You're a life saver! That would be wonderful.

Tommy writes out a check for two hundred and hands it to Damaris.

DAMARIS (CONT'D)

I've got to be going. My parents sort of need me and they tend to be private people.

BRIAN

I understand.

Damaris and her parents walk slowly away as Brian gets on his bicycle and rides south.

EXT. SOUTH END OF CENTRAL PARK - DAY

Brian is on his bicycle waiting for others to arrive. He sees Eddy and begins to speak.

BRIAN

Hey Eddy, do you have any idea where Damaris is ?

EDDY

Not really. Rumor has it that she told a sob story to a couple of swells. Took them down for four or five hundred. If I know her she's probably living the good life out in the Hamptons. She won't be back for at least two months or however long the money lasts.

Brian shakes his head and directs his bicycle south and out of the park.

EXT. MANHATTAN BOXING CLUB- DAY

After a brisk ride out of the park Brian ends up in front of the Manhattan Boxing Club. He pauses briefly and then walks his bike into the club where he sees Jake and David working out. Jake finishes a sparring session with a hard looking individual and after taking off his gloves extends a hand to Brian. David leaves the heavy bag and also extends a hand.

BRIAN

Jake, I know you take a fight now and then. Is there any talent in the gym at the moment? Someone my size?

JAKE

As a matter of fact Mack Jones' sparring partner was a no show. None of the people who spar with Mack last very long. Truth is, he's pretty rough and not above fighting dirty.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Sounds perfect.

Jake walks over to Mack's manager Don Osborne and has a few words with him. He nods his head and calls to Mack who is on the speed bag.

DON

Hey Mack. We've got some poor soul who would like to go a few rounds with you.

MACK

Why not?

Mack gets in the ring after Don laces up his gloves. He and Brian touch gloves and Mack throws a right and left combination that Brian easily avoids by skilled head movement. Mack looks at his manager and comments.

MACK (CONT'D)

You didn't tell me that this guy had been in the ring before. If this is a joke I'm gonna have the last laugh.

Mack then tears into Brian but is unable to land any sort of telling blow. When the bell sounds for the round to end he delivers a heavy blow to the side of Brian's head as he turns and starts to head for his corner. Brian is laid out but with Jake stepping in and acting as referee, recovers when the count goes to six. As Brian takes a break in the corner Dave speaks into his ear.

DAVID

Brian this guy is a contender no one would blame you if you said you had enough.

Brian shakes his head and comments.

BRIAN

Don't worry about it. I needed that wake up call.

When the bell sounds both fighters come together. Brian gets low and throws a hard right into Mack's ribs causing him to take a step back. Brian then follows this up with a right cross to the side of Mack's head knocking him out cold. Long before Mack recovers Brian is about to leave the gym when Don Osborne blocks his path and offers his hand.

DON OSBORNE

You really have some skills. Mack is a contender and hasn't been laid out for some time. If you ever want to make some serious money I could arrange it.

BRIAN

What kind of money?

DON OSBORNE

One hundred for your first fight and two hundred after that. If you take on one of the top guys you could make five hundred for a night's work.

BRIAN

I'm interested.

DON OSBORNE

Well then we'll see you this Saturday at 7:00PM in the basement of the building located on 8th and twenty fourth. And Brian this sort of fighting is all bear knuckles.

BRIAN

Sounds great.

Jake and David catch up to Brian as he leaves the gym

DAVID

Brian are sure you know what your signing up for? I know Mr. Roth is away for three weeks, but if you break a hand you may end up out of work for a spell.

BRIAN

If I was punching with a closed fist you'd have a point. I plan on using my feet as much as possible and if I do need to use my hand I won't be using a closed fist. Guys I'd appreciate it if you could act as my corner men; eighth and twenty fourth, 7:00PM.

JAKE

We'll be there.

INT. WAREHOUSE - EVENING

A space has been cleared in a warehouse and a ring set up on the open floor with the sole purpose of separating the fighters from the crowd. A bookie stands on a raised platform and announces.

BOOKIE

Next up we have the local knock out master Bull Ryan facing off against a contender known as "The Frenchman".

((MORE))

BOOKIE (CONT'D)

Because none of us have seen the Frenchman, the odds are four to one against. Place your bets gentlemen. Place your bets!

David speaks to a friend and whispers into his ear as he places several bills in his hand.

DAVID

Put three hundred on the Frenchman.
There's an extra ten for your trouble.

DAVID'S FRIEND

Got it.

The bets are placed as Brian enters the ring.

BOOKIE

On my right is the fighter they call the Frenchman we don't know too much about him but give him a cheer any way.

Jake and David cheer while the rest of the room remains subdued.

BOOKIE (CONT'D)

And now entering the room is our local champion, Bull Ryan. Bull has a record of twenty wins and no losses and likes to go for a knock out. The fight is scheduled for three rounds and except for no biting or eye gouging, there are no rules! The bell rings as both fighters square off. Brian delivers a palm strike to Ryan's face, visibly rocking him. Ryan immediately goes for a bear hug as Brian escapes by stomping on Ryan's extended foot. Brian then executes a spinning back kick that knocks Ryan out cold. The Bookie reluctantly pays David's friend who follows Brian, Jake and David out of the venue.

EXT. CORNER OF EIGHTH AVENUE AND TWENTY FOURTH STREET - CONTINUOUS.

David takes the money from his friend and after giving his promised ten dollars his friend walks quickly away from the area.

BRIAN

Guys just grab a cab. You can give me my cut when I see you tomorrow.

JAKE

Good idea. I saw some rough customers starting to talk as soon as we collected.

Jake and David immediately hop into a passing cab and head up town while Brian does the same. Several individuals soon exit the venue and approach one of the waiting cabs.

THIEF

Say buddy you didn't see three guys just exit the building? One of them looked like a fighter.

CAB DRIVER

A dollar would refresh my memory.

The thief reluctantly passes him a dollar.

CAB DRIVER (CONT'D)

They all got into a cab and headed south looks like they were in a hurry.

The unidentified thief speaks to his two friends.

THIEF

Looks like they're long gone. Don't worry. They'll be back!

INT. MR. ROTH'S THEATER DAY

Brian and Mr. Roth are enjoying a cup of coffee together.

BRIAN

It's great to have you back. I hope you had a productive trip.

MR. ROTH

Productive but also a little disturbing. I don't have to tell you that a storm's coming.

BRIAN

Sure seems like.

MR. ROTH

I'm sorry things didn't work out for you with your biking companion but for what it's worth, I've had many a show girl take me for a ride in terms of lost money and wasted time.

BRIAN

How did you deal with it?

MR. ROTH

I looked until I found a show worth backing and more than compensated for any funds I may have lost. Sort of the same tact you chose by arranging a fight with a good payday.

BRIAN

Money can always be made; but in the end your heart still takes a beating.

MR. ROTH

You've got a point there.

Both share a toast as they bring their half finished cups of coffee together.

EXT. JERSEY SHORE - DAY

David, Jake and Brian are seen walking on the Atlantic City Boardwalk

DAVID

Great idea talking Mr. Roth into sending us to Atlantic City on a working vacation.

BRIAN

I know I needed a break. I could sense a couple of bullets that were way to close when we were up at Seneca Lake.

JAKE

It also doesn't hurt that you came through on that fight. A few extra dollars is always appreciated.

BRIAN

I've got to admit that I like this place. It's always good to be around happy people.

DAVID

Agreed on both counts. Plus the ocean breeze makes a person forget about how hot it is.

At this an extremely attractive young woman in her early twenties leaves a children's toy and book store. The paper bag she is carrying tears causing several wrapped toys and books to fall and scatter across the boardwalk. Brian jumps at the chance to help and after gathering the fallen purchases comments:

BRIAN

Hold on just a second. I'll get you another bag.

Brian comes back with a large canvas shoulder bag and holds it open while the young woman transfers the items.

ROSA

You didn't have to do this. The bag I had was made of paper and you replaced it with something much nicer.

BRIAN

My pleasure. You must have a large family given all these gifts.

ROSA

Actually, I'm a school teacher in Hoboken.

BRIAN

Lucky students.

Rosa blushes then notices that her two friends are walking in their direction. Her friends notice Jake and David and smile which encourages the two friends to approach.

DAVID

You're the prettiest girls we've seen all day. You're like a breath of fresh air.

Jake blushes and the tallest of the three women walks over to him.

NANCY

A big strapping man like yourself blushing like a schoolboy. You must be one of those shy types.

JAKE

I guess you took my breath away.

Jake's comment causes Nancy to blush.

ROSA MARIANA

Now look whose face just turned red.

BRIAN

Ladies what do you say we get some ice cream. My treat.

Rosa and Nancy nod their heads in agreement. Their friend Dara is reluctant causing David to speak up.

DAVID

Because peaches are in season I understand that the ice cream stand is offering it as one of their flavors.

DARA

Really? I love peaches.

All three take seats with Rosa, Nancy and Dara sitting across from Brian, Jake and David respectively.

DARA (CONT'D)

For fellas dressed like business men, you look like you could all be prize fighters.

DAVID

We all served together in the army. We had to exercise whether we wanted to or not.

JAKE

We're happy to be alive and appreciate the good things when they come our way.

Nancy blushes again as they all enjoy the moment. Jake and David continue their walk down the boardwalk with Dara and Nancy as David and Rosa remain behind.

BRIAN

So, are you going to tell me your name?

ROSA MARIANA

Rosa...Rosa Mariana.

BRIAN

Rosa Mariana..., beautiful Name.

ROSA

And you?

BRIAN

My name's Brian. Brian Ami.

ROSA

That sounds French.

BRIAN

French by way of Louisiana. My father's people came from France. He was a farmer and my mother was a school teacher, straight from Vermont.

ROSA

That's interesting. My parents were both born on farms in Calabria, Italy. We came here when I was five.

BRIAN

Wow! It sounds like we've got a lot in common.

Brian places his hand on Rosa's and she makes no effort to remove it.

EXT. BEACH SOUTH OF ATLANTIC CITY - NIGHT

Brian, Jake and David are all dressed in dark clothing out of sight behind a grass topped sand dune.

JAKE

I should have known that our visit to the shore wouldn't be all fun. I told Nancy we were out fishing.

DAVID

That's the same load of horse pucky I told Dara.

BRIAN

I just told Rosa that we had some work to do...Any way keep a sharp eye out. Some tuna fishermen reported seeing some freighters coming way to close to shore. A row boat with an outboard in the back could cover a lot of water. If they cut their engine when they get close to shore and row in; they could be in and out before anyone noticed.

Jake scans the horizon with a pair of binoculars and suddenly freezes as he points.

JAKE

There!

David also looks through his binoculars.

DAVID

About five kilometers out. Can't tell how many people are on board.

BRIAN

There's bound to be at least four to man the oars. Let them land, David cover the boat with the Springfield. If they try to bolt shoot the outboard. Remember, if possible, our aim is to take these guys alive so we can question them.

Not long after this, the lone boat makes it to shore. Three men exit the boat carrying heavy looking seabags that they sling across their backs. Jake and Brian wait behind a pair of sand dunes and when they get close Jake throws a lit flare at their feet adding light to the area while interfering with the vision of the three saboteurs.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Drop the bags! Hands in the air. Halt!
Hande hoch!

All three reach for their pistols and shoot wildly in the direction of Brian's voice. Jake cuts down the two individuals closest to him while Brian shoots the individual who charges his position. When the lone individual in the row boat hears the shooting he immediately jumps out of the boat and attempts to push it out to sea. David sends several rounds into the outboard engine as sparks from the impacting bullets indicate direct hits. Noting that David has stopped shooting, the lone boatman goes for his side arm and shoots wildly in the direction of the beach. David's final round hits the remaining infiltrator squarely in the chest causing all movement to cease. Brian and Jake immediately approach the three fallen individuals and after ensuring that they have moved on to the next life remove their firearms. None of them have any identification. Jake opens the canvas bag of the individual closest to him.

JAKE

Bingo! Timers, Blasting caps and dynamite.

BRIAN

The timers look like the ones that destroyed the DuPont chemical plant three weeks ago. Forty innocent men and women killed.

JAKE

If this stuff made its way to Bayonne we're talking hundreds, not to mention the families living in the area.

David comes runs to where Jake and Brian are standing.

DAVID

The guy in the boat started shooting so I had to return fire. No identification.

BRIAN

Same here. There's a pay phone down the road. I'll call the pickup team. We should have all of this cleaned up before people start their morning walks. Good work guys. You did the job right and didn't shoot until you had to.

INT. NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK - DAY

Daniel walks toward his office dressed in a scarf and a heavy wool coat. He holds a news paper and a newsboy cap in his hand. Lola, Mr. Patton's secretary notices him as he passes.

LOLA

Good morning Mr. Ami.

DANIEL

Good morning Lola.

LOLA

Mr. Ami, Mr. Patton would like to see you when you get a chance.

DANIEL

Oh sure. Daniel immediately starts for Mr. Patton's office.

LOLA

Sir you Might want to leave your hat and coat in your office. I wouldn't want you to over heat.

DANIEL

Good idea.

Daniel leaves his heavy winter clothing in his office and returns to Lola's desk. Mr. Patton sees him from his partially opened door.

MR. PATTON

Come on in Daniel.

Mr. Patton points to the chair in front of his desk. Daniel takes his seat, note book and pen in hand.

MR. PATTON (CONT'D)

Daniel, did you see today's paper?

DANIEL

Oh yes the 'Katzenjammer Kids" were a riot. One of Mama's friends saw them playing hooky from school so they had to white wash the fence around the family garden for punishment.

MR. PATTON

Very amusing. What I was referring to was Germany's announcement that it was going to resume unrestricted submarine warfare. You knows what that means don't you?

DANIEL

I wouldn't be getting on a passenger ship any time soon.

MR. PATTON

That's true. Anything else?

DANIEL

War?

MR. PATTON

You got it. If the US declares war on the Central powers we stand to make a lot of money. In addition to your normal duties, I want you to do some background work on a number of US companies. We Want to be responsible about where we invest. Here's a list to start off with. This is all hush hush as usual.

Mr. Patton hands Daniel a list of companies.

DANIEL

Yes sir. I'll get right on it.

EXT. MR. ROTH'S THEATER - MORNING

Early in the morning Brian makes his way to the side entrance of Mr. Roth's theater and is waived in by the security guard.

BRIAN

Good morning Ray...You look a little sleepy

RAY

I'll make it. My relief is running a bit late.

Brian hands his fresh cup of copy to the guard without thinking.

BRIAN

Take this. I haven't touched it. I like mine black just the way you do.

RAY

Thank you sir. You and Mr. Roth are the only people here who would even think of doing such a thing.

INT. MR. ROTH'S THEATER - CONTINUOUS

Brian makes his way to the door of Mr. Roth's office and gives one quiet knock followed by a loud one.

MR. ROTH

Come on in Brian.

Brian enters and takes a seat opposite Mr. Roth.

MR. ROTH (CONT'D)

Brian, are you familiar with a bordello that goes by the name of "House Of Ishtar"?

BRIAN

Never been there but I've heard of it.

MR. ROTH

There's a rumor that German agents are using it as a honey pot. There's a machine tooling convention being held this week, right across from Penn Station.

(MORE)

MR. ROTH (CONT'D)

Many of the the people attending the convection are involved in defense industry projects. If an executive or head of one of these companies were compromised it could jeopardize the readiness plans of the United States and delay much needed supplies for the Allies. It might even mean the passing on of military secrets. I'd like you and your men to pay a visit and see if you can learn something.

MR. ROTH (CONT'D)

And Brian tell your guys to look but not touch.

BRIAN

No problem. Besides we met some great girls at the Jersey Shore so the chances of that are slim to none.

MR. ROTH

Glad to hear it...And Brian, I'm glad to hear you're moving on.

BRIAN

Thank you sir.

INT. HOUSE OF ISHTAR - NIGHT

Brian, David and Jake enter the house of Ishtar and are led past a coat room where they over hear a terse conversation between a young girl and the madame of the House.

MADAME CHANEL

I'll give you another week to make up your mind! A pretty young thing like yourself is wasted handing out coats and hats. I need you out on the floor where you can make some real money.

ALINA

Yes Madame, I understand.

Brian, David and Jake make their way to a circular booth and give their orders to a waitress who scribbles their choices on a white note pad. In a hushed voice Brian addresses Jake and David.

BRIAN

Are you guys thinking what I'm thinking?

JAKE

That hat check girl may be our ticket to finding out what's going on.

DAVID

The difficult part will be talking to her without getting her in trouble.

BRIAN

What a blessing it is to work with guys as sharp as yourselves.

DAVID

Thanks.

Jake gives a thumbs up.

The hours pass as the three secret service agents nurse their drinks and talk to the girls of the house. As the night drags on Madame Chanel approaches Alina.

MADAME CHANEL

Alina I'd like you to help clean up the outdoor patio. Just close the door to the coat room on your way out.

ALINA

Yes ma'am. Right away.

Shortly after Alina makes her way outside, Brian gets up and seeing that no one is watching, joins her.

BRIAN

Alina, you're not happy here are you?

ALINA

No, this is terrible. The Madame wants to take away my job in the coat room and do what the other girls are doing. I don't want that, dear God in heaven I don't want that.

Brian hands her a card.

BRIAN

Put that card away so no one sees it.

Alina places the card under her shirt.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I will be at the address of that cafe every morning at ten o'clock. I work for the government and can help you.

Alina puts her hand to her mouth and struggles to keep from crying.

ALINA

I'll be there.

Brian sees the madame walking in her direction and quickly comments.

BRIAN

No miss. I think I've had more than enough to drink but thank you for asking.

MADAME CHANEL

So I see you've found one of our beautiful young girls. If you want I'm sure I could arrange something.

BRIAN

Maybe next time. If I don't get on my way I'll be sleeping against the side of a building.

MADAME CHANEL

I understand.

Brian exits as Madame Chanel speaks dismissively to Alina

MADAME CHANEL (CONT'D)

Finish cleaning up out here. You've got to be useful if you're in my house.

INT. MIDTOWN COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

At ten in the morning, for the third day in a row Brian takes a seat in the rear of a coffee house with his back to the wall.

WAITRESS/NANCY

You're getting to be a regular Mr. Brian. What can I get you?

BRIAN

A coffee and an English muffin would be wonderful thank you.

Brian looks expectantly at all of the arriving customers when suddenly he spots Alina entering the coffee house sporting a pair of dark glasses. She sees him and walks quickly over to where he is seated. Brian gets up and pulls back the chair on the opposite side of his table. Alina takes a seat as the waitress approaches.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Please order anything you want. You're my guest.

ALINA

Oh thank you. The woman who runs our house never gives us enough to eat.

WAITRESS/NANCY

Can I get you something?

ALINA

Yes, please. Could I have some bacon and eggs.

WAITRESS/NANCY

Sunny side up or over easy?

ALINA

What does that mean?

BRIAN

Try sunny side up. They'll be nicer to look at.

ALINA

Okay.

Alina looks at Brian's plate.

ALINA (CONT'D)

That looks nice. What is it?

BRIAN

This is an English Muffin.

Alina looks at the waitress.

ALINA

Also, could I have an English Muffin and some coffee?

WAITRESS/NANCY

You sure can.

The waitress exits as Alina comments.

BRIAN

Tell Me about your family.

For a moment, Alina has a vision of her mother, father and younger brother waiting with her to board the ship that would take her to America.

ALINA'S FATHER

Our prayers are with you Alina. Be a good girl. Don't forget the things you learned in church and say hello to my brother Frank when you get to Duluth.

ALINA

I will papa.

Alina's mother and brother hug her as she turns to board the ship. As the ship leaves she waves to her family and notes that her mother is continually wiping the tears from her eyes.

ALINA (CONT'D)

I have a brother Uve and my mother and father. My father is a shoe maker and my mother is a seamstress. My uncle is sure that he can get me a job and with the money I make, I can pay to allow the rest of my family to join me. That was before some young boys stole my money while I was walking to get on the train. A man who works at Madame's house saw me crying and said he could help me. That was just a lie and now I think only God can help me.

BRIAN

Alina, I can arrange for transportation for you and your family plus provide you with enough money to give all of you a start; but the agency I work for needs your help. Listen while I explain...

INT. HOUSE OF ISHTAR - NIGHT

Brian, Jake and David are seated in a side booth in the House of Ishtar nursing their drinks while keeping Alina in sight as she works in the coat room. When Alina places a comb in her hair to keep it in place, Brian, Jake and David bolt from their seats and rush up the stairs. When they reach the top of the stairs they draw their side arms and as preplanned kick in doors with brass numbers indicating "4" and "5". Jake and David enter door number four revealing a man with a box camera pointed at a two way mirror. The camera man immediately holds his hands in the air while his armed assistant attempts to draw a pistol from a holster located on the side of his belt.

Before he can fire David places a 45 round in the center of his head. Brian sees a bewildered middle age man with his arms around one of the girls who works for the house. The man holds his hands in the air while the girl rushes Brian with a dagger drawn from the folds of her dress. Brian pivots and kicks her in the side of her head causing her to fall unconscious to the ground. As Jake looks out in the hall on his way to assist Brian, two men with pistols in hand rush in his direction. The bullet from Jake's 45 hits the first assailant causing him to do a back flip before falling lifeless. The other assailant turns and starts to flee as David wings him on the side of his left leg. This individual stumbles for a moment then turns and attempts to fire his revolver. The bullet from Jake's forty five hits him like a freight train and pushes him back ten feet before he lands lifeless on the house's oak floor.

INT. SECRET SERVICE OFFICE - NIGHT

Jake and David are seen sitting across from a disheveled looking business man.

BUSINESS MAN

I'm ruined. Once my wife finds out about this she'll divorce me for sure.

JAKE

Who says anyone has to find out?

DAVID

As far as we know, we have all of the pictures. So why did they set you up?

BUSINESS MAN

For years now I've been supplying the Germans with advanced machine lubricants. I cut back when our government imposed export restrictions.

DAVID

How did they plan on getting around the customs inspectors?

BUSINESS MAN

That's easy, we just send our products to Sweden. Once the shipment arrives, middle men take over and the Germans get what they need.

Jake looks at David and nods his head in understanding.

BRIAN

When someone asks you if you said anything to the authorities deny it. Also tell the Germans you're refitting your factories if they ask you why their shipments are delayed.

BUSINESS MAN

I understand.

INT. PENN STATION - MORNING

Brian stands with Alina as she waits to board the train.

ALINA

My parents and my brother will be joining me in Minnesota in less than a month. I can never repay you for what you've done for us.

BRIAN

The way I see it, all of us owe you a debt of gratitude. Lives will be saved because you were willing to take a stand.

Alina kisses Brian on the cheek and boards the waiting train. As Brian leaves the station he passes a news stand and sees several newspapers with the headline "CONVOY SENT TO BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN AFTER GREMANY RESUMES UNRESTRICTED SUBMARINE WARFARE"

INT. NY FEDERAL RESERVE BANK - DAY

Mr. Patton walks to Daniel's office and knocks at the door while entering. Daniel stands upon seeing his boss.

MR. PATTON

No need to stand.

Daniel seats himself behind his desk and speaks.

DANIEL

Good morning sir. Great suit.

MR. PATTON

Thank you. Important meeting this morning...You've finished working the numbers on those cost estimates.

DANIEL

Yes sir. Everything's in order. The items weren't identified but if you prefer coded entries I'm sure you had good reason.

MR. PATTON

Reliable as usual Daniel perhaps next week you'll make time to join some top executives and myself at my private club. Your reputation for accuracy is spreading and people are beginning to take notice.

DANIEL

Yes sir. Thank you sir.

MR. PATTON

And Brian you wouldn't mind if Daren sat with you for a bit. He is a bit imposing and some of our visitors might get the wrong impression if he was sitting in front of my office.

DANIEL

No problem. Daren's welcome.

MR. PATTON

Daren you can come in now.

Daren enters with coloring pencils and color by numbers book in hand. As Mr. Patton leaves, Darren sits cross legged on the floor and begins to color.

DANIEL

Daren, you can use part of my desk.

As Daren gets up, Daniel makes a space for him on the side of his desk.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I'll be right back. There's a nice sturdy chair in the supply room that should be comfortable for you.

DAREN

Sir are you sure you want me to use part of your desk? Mr. Patton usually makes me sit or stand in the corner if he has anything special for me to do. The other bosses do the same.

DANIEL

My father taught me to be a good neighbor. As far as I can tell, you're in my neighborhood.

Daniel exits and after finding the chair makes his way down the hall and back in the direction of his office. As Daniel walks along the side of the hall he nearly falls after a large man with a walrus mustache brushes by him.

RUDE BUSINESS MAN

Watch where you're going!

DANIEL

I'm sorry.

Daniel shakes his head and continues directly towards his office not quite placing the rude individual's accent. When Daniel enters his office he places the chair on the side of his desk as Daren reluctantly takes a seat and takes out his paint by numbers coloring book while Daniel opens a ledger and begins to use his adding machine making checks and entries where necessary. When the clock on his desk indicates 12:00 PM, Daniel stops working. He looks over at Daren's work and comments.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Nice work.

DAREN

Thank you sir.

DANIEL

Daren, I'm going to take lunch in the park. I'm in the mood for a hot dog. Lunch is on me if you care to join me.

DAREN

Oh yes sir. I love hot dogs with lots of mustard.

DANIEL

Me too.

Daniel puts the ledger in his desk and after locking the drawer, both exit.

EXT. LOWER MANHATTAN - DAY

Daniel and Daren pass by the restaurant/lounge where Mae Ling works. Daniel turns to Daren.

DANIEL

Daren I Just need to see if someone I know is here. I'll be right with you.

Daniel knocks on the door where the elderly house manager slides a panel without fully opening the door.

HOUSE MANAGER

Mr. Daniel, what can I do for you?

DANIEL

Yes, I was wondering if Mae Ling has returned? I haven't seen her for several weeks and I was beginning to be concerned.

HOUSE MANAGER

Don't worry. Mae Ling is taking care of her mother. She'll be back soon.

The House Manager quickly closes the access panel without giving Daniel time to respond. Daniel returns to where Daren is standing.

DANIEL

So Daren are you ready for some hot dogs?

DAREN

You bet.

Both head south.

EXT. BATTERY PARK - DAY

Daniel and Daren sit on a park bench, almost finished eating their hot dogs and enjoying the view which includes the "Statue Of Liberty".

DAREN

These hot dogs are great.

DANIEL

I agree!

DAREN

Who is Mae Ling?

DANIEL

You've got good ears. Mae Ling is a girl. Sometimes I think she's my girl friend but some times I just don't know.

DAREN

I know how that goes.

Daniel nods his head in agreement. Both toss their paper bags in a nearby waste basket and start back to the bank.

EXT. LOWER MANHATTAN - DAY

Daniel and Daren retrace their steps back to the Federal Reserve Bank passing the restaurant where Mae Ling works. Daniel freezes behind a news stand as he sees Mae Ling exiting the restaurant with a well dressed middle aged business man. Daren also stops, taking every thing in. As Mae Ling and her partner approach an expensive looking open top limousine. The chauffeur exits from the driver seat and opens the rear passenger door. Mae Ling enters first followed by her partner. As soon as the door is closed the couple embraces in the rear seat of the oversized automobile. The car then leaves the area and is soon lost from view. Tears fall from Daniel as he turns to Daren.

DANIEL

Well I guess she isn't my girlfriend after all.

Daren looks down on Daniel and pats his shoulder as the pair make their way back to the bank. On the way they pass a news stand where a newspaper announces: US declares war against the central powers. President vows to do what it takes to win the war!

EXT. STOCK YARDS - BALTIMORE

Mr. Roth stands with Brian, Jake, David and several plain clothes operatives on the edge of the stockyards. The men gather around Mr. Roth as he speaks in a low voice.

MR. ROTH

Alright men you know how serious this assignment is. Thousands of horses have died because of anthrax as well as glanders disease without ever reaching our European allies. The horses were healthy when they reached Baltimore but not after they were headed across the Atlantic. Our best guess is that someone is poisoning the water supply. If you see someone near the water troughs try to take them alive so we can find the supplier of the contaminants.

Mr. Roth and Brian head out together while Jake and David are paired. The remaining four men also break off in pairs as they head to the barns. Hours pass as the overhead clouds clear allowing the moon to add much needed light. Brian and Mr. Roth position themselves against an unoccupied stahl wall as the closed door to the stable slowly opens allowing two individuals in work clothes and wearing newsboy hats enter. Heading to the nearest stahl opposite to the one shared by Brian and Mr. Roth, one takes a capped bottle out of his coat pocket while the other stands ready with a revolver in his hand. Mr. Roth levels a double barreled shotgun while Brian stands ready with his 45 semi-auto.

MR. ROTH (CONT'D)

Drop your weapons and put your hands over your heads.

The individual with the revolver starts to point it in Brian and Mr. Roth's direction. At this, Mr. Roth unloads on him with a load of double odd buckshot, affectively removing most of his head. The other individual drops the liquid he had been carrying and also attempts to draw the pistol that had been concealed in his waist band. Brian fires several rounds from his Colt that back this individual into a stahl occupied by a frightened horse. This individual's lifeless body then reenters the center of the stable after a well directed kick by the same frightened animal. Firing also commences in a neighboring stable as David eliminates a saboteur with his 45 while Jake follows his wounded partner. This individual recovers after a brief moment and removes a round hand grenade that he flings in Jake's direction. Jake hits the dirt next to a wooden post but is rendered unconscious by the blast while receiving some shrapnel in his leg. David, Jake and Mr. Roth rush to the scene while attempting to render assistance to their fallen friend.

MR. ROTH (CONT'D)

Quick David get an ambulance here.
There's a phone in the guard shack next
to the stockyard gate.

DAVID

Will Do.

INT. BELEVUE HOSPITAL - DAY

Mr. Roth, Brian and David are gathered around a hospital bed where Jake sits upright. Traditionally clad nurses attend to other patients in the ward.

BRIAN

So Jake, how are you making out?

JAKE

Okay. The doctors were able to remove most of the shrapnel from my leg but my headaches just won't quit. For now morphine is the only thing that lets me sleep.

MR. ROTH

Jake, I'll try to extend your pay for as long as I can. For now my bosses promise me that you'll be payed for at least a year. I'll also do my best to find you an affordable apartment and whatever treatment you may need.

JAKE

I understand. Thanks.

DAVID

And don't worry about us not visiting.

JAKE

Okay.

A young nurse named Martha carries on with her work while attempting to over hear all that is said.

EXT. BELEVUE HOSPITAL - DAY

The nurse named Martha and Jake, in a wheel chair, wait for David's arrival in a Ford Model T. Seeing that no one is standing by, Martha hands Jake a card with a number written on it as she addresses him

MARTHA

If you find that you can no longer get the morphine that you need, call me after eight o'clock at night at this number.

Jake looks down at the card and places it in his shirt pocket.

JAKE

I'll think about it.

David arrives and opening the rear door aids Jake as he painfully takes a seat. This accomplished, David Drives off at a moderate rate of speed.

Martha exits and after a short walk meets Rolf around the corner. As she walks to the corner she passes lost individuals hooked on drugs and alcohol, making sure that she does her best to avoid them while ignoring their cries for help.

ROLF

So how did things go?

MARTHA

He took my card. From what I can tell, We'll have him hooked in no time.

ROLF

Excellent! You know what this means?

MARTHA

Not really.

ROLF

It means that breakfast is on me!

Martha punches Rolf playfully on the arm as they both laugh while entering a nearby diner.

INT. MR ROTH'S THEATER - DAY

Months later Brian sits across from Mr. Roth in the private office of his theater.

MR. ROTH

I suppose you heard the news about our troops landing in France?

BRIAN

Couldn't miss it. The newsboys are selling as many papers as they can lay their hands on. Given our age I wouldn't be surprised if David and myself were called up.

MR. ROTH

You've been fighting a silent war here for the last three years. The president knows your value as well as the other men and women in our unit. For now your off limits. Stopping the poisoning of horses in the Baltimore stockyards got us a lot of attention and support in Washington...By the way, how is Jake doing?

BRIAN

We haven't heard for him in over a week. I notified the police but they haven't come up with anything.

MR. ROTH

In between your normal assignments, feel free to keep searching.

BRIAN

We are. I mean we will.

MR. ROTH

If you weren't, I'd be surprised. To the point, Brian I know that your brother is working as an analyst at the New York Federal Reserve bank. In violation of a trade embargo and finance restrictions his boss, Mr. Patton, has been under suspicion of providing funds to Germany as well as providing credit for the purchase of critically needed war material. I know that it's a lot to ask but do you think you could ask your brother if he could figure out what's going on? Without jeopardizing himself?

BRIAN

Daniel will probably say yes but you've got to understand that even though he's a genius when it comes to numbers, he's innocent in the ways of the world.

MR. ROTH

I appreciate your concern. Two weeks ago I called in a Miss Jones from our Washington office. She's been talking to Daniel and she feels that he'd do a great job if he got a chance.

Mr. Roth opens the door as Miss Jones enters. She immediately stands before Brian as he rises to acknowledge her entrance.

MISS JONES

Pleased to meet you Brian.

Brian reluctantly shakes her hand

BRIAN

Thank you. Why didn't you ask my permission before you spoke with Daniel?

MISS JONES

Brian is a grown man and has a right to make his own decisions. In case you haven't noticed, we're at war and as such it sometimes takes extreme measures in order to ensure our nation's survival.

BRIAN

I saw what that sort of thinking did to the people of the Philippines. I had to leave the army because I wasn't on board with killing civilians. You're using terms without having any idea of the cost to innocent people who just want to live. Daniel is my only brother and as far as I'm concerned he's off limits!

Brian leaves the office, slamming the door on the way out.

MISS JONES

That one's fiery agent.

MR. ROTH

I'm sorry you wasted your time.

MISS JONES

No need to apologize. I already put Daniel under hypnosis and let him know what's expected.

MR. ROTH

And what if things go wrong?

MISS JONES

In that case we'll deny everything. If you're smart you'll keep quiet. I wouldn't like to have the man who left here on my trail.

EXT. HOBOKEN NEW JERSEY - DAY

A taxi pulls up in front of a modest but well kept two story home with a hedges fronted by flowers in front and a well maintained garden and a trellised grape vine. Brian Exits and holds the door open for Rosa. He then pays the driver giving him a generous tip,

BRIAN

Thank you for bringing us here.

DRIVER

My pleasure. Have a wonderful day.

The taxi exits as Brian turns to Rosa and sees the family home.

BRIAN

Wow! What a place. Flowers in front and a garden in back.

ROSA

My parents do their best to make it special. They had a bigger garden in Italy and were even able to grow oranges.

The couple walks to the front door and their knock is immediately answered.

INT. ROSA'S FAMILY HOME - DAY

Rosa and Brian are seated together at a round table. Rosa's father sits opposite them while Rosa's four brothers are seated to his right and left. Rosa's mother and sisters serve the food which is beautiful to look at. All of the wine glasses are filled with red wine. When the food is passed to all of the diners, Rosa's father Antonio speaks.

ROSA'S FATHER

Brian we all want to welcome you to our home. Rosa speaks very highly of you and that's enough for us. Would you do the honors and say grace before we eat.

Brian is a bit nervous but does as requested.

BRIAN

Father in heaven thank you for allowing me to spend time with such a great family. We thank you for the food that you've given us and pray for anyone who doesn't have enough to eat.

ALL

Amen!

Rosa's father gives his wife a nudge and she nods her head approvingly.

ROSA'S FATHER

Rosa tells me you met while you were doing some insurance investigation in Atlantic City.

BRIAN

That's right. I work in the city but get called out to different parts of the country.

ROSA'S FATHER

I understand. Only you don't strike me as an insurance man. Rosa told me that you were a captain in the army and served in the Philippines. On top of that, you look like a boxer. I know that the government has need of men like yourself.

Rosa's father now calls her brothers over. They form a circle on either side of him.

ROSA'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Things weren't easy when we fought the Camora back in the old county but because of the way things are with you and Rosa I want you to know that you can call on us if you ever need help. We may make a living in the food wholesale business but we haven't forgotten the lessons we learned in the past.

All nod in agreement and place their hands on Brian's as a sign of allegiance. Brian is overwhelmed and wipes a tear from his eye as he nods his head in agreement.

INT. NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK - DAY

Weeks later Daniel is busy working in his office reviewing past ledgers when Mr. Patton, after a brief knock on the door, enters carrying several new ledgers. Brian stands when Mr. Patton enters.

MR. PATTON

No need to stand. Daniel I'd like you to put those old ledgers aside for a bit and focus on these recent transactions. We're expecting some bank examiners to stop by any day and we don't want to have to explain any discrepancies.

DANIEL

Yes sir. I understand completely.

Mr. Patton exits the room. Daniel closes the door to his office and after several hours, notes a discrepancy. Daniel speaks softly to himself.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

These gold transfers are in the same amount as the ones the Bank sent to Germany before the banking embargo. The routing codes are the same ones the bank used to make transfers to Sweden. So that's how they're doing it.

Daniel immediately takes out a piece of paper and writes rapidly. After several more hours his list is complete and just as he is about to place the paper in his pocket. Mr. Patton, Daren and Miss Jones from the Secret service's Washington office enter Daniel's office without knocking. He places the paper used to make notes under an open ledger but is not sure that this move is successful.

MR. PATTON

So Daniel, were you able to find anything?

DANIEL

(nervously) No sir everything seems to be in order. You shouldn't have any problems when the auditors come.

MR. PATTON

Daniel, Miss Jones, one of the banks friends, would like to have a quick look at one of the ledgers. I think that the one on your desk should do nicely.

DANIEL

Of course, I understand.

MR. PATTON

Daniel, Daniel don't you think that it would be a sign of Good manners if you offered Miss Jones your seat? After all she is a lady.

Daniel gets out of his chair and pushes it back while standing to the side. Miss Jones takes a seat and pretends interest as she turns a few pages.

MISS JONES

These entries seem fine. Perhaps I should examine a few more of your older accounts.

Miss Jones closes the ledger and places it to the side, revealing the piece of paper that Daniel had been making entries on.

MISS JONES (CONT'D)

Oh my what have we here? I believe that Daniel has found evidence of the bank's rerouted gold transfers to Germany. Clever boy.

Miss Jones stares at Mr. Patton.

MISS JONES (CONT'D)

You assured the committee that these transfers would be untraceable.

MR. PATTON

You've got to understand...Daniel here is some kind of a genius when it comes to numbers. He's probably a savant. Any one else would never have caught on. At least we know where the leaks are and have a chance to make adjustments.

MISS JONES

I'll be sure to pass on your observations to the folks in Washington.

Miss Jones vacates Daniel's seat as Mr. Patton nods at Daren. Daren in turn, quickly places Daniel in a bear hug while Miss Jones roughly undoes the button on his left shirt sleeve while exposing his arm. Mr. Patton then takes a syringe filled with clear liquid from his pocket and hands it to Miss Jones. She pushes the plunger in order to remove any trapped air and then proceeds to inject the contents of the syringe into Daniel's arm.

DANIEL

You're all a bunch of traitors! You won't get away with this. My brother will hunt all of you down.

MISS JONES

Really? Well for the record, I don't think you're brother presents a significant problem.

DANIEL

(barely conscious)You don't know my brother.

Daniel is now completely unconscious as a result of the drug injected into his system.

MR. PATTON

Daren, please place Daniel behind the book case. This evening I'll have a carpet brought to you so that you can roll him up and bring him to the back of the building. We can load him on a truck and quick as can be, we'll be on our way to the Catskills. If anyone asks for Daniel tell them he had the flu and had to leave early.

Daren nods his head and begins to color in his paint by numbers book.

INT. NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK - DAY

Late in the afternoon Brian walks quickly in the direction of Daniel's place of employment and sees a very large individual with red hair enter the front seat of a delivery truck. The truck nearly runs over a young woman as it speeds from the area. Brian then reaches the front of the bank and after showing his identification is allowed entry. Brian enters the elevator and gets off at Daniel's floor where a receptionist is seated.

RECEPTIONIST

May I help you.

BRIAN

Yes, my name is Brian Ami. My brother Daniel Ami works under Mr. Patton. I'd like to speak with my brother.

The receptionist makes a call then responds.

RECEPTIONIST

Apparently Daniel had a touch of flu and had to leave work early.

BRIAN

I've just come from his apartment and there's no sign of him.

As the Receptionist looks in a directory Brian walks quickly past her and makes his way to Daniel's office. Brian enters the room and sees that it is not as orderly as usual. Brian picks up a syringe carelessly thrown in a wast basket and smells it. Brian speaks aloud to himself.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Scopolamine! I've seen this used by doctors in the Philippines. Someone must have been put under!

Brian partially enters an adjoining office and sees a young man, Tom Brennan, working away with an adding machine.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Excuse me. My name is Brian Ami. I'm Daniel's brother. You didn't happen to see where Daniel went to?

TOM BRENNAN

No. I thought he went home with the flu.

BRIAN

And what about his boss Mr. Patton?

TOM BRENNAN

Seeing as it's Friday, he usually heads up to his place in the Catskills.

BRIAN

You have an address.

TOM BRENNAN

The town's name is East Durham. The street is Maple Drive. I can remember it because I was there once and I really (Tom raises his eyes dreamily) like pancakes with maple syrup on top.

When Tom comes out of his reverie he notes that Brian is long gone. He also notes that Mr. Patton's secretary Lola, along with two oversized security officers are all glaring at him.

EXT. MR. ROTH'S THEATER - DAY

Early in the morning Mr. Roth, Brian, David and a new agent in from Buffalo, William Sessions all enter a stretch limousine. As they near the end of the block, Brian comments.

BRIAN

David could you stop by the messenger office just a moment?

DAVID

Sure.

Brian exits the limousine and enters the messenger service. After a few moments he exits and reenters the limousine.

BRIAN

All set.

MR. ROTH

What was that all about?

BRIAN

I left a message for Rosa in case I didn't make it back.

MR. ROTH

A breech in protocol but given the circumstances, I can't say that I blame you.

INT. MR. PATTON'S CATSKILL ESTATE - DAY

Daniel is seen strapped in a chair in the spacious basement of the estate's main house. He is surrounded by Rolf, Miss Jones, Mr Patton and two unnamed thugs wearing newspaper boy caps. Daniel is awake but groggy due to the affect of the drugs that have been injected into his arm.

MR. PATTON

Daniel, Daniel. After all the plans I had for your future, you've proven to be such a disappointment. A lot of powerful people are interested in staying out of the newspapers as well as prison. As for myself, I'm in no position to disappoint such well placed individuals. Save yourself a lot of pain and suffering and just tell us where the missing ledgers are.

Daniel shakes his head and remains silent.

ROLF

So much for the easy way. Daniel Do you know what I'm holding in my hand? A lovely pair of garden shears. At home, I use them to prune my rose bushes and my wife Ingrid just loves roses. Tell us what we want to know or I'll do some pruning of my own. I'll start on the bottom with your toes and after that, I'll just work my way up.

Rolf signals to one of the nearby thugs who roughly removes Daniel's shoes and socks. Rolf begins to recite a well known nursery rhyme.

ROLF (CONT'D)

"This little piggy went to market."
 (while touching the big toe). "This Little piggy stayed home." (while touching the long toe). "This little piggy had a bit of meat" (while touching the middle toe). "This little piggy had none" (while touching the ring toe). "And this little piggy cried: "wee!, wee!, wee!" all the way home (while touching Daniel's little toe).

Rolf then picks up his shears from a nearby table and after opening it encircles Daniel's little toe with its' razor sharp blade.. Before he can apply pressure, the loud honking of geese that roam about Mr. Patton's estate is heard.

ROLF (CONT'D)

Sounds like we have visitors! As for you Daniel, I'll be back!

All individuals in the room run up stairs leaving Daniel by himself. He struggles in vain to release himself from the ropes that encircle him. As Rolf, Mr. Patton and the thugs race up stairs Mr. Patton sees Daren looking out a window trying to see what has upset the geese.

MR. PATTON

Daren go down stairs and keep an eye on the little traitor!

DAREN

Yes sir.

Daren heads down stairs while the others grab rifles and weapons from the now open gun cabinet.

EXT. MR PATTON'S ESTATE - ONGOING

Making their way on foot, Brian, David, the agent from Buffalo and Mr. Roth make their way towards Mr. Sutton's estate. Brian Mr. Roth and the new agent are carrying pump shotguns while David carries a Springfield bolt action rifle. Mr. Roth does not see a trip wire running across his path and trips a ground flair announcing their position. Moments later, the agent from Buffalo is blown to bits by a land mine.

Rolf exits the house and shields himself behind one of the two large columns located on either side of the main entrance. As he looks out, he notices the flair as it streaks upward.

MR. ROTH

Sorry guys. I didn't see it.

DAVID

The poor guy from Buffalo is done.

BRIAN

No one said that this was going to be easy.

While attention is drawn to the end of the far field, Brian and Mr. Roth approach through the stand of trees on the left while David makes his way through the stand of trees on the right. Inside the house Rolf addresses two nameless thugs who have long rifles slung across their backs while using their free hands to hold onto the leashes of a pair of lunging Dobermann Pinschers.

ROLF

Most likely whoever is coming at us will use the woods as cover. Big guy head through the woods on the right and you head through the left. Keep your eyes peeled and shoot whoever you see.

Both henchmen and their attack dogs rush from the house and into their heavily wooded destination.. All head outside while seeking cover at the front of the house. Daren quickly checks up stairs and sees that the estate house has been vacated. He then rushes downstairs to Daniel's side.

DAREN

They're gone! I would have helped sooner but the bad people would have shot me. I don't trust that guy Rolf or the woman Miss Jones.

Daren takes a knife from his pocket and quickly undoes the ropes that are used to bound Daniel. Daniel puts on his shoes without bothering with his socks. Daniel can barely stand.

DANIEL

Thanks Daren. I knew you'd help.

Daniel starts to fall when Daren catches him and throws him over his shoulder and exits the basement through a rear door leading to the back of Mr. Patton's house.

EXT. REAR OF MR. SUTTON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

While carrying Daniel over his shoulder, Daren makes his way to the nearby lake and a row boat tied to a dock. He places Daniel in the bow of the boat and while holding onto the brass mooring that secures the boats rope starts to place a foot in the stern of the little craft. Neither Daren or Daniel hear Miss Jones as she makes her way onto the dock.

MISS JONES

Daren, Daniel what a surprise! You weren't going to run off without telling us were you? Mr. Patton will be so disappointed after all he's done for both of you.

Daren stands, then straightens, showing all of his enormous size.

DAREN

Done for me? Mr. Patton let me stay in a place that looked like a closet. And the most he ever gave me was pocket change and my coloring books. Daniel is my friend. He bought me hot dogs and never asked me to do anything for him. On top of that, I think he really did like my art work.

Daren begins to move slowly in Miss Jones' direction upon which she places a round from her revolver in the center of his head. Daren takes one more step before falling lifeless and into the cold clear water. At the sound of the shot, Mr. Patton's full time grounds keeper and part time henchman responds running to the dock.

ALBERT/GROUNDS KEEPER

What a mess. Don't you worry, I'll have things cleaned up in a jiffy.

MISS JONES

Thank you Albert. Before you do that could you help Daniel back to the main house. Daniel has been a very naughty boy. He and his oversized friend were trying to run away without even asking Mr. Patton's permission.

ALBERT

That's no good!

Albert lifts Daniel out of the boat and places his shoulder under Daniel's arm as all head back to the main house. In a low voice Daniel comments.

DANIEL

Traitors. You're all nothing but... traitors.

ALBERT

What did he say?

MISS JONES

Oh..Taters something about taters. Maybe he likes potatoes.

ALBERT

I love potatoes! My Anna's mashed potatoes are wonderful.

EXT. FORESTED APPROACH TO MAIN HOUSE - DAY

Brian and Mr. Roth spread out and enter the woods.

BRIAN

Stay as quiet as you can and watch for my hand signals.

MR. ROTH

You're the jungle fighter. Lead away.

Both enter the woods and after a short while Brian holds up his hand signaling Mr. Roth to Freeze in place. As much by sense as hearing Brian notes the rush of the now released Dobermann and unsheathes his razor sharp bolo knife. Noting the blur headed in his direction, he side steps at the last moment and bring the bolo down upon the murdering beast's neck completely severing its head from its still moving body. The headless dog continues on for another fifteen feet before stopping and falling to its' side. Brian bends one knee to examine the beast's remains when he starts at the nearby sound of a series of shotgun blasts. Falling at his feat is the now lifeless body of one of the thugs dispatched by Mr. Patton. Brian looks and sees Mr. Roth now holding a smoking shotgun. Brian gives him a thumbs up.

MR. ROTH (CONT'D)

After all that you've done for me, I finally get a chance to save your bacon.

BRIAN

Thanks. This rascal never expected us to pick up on the dog.

EXT. FORESTED APPROACH TO MAIN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

From Brian's and Mr. Roth's right, David enters the forest and quietly walks towards the main house. Noting a well used game trail, David pauses and sets up behind a large rock. After a while he looks below him and sees one of Mr. Sutton's thugs making his way towards him, rifle in hand. David confirms his target and squeezes off a round from his Springfield that hammers into the second thug sent into the woods by Rolf. No sooner does David see this individual fall when a rushing noise is heard coming from David's side. David unsheathes his Colt Government 45 and fires off three fast shots stopping the second Dobermann inches from his face.

INT. MAIN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Rolf places Daniel on a chair in the middle of the living room of the main house. Mr. Patton and Miss Jones look on commenting.

MR. PATTON

At least we have one ace up our sleeve. I don't think Daniel's brother will try anything foolhardy if they know we've got a gun on his brother.

Gun shots are heard coming from the woods.

ROLF

Any sound from the dogs?

MR. PATTON

Oh no! That means my beloved Damian and Pythias must be dead. If I get half a chance, I'll skin your brother and his friends alive.

ROLF

That would be too good for them! Anyone who would even think of such a thing should be boiled and served on a platter with a heap of sauerkraut.

The geese sound as Mr. Roth, Brian and David approach the main house.

ROLF (CONT'D)

They're coming! Hide and stick to the plan!

Mr. Roth and David enter the main room from a side door and do not see Rolf who is hiding behind a closet. They both see Mr. Patton, who is standing behind Daniel, using him as a shield while he holds a gun to his head.

MR. PATTON

Welcome and do come in. I've been wanting to meet all of you for some time now. Your meddling has cost me a lot of money not to mention time and effort.

DAVID

Throw down your weapon before I turn that evil head of your's to hamburger.

Rolf steps from behind a closet and points his pistol at Mr. Roth and David.

ROLF

Drop your weapons and put your hands up!

David and Mr. Roth comply.

ROLF (CONT'D)

I think your threatening days are over. You're only alive because you have information we need. Walk over to Daniel and get on your Knees. Move!

Out of options, David and Mr. Roth comply as Miss Jones enters the room while pointing a gun at Brian's back.

MISS JONES

Look what I found!

MR. PATTON

Good work!

Miss Jones then fires at Mr. Patton's guns hand, hitting it squarely thereby causing his pistol to fall to the ground.

MR. PATTON (CONT'D)

Ahh! You shot me.

MISS JONES

Shut the hell up! Get on your knees next to your pals.

((MORE))

MISS JONES (CONT'D)

In the words of my bosses in Washington you've become too much of a liability.

Shocked, Mr. Patton still moaning, also gets on his knees next to Brian, Daniel, Mr. Roth and David.

MR. PATTON

You're making a big mistake. I've got friends who'll come looking for me.

MISS JONES

Are you kidding me? The only friends you have are the ones that can be bought. The people behind me know that a new age is coming and that Germany is destined to lead.

BRIAN

I guess you weren't bothered by the deaths of all those innocents on board the Lusitania.

ROLF

Are you kidding? My brother was the U-boat commander who aimed the torpedo that sent that ship and all of the useless people on board to the bottom of the ocean. My friends and I were in a beer hall in Munich at the time. We laughed our asses off and drank the place dry.

Suddenly the creaking of a floor board is heard as Rosa's father and three of her brothers enter the room. All are holding double barrel shotguns. Rolf turns and shouts.

ROLF (CONT'D)

Long live the Kaiser!

Rosa's father lets go with his shotgun separating Rolf's head from his body. Rolf convulses wildly for a time as his legs carry on movement in the form of a goose step. When Miss Jones begins to raise her pistol, Anthony, Rosa's oldest brother points his shotgun in her direction blowing a large hole in the center of her chest sending her like a freight train crashing into a far wall. Mr. Patton then attempts to flee as he stands with a secreted derringer in his good hand Rosa's brother Marco also fires removing a large space where his heart should have been as he is also sent hurtling into a far wall. Brian, David, Mr. Roth and Daniel with assistance from Brian all stand.

BRIAN

Thanks for your help.

MR. ROTH

Let me second that and add that if you guys ever feel that you might want a job in the Secret Service just let me know.

ROSA'S FATHER

Brian, the way it is with you and Rosa, we consider you to be part of the family. Any way my niece Casandra was on the Lusitania. A beautiful girl full of promise. My sister Daniela has never been the same since she lost her. Maybe this evens the score if only just a little.

EXT. CATSKILL MOUNTAIN HEALTH CENTER - DAY

Mr. Roth, Brian, David and Daniel are all seated around a cast iron table with Jake seated in the middle.

MR. ROTH

They tell us you're making great progress and are a model patient. Two more weeks and they say you'll get a clean bill of health.

JAKE

I don't think anyone would be saying anything like that if it wasn't for the way this place is run.

MR. ROTH

How is that?

JAKE

It's because they emphasize getting your strength from the Almighty.

MR. ROTH

Very interesting. And I was beginning to think that I was the only God fearing man in the group.

BRIAN

Sir how do you think we survived the boondocks? Most of the guys we started out with never made it back home.

DAVID

Brian had us praying every night. After a while we sort of got used to it and haven't stopped since.

Daniel looks at his brother with unfiltered pride.

MR. ROTH

Well all can I can say is that I'm grateful that God brought us all together. With what this world is facing, we're going to need all the help we can get.

ALL

Amen!