

ALL THE PRESIDENTS' MAN

by

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DRAFT

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ALL THE PRESIDENTS' MAN:THE SCRIPT

Hello

ALL THE PRESIDENTS' MAN

This book is a replica of the Spec Script for the above title.

*The Logline / Synopsis are at the back of the book.*

The format and length conform to the Hollywood Standard.

The Script itself is 119 pages long, in 12-point Courier Nuvo and uses Script Studio.

If you are a 'reader' or an 'agent', I believe it would appeal to you. Well, it should.

Thank you.

Charles V Abela

#### DISCLAIMER

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FADE IN:

INT. CAR - TRAVELING (SEATTLE) - DAY

HUNTER HARRISON (mid 40s) is behind the wheel, eyes fixed on the road ahead. He is driving along North 87th Street, Seattle. Determination is written all over his chiseled face. The grip on the wheel is solid yet confident. His head bobs gently to the vibes from the Rhythm & Blues. The cell phone RINGS, he turns the RADIO DOWN, his hand probes for the phone, but not in any hurry.

HUNTER

This is Hunter speaking. I am driving with one hand on the wheel.

DELILAH (V.O.)

Your psychiatrist, remember me?

HUNTER

Long time. Life is still empty, step kids, wife, family but I'm confident. I have one mission left... to find happiness. Oops, cops in my mirror, I'll call you later, bye for now.

Smile is still on, cell phone off, he turns the VOLUME UP.

INT. BETTY'S DINER (SEATTLE) - NIGHT

JING-MING-HO, male, (40s), Korean extraction, parks his car at the corner of Greenwood Avenue N and N 87th Street, Seattle, just outside "Betty's Diner." He walks in and takes a seat. He is the head of a Chinese - North-Korean Terrorist Cell.

Betty, (45), the charismatic owner-waitress, approaches him for the order.

BETTY

Yes sir.

MING

Steak, bacon, eggs and chips.

BETTY

This table is reserved. Drink?

MING

Beer. Reserved?

BETTY

Always, same person, six on the dot.

Ming moves to the next table; eyes are fixed on the door. Six o'clock, a tall man steps inside and goes straight to his table. Hunter Harrison waves to Betty.

HUNTER  
Usual, Betty.

Ming eyes Hunter closely. Then he moves and sits across from him and places a neatly wrapped parcel on the table.

MING  
You look fit and well.

HUNTER  
I don't know any Koreans. How come you still here? I thought the President sent all of you back home.

MING  
He missed a few. That was eighteen months ago. Mark my words, it's survival of the fittest, Hunter.

HUNTER  
How do you know my name?

MING  
I know a lot of things. Black Ops. Sharp shooter. In this packet, a large sum. Cell phones. Your cell is marked S.N.1. A letter inside has the detailed mission. The money is yours to keep whether you accept the mission or not. Enjoy your steak.

Ming leaves. Betty goes to Hunter's table and serves the meal and places that day's newspaper - folded.

BETTY  
Have you found your new love as yet? Kids still waiting in the air? C'mon Hunter, settle down. And keep away from Koreans. Here, check the news.

Hunter opens the newspaper. It carries a loud headline.

"MANNING: ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. POISON FUGU FISH FOUND IN LAKE TAHOE RESTAURANT."

HUNTER  
Thanks, Betty. SOBs. At it again.

EXT. CAR - TRAVELING (SEATTLE) - NIGHT

Hunter drives straight home, East of Greenwood Avenue, about 4 blocks away from Betty's Diner.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE (SEATTLE) - NIGHT

Hunter scrutinizes the package. Sniffs it. Slits it open. Ten thousand dollars. He examines the high-tech Chinese cell phones in minute detail. Then he reads the letter.

HUNTER  
(into phone)  
Ming, no deal. Above V.P. five hundred thousand. Incumbent one million. Who do you have in mind?

MING (V.O.)  
Hunter, too much. Will be in touch.

HUNTER  
Eight o'clock, tomorrow. Or earlier.

Hunter watches the late news. Ming sends a text message.

MING (V.O.)  
*Done. Half a million. Wait for further instructions. Total crew - four. Expect to spend four days in the woods.*

EXT. GROVE VALLEY CEMETERY (SEATTLE) - DAY

Hunter walks past the front gate of the Grove Valley Cemetery, located north of Volunteer Park near Lake Union in Seattle. He carries out unscheduled maintenance on an electronic panel at the back of a large LCD Display. It shows the day's funeral services. The gates now operate perfectly. He screws the panel back on.

He walks to a crypt half-way up the cemetery. He looks at the headstone's tiny in-built camera, inserts a key in the Telecom box two feet away, opens it, closes it, then he looks inside the nearby trash bin. He squints and fixes his gaze on a camera hidden on the tree trunk opposite.

He goes back to his van parked outside the gates. The design livery looks professional - 'Cemetery Security and Maintenance.' He jumps in and drives away.

INT. HUNTER'S VAN - TRAVELING - DAY

He stops the van and takes a call.

MING (V.O.)  
(distorted voice)  
Location Montana. Rapid Springs Ranch.

April 16. Target Manning. One week to finish. Initial cash drop one hundred fifty thousand dollars. When is the drop? Where?

HUNTER

This Wednesday, noon exactly. A trash bin in a park. You will get the coordinates for the drop.

INT. JESSE'S CAR - PUBLIC PARK - PARKED - DAY

Hunter chomps on a hamburger. His Black Ops buddy, JESSE (38) is African American, an MIT tech-savvy graduate with perfect physique. He is at the wheel.

HUNTER'S POV

Ming gets out of his car. He carries a package, looks around cautiously, walks towards the trash bin, drops the package inside the bin, gets back to his car and drives off.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

Hunter steps out of the car and Jesse drives off. He walks casually around the park looking at the newspaper. Jesse drives back and Hunter goes directly to the trash bin, retrieves the package, then gets in Jesse's car.

INT. CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

HUNTER

Jesse, get the rest of The Squad and will meet tomorrow night at seven.

EXT. MONTANA WILDERNESS - NIGHT

Heavily wooded. Misty. Hunter, Jesse, AARON (38) a failed medic but a brilliant fighter, and ZICO (35) a bullfighter in his native Mexico, make up THE SQUAD - all ex-Black Ops who served together under Hunter. None of them married. Together with three ROOKIES in their twenties, they huddle around a camp fire.

HUNTER

Okay, a recap. I have already picked one hundred fifty big ones. Cell phones stay turned OFF. Girlfriend talk is OFF until the mission ends.

ROOKIE #1

Yes, but why we're doing this?

HUNTER

The least you know the better. The Chinese are trying to extract the maximum price for the annihilation they suffered a year ago.

JESSE

Where is the drop?

HUNTER

Usual place. You shoot at your target after I myself pull the trigger on mine. You will hear it. Before that, we stay here in the wild for the next three days. Jesse and me on this side, you on the opposite.

ROOKIE #1

Who we hitting?

HUNTER

Rookies, learn to listen. For the next two days, we visually follow the trails. Then Jesse, Aaron and Zico drive to a new location in Seattle then you will replace them.

EXT. MONTANA WILDERNESS - DAY

RICK MANNING, (early 60s), ex-U.S. president is now out of office after a successful two-year term. Rick's wife, CELINE, (late 50s), rides with Rick on the Rapid Springs Ranch. The Secret Service follow them but keep a modest distance.

Hunter looks through the scope and continuously adjusts the cross-hairs.

EXT. MONTANA WILDERNESS - NIGHT

It's two o'clock in the morning. Hunter wakes his crew up.

HUNTER

Wake up guys, it's two. The hit is at noon, today. You have nine hours to get there and in position. Take care, roads are slippery. Rookies, take position on the opposite side. You, young man, stay with me.

Jesse, Aaron and Zico leave the camp and the rookies take over their positions. Hunter calls Ming.

HUNTER

Ming, twelve today --

MING (V.O.)

-- The loot will be at the Drop - one hour before. I have the new co-ordinates. Cash in trunk, in ten thousand bundles - thirty-five bundles in total. Use your mobile camera. Check it, we wait for thumbs up and put the cash in the bin. As soon as we hear the shot, we move out. When will you collect?

HUNTER

Not your business.

EXT. GROVE VALLEY CEMETERY - DAY

It is nine in the morning. Jesse, Aaron and Zico stop and check the LCD Board. It displays 'No services today - Closed for maintenance.'

They drive to the other side of the cemetery, park their vehicles in different spots some distance away then walk through a back GATE that CREAKS badly. They take up their positions behind the trees.

Just before eleven, two cars appear at the gates, drive up at a snail pace and park by the trash bin.

The feed from Hunter's hidden surveillance camera is active. Ming activates his feed on his own burner phone and points his burner at the trunk of his car which is now open. The bundles are counted. Ming puts the bags in the bin.

EXT. MONTANA WILDERNESS - DAY

Hunter calls Ming.

HUNTER

Ming, listen, target is coming in sight now. In three minutes, you hear one shot, maybe two. Okay wait... easy... easy... hold on --

Hunter turns the burner phone face down, pushes the rifle barrel in the damp ground and pulls the trigger. BANG.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

-- He's down and I'm off and running.

EXT. GROVE VALLEY CEMETERY - DAY

Ming hears the shot, kills the call and gives his partner thumbs up to pull the cash out of the trash bin.

Jesse and Aaron fire their DART GUNS: SWOOSH, SWOOSH, SWOOSH, each three times. Both Koreans fall to the ground.



Zico, runs down, places 'Closed for Maintenance' sign at the entrance, closes the gates remotely and joins his buddies.

A tent goes up, bodies are dragged, cash is dumped in the Telecom box. Wallets, keys and notebooks are secured. Their burner phones are switched OFF and put away safely.

Crypt slabs go up, bodies go in, slabs go down. Jesse sweeps around the slabs then folds down the tent. No blood, no mess. Aaron replaces the vehicles' number plates, loads the folded tent in the car and drives out of the cemetery. Jesse follows in the second car.

Zico closes the gates, picks the maintenance sign, pulls the tent from the Korean's car, dumps it in his truck and follows Jesse and Aaron.

EXT. WILLIE WILSON CUBES (SEATTLE) - DAY

Jesse and Aaron drive the Koreans' cars to the scrap yard where rows of cars are piled up upon each other. WILLIE (60s), climbs down the scrapyard crane, gets close to the cars for a quick inspection prior to crushing.

WILLIE

I was about to close for the day. Any stiffs inside?

JESSE

None.

WILLIE

Hunter's word is as good as gold. Seven thousand. You can hang around.

Jesse hands him the cash. Willie gets on his scrapyard magnetic claw crane and back to work.

WILLIE (CONT'D)

Priority job, yours would be next. Twenty minutes. It will be done before it gets dark.

EXT. CYANIDE JIM'S YARD (SEATTLE) - DAY

Early Sunday morning. JIMMY CALANTE, (late 40s) waves as they drive in the yard. Hunter drives the van straight in the far shed. Jimmy promptly locks and secures the gates, deploys his Doberman and greets the boys.

INT. SHED - DAY

Jesse, Aaron and Zico jump out of the van. Hunter opens the back while holding a wad of cash and a box of cigars.

HUNTER

Two bodies, Jimmy. No cops. Ten big ones and a box of Montecristos. Have the rum ready.

JIMMY

You're a good man, Hunter. All tanks topped up with chemicals.

HUNTER

The extra strong liquid?

JIMMY

All mixed in already. You have your masks and clothing. Then come see me by the RV. Bacardi, rum, cigars and back to the Cuba operation days.

The four of them stand at the back of the van, heads bowed for a brief moment of silence. Hunter checks all the tanks, chemicals and other equipment while the other three don their protective clothing.

HUNTER

All has been done for the sake of the Country and the President. Rum and cigars will be waiting for you by the Jimmy's RV. Go to work boys.

Hunter joins Calante. They share drinks and a few tales.

SERIES OF SHOTS - HUNT FOR THE REST OF THE TERRORISTS.

-- The Squad uses an abandoned shed in Mystic Mountain, fifty miles east of Seattle to flush out the rest. Virgin woodland. Plenty of supplies, fuel, gas, food, and all the firepower they could muster. The vigil continues for three days when their Chinese burners show signs of life.

-- The 'bird' drones are deployed along the main route. The Koreans stop about 10 miles from the camp site, step out of the cars and spread their maps on the hood of the front car. The three rookies are dispatched to track the enemy as their vehicles crawl up the difficult terrain.

-- Three miles away from the shed, the vehicles could go no further. A Korean man feeds the Rottweilers but keeps them locked inside. Then they set out on foot. Intel is relayed to Hunter about the weapons they carry.

-- The lead rookie goes to the vehicle. The dogs go mad. He seals the air gap with heavy duty packaging tape, punctures a hole in it and inserts the nozzle of a canister. It empties itself completely, then the second is inserted delivering the final dose of lethal gas - the Rottweilers are fast asleep.

-- The Koreans spread out in an arc shape. Now, within 300 yards off the shed, the 'bird' drones are set off. Three low passes then one of them gets shot down. One terrorist presses the remote repeatedly, nothing happens, he starts running down to let the dogs out. The lead rookie sees him coming towards him. The Korean looks stunned. Then Bang, Bang, Bang. One down. Four more to go.

-- Country and Western music and party chatter is heard coming out of the shed which becomes an obvious target. The other four Koreans keep on the move and launch a grenade at the shed. It lands 3 feet away and takes most of it out. They approach the burning shed and once in the open, it is End Game. A total of eight shots and four more Koreans drop to the ground. The Squad emerges from behind the trees.

-- Personal papers, burners, wallets and arms are put aside to be handed over to the CIA. After a short prayer, all five are buried in a hole in the ground. The burial site is made to look pristine again. They spray chemicals around the periphery to stop wild animals from sniffing around. The dogs are disposed off in the same way as the first two terrorists - in chemicals.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The Squad and the rookies gather over a few beers to split the loot.

HUNTER

We paid our Country back in services. We took five hundred ten thousand in total. Less expenses. Rookies, sixty between you three. Two hundred forty for you guys. Eighty for me. Jesse, take this hundred ten thousand to the Vets.

JESSE

What happens now?

HUNTER

Mouths shut. We flushed out the other five Koreans, they stay in the ground. That's seven dead. What about the box?

JESSE

Arms, cell phones, notes, wallets, keys are now buried and sealed in that box. No fingerprints. These are the coordinates.

HUNTER

I will pass these numbers to the CIA and I have a plan. I'm done with Ops, let's drink and split.

EXT. SIERRA CALDA COFFEE SHOP (LAKE TAHOE) - DAY

Hunter dresses to impress. He wears a false moustache, a wig, and a new Italian suit. He takes a seat, taps his finger on the table and waits.

MARIA MEROLA, (early 30s), of Mexican origin, shapely, dresses well, sits two tables away from Hunter. She reads the daily paper while sipping a coffee.

HUNTER

(looks at Maria)

Do you order inside or here? Does the waiter come for the order?

MARIA MEROLA

The waiter will come for your order.

Hunter stands up and waves to the waiter.

HUNTER

One black no sugar please.

(to Maria)

In a bit of a hurry, slow pace here.

MARIA MEROLA

You're not from here?

HUNTER

Originally from Texas, living in Seattle. You may be able to help me. I am here on very important business. To help the President, Rick Manning. You're Maria Merola. You know him?

MARIA MEROLA

Very well. How do you know my name?

HUNTER

I know many things but I am a friend.

He takes out an envelope from his jacket pocket. He gently thumps the edge on the table, sniffs it and bends it from one side to the other.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

It is perfectly safe, no bombs in it, no ricin. The President is in grave danger unless he takes action.

Maria's jaw drops; she freezes.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

You need to bypass the Security, if not, my cover will be blown. Soon, you meet Celine here, pass it to her. A matter of life and

death.

MARIA MEROLA

There was an attempt a while ago.

HUNTER

The second happened on holiday in Rapid Springs Ranch in Montana. Nobody knows about that. Not even Rick himself. He was spared.

MARIA MEROLA

You did save him?

HUNTER

From me to you, to Celine, to Rick and he'll take it up with the President, promise me. No time for crying. You're doing great.

He puts thirty dollars on the table, then a gentle bow.

MARIA MEROLA

She will be here soon. Can I at least get to know your name?

HUNTER

(whispers and leaves)  
Black Ops.

He crosses the road; the security camera mounted on the side of Restaurant Carlos' signage has him in its frame.

Celine shows up and sits down next to Maria. She motions to the Secret Service to give them some space.

CELINE

Maria, a polished businessman?

Maria smiles, scribbles a note. Celine reads it.

CELINE (CONT'D)

Negative. No wires on me.

MARIA MEROLA

That man is Black Ops but he is a friend. You and Rick are in some danger. It's all in this letter. Pass it to Rick. Urgent. Let's go.

INT. MANNING'S HOUSE - SITTING ROOM (LAKE TAHOE) - DAY

Rick Manning watches TV; Celine walks with letter in hand.

CELINE

From Maria Merola. Handed to her by a tall mysterious man. He said "top secret. You need to know."

MANNING

(reads, jaw drops)

Almost assassinated on holiday. Who is this guy who saved us. He took out seven of them. Have you heard from Jordi? He could be in trouble. Make a copy of this, Celine.

He contemplates of what could have happened and what's in store. He sends it promptly on his secure link to President WARREN FREEMAN (62) and almost instantaneously a reply follows...

FREEMAN (V.O.)

Second attempt in two months! CIA are on it in Stockholm. We will relocate Jordi. Your security is trebled. Who is this mysterious man?

MANNING

He is in hiding. Outside the line of command. Presidential Pardon?

FREEMAN (V.O.)

I will do that, Rick. He deserves a Medal. I bet he is a Black Ops guy. Nikita Ivanov is in similar trouble. There was an attempt on his life two weeks ago. Bye for now.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - DAY

Hunter watches the early morning CNN news. He does not look surprised, but certainly elated.

CNN REPORTER (V.O.)

... a second attempt on the life of Rick Manning has been foiled. It is rumored that a Black Ops mission - a band of seven and operating outside the line of command thwarted the plot. Warren Freeman has issued pardons for the leader and his crew of six. At this stage they identify themselves as Mag Seven...

He switches off the TV and makes a call to his office.

CONNIE (V.O.)

Connie, Wild Life Office, hello, Hunter.

HUNTER

Hi, Connie, tell the boss I won't be in today. Not feeling too good. And look after yourself. Bye.

He pours himself a whiskey. A smile lights up his face.

INT. KREMLIN - IVANOV'S OFFICE - DAY

NIKITA IVANOV (70). Pudgy face, burley, bit wheezy. He slouches in his chair. Always ready to crack insensitive jokes although with a touch of humor. He is the Russian President, now three years in office, an almost split-image of Leonid Brezhnev whose portrait stares at him all day.

In attendance is SERGEI KUSHNIKOV (65) his Defense Chief and trusted friend since their school days. Equally as burly and always by his side.

KUSHNIKOV

(heavy accent)

So Nikita, next time you're dead.

IVANOV

(heavy accent)

The Chinese - a fucking menace. But we have been friends with the Americans - for three years now.

KUSHNIKOV

Ask for their expertise. They gave us two hundred seventy-five billion dollars to get out of Ukraine.

IVANOV

(usual extended laugh)

Ha ha ha ha. True. Ha ha ha.

Ivanov gets on the Moscow-Washington Red Phone and talks to President Freeman.

INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS - DAY

ED FINGERTON (65) is the Director of the CIA. The phone RINGS. It is the President.

FINGERTON

Yes, Mr. President.

FREEMAN (V.O.)

Ed, track down the Black Ops guy who rescued Rick Manning.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE (SEATTLE) - NIGHT

A KNOCK on the door. Hunter opens. RAMSEY, a secret service agent stands in the doorway. He flashes his badge.

RAMSEY

Agent Ramsey, Secret Service, Sir. Hunter Harrison?

HUNTER

Please come in. Coffee?

RAMSEY

All good. You're required to be at the Seattle / Tukwila Boeing Field, Thursday at 10.00 at the VIP lounge. This paper has all the contacts and instructions. Business suit please.

HUNTER

Fine, but how did --

RAMSEY

-- Footage, Sierra Calda Coffee Shop.

They shake hands; Ramsey walks out; Hunter closes the door.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE (SEATTLE) - DAY

Dr DELILAH DOCHERTY, psychiatrist, divorced, (early 30s), smooth talker and attractive with a devilish streak. No children but desperately wants a family. Together with her partner they navigate seemingly insurmountable obstacles. She is in a consultation session.

INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE - RECEPTION - DAY

DONNA (26) is the receptionist and looks efficient. Hunter Harrison walks into reception.

DONNA

Good morning, Hunter. Take a seat. She will be with you soon.

Jackson walks out of the room, says bye to Donna, smiles at Hunter and keeps walking straight out.

DONNA

Bye Jackson.

Delilah opens the door and waves Hunter in.



INT. PSYCHIATRIST'S - COUNSELING ROOM - DAY

DELILAH

Hunter, you're looking good.  
(looking at the file)  
You haven't found a new love yet!  
Long absence from home. No money problems.  
No drugs. From memory you're the one who  
cheated. You miss your kids badly.

HUNTER

Yeah, they were devastated. They adored  
me. I still have hope to have my own.

DELILAH

Tried? You couldn't? What?

HUNTER

She couldn't have any. I knew that.

DELILAH

(pensive)

Huh... okay, a common problem. Therefore,  
you love kids and you knew you were hitting  
a blank wall. What was the attraction  
then?

HUNTER

I was lonely and not sure I knew how to  
handle women.

DELILAH

So, you jumped in. What went wrong?

HUNTER

Lack of communication I suppose.

DELILAH

Or was it lack of confidence?

HUNTER

The State's Secrecy Act tends to muzzle you  
a bit. It doesn't help.

DELILAH

I suggest you find somebody who you could  
trust and loosen up a bit.

HUNTER

Sounds straightforward but still very  
difficult with secrecy issues.

DELILAH

Hunter, you did tell me about the Bin Laden raid. So why me?

HUNTER  
I trusted you.

DELILAH  
Keep looking. Nothing wrong with you. Hunter, your new woman... make sure she can have kids.

HUNTER  
You think you can sort me out?

DELILAH  
It's a common problem for many men.

HUNTER  
The previous guy?

DELILAH  
Jackson? In particular, him. Come see me in a fortnight.

INT. SEATTLE / TUKWILA AIRPORT - VIP LOUNGE - DAY

Hunter arrives there fifteen minutes before ten. An AGENT (30s), trim and taut in a black suit approaches him.

AGENT  
Mr. Harrison, good morning, please follow me. You're on a private jet to Dulles International Airport then on to the White House. Lucky you.

HUNTER  
I'm honored. Is breakfast served?

AGENT  
Only the best. For the best!

EXT. AIRPORT - SMALL JET - DAY

Engines REVVING, Hunter boards the plane. The Agent accompanies him on board. The plane taxis and takes off.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Across the desk from the President is STEVE WEISERMAN (50), ex-Army General and now Secretary of Defense. A KNOCK on the door, the Agent opens for Hunter and he walks in. They all shake hands.

FREEMAN

Welcome Hunter. A free man again. That was daring, smart albeit outside the line of command. Irrespective, a great service to the nation and this Country would like to honor you.

WEISERMAN

That includes Jesse, Aaron and Zico.

FREEMAN

All expenses paid. Weiserman has the details, we expect the four of you to be ready tomorrow? Two days after?

HUNTER

Three days, maybe two days?

FREEMAN

Earlier?

HUNTER

I'll do my best Sir.

Freeman presses a buzzer.

Jesse, Aaron and Zico walk in the Oval Office.

HUNTER

Well, I'll be a son of... oops.

FREEMAN

Gentlemen, I have the Presidential Citizens Medal which I would like to honor you with for the services you've given to this Country.

Freeman proceeds to place the medals around their necks.

FREEMAN

Please all take a seat. Four days from now you will be on an official holiday in Moscow.

HUNTER

Did you say holiday, Sir?

FREEMAN

You are all wild life and wilderness experts. Seven days all paid for. Best hotels. You will have a female guide. Please be careful.

WEISERMAN

Four credit cards. No limit. You stay in DC and shop for the best. Also, equip yourself with the guns and holsters. Four passports. They carry a special visa approval from the Russian President, Nikita Ivanov.

Hunter shrugs his soldiers.

FREEMAN

No tickets necessary. The passports will get you anywhere and everywhere. Ivanov is keen to listen to how the Chinese work and about their burner phones. Don't hold back.

WEISERMAN

You fly this Saturday out of Edwards at ten in the morning on a private government jet. That's all for today, gentlemen.

FREEMAN

Thank you, Sir, we're honored.

Weiserman leads the four out of the Oval Office.

INT. WASHINGTON DC BAR - NIGHT

The Squad sit together enjoying a beer. They look excited. Hunter looks glum.

JESSE

(to Hunter)

What's the matter buddy? Not happy, we're on holiday. All paid for.

HUNTER

Oh yeah! Wait for the mission details next time around. Fuck, I wanted to get out of this shit so bad. Refusing the President?

JESSE

Should be okay Hunter.

HUNTER

Let's go check a gun store tomorrow and try on a few James Bond Italian suits. Waiter - four more beers.

INT. KREMLIN - IVANOV'S OFFICE - DAY

Nikita Ivanov sits in his chair in the usual posture, fitness level close to zero. He slouches, hands neatly placed on his stomach and looks at Kushnikov over his half spec reading glasses.

KUSHNIKOV

Ready to stand to attention, Nikita.

He readies himself, gets a grip on the desk, stands and breathes out to ease the strain. He stays behind his desk and on cue from Kushnikov he straightens himself in time.

The Squad enters the office accompanied by a man in Russian Military uniform.

IVANOV

(heavy Russian accent)

Mr. Harrison and friends, we are so happy to meet you. My English not good. Mr. Kushnikov is our Defense Chief. You are famous people in America. Your names in all American newspapers when you saved your president. You are pop idols in Russia.

KUSHNIKOV

You remind the President of his time in Afghanistan - forty years ago.

HUNTER

(smiling)

Thank you, Sir. We're studying bears in Moscow?

IVANOV

Ha ha ha ha. Moscow Bear University. You are looking at the Principal Bear. The biggest in Russia.

KUSHNIKOV

Our intelligence tells us you are the best in the business. We asked your President for help. So, you are here to help us stay in power.

HUNTER

Who is threatening you?

IVANOV

Chinese, Korean, Russians?

KUSHNIKOV

(with heavy accent)

We think it's the Chinese. Koreans also. Like the Rick Manning case. If they topple

us, Mikhail Makarov will take over. A fifty-year-old idiot who wants to conquer the world.

IVANOV

He could use nuclear weapons. We keep an eye on him and we know the Chinese promised him millions.

ANNA KUSHNIKOVA (29) walks down the corridor escorted by two men in uniform. She looks like a model, wears an expensive-looking business suit with brushed leather slingback pumps. A book is in her hand.

KUSHNIKOV

Here comes Anna, my only daughter. She is a major in the military, the Red Army, but leads a civilian life. Very deadly.

IVANOV

Sit down, Major Kushnikova. This is Mr. Harrison from America and his troops...  
(reads from a note)  
... Jesse, Aaron and Zico.

HUNTER

Hello Major...

ANNA

... Kushnikova. In Russia, greeting people sometimes sounds strange.

Ivanov, now back in his slouched position, leans over the side of the desk, opens the drawer and strains to lift a heavy bottle of Vodka - still unopened.

IVANOV

Moskovskaya, original Russian Vodka. You have to savor it -- Drink a bottle a day.  
(looks at Kushnikov)  
Ha ha ha ha.

Kushnikov promptly gets up, opens the bottle then shakes off a little discomfort in his right hand.

IVANOV

Ha ha ha ha. We're all getting old.  
(looks at Anna)  
I used to open one bottle a day in my younger days.

Anna gets up and fetches six glasses, places them neatly next to each other and pours in the Vodka.

IVANOV

In Russia, we drink Vodka bottoms up.

JESSE

Interesting book, Major?

She holds it up for Jesse to read.

JESSE

Wow, "America The Last Best Hope. William Bennett." Powerful stuff.

Kushnikov glances up to the ceiling, then rolls his eyes.

IVANOV

The major is not just a pretty face. Her job at the zoo is a ...

Ivanov runs his hands across his face and looks at Anna.

ANNA

... camouflage.

IVANOV

She plays a major part in our Intelligence. You are one hundred per cent in charge Mr. Harrison. The Major reports to you on this mission. Careful, her ambitions are westwards.

KUSHNIKOV

Don't waste time looking for bugs. You kill cockroaches, they show up again. Mr. Harrison, in Moscow everything and everywhere is bugged. We always protect our best assets.

Kushnikov raises his left eyebrow and gently brushes it. Anna and Ivanov grin.

IVANOV

I hope that your holiday would be a benefit for mankind - and brown bears. Enjoy your break. The Major will take care of you. Ha ha ha ha.

HUNTER

Eh... Thank you, Mr. President.

KUSHNIKOV

Anna, promise me that you keep at a safe distance from the bears.

ANNA  
 (visibly annoyed)  
 Yes papa.

EXT. SHEREMETYEVO HELIPAD - DAY

Anna boards an Army helicopter - an Mi-17. In NATO circles, it is known as the Hip. Her four American friends follow her inside the Hip. They carry heavy satchels; guns are slung over their shoulders.

It takes off and is soon followed by an Mi-26, the heavy Russian lifter the equivalent of the American Chinook. It keeps a very safe distance of one mile.

EXT. MOSCOW WILDERNESS - ATV BASE - DAY

One hundred miles to the north, the Hip performs a number of low circular passes. Finally, it lands on a clear patch completely blanketed with snow.

Once safely on the ground, Anna is the first out and sinks eight inches in the snow. She wears her army fatigues and looks slightly shorter without her Prada high heels but equally as deadly.

The Mi-26 approaches and she marshals it into position for a perfect gentle landing. The rotors whip up a powdery snow shower covering her from top to bottom.

The cargo bay opens. Three Sherp All-Terrain Vehicles roll out. Different colors. Different numbers. A heated car topper sign in the form of a lopsided half pyramid clearly identifies the vehicle as ... 1, 2 or 3.

Both choppers, now unloaded, lift off gracefully, gain altitude and blow snow off the tree tops as they gradually disappear in the misty air.

The five stand together in a tight-knit group, boots a few inches deep in the snow. Anna is flanked by the best hardened products of the U.S. military, two on either side.

As they look into the distance one could easily hear Zico's teeth chattering. Likewise, Anna's. They replicate the choppers' sound still heard albeit from far away.

ANNA  
 Okay, what's next?

HUNTER  
 Jesse, check the tracking device in ATV #3.  
 That vehicle stays put, our spare. The



Russian Mi-26 already knows its location, in case. Anna, Jesse, you two, ride with me in ATV #1. Aaron and Zico in ATV #2.

AARON

Okay let's load them up.

HUNTER

Anna drives and Jesse navigates. Use the American maps, Jess. We'll roll soon. Anna will do a 360 on its axis five minutes prior to setting off.

ANNA

Aye Aye Sir.

JESSE

Anna, if nature calls, go behind the branches at the back of the second car. We will stay focused on the road ahead. Watch out for bears.

ANNA

Pardon the pun. I won't bare it all.

INT. ATV #1 - TRAVELING - DAY

Jesse studies the map. Anna's eyes are firmly on the road ahead. Jesse crosses 'Day 2' off the schedule scribbled on a piece of board on the center dashboard. The intended camp site is forty miles away. Hunter answers the RINGING phone.

HUNTER

Aaron, what's up - yeah, okay, no problems. Huh... No reading. Bye.

(turns the cell off)

Anna, could you stop somewhere here. They need to have a crap.

She brings the vehicle to a stop.

JESSE

I might as well go myself too.

ANNA

Jesse, don't forget the paper. Good time to write your memoirs.

Hunter passes him the well-equipped toilet bag as he steps out the car, and the door goes BANG.

ANNA

What about your memoirs Hunter?

HUNTER

Working on it. Blank pages at the moment  
like my life. Yourself?

ANNA

Still looking. Three sixty degrees and  
across land and sea.

Jesse opens the door and climbs in.

JESSE

Feeling better. We're all done, let's  
move. I hope this ATV floats. A fast  
river ahead eight foot deep.

The car goes down a slippery slope. At the bottom, Anna changes to float gears and the ATV floats across the fast-moving stream, pointing it at an angle while crossing. ATV #2 follows closely. Now on the opposite bank, both ATVs continue to overcome all obstacles ahead of them.

Like radar, Hunter's eyes continuously scan the area.

HUNTER

This is where we're camping for the night.  
A few bears around here.

ANNA

How can you tell?

HUNTER

Look at tree trunks, no bark. They scratch  
themselves there. Bad spot.

JESSE

Be careful Anna. Have all the pots, pans  
and air horns ready. Spin it, we'll let  
Aaron know we're stopping.

HUNTER

I'm taking a crap. We'll camp here, set it  
up, firewood and meat.

EXT. MOSCOW WILDERNESS - NIGHT

As day turns into night the group bring their feet closer to the fire. They drink tea, beer and vodka and stare at the spit as it goes round ... but they are not alone.

Two large Siberian Eagle Owls sit atop branches fifty feet apart, their big yellow round eyes gaze at the campsite. With a sharp twist they turn their heads, their vision momentarily crosses path, look down, then they shriek. The gaze returns to the campsite. They repeat this

a few times.

Hunter grabs the night vision goggles, puts them on and follow the owls' point of view.

NIGHT VISION GOGGLES POV

Amongst the trees are keen watchful observing eyes. The occasional scratching noises get closer and more frequent.

BACK TO SCENE

Hunter shushes his team. He indicates that dart guns should be at the ready, likewise air horns, pots and pans.

HUNTER

We'll take two bears out for fifteen minutes, two darts in each. Scare the rest off, I want to have some photos of their teeth and claws.

Jesse grabs the dart guns. Aaron gets the camera. Zico grabs pots, pans and air horn. Anna puts her surgical gloves on.

Hunter conducts the operation with poise. His head movements are now gentle and smooth. They all wait without making further noises. Then Jesse looks at Hunter and raises his right eyebrow. Hunter turns to his left. Two hundred feet away. Two bears in the trees and three approaching.

Hunter indicates to sit tight and wait, then he gives the go ahead. SWOOSH, SWOOSH, but the bears continue coming towards the group - albeit stunned. They all stand up. The bears stop. Zico goes into action with his air horn. All bears retreat but the advancing duo fail to make the turn.

Jesse stays on watch, Aaron grabs his camera, Anna and Hunter force open the bears' mouths and stretch their paws while Aaron snaps the photos.

EXT./INT. CIA LANGLEY/COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

EXT. CORRIDOR.

Two duty officers are on a quick smoking break. Neckties pulled down, collars loosened, they look very tired. They are on edge and look nervously at their watches.

DOUG and Rocco hit the security keypad and get back to their desks. Torture. Sleep deprivation all around.

INT. COMMAND CENTER.

At the whim of a laser pointer, a pulsating white cross moves across the twenty foot high LED screen. It is the "INTELLIGENCE OFFICER" (50s) beneath it who aims his pointer north of Moscow and then further out. The white cross now on the target glows red and pulsates at a faster rate.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

This is the big one, boys. Any time now.  
Time in Moscow is 10 am.

DOUG

Are we hitting the target today.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

It's Steve Weiserman's decision, then  
Nikita Ivanov's, if sober. The drone -  
Predator B shows our asset, his three  
buddies and one female. Hit scheduled for  
today, maybe tomorrow.

His laser moves about hundred miles North and shows an image of a large Russian Military Base crowded with helicopters.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

We understand this is Alpha Unit Far East,  
similar to our Delta Force. Our people are  
using snow vehicles, slow but formidable.  
One hour to get to target. Doug, give  
Weiserman the coordinates. Meeting in 30  
minutes.

EXT. MOSCOW WILDERNESS - DAY

Hunter's burner phone RINGS. The message, *Korean group camp  
twenty-five miles south, coordinates to follow. Terrorist Cell  
conducting illegal animal trade. Destroy Camp.*

Hunter passes the text message along. He looks at Anna.

HUNTER

We hit them tomorrow. Anna, we need  
support, you organize your show. We leave  
five in the morning. I got the coordinates  
now. All of you take note of these  
coordinates.

Anna gets on the phone and speaks in Russian to her high command. At times she seems to be begging.

EXT. MOSCOW WILDERNESS - NONDESCRIPT OUTPOST - DAY

ATV #2 approaches from the North, ATV #1 from the South. Snow covers the ground. The camp backs onto a thick forest, perfect for ATV #2

to set itself as an observation post.

A feed from a drone shows twenty cages, all with bears, young and old, some chained. All look undernourished. A total of forty bears. Four vehicles and two big semi-trailers are parked alongside an area covered with logs - an illegal trade in logging and animal trafficking.

Hunter and Anna approach the building and are stopped at the door by two Koreans who refuse to let them in.

One armed man appears on the roof and aims his rifle at the couple. Hunter puts his hand up as if surrendering but it is the signal for Jesse to pull the trigger. The Korean is hit and falls headfirst in the snow.

Hunter grabs KOREAN #1 and points a gun to his head; Anna, KOREAN #2, pointing her gun at the side of his head.

HUNTER

Load your guns boys and come in.

INT. KOREAN TERRORIST CAMP - DAY

Two Chinese men and three Korean women are inside. They all put their guns down.

HUNTER

Zico, Aaron, tie them up.

ANNA

Bears where go? Chinese what do?

KOREAN #1

Bears North Korea. Chinese Spies.

ANNA

Keys for cages. Keys for collars.

Korean #2 points at a drawer and a cabinet.

The unmistakable noise of helicopter rotors. An Mi-26 lands, then a Kamov attack helicopter, then the Mi-17 Hip. Anna introduces herself and she tells the helicopter crews what's happening.

HUNTER

Free all animals, one cage at a time.

Korean #2 unchains the bears, Korean #1 opens the cage. Aaron rattles a metal pot against the cage. Zico presses the Air Horn. The bears run out. Soldiers help restrain the big bears while being freed.

Suddenly, one bear turns back and charges towards a Russian soldier. Hunter fires his rifle first. He hits the bear, then two darts follow and the bear goes down.

HUNTER

Aaron, patch him up.

ANNA

Hip Commander, Sir, put all computers and boxes on board, five Koreans, two Chinese and one dead body. G.R.U. Siberia for interrogation.

ANNA (CONT'D)

Cargo Helicopter Captain, Sir. Get the vehicles, trailer and cages piled in a heap. Kamov Helicopter, Sir. Fire bomb the lot. Also, the building. Good practice.

Soldiers scurry with computer equipment, boxes of paperwork and weapons - all confiscated and loaded on the Hip. The hit gang now bundled up on the same chopper and whisked away somewhere in the vastness of Siberia to be debriefed.

Two of the choppers take off. The Kamov attack helicopter takes to the air. From a hovering position it turns its targets into a smoldering mess. Hunter and company enjoy the fireworks.

INT. KREMLIN - IVANOV'S OFFICE - DAY

The Russian President calls Anna.

IVANOV

Major, I will pass you to papa. He is worried, I am not well, my stomach. Sergei, Anna for you.

KUSHNIKOV

Anna, what happened ... what? ... yes, yes, yes ... CIA? ... how many bears? Forty? .... you say G.R.U. Siberia? I will tell him. No, the usual, too many Vodkas. Just gas. I will put the phone down now.

KUSHNIKOV

Nikita, they captured two Chinese, five Koreans, one dead, all sent to Siberia for interrogation. All their computers confiscated. And forty bears released. CIA Intel.

IVANOV

Fucking Americans know everything. This Country must be running on Auto Pilot. Ha ha ha ha.

EXT. MOSCOW WILDERNESS - ATV BASE - DAY

The vehicles approach the ATV Base. Hunter jumps out carrying his bag and weapons. He walks to ATV #3 and drives away enjoying the pristine nature that surrounds him.

INT. ATV #3 - DAY

Hunter closes his eyes and relaxes momentarily. Then he calls Jesse.

HUNTER

I am about eight miles away from base. I will spend some time by myself. I won't interrupt you guys for the night. Let Aaron know.

JESSE (V.O.)

Take care, boss.

INT. ATV #1 - NIGHT

Anna's cell phone RINGS. She ignores it. It RINGS again. And continues to ignore it. Then it RINGS yet again.

JESSE

For fuck's sake answer it. Make sure your selfie camera is not on.

ANNA

(into phone)

Sorry papa, I had to rush back. Fighting off a bear... okay, but papa that's early, their bags at the hotel - a letter, what letter?... Surprise? Okay! Then Barashnikov Air ... Bye.

ANNA

(to Jesse)

Our stay is cut. Let's press on.

EXT. MOSCOW WILDERNESS - ATV BASE - DAY

Anna looks the worse for wear. She marshals the Mi-17 to a safe landing spot. They climb on board and are soon in the air.

ANNA

(tears in her eyes)

Sorry boys, early return home. Ivanov is sick. He thanks you and wants to see you again soon. Medals for sure. Maybe a mission? Private flight on Barashnikov Air in three hours. All taken care of.

EXT. SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT - LEAR JET - DAY

The last two to board - Jesse stops at the top of the stairs. Hunter is two steps below and waits impatiently but politely. They turn back and wave to Anna who waves back, hardly moving her hand. She boards the Mi-17 to the Kremlin hiding her face. The Barashnikov Lear Jet taxis away.

INT. LEAR JET - DAY

CAPTAIN (V.O.)

Gentlemen, good afternoon. This is Captain Kovic. Relax. Welcome to Barashnikov Air. It's eleven o'clock now. Destination is Seattle International. Later on, a gentleman will see Mr. Harrison with an envelope from President Ivanov.

The Squad look at each other, shrug their shoulders, enjoy the last glimpses of Moscow and soon they are all fast asleep.

Hunter's eyes snap open and looks at his watch which shows 15.00 Moscow time. An envelope lies neatly on a classy silver platter. He takes the letter out and reads.

The clattering of crockery wakes the rest up.

HUNTER

Just got a letter from a sick Ivanov.

JESSE

Inside knowledge. Bad attack of gas.

HUNTER

He wants us back. Medals and a Mission. I am not happy about the latter. This is fucking me right up.

AARON

C'mon Hunter this is fun. You're getting too old.

HUNTER

That's the problem. The best of all -- go visit Barashnikov Banking in downtown Seattle. Check on your new accounts.

They all pump their fist in the air.

INT. BAR (SEATTLE) - NIGHT

Delilah sits by herself at the bar. She is on her cell phone. Hunter walks in and goes straight to the other end of the bar. Her face



suddenly lights up.

DELILAH  
Hunter. Come and join me.

HUNTER  
(takes his hat off)  
What a surprise. By yourself? Another  
drink? Rum and Coke.

DELILAH  
I do like guys who wear hats. It's been a  
few weeks now. Have you found your woman?  
Somebody you can trust?

HUNTER  
That would solve one of the three problems.

DELILAH  
Short term-solutions are not ideal. They  
just whet your appetite. Only good for the  
adventurous. I still can help you with the  
other problems.

HUNTER  
I better get going it's pissing down.

DELILAH  
Hunter, my office is a couple of blocks  
away, my apartment is above it. I love  
watching Telly.

HUNTER  
Telly. What the fuck?

DELILAH  
Take the latter. Let's go in your car, I  
normally walk. I see you have lost your  
inhibitions. As you said, it's raining.  
You don't want to see me getting wet... or  
do you?

HUNTER  
No inhibitions, just sad moods.

DELILAH  
Do something about them.

INT. DELILAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Delilah and Hunter relax on the couch and watch TV. She gets up.

DELILAH

I am having a shower. You can join me or stay put and watch the movie.

HUNTER  
(unhappy and mumbles)  
How the fuck did I get in all this?

Delilah walks back to the DVD rack in the sitting room with a towel wrapped around her and her back to Hunter.

DELILAH  
Still watching? What's your favorite movie, Hunter. Sudden Impact? What kind of gun do you carry?

HUNTER  
I carry a rifle, I'm a sniper. A man cannot always be measured by the size of his gun. Let alone his dick.

DELILAH  
I want to show you something.

He walks to her.

DELILAH (CONT'D)  
Hunter, my towel looks tight to you?

Now naked, she turns around and faces him.

HUNTER  
Delilah, this part of the therapy session is heading the wrong way.

DELILAH  
From my point of view, it's heading the correct way.

HUNTER  
Maybe I have the wrong target!

DELILAH  
Use it as a practice session.

She rips his shirt off, then his trousers and continues... she rolls him onto the bed.

DELILAH (CONT'D)  
Magnum force with no crosshairs on the scope. The target is perhaps a bit difficult to find?

HUNTER  
Not if you're Black Ops.

DELILAH

Right on target, Hunter. Do I call you a marksman or sharpshooter?

HUNTER

Either. On a serious note, any protection taken?

DELILAH

None. Can't kill people with blanks. He is like you, loves to have a kid. But unlike you, he cannot.

HUNTER

Make - My - Night. My next session, is it still on? I am leaving anyway.

DELILAH

As you wish, take care, Hunter.

EXT. SIERRA CALDA COFFEE SHOP (LAKE TAHOE) - DAY

Maria Merola sits at the table next to her son CARLITO. He is thirteen years old, tall for his age and well-behaved. They wait for their drinks. She sees a shadow behind her and looks up. It is Hunter.

MARIA MEROLA

Well stranger, please sit down.

HUNTER

Nice young boy. Your son?

MARIA MEROLA

Carlito, say hello to the gentleman.

HUNTER

Hunter... Hunter Harrison.

CARLITO

Hello Mr. Harrison.

HUNTER

I noticed; you behave yourself well.

Carlito nods politely. Maria motions him to give them room.

HUNTER

He can stay, it involves Carlito too.

She opens her bag, takes out a folded piece of newspaper and opens it flat on the table.

MARIA MEROLA

It's been in my bag since published.

Presidential pardon after saving Rick Manning's life. It was big news.

HUNTER

I was living in the shadows and in hiding then, now, I'm a free man. That pardon would not have been possible without your help.

MARIA MEROLA

I kept waiting for the phone to ring.

HUNTER

I fully understand. Very personal. I visit the local church to feel close to my favorite saint. At times I have to wait for days for the sun to shine through the stained glass.

(pause)

It uncovers the secret that lies behind that great art, the shade on his face and the sparkle in his eyes. Even the shadows bring out the suffering endured and the hope that overcomes it. It all comes to life.

MARIA MEROLA

This favorite saint of yours is?

HUNTER

St. Jude, patron saint of hope.

CARLITO

He is one of the twelve apostles.

Hunter looks at Carlito with a faint smile. Then he looks at Maria, put his hand on hers. Silence. She takes another sip of coffee and almost chokes on it. She looks at Carlito. His eyes seem to indicate approval.

MARIA MEROLA

I... I was not expecting this. I don't know what to say.

HUNTER

Just say "Yes."

She looks again at Carlito. This time a more emphatic nod of the head. She waits for Hunter to continue.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

I will be a good father to Carlito and I will look after him like my son. We will go horse-riding together. I will teach him to

be a good citizen.

Carlito's face now lights up.

CARLITO

You mean, on real big horses?

HUNTER

On our ranch in Montana. Three horses, cows and bison.

CARLITO

Let me guess. Twenty cows and ten bison.

HUNTER

A few more, Carlito, two hundred cows and twenty bison. Chicken and pigs.

CARLITO

Wow, I like that.

HUNTER

Maria, it was a surprise, I know. I have your number. Till next time. You be good, Carlito.

He stands up, pats Carlito on the head and leaves.

CARLITO

Mom, I like Hunter. You will be happy. I want to go to Montana. I want to be like him when I grow up.

Maria looks at Carlito with tears in her eyes.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hunter is at his desk writing. The PHONE RINGS.

HUNTER

How are you?

DELILAH (V.O.)

Hunter, I'm pregnant. Four months. It's a boy and I know it's yours. You're the only one with live ammo. Jackson only fires blanks.

HUNTER

Hold on. You said Jackson. The guy visiting when I was there.

DELILAH (V.O.)

That's him. He likes you, Hunter. He likes your rugged looks. I love you both. He is looking forward to being a good stepdad.

HUNTER

I try to keep my cool like I learned in the military. I cannot be a good father, that has been proven.

DELILAH (V.O.)

Can you at least try?

HUNTER

I'm done trying. Delilah, this is going to fuck my life completely. You're supposed to solve my problems! Not to fuck me up.

(pause)

Jackson seems a nice intelligent guy. He loves kids. I am happy for him to handle it all. The kid has to know only one father. That's Jackson.

DELILAH (V.O.)

Hunter, you called me by my first name. First time ever. I like it.

HUNTER

I will put thirty thousand dollars towards his education up front. You sign a document releasing me of any future obligations. With your approval, I would like to be able to see him once in a while.

DELILAH (V.O.)

I cannot force the issue. I am sure Jackson will be happy. We're okay for expenses but it's a nice gesture. It shows you're responsible. Life is too short. Stay in touch.

HUNTER

Bye, Delilah. Regards to Jackson.

He rolls his chair back, then with one sudden push, the desk goes flying making a huge mess. He walks over, rights it up, rips a few pages off the wire-bound pad, crumples them together and tosses them at the nearest target, the TV.

HUNTER

(screaming to self)

Hello, hello... hello. Where the fuck am I in my life?... Divorced, seven dead, now

a pardoned outlaw and one kid on the way.  
Fuck it.

He calms down, reclines in his chair and scratches his head violently. Then he reaches out for a picture on his desk. It is Tim and Maya, his step children. He clutches it with both hands, closes his eyes and rests it on his chest.

He goes to his bedroom and slams the door behind him.

EXT. MUSIC STORE CAR PARK (SEATTLE) - NIGHT

Hunter's car is parked with the engine running.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Hunter puts the dome lights on, takes the LP out of its cover and looks closely at both sides. Smiles, puts it back and turns his interior lights off. His CELL RINGS.

HUNTER

Hi Jesse, long time no see.

JESSE (V.O.)

Where are you? What are you up to?

HUNTER

I was gonna drive home and listen to my new LP, then to Betty's Diner.

JESSE (V.O.)

I tell you what, how about we meet there, have a beer and some grub. Got Kenny Rogers on. Can't beat country music. See you in ten?

HUNTER

Sounds good. Better get moving.

INT. BETTY'S DINER - NIGHT

Betty serves beer behind the bar. Hunter and Jesse walk in.

BETTY

The military boys are here. Been a while, Jesse. Beer?

HUNTER

What else is there?

BETTY

Two beers coming up. Hunter, not so sure if you sounded happy or not?

Hunter smiles at Betty and takes his usual seat. Jesse sits opposite.

JESSE  
Quick arm wrestle, Hunter.

HUNTER  
Okay, thumb to thumb, push, grab, go.

Betty walks to the table with two large beers. She watches.

BETTY  
I'm glad you boys finally having some fun.  
But I am getting tired holding these two  
slops. C'mon Jesse, move your ass for this  
young chick. So how you've been guys?  
Hunter, I got a feeling something's  
bothering you.

HUNTER  
I'm fine. Jess is fine.

BETTY  
That's good. You know this caper about a  
hit on the president. Am I unmasking the  
Zorro twins. That would be a great movie.  
You're free men now, you can tell me.

Hunter looks at Jesse, then at Betty.

HUNTER  
Remember that Korean guy a few weeks back?  
The guy with the parcel.

BETTY  
Yeah. What about him? Where is he?

HUNTER  
Dead.

BETTY  
Don't tell me no more. I'm scared of those  
people. You never know what they're up to.  
Huh... just the one?

JESSE  
And all children go to heaven.

BETTY  
Oh my God. Seven?

JESSE  
But not in heaven.

A young waitress approaches with the food.



BETTY

You bought an LP, can I look?

HUNTER

What you suggested to me.

BETTY

That was a few months' back. Let me have a peep. I'll be fucked! Don't fight over me boys, happily married.

HUNTER

I won't, Betty!

BETTY

"Hank Williams. Love Sick Blues." Still no girls of your own? Get cracking, get married, have kids. Seriously, it will change your lives.

HUNTER

Kids, I got more than I can poke the fingers of my right hand at. I lost Tim and Maya. I loved those kids. I proposed to a young woman, thirty-two, divorced, beautiful son. I could be a good father to him. But I don't know. If she says yes, we can have one of our own.

JESSE

That leaves one.

HUNTER

That's on the way.

BETTY

On the way? Who, what, when?

HUNTER

My psychiatrist. She was supposed to help me with my problems.

BETTY

Can't keep a Black Ops guy away. Hunter, my simple advice, work on the newly found love. I better go. Getting busy, the food is on me.

HUNTER

What's happening on your side, Jess?

JESSE

I just don't know how to handle them.

HUNTER

With care, Jess. I am fucking torn inside. Don't know which way to jump. I want to be happy. Settling down with a family is the only way to do it. Getting there is the problem. The military never taught us that. I'll leave two hundred for Betty.

EXT. RESTAURANT CARLOS (LAKE TAHOE) - DAY

Hunter looks at his car now parked some distance away from the restaurant's entrance. He adjusts his wig and false moustache, walks to the owner CARLOS MENDEZ (65) who awaits outside and points at the camera.

MENDEZ

Your card came in handy. Security camera been playing up a bit.

HUNTER

No worries, Mr. Mendez. Should be straight forward. I'll reposition it slightly to give it more protection and replace a seal, got the parts. Should be about thirty minutes.

Hunter gets up the ladder. Unscrews the device off the wall and moves it by a few inches, installs his own surveillance. Unscrambles the transmissions and all is good.

MENDEZ

How's it going?

HUNTER

Coming down now, it's done. It will be eighty dollars. In cash if you don't mind, saves you thirty. It should be working now.

MENDEZ

Thanks for the service. All good.

Hunter walks back to the car and drives off.

INT. CAR (SEATTLE) TRAVELING - DAY

Hunter feels relaxed with country music. He drives by a children's school playground, slows down and parks his car. He turns down the music and looks at the kids having fun.

EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND SURROUNDS - DAY

A police OFFICER pulls behind him.

OFFICER  
Excuse me sir, may I ask why you're parked here? Your license please.

The officer examines it and gives him a quizzical look.

HUNTER  
Divorced. I miss my kids.

OFFICER  
A less kind officer could book you for loitering. Here's your license back. I suggest you move. Looks like you're having a bad day.

HUNTER  
On my way, Officer. Thank you.

OFFICER  
My name is Jordan. Take care.

INT. CAR TRAVELING - DAY

He drives off and stops a short walking distance from a public park.

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

He steps out of the car, a newspaper under his arm, looks for a shady bench and checks the morning news. A FATHER abuses his wife and his two little kids - both of them cry. This whole scene is very painful for Hunter.

FATHER  
(to Hunter)  
You have a problem?

HUNTER  
I don't have a problem. But you may have one if you don't stop treating your family like shit.

FATHER  
You sound like a man of wisdom.

The man approaches Hunter.

FATHER  
(swings at Hunter)  
Let's see what the wise man can do.

Hunter ducks and misses the first one. A second one swoops in but he stops it dead by grabbing his arm, punches him with his right and sends

him flying. Park inspectors restore order. Police show up and whisk Hunter away.

INT. POLICE STATION (SEATTLE) - DAY

Hunter is shoved in one of the cells. One of the cops takes down a statement from Hunter, then he leaves slamming the cell door. CLANG. Hunter calls Maria Merola.

HUNTER

Maria, this is Hunter. I'm in a police cell in Seattle. West Precinct. I have been attacked. I threw a punch back and floored this guy who was ill-treating his kids. I need your help.

MARIA MEROLA (V.O.)

Hold on to your phone. I'll be back.

An officer stops by his cell. His face is familiar. It is Officer Jordan from this morning.

OFFICER

Hunter. How can I forget a name like that. I remember you from this morning. I had a suspicion that you were up to no good. I will go check your statement myself.

HUNTER

Thank you, Officer. Good to have people in high places.

Hunter falls asleep in his solitary cell. He's woken up when it opens with a big CLANG.

OFFICER

(smiles)

I'll get you out of here. You must have some friends really high up.

HUNTER

Very, high up. Can't get any higher. Officer, for the record, that guy took two swings at me. I had to defend myself. And yes, you were correct, I am having a bad day.

OFFICER

And off the record. Your statement has gone AWOL. That dude is an ex-cop. Violent. Thrown out of the force but still has some friends. I hope your day gets better.

HUNTER

You bet. Let's shake on it, Officer.

HUNTER

(texts)

*Maria. All okay now. Will tell you the story later. Have a safe day. Say hello to Carlito. Hunter.*

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Hunter is having sleepless night. He walks to the window to get some fresh air. He stares at the night sky. Back on the bed, he switches on the TV. On the screen, the usual nightly garbage. He grits his teeth.

HUNTER

(talks to the TV)

You big shit, I am gonna shove my fist down your fucking throat so hard it will go through your ass.

He kills the TV with the remote and looks around in anger, then reaches out for a picture of Tim and Maya taken at a fun park. With sadness in his eyes, he manages a smile then rests the picture face down on his chest. He puts it back on the bedside table, unobstructed and snoozes off again.

Barely awake, Hunter switches on the previous day's clandestine surveillance. It is footage from the security camera he had tampered with at Restaurant Carlos.

It shows Maria and Celine at the Sierra Calda Coffee Shop. Maria reaches inside her handbag, takes out a newspaper cutting and lays flat. Celine gives her a sympathetic look. He zooms in on the cutting. It is the same piece that she had shown him before. Soon, he snoozes off again.

Now he gets up with a shudder and straightens himself in bed. He rests his head on the wall, seals his eyes closed as he opens the drawer and grabs his firearm - a .38 caliber Smith & Wesson Special. He runs his hand over it, gently caressing it. He ponders for a while.

HUNTER

(whispers to his gun)

Smith, Wesson, say "No." Hello?

Eyes still closed he places the gun under his chin.

HUNTER

(sotto voce to gun)

... four... three... two... God, I ain't got  
the balls.

Hunter moves his gun away. He reflects for a while. Then he rolls the barrel and tries one more time with his chin resting on the gun barrel.

HUNTER  
... four... three... two... one... CLICK.

Hunter opens his eyes. Using a delicate army touch he grabs the cylinder, opens it, spins it gently, sees five empty chambers. He was one click away. He lets the bullet drop out, closes it and puts the gun away. He shudders.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Hunter makes himself a coffee, sits at the table and examines his nondescript loose leafed notes. He draws a vertical time line on a clean piece of paper. Across the top he writes "April 8. Korean Killings." Then, five new lines. "Delilah", "Maria letter", "Pardoned", "Maria Marriage?", "Delilah Pregnant."

HUNTER  
(rages on)  
That's a fucking lot.

He grabs his notes and walks out.

INT. BETTY'S DINER - DAY

Betty is behind the bar serving. Hunter shows up.

HUNTER  
Morning, Betty. Usual please. Coffee  
extra strong.

BETTY  
Looks as if you had a rough night.

HUNTER  
Could have been much rougher.

He sits down, puts his notes on the table and examines them. Betty serves him breakfast.

BETTY  
Scientific. What you got there?

HUNTER  
A graphic representation of a muddled mind.  
Trying to work out the happiness factor.  
Zero lowest...

BETTY

... ten the highest. Gimme that, Hunter.  
I read you like a book.

He passes her the paper. She reaches out for the pencil from behind her ear.

BETTY

(looks at Hunter)  
"Koreans?" In reality, you don't like  
killing. Zero.

BETTY (CONT'D)

"Delilah." That's your lady, right?  
Scoring about giving you advice or while  
banging her?

HUNTER

Bang, bang.

BETTY

Forced in a bang bang, if true, Five.  
(pause)  
"Letter to Maria." Eight. "Pardoned."  
Been free before, Eight.  
(looks at Hunter)  
"Marriage." Ten. This will happen.  
(pencil scratch)  
"Pregnant."

Betty mulls the answer. Hunter looks at Betty with a surprisingly anxious look in his eyes. She writes the answer and places the paper on the table. Hunter grabs it and looks at it.

HUNTER

A perfect score! Wow.

BETTY

You'll love that kid like you would love  
your wife.

HUNTER

You're psychiatrist, Betty?

BETTY

(dirty laugh)  
You could have fucked me instead, can't have  
kids no more. Three is enough. And I  
don't charge.

HUNTER

(cheeky smile)  
Shit, I wish I knew that before.

BETTY

Take it easy, you don't need no doctors or psychiatrists. Stay calm. She'll come to you.

She leaves. Tears trickle down her face.

INT. CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

Hunter is on his way to Lake Tahoe. He makes a comfort stop half way and drives on.

EXT. HOTEL (LAKE TAHOE) - DAY

He has a good look outside and walks into reception.

INT. HOTEL - HUNTER'S ROOM - NIGHT

He dials in-room service, has dinner and watches TV, then drops off to sleep.

INT. HOTEL - DINING ROOM - DAY

Hunter sits at a table, orders breakfast and opens the Los Angeles Times. The big headline "SECOND ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON NIKITA IVANOV. SUSPECTED KOREAN GANG. ONE KILLED, ONE INJURED. OTHERS ON THE RUN." He finishes off his breakfast walks to the LADY RECEPTIONIST and checks out.

LADY RECEPTIONIST

Thank you Mr. Harrison, enjoy your stay in Lake Tahoe.

INT. PARKED CAR - DAY

He parks his car a short distance away from the "Sierra Calda Coffee Shop." He takes out his iPad from the glove box and switches it on. A clandestine direct feed from the surveillance camera outside "Restaurant Carlos."

It shows Maria coming for her morning coffee at around ten. Carlito is with her and works his iPhone. Hunter calls her.

MARIA MEROLA (V.O.)

Hi, Hunter. I was thinking of calling you. I was hoping you drop by soon after your ordeal. I know it's a long trip though.

HUNTER

As it happens, I am close by.

MARIA MEROLA (V.O.)

You're kidding me? I will see you soon at the usual place.



He watches her as she gives the good news to Carlito who looks equally excited. Hunter puts the iPad back in the glove box and rubs his hands with glee, just like a little child. He starts walking.

EXT. SIERRA CALDA COFFEE SHOP - DAY

HUNTER

Hello Maria, you did a great job. Free man again. Hello, Carlito.

MARIA MEROLA

What happened?

HUNTER

I was reading in the park. This dad was ill-treating his kids. I looked in disgust and he had a couple of shots at me. Missed twice so I gave him one myself. Ex-cop thrown out of the police force due to violence. So, I ended up in the cell. He has friends. Mine are higher up though.

MARIA MEROLA

Carlito wants to be macho like you. Hey buddy, I would like to talk to Hunter in private. Ten minutes?

HUNTER

Have you considered it?

MARIA MEROLA

The problem is Carlito. He likes you heaps, that's my fear.

HUNTER

I understand how you feel. I cannot change my past; I am proud of what I had to do to save many lives. Maybe thousands could have died. Some get punched, some punch, some get killed some have to kill.

MARIA MEROLA

He's... a little kid. They just follow their heroes.

HUNTER

My professional work imposes restrictions. I visualize Carlito being a doctor or lawyer as I put the shutters down on my career.

MARIA MEROLA

So, what do you do now for a living?

HUNTER

Easy job with the Seattle Wild Life Department. Out in the wilderness looking after fowl, fauna and bears.

MARIA MEROLA

And on your Montana Ranch?

HUNTER

Part farming, part employment with the local Wild Life Authorities.

His cell buzzes gently.

CONNIE (V.O.)

Hunter, it's Connie. They think you went AWOL here, you're okay? With no boss, I know you walk in and out, but... are we gonna see you again?

HUNTER

I have some family matters I am sorting out. I am in Lake Tahoe right now and will be there after tomorrow, in the meantime...

CONNIE (V.O.)

... In the meantime, what?

HUNTER

Keep the bears away.

CONNIE (V.O.)

(chuckles)

Hunter, you're one of a kind. See you soon. Take care.

HUNTER

I chase the bears. They chase me. I chase you. That's how it goes.

MARIA MEROLA

You're funny, Hunter. Hey, Carlito.

Carlito comes running and sits next to his mom. She looks at Carlito, tears in her eyes. Then she looks at Hunter.

MARIA MEROLA

(her hand on Hunter's)

I accept.

Carlito leaps out of his chair straight into Hunter's arms who hugs him like one of his own. Then he reaches inside his pocket.

HUNTER

I like to keep things simple. Let me have your hand.

MARIA MEROLA

Beautiful ring, I am lost for words. Rick is waiting to meet his knight in armor; they suggested a private ceremony at their house.

HUNTER

Let's do it, two weeks' time?

MARIA MEROLA

I'll go give Celine the good news. I read the latest news in Russia. Promise me you won't discuss what's happened.

They kiss, then Hunter walks back to his car.

INT. MANNING'S HOUSE - SITTING ROOM (LAKE TAHOE) - DAY

Hunter and Maria stand next to each other while the PRIEST conducts a very brief wedding ceremony. They look in each other's eyes. In attendance is Carlito, the ex-President Rick Manning and Celine. The priest concludes the ceremony with the Lord's blessings and a sprinkling of Holy Water.

PRIEST

... I pronounce you, man and wife. Hunter, you may kiss the bride.

MANNING

Hunter, I am absolutely delighted to finally meet my savior, your wonderful wife Maria and son Carlito. May you find the happiness that both of you deserve.

He stands up with difficulty then lets his cane drop to the floor. He hugs Hunter seemingly holding on to him.

HUNTER

I don't know what to say, sir.

Warren Freeman suddenly appears on the TV via a secure link.

FREEMAN (V.O.)

I want to say how wonderful it is to meet you on such a great occasion. The First Lady and I wish you Hunter and Maria all the happiness. I would like to invite you to the White House at your earliest opportunity. The best for Rick and Celine.

The link terminates. Celine hugs Maria. Manning stares at Hunter in admiration and then with imploring eyes...

MANNING

(whispers)

The President needs your advice. It's to do with Nikita Ivanov.

Maria's eyes follow Rick's slow movements as he whispers in Hunter's ear. Her smile changes to a look of concern.

INT. PRIVATE PLANE (MONTANA) - MORNING

The light plane circles as it approaches a private airstrip.

HUNTER

Carlito, that's our new ranch down there. Maria, this is your new home. We have three horses, one for each of us. Hercules, Wanda and Swift.

CARLITO

Which one is mine, Dad?

HUNTER

(looking at Maria)

I like the way he called me.

(to Carlito)

You make your choice when you get close to pat them. Hercules is strong-willed; Wanda is a lady horse and Swift is the youngest one and easier to control. I'll get the bison; mom gets the cows.

CARLITO

Sounds good Dad. I'll take Swift.

HUNTER

What's the matter, Maria. You seem to be far away. You're now in your new home surrounded by nature.

MARIA MEROLA

(pondering)

I have been around Presidential circles for ten years. Often, I feel I understand their thinking and what they're aiming at. I won't ask, but I did see Rick whisper in your ear.

HUNTER

He said Freeman needs some advice and that his Russian opposite number is in similar

trouble that Rick was in. He needs to know about tactics.

Maria looks at the floor and smiles. Hunter keeps staring at the outside. The plane comes to a stop.

EXT. HUNTER'S RANCH (MONTANA) - DAY

Chico, the young farmhand is standing by to pick them up.

SERIES OF SHOTS - LIFE ON THE RANCH.

-- Hunter teaches Carlito horse-riding skills.

-- Hunter and Carlito round the bison and herd them along.

-- Carlito drives the tractor pulling bales of hay.

-- Maria spends time looking after the cattle.

-- Chico milks the cows.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - DAY

A letter arrives bearing the Presidential Seal. Maria gets on with house duties. Carlito is on his school work. Hunter steps inside.

MARIA MEROLA

That's it for the day? Make sure your hands are clean. We received a letter from the President. Here.

HUNTER

You can open it, Maria.

MARIA MEROLA

Wow. The President is inviting our family, Rick and Celine to a private ceremony. And guess what?

Carlito leaps from the desk and grabs the letter.

CARLITO

Dad, you have been awarded the Medal of Honor. It's a private ceremony.

They hug each other but their joy subsides in silence and reflection. Maria stands by the window with a blank stare and gazes the beautiful outdoors. Hunter slumps on the couch. Carlito looks at his dad.

CARLITO

Dad, why are you crying? You're a hero, I am so proud of you.

He kneels by his dad and he starts sobbing himself. Hunter pats him on the head.

HUNTER

It could be a very cruel world, son.

Carlito walks out. After a moment of reflection, Maria, still looking at the outside turns to face Hunter ...

MARIA MEROLA

So... are you taking this mission?

HUNTER

Take what? Who would refuse the Highest Honor in the Land?

MARIA MEROLA

You know what I am talking about.

HUNTER

Maria, I have a headache. Giving orders is distinctly different from explaining why things need to happen. I'm sorry.

MARIA MEROLA

(murmurs)

That's what I thought.

EXT. HUNTER'S RANCH - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS - LIFE ON THE RANCH.

-- Hunter shows Carlito the basics of gun safety.

-- Carlito tracks a wild turkey.

-- Carlito collects his trophy - a dead turkey.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - DAY

Maria and Carlito eat lunch but silence is deafening.

MARIA MEROLA

So, how's hunting going?

CARLITO

Been learning a lot from dad but it's not for me. I'm like Dad. He doesn't shoot bears to kill. Only to tranquilize them, protect them and protect people like us.

MARIA MEROLA

What else did you learn?

CARLITO

A lot about tracking, how to handle his  
firearm... from A to Z.

MARIA MEROLA

An expert now?

CARLITO

Know enough to protect us.

MARIA MEROLA

I thought Dad does that.

CARLITO

Big country Mom, with lots of wild life. He  
says animals only kill to survive. Men  
should be the same. Only kill to protect  
yourself, your family or the Country, that  
what he says.

MARIA MEROLA

(sighs)

The Country huh. Well, what dad says is  
very, very true. Here he comes, let's drop  
the subject.

HUNTER

Whoa. One brand new bison, one hour old.  
Brave girl - all by herself.

MARIA MEROLA

They have been doing it by themselves for  
thousands of years.

CARLITO

We're here to help preserve them.

HUNTER

Our young lad been learning a lot.

MARIA MEROLA

Are you turning him into an expert?

HUNTER

No, not guilty.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

At the gathering, Warren Freeman, the First Lady, Rick Manning, Celine,  
Maria, Hunter, Carlito and a White House Photographer.

FREEMAN

... for the services rendered to our Country, the living proof - Rick Manning is with us today, thanks to you Mr. Hunter Harrison. Now it is my pleasure to present to you, in the name of the United States Congress, the highest honor in the land, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

He places the medal around Hunter's neck.

FREEMAN

Due to sensitivity, these photographs are not for the public, but we do get a set each. Let's have some drinks.

MANNING

It was certainly an enjoyable and memorable occasion. Thank you once again Hunter, for saving my life and those of many others. Carlito is proud of you. Likewise, my trusted manager of many years - Maria.

HUNTER

I am lost for words. I would like to thank this Country for giving me the opportunity and honor to serve when duty called. Thank you.

FREEMAN

(looks at First Lady)

One can never see enough of the Rose Garden especially on such a day.

The two ladies and Carlito politely get up and leave.

FREEMAN (CONT'D)

Welcome to the harsh reality of the Oval Office, Hunter. The President of Russia who you have already met... his life is in real danger now, like Rick's life was. He is seeking help. They want you in Moscow.

HUNTER

I only understand a little about Russia, its people, how they think and where the dangers are.

FREEMAN

One of Rick's last big decisions was to install a Supercomputer - 'Big Daddy' with Machine Learning Human Intelligence. It is much smarter than a human being.



HUNTER

All impressive. How will it help me?

FREEMAN

All the intel in the buried boxes is now in its brains. It gathers intel worldwide 24/7, enemy and friendly alike. You are safe.

HUNTER

Sir, just got married. Maria is expecting. I am now experiencing happiness for the first time since my divorce. It's a tough decision.

FREEMAN

Rick got us peace with the Soviets. You saved his life. Peace must be preserved. There are always family concerns, they are harsh realities.

Manning looks down and gazes at the floor.

MANNING

(looks at Hunter)

The choice is yours, Hunter. It's not my Legacy, not Warren's or yours, it is the world's.

FREEMAN

If the Chinese topple Ivanov, the next in line is a hawk. Our intel tells us he would use Theater Nuclear Weapons at minimum, then it could go in any direction - always against us.

HUNTER

It's a heavy decision. I will need to discuss it with my wife.

Freeman reaches out for an attache case and places it on his desk, then moves it to one side.

FREEMAN

Please do. Whatever decision you choose you are a hero.

HUNTER

Thank you, Sir.

Freeman now brings the attache case closer to him and spins the wheels on the combination lock.

FREEMAN

(note paper in hand)

This is the combination. Everything you need to know is inside.

HUNTER

Sounds like 007.

FREEMAN

A real one. Most important - at the back, bottom left corner, there is an LP - Lethal Pill. You will never need it, but you know where it is.

HUNTER

You mean, if it comes to...

FREEMAN

... Exactly that. Well yes, we have to go one way or another. Do you have a problem with that, Hunter?

HUNTER

No Sir.

FREEMAN

You need your three guys with you. They will get one million dollars each. All paid before you set off. Yours will be substantially higher. Steve Weiserman, the Secretary of Defense will fill you in. It is expected you will be there for five weeks. As of now your security is 24/7. That includes security on your ranch.

HUNTER

My head is spinning, sir.

FREEMAN

This is your phone. It is your only gateway to the Oval Office. The second is for Jesse. Secret Service will carry your case for today. You will fly with Rick on Air Force Two to Reno, then on a small twin engine to your ranch. Apologies for being tough but that's the Oval Office. Right Rick?

MANNING

Damn right, it's right.

FREEMAN

Oh Hunter, we need an answer soon.

Forty-eight hours? Three days?

HUNTER  
Four days, Sir?

FREEMAN  
Four days it is, wishing you luck. You don't need it Hunter, I know you can do it.

INT. AIR FORCE TWO - IN THE AIR - DAY

Rick Manning, Celine, Hunter, Maria and Carlito are on board.

MARIA MEROLA  
What's the plan?

HUNTER  
We'll be in Reno in four hours. A twin-engine will pick us up from Reno then on to Montana. We have an extra passenger - Secret Service.

MARIA MEROLA  
Secret what? What's the plan?

HUNTER  
He is our Security. He will pass me the attache case he is carrying; a car will be waiting for him. Now we are important assets, I guess.

MARIA MEROLA  
You still haven't answered.

HUNTER  
I am confused myself, torn inside, can it wait until we get home?

Maria gives him a nasty look.

HUNTER  
In a nutshell, Russia... to rescue Nikita Ivanov. Waiting in the wings is a guaranteed nuclear hot head. Walter needs an answer in four days after discussing with you. The rest is National Security.

MARIA MEROLA  
Will you take it?

HUNTER  
I will discuss it with you.

MARIA MEROLA

(points to her tummy)  
This or Russia.

HUNTER  
I understand that.

Silence. Hunter drops off to sleep.

EXT. RENO AIRPORT - TARMAC - NIGHT

The Secret Service car picks up Rick and Celine. Hunter, Maria, Carlito and the Secret Service agent board a nearby parked twin engine plane, engines REVVING, then it taxis away.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - DAY

Hunter, Maria and Carlito at the breakfast table.

CARLITO  
I'm running late for the bus.  
I have to run. Bye.

HUNTER  
Maria, I promise to open the case.

INT. STUDY.

Hunter enters the combination numbers and opens the case.

He reads the letter with instructions from the CIA. *Mission: Eliminate threat to Ivanov. How? Up to you. Ivanov will describe threat. Five weeks max. All weapons and ammunition: Boxed on Jet.*

His eyes carefully scan every item in the case as he reads.

*Inside: Sig Sauer P229 DAK gun, magazine - 15 rounds. Four Chinese cell phones. Batteries last six months. Two reusable AI probes. You need to recover these. Use in head, shoulder or arm. Will self-attach if inserted via rectum. Two Anal Syringe Dispensing units. Lethal pill at the back.*

*Note: 'Big Daddy' intel monitoring 24/7. Probes change behavior instantaneously - in humans or animals - Two minutes max to take effect. Probe tweaking requests: Only via the President or Weiserman. Possibly, bugs in Moscow - Ignore.*

MARIA MEROLA (OS)  
Weiserman on the line.

WEISERMAN (V.O.)  
Hunter, three million. Deposited before you leave. Is it a "Yes?"

HUNTER  
Two more days, Sir.

WEISERMAN (V.O.)  
You got it. Bye.

Hunter closes the case and zaps the combination locks.

INT. KITCHEN

He pours himself a glass of milk.

HUNTER  
Pure Montana fresh!

MARIA MEROLA  
Weiserman?

HUNTER  
Just gave me the number. Three million.  
In the bank now.

MARIA MEROLA  
Not good if it won't bring you alive.

HUNTER  
Told him to wait two more days.

Hunter shrugs his shoulders and walks away to his study.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - STUDY - DAY

He sits down, feet on the desk, head in his hands.

He opens the case, takes the letter out, folds it, walks to the bookshelf and places it in between two pages of a book he had not opened for years: Beyond Red. He puts the book back on the shelf. He locks the case.

EXT. HUNTER'S RANCH - DAY

Hunter and Carlito ride together.

HUNTER  
You're riding well, Carlito. Swift likes you; I can see that. I can see some turkeys over there. Let's take one. Remember, only for eating.

CARLITO  
Get down Dad, we don't want the horse to bolt. I can load it safely now, look at me. And aim. BANG.

HUNTER

We have one dead turkey, go get it.

He looks at Carlito with admiration.

HUNTER

Sit on this branch next to papa.

(arm around Carlito)

The President wants me on a mission. Mom doesn't like it. And I understand. This is for the Country and the world...

CARLITO

... I am listening, Dad.

HUNTER

The mission is in Russia. Somebody wants to take out the Russian President. There is danger but I will be safe - five weeks.

CARLITO

You mean like Mr. Manning?

HUNTER

Exactly the same. It's a secret okay, big Secret.

CARLITO

Trust me dad.

HUNTER

You have to look after mom. If you think there is a problem you call one of my buddies.

CARLITO

How far from here?

HUNTER

Local, twenty minutes away, his name is Conrad Slitman. You call him on this special phone I bought for you and only on this phone. His number is already in, his brother Zephyr's is also there.

CARLITO

What happens if a man comes at me.

HUNTER

Then defend yourself. Shoot, try not to kill him if you can. But try to call Conrad first. And do a bit more riding with Chico.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Hunter, Maria and Carlito at dinner.

HUNTER

Maria, I expect a call from Weiserman any minute. I have to accept. After this one I am out, period.

MARIA MEROLA

You're gonna get killed. Don't go.

HUNTER

Maria, I handled Bin Laden and his mob. These pale into comparison.

CARLITO

Mom, he'll be alright. Dad told me he may have to go to Russia. He is a hero, Mom, I believe both of you. But if the Russian guy is toppled the world could go to war. Nuclear!?

MARIA MEROLA

Carlito, you talk like a grown-up. Hunter, if that's your calling and your duty, then I am happy for you. I have to go and have a cry.

INT. U.S. GOVERNMENT JET - DAY

The Squad travels together on their way to Moscow.

HUNTER

In Russian airspace now. Not long.

JESSE

Plan still cryptic?

HUNTER

Yeah, wait for the big bear, I guess. Chinese cell phones turned on...

AARON

... and personal ones, off.

INT. KREMLIN - IVANOV'S OFFICE - DAY

Nikita Ivanov slouches in his chair. Sergei Kushnikov is present and sits across his desk to his left. Anna sits next to her father, Sergei.

The Squad enters the office accompanied a big guard of honor - four men in Russian uniform.

Jesse winks at Anna.

IVANOV

Don't worry, I cut down on Vodka. Last time the Kremlin was about to explode... Gas. Ha ha ha ha.

(puts his hand up)

This time the threat is very close.

KUSHNIKOV

Our Intel shows chatter increase. Your 'Big Daddy' thinks it could be in Moscow.

ANNA

We suspect it could be the Zoo.

IVANOV

In your hands now boys. Thank you.

INT. CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

Andrei behind the wheel. Hunter and Anna ride in the back.

HUNTER

Where to now, Major?

ANNA

To the zoo. Your gun is loaded?

HUNTER

Always.

ANNA

Andrei is your driver. Your car is Z001. Pavlov drives the second car, Z002. As usual, you are advising us on American wildlife, bears in particular. We have two Browns.

EXT. MOSCOW ZOO - DAY

Hunter and Anna step out of the car. They approach Jesse, Aaron and Zico. She points at the general direction and leads the way.

ANNA

Here they call me Major Kushnikova. A Russian of Korean descent tried to kill Ivanov few weeks ago while horse riding in the country.

She runs her right thumb across her neck.



JESSE  
Throat slashed?

ANNA  
Exactly. These are his Chinese contact numbers we found on his body. Hunter, you pass them to your 'Big Daddy' and CIA, see what you find.

HUNTER  
Okay, I will send them right now.

ANNA  
Hunter, you are an expert in bears and the wild. Moscow Zoo is the major attraction and Ivanov loves animals. What you think, Jesse?

JESSE  
Very probably, here, maybe in Sochi, the Valdai Residence? Perhaps Far East somewhere in the wild.

ANNA  
Very true, nothing near Vladivostok. Cold and desolate. Except the Ursus Research Center. Joint Venture with the Chinese...

INT. MOSCOW ZOO - COFFEE SHOP - DAY

They walk in a coffee shop and Anna orders five coffees. They huddle around a table.

HUNTER  
... The Ursus Center. What kind of research?

ANNA  
Nobody knows. Two hundred Chinese maybe. Experimentation on animals - More monkeys than in the Congo and Germ warfare research. Ivanov likes animals. He is nice, but he could turn into one if provoked.

HUNTER  
Something coming on my burner phone.

Hunter looks at the inside lining on his jacket. It is a password; he enters it and bingo.

HUNTER (CONT'D)  
Ursus. Chinese Government. Mix of scientists, hackers and terrorists.

ANNA

Hunter, get a read on Gracie Chang. It could be the Zoo.

AARON

This is like 007. Pussy Galore.

Hunter burner phone RINGS.

HUNTER

Gracie Chang. Ex-Ursus scientist and terrorist transferred to Moscow Zoo.

ANNA

That's it. Panda diplomacy. Came in from Beijing with two pandas, male and female; she is their curator. Always out and about. We hardly see her. Two Chinese men feed the animals.

HUNTER

So, we are four visiting bear experts interested in the two American Bears.

JESSE

Anna, what's the cage configuration.

ANNA

Eight cages. Right to left. Empty, Female Panda, Male Panda, Empty, American Brown Male, American Female, Russian Female and Russian Male.

JESSE

How are the cages operated?

ANNA

One at a time normally but I can open all at same time. Any which way. Electronic or heavy keys. Chang has her own electronic remote control; the muscle men, only heavy keys.

JESSE

You have copies of the Controls.

ANNA

Four more devices in my office.

JESSE

Good. Are the cages inter-connected?

ANNA

From first to last with one common corridor all inside the big cage. Let's go see Miss Chang. Very charming devil in disguise.

EXT. MOSCOW ZOO - DAY

They approach the pandas' cages. GRACIE CHANG (45) is out patting the Pandas. Anna introduces the four Americans. Chang respectfully bows to each one. The Americans go to check out the pandas. Jesse continues walking and examines the cages' layout looking closely at the heavy locks.

GRACIE CHANG

What are they doing here?

ANNA

They're animal welfare people and specialize in studying bears in the wild and captivity.

GRACIE CHANG

Do you need Americans for that?

ANNA

They have to report to their American authorities. You know, bear cruelty.

GRACIE CHANG

Oh, I see.

ANNA

They will need to get access to the brown bears' cages, check their condition and report back. Part holiday. Then they are off hunting.

GRACIE CHANG

(whispering)

Why do they carry guns?

ANNA

American habit. Seriously, they are worried about security in Moscow and being bugged. I told them not to fuck anybody, not in their bedrooms.

GRACIE CHANG

(with a smile)

I'm disappointed. Is my bedroom bugged?

Anna walks away and smiles back.

ANNA

Okay boys, better get some lunch.

HUNTER

Good idea. Let's have lunch then break.  
You're available 24/7, Anna.

ANNA

As much as is practical.

JESSE

Ivanov planning a visit here?

ANNA

On Monday, November 12.

HUNTER

After lunch, Andrei and Pavlov will drop us  
home. We will discuss.

INT. CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

Andrei navigates his way through the Moscow streets. Anna rides with Hunter.

ANNA

Pushkin Restaurant, Andrei. Chang is  
certainly a suspect. She commented about  
your guns. Told her it's the American fear  
and suspicion of Moscow, security, that  
kind of thing.

INT. PUSHKIN RESTAURANT - DAY

The Squad take a seat while Anna looks at a cell message.

ANNA

S.V.R., the equivalent of the CIA, and  
G.R.U. confirm increased chatter.  
November 12 tops the list.

Hunter reads a new message on his cell.

HUNTER

Same type of message. We can safely assume  
that Chang is the main player.  
Anna, you and I visit Chang's office late,  
after Chang leaves for the day.

ANNA

Andrei picks you at eight tonight. We go  
straight to the zoo. Better bring Jesse  
along.

(waves to the waiter)

Daniil, best caviar plate for us. Five.  
And a small bottle of Vodka.

INT./EXT. CAR - TRAVELING - NIGHT

Andrei drives Anna, Hunter and Jesse to the zoo.

ANNA  
Andrei, my office please.

HUNTER  
Security?

ANNA  
Mouth shut or bullet in head.

Stops by Security GUARD, male, (20s), in uniform.

ANNA  
Two Chinamen, are they out?

GUARD  
(salutes)  
Da! They say back midnight.

ANNA  
If they come early, make confusion, gate no  
open, broken.

GUARD  
Da!

ANNA  
Andrei, Chang's office. Then stay in the  
car and park in the lane way.

INT. MOSCOW ZOO - CHANG'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Hunter does a quick sweep for Chinese bugs.

Jesse examines the cages remote control mechanism.

Hunter gets to work and drills a minute hole in Ivanov's picture on  
the wall. He installs a surveillance gadget behind it and is now  
capable of seeing through his ear.

He finds two dart guns and two boxes of tranquilizers. They are all  
intact. None used but two are loaded. He examines the loaded darts,  
rolls them with the fingers of one hand and checks the formulae and  
active ingredients.

HUNTER  
One shot kills ten bears. How you doing  
Jesse?

JESSE

Okay so far. Anna, what's the signal range on this thing?

ANNA

Good signal from my office but you cannot see the cages. We had a room prepared for Chang but she wanted to stay next to the Pandas, so we built her an office.

JESSE

I noticed it, looks like a bunker. I need to be there when Ivanov is here. Chinamen is easy to see from the bunker room? I need to re-program these remotes. Do you have backups?

ANNA

Chinamen easy to see, and I have two more remotes. I will stop by my office on the way out and give you mine.

HUNTER

We need to see how Chang operates. Let's go. Same time here tomorrow.

ANNA

Andrei, we're ready, first my office, then the hotel, then my apartment.

INT. MOSCOW ZOO - CHANG'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Anna and The Squad walk in Chang's office. They brought with them two neatly packed boxes. Hunter places two darts in one of the guns. Anna calls the Guard.

ANNA

Guard, your gate is out of action till one in the morning. Nobody to enter not even by helicopter.

GUARD (V.O.)

Da!

HUNTER

Let's check the panda cage.

Hunter loads tranquilizers in his dart gun.

ANNA

What's happening?

HUNTER

It's not pretty.

EXT./INT. MOSCOW ZOO - PANDA CAGES - NIGHT

Hunter steps into the vacant cage next to the panda. Aaron carries a medical bag.

ANNA  
(talks to herself)  
Black Ops is not my game!

Hunter aims the dart gun. SWOOSH, SWOOSH. Soon the pandas are asleep. Jesse unlocks the panda cage door. Hunter gets closer to the brown bears and fires two darts slightly more powerful. The four animals are now in a deep sleep. Jesse walks around with the remote in hand pressing buttons while the cages go CLANG and BANG, jamming and release locks.

Zico rolls the pandas on their backs and spreads their legs to enable Aaron to carry out the short invasive procedure. Aaron opens his medical bag, puts on the medical gloves and proceeds with the brief treatment.

Anna looks shaken as if she is about to faint.

HUNTER  
Anna, Aaron is a failed medic. But this is only a simple procedure.

ANNA  
Yeah, but what is it?

HUNTER  
Back home we say he is sticking a probe up the panda's ass. Looks messy I know. We need to get you to the States to harden you up.

ANNA  
Okay, okay. Jesse, you've figured out the combination and sequences?

JESSE  
Sure, I can even make all the bears walk and talk at the same time.

One hour later all the animals are on their feet again.

HUNTER  
Anna, make sure that the two bears are not given any food for the next two days, but plenty of water and mix it with extra

supplement of vitamins.

ANNA

I get a feeling I understand.

Hunter sends message.

HUNTER (TEXTS)

*To Weiserman. Be ready to activate probes  
on 12th November, twelve Moscow local time.  
When instructed, anger behavioral trait  
plus five.*

INT. MOSCOW ZOO - CHANG'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Anna and Hunter are in Chang's office. She calls the Guard.

ANNA

Same instructions as last night. Today we  
leave by the back gate.

GUARD

Da!

Hunter tampers with Chang's dart guns firing mechanism.

ANNA

What are you up to now, Hunter?

HUNTER

Just making sure the gun doesn't misfire.  
Important I get this right.

ANNA

As they say in America, you are a smart  
cookie, and a cool one too.

HUNTER

(still with dart gun)  
You think so?

ANNA

(lust in her eyes)  
I am sure all of you guys are.

HUNTER

Go check on Jesse in the bunker. He may  
need some help. Okay, that's one gun done.  
Pass me the other please.

ANNA

(passes the gun)  
Are you married Hunter? Any kids?



HUNTER

Divorced. Lost two step kids. Married again a few months ago with one step kid. Maria and Carlito.

ANNA

Close to them? You love them?

HUNTER

Can't wait to see them again.

ANNA

Can get lonely here in the cold far away from home, Hunter.

HUNTER

True. You married? Boyfriend?

ANNA

No and No. Sergei Kushnikov needs to approve everything. I like to run away to the Land of the Free. But the CIA will get me.

HUNTER

(looks at Anna)

Time is on your side, Anna. You're young, beautiful and smart. America needs capable women like you. Maybe in the CIA Counter Intelligence.

ANNA

Oops. That's a no no. But I am trapped in a cage like a panda surrounded by tame lions.

EXT. MOSCOW ZOO - GUARD HOUSE - NIGHT

Car headlights approach. Guard stops the car at the gate.

GUARD

No come in. Broken gate. One hour.

The Chinese driver drives off heading towards the back gate.

GUARD

(in Russian)

Mudak. Stop asshole.

The Guard rushes to the Electrical Power Box and pushes a few switches.

EXT. BACK GATE - NIGHT

The car arrives at the back gate, one Chinese rushes out to open it,

touches it and jumps up six feet in the air.

CHINAMAN  
(screams out loud)  
Shit big shock.

INT. MOSCOW ZOO - GUARD HOUSE - NIGHT

The phone RINGS. The guard answers.

ANNA (V.O.)  
What happened?

GUARD  
Chinaman early. Went to back gate. I gave him shock. Gate okay now. Now, he waits here again.

INT. MOSCOW ZOO - CHANG'S OFFICE - NIGHT

HUNTER  
Here comes Jesse.

JESSE  
I'm back guys, all ready to go. Leave it to this Black Magic. All happens tomorrow. We're not going to tell you, Anna. You will see it happen like a movie.

ANNA  
You taking me to Hollywood, Jesse?

JESSE  
Maybe one day I will.

HUNTER  
We're all done here. Let's go.

Anna calls Andrei.

ANNA  
Andrei, my office first, both cars.

INT. MOSCOW ZOO - ANNA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Anna and The Squad listen to Anna's plan.

ANNA  
I have four hyperreal Latex Overhead Masks, two with Chinese faces, for Aaron and Zico and Russian faces for Jesse and Hunter. All you four, try them on.

They get them on and they all giggle mimicking Chinese and Russian

dialog.

ANNA

Tomorrow in the car, Hunter and Jesse will wear Russian military uniforms. Aaron and Zico in zookeeper uniforms.

JESSE

Special markings?

ANNA

The armbands say 'Special Security.'

HUNTER

Andrei and Pavlov will pick us up at ten, then we all take our positions by ten-thirty. All clear?

ANNA

Yep. All finished for the day. All 'Day Pyat' - Russian for High Five.

INT. ANNA'S OFFICE - DAY

Anna, Hunter and Jesse are dressed in Russian military uniforms.

HUNTER

Here we go. Jesse and me will go to the bunker room. Will keep an eye on the three Chinese. The pandas will kick off the action with their sudden erratic behavior.

ANNA

Bit lost here.

JESSE

Anna, like I said. This is the best movie you'll ever see. Just watch the action. You know your part when you see it.

ANNA

Are you being a smartass?

JESSE

Just being funny that's all, Anna.

He leans over and gives Anna a kiss on the forehead. She likes it and she sure lets him know that.

HUNTER

Jesse. Time for that, later.

INT. BUNKER ROOM - DAY

Jesse and Hunter are in the bunker room.

Jesse checks the cage door opening signal on his remote. Hunter uses the scope on his dart gun and checks the cages' surrounds. He pulls out the phone and enters a text message to Weiserman.

HUNTER (TEXTS)

*Weiserman. At 11.25 Moscow Time. Increase  
panda aggression +5.*

EXT. MOSCOW STREETS - MOTORCADE - DAY

The ornate golden clock in Spasskaya Tower in Kremlin chimes on the quarter hour. The presidential motorcade leaves the Kremlin at eleven fifteen and heads towards Moscow Zoo.

EXT. PANDA CAGES - DAY

At eleven-thirty the pandas suddenly feel irritated while the BEARS GROWL through hunger. The two Russian bears at the far end look well fed and relaxed but appear anxious.

INT. BUNKER ROOM - DAY

HUNTER'S POV

Gracie Chang walks out of her office, remote device in one hand and bamboo shoots in the other. She opens the outer vacant cage and enters. The startled pandas do not take any notice and become increasingly irritated.

In the leftmost cages, the Russian bears unexpectedly start roaring and shaking their cages. Their American neighbors are equally noisy with their constant growling.

SFX: CLANG. The outer cage door locks.

She panics and hits all kinds of buttons on her remote.

SFX: Second CLANG. Both panda cages unlock.

She looks terrified. She runs to the cage door, rattles it but she cannot break out.

Both pandas walk out and attack Chang now trapped inside the vacant cage.

BACK TO SCENE

Hunter loads his dart gun and fires two tranquilizing shots at the Russian bears. Jesse kisses his faithful remote.

JESSE'S POV

The two Chinese muscle men run to her rescue. They use their old-fashioned keys to open the cage door and shoot the pandas with their tranquilizers. They grab Chang's remote and press buttons indiscriminately.

Inadvertently, the re-programmed remote now jams all the locks. The muscle men are trapped alongside Chang.

The brown bear cage doors pull open by a couple of inches. It does not go unnoticed by the hungry brown bears. They walk out and attack the two Chinese muscle men.

BACK TO SCENE

HUNTER

(into phone)

Aaron, your turn now. Chinese masks on, you're the new zookeepers.

(cuts cell phone)

Jess, my super remote programmer, ha.

EXT. MOSCOW ZOO - DAY

Two Chinese-looking zookeepers run out to the cages seemingly to the rescue. They carry a dart gun and a hand-held remote. Aaron shoots the darts into the brown bears while Zico works the remote.

Two Russian zoo security officers approach, knock the zookeepers to the ground, handcuff both of them and drag them to Anna's office.

INT. ANNA'S OFFICE - DAY

Aaron and Zico take their Chinese masks off and change into Russian army uniforms. Two young Russian men are waiting inside dressed as zookeepers. The same two masks are now pulled over their heads. Hoods are then placed on top of their heads partly covering their faces.

EXT. ANNA'S OFFICE - DAY

Two zoo security drag them from the doorway, shove them inside a waiting police car and it speeds away.

INT. MOSCOW ZOO - BUNKER ROOM - DAY

Hunter enters another message to Weiserman.

HUNTER (TEXTS)

*Weiserman. 11.40 AM. Moscow Time. Calm pandas down. Aggression -5.*

Hunter fires two tranquilizer shots at the brown bears.

EXT. MOSCOW STREETS - MOTORCADE - DAY

The presidential motorcade is now five minutes away from Moscow Zoo.

INT. IVANOV'S CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

Ivanov and Kushnikov ride together. The cell RINGS.

KUSHNIKOV  
Anna, it's papa here.

ANNA (V.O.)  
It is the big day, papa. Be prepared for a diversion. Tell the President not to worry. The Americans are very good. Start diversion calmly, now.

KUSHNIKOV  
I will tell Nikita that. Careful the Americans are fond of Russian women.

ANNA (V.O.)  
Yes papa. Bye.

KUSHNIKOV  
(talking slowly)  
Anna is smart cookie, Nikita. She wants to go to Hollywood. I am afraid she falls for one of these Americans.

IVANOV  
Sergei, did she say anything else?

KUSHNIKOV  
Make a diversion.

IVANOV  
Huh, when?

KUSHNIKOV  
Two minutes ago.

IVANOV  
Idiot! We could be ambushed now. And I will miss all the animals.  
(yells at Alexei)  
Alexei, turn to the Kremlin, now.

EXT. MOTORCADE - DAY

SIRENS BLARE as the motorcade makes a sudden U-turn, speeds up and heads back towards the Kremlin. From the opposite direction ambulances race, sirens equally as loud.

INT. IVANOV'S CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

The sudden U-turn and speed pushes Kushnikov on Ivanov, the latter hitting his head on the window.

IVANOV  
(bitch in Russian)  
Suka. Glass must be very strong.

KUSHNIKOV  
Pictures probably later. Dead. Not the animals, their Chinese keepers.

IVANOV  
Ha ha ha ha. Better them than me.

EXT. MOSCOW ZOO - DAY

A message is heard on the zoo public address system. It announces the cancellation of Nikita Ivanov's visit.

Anna is seen directing all the zookeepers and guards in Russian to move the visitors away from the vicinity of the bear cages immediately.

The ambulances drive in and park by the panda cages.

INT. BUNKER ROOM - DAY

Jesse is with Hunter. He calls Anna.

JESSE  
Anna, I have reset the controls. All now working as expected. You have control of the cages. Look sharp Anna, this is big show in America.

ANNA (V.O.)  
Got all that, I am holding the remote. I will get more medics.

EXT. PANDA CAGES - DAY

Hunter and Jesse walk in and point low-voltage taser guns at the bears. The semi-dazed bears scurry back to their cages and are locked in. Then they get in the Russian Bear cages and pull out the tranquilizing darts.

INT. CHANG'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Anna and The Squad examine Chang's office.

ANNA  
Guard, long night to-night. Your gate is broken down. Nobody comes in until we leave. Two cartons of the best American cigarettes for you. On my office doorstep.

GUARD (V.O.)  
 (thank you in Russian)  
 Da! Spasiba.

Anna collects all the evidence. It shows guns with loaded lethal darts. Likewise, she secures the surveillance film that Hunter had set up.

INT. PANDA CAGES - NIGHT

Aaron re-tranquilizes the pandas with one dart shot in each.

Zico helps him to move the pandas and lay them flat on their backs. He cuts them open, recovers the probes, carefully cleans and sanitizes them and places them safely in a medical plastic container.

He patches the pandas up and walks back to Chang's office.

INT. MOSCOW ZOO - CHANG'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Hunter fixes the firing mechanism on the dart guns while Anna watches. Aaron and Zico walk in.

AARON  
 Both Pandas are fixed, stitched and patched  
 and on their feet in two hours. They have  
 plenty of bamboo.

ANNA  
 Excellent job boys, let's get out of here.  
 Tomorrow morning, ten o'clock at the  
 Kremlin.

INT. KREMLIN - IVANOV'S OFFICE - DAY

Ivanov and Kushnikov greet Anna and The Squad.

IVANOV  
 Come in, you are all heroes, you saved my  
 life. Please sit down.

HUNTER  
 As Mr. Kushnikov rightly pointed out, it was  
 the Chinese.

Kushnikov relaxes back in his chair and pumps up with pride.

IVANOV  
 (looks at Kushnikov)  
 Sergei, please, I want to hear what Mr.  
 Harrison has to say.

HUNTER  
 That girl Chang who looks after the pandas,



she is a terrorist.

IVANOV

Was, Mr. Harrison. She is dead now.

HUNTER

Very true. She was going to kill you with lethal darts. We found out, changed the combination of the gates, starved the bears, drugged the pandas and inserted a chip which made them go angry. We worked it out together.

IVANOV

Hold on for one second, Mr. Harrison. You put an Artificial Intelligence chip up ...

Anna touches her side gently.

IVANOV (CONT'D)

... up the panda's ass and made them intelligent?

ANNA

That's right Mr. President.

IVANOV

Ha ha ha ha.

(looks at Kushnikov)

You're next, Sergei. Ha ha ha ha. More vodka, Sergei Kushnikov.

Kushnikov is visibly embarrassed and taken aback. Anna feels for her father and intervenes.

ANNA

Stay there papa, I'll do it. Seven glasses of vodka coming up. The president and papa knew each other since childhood.

IVANOV

What about you, Jesse?

JESSE

I re-engineered the locking mechanism sequence, what cages lock, what cages open, one at a time, together, that kind of thing.

IVANOV

(looks at Anna)

What about you Major?

ANNA

I helped co-ordinate everything. Did you see the zookeepers, Aaron and Zico with Chinese masks on? They will be on TV now. No blame on us, blame Taiwan. Like a movie papa.

KUSHNIKOV

Like Hollywood, huh?

ANNA

Jesse said he can take me there. Maybe reverse the genes.

IVANOV

(broken English again)

Ha ha ha ha. Vodka and too much laughing. Ha, ha. I need toilet.

Ivanov lifts himself slowly, a strained expression on his face, cheeks pressed hard as he walks out of the office.

KUSHNIKOV

Huh... that was the chair. We are surrounded by gold and creaky old chairs. Especially his chair. By the way, the laughing does not help, but it's his prostate.

By now, all the Americans and Anna are fighting to hold their laughter back.

KUSHNIKOV

The doctor told him an assassin's bullet will kill him before the prostate does. So, he is happy.

(looks at Aaron)

Aaron, you performed the surgery -

(pauses)

on the pandas. We can extend your visa, you know.

They all burst out laughing.

KUSHNIKOV (CONT'D)

I am sure he will give you another medal. Then you can hang it around his - ah, Nikita Ivanov, you're back, you feel better now?

ANNA

CNN news on again. Let's see.

CNN REPORTER (V.O.)

... An assassination attempt on the life of

Russian President, Nikita Ivanov has been foiled. It is fast becoming known as Pandagate since many details cannot as yet be confirmed. A short footage follows, but the mauling has been edited out. This is Mick Valeriani reporting for CNN Moscow...

KUSHNIKOV

In the meantime, intel suggests a heightened volume of chatter in the last ten hours between China and their suspected terrorists in the Ursus Center. 'Big Daddy' is playing a big part in this. Do you think you can crack this one, Jesse.

JESSE

I can crack anything, Mr. Kushnikov.

KUSHNIKOV

Good, that's your next mission.

IVANOV

This letter with our signatures gives full authority to the Major to enter the building and ask any questions. Mr. Harrison you are still in charge.

HUNTER

What about equipment?

KUSHNIKOV

All arranged. Heavy vehicles for the snow, two government cars, drivers, you take your special gear yourself. Russian guns in your holsters.

IVANOV

You fly from Sheremetyevo. Military jet to Vladivostok, then to your hotel. Moscow ten in the morning, Vladivostok five in the afternoon.

KUSHNIKOV

Anna - on the far wing of the hotel.

IVANOV

Daddy's little Major. Ha ha ha ha.

Anna looks really pissed off now.

INT. VLADIVOSTOK HOTEL - NIGHT

Anna stands across from the male RECEPTIONIST.

ANNA

Please change my room.

RECEPTIONIST

Government. They told us to keep all rooms on the fourth floor empty, except for four. I don't understand.

Anna takes the letter out and points at her badge.

ANNA

You don't need to understand.

RECEPTIONIST

Okay, next to Mr. Harrison Number '420'. It splits into two rooms. Yours is now '419'. Careful, make sure door is locked.

She smiles and walks away.

INT. HOTEL - HUNTER'S ROOM - NIGHT

He calls Maria.

HUNTER

Hello Maria, how are you? How is Carlito?

MARIA MEROLA (V.O.)

We're both fine. He left for school. I saw the news. I am on the secure phone, what happened?

HUNTER

All went well. We need to do some reconnaissance in far-east Russia, Vladivostok. Just arrived one in the morning. About seven hours difference. This a vast Country, three times the size of the U.S.

MARIA MEROLA (V.O.)

Carlito been increasing his horse-riding patrols. Some psychiatrist called. Chasing up on your last appointment. You still there?

HUNTER

That was long, long time ago. How's the bun in the oven coming along? All good?

MARIA MEROLA (V.O.)

All fine. I better go and rest. Just keep in touch. Love you.

She puts the phone down.

HUNTER  
 (mumbling to self)  
 Gimme me a fucking break. These women are  
 fucking my life up.

INT. HOTEL - DINING ROOM - DAY

Anna and The Squad discuss their trip to the Ursus Center.

HUNTER  
 Tiring trip. Couldn't sleep last night and  
 could not think straight.

JESSE  
 (whispers to Hunter)  
 The major does not look happy at all.

ZICO  
 You're in the other block, Anna.

ANNA  
 No, all fixed now, next to Hunter.

JESSE  
 (whispers)  
 She wants to fuck badly.

ANNA  
 I heard that Jesse, I had the balls to make  
 a move. You haven't.

JESSE  
 Okay I'll take you on.

HUNTER  
 For fuck's sake let's concentrate. We  
 discussed the plan yesterday. Zico, you  
 did lateral thinking at university. Well!

ZICO  
 Yeah, maybe I have a solution for the last  
 step. I'll let you know.

ANNA  
 Okay tomorrow at ten, we're off to Ursus.  
 All in uniforms.  
 (dials Andrei)  
 Andrei, you and Pavlov, in uniforms, ten  
 tomorrow morning at hotel both cars, three  
 hours' drive.

EXT. VLADIVOSTOK - URSUS CENTER - DAY

The two cars crawl along the road towards this yet-hard-to-make-out mysterious structure.

A red flashing light appears, just a glimmer at first, then easily seen from about half a mile away. It sits one hundred feet off the ground atop a steel column. Underneath it, a plethora of satellite dishes and antennae.

The road now takes the shape of a fork. It splits in three. The cars take the one on the left driving past the front gate and then continue around the well-lit perimeter. A massive building the size of three football fields joined together. The cars arrive back at the front gate and park.

The guard is handed a letter, passes it back to Anna and salutes. He opens the gate remotely, and both cars drive inside the building's car park. Jesse stays in the car. Anna, Hunter, Aaron and Zico step out of the car and walk briskly to the main entrance.

ANNA

Hunter, hold on to this digital recorder all the time. Aaron, you come with me also. Zico, you stay in Reception.

INT. RECEPTION

They walk inside and take a seat. OFFICIAL #1, (50s) in civilian clothes comes out and greets them. He is handed the letter, reads it and indicates it will take one moment.

ANNA

Attention. Letter back please.

He hands it back. Another OFFICIAL #2 soon shows up.

ANNA

You. Number One Director?

OFFICIAL #2

No. Number 3. Animal Section.

ANNA

You tell Petrovski, I need to see him. Petrovski must come here to see me. Understand?

PETROVSKI, (50s), six feet tall, slightly overweight, wears civilian clothes, shows up in Reception.

PETROVSKI

I am Petrov Petrovski.

ANNA  
 (takes salute)  
 My name is Major Anna Kushnikova.  
 Your office now. We follow you.

INT. PETROVSKI'S OFFICE.

PETROVSKI  
 Please sit.

ANNA  
 One chair. I sit, they stand. We need to  
 find more about trouble in Ursus.

PETROVSKI  
 (broken English)  
 Major Kushnikova, no trouble here.

ANNA  
 I question, you answer. How many  
 departments?

PETROVSKI  
 Sections. Animal, two Laboratories,  
 Artificial Intelligence, Weapons,  
 Administration and Special Section.

ANNA  
 Hunter, are you recording?

HUNTER  
 Da!

ANNA  
 What is Special Section.

PETROVSKI  
 Know nothing. Only Chinese know. Secret.

ANNA  
 We must see!

PETROVSKI  
 I cannot. Huang Lee is Number one at Ursus.  
 He is before me.

ANNA  
 How many Chinese, how many Russians? Any  
 Americans?

PETROVSKI  
 No, no Americans. Eighty Russians. Two  
 hundred twenty Chinese.

ANNA

Read this letter from the President Nikita Ivanov and Defense Chief Sergei Kushnikov. Call the President on that number - a direct line.

Petrovski reads the letter then dials the number.

IVANOV (V.O.)

This must be Ursus. Who is this? What is the problem?

PETROVSKI

I am Petrovski, I have Major Kushnikova and --

IVANOV (V.O.)

Stop. Save your breath Petrovski, you do exactly what she says. If not, tomorrow, you will be in Siberia. Nobody will see you again.

(in Russian loud)

Ty ponimayesh? Understand? Bye.

ANNA

Ask Huang Lee to come here.

PETROVSKI

I go personally myself to get him.

ANNA

(in Russian loud)

Toropitsya!

Anna shouts. He almost trips on his way out.

HUNTER

Sounded like Pizza. I take it that means "Hurry" in Russian.

ANNA

You're learning, Hunter. That was a good piece of acting. I wish Jesse was here, he would be convinced to take me to Hollywood.

Anna winks at Hunter. HUANG LEE, (50s), medium size and height, wears gold rimmed glasses, sheepishly walks in.

ANNA

Major Anna Kushnikova.

He bows.



HUANG LEE  
Major Kushnikova. Pleasure.

ANNA  
Russian or English.

HUANG LEE  
English better.

ANNA  
Hunter. You take over.

Hunter calls Anna to one side. He whispers an instruction; she nods and leaves the room.

HUNTER  
(poor Russian accent)  
Soviet Intelligence. Russian 007s.  
Do you have terrorists in here?

HUANG LEE  
Only scientists and research people.

HUNTER  
Germ warfare development?

HUANG LEE  
No. No germ warfare.

HUNTER  
Do you carry arms?

HUANG LEE  
No, me no arms?

Anna strides in.

ANNA  
(whispers to Hunter)  
One hour.  
(into phone)  
Zico, get Andrei and Pavlov in Petrovski's  
office with mouth tape.

Zico, Andrei and Pavlov walk in.

ANNA  
Guns loaded? Guard him. Petrovski, we  
are friends, don't worry. Mr. Lee, take us  
to your office.  
(looks at her watch)  
Another thirty minutes. Pavlov, you guard  
at Reception.

INT. HUANG LEE'S OFFICE.

HUNTER

Zico, point the gun. Mr. Lee, open all cabinets, drawers and safes.

Huang Lee methodically carries out the order.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

Major, check them out. Mr. Lee, give me a new rubbish bag.

HUANG LEE

No bag. With Cleaner.

Anna inspects the contents of the fireproof safe. She pulls out cell phones, media devices and memory sticks. She holds a handful of media sticks in her hands and looks at Hunter.

HUNTER

(to Mr. Lee)

Empty rubbish bag, NOW. Put your phone in the empty bag. Give bag to Major Kushnikova. Zico, go get Jesse. He needs his special tool bag. Now we wait, Mr. Lee.

Anna piles the gadgets in the bag.

HUNTER (CONT'D)

Ten monitors Mr. Lee, you see the outside and everywhere. Loop it.

HUANG LEE

Administration - Animal Section -  
Laboratory One - Laboratory Two - Big Hall  
for four hundred people - Cafeteria -  
Weapons Store - Special Research Storage.

Zico returns with Jesse.

HUNTER

What is in Special Research Storage?

HUANG LEE

Experiments. Tubes. Glass vessels,  
Vials. Usual.

ANNA

(points to drawer)

What vials? Like these inside your drawer?  
Empty?

HUANG LEE

No... Active. I get killed in China.  
Anthrax, Ebola, Ricin and, and... Wuhan.

ANNA

(loud)

Whaaaat?

HUANG LEE

Coronavirus.

HUNTER

Jesse, cut all outside links.

JESSE

Mr. Lee, cable for main link to Beijing.  
Where is it?

Huang Lee points at a hidden cabinet. Jesse gets to work. Hunter pulls a chair up and faces Huang Lee.

HUNTER

(Chinese English)

Write exactly as I dictate. Pigeon English okay. "I am Huang Lee. We have serious situation with danger to all. Go to Big Hall now, Chinese at front, Russians at back. Anybody hiding in offices or toilets will be shot... dead... by Russian soldiers. Do not lock office. Five minutes."

JESSE

Anna, we got the cavalry here. They are like Delta Force.

ANNA

I go and meet them in Reception, they are at my command.

JESSE

Link cut. Red lights on.

HUNTER

Thanks, Jesse. Mr. Lee, we're all surrounded. Not by Chinese but Russians.

(pause)

Now turn the public address system on and read in English and Chinese.

Huang Lee brings microphone close and starts the broadcast. Hunter sees Anna on the monitor as she waits for Russian General to walk in. She answers her phone.

INT. RECEPTION

General KRILENKO, (early 50s), average height, marches into reception. Anna takes a call from Hunter.

HUNTER (V.O.)

Anna, twenty troops in the big hall.

KRILENKO

(salutes)

General Krilenko in charge of Alpha Unit Far East. At your command Major Kushnikova.

ANNA

Krilenko, get twenty of your men in the big hall. We expect about three hundred people. Receptionist will show you where hall is.

KRILENKO

Da!

INT. HUANG LEE'S OFFICE.

Zico holds a cocked gun at Huang Lee's head. Hunter and Jesse are inside.

HUNTER

Mr. Lee, switch on the public address system. Switch to Big Hall monitor.

On the monitor: the soldiers take their positions. The Ursus personnel fill the hall within five minutes.

HUNTER

Read final warning loud and clear.

PUBLIC ADDRESS (V.O.)

This is Huang Lee. Few are missing. Shooting will start in two minutes.

HUNTER

(into the phone)

Anna, tell the general to fire a few blank shots in a toilet block.

Shots are heard and two more Chinese take their seats.

HUNTER

Jesse, tape his mouth, secure him to the

chair. I am going to the hall.

JESSE

Mr. Lee, weapons and vials Storage need security access codes.

Huang Lee moves his head and eyes and indicates the cabinet drawer. Jesse picks the paperwork and make copies.

INT. BIG HALL

Anna and Hunter go to the podium. Anna answers a call. Ivanov appears on the big screen in the big hall.

IVANOV (V.O.)

I will be brief. There was a failed attempt on my life yesterday. Ursus has been identified as a terrorist hub. We have to destroy this danger. You do exactly what the Alpha Unit, Major Kushnikova and Hunter tell you to do. If you disobey, you die.

The links unceremoniously drops out.

ANNA

Those carrying arms, stand up. Five only? Give guns to soldiers. If you have gun still, you die. Ah, we have one more. Now, place phones in bags.

A soldier whispers in Anna's ear - in Russian.

ANNA (CONT'D)

(to Hunter)

Sad news, two people have committed suicide. They are in the toilet block. Not the best place to die. Take over I will go and check.

Row by row, Ursus personnel pass the bag around dumping their phones and gadgets and then they are handcuffed.

HUNTER

General Krilenko, start the office search and confiscate all equipment.

Ten key personnel follow soldiers out of the hall.

INT. OFFICE CORRIDORS

Chinese personnel, hands chained to trolleys, push them along the corridors while soldiers pile them up with computer equipment and storage media.

INT. HUANG LEE'S OFFICE

Jesse, Aaron and Zico are inside. Huang Lee is still taped to the chair. Anna and Hunter walk in.

HUNTER

Jesse, Aaron, go check the vials. Take care, one person is still missing - presumed alive. He is the director of Germ Warfare. Don't blow us all up.

Mr. Lee objects. He shakes his head violently.

HUNTER

Have faith in Black Ops. Mr. Lee, I wrote this letter, translate into Chinese, read back to me and send to your boss in Beijing.

Huang Lee translates on paper and starts reading back.

HUANG LEE

*To Mr. Xiang Xing Ping. The Ursus Center is surrounded by Russian Military. You need to provide a Chinese plane at Vladivostok airport tomorrow to fly us all out. Two hundred twenty. If not, we all die. No negotiate. The military is in my office now. Huang Lee Director - Ursus.*

HUNTER

Mr. Lee, Internet is now switched on, send the message. Four, three, two, one; done. Internet is now off.

Mr. Lee writes neatly on a piece of paper then hands it to Jesse.

HUANG LEE

Names in Chinese characters on vials.

HUNTER

Zico, tape him back.

INT. SPECIAL RESEARCH STORAGE

Jesse and Aaron make their way in. They tip toe through and observe. Aaron eyes scan the rows of vials. His eyes squint as he tries to match the handwritten Chinese characters with the typed Chinese labels.

AARON

Soon I will read Chinese. Ricin - handwritten and typed - exact match.

Jesse's eyes dart from one side to the other and listens intently for any signs of breathing.

AARON (CONT'D)

Whoa, Anthrax, shelves and shelves of it.  
Ebola, three full shelves.

Now, Jesse moves his head left to right and back again seemingly in a slow-motion replay.

JESSE

We find him, corner him, then we play the old game, same role playing.

AARON

How can I forget. Bingo what have we got here? Corona --

JESSE

-- I got him, I can see him, in the corner on my left, squatting on the floor.

Both draw their guns. They move cautiously taking part cover behind the stacked shelves.

AARON

We can see you, sir. Drop your gun and put your hands up. Like in the movies. Gun down, hands up. Don't test us. Come on. Ouch, Ouch.

Aaron suddenly starts coughing, holds his chest and drops to the floor. The Chinese man looks surprised and loses concentration. Jesse fires two to the head. The victim's hand starts moving. Jesse just had to put the third one in.

JESSE

Hunter, get your ass in here, we have one dead Chinese. We're both okay.

HUNTER (V.O.)

We're coming in.  
(to Zico)  
Keep an eye on Lee.

Hunter and Anna enter the Germ Storage Facility.

JESSE

Careful, this is a germ warfare silo.

AARON

You got them all here. Ricin, Ebola and shelves of Coronavirus. Take all the

pictures you can get. Let's have some selfies here. Come on Anna, this is a Hollywood moment.

HUNTER

Stand next to Jesse. I will take the picture. Move slowly. Do you want the dead body in the background? Let's go and check on Lee.

INT. HUANG LEE'S OFFICE

Anna, Hunter, Jesse and Aaron walk in. Pavlov and Zico stand guard. Huang Lee is still taped to his chair.

ZICO

A message came in. Shall I give him some air, maybe he can explain.

Zico frees Huang Lee's right hand and lets him breathe.

HUANG LEE

Beijing replied. Tomorrow we have plane. Arrives ten. We leave at noon, all two hundred twenty.

HUNTER

Mr. Lee, give me the list of all the people who work here.

Mr. Lee takes the list out and opens it.

HUNTER

Cross out the dead ones. Put the letter "x" next to terrorists. One mistake, you die.

Mr. Lee finishes and hands the list back to Hunter.

HUNTER

Let's see. Three dead terrorists and twenty-five still alive. The Russians, five terrorists.

(pointing at the list)

This your name?

Huang Lee indicates in the affirmative. Hunter puts an "x" and passes the list to Anna and crosses his forearms.

ANNA

Mr. Lee, call out the Russian names one by one. Ask them to stand up.

HUANG LEE



(into the P.A. system)  
 Dobrovski, stand up. Shevchenko, stand  
 up, Stefanofic, Yankovich, Morienko. All  
 stay standing.

ANNA  
 (into the P.A. System)  
 General Krilenko, arrest these men.

ANNA  
 (looks at Pavlov)  
 Pavlov, copy list, then take copy to  
 Krilenko, tell him to arrest all terrorists  
 with "x."

PAVLOV  
 Da.

ANNA  
 (into the P.A. System)  
 Tonight, soup only. You eat in your seat,  
 sleep in your seat. Want to go to toilet,  
 you ask soldier. Nine o'clock tonight all  
 Russians to their rooms and stay inside.  
 All Chinese stay seated. You go home  
 tomorrow.

HUNTER  
 Your turn to speak, Mr. Lee.

HUANG LEE  
 All Chinese, soup only. You stay in seat  
 all night. We all fly to China tomorrow.  
 No trouble, we all leave. If trouble you  
 die. No questions.

ANNA  
 (into phone)  
 General, this is Major Kushnikova. We meet  
 you in Reception.

ANNA  
 Pavlov, tie Lee up and stay guard.

INT. RECEPTION

Anna and The Squad greet Krilenko as he marches inside. They all  
 salute.

HUNTER  
 Your Alpha Unit is excellent.

KRILENKO  
You look like Delta Force Sir.

Anna indicates to stop the conversation and takes a call.

ANNA  
Yes, Mr President.

IVANOV (V.O.)  
Pass me to Krilenko.

Krilenko grabs the phone.

IVANOV (V.O.)  
Krilenko, I want to say you did a great service to your Country. We still need your services on this mission. Thank you again.

HUNTER  
We need to fly about two hundred people to Vladivostok to catch a flight to Beijing.

KRILENKO  
I can arrange three troop carrier helicopters. Here, in two hours.

ANNA  
What else, Hunter?

HUNTER  
I think... that's it. Major, in your hands now.

ANNA  
The internal security apparatus will move in this complex to check everything. I will call the G.R.U. and the S.V.R. today. Hunter?

HUNTER  
All good. Remember you have two in the toilet, one in the vials' storage area. All dead.

They are all stand and salute.

INT. TOILET BLOCK

Soldiers cart away the Chinese dead bodies from the toilets.

INT. SPECIAL RESEARCH STORAGE

Soldiers in protective clothing drag out the dead body.

EXT. URSUS CENTER - DAY

Chinese Ursus personnel line up to board the waiting choppers. The Alpha Unit soldiers stand by.

The choppers carrying the S.V.R. and G.R.U. personnel hover and land close to the helicopter troop carriers.

Anna and The Squad get in their cars and drive off.

INT. VLADIVOSTOK HOTEL - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The Squad and Anna sit at dinner. Jesse pours the Champagne, Anna the Vodka.

HUNTER

That was excellent. We saved the world from lots of suffering.

JESSE

Very true, we should really feel very humble that we are so privileged.

AARON

That brings us towards the end of all this. What happens now?

ANNA

Nikita Ivanov will hand us medals.

HUNTER

I need to get home soon. Make sure Ivanov knows that we cannot have any publicity beyond his office.

ANNA

Will do. Hunter, you're always so serious. How about you, Jesse.

JESSE

I am cool. No wives, no kids, no girlfriends, just myself and my gun.

ANNA

Same as me. Me and my shadow. More about guns; who shot the Chinaman?

AARON

I suffered a heart attack.

ZICO

I have to make a few calls and check on some

porno movies. Coming, Aaron?

AARON

Let's go.

ANNA

(to Jesse)

Would you like me to show up in my see-through night-gown tonight?

JESSE

We're off duty now.

She puts her hand on his.

ANNA

Truly, will you take me to America? I was only joking about Hollywood.

JESSE

Careful with Hunter. I love him like a brother. He is a good man trying to start a new life.

ANNA

Jesse I was only trying to get to you. It's true I was tempted. Do you like me, a little perhaps?

JESSE

Sure, a lot. You're young, decisive, smart, intelligent, good personality. You will make a very good mom.

ANNA

To have a son with your physique. A body like that of Michael... the sprinter not the singer. You have all that, you're brave and daring.

JESSE

Ha, ha. Never heard that before. Very deep thought if I may say. Who pays for this?

ANNA

Who cares, not me.

INT. HOTEL - HUNTER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Hunter is in bed, tears in his eyes. Jesse is in the next room. He showers and SINGS a Kenny Rogers' song - "The Gambler." Hunter starts moving his head and hands with the rhythm and beats of the music.

The PHONE RINGS. It snaps him out of his musical daydream. He grabs it and answers it with anger in his voice.

HUNTER

What?

CARLITO (V.O.)

What's up, Dad. Why are you angry?

HUNTER

Sorry, son, I thought it was room service. They keep annoying you here, in Russia. They continuously pamper us. We are V.I.P.s here.

CARLITO (V.O.)

Yes, but it's not like you, Dad. You are, Mr. Cool. Mom is out milking her favorite two cows. That woman called you again. I told her not to keep calling. You will be angry.

HUNTER

Not always Mr. Cool, son, she is a pest; I wonder who she is.

CARLITO (V.O.)

Mom always looks worried when she calls. You heard the news in Russia?

HUNTER

What was it?

CARLITO (V.O.)

They say Russian troops stormed a building and they will send the Chinese back. It showed soldiers, helicopters and people boarding the choppers. Were you part of it, Dad?

HUNTER

Why do you ask, Carlito?

CARLITO (V.O.)

A picture on telly shows soldiers and one woman walking towards two cars.

HUNTER

Tell mom to rest and stop imagining things. I will be back soon, better get some sleep, be a good boy.

Hunter hangs up. He lays in bed pensive. A few moments later, he hears

the SHOWER GUSHING down again. Same shower but a Russian song and a female voice.

Hunter searches for the CNN channel.

CNN REPORTER (V.O.)

... Chinese nationals committed suicide, one shot dead and twenty-five will be on trial. Destination could be Siberia. The complex run mostly by Chinese nationals was a hub for terrorists secretly engaged in artificial intelligence and germ warfare. The operation is being carried out by the elite Russian Alpha Unit Far East Division. It is rumored to have been helped by a band of foreign crack mercenaries. What you see right now is a small group - one female and four men getting into two cars. It is suspected that the same group helped foil ...

Hunter switches the TV off.

The noise from the next room reaches high-pitch fever. The discomfort shows on Hunter's face. He grits his teeth as he stares with anger at the wall. He calls Jesse but his anger suddenly dissipates.

HUNTER

Look guys eh... sorry to interrupt your mission, you deserve it. Have fun. I am going out for some fresh air, no use being jealous.

INT. HOTEL - DINING ROOM - DAY

Hunter sits by himself at the breakfast table.

Aaron and Zico walk in and take a seat.

HUNTER

Hi guys, how you going?

ZICO

We're okay, you look a bit glum.

HUNTER

Few problems at home.

AARON

Did you hear the banging last night. Jesse never asked us to share. Ha.

HUNTER

Careful boys. I think it is more serious than what you think. How long before we see Ivanov?

AARON

November 20, the earliest.

HUNTER

Fuck, I need to get home real fast.

ZICO

Here come the lovers.

ANNA

Hi there boys, guess what? We've decided to get married.

HUNTER

Shame, I wish I could stay. Jesse, you're staying in Moscow for a while? Anna, what about your old man?

ANNA

Hunter, you're the best man. Your wife is not due till January.

HUNTER

The family comes first, sorry guys. I am sure you agree.

ANNA

But you are a man for solving problems, Hunter.

JESSE

Anna, please, Hunter has a point. Family is always first. The wedding should happen in a few days, the pictures will be very private.

AARON

Hunter, we can Photoshop you out.

ZICO

Big news this morning in the U.S. Rick Manning is on his way out.

HUNTER

Fuck no, I will be expected to attend. Wait for a call, I suppose. Huh, a wedding and a funeral.

ANNA

Hugh Grant in that movie.

JESSE

That was Four Weddings and a Funeral.

Hunter's CELL PHONE RINGS.

HUNTER

Hello Maria, how are you? Must be five in Montana.

MARIA MEROLA (V.O.)

Rick Manning is on his death bed. Two days. How long before...

HUNTER

... before I get there. Just telling the boys here of the problem. The president is presenting us with medals, that's two more days. Don't know what to do.

MARIA MEROLA (V.O.)

People are expecting you here.

HUNTER

Maria, I got presidents coming out of my ass, Manning, Freeman and Ivanov. Damn it, I can't please them all. Let me think about it --. Hold on what? No, wasn't me. I don't think so, don't tell anybody. Yeah, look, I was one of the five, I saw that piece on CNN, you're not to know.

MARIA MEROLA (V.O.)

And the girl.

HUNTER

That's Anna. She is military and is getting married to one of us.

MARIA MEROLA (V.O.)

She was next to you in the clip.

HUNTER

Of course, but not getting married to me. I am married to you.

MARIA MEROLA (V.O.)

What about the psychiatrist? Something is not right there.

HUNTER

Maria, don't let silly things worry you. I



will sort it out when I come back, I have to go. By the way, you didn't mention the cow, bye.

Hunter hangs up. Very pissed off.

JESSE

Sorry Hunter, I...

HUNTER

... Nothing to do with you guys. Some problems just hit me all at once. A war on my doorstep is more complex than one on the world stage.

Hunter walks away.

ANNA

The White House photographer is running three days behind schedule.

INT. HOTEL - HUNTER'S ROOM - DAY

Hunter reaches for his cell phone and dials a number.

DELILAH (V.O.)

Hello, this is Delilah, who is this?

He closes his eyes and bites his lower lip.

HUNTER

Hunter. Don't ask me where I am or what I am doing. You are upsetting my wife, she is expecting any day, now tell me what you need to tell me.

DELILAH (V.O.)

Hunter, can you hear this?

HUNTER

(tears in his eyes)  
Yes, it's a baby crying.

DELILAH (V.O.)

Yours. It's a boy, seven pounds, five weeks old yesterday. I named him, Jackson. He looks exactly like you, blue eyes and is already smiling. We're both very pleased and we would like you to come and see him. Are you still there?

HUNTER

(eyes watering)

Still here.

DELILAH (V.O.)

We want you to be part of his life.

HUNTER

The answer is NO. We already agreed, I am very, very happy for all of you. I wish to see him only when the time comes. Do not call me, I will call you, now, I am saying this very calmly, but don't test me.

DELILAH (V.O.)

I don't understand.

HUNTER

You are fucking my family life, my wife, my step kid and me. I will not harm you, the baby or Jackson. I will put another twenty thousand. It will be in your account in the next two weeks. Do you understand me? Do you understand?! If you do, I want to hear you saying that three times, every time with more conviction than the one before.

DELILAH (V.O.)

I do, Hunter. I understand... I understand... indeed I do.

HUNTER

Good woman, take care of the family, especially Jackson Jr. Bye.

Hunter hangs up and bursts into tears.

INT. KREMLIN - IVANOV OFFICE - DAY

Nikita Ivanov and Sergei Kushnikov wait for their special guests. Also present is the White House PHOTOGRAPHER.

Hunter, Jesse, Anna, Aaron and Zico all walk in side by side. They are warmly welcome.

Ivanov puts his half glasses on and grabs his notes.

IVANOV

(heavy Russian accent)

Thank you.

(reads from notes)

I know you miss your families especially you, Mr. Harrison. This is very brief but equally important -

He looks over the top of his glasses and continues reading.

IVANOV (CONT'D)

- You saved this Presidency and the World.  
I am going to place a medal, the highest  
honor that this Country can bestow on you  
- Hero of the Russian Federation.

The photographer busily clicks away.

IVANOV (CONT'D)

And to each of you, a Russian hug. Anna,  
please come, a proud moment for your father  
too.

He places the medals on all the five and he continues.

IVANOV

(sixth medal in hand)

Mr. Harrison, you have given enormous  
services. I would like to present you with  
my own personal medal, now, also a Hero of  
the Soviet Union.

Ivanov places the second medal around Hunter's neck.

IVANOV

(looks at Kushnikov)

Sergei Kushnikov, please, now.

Kushnikov presses a button. The RUSSIAN ANTHEM PLAYS. All heads bow  
in respect. The Anthem ends and the Vodka flows.

IVANOV

Sergei, have word with Mr. Harrison.

They both walk to the far corner of the office. Kushnikov looks at  
Hunter's eyes.

KUSHNIKOV

(Russian accent)

Tell me Mr. Harrison, what should I do? She  
is my only child, her mother died when she  
was ten.

HUNTER

She loves Jesse and he loves her. They're  
waiting for your blessing.

KUSHNIKOV

Mr. Harrison, understand we are all whites  
here and full of old customs. We are old  
farts but I cannot refuse a request from a

hero with two medals. Call Jesse and Anna.

HUNTER

Jesse, Anna, over here, more hugs.

KUSHNIKOV

(hugging Jesse)

Jesse, you will look after my Anna?

JESSE

Sir, yes Sir.

KUSHNIKOV

She is all yours. Anna, you don't have a wedding dress, no wedding ring. Doing it properly takes six months. You can do it quicker.

ANNA

How quick, Papa?

KUSHNIKOV

Five o'clock in the Kremlin Chapel, the Cathedral of the Annunciation. The Priest and Security are all arranged. A very private ceremony. Only the eight of us. Tomorrow afternoon Oligarch Barashnikov's Lear Jet flies you to America.

(looks at Hunter)

Your President has already approved.

ANNA

This afternoon, Papa.

KUSHNIKOV

Okay our cars will take you to your hotels. We see you at the Church. Five this afternoon.

INT. MOSCOW CHURCH - DAY

Recorded 'Hymns of the Orthodox Marriage' play softly. The photographer stands by the altar. Ivanov, Kushnikov, Aaron and Zico move to the front row. Hunter signs the register in the presence of the priest who blesses the bride and groom, now both kneeling at the altar. After a brief ceremony, Anna and Jesse stand up, turn round and lead the way out.

INT. SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT - LEAR JET (TAXIING) - DAY

Hunter sits in a window seat fully consumed in a reflective mood. Aaron and Zico sit by a window seat and are more relaxed. Jesse and Anna sit at the back looking amorous. They both get up and tip toe to the

private bedroom.

A message is heard on the passenger address system.

CAPTAIN (V.O.)

Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.  
This is Captain Kovic. Welcome to  
Barashnikov Air. Our destination is  
Washington DC, Dulles International.  
Estimated Time of Arrival eight in the  
evening Eastern. We will be making an  
unusually smooth and shallow takeoff.  
Enjoy your flight.

All the passengers look back. No surprises. Vacant seats.

EXT. SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT - RUNWAY - DAY

The PLANE REVS the engines and takes off - smoothly.

EXT. DULLES INTERNATIONAL - EXECUTIVE PARKING AREA - NIGHT

The plane's stairs come down slowly. Hunter, Aaron, Zico, Jesse and  
Anna walk down and climb straight into two Secret Service Cars.

EXT. CAR - TRAVELING - NIGHT

The cars speed away to a luxury hotel in town.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Warren Freeman welcomes The Squad and Anna.

FREEMAN

Anna, welcome to the United States.  
Gentlemen welcome. America thanks you,  
Russia thanks you, the world thanks you.  
Peace is preserved.

He honors them with the Distinguished Service Medal.

FREEMAN

This office has never seen so many medals  
for such valor. There will be debriefing  
this afternoon, then you're free to go to  
your families and enjoy your civilian life  
again. All has been arranged.

They salute and walk out.

EXT. HUNTER'S RANCH - AIRSTRIP - DAY

Carlito parks the pickup truck by the airstrip. The twin engine plane comes to a gentle stop. Hunter climbs out of the plane and Carlito runs straight into his arms. They hug each other. They watch the aircraft taking off, then Carlito drives off the short distance to the house.

EXT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - DAY

Hunter jumps out of the truck and runs towards Maria, now heavily pregnant. She sits in a chair on the porch with tears in her eyes. Hunter motions her to stay put. He stands next to her, bends down, kisses her and holds her face in his hands for a few moments. He helps her up and walks with her to the sitting room where they both relax.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - DAY

CARLITO

Coffee for Dad. Nice glass of milk for you, Mom. Coming up.

MARIA MEROLA

Lots of news to catch up on. They buried Rick Manning three days ago. I had to go to the service. They asked about you. It was very tiring.

HUNTER

I am sorry about that. Russia was Manning's wish. Standing during the service must have been very tiring for you, so when is it due?

Hunter takes the coffee, then passes the milk to Maria.

HUNTER

Maria, no answer? So, what did the doctors say?

MARIA MEROLA

The doctor seemed concerned. I did not feel like this when I was expecting Carlito, I don't know.

HUNTER

Maria, you're getting me worried, we're driving to hospital now. I'll pack your bag and we go; they will keep a close eye on you.

Maria nods. Hunter senses something is not right, turns the other way and closes his eyes.

HUNTER

Carlito, bring the car around, then come and help me to get mom in the car carefully.

INT. CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

Hunter drives. Carlito dials Dr. Henderson's number and passes the phone to his dad.

HUNTER

Dr. Henderson, this is Hunter Harrison. I am bringing Maria in myself; she needs urgent attention.

DR HENDERSON (V.O.)

They will wheel her straight in.

HUNTER

Son, I stay with mum, you go park.

INT. HOSPITAL - PRENATAL ROOM - DAY

Maria is being examined by doctors and nurses.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Hunter sits waiting with a face of concern. Carlito hands the keys back.

HUNTER

I think it's going to be a long night here, son, call Chico, ask him to come get you. Get the vet doctor first thing in the morning, get him to check out the heavy cows. And pray for mom.

Carlito makes his way out. Hunter sinks his head in his hands and sobs.

DR HENDERSON

Mr. Harrison. It's going to be a long night. I suggest you go take some rest in the cafeteria and wait. This way please.

INT. HOSPITAL - CAFETERIA - NIGHT

The cafeteria is now dimly lit. Dr. Henderson walks to Hunter who is half-asleep.

DR HENDERSON

I am sorry Mr. Harrison. We did our best. It was a boy. You can see your wife in a few hours.

Tears in his eyes, Hunter looks at Dr. Henderson with an air of

disbelief, finally he gets his words out.

HUNTER

Five days ago, I literally saved... saved the lives... of millions of people. I am here now and cannot even save the life of my own son.

Dr. Henderson looks at him with a puzzled look. Hunter signals the end of that conversation. And continues to sob.

INT. HOSPITAL - RECOVERY - DAY

Hunter sits by his wife's bed. He holds her hand. She is still heavily drugged. They look at each other but they cannot find the words.

INT. HOSPITAL - CAFETERIA - DAY

Hunter gets a call.

CARLITO (V.O.)

Hey Dad, we have a new calf. The vet doctor helped her, still on the ground trying to get up. How is mom?

HUNTER

Sad news son, mom lost the baby.

CARLITO (V.O.)

Oh Nooooo!

Carlito hangs up. Hunter calls him back.

HUNTER

Carlito, listen, you and I have to be strong for mom. Better times will come. Go check the new calf, go on.

Hunter hangs up.

EXT. GOOD CAUSE SPERM BANK (MONTANA) - DAY

He parks his car just across from the entrance. He gets out and walks straight to Reception.

INT. RECEPTION - DAY

The receptionist is at the desk. A female MEDICAL PERSON (30s) with a clipboard in her hand walks in and greets him.

MEDICAL PERSON

Mr. Harrison, we have the paper work in order, I have both names. Please come through.



MEDICAL PERSON

Thank you for the generous financial donation. Very much appreciated. When ready, visitors normally exit through that back door. Receipt?

HUNTER

No need, thanks.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - DAY

Maria is back home now. The colored lights on the Christmas tree adds sparkle and breaks the sadness.

MARIA MEROLA

It's Christmas Day today. Feeling better? You seem very depressed the last few days.

HUNTER

Don't worry about it. Another two weeks we'll try again.

CARLITO

Where's my present, Dad?

HUNTER

Have to wait for Father Christmas. Go saddle up Hercules and Swift.

CARLITO

Right away.

Carlito runs out of the house.

HUNTER

Son, we expect a delivery of building material for the shed on Xmas day, out of all days.

Maria smiles.

MARIA MEROLA

You got to open up otherwise you will fall in a depressive mood. You got to tell me what happened.

EXT. HUNTER'S RANCH - DAY

Carlito is on the porch. A pickup truck towing a horse float shows up at the gate.

CARLITO (OS)

Hey dad, come outside, somebody is at the gate. A pickup truck and a horse float.

HUNTER

Out in a minute, we'll go check.

Hunter and Carlito jump on their horses and bolt off.

HUNTER

What's inside buddy?

The driver opens the float, the steer gets out, momentarily looks at the surroundings and takes off in the open fields.

HUNTER

Carlito, go get him kid.

Carlito bolts off cowboy style. Hunter gives the truck driver a fifty-dollar tip. Carlito jumps off his horse and wrestles the steer to the ground. Hunter gallops towards the boy. Maria smiles looking at the action from the porch. Carlito is over the moon. Hunter walks back to the porch.

HUNTER

Let's go in and have some fruit cake.  
You're right. I am feeling depressed of  
late. I will go check with the doctor  
tomorrow. How's the Christmas turkey  
coming along?

MARIA MEROLA

Just fine, serving it right now, darling.  
Enjoy the day, go see the doctor in the next  
couple of days.

Hunter looks at the business cards. Delilah's card sticks out of the pack. He puts it back and goes all quiet.

INT. CAR - TRAVELING - DAY

Still a bit of morning mist about, Hunter pulls in a roadside park about ten minutes away from his ranch. He gets the card out and calls Delilah.

DELILAH (V.O.)

Hello, Hunter. Good Christmas?

HUNTER

Sort of, things did not turn out well.  
Maria lost the baby, a boy.

DELILAH (V.O.)

So sorry to hear that. How is she feeling  
now and what about you?

HUNTER

She's finding her feet again. Myself a touch of PTSD. I haven't got much time; I would like to see Jackson if you're happy.

DELILAH (V.O.)

Here you are, say hello Jackson. He's smiling at you. Almost one year old. He has not been well.

HUNTER

What happened?

DELILAH (V.O.)

Don't know. We rushed him to hospital. He was black and blue, the doctors told us to change his sleeping position.

HUNTER

That could be nasty. Beautiful kid, give him a kiss for me. Seeing Jackson was good therapy, look after your family. Good bye.

DELILAH (V.O.)

Any time, Hunter. Take care, bye.

Hunter recomposes himself and takes a nap. He wakes up, it's close to lunch time so he heads back home.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Hunter walks in and takes his seat at the table with Maria. Carlito promptly gets Hunter's serve from the oven.

CARLITO

Still warm dad.

MARIA MEROLA

You look happier. What did the doctor say.

HUNTER

I did not see a doctor. I dropped by in a bit of a rundown Vet Clinic and I explained. They say ninety per cent of the cases are PTSD. They reckon I should open up to you more.

CARLITO

Why not dad, it's like movie but real action.

Hunter gives him a big smile and a pat on the head.

HUNTER

I suppose I may have to. So, your doctor will come and check you again tomorrow. You think something cooking?

MARIA MEROLA

I think so, I hope so.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

The DOCTOR and nurse conduct a prenatal examination. Maria looks relaxed.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - DAY

Hunter sits down with a whiskey in hand. He bites his fingernails. Maria, the DOCTOR and the nurse walk in the sitting room, all smiling.

DOCTOR

All is well. Now your PTSD, as time goes on, you can open up a bit more about your work. Don't make it too graphical though.

HUNTER

True doctor, after the baby is born.

Maria sees them to the door.

EXT. HUNTER'S RANCH - DAY

Hunter is out on horseback. He watches at his herd of bison. His cell PHONE RINGS. A text message from Delilah.

DELILAH (V.O.)

*Jackson. Sad news. SIDS. Last night. All devastated. Delilah.*

He gets off his horse, his forehead now rests against the saddle and sobs for a few seconds. He types in a text.

HUNTER (TEXTS)

*Equally devastated. There is life after death. I saved millions of lives, I killed a few, I have given life. Call Good Cause Sperm Bank Montana: 1-406-6... Hunter.*

He turns around towards his house. Twenty feet away, a young calf stands still with her mother and stares at Hunter.

INT. PRIVATE CLINIC - DAY

Maria is due any time now. The doctor examines her.

DOCTOR

All good. I suggest you call your husband if he wants to be present. Carlito is here, he told me it's his birthday today. First of November.

MARIA MEROLA

I can't believe this. Fifteen today.

Maria calls Hunter.

MARIA MEROLA

Hello darling, make your way here soon. It is due today. Carlito wants to know what you got him. Just take care, snow covers the ground.

HUNTER (V.O.)

All in my plan. Everything has been taken care of. See you soon honey.

The PHONE RINGS. It's the President.

HUNTER

(phone still ringing)

Fuck No.

(answers the call)

Yes, Mr President.

FREEMAN (V.O.)

They deciphered a most secretive cryptic communication with Beijing. Planned lethal strikes in Washington, London and Moscow. You saved us. Give Maria our best regards.

HUNTER

I was on my way there, delivery any time soon. I will pass the regards.

FREEMAN (V.O.)

When the Nation calls and the Family calls, it becomes a dilemma.

HUNTER

Very true, Sir. Thank you.

EXT. HUNTER'S RANCH - DAY

Hunter runs across the paddock towards the Montana Wilderness Rescue helicopter, ROTORS SWISHING, and climbs in. BUCK JOHNSON (late forties) knows Hunter well.

INT. HELICOPTER (FLYING) - DAY

HUNTER  
 General Hospital Buck. Maria is giving  
 birth right now. Thanks.  
 (hands him a packet)  
 Comes in handy for Christmas.

BUCK  
 Anything for you, Hunter. Good luck.

INT. PRIVATE CLINIC - DAY

Carlito meets him at the door and both run to Maria's room.

DOCTOR  
 Brand new boy, Mr. Harrison.

HUNTER  
 (to mom, baby in arms)  
 Trust my lieutenants to deliver on time and  
 with precision.  
 (to Carlito)  
 Your new brother Carlito.

MARIA MEROLA  
 Looks like you, Hunter. Happy?

HUNTER  
 Very happy, darling.

EXT. PRIVATE CLINIC - CAR - PARKED - DAY

The air is misty, the ground is covered in snow. Carlito opens the rear door. Maria, baby in her arms, gets in while Hunter stands close behind her. He is pumped up with pride, shakes his head, they get in and the car pulls away.

Tire tracks in the snow follow the car as it winds its way past the hospital gates.

INT. HUNTER'S HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - DAY (NEXT MORNING)

Maria sits down and looks at Hunter with tenderness. He sits holding his son as affectionately as a mother does.

Carlito fetches the medals, examines them in minute detail and then puts them around his dad's neck, one by one, almost in slow motion. His dad is his hero, his Nation's hero and his knight in shining armor.

He sits on the floor looking at his dad in total admiration but settles down in a pensive mood. He continues to stare at his dad with tears streaming down his face.

CARLITO

Dad ... you ... you met three presidents and saved the lives of two of them. You are a hero, even Russia honored you with two medals. Will you ... will you one day? You know. I will be there for you. I will always have your back.

Hunter is thrilled with such affection, smiles back and looks at Maria.

FADE OUT.

**LOGLINE**

Hunter Harrison has just saved the ex-president's life. However, he struggles to save his own as the incumbent President dispatches him to Moscow. His mission is to foil a plot to take out the Russian President. The Year 2035.

**SYNOPSIS**

Hunter Harrison searches constantly for happiness that has eluded him since his divorce and the loss of contact with his step children, Maya and Tim. Cheating on Scarlett proves costly - financially and emotionally. Now, his aims are to find a partner, settle down, raise a family, and promise never to be unfaithful no matter what. He figures that a ranch in the wilderness and the rejection of any further Black-Ops-type missions will certainly help.

Could his psychiatrist Delilah Docherty, possibly be a partner? She follows up on his progress. He pictures her again ... reserved but chatty, educated, maybe too smart for his dreams.

A Korean agent offers him an assignment to rub out Rick Manning, the ex-president of the U.S. He accepts the mission in the hope of it being his last big pay day. But true to his patriotic principles he turns his sniper's rifle on his paymasters. He spares the President's life, yet acting outside the official line-of-command turns him into an outlaw. Seven more dead bodies are added to his CV. He writes a letter addressed to the ex-President and gives it to Maria Merola, his campaign manager, to pass on. It details the reasons for the mission which leaves Hunter traumatised. Rick Manning passes the letter to the incumbent president Warren Freeman who pardons Hunter, honors The Squad and recommends they all take an all-expenses-paid holiday to Moscow. But there is a hidden motive with unexpected results.

Upon returning from Moscow, Hunter looks up Delilah. The couch therapy ends up leaving him in a more confused state so he proposes to Maria Merola. The marriage ceremony takes place at the ex-president's house. Freeman re-introduces himself via a secure link on the day and invites him to the Oval Office. Two presidents and a hero in whom they both have an investment.

In a private ceremony in the Oval Office, Freeman places the 'Medal of Honor' around Hunter's neck. Warren insists that Hunter takes on a mission in Moscow to safeguard the Russian President. He is not prepared to take a "No" for an answer. Maria, now pregnant, is taken aback perceiving this will stand in her way to achieving full happiness. She discusses this point... amicably at first.

Using Panda diplomacy, Beijing sends a Chinese Hit Squad to Moscow based in Moscow Zoo. It is headed by Gracie Chang. Nikita Ivanov and Sergei Kushnikov, his Defense Chief, meet Hunter. Anna Kushnikova is Sergei's daughter. She is Ex-Army weapons specialist, Head of Intelligence



working under the guise at the Moscow Zoo. Hunter figures out the mechanics of the Chinese plot and foils it spectacularly. The attempt ends with the death of Gracie. It becomes known as Pandagate.

Plan B is implemented and unfolds near Vladivostok, in the remote joint Sino-Russian Ursus Research Center, a hub for Chinese clandestine activities. Hunter engineers the assault on the Center which reveals the depth of the infiltration. It ends up with a military takeover of the Center by the Russian elite Alpha Group and prevents a doomsday scenario in three major cities. Guided by nobler principles, Hunter shies away from Anna's advances and his second-in-command Jessie Jacobson proves to be a better catch. With the mission accomplished they head back to Moscow for a very unusual ceremony, then on to Washington.

Now on his ranch, Hunter could easily parade no less than five medals. None of them could help fix severed happiness that lies ahead due to tragic immediate family circumstances, and those arising from other past social contacts. He shows human kindness where none is expected. But the strain takes a heavy toll on him.