

3 DAYS TO KILL

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1 INT. HALLWAY - DANUBE HOTEL - BUDAPEST - DAY 1

YASMIN, a hotel maid, pushes her service cart... The squeaky wheels echo through the long corridor. She stops, and rolls down her sleeve, covering a tattoo.

Yasmin reaches room #636. She frowns at the "do not disturb" sign hanging off the doorknob. Gently knocks, but no one comes to the door.

YASMIN
(thick accent)
Mr. Renner. Maid Service. I
have your extra towels.

Yasmin nods at a COUPLE, dressed for a tennis match, as they step out of their room.

She waits for the Couple to disappear into an elevator, pulls a gun from between the hotel towels, and enters into...

2 INT. HOTEL ROOM - DANUBE HOTEL - DAY 2

Yasmin stares at the place which is littered with boxes of tissues and dead bodies on the floor. Humidifiers let out steam. She lowers her gun and dials her cell.

3 INT. GIFT SHOP - DANUBE HOTEL - DAY 3

ETHAN RENNER, dressed in a rumpled suit, tries to stifle a coughing fit in front of a disgruntled cashier.

ETHAN'S cell rings...

YASMIN
Where are you..? Your "hot towels"
are ready.

ETHAN
I'm thinking about calling in
sick.

Ethan is consumed by his wretched cough.

CASHIER
Dry cough? Chest cough? Hacking
cough?

The Cashier turns to a shelf filled with cough medicine.

ETHAN
Just give me one of each.

INT. ELEVATOR - DANUBE HOTEL - RIDING UP

Ethan tilts his head up, catches his reflection in the mirror above... The tired eyes of a man who's lived not one but two lifetimes.

Ethan lowers his head... and starts sampling every syrup.

The elevator pings to a stop. The door slides open and Ethan stares at Yasmin, who scowls at him.

YASMIN

You're late!

ETHAN

So shoot me Yasmin.

Yasmin pulls a briefcase from inside her cart and hands it to Ethan, who gives her his bag of cough medication in exchange.

YASMIN

Text 323 and it will activate the device.

ETHAN

(coughs)

Don't I have time for a nap..?
This cold is killing me.

YASMIN

There's no getting sick on game day.

ETHAN

Be nice, Yasmin. I'm a paying guest.

Ethan stays in and press on ground floor.

Ethan smirks at Yasmin who shakes her head as the elevator slides shut between them.

4

INT. SURVEILLANCE VAN - **PARKED ACROSS THE HOTEL**

4

AGENTS multi-task, and check monitors that track a convoy of three SUV's that pull up to the hotel.

AXEL, lead Agent, makes final preparations to his high-tech gadgets.

AGENT AXEL

He's got the briefcase...
All teams in position.

They watch HEAVILY ARMED GUARDS jump out of the SUV's, secure the perimeter.

Open the door of the middle SUV, and out steps...

The ALBINO, draped in a designer suit. He squints and places drops into his pink eyes...

AXEL
(into Mic)
No one moves on "Pale Face"
until we've cleared what's
in the tube.

An Armed Guard hands the Albino a large shiny metal tube and leads him into...

5 INT. LOBBY - DUNABE HOTEL - DAY

5

Ethan steps out of the elevator, and crosses the lobby of the five-star hotel...

Makes eye contact with the Tennis Couple; a BUSINESS-TYPE typing on his blackberry, and a FLORIST who carries a vase of red roses.

Ethan spots the Albino and his entourage enter the hotel and head for the elevator.

He moves the briefcase Yasmin gave him to his right hand and texts 323 on his cell, which activates a high-tech device hidden inside.

Ethan strides towards the Albino, and passes him so that his briefcase brushes past the metal tube he's holding.

6 EXT/INT. SURVEILLANCE VAN - PARKED ACROSS THE HOTEL

6

Ethan crosses the street and approaches the van. He gives a series of knocks, the door opens and he steps inside...

Axel opens Ethan's briefcase, takes out a high-tech, infrared camera. He attaches it to his computer...

AXEL
I need your cell to develop
the image.

Ethan takes out his cell which vibrates with an urgent text message he sent himself... "Zooey BDAY".

ETHAN
?. I forgot... It's Zooey's
birthday birthday. Give me a
second to make a call?

AXEL
No way... The cells are locked
into the satellite...

Ethan reluctantly hands the cell to Axel who attaches it to an infrared camera... An image slowly begins to develop on the computer screen.

ETHAN

Give me a minute... I'll be at the phone booth across the street.

AXEL

But what if I get confirmation the Albino's got the nuke?

ETHAN

I'll convince him to hand it over

7 EXT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY

7

Ethan crosses the street, enters the phone booth and slides the door shut. He digs in his pocket for change, comes up empty...

Ethan takes out his pocket knife, breaks into the phone's coin box.

9 INT. SURVEILLANCE VAN - PARKED ACROSS THE HOTEL

9

Axel and the Agents glued to the monitors which display images from the infrared camera. Now at 35% resolution...

10 INT. HALLWAY - DUNABE HOTEL - DAY

10

Yasmin pushes her service cart. **She stops, rolls down her sleeve, covering up a tattoo.** Just then...

The Albino and his Entourage step out the elevator, and walk down the long hallway...

YASMIN=

(whispers into mic)

I got eyes on "Pale Face."

The Albino passes Yasmin. He stops, and turns...

ALBINO

(heavy accent)

Have we met before, darling?
Beirut in 2009. Yes..?

YASMIN

No. I'm afraid not.

ALBINO

You would remember me, no..?

YASMIN

Yes. I mean... I'm sorry sir,
I've never been to Beirut.

ALBINO

Where then..?

11 INT. SURVEILLANCE VAN - PARKED ACROSS THE HOTEL 11

Axel and his Techie work the computers, trying to figure what the image could be...

TECHIE

Could be a modified TOW.

AXEL

One centimeter too long.

INT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY

Ethan takes a fistful of coins out of the phone box and drops them into the slot. Unaware of the drama playing out...

The Agent points to Yasmin on the monitor.

AGENT

Yasmin's been compromised... We
need to move now, Axe!

AXEL

We're not authorized until we have
confirmation.

Axel turns back to his computer, now at 75% resolution. But the other Agents eyes remain glued on the drama unfolding in the hotel...

12 INT. HALLWAY - DUNABE HOTEL - DAY 12

The Albino stares into Yasmin's eyes, finally he places her.

ALBINO

Karachi. Yes... We met in
Karachi... Last April. But
then you were acting the part
of cocktail waitress.

YASMIN

No. That wasn't me...

Yasmin reaches for her gun between the towels. The Albino grabs her arm, rolls up her sleeve, revealing the tattoo!

ALBINO
 (reads her name tag)
 Yes, darling Yasmin... I'm
 afraid it was.

13 INT. SURVEILLANCE VAN - PARKED ACROSS THE HOTEL 13

Axel stares at amazement at the image which is now developed at 100% resolution.

TECHIE
 Axe... It's a **nuke**, from...

Axel zooms in to a series of coded numbers on the side of the missile. He runs it through his data bank. His heart skips a beat...

AXEL
 Oh shit...! It's one of ours!
 (into mic)
 All teams move on "Pale Face".
 Get Ethan in there now !

But it's too late. They watch helplessly as Yasmin runs down the long hallway.

The Albino reaches out his hand, and one of the Guards hands him a semi-automatic. He raises his arm, squints and aims...

16 INT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY 16

Ethan dials, nervously clears his throat as the phone rings.

ETHAN
 Hi, sweetie. It's your father.

ZOOEY
 You didn't forget, which means
 you probably love me.

ETHAN
 Of course I do, Zoey...

ZOOEY
 You can prove it by singing
 me happy birthday. Loudly.

Ethan makes eye contact with an Undercover Agent who strokes the trigger on his concealed weapon.

ETHAN
 But... I'm at work, sweetie...

BEEEEEP. Realizes he's speaking to his daughter's voice mail. He quickly looks around, what the hell...

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)
(sings)
Happy birthday to you...

17 INT. DUNABE HOTEL - DAY 17

The Tennis Couple; the Business-Type, and Florist in a fierce gun fight with the Albino and his heavily armed entourage...

ETHAN (V.O.)
Happy birthday to you...

But the back-up team with their glocks are no match for the Albino's heavy fire power, and are mowed down.

18 INT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY 18

Ethan spots Agents jump out of the van and run to the hotel. He pulls out his gun, and jacks a bullet in the chamber...

ETHAN
Happy birthday dear Zooey.

19 EXT. DANUBE HOTEL - DAY 19

The Albino, who clutches the metal tube, and Entourage dash out the door, with their guns blazing.

And the shit is on! Massive firepower is unleashed from every direction.

20 INT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY 20

Ethan ducks as automatic gunfire pierces the booth. But he remains steadfast to finish singing to his daughter.

ETHAN
Happy birthday to yooouuu!

He dives out of the booth as it's ripped to shreds by flying bullets. Except for the receiver that dangles from the cord.

21 EXT. DUNABE HOTEL - DAY 21

Ethan gets his bearings, it's like he's stepped into a war zone... A symphony of gunfire... Explosions... Whistling bullets rip men to shreds.

A tow missile flies overhead and blows the surveillance van to bits.

Ethan spots the Albino clutching the metal tube tightly. Two Armed Guards run alongside him.

Ethan shoots the Guards who drop... He wheezes, as he chases the Albino through restaurants and stores...

Loses the Albino in the crowd... Spots him jump into a cab that speeds off.

Ethan leaps over car rooftops now, until he has a clear shot...

Raises and steadies his gun, about to squeeze the trigger, when he breaks into a cough. The Cab almost out of range...

Ethan catches his breath, and steadies his gun. Unloads his clip into the cab, which causes it to swerve and crash!

The Albino stumbles out, tries to find his balance, when he spots Ethan run towards him. He searches for his gun which is lost in the twisted cab.

The Albino grabs the metal tube and takes off. Ethan wheezes, as he chases after him.

22

INT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

22

Ethan coughs blood and staggers in after the Albino. Both men hunched over, gasping for air...

INT . ALLEY WAY - DAY

Ethan coughs blood and staggers in after the Albino... both men hunched over, gasping for air...

Ethan struggles to hold back his cough... Clearly this is no ordinary cold...

He raises his gun and fires at the Albino... But his coughing fit causes him to miss every time. With one final shot, Ethan hits the Albino's calf, bringing him down.

Ethan moves toward the Albino, when he's overwhelmed by his horrible cough...

Ethan head spins... He hears the echo of his heart amplified from the heavens...

ETHAN

Don't move!

The Albino ignores him, jumps up and hobbles away. Ethan is incapable of doing anything to stop him.

Ethan collapses, smashing his wristwatch. It stops ticking at 11:34...

Ethan rolls onto this back. Lungs exploding... He squints into the sun, His view obstructed, when...

The buildings that surround him creak, bend, and close in on him like a coffin. And everything goes dark.

FLASH

A SERIES OF FLASH CUTS

A YOUNGER ETHAN, runs along the sand chasing an angelic SIX-YEAR-OLD-GIRL towards a modest beach house. They play, they laugh, they're happy.

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23 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - BUDAPEST - DAY

23

Ethan lays in bed, clutching medical results in his hand... A DOCTOR, 60ish, **sits** next to him.

DOCTOR

If you have any questions, any points that require further explanation...

ETHAN

It doesn't say how much time I have left?

DOCTOR

We've consulted with the Mayo Clinic and John Hopkins... Three months. Possibly five.

ETHAN

So no Christmas this year..?

DOCTOR

... I'm afraid not.

Just then a BLAND-LOOKING SUIT enters, carrying a small gift-wrapped box.

The Doctor forces a smile and exits. Ethan watches the Suit fidget in his chair..

SUIT

Now that you're no longer operational. We'll need to terminate our relationship.

The Suit stares blandly at Ethan. Hands him a gift-wrapped box.

SUIT (cont'd) (CONT'D)

We've wired your pension into your account.

(MORE)

SUIT (cont'd) (CONT'D)
 (off his look)
 On behalf of the Director, we
 thank you for your service...

Ethan opens the box, and smirks at the silver-plated watch.
 He turns to the Suit like "what the fuck"?

ETHAN
 Is this to count the hours I have
 left?

24 EXT. HOSPITAL - BUDAPEST - DAY 24

Ethan steps out of the revolving doors. Out in the cold...
 Nowhere to go. Suppresses his cough, takes hits from his
 inhaler.

Spots a YOUNG COUPLE walking past him, swinging their 6-year
 -old-girl between him. Watches them until they disappear...

Ethan pulls up his collar, heads in the opposite direction.

26 EXT. CHARLES DE GAULLE - PARIS - DAY 26

Ethan exits, cuts through TRAVELERS and TOURISTS, and grabs a
 cab.

27 INT. CAB - TRAVELING THROUGH PARIS 27

Ethan suppresses his hacking cough, not taking in the sights
 as the CABBIE points out the famous landmarks.

28 EXT. THE AMERICAN SCHOOL - PARIS - DAY 28

Ethan stands alone on a sidewalk, when a bell rings, the
 doors fly open. Suddenly he's engulfed by a NOISY WAVE OF
 CHULDREN.

He zeroes in on ZOOEY, his 16-year-old daughter. Watches her
 laugh and wave goodbye to her eclectic friends.

She runs up to CHRISTINE, his ex-wife, who we recognise from
 the flash earlier. She smiles and showers her daughter with
 kisses.

Ethan begins to move towards them, but he suppresses a cough
 and steps back.

29 INT. BANK - PARIS - DAY 29

Ethan sits across from a BANKER, who busily scans his screen.

BANKER
235,500 Euro which includes the
deposit into your pension account
that you received last week.

The Banker hands Ethan an investment brochure which features
a smiling family standing in front of their new house.

BANKER (CONT'D)
May I suggest an investment?
Something long term?

Ethan stares at the brochure for a while.

ETHAN
Long term..? No. Thanks...
(hands it back)
I'd like to open a college fund
for my daughter, Zooey.

BANKER
Absolutely, how much did you want
to put in?

ETHAN
All of it.

The BANKER laughs, but quickly realizes that ETHAN is
serious.

BANKER
I'll start the paperwork.

30 INT. CAB - STOPPED AT A RED LIGHT 30

Ethan stares out at a wrecking ball that slams into the side
of a building. But the building won't go down...

31 INT. BUILDING- DAY 31

In the lobby, Ethan passes by a SKINHEAD COUPLE who smoke and
hold their baby...

Ethan rides the elevator to the second floor.

He heads down a long hallway, takes out a key. Approaches a
door but his key doesn't fit the lock...

He jiggers the key and shakes the door handle when he hears
noise coming from inside the apartment. He knocks loudly...

32 INT. ETHAN'S LOFT - DAY 32

ETHAN looks down to ABDUH, an 11-years-old African boy, who
opens the door. He stares back up at Ethan.

ABDUH
 (in French)
 Dad, there's a white man at the
 door.

The door opens wider now, revealing... JULES, a broad
 shouldered African Man with a toothy grin.

JULES
 (in French)
 How can I help you, my friend?

ETHAN
 What are doing in my place?

JULES
 (thick accent)
 You do not speak French?

ETHAN
 No. I'm American. I own this
 place.

JULES
 You? You are the owner? I am
 so happy to finally meet you.

Jules places an arm around his Ethan's shoulder, leads him to
 A DOZEN AFRICANS, sitting by a large table having lunch.

JULES (cont'd) (CONT'D)
 (in French)
 Everyone... Say hello to our
 host. He is the owner! This
 is his house.

The Africans smile warmly and wave at Ethan.

JULES (cont'd) (CONT'D)
 This is my wife Theresa, my
 son Abduh...

Ethan locks eyes with Abduh, who slaps him a high five.

JULES (cont'd) (CONT'D)
 My daughter Sumia is in the
 kitchen... And these are my
 cousins, nieces. They are
 visiting us from Sudan. Until
 the go to stay with my brother
 in Saint Denis. Do you know
 Saint Denis?

ETHAN
 What are you people doing in my
 apartment?

JULES

You are lucky we are here. It is never good to leave your home alone. Bad spirits fill empty spaces.

ETHAN

Yes. But now that I'm back...

Jules leads Ethan through the loft and points around...

JULES

And it is good you are finally back, because this place was in bad condition. The heater broke last winter, and it was minus 10. But I fixed it, and now at night it feels like Khartoum in the summer. And the wall that was cracking from the humidity. Whoever fixed it before did a very bad job. I also fixed that. Here and here. See? But the water pipes they were in the worst shape. Because your neighbor upstairs... What an asshole he is. He would not fix his leak... It came down from the ceiling like a waterfall. And you see the plaster up there? That is my work. I did this all with my hands.

ETHAN

I appreciate the work. I'll pay...

JULES

No. Absolutely not, are you kidding! It is a gift, from me to you. My name is Jules.

ETHAN

Ethan. Where is all my stuff?

JULES

We did not touch anything. It is all in the bedroom and I have not allowed anyone inside that room. I also put a sign. See.

Jules points out the bedroom door which has a huge sign in French -- "PRIVATE. NO ENTRY."

JULES (cont'd) (CONT'D)

I have also started to paint the bedroom. My wife thinks it is best to have a cheerful color. Is yellow good for you..?

(off his look)

(MORE)

JULES (cont'd) (CONT'D)
I am happy to do the work. It is
not a problem, Ethan.

ETHAN
Actually, there is a problem.

JULES
Do not worry, Ethan. I can fix
it... I will color the room any
color you want.

Ethan finally gives in to a coughing fit he can't control...

His head spins, he begins to lose his balance and grabs the
table for support, letting the cough consume him.

Ethan gasps for air, Jules leads him to a chair, and Abduh
runs over with a glass of water.

JULES (cont'd) (CONT'D)
Breath. Take a drink... Sit. Tell
me, how can I help you ?

Ethan downs the water, and catches his breath...

Stares up at Jules and his extended family who sit at a table
set for a feast.

Jules pours him a glass of mint tea and hands him a full bowl
of food...

ETHAN
Look... I'm tired. I need you to
leave.

JULES
First we drink mint tea and have
the curry. Please tell my wife you
like it...
(motions for him to eat)
She will kill me if you don't eat.

Ethan sips tea and takes a bite.

ETHAN
(to please them)
... It's good.

Jules and Abduh smiles at Ethan.

Ethan sits across from the SERGEANT, glancing at a soccer
match playing on TV no sound ...

SERGEANT
 (thick French accent)
 I am afraid there is nothing you
 can do until the 30th of April.

ETHAN
 That's months from now.

SERGEANT
 We have laws that protect these
 squatters during the winter.

ETHAN
 Then I guess I need to throw them
 out myself.

SERGEANT
 No. That is not a good idea...
 Because then you will go to jail
 for breaking the law.

ETHAN
 What exactly am I supposed to do?

SERGEANT
 Wait for spring. Like the birds,
 the bees, the girls and the boys.

Ethan just stares at the Sergeant who's back to watching the
 soccer game.

34 INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

34

Ethan knocks loudly on the door until it's opened by Abduh,
 who smiles and slaps him a high-five...

ETHAN
 I need to talk to your dad.

Abduh motions towards the open window where Jules leans out
 and talks on an illegal phone line.

JULES
 (cover the phone)
 Of course. No problem, Ethan.
 But please give me one minute
 to finish my call.

Ethan watches Abduh go back to the living room to do his
 homework.

He turns back to Jules who's still on his call, makes a hand
 signal that the person he's speaking to won't stop talking.

Ethan sees Jules Wife braid her Mother's hair. GRANDFATHER
 reading the Coran, next to Sumia, 16 years old and 9 months
 pregnant. She's putting cream on her face.

Jules hangs up his call and walks towards Ethan.

JULES (cont'd) (CONT'D)
I am sorry, Ethan. My third
cousins from Zaire...
Anyway, how can I help you?

Ethan notices Jules entire family has gathered around them.

ETHAN
Let's talk in private Jules, in
my room.

35 INT. BEDROOM - ETHAN'S LOFT - DAY

35

Ethan leads Jules to a huge steel cabinet with a combination
lock securing the double doors.

JULES
I can assure you, we have not
touched any of your things.

ETHAN
I'm not saying you did...

Ethan dials a code on the padlock. The lock releases and
Ethan swings open the metal doors...

The cabinet is stacked with weapons of all shapes and sizes.

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)
But I think it's time you got
to know me a little better.

Ethan turns to Jules and jams a gun under his chin.

Magnum 357. Brand new.

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)
Because you're not just crashing
at some guys house.

JULES
Yes, Ethan. Of course. We will
pack and leave now.

ETHAN
Where are you going to go with a
pregnant kid ?

JULES
I do not know... But we will leave
without packing.

ETHAN
You don't need to go yet, Jules.
But you stay under my rules.

JULES

I am also a believer in rules.

ETHAN

Rule number 1. No one steps in this room... Ever.

JULES

No one... Absolutly. I will make a bigger sign.

ETHAN

Rule number 2. Always do what I say. No question asked.

JULES

Yes. Of course.

ETHAN

And rule number 3. Don't ever paint my bedroom yellow again.

JULES

I told my wife it is not a man's color.

INT. ETHAN APARTMENT DAY

Ethan walks toward the door carrying **a box**. **About to step out** a 17-YEAR-OLD BOY enters and kisses Sumia.

ETHAN

This kid is the father?

JULES

He is studying for his exams. His name is Nasor... He is only 17.

ETHAN

17..? You are in deep shit, Jules.

JULES

Yes. Very deep shit, Ethan.

EXT. TWO STAR HOTEL - NIGHT

Ethan steps out of a cab carrying his box and suitcase. He enters and checks in.

TIME DISSOLVE - HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Ethan stares blankly at an episode of CSI dubbed into French.

He breaks into a wheezing cough... Turns to the bottles of medication lined up on the table... Tosses them into the trash. Pulls out the inhaler...

He opens the box he retrieved from his loft... Takes out a VHS player, attaches it to the TV and inserts the tape...

CUT TO:

ETHAN WATCHES HOME MOVIES

* A younger Ethan runs along the sand chasing an angelic Zooey towards a modest beach house.

* Ethan measures Zooey's height on the kitchen door frame.

* Ethan, Zooey and Christine ham it up as they cook a meal in the kitchen.

CUT TO:

39 EXT. THE AMERICAN SCHOOL - MORNING

39

Ethan stands alone on the sidewalk, watching Christine kiss Zooey goodbye...

Ethan's heart sinks when a HANDSOME MAN approaches and cheek-kisses them both. He is relieved when the Man is joined by his own wife and daughter.

The bell rings and Zooey and her GIRLFRIENDS dart off...

Ethan dials his cell as he watches Christine mingle with the other PARENTS. Christine's cell rings... She checks caller I.D... Pauses. Finally answers the call.

ETHAN

Hello, Tina. It's me. I'm in town...

CHRISTINE

I'm in a meeting right now.
This is a bad time to talk.

Ethan smirks, he watches Christine shift her weight from foot to foot.

ETHAN

I don't want to talk... I
want to see you.

CHRISTINE

I'm exceptionally busy, so
unless it's urgent...

ETHAN

I've got some legal stuff...
I need you to look at before
I leave town.

CHRISTINE

Why has something changed?
You getting married?

ETHAN

No... Why? Are you..?

CHRISTINE

No... Not today. Maybe for
a minute at lunch.

ETHAN

Lunch sounds great!

CHRISTINE

No, I said at lunch time, for a
minute.

ETHAN

H ? Sorry... Okay, fine with me.

40

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

40

Ethan watches Christine nervously pace outside the door and
check her watch. He musters the courage to cross the street.

Christine turns as if she can feel his presence.

ETHAN

Hello, Tina...

They move into an awkward embrace. Two people who once loved
each other, but have left much unresolved.

Ethan smells her hair. He quickly breaks the embrace. Hands
her a small box of chocolates...

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)

You still like chocolates?

CHRISTINE

No. Not really... Why are
we here, Ethan?

ETHAN

The exchange rate has changed.
You should get the alimony in
dollars.

CHRISTINE

Then pay it in dollars. Why do
we need the attorney?

ETHAN
I'd like you to get my life
insurance in dollars too.

41 INT. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - DAY 41
Ethan and Christine sit in front of a large empty oak desk...

ETHAN
How's work?

CHRISTINE
Good.

They stare at each other in silence for a long beat... The
fluorescent buzz above them.

CHRISTINE (cont'd) (CONT'D)
I'm presenting a paper on ancient
Roman textiles at the Tate.

ETHAN
What about Roman textiles?

CHRISTINE
Turns out they hold up better
than the tiles you put in the
bathroom.
(A beat)

ETHAN
Ah ?... Never been to Rome...

CHRISTINE
Why are you really here, Ethan?

ETHAN
I'm passing through and...

CHRISTINE
You haven't passed through in
five years?

ETHAN
I wanted to see you.

CHRISTINE
And your daughter. You want to
see her too?

ETHAN
Yes. I started a college fund...

CHRISTINE
Why the sudden interest?

ETHAN

It's not sudden, Tina. I try to stay in touch. I left her a message on her birthday.

CHRISTINE

And now she'll need to wait another year to hear from you again. No... You don't get another chance.

ETHAN

That's not what I want.

CHRISTINE

Good.

ETHAN

I just came to say goodbye.

CHRISTINE

Haven't we said that before?

ETHAN

(after a pause)
... I'm dying, Tina.

CHRISTINE

You think this is easy for me?

ETHAN

No, I'm sick... I'm dying...

CHRISTINE

What..?

The ATTORNEY enters with a thick stack of documents.

ATTORNEY

(thick accent)
Sorry it took so long. But I'm afraid you must sign copies in French and English.

Ethan forces a smile at Christine... They sign the documents in silence. **The fluorescent buzz above them.**

42

EXT. CAFE DES DEUX MAGOTS - DAY

42

Ethan sits beside Christine, who suppresses her emotions with the box Godiva chocolates...

ETHAN

You know, you can save some of those for later.

Christine stops mid-bite and tosses the rest into one of her empty cappuccino cups.

CHRISTINE

I've been so angry at you.

ETHAN

I know.

CHRISTINE

Now you show up with a box of chocolates and I'm just supposed to forget?

ETHAN

I understand. It's not easy for you...

CHRISTINE

I still hate your work.

ETHAN

(wry smile)

Yeah. I know. But that's not what's killing me.

Ethan breaks into a hacking cough. Christine reaches out to him but he shakes her off, and catches his breath.

CHRISTINE

You gave your life to those people. They should have helped you.

ETHAN

(lifts his wrist)

They did gave me this watch.

They share a smile... ETHAN reaches for Christine's handrubs it gently. He tears up.

CHRISTINE

You're not playing some kind of joke on me, are you? Is this some kind of prank?

ETHAN

I figure that if that was my idea of a joke, you'd definitely kill me!

Christine is torn between tears and laughter.

CHRISTINE

And you'd be right!

43

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

43

Christine leads Ethan into the tastefully decorated space...
He stares at the photos of Zooey and Christine on the walls.

ETHAN

It's nice. Place looks better
than before.

CHRISTINE

Well don't look too hard, it's
falling apart.

ETHAN notices cracks in the wall, hidden behind the photos...

He glances at an old vinyl player sitting on a shelf with a
small selection of Blue Note LP's stacked on the side.

ETHAN

You still have our records.

CHRISTINE

Some things you don't toss out.

He runs his hand on the kitchen door frame... Smiles when his
fingers reach the marks where he measured Zooey's height.

ETHAN

I know I haven't done right by
you and Zooey... But... I'd
really like to see her before...

Christine pours herself a drink... She motions to Ethan who
shakes his head.

CHRISTINE

Are you really done working for
them?

ETHAN

Yes. I swear... There are not a
part of my life anymore.

He picks up a photo of Zooey as 6-year-old with a backpack.

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)

(looking at the picture)

I've missed, first day at school,
her birthdays...

CHRISTINE

And her ACTUAL birth.

ETHAN

(uncomfortable)

Yeah, that too.

Christine senses Ethan's unease.

CHRISTINE

You want to see her bedroom?

ETHAN

Sure.

Christine opens the door to Zooey's room. But Ethan doesn't enter, he takes a quick peak.

CHRISTINE

Why don't you stay in town a while. So she feels like she has a father.

ETHAN

Okay. But. I don't want Zooey to know... Not right away.

CHRISTINE

Of course. You know, she's not just going to let you walk back in. You're going to have to work for it.

ETHAN

Yeah. I want. I'm ready to do that, Tina. If it's okay with you, I'll go buy her a birthday present and come with you to meet her after school.

CHRISTINE

She usually comes home from school alone, but we'll make an exception!

ETHAN

Thanks, Tina.

Christine's emotions catch up with her. She begins to cry. Ethan walks over, and wraps her in his arms. She wipes her tears on his sleeves...

44 INT. JR. MISSES DEPARTMENT - GALERIES LAFAYETTE - DAY 44

Ethan uncomfortable as he brushes past giggling TEENAGE GIRLS who browse a maze of girlish delight. Pink, purple, sparkles and glitter...

Picks up a garish make-up kit and tosses it aside. Grimaces when he checks the price of a Louis Vuitton purse...

Ethan stares down a pair of six inch Prada pumps. No way..!

45

EXT. AMERICAN SCHOOL - DAY

45

Ethan stands with a purple bicycle on his shoulder, a big bow on the handlebars.

The bell rings, doors fly open and he's engulfed by a wave of children... Christine points out Zooney who runs out with her girlfriends.

ETHAN

Won't she get a big shock when she sees me here?

CHRISTINE

She already knows. I sent her a text.

ETHAN

(on edge)

Ah? Good thinking -- better that way!

CHRISTINE

Remember, she might not think it, but Zooney's still a little girl.

ETHAN

How do I get her to talk to me?

CHRISTINE

She's 16, Ethan... How do you get her to do anything?

Ethan tries to suppress his nervous cough.

CHRISTINE (cont'd) (CONT'D)

Are you going to be all right?
Should I stay?

ETHAN

No... I've got the entire day planned out. First...

CHRISTINE

She has her own plans... Her own life. And a new boyfriend.

ETHAN

A boyfriend? Already..?

CHRISTINE

Don't ask... She's had several.
(off his look)
You'll just have to catch up...

Zooney runs over, kisses Christine. Holds her mother tight.

ETHAN

Hi. Zooey. How are you?

ZOOEY

Hi. Good. How are you?

ETHAN

Good. I'm good. How are you?

Christine smiles at Ethan who's trying to hide his nerves.

CHRISTINE

(emotional)

Okay... We're doing great here.

ZOOEY

Mom, please don't cry. I'm fine.

CHRISTINE

I'm just emoting sweetie...
I had a little speech planned.
I was going to say that this is
a wonderful opportunity... For
a second chance. And no matter
what, Ethan's still your father.

Christine begins to cry.

ZOOEY

Mom, you're definitely crying
now.

Christine laughs, wipes her nose and flags down a cab.

CHRISTINE

Have fun. Call if you need me.
I'll be at the museum until late.

ZOOEY

You want me to order the take-out?

ETHAN

How about I cook tonight?

Christine smiles at Ethan, and kisses Zooey who just rolls
her eyes.

46

ETHAN AND ZOOEY WAVE AT CHRISTINE

46

Who gets into a cab that quickly speeds off to the museum...

ZOOEY

So, you want me to call you Ethan
or should I just call you dad?

ETHAN

Well... Dad. I think, dad sounds better.

They stare at each other a long while. It's awkward...

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)

Remember, our favorite place to go after school?

ZOOEY

I didn't know we had a favorite place.

ETHAN

Carousel du Louvre, remember?

ZOOEY

We don't need to do this, Ethan.
(off his look)
I know you probably want us to talk and get to know each other.

ETHAN

Yes... Actually, I do... But let's not push it.

ZOOEY

I'm not mad at you or anything.

ETHAN

Really..? You're not?

ZOOEY

No. And you being gone... whatever. I mean, everyone has their problems. Besides I like my life, I've got a great Mom and no Dad. It's no big deal.

ETHAN

It is to me... That's why I transferred back to Paris.

ZOOEY

Cool, well now you're here we can catch up some time. See you later, Ethan.

Ethan watches Zooey run across the street towards a group of girls.

ETHAN

Yeah, Sure. Okay, Zooey...
(sotto)
And feel free to call me dad.

Ethan realizes he's still holding the bike. He runs across the street after Zooey.

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)
Zooey ?

Zooey stops and waits for him.

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)
Your mother said I need to walk
you home.

ZOOEY
No she didn't.

ETHAN
Okay. I want to walk you home.

ZOOEY
So because you want to, I HAVE to.
Great.

ETHAN
You don't have to. It's just... I'd
LOVE it if...

Just then... HUGH, her 17-year-old boyfriend, runs out and approaches them.

HUGH
(heavy British accent)
Come on Zoe, we got a table.

ZOOEY
Hugh, I want you to meet Ethan.

HUGH
Who..?

ETHAN
I'm Zooey's father.

Ethan goes to shake hands with Hugh who offers a fist pump...

HUGH
Right... You should have told
me your dad was in town, Zoe.

ZOOEY
It was a big surprise for me too.
But he's back and... What do you
do again?

ETHAN
Sales.

ZOOEY
Right... Ethan travels the world
selling stuff.

HUGH
Awesome... Great to meet you...
Mr. Zoe.

Ethan and Zooey watch Hugh run inside a café full of
students.

ZOOEY
Isn't he hot?

ETHAN
He shaves!

ZOOEY
I know... We're going to prom
together.

ETHAN
Do all the girls in your class
have older boyfriends?

ZOOEY
I live in Paris, Ethan... Not
Pittsburg.

ETHAN
Yeah... Right. But back when
I was growing up...

ZOOEY
Hugh is so different than you.

ETHAN
Well... Right. Maybe that's
not such a bad thing. Look, I
know I'm blowing it, Zooey...

Ethan at a loss for words. He wheels the purple bike toward
Zooey.

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)
I thought maybe you'd like to
ride home on this?

ZOOEY
Wow. It's... So... Purple.

ETHAN
Your favorite color.

ZOOEY
Yeah ! When I was 10!... Anyway...
Awesome... Thanks, Ethan...
(hands the bike back)
(MORE)

ZOOEY (CONT'D)
 But I'll take the Metro with
 my friends.

Ethan watches Zooey run back into the café to join Hugh...

ETHAN
 See you home for dinner.

Ethan smiles to himself. He may have lost this round to Zooey
 but he's clearly in the game.

48 EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY 48

Ethan rides the purple bike along various boulevards...

Exhilarated. Alive. Enjoying the sights. Like he's seeing
 it all for the first time.

49 EXT. RUE MOUFFETARD MARKET - DAY 49

Ethan gets off the bike and wheels it towards a farmers'
 market.

An AUDI parks up behind him. Somebody's following Ethan.

Ethan inspects a variety of fresh fish displayed on ice. He
 turns to the FISH MONGER and points to the mussels.

ETHAN
 How are these? I just need
 to steam them, right? Are they
 fresh?

VIVI
 (thick French accent)
 Don't ask... Smell them...

Ethan turns to VIVI DELAY, an attractive professional type...

She picks up a handful of mussels. Puts them under her nose
 and tosses them back. Vivi hands a tuna to the Fish Monger.

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)
 We'll have the tuna instead...

ETHAN
 Thank you.

VIVI
 And be sure to soak it in milk.

ETHAN
 Milk?

VIVI
 Only if you choose to fry it...

ETHAN

I haven't gotten that far.

VIVI

I like a man who doesn't pretend to know his way around a kitchen.

ETHAN

Then you're talking to the right guy.

VIVI

Yes, I think I am.

The Fish Monger hands Ethan his tuna in a plastic bag.

ETHAN

If today was any other day,
I'd ask for your number.

VIVI

What makes today so special?

ETHAN

I'm soaking tuna in milk and
frying it for my daughter.

VIVI

So today is Zooey's lucky day?

Ethan frowns, realizes this isn't some friendly flirtation --
Vivi is here on company business.

Ethan looks around.

ETHAN

What did you say your name was?

VIVI

I didn't. You can call me Vivi.

ETHAN

Nice running into you, Vivi...
But I'm not interested.

VIVI

You should be.

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)

Because I never would have shut
the door on you, Ethan. Given
you a watch and left you to die.

ETHAN

What do you expect from corporate?

VIVI
Come drive with me, *Cherie*...
(checks her watch)
We're running late.

Vivi leads Ethan to her Audi A5 convertible -- the one that followed him earlier.

50 INT. AUDI - SPEEDING THROUGH THE CITY

50

Vivi hikes up her skirt and shifts gears, while Ethan hold his bicycle on the back seat.

ETHAN
Who exactly do you work for, Vivi?

VIVI
The Director.

ETHAN
How come I never seen you around?

VIVI
Because I work for the agency
within the agency that let you go.

ETHAN
Wouldn't know about the top shelf.

VIVI
Same organization... Different
methods. Better results.

ETHAN
(coughs)
Then you don't have much use for
a jobber like me.

VIVI
I think management made a mistake
terminating you because of that
nasty cough.

ETHAN
Did they send you to take back my
watch?

Vivi smiles, she shifts gears and speeds through the busy intersection.

VIVI
I'd like you to come work for me.

ETHAN
Not a chance. I got other plans.

VIVI

Don't you think Zooey deserves
to have her father around for
more than a month?

ETHAN

They told me 3-5.

VIVI

I got a second opinion... Their
math is off. You've got a month.

Vivi tosses him a file. While Ethan flicks through it, she
speeds into a one-way street, in the opposite direction.
Inches from crashing into a truck...

ETHAN

I get the sense working for you
could end it sooner than that.

VIVI

Quite the contrary... In exchange
for your cleaning services I could
hand you an experimental drug...

ETHAN

Hey. I'm still here. Right?

VIVI

Well, yes... But not for much
longer. Not unless you take this.

Vivi takes out a vile filled with a green liquid, and hands
it to Ethan who shakes it in front of the light...

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)

It's being tested now and years
from the market.

ETHAN

Is it safe..? What are the side
effects? The test results?

VIVI

I will send you the manual. It's
thick and boring as a phone book.

ETHAN

How come no one's told me about
this before..?

VIVI

You weren't worth the cost of
the treatment as part of a team.
But as a solo act... You have
added value.

ETHAN

There's plenty of cleaners out there. Why me?

VIVI

You suddenly became available. You're one of the best on the circuit... And you've been gone long enough that no one will recognize you in Paris.

ETHAN

So I buy my life back by killing for you?

VIVI

Did you become so righteous before or after you were diagnosed?

Vivi speeds past a red light, through another intersection, and screeches to a stop in front of a Hotel. Ethan grabs the thick medical manual.

ETHAN

I'll read up on this and get back to you.

Vivi snatches the vial with the green liquid from Ethan...

VIVI

I'll need you to start right away.

ETHAN

(steps out)
I got a fish to fry, I'm late.

Vivi opens the glove compartment: a 9mm, two clips and a silencer.

VIVI

I'm afraid dinner might have to wait.

ETHAN

I'm afraid you'll have to wait dinner is finished.

VIVI

It's gonna take you an hour and you gonna ... at least a week time.
Pretty good ratio isn't it ?
... a week, it's seven dinners.
You're going to need me to keep your menus varied.

Ethan stares at her, then at the vial and its green liquid.

51 INT. COURTYARD - HOTEL DE L'ABBAYE - DAY 51

Vivi sips a martini, at the bar. The bartender puts a bottle of champagne down next to her. Vivi looks at him blankly. A HANDSOME BANKER approaches and sits next to her with two glasses.

HANDSOME BANKER
(in French)
May I share this bottle of '59
Dom with you?

VIVI
(in French)
Leave the bottle and step away
bitch. I'm working.

The Handsome Banker tries to think of a quick come-back. Waits a beat too long, and silently retreats.

Vivi receives a text from Ethan. "Done". She exits the cafe and walks into..

52 INT. HOTEL ELEVATOR - RIDING UP 52

Vivi admires her reflection. She fluffs her hair and applies a touch of lipstick.

She steps out the elevator, and heads down the long corridor towards the suite. Slowly swings open the door...

53 INT. HOTEL SUITE - DAY 53

Vivi walks through the suite, smoke hanging in the air. She gingerly side-steps over several SHOT-UP BODIES...

VIVI
Pretty good for a "jobber"...

Ethan lowers his gun and nods at the dead bodies...

ETHAN
You said there would be two
of them not nine!

VIVI
Ooops!

Vivi collects the Dead Men's I.D's and places in her purse.

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)
But I did say keep the young
man with the mustache alive.

ETHAN
Then what's this guy?

Ethan nods to a MAN with a mustache who sits tied to a chair.

VIVI
Middle aged.

ETHAN
No a chance... Tell her how
old you are.

The Tied Up Man looks at Ethan completely confused. His face
is bleeding.

TIED UP MAN
(can't get the words out)
I... Uh...

ETHAN
Hey?! Make an effort... I'm trying
to save your life here. Now tell
the lady how old are you?

TIED UP MAN
I am 32...

VIVI
Too old for me.

Vivi walks amongst the shot-up bodies. Finds the YOUNG GUY
she's looking for, barely alive...

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)
Now this is a young man with
a mustache.

ETHAN
No. That's a goatee.

VIVI
It's a mustache and stubble.

Vivi places smelling salts under the Young Man's nose...

ETHAN
(to the guy tied to the
chair)
Sorry.

Ethan shoots him in the back of the head with his silenced
gun.

CUT TO:

The guy with the mustache is tipped off the chair.

CUT TO:

The younger guy with the mustache is tied to the chair.

CUT TO:

VIVI SLAPS THE YOUNG GUY WITH A MUSTACHE

VIVI
What. Is. The. Code... For
the accountant's briefcase?

YOUNG MAN
Yes... The code? It is...
28-28... No! Wait! 28-27-69.

Vivi takes a piece of paper and checks the numbers.

VIVI
Right answer. Now when does
he arrive in Paris?

YOUNG MAN
I don't know, I swear...

VIVI
I believe you.

Vivi grabs Ethan's gun and shoots the guy.

Ethan just stares at Vivi -- like what the fuck?

ETHAN
How can you be so sure he didn't
know?

VIVI
I don't. I just have no time for
this type of game.

Vivi and Ethan step over the bodies, head towards the door...

They pass "ROOM SERVICE ATTENDANTS", who carry plastic body
bags, push a service cart, and enter to clean up the mess...

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)
The jobs I'm sending you on are top-
priority and off the books.

ETHAN
So I'm a freelancer now, no ties to
you or the Director?

VIVI
Keeps it all clean and tidy.

55 INT. ELEVATOR - HOTEL - RIDING DOWN

55

Ethan and Vivi step inside, slide the metal door shut. He contemplates the offer.

ETHAN

I'll need a significant raise...
(off her look)
I want to leave Zooey more than
my shit pension.

VIVI

Are we negotiating..? Because
your treatments alone will cost
me a fortune.

ETHAN

In that case fifty-grand a head
shouldn't be a problem.

VIVI

I can close at twenty-five. But
I'll cap you at a dozen kills.

ETHAN

A dozen..?

VIVI

We've all been asked to tighten
our belts.

ETHAN

And I'll need a million dollar
life insurance policy... Take
it or leave it.

VIVI

I'll take it all. I like the
package.

Vivi slowly leans in to kiss Ethan who steps back.

ETHAN

Don't take this the wrong way,
Viv. But you're not my type.

VIVI

Why don't you wait until you
get to know me?

ETHAN

Because my father always warned me.
Labor and management don't mix.

VIVI

Don't dismiss me so quickly.

Vivi stops the elevator, takes out the vial filled with green liquid... Begins to fill up the syringe.

ETHAN
(through his cough)
What the hell are you doing?

VIVI
I'm shooting you up with this green
junk!

ETHAN
Are you sure it works?

Vivi reaches for Ethan's arm, but he quickly pulls it back.

VIVI
No... But I'm sure you'll be dead
in a month if you don't try it.

Ethan breaks into a sweat... No choice.

Vivi locates the biggest vein in Ethan's arm and plunges in the needle.

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)
Stay calm and breath, *chéri*.
You're about to shut down for 30
seconds while...

Vivi's voice momentarily fades away...

Ethan feels a tingling sensation run through his veins. He hears the loud echo of his heart amplified throughout.

He goes rigid, unable to move. Vivi comes very close, until she can feel his breath.

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)
(strokes his face)
One way or another, I will make you
feel better.

Taking advantage of his temporary immobility, VIVI runs her tongue along Ethan's lips.

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)
(sultry)
Give me a week and you'll never
want to leave me.

INT - AUDI - NIGHT

The Audi parks up outside Christine's building. Ethan looks dazed, but with a little more color in his face.

He gets out and grabs his bike from the back.

He takes the thick medical manual. Vivi tosses him the bag with tuna.

VIVI

Don't forget to soak the fish.

Ethan watches Vivi speed off and disappear into the night...

He places the bike on his shoulder, and go in the building.

57 INT. APARTMENT STAIRS - NIGHT

57

When Ethan arrives outside the front door, he hears Zooey's piercing scream from inside the apartment.

He reaches the front door... Jacks a bullet into his gun...

58 INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

58

Ethan bursts in, desperately searches the rooms for Zooey...

ETHAN

Zooey!

When he hears another anguished cry coming from inside the bathroom.

Ethan struggles with the bathroom door, but it's locked..!

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)

Zooey... Are you Okay..?

ZOOEY

NO!!! I'M NOT OKAY!

Ethan hides his gun and breaks down the door...

Zooey turns in tears.... Holding a flat iron... Her hair stick straight and completely fried.

ZOOEY (cont'd) (CONT'D)

Look at this! Does this look okay to you?

Ethan a bit confused. Never witnessed a teen anxiety attack before...

ETHAN

You mean... Your hair?

ZOOEY

Yes, my hair!

Ethan stares at Zooey's hair which is a complete disaster.

ETHAN

It looks... Awesome.

ZOOEY

Really..? You think this hair
should go to the prom, Ethan?

ETHAN

If you're going, might as well
take it with you...

(off her look)

I mean maybe we can fix your hair.

ZOOEY

You! You can fix this..?

Zooey takes in her image and lets out another anguished cry.

ETHAN

Well no... But you can wash
it, and sleep on it, and tomorrow
it will be back to normal.

ZOOEY

Give me a few seconds on the net.
Some moron must have opened up
hairhelpline.com!

ETHAN

Yeah... Sure. Now how about
we make some dinner?

ZOOEY

Yeah... Sure... Frazzled hair --
nothing better to give you an
appetite!

She quickly disappears into her room... He feels a sense of
pride at managing her anxiety attack.

ETHAN

(calls after her)

Your hair is beautiful, sweetie.

Ethan takes out the tuna, and begins to prepare dinner...

CHRISTINE (O.C.)

If you're going to be three hours
late, don't offer to cook dinner.

He turns to Christine who carries two bags of take-out...

ETHAN

Look, I'm sorry, Tina. But I'm...

CHRISTINE

Save it. I was crazy to think I
could count on you...

(MORE)

CHRISTINE (CONT'D)
(laughs to herself)
I wanted to ask you to watch Zooley
while I go to London...

ETHAN
What..?

CHRISTINE
They need me to close with a donor
who wants to write a check.

Ethan is filled with excitement-dread at the very prospect.

ETHAN
No. You go. I can handle it.

CHRISTINE
You can't handle making dinner.
So how are you going to manage
a teenager..?

ETHAN
(proudly)
How about I just defused a major
meltdown... Her hair.

Christine shrugs at Ethan, and dials her cell.

CHRISTINE
I have to catch the first flight
out. I'm calling a sitter.

ETHAN
Look... I was late because I
found a doctor who can help me...

CHRISTINE
What..?

ETHAN
There's a Specialist here in Paris,
who has an experimental drug she's
willing to test on me.

CHRISTINE
Experimental..? What exactly does
that mean?

ETHAN
It means I might be able to
spend a little more time with you
and Zooley.

Christine softens, and lowers her cell...

CHRISTINE
You should have called, Ethan.
Because I was ready to kill you.

ETHAN
How about I grill us this tuna?

CHRISTINE
Tuna..?

Christine opens a box of take-out, hands Ethan tofu-veggies.

CHRISTINE (cont'd) (CONT'D)
With all that mercury..? No
thanks.

59 INT. DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

59

Ethan eats his tuna with a knife and fork... He looks up at Zooey, (head wrapped in a towel), and Christine who eat tofu take-out with chopsticks.

Ethan and Christine lock eyes for a moment, continue eating in silence.

ZOOEY
What..?

They stare at each other again. He smiles and she begins to laugh. Soon they're both cracking up.

ZOOEY (cont'd) (CONT'D)
(rolls her eyes)
Great being back together.
Because this is so normal.

ETHAN
(laughs)
Sorry! I'm not laughing at you!

ZOOEY
Why? Do I usually make you laugh?!

Ethan and Christine can't stop giggling.

ETHAN
No! Seriously! I'm just so pleased
to be here with you guys, that's
all!

Their laughter tails off and gives way to emotion.

61 INT. APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

61

Ethan passes the kitchen door frame. Runs his fingers over the date marks where he once measured Zooey's height.

He turns to find Christine in her nightgown. She hands him sheets, a pillow and blankets.

CHRISTINE

I hope the sofa's comfortable.

ETHAN

Better than a cot in Karachi.

Ethan can't help but stare at the light shining through her nightgown.

CHRISTINE

Do you want something to help you sleep?

ETHAN

Yeah... I think I'm going to need it now.

Christine catches Ethan's gaze, she steps out of the light a bit embarrassed. She tosses the pillow at him.

CHRISTINE

Good night.

Ethan enjoys the view as Christine turns, walks back to her bedroom.

LATER :

Ethan is laying on his couch when suddenly... he hears the echo of his heart amplified throughout... Ethan is overwhelmed by dizziness.

Ethan stumbles back and falls from the couch... He opens the manual and puts his fingers on a page, but **all the letters start falling off and the room starts spinning. Ethan is laid flat on the wall.** He fumbles for his cell and dials...

VIVI

I knew you'd call. I'm at 13, Rue de Cossett.

ETHAN

What the hell did you give me?

VIVI

You're not coming over?

ETHAN

No! Impossible! I'm dizzy, my head is spinning!

VIVI

Read the manual.

ETHAN

(losing his temper)
I'm trying! But all the letters are falling out!

VIVI
You need glucose.

ETHAN
Glucose?

VIVI
Martini, Vodka, Whisky, whatever.
Grab a bottle and down it. You need
at least 2-3 liters.

ETHAN
Are you serious?

VIVI
Otherwise, dial 18 for a doctor!

Vivi hangs up.

Ethan walks **along the wall** to the kitchen, where he finds the drinks cabinet. It's huge. Every time he reaches in for a bottle, they all shrink back. Eventually, he topples into the cabinet, surrounded by dozens of bottles of booze.

He opens them up and glugs them down until he loses consciousness.

SEQ. INT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ethan is fast asleep on the couch.

Christine hurries past on her way to the kitchen.

CHRISTINE
Morning, Ethan!

Ethan wakes with a start. He hurriedly shoves the empty bottles of booze under the couch.

CHRISTINE (cont'd) (CONT'D)
(from the kitchen)
Sleep well?

ETHAN
Like a log.

Christine reappears and hands him a long detailed list with instructions.

CHRISTINE
You can call me any time.
Because there's only a one hour
difference between Paris and
London.

ETHAN

OK... And I guess you can call me too... Because I'll only be an hour ahead of you.

CHRISTINE

Right. Good point.

Christine can't help but smile at Ethan who leads her to the door...

Rushes back to Zooey's door which has a sign "Keep Out!"

CHRISTINE (cont'd) (CONT'D)

Bye, sweetie. I'm running...
Late. I'll see you in a couple of days. You're father has a list...

ZOOEY (O.C.)

Byeeeeeee, mom.

Christine rushes for the door. She turns back to him...

CHRISTINE

You're sure you'll be okay?

ETHAN

(still woozy)
No sweat! I never felt better!

CHRISTINE

I don't really want to go... but I guess it'll be good for you two to have some time together, huh?

ETHAN

That's all I need right now. My daughter... and some hot coffee!

CHRISTINE

There's a fresh pot in the kitchen.

Christine gives Ethan a kiss and rushes down the stairs with her bags.

Ethan stretches. He aches all over.

ETHAN

Zooey? What do you have for breakfast? How about I make pancakes?

He pours himself some coffee, and tries not to spit it out, when...

ZOOEY ENTERS, HER LONG HAIR CHOPPED OFF AND **PAINTED RED!**

Ethan just stands there and looks at her for a long while...

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)
 So... Wow... It...

ZOOEY
 No wisecracks, please! Look before
 you judge!

Ethan steals a glance out the window, and spots Christine get
 into a cab that speeds off for the airport.

He turns to Zooey who checks her hair in a mirror. Realizes
 he's all alone on this one.

ETHAN
 Er... pancakes?

ZOOEY
 Sorry... Mom and I don't do
 gluten or sugar anymore.

ETHAN
 It's a... unexpected!

ZOOEY
 Good!

Ethan watches Zooey grab a banana and rush off to school.

66 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

66

Ethan rushes out carrying the bike... Catches up with Zooey
 who nervously fidgets with her red hair.

ETHAN
 Don't you want to ride your bike
 to school?

ZOOEY
 You think Hugh is going to like
 my hair color?

ETHAN
 Yes, I do.

ZOOEY
 Really?

ETHAN
 Yes.

ZOOEY
 You think he'll really love it?

ETHAN
 If he cares about you he will.

ZOOEY

So you don't love it?

ETHAN

(head spinning)

No. I mean yes... I really love it, Zooey.

ZOOEY

Awesome.

Zooey runs and joins her friends who are heading to school.

Holding her purple bike, Ethan watches his daughter happily showing off her new haircut to her friends.

Ethan's emotion is interrupted by a violent coughing fit that forces him to sit on a bench. He takes deep breaths, gradually recovering control when...

Vivi pulls up in her Audi convertible and obstructs the view.

VIVI

Want a ride to work, *cherie*?

ETHAN

You don't believe in the customary 48 hour window between kills?

VIVI

Not when we have three days to finish the job!

ETHAN

Why the hell didn't you tell me about the side effects?

VIVI

If only lab rats could talk, now get in the car.

ETHAN

I'm not getting in... Not until you tell me more about this drug.

VIVI

(sighs)

It's all in the book. Unless you keep your heart rate low, this junk will act like a hallucinogen. So stay calm and everything will be fine.

ETHAN

Kind of hard with the job you got me doing.

Vivi holds up the green vial in front of Ethan... Shakes it with a smile.

VIVI
Time's not on your side, cherie.
Now get in the car we are already
late...

Ethan doesn't really have a choice.

68

INT. AUDI - DAY

68

Vivi speeds through a busy intersection.

VIVI
I want you to locate an Italian
accountant named Guido, who cooks
the books for the Albino.

ETHAN
The Albino? He's still around?

VIVI
Did you forget.. You let him get
away.

Vivi pulls out her iPhone, shows Ethan several photos of a well-dressed ACCOUNTANT.

ETHAN
You want me to kill his bookkeeper?

VIVI
No. I want you to convince him to
hand over his books... Then I
want you to kill him.

ETHAN
Since when did we start going
after their money?

VIVI
What's the point of killing the
bad guys if their money continues
earning interest?

Vivi shifts gears, and speeds through a busy intersection...

ETHAN
And how am I supposed to locate
this guy?

VIVI
With the help of this man. His
name's Mitat Yilmaz...

She plays surveillance footage on her iPhone that features a MAN WITH A THICK MUSTACHE.

VIVI (CONT'D)
He runs a limo service that caters
to the Albino. Get to know him...
He'll lead you to the Accountant.

Vivi swings up to a curb, stops with in front of "Mitat's Garage". Ethan steps out with his bike.

VIVI (CONT'D)
Lose the bike and buy a better
suit.

ETHAN
Why..?

VIVI
Because I like my boys better
dressed than the men they kill.

Vivi burns rubber.

69 INT. OFFICE - MITAT'S LIMO SERVICE - DAY

69

Ethan sits across from LOUIS and JACQUES, two hairy goons in expensive tailored suits.

LOUIS
(thick accent)
You understand, we are a luxury
car service.

Ethan nods at the goons who stare at his rumpled suit.

ETHAN
That's why I'm here. I need some
luxury in my life!

JACQUES
How did you come to hear of us?

ETHAN
An Albino told me.

LOUIS
Did he also tell you we offer
discreet luxury?

ETHAN
He said not to talk to the hired
help. Talk to the boss.

LOUIS
We are not the help. We are
executive Vice Presidents of sales!

ETHAN

Really?

JACQUES

Listen asshole, you are nobody to us. You will never meet the boss. Understand..?

Jacques and Louis pull out glocks and aim them at Ethan.

ETHAN

You want to bet?

70 INT. GARAGE - MITAT'S LIMO SERVICE - DAY 70

A black towncar screeches to a stop, MITAT YILMAZ steps out, holding a framed photo of himself and his TWIN DAUGHTERS.

He scratches his thick mustache and cleans a smudge of dirt off the hood...

71 INT. OFFICE - MITAT'S LIMO SERVICE - DAY 71

Mitat enters, surprised to find Ethan sitting behind his desk.

MITAT

(thick accent)

You are a very rude man to sit behind my desk without an invitation, Mr....?

ETHAN

Why are names important right now?

MITAT

Because I don't want to kill a total stranger.

ETHAN

What do you going to kill me for?

MITAT

You are sitting in my chair.

ETHAN

I'm just waiting for you, Mitat.

Mitat notices Jacques and Louis, twisted like pretzels in the corner, and the gun with its long silencer lying on the table, within easy reach of Ethan's hand. He realizes he's fucked.

MITAT
Are they dead..?

ETHAN
More than likely.

Mitat replaces the framed photo of his daughters on the desk with a new one.

MITAT
The Albino sent you, yes..?
Bastard... I have been loyal.
But I knew this day would come.

Ethan picks up the framed photo of Mitat's Twin Daughters.

ETHAN
Are those your daughters in the photo?

MITAT
How dare you look at them...

ETHAN
I'm not looking at them that way. I also have a pretty teenage daughter. So father to father... Your girls ever lock themselves in their room and cut their own hair? Paint it red..?

MITAT
No! Never!

ETHAN
I knew it... I'm in trouble.

MITAT
We have that in common.

ETHAN
Open your safe please.

A relieved Mitat walks to his safe and spins the lock.

MITAT
Why didn't you say you are here to rob me?

ETHAN
Do I look like a thief to you?

Mitat shrugs and nods at Ethan's rumpled suit.

MITAT
Well, yes... Your suit.

Ethan checks his reflection, doesn't see the problem.

He turns to Mitat who's opened the safe and taken out several bundles of cash and hands it to Ethan...

ETHAN

You might as well keep the cash.

MITAT

What...? Why..?

ETHAN

Because we're doing this to give you an alibi.

MITAT

For what..?

ETHAN

For the cops and the Albino...
You're going to have to explain
the dead guys, the stolen cash.
Your abduction. It's got to look
like a typical robbery gone bad.

MITAT

So... The Albino didn't send
you to kill me?

ETHAN

No.

MITAT

Then who are you..?

Just then they hear Louis groan in pain. Ethan turns and puts him out of his misery.

ETHAN

Ethan.

72 SEQ. INT. MITAT'S TOWNCAR - TRAVELING

72

Mitat sits next to Ethan, his hands cuffed to the grab-handle.

Ethan adjusts the mirrors... Sets the heat to his seat and resets Mitat's Turkish and Arabic radio to jazz and rock...

Enjoys driving his polished wheels through the city.

INT. ETHAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ethan leads in Mitat, whose hands are tied. Pushes him into the bathroom... Turns to Abduh who looks at him.

ETHAN
I'm going to have a conversation
with this man in the bathroom...
And I do not want to be disturbed.
You understand?

ABDUH
Yes.

Ethan glances at the very pregnant Sumia. They exchange a smile.

ABDUH (CONT'D)
He's a bad guy?

ETHAN
Yes.

ABDUH
And you are a good guy?

ETHAN
Yes... Kind of...

He enters the bathroom and slams the door behind him.

73 INT. BATHROOM - APARTMENT - DAY

73

Mitat tied to the toilet as Ethan slams him repeatedly with the butt of his gun...

ETHAN
Now where's the accountant?

Mitat shakes his head. Ethan about to punch him again.

MITAT
Not in the face. I don't want
my family to worry.

Ethan contemplates the request... He steps back, put a towel around his fist, that will leave no marks, and lashes it against Mitat's rib cage.

MITAT (CONT'D)
(grimaces in pain)
You are a professional...
Why have I never seen you in
Paris before?

ETHAN
I've been away on business...
For five years.

MITAT

What is so important that you
leave your daughter for so long?

And this catches Ethan totally by surprise. He just stares
at Mitat for a long moment... and sits on the toilet.

ETHAN

I was never good at balancing
work and family.

MITAT

When I go home this life, the
killing, the rest... It all
disappears...

ETHAN

I made the wrong choice leaving.

MITAT

Every day I bring my girls to
school and have dinner with my
family...

ETHAN

So let's not miss dinner tonight,
Mitat... When is the accountant
arriving to Paris?

MITAT

Please remind me, who is he again?

CUT TO:

Ethan slams Mitat's rib cage... Again, again and again...

Out of breath, Ethan takes a break.

ETHAN

I'm impressed, Mitat... But you
won't get out of here until I have
answers to my questions.

Suddenly the hacking cough comes back with a vengeance.
Ethan staggers back and removes the syringe and the vile from
his jacket pocket. He begins to fill the syringe.

MITAT

(staring at the vile)
Are you sick?

ETHAN

Yes. Very.

MITAT

Is it contagious?

ETHAN

If only rats could talk.

Ethan searches for a vein in his arm, finds it, and starts injecting.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Now if you'll excuse me I'm going
to be out of order for a few
seconds.

Ethan convulses briefly before freezing. Mitat is left to watch a small amount of drool running down from Ethan's mouth. It's an awkward situation.

Ethan's cell rings... He checks caller ID - it's the American School.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

(his voice coming back
slowly)

Yes, yes, I'm Zooey's father. Is
she alright...? I'm at work...
No... I'll be there right away.
(à Mitat)
I gotta go. An emergency. I'll be
right back.

Ethan opens the door and sees Abduh sitting on a chair with a huge kitchen knife in his hand.

ABDUH

I'll make him talk if you want.

Ethan looks at Abduh, then Mitat, who stares at the kid with the knife.

75 INT. THE AMERICAN SCHOOL - DAY

75

Ethan walks through a maze of multi-tasking TEENAGERS... He approaches Zooey who sits outside the Principal's door. She rolls her eyes at him.

ETHAN

Everything ok sweetie?

ZOOEY

Guess.

76 INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - THE AMERICAN SCHOOL - DAY

76

Ethan and Zooey sit across from the PRINCIPAL, a very stern-faced educator bent on making the world a better place.

PRINCIPAL

Study after study has shown
that aggression is exacerbated by
violent images in popular culture.

ETHAN

Zooey's mother raised her as a
pacifist.

PRINCIPAL

Hitting a classmate in the face
is hardly a passive response.

ETHAN

With an open hand or a clenched
fist?

PRINCIPAL

What difference does it make?

ETHAN

Well from my experience... Anger,
frustration, insult. They all call
for different responses...

Zooey and the Principal stare at Ethan, like what the fuck?

ETHAN (CONT'D)

What I mean is... We can tell
how Zooey was feeling by how she
administered the blow. Get to
the bottom of her aggression...

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Renner... It is extremely
important to send your daughter a
clear message that no matter what
she confronts in life, violence is
not an acceptable answer.

ETHAN

Yes for sure, you're absolutely
right Madam.

Ethan reaches for Zooey's hand but she quickly pulls it back.

77

EXT. THE AMERICAN SCHOOL - DAY

77

Ethan catches up with Zooey who stomps out... He spins her
around.

ZOOEY

If that wasn't so weird it would
be really embarrassing, Ethan.

ETHAN

Here... Let me see your hand?

Zooey gives her hand to Ethan. He gently rubs her knuckles.

ZOOEY
Ouch... My thumb.

ETHAN
If you're going to hit someone
with a closed fist. Make sure
not to tuck in your thumb.

ZOOEY
(pulls her hand back)
You've been gone for five years
and this is what you have to say
to me.?

Ethan leads Zooey to Mitat's shiny towncar, the purple bike
in the back seat. She turns to him...

ZOOEY (CONT'D)
Oh, God!

ETHAN
I borrowed it from my boss. I
wasn't planning on picking you up!

ZOOEY
(rolls her eyes)
Okay... Whatever. Just make tracks
fast. Please!

78 INT. TOWNCAR - TRAVELING

78

Zooey holds her hand up to the side of her face so nobody
will recognize her through the window.

ETHAN
(grins)
Don't you like riding in a limo?

ZOOEY
Not in the front seat. With you
driving, and a purple bike in the
back.

Suddenly they hear a loud bang coming from inside the trunk.

Ethan quickly turns on the radio... It plays Middle Eastern
music. He flips through the dials and soft rock begins the
play...

ZOOEY (CONT'D)
I'm plugging in my iPod, this
sucks.

ETHAN
What do you got?

ZOOEY
Like 30,000 songs.

Zooey plugs in her Ipod. Vampire Weekend sings "Taxi Cab".

ETHAN
I like this, who are these guys?

ZOOEY
Do you even care why I got into
a fight?

ETHAN
I thought I'd spare you the "father
knows best" lecture.

ZOOEY
Who says father knows best?

ETHAN
Robert Young.

Zooey rolls her eyes as Ethan... He turns up the music to
drown out yet another bang coming from the trunk.

They talk loudly over the music.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
I love this part... What's the
words to the chorus?

Zooey turns the volume down.

ZOOEY
Why don't you just listen to me
and try to understand.

ETHAN
Okay... Tell me all about it.

ZOOEY
I have a new friend from Pakistan.
And this obnoxious British girl is
always calling her a Paki. And
today she put bacon in her locker.
So I hit her in the face...

ETHAN
Well, she won't do that again.

Once again they hear loud banging coming from the trunk.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Just give me a second sweetie.
Sounds like the spare's loose
in the trunk.

79 EXT. TOWNCAR - DAY

79

Ethan opens the trunk and stares down at a gagged Mitat who's loosened the duct tape, and is now kicking with his feet.

ETHAN

Hey... I'm trying to have a conversation with my daughter.

Ethan knocks out Mitat, not once but twice. Slams the trunk.

80 INT. TOWNCAR - TRAVELING

80

Ethan gets back inside and pulls into the street. He turns to Zooney who stares directly at him...

ETHAN

I'm sorry sweetie. Where were we? Punching the girl, right?

ZOONEY

So you're not mad at me?

ETHAN

No, I think you stuck up for your friend. I'm proud of you.

ZOONEY

But it's wrong... It's not okay to hit someone. I feel really bad.

ETHAN

Well don't...

(off her look)

Because sometimes it's the only way to stop a bad guy.

Zooney just shakes her head at Ethan, and pulls out her iPod.

ZOONEY

Don't you need to go back to work? Sell something somewhere?

ETHAN

I was hoping we could go shopping. Maybe get stuff for dinner. I'd like us to start having meals together.

Zooney steps out of the car...

ZOONEY

Whatever. I'm taking the metro...
(off his hacking cough)
And Ethan, you might want to take something for that cough... It's really annoying.

Ethan slumps in his seat, watches Zooey disappear down the metro steps. He hears loud banging coming from the trunk.

ETHAN
Alright, alright, I'm coming!

81 EXT. TOWNCAR - PARKED IN AN ABANDONED PARKING LOT 81

Ethan opens the hood, attaches two long electrical cords to the car battery. He pops open the trunk, rips the tape from Mitat's ears...

ETHAN
You owe me Mitat, I could've left you with my African friends. And you'd be dying to talk.

MITAT
So why didn't you..?

ETHAN
Because the kid thinks I'm a good guy.

Ethan rubs the end of the two electrical cords that spark...

MITAT
Not from where I am sitting.

Ethan about to attach the cords to Mitat's ears, when his cell rings. He checks caller I.D. -- it's Zooey again!

ETHAN
It's my daughter... Zooey...

Takes a deep breath and answers the call.

ZOOEY
Sorry about earlier...

ETHAN
That's OK. I... I feel sorry too...

ZOOEY
But I was wondering... Favorite place to hang out after school?

Ethan can't hide the grin from his face. Checks his watch...

ETHAN
I'll wrap my sales meeting and meet you there, sweetie.

ZOOEY
4 PM?

ETHAN

Perfect!

He hangs up and turns to Mitat.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

She just invited me to "hang out".
What do you think about that?

MITAT

A girl like this will keep you
running in circles. You need to
draw the line, not be so soft.

ETHAN

You're right... I have been way
too soft.

Turns up the juice. Mitat convulses...

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)

I am not missing quality time
with my kid because you won't
talk.

Ethan cranks the dial to the max... Mitat spasms, and foams
at the mouth.

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)

Now where do I find the Albino's
accountant?

MITAT

Royal! Royal Monceau!! Hotel!!!

ETHAN

What room?

MITAT

...6... 0... 2.

Ethan pulls away the cords, opens a bottle of water, pours a
little on his face. Let's him drink the rest. He gives Mitat
a hand out of the trunk, tosses him his keys.

MITAT (CONT'D)

Why don't you kill me?

ETHAN

Because you need to go report
a robbery.

Mitat leans against the car, his body still shaking. Watches
Ethan quickly ride off on his purple bike.

82 INT. LOBBY - ROYAL MONCEAU HOTEL - DAY 82

Ethan strides across the lobby and onto an elevator.

83 INT. ELEVATOR - ROYAL MONCEAU HOTEL - RIDING UP 83

Ethan screws a silencer on his gun as the elevator stops at the sixth floor. The doors slide open...

Ethan stays inside the elevator and shatters the mirror with the butt of his gun. He takes a small piece of glass and uses it to scope the corridor. He sees one CCTV camera on the ceiling. Using the mirror to aim, he sticks his gun out and shoots the camera.

INT. COULOIR - 6TH FLOOR

Ethan heads down a hallway, his gun behind him tucked into his waistband.

At the far end, a bodyguard stands outside room 602.

The guard stares at Ethan, who approaches, smiling. Suddenly his cell rings. Ethan stops to answer it.

ETHAN

Yes, sweetie?

ZOOEY

What are you doing? I'm waiting for you here.

ETHAN

(glances at his watch)

You said 4. It's a quarter to.

ZOOEY

Yes, but I'm worried it'll be too late then. I have work to do.

ETHAN

Give me ten minutes. I think I can be done in ten minutes!

ZOOEY

Forget it, we can do it another day.

ETHAN

Zooey!... Stay right where you are. I'll be there in five minutes!

He hangs up and smiles at the guard.

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)

Kids!

The guard doesn't bat an eye.

Ethan checks his jacket is covering his gun, turns and walks away.

EXT. ROYAL MONCEAU HOTEL - DAY

Ethan gets on his bike and pedals toward the Carousel du Louvre...

86

EXT. CAROUSEL DU LOUVRE - SPINNING ROUND AND ROUND

86

Zooey paces impatiently, when Ethan speeds up on his purple bike. He hits the brakes and skids to a stop next to her...

ETHAN

(out of breath)

Sorry, sweetie... Had a tough client I couldn't close.

ZOOEY

Well I hope you didn't lose him because of me.

ETHAN

No, no. I... I'll catch him later.

The Carousel comes to a stop. TOURISTS, KIDS and PARENTS step off as others get on...

Ethan turns to Zooey who's texting. He points at Dumbo...

ETHAN (CONT'D)

We better get on before that kid takes your place.

ZOOEY

Very funny, Ethan.

ETHAN

Or would the princess rather take a seat in the carriage?

ZOOEY

(smiles)

The carriage!

CUT TO:

They're both sitting in a carriage as the carousel spins round.

ZOOEY (CONT'D)

This carousel is almost my only memory of you...

ETHAN

I have plenty more.

ZOOEY

Do you think your brain erases them
to ease the pain?

ETHAN

I don't know, but... I found a
whole box of home movies we made
when you were little. Maybe we
could try to refresh your memory?

ZOOEY

I don't know. Maybe... I'm more
interested in the future than the
past. The future's magical. Anything
could happen tomorrow. Where will
we be in a month? In a year?

ETHAN

(squirms)

Yeah...

Ethan's cell vibrates. He checks caller ID: Vivi. He doesn't
take the call.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

And in five minutes?

Zooey smiles and wonder.

ZOOEY

That's easy...

89 INT. CAFE ANJELINA - DAY

89

A WAITRESS places two cups of steaming, thick chocolate on a
tray. She passes FAMILIES and LOVERS eating cake and sipping
coffee...

Places the cups on a table where Zooey sits faces Ethan.

Ethan tries to smother a coughing fit.

ZOOEY

What's going on, Ethan..?

ETHAN

It's some flu I picked up, and
can't shake off.

Ethan downs a glass of water. It helps a little bit.

ZOOEY

What if it's something worse...

ETHAN

It's nothing worse!

ZOOEY

Well what if it is. I think you need to learn how to breathe.

ETHAN

What are you talking about?

ZOOEY

Yoga, Ethan. It's been curing stuff since the beginning of time.

Ethan smiles, sips from his hot chocolate.

ETHAN

Hey, you remember drinking hot coco at the beach house?

ZOOEY

No...

ETHAN

We'd make hot cocoa and stand out there in the surf for hours...

(turns to Zooey)

I always wanted to go back there. Move in and make it our home.

ZOOEY

More than Pittsburg..? Really?

ETHAN

Yes. Really. Hey? How about we make dinner and watch those old movies tonight?

ZOOEY

Yeah. That would be awesome.

Ethan can't hide the grin from his face.

ZOOEY (cont'd) (CONT'D)

But wait... I forgot. I have to go to Karina's tonight.

ETHAN

Who..?

ZOOEY

Karina... She's my lab partner, and we have to finish our science project. I'm going to sleep over.

ETHAN

Yeah. Sounds good... But
shouldn't I talk to her parents
first?

ZOOEY

Sure, but do you speak Russian..?
That's all her parents understand.
(off his look)
Call mom, she'll tell you it's
cool.

ETHAN

I don't need to call your mother.

Zooey kisses Ethan on the cheeks. She gets up and slings the
backpack over her shoulder...

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You're not finishing your hot
chocolate?

ZOOEY

No, too much sugar.

Through the café window, he watches Zooey cross the busy
boulevard. She waves without turning and disappears into the
Metro.

Ethan dials Christine's cell, but gets voice-mail instead...

ETHAN

(into cell)

Tina, it's me. Can you believe
Zooey and I just hung out on the
Carousel du Louvre. And had
chocolate at Anjelina. It was her
idea. There was a little drama
with her hair. She chopped it all
off... And dyed it red. But don't
worry, it looks great. She's
sleeping over at Karina's tonight
to finish some project. I would
have called, but you know the
parents are Russian and don't speak
English. Thanks for all this,
Tina. You're a wonderful mother.

Ethan hangs up, finishes off his chocolate.

Suddenly Vivi **sits down opposite** him.

VIVI

What the hell are you doing Ethan?
There is an accountant waiting for
you!

ETHAN

He can wait. My daughter couldn't.

VIVI

He's leaving tomorrow. At 10 a.m. I need it done before.

ETHAN

I'll do it tonight. I'm free tonight.

VIVI

Is that an offer I can't refuse?

Ethan coughs.

ETHAN

My cough's coming back. I need another shot.

Vivi hands him a vial of green liquid.

VIVI

Try to do it outside the hotel. It costs me a fortune every time.

Vivi sips Zooey's hot chocolate.

ETHAN

How did you find me?

VIVI

Your phone. It's rigged. Any other questions?

ETHAN

No.

VIVI

Meet me when it's done.

Vivi finishes Zooey's drink and leaves.

Ethan sighs and drops his phone into his hot chocolate.

93 INT. - ETHAN'S LOFT

93

Ethan arrives home but the apartment is deserted except for Sumia asleep on the couch. Fascinated by her bulging tummy, Ethan goes over.

He delicately strokes Sumia's tummy.

SUMIA

(without opening her eyes)
You feel that?

Ethan pulls his hand away. Sumia opens her eyes.

ETHAN
No, not really.

Sumia grabs his hand and positions it on her tummy.

SUMIA
There. Feel it now?

ETHAN
Yes. What was it?

SUMIA
A kick.

ETHAN
Seriously? Does he do that the whole time?!

SUMIA
Every ten seconds.

ETHAN
(grins)
God! He'll grow up to be a soccer player.

SUMIA
I think he's just sick of being in there and wants to come out to discover the world.

ETHAN
He has his whole life ahead of him...

Ethan goes to his room and shuts the door.

He seems a little bit lost. He preps a syringe and gives himself a jab of the green liquid.

His whole body goes rigid for 20 seconds, then gradually goes back to normal. Ethan seems totally despondent. Life's a bitch.

CUT TO:

He opens the steel cabinet and selects some weapons.

CUT TO:

Ethan cleans and reassembles two guns.

CUT TO:

Ethan studies a map of Paris and circles the Accountant's hotel.

CUT TO:

Ethan slips on a very slender bulletproof vest.

CUT TO:

Ethan comes out of his room with a bulging sports bag. Jules and his family are all home and sitting down to dinner.

JULES

Hey, Ethan! You want to eat with us?

ETHAN

No, thanks. Some other time, maybe.

Ethan leaves the apartment.

EXT. STREET PARIS

In a cab, Ethan gazes out at the City of Lights.

Paris is magnificent, buzzing with life and promise...

94 INT. CHRISTINE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

94

ETHAN enters. It's the first time he's been alone here.

He heads into his daughter's room.

He opens a jewelry box that begins to play a pretty tune, the ballerina spins round and round.

Ethan's heart warms as he stares at stuffed animals scattered around; posters of bunnies and horses; teen books on a shelf; and a handmade seashell mobile...

FLASH:

Young Ethan is building the mobile on the beach for young Zooey.

END OF FLASH:

Ethan goes into the living room and notices the answering machine flashing. He hits Play.

CHRISTINE (OFF)

Ethan, I hope you get this message. I tried calling your cell a dozen times but it was dead. Listen, I'm thrilled it's all going so well.

(MORE)

CHRISTINE (OFF) (CONT'D)
But who's Karina? I never heard of
her or her Russian parents!?

Ethan scowls as he takes in the room again. But this time he notices; posters of bare-chested rappers; sexy lingerie panty and bra set on a chair...

Ethan turns on Zooey's computer, which bursts out a grinding rap. He hacks into her facebook...

Scans revealing photos and salacious messages... He tries to figure out who his daughter has become and where the hell she might be.

He repeatedly calls Zooey, but all he gets is voicemail.

Ethan fixates on an image of a spider that's been posted on her Facebook wall with the message, "meet outside ink."

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Ethan rides the bicycle along various boulevards... As terrified as the father of any lying, missing teen would be.

His jaw drops when he pulls up to a grungy tattoo parlor.

INT. INK TATTOO PARLOR - NIGHT

Ethan passes through a mixture of HIPSTERS, GYPSIES and BADASS TATTOO ARTISTS jamming to French rap. He questions them all, but no one will speak to him in English.

Ethan brushes past an OLD MAN and a YOUNG GIRL who are making out. Stops. Walks back. Kicks the Old Man out the back door...

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Ethan looks around. Nothing besides an old Fiat under a streetlight... He's about to leave when he spots a familiar backpack in the front seat.

EXT. FIAT - NIGHT

Ethan breaks the car window with the butt of his gun. Pulls out Zooey's backpack from the front seat.

He picks through her street clothes, and a make-up bag...

Finds a flyer with a spider motif (same image as on Zooey's Facebook page). He has no clue what it means or where to begin his search.

EXT. MITAT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ethan repeatedly knocks on the door. Mitat stares past the chain lock.

MITAT
You know the rule. Never involve family.

ETHAN
It's not business. It's a father to father type of visit. I need your help, Mitat.

Mitat shuts the door and bolts the lock...

Ethan pulls out his gun, takes a deep **breath, breaks through.** So that he and Mitat are aiming guns at each other.

MITAT
It's dinner time!

ETHAN
I'm sorry to bother you. But I have no one to turn to.

MITAT
What do you want?

ETHAN
I have a serious problem with my daughter, Zooey.

MITAT
You have been gone five years, and you did not expect trouble? I can not help you.

MITAT'S WIFE
Honey?

MITAT
I'm coming!
(beat)
Tell me you are gone in five minutes?!

ETHAN
Less than that.

Mitat and Ethan saunter into the dining room like two old friends.

Mitat's wife and 15-year-old twin girls are having dinner.

MITAT
This is a friend from work.

ETHAN

Ethan. I'm terribly sorry to barge in on you in the middle of dinner, but I have a problem with my daughter and Mitat is the best father I know.

MITAT'S WIFE

(kindly)

Don't worry about it. What's the problem?

ETHAN

(to the twins)

Actually, you're the one who could help me, girls. Tell me, where would a 16-year-old go to party on a school night?

MITAT

They are good girls. And they do not party... On weekdays or weekends.

Ethan takes out the flyer with the spider motif that he found inside the Fiat.

He hands it to the Twins who glance nervously at Mitat.

ETHAN

But if you did party...
Where would you be tonight?

MITAT

This is why you stay home and have dinner with her.

ETHAN

You're right, Mitat. I should have listened to you. But right now she's missing and I'm worried...
(turns to the Twins)
Why would she lie to me? What does this spider mean?

TWIN GIRL #1

Des Soirees House.

Mitat glares in disappointment at his daughters.

MITAT

(in French)

How the hell do you know about this place?

TWIN GIRL #1

We've never been there, father!

TWIN GIRL #2
Everyone talks about it at school.

ETHAN
What is that exactly?

102 EXT. DES SOIREES HOUSE - NIGHT 102

A 350 POUND, 6'7, BOUNCER keeps HUNDREDS OF RAVERS from entering.

Ethan walks through the crowd, his silenced gun by his side. Pushes his way to the Bouncer and without a word shoots him in the foot..!

The KIDS look down at the Bouncer who screams in agony.

KID
(in French)
Help... Call an ambulance!

Everyone screams and scatters, allowing Ethan to slip in.

103 INT. DES SOIREES HOUSE - NIGHT 103

A rave in full swing. The D.J. stands behind a mixing desk bearing a large banner with the spider motif.

Champagne poured into glasses, powdered rufie mixed in, and a cherry dropped on top.

The glasses are placed on a tray that works its way through hundreds of teens... Sweating, dancing wildly, and making-out.

The drinks reach a table where Zooey parties with her new friend -- a DOUCHEBAG who encourages her to slug it down.

104 ETHAN DESPERATELY SEARCHES FOR ZOOEY 104

Lost in a maze of kids and battling the effect of the strobe lights.

A guy discreetly drops a pill into Zooey's drink.

Finally, Ethan spots Zooey in the distance, downing the glass of drugged champagne. She gets up, dances and grinds with the Douchebag...

Ethan tries reaching her, but he's caught up in a psychedelic nightmare. His head spins and the room seems to get bigger and bigger.

Ethan doesn't know if he's hallucinating or if all these young women are really swarming around him like this. One of them pulls him in for a kiss, then another...

Ethan reaches into his waistband for his gun, but it's gone.

He spots a laughing girl playing with his gun. She disappears into the crowd.

Ethan is stunned, but chooses to chase after his daughter rather than his gun.

CUT TO:

The Douchebag lead Zooey into the bathroom. Followed by TWO OF HIS DOUCHEBAG FRIENDS...

105 INT. BATHROOM - DES SOIREES HOUSE - DAY

105

Zooey giggles, while the Douchebag and his Friends unbutton her shirt and tug at her dress...

She grows increasingly uncomfortable, tries to fight back but she's losing consciousness.

Ethan stumbles inside to find Zooey and the Douchebag sliding down the wall.

The echo of his pounding heart amplifies...

Ethan's sight blurs... Faces melt away and he sees bodies with no faces...

Ethan knocks out the first guy, then the second, but every guy he knocks down seems to split into two opponents and come back at Ethan, like an earthworm cut in half that becomes two separate worms.

Ethan soon finds himself battling around thirty guys. He grabs one guy's head and smashes it against the sink.

Ethan realizes that every time he smashes the guy's head on the porcelain, one of his opponents disappears.

Ethan keeps going, pumping the head against the sink, until he has no opponents left.

His hallucinations fade away. Ethan surveys the carnage: four guys sprawled on the floor, his rambling daughter slumped against the tiles.

CUT TO:

Ethan slips behind the bar and whips up a cocktail of liquid, sugar and salt.

CUT TO:

Back in the bathroom, he forces Zooey to drink the mixture.

ETHAN

Drink this. You'll see, you'll feel
much better afterwards.

Ethan pinches her nose and forces her to swallow the drink.

EXT - DES SOIREES HOUSE - DAWN

Zooey pukes behind a bench where Ethan is seated.

She does look in better shape.

She gathers her wits: the nightclub up ahead, her father on
the bench...

Zooey winces. Opts for attack as the best form of defense.

ZOOEY

What are you doing here?

ETHAN

Better question, what exactly
are you doing here, Zooey?

ZOOEY

This is so embarrassing...
They'll never let me in again.

ETHAN

Why would you want to go back?

ZOOEY

Because I like being here, with my
friends.

ETHAN

Do you even remember what
happened to you? In the bathroom?
Zooey? Your "friends" were on their
way of abusing you!

Zooey can't remember.

She reverts to Plan B. Begins to spin her story.

ZOOEY

What? Karina and I aced the
practice test... So we decided
to hang out with some friends.
What, I really studied?

ETHAN

Do you always study in a Fiat?
Parked in an alley behind a tattoo
parlor?

Ethan tosses the backpack at Zooney who realizes she's busted.

ZOOEY

I've got to catch the metro to school or I'm going to be late.

ETHAN

You're not taking the metro!

ZOOEY

Whaaat..?

ETHAN

And you're not going to school today. Not dressed like that!

Ethan covers Zooney's halter top with his jacket. He forces her to put it on.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You're keeping this on, you're going home, and we're going to have a talk.

ZOOEY

And how am I supposed to get home exactly?

Ethan hands Zooney the purple bicycle.

ETHAN

You're going to ride this bike.

ZOOEY

I don't think so, Ethan.

ETHAN

And I'm going to follow you every step of the way.

ZOOEY

No you're not.

ETHAN

Stop talking, and start walking.

ZOOEY

I thought that's what you wanted to do, Ethan. Talk!

Ethan realizes he can't back down now, he needs to draw the line.

ETHAN

Get... On... This... Bike.

ZOOEY

Or what..?

Ethan grabs Zooey, and pushes the bicycle towards her.

ETHAN

NOW!

Zooey yanks her arm free and tosses the bike on the ground.

ZOOEY

(shouts)

I don't even know how to ride
a bike!

ETHAN

What? Are you kidding?
What kind of kid doesn't know
how to ride a bike?

ZOOEY

(screaming)

The kind who never had a father
to teach her!

And this catches Ethan off guard... He stares at Zooey who fights back her emotions.

Ethan takes her in his arms, and Zooey starts to cry like a little girl.

CUT TO:

107 MONTAGE - ETHAN TEACHES ZOOEY TO RIDE HER BIKE 107

* Ethan runs alongside the purple bicycle and helps Zooey find her balance.

A GROUP OF RETIREES sit on a bench along the Seine, cheering Zooey on.

* Ethan runs alongside Zooey, finally let's the bicycle go. Anxiously watches her pedal until she falls.

They try it again and again and again. Until...

* Ethan let's the bicycle go and to his astonishment, Zooey pedals without stopping...

Zig-zagging on the path until she fades into the distance...

Ethan turns to the Retirees, gives them a thumbs-up, and runs after his daughter.

108 INT. CHRISTINE'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MORNING 108

Ethan and Zooey sit at the table devouring freshly baked croissants.

ETHAN
(mouth full)
Mmm! That's so good!

ZOOEY
Yeah... Where have you been..?

ETHAN
What..?

ZOOEY
Why did you leave us, Ethan..?

ETHAN
Well I traveled a lot... And
your mother and I... I never
stopped loving her. But it wasn't
easy for her. Too much work...
There's no easy answer.

ZOOEY
But why did it take so long for
you to come back? Do you have
another family?

ETHAN
No, sweetie! That's not it...
But the longer I was gone, the
harder it was to come back. And my
employers were very demanding!

Zooey takes another croissant.

ZOOEY
Because you were good at what you
do, maybe?

ETHAN
I guess.

ZOOEY
You ever done, like horrible
things?

ETHAN
(hesitates)
Well... I mean, who hasn't?

ZOOEY
Would you still care about me
if I had, too?

ETHAN
Yes. Of course. Absolutely.

Zooey turns and smiles at Ethan...

ZOOEY

I lie a lot. Like all the time.
About everything... Even when I
don't need to. And I don't know
why.

ETHAN

(ill at ease)
I guess... sometimes it's easier
than telling the truth.

ZOOEY

That girl I punched at school
wasn't teasing a Pakistani friend,
she was hitting on Hugh... But it
doesn't matter because he dumped
me for a soccer game. Now we're
not going to the prom.

Ethan tries hard to hide his relief and delight.

ETHAN

You'll go to the prom next year,
sweetie. To be honest... Hugh
felt like the wrong guy for you.

ZOOEY

(not convinced)
Yeah. Maybe you're right.

Zooey's cellphone rings.

ZOOEY (cont'd) (CONT'D)

It's him!

ETHAN

Who?

ZOOEY

Hugh, of course! What do I do?

ETHAN

You pick up!

Zooey takes a deep breath and answers the phone.

ZOOEY

Hey! What's up?
... that's ok... I don't know...
Let me ask my father.
(à Ethan)
He wants to come by and take me to
school. What do I say?

ETHAN

Well, would you like that?

Zooey smiles and nods.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
So, say yes.

ZOOEY
My father's cool with it. I'll be
downstairs in ten minutes.

She hangs up.

ZOOEY (CONT'D)
Thank you, dad.

Ethan is moved. It's the first time she's called him "Dad."

ZOOEY (CONT'D)
I'll go get changed.

ETHAN
Good idea!

ZOOEY
You should, too. And, please, get a
new suit!

ETHAN
It's my work suit. What the hell's
wrong with it?

ZOOEY
Nothing... except it's totally
fugly.

Zooey scoots off to her room.

ETHAN
Right... fugly?

The phone rings in the living room.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
(smiling)
Hi, Tina.

VIVI (OFF)
Tell me you're not one of those
mommies who's too busy parenting to
be a pro.

Ethan glances at his watch: 8.30 a.m.

ETHAN
You said he was leaving his hotel
at 10.

VIVI
He brought it forward an hour.

ETHAN

Why?

VIVI

I guess he's not enjoying Paris.

ETHAN

Don't worry, I've reced the route.
I'll take care of your Accountant
and get you the documents.

VIVI

You better or you'll have savored
your last shot. I'll be waiting at
the Georges V, room 626.

ETHAN

I'll see you there.

VIVI

I slipped a new telephone into the
mailbox. Same number. Don't throw
it away this time, please.

ETHAN

So give me some space.

VIVI

I'm already buying you time, what
more do you want?

Ethan hangs up. He's gotta fly.

ETHAN

(through Zooey's bedroom
door)

Sweetie? I'm running really late.
I've got to get to work.

ZOOEY (O.S.)

How about we watch those home
movies tonight?

ETHAN

Great idea! Call me when you know
what you want for dinner.

ZOOEY (O.S.)

That's clever.

ETHAN

Thank you.

Ethan grabs his bag and leaves. He hesitates, then calls out
tentatively:

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Love you!

ZOOEY (O.S.)
See you!

ETHAN
(sighs)
... Next time...

Ethan dashes out.

EXT. ALLEYWAY

Ethan takes his new phone out of the mailbox.

114 EXT. CREDIT LYONNAIS BANK - DAY 114

A metal briefcase cuffed to his wrist, the Accountant steps out of the bank surrounded by a DOZEN BODYGUARDS...

They jump into two Escalades, pull out and immediately get struck in traffic...

Ethan watches from the sidewalk opposite as the two SUVs advance slowly.

115 EXT. ESCALADE - STUCK IN TRAFFIC 115

Ethan rides his bike through the traffic towards the SUV. Feels the rush that comes with knowing he's about to enter the shit.

He reaches into his bag and grabs the flare gun...

Ethan stops in front of the SUV, but he can't get through as the large side-mirror is sticking out too far.

He knocks on the SUV window...

ETHAN
Hey... Open up. I can't get around
your mirror. Come on! Open up in
there... Fine asshole!

Ethan flips the driver the bird, snaps the side mirror into the SUV and rides towards the front SUV...

His mind racing... Hoping the plan works.

Ethan stares at the side-mirror of the front SUV and catches the reflection of the DRIVER in the back SUV...

Who's opening the window to readjust his side-mirror.

Ethan pulls the flare gun out of his bag, spins and shoots a flare into the back SUV that quickly fills with smoke...

He pulls a gas mask out of his bag and runs back to the SUV.

Ethan opens the door of the SUV, pulls out the Driver who's passed-out.

Body Guards jump out of the front SUV and open fire...

Ethan uses the bullet proof door as cover, returns fire as he slips on the gas mask.

He jumps into the armored SUV where the Accountant and Body Guards are passed-out... He shifts the SUV into gear as bullets ping off the body.

He crashes into a line of cars that surround him. Until he's cleared a path that allows him through.

Ethan veers onto the sidewalk, smashes through a store window, drives through it and out the back into a courtyard leading to a parking garage. He's scouted the whole route.

Ethan comes out into a side street, crosses it and drives into a long arcade. He comes out the other side into clear traffic.

Ethan opens the window, rips off the gas mask, gasps for air.

116 INT. ETHAN'S LOFT - DAY 116

Ethan leads the Accountant into his apartment, the briefcase still cuffed to the guy's wrist...

Ethan glances at ABDUH who winks and slaps him a high-five. Ethan winks back and slams the bathroom door shut.

117 INT. BATHROOM - LOFT - DAY 117

The Accountant tied to the toilet as Ethan slams him in the face with the butt of his gun, again, again and again...

ETHAN
Listen Guido, this briefcase has
the routing numbers to the Albino's
accounts right?

Ethan takes out a a note with the combination that opens the briefcase that dangles off the Accountant's wrist.

ACCOUNTANT
(thick Italian accent)
No! Do not open! The lock has
an explosive trigger.

ETHAN
I've got the codes for the case.
Give me the code for the trigger.

ACCOUNTANT

But after I give it to you, you
will kill me.

ETHAN

Maybe, maybe not. But if you don't
give it to me, I'll really torture
you and you'll most likely wish I'd
killed you. I'm going to count to
three... One... Two...

In tears, the Accountant braces himself to explode, eyes shut
tight, when... Ethan's cell rings. It's Zooey!

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)

Hi, sweetie.

ZOOEY

Hey. You know? I was thinking about
tonight...

ETHAN

Whatever you want, it's your call.
Lemme take your order.

Zooey's calling from the schoolyard.

ZOOEY

Well... I was thinking... Ethan, I
want to make a kind of dinner for
Hugh...

ETHAN

Sounds like a good idea. Do you
want me to cook for you guys?

Zooey glances across the yard to Hugh, who smiles at her.

ZOOEY

Actually I want to cook for him.

ETHAN

Right... Well, great.

ZOOEY

And it would be nice if you could
work late, or something. So it can
be just the two of us. You know
what I mean?

ETHAN

Oh, ok, like a romantic dinner?

ZOOEY

Something like that. And I want to
make Hugh real spaghetti sauce.

(MORE)

ZOOEY (CONT'D)

But what else do I need beside tomatoes? I can't find mom, so I need your help.

ETHAN

(into cell)

Just give me a second, sweetie...

Ethan covers the cell and turns to the Accountant.

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)

Guido. Are you a real Italian?

ACCOUNTANT

Yes.

ETHAN

I mean, you were born over there right?

ACCOUNTANT

Yes, from Catania, Sicily.

ETHAN

Good. So, I need your recipe for a sauce.

ACCOUNTANT

Sauce?

ETHAN

Yes. Sauce. Pasta sauce..!

ACCOUNTANT

(confused)

Is that code ?

ETHAN

(Annoyed)

No. I just want your recipe for a fucking Italian pasta sauce.

Ethan points his gun directly in the Accountants face.

ACCOUNTANT

(terrified)

Si. Si. It's my mama's specialty.

ETHAN

Great, so you're going to give your mama's recipe to my daughter here.

ACCOUNTANT

Yes. Of course... Red or white?

ETHAN

Tomatoes. Red... Vegetarian... And not too spicy. Okay..?

ACCOUNTANT

Yes. Si. Of course. Okay.

Ethan motions for the Accountant to play along. Flips on the speaker on his cell.

ETHAN

Listen, sweetie, it just so happens that I'm in a meeting here with a real live Italian. He's from Catania and his mother has a great recipe.

(nods at Accountant)

Why don't you say hello to my daughter Zooey.

ACCOUNTANT

Hello... I am Guido.

ZOOEY

Thanks, Guido. This will only take a minute.

ACCOUNTANT

No. No. Please take all the time you want.

Ethan motions for the Accountant to spill the recipe.

ACCOUNTANT (cont'd) (CONT'D)

This is my Mama's favorite. Reduction sauce. You will need tomatoes. Capers... Garlic... And olive oil. She always uses tomatoes from her garden.

ZOOEY

Your mother has a garden? That is so cool.

ACCOUNTANT

Yes... Back home in Catania... She worked all her life so I could go to school...

(wipes his tears)

I am the only one left to take care of her and the old house.

ETHAN

(impatient)

The sauce, Guido! Tell her about the sauce.

ACCOUNTANT

Yes, of course. Heat the olive oil in a good pan. Then crush the garlic and toss into the pan.

(MORE)

ACCOUNTANT (CONT'D)

But for no more than two minutes,
until it starts to brown.

Zoey grabs a pen and paper, and takes notes.

ACCOUNTANT (CONT'D)

Then you peel the tomatoes and add
them to the pan. After ten minutes
add capers and parsley. And mama's
secret is to add a cup of red wine,
and a teaspoon of sugar.

The Accountant begins to sob uncontrollably. Ethan quickly
slips off the speaker and speaks into the cell.

ETHAN

That Guido's a real mama's boy.

ZOOEY

I think it's sweet he loves his
mother. Thanks, Ethan. Remember,
don't get here too early...

ETHAN

(glances at Guido)

That shouldn't be a problem.

Ethan shuts the cell. He aims his gun at the Accountant...

ACCOUNTANT

Wait... Please. Call her back.
I want to give her mama's recipe
for Cannoli.

ETHAN

I don't think so, Guido. Now hand
over the codes for the briefcase.

The Accountant stares at Ethan's gun. Hyperventilates...

ACCOUNTANT

But after I give them to you, you
will kill me.

ETHAN

Not until the dinner is over.

He stare at the Accountant who squeezes his eyes shut.

119 INT. ROOM 626 - HOTEL GEORGE V - DAY

119

Outside room 626, Ethan is racked by a coughing fit. He
knocks. Eventually, Vivi opens up.

He hands her the Accountant's briefcase.

ETHAN

Job done.

Vivi stares at Ethan who rolls up his sleeve... Ready for his shot.

VIVI

Guido is dead?

ETHAN

No.

Vivi isn't satisfied by the answer.

Ethan notices a young man in a designer suit sitting on the edge of the bed with a glass of champagne in his hand.

VIVI

You were supposed to kill him.

ETHAN

I've used up my quota.
... Anyway, I got you the
briefcase, like you wanted. Shy
does he need to die?

Vivi preps a syringe with a shot of green liquid.

VIVI

If they're doing business with the
people we're after, they deserve to
die.

ETHAN

I need a better reason than that.

VIVI

This is who you are, *cheri*.

Vivi gives him the shot.

The young agent feels out of place. Gets up to go.

VIVI (CONT'D)

No. You don't move until I'll tell
you to. Sit back down here.

Ethan realizes this isn't the type of man he wants to be
anymore.

ETHAN

Maybe I don't want to spend the
rest of my life killing for you.

VIVI

(cynical)
You could've told me ten seconds
ago -- spared me wasting a dose.

Ethan shuts his eyes... He feels a tingling sensation run through his veins.

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)
Now that we have bankrupted the Albino, he will come running to Paris to report the "The Man".

Hears the amplified echo of his pounding heart.

ETHAN
The man...? What man?

VIVI
That's the job. To find out who the Albino works for. And now that he's broke he'll come running back to Paris and lead us right to him.

ETHAN
How does he look like?

VI
We don't have a single picture.

ETHAN
... When..?

VIVI
Within 24 hours. Or I lose my job and you lose your life.

Ethan shakes his head and turns to leave.

ETHAN
I've lost so much already, I won't lose what I have left... Call me when you get word.

VIVI
Wait... You can not continue working for me dressed like that. Have you seen the Albino's style?

ETHAN
By the way... Do you know what "fugly" means?

VIVI
Fucking ugly. I guess Zoey agrees with me.

Vivi turns to the Young Agent, the bead of sweat still rolls down his forehead.

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)
Is that a 42 long, *cheri*?

AGENT

Yes...

VIVI

Take it off. The pants, too.

AGENT

Excuse me?

VIVI (cont'd)

I would've had that suit off you in five minutes anyway. Come on...
Hurry.

120 INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

120

Ethan steps out of the elevator wearing the Agent's suit...
He notices TWO BABES brush by and check him out.

Ethan checks his reflection, sighs to himself, and heads out.

123 EXT/INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

123

An exhausted Ethan walks up the stairs, takes out the key,
when...

He hears Zooey and Hugh laughing from inside the apartment.
Steps back and discreetly leaves.

INT. FREIGHT ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Ethan steps out of the elevator carrying two large bags of
take-out. He walks down the long hallway and opens the
door...

INT. ETHAN'S LOFT - NIGHT

Ethan enters to find suitcases and bags packed in a big heap.

He runs into Abduh who slaps him a high-five.

The apartment is deserted.

ETHAN

Where is everybody?

Abduh shrugs. He has no idea.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Hope you like Chinese food... I got
enough to feed a hundred!

ABDUH

I hate Chinese.

Ethan feels stupid standing there with two bags crammed full of food.

CUT TO:

Ethan enters the bathroom. Guido is still cuffed to the radiator.

ETHAN

Hey? How about some Chinese food,
pastaface? Make a change.

Too terrified to refuse, Guido nods frantically.

Ethan pulls over a small table and pulls cartons out of the bags.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I dropped by home. Seems like it's
going well for my daughter.

GUIDO

Good.

ETHAN

She wanted to cook for her
boyfriend. Something she actually
made. It's important to make
things, not just buy ready-made
stuff. It's easy to buy people's
affections with gifts. What matters
is what you do for them. The things
that come from the heart.

GUIDO

(bemused)

Yeah, I guess...

ETHAN

Take-outs are for us, the drudges,
the guys toiling away in the
shadows... Having said that, I'm
not unhappy to be eating Chinese. I
love Asian food.

Ethan is about to take a mouthful when Abduh charges in.

ABDUH

Sumia... She's leaking in the
living room!

Ethan rushes out.

Indeed, Sumia's water has broken and she's gone into labor.

ETHAN

Ok, sit tight, I'll call an ambulance. We have to get you to the hospital.

SUMIA

No! No! Not the hospital. I have no papers. They take my baby.

ETHAN

Sumia! I can't help you here! It's not exactly my field... Abduh?! See if you can find somebody from your family. Fast!

AN OUR LATER

Sumia is sweating. The guys likewise.

SUMIA

You must get towels and some hot water.

ETHAN

(to Guido)

Towels and hot water. Quickly!

Guido hurries back into the bathroom. Sumia holds her legs wider.

SUMIA

Can you see the head?

ETHAN

Sumia?! I don't know if I can do that...

SUMIA

(can't take any more)

Look!!

Ethan raises Sumia's boubou and peers between her legs at the origin of the world.

ETHAN

(moved)

Yes... I think... I think I see the head!

SUMIA

Good. Good.

Abduh bursts in with his family right behind him.

Ethan heaves a sigh of relief. Sumia's Aunt takes the bowl of water from Guido's hands. The women hustle the men out of the living room into the kitchen.

ETHAN

(loses it)

For christ's sake, Jules!? Why did you leave her here like that, all on her own?

JULES

We were at my cousins' in Vélizy. The police stopped us and took us in. We only just got out.

ETHAN

Make sure you get documentation next time! You can squat somebody's apartment and hack into the phone line? So get yourself some papers!

JULES

I've been trying for eight years, Ethan.

ETHAN

(raging)

Do you have the slightest idea? What would have happened if you hadn't got here in time?

JULES

(smiles)

You'd have seen a newborn child into the world. It's not the first time, after all.

ETHAN

Actually, it is.

JULES

What about your daughter?

ETHAN

I wasn't there. I was working, far away. In Africa, to be precise.

GUIDO

We were doing good...

JULES

(smiles)

You were doing great! I'm so proud of you!

Next door, a baby cries out.

The men enter. Jules picks up the little bundle, cuddles it and hands it to Ethan, who's totally overwhelmed.

JULES (CONT'D)
It's a little girl. We'll call her
Ethan.

ETHAN
Ethan's a boy's name, Jules.

JULES
Well, she'd better get used to it
because she'll have the same name
as her godfather and benefactor!

SUMIA
It's a girl!

In Ethan's arms, the baby's crying calms down. He is totally
awestruck.

126 EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT 126

Ethan sits on a bench, eating his Chinese take-out, with a
hearty appetite.

127 INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT 127

An exhausted Ethan enters to find Zooey jumping on the couch.

ZOOEY
Hugh told me he loves me!

ETHAN
I guess dinner was a success.

ZOOEY
It was so awesome... And
we're going to the prom tomorrow!

Zooey grabs both his hands and spins him round.

ETHAN
Great.

ZOOEY
And I've got more good news.

Zooey rushes to the kitchen... And back with a plate of
spaghetti and tomato sauce.

ZOOEY (cont'd) (CONT'D)
I hope you didn't eat. I
saved you a plate.

ETHAN
Are you kidding? I'm starving.

Zooey watches Ethan sit at the table and takes a bite.

ZOOEY
Do you love it?

ETHAN
Definitely authentic. Very Italian.

ZOOEY
Yeah, Guido doesn't mess around.

Zooey rushes back into the kitchen and returns with a cold beer.

ZOOEY (CONT'D)
And you're coming to the pre-prom party, Ethan. It's on Hugh's father's rooftop... They have a private elevator, and there's a really cool view. And you know... Hugh comes from a really cultured family.

ETHAN
And you've got "Steelers" blood running through your veins.

ZOOEY
Whatever...

ETHAN
So... You want to watch those home movies now..? You know. At the beach house.

ZOOEY
Maybe later...

ETHAN
You will get to see me with my ridiculous mustache.

ZOOEY
Did you know they sent Hugh to a special school to learn how to dance when he was like 8?

Ethan realizes there will be no home movies tonight.

ETHAN
Your mother never taught you how to dance?

Ethan grabs an old vinyl record and puts it on the turntable. Miles Davis plays "Autumn Leaves". He moves the furniture...

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)
Alright... stand on my feet.

ZOOEY
Yeah, right, Ethan.

ETHAN
Come on... I'll teach you to dance
to your mother's favorite song.

Zooey steps on Ethan's feet. He gently leads her in a box
step around the room.

128 MOMENTS LATER -- CHRISTINE ENTERS WITH HER BAGS 128

Stunned to find Zooey and Ethan laughing and dancing around
the room... She tries to hide her tears as she watches them
spin.

ZOOEY
MOM!

Zooey runs to Christine and hugs her tight. She looks over
her shoulder at Ethan.

CHRISTINE
Okay. Wait. Let me catch my
breath.

ZOOEY
You should taste the pasta I
made.

CHRISTINE
You cooked?

ZOOEY
Ethan's Italian friend gave me
the recipe for the sauce.

CHRISTINE
Wait... You and your father
were exchanging recipes with
an Italian?

ETHAN
It was Guido's mother's recipe.

CHRISTINE
I think I need a drink.

ETHAN
I need one too.

Ethan pours drinks

CHRISTINE
The damn Eurostar was three hours
late!

Tina bends to remove her shoes.

ZOOEY

Hey? Hey? No! Who's gonna teach me to dance? I totally suck! Tomorrow will be a complete disaster...

Ethan and Christine share a look as Zooey gets worked up.

ZOOEY (CONT'D)

I watched you two, I will learn faster!

(off their looks)

What..? I don't want to be the only girl who can't dance..! Come on you guys!

Zooey plays "Autumn Leaves" again.

Ethan smiles, reaches out to Christine. Zooey glows as her parents begin to dance together.

Christine leans into Ethan, he smells her hair, strokes her neck.

And then the music finally stops they realize Zooey's snuck off and left them alone.

ETHAN

I missed this, Tina... All of it.

Christine smiles.

CUT TO:

They toast with red wine.

CHRISTINE

You haven't coughed since I got back. How are you feeling?

ETHAN

Better every day.

CHRISTINE

Have you told her yet?

ETHAN

What..? That I probably won't make it to Christmas?

CHRISTINE

That you love her.

ETHAN

She knows.

CHRISTINE

She needs to hear it from you.

ETHAN

Of course I love her.
I love you, too, Tina.

Ethan leans in and kisses Christine... She steps back and strokes his face...

CHRISTINE

No... Bad idea... Not with Zooey here...

(off his look)

But please stay. Good night.

Christine gently kisses Ethan... He watches her enter the bedroom and shuts the door...

Ethan frowns at the couch... Just then the bedroom door opens...

Tina throws herself into his arms and kisses him passionately.

INT. BEDROOM - MORNING

Ethan lays in bed and stares out the window at the city come to life...

Christine wakes and pulls the covers off her face. Turns to Ethan...

ETHAN

Good morning.

CHRISTINE

Oh God...!

ETHAN

What..?

CHRISTINE

You're not on the couch.

ETHAN

No, Tina. I'm not...

The door swings opens and Zooey enters with a tray.

ZOOEY

Good morning parents.

Awkward silence. But clearly Ethan's enjoying the moment...

ZOOEY (cont'd) (CONT'D)

I squeezed the oranges myself.

CHRISTINE
 (nervous)
 I'll. I... I'll get dressed and
 take you to school..

Zoe starts to leave.

ZOOEY
 Don't bother, I figured you guys
 were busy. So I called Hugh...
 He's picking me up if that's okay
 with you.

ETHAN
 Yeah... That's fine with me.

Ethan and Zooey both turn to Christine.

CHRISTINE
 Yeah... Fine. Just get out.

ZOOEY
 Love you mom.

Zooey walks out and closes the door behind her.

CHRISTINE
 Jesus, I didn't want this to
 happen.

ETHAN
 Then you shouldn't have let it
 happen...
 (off his look)
 What...? You came onto me.

CHRISTINE
 I mean, Zooey. This. Seeing
 us. In bed.
 (off his look)
 And you came on to me.

ETHAN
 What's wrong with her seeing us?

CHRISTINE
 What happens when you're gone
 Ethan...

Just then his cell rings. He checks caller I.D. It's Vivi.

VIVI
 Albino's staying at the Hotel
 de Crillon. He's here to meet The
 Man.

Ethan hangs up and turns to Christine. Strokes her face and
 kisses her gently.

ETHAN
I'm not going anywhere.

132 EXT. HOTEL DE CRILLON - DAY

132

A limo pulls up outside the hotel.

Mitat is driving. He checks his watch, as Turkish music plays. Nods to the bodyguard at the door.

Parked some distance away, Ethan observes the scene through his binoculars.

The Albino and his bodyguard get into the limo.

Mitat pulls smoothly away. Ethan follows in his nondescript rental car.

EXT. PARIS STREETS - DAY

Ethan keeps a safe distance from Mitat's towncar that weaves through traffic.

The towncar stops, picks up THE MAN, and quickly speeds away.

Ethan calmly tails Mitat.

In the limo, we see The Man for the first time: 50ish, smart suit. The look of a guy who deals in arms all week and goes to mass on Sunday.

THE MAN
(fuming)
What exactly do you mean? The
accounts have been emptied?

ALBINO
They got Guido! I don't know how!

THE MAN
But Guido was supposed to be under
your protection?!

ALBINO
He had eight guys with him around
the clock! I even had one of my men
in his bed!

THE MAN
Who could've done it?!

Mitat checks the rear view and realizes he's being followed by Ethan.

MITAT

Excuse me, gentlemen. I think we're
being followed.

The two men spin round and peer out the back window.

Mitat's phone rings. He picks up.

ETHAN

You've spotted me?

MITAT

I'd have to be blind not to!

ETHAN

Don't do anything stupid, Mitat.
Your girls are expecting you home
tonight.

MITAT

Are you the kind of guy who'd
abandon a job halfway through?
Unfinished?

ETHAN

No, I don't think so.

MITAT

We have that in common, at least.

Mitat puts pedal to the metal and surges through a red light.

Ethan dodges his way through the intersection...

The chase is on!

134 EXT/INT. PEUGEOT / LIMO- SPEEDS THROUGH BOULEVARDS 134

The rear window of the towncar opens. An Armed Guard leans
out with an automatic and opens fire.

Ethan is unable to fall back because of the truck behind him.

Bullets shatter the windshield!

136 EXT. PARIS STREETS - DAY 136

In his Peugeot, Ethan veers into the lane for buses coming in
the opposite direction.

The pursuit turns brutal.

Ethan shifts gears, the engine screams, he changes lanes
still on the tail of the town car.

Crashing into the town car... trying to force Mitat off the road, when...

The Guard leans out, emptying a clip out of his AK47 into the Peugeot.

Ethan is forced to hang a right and loses Mitat.

INT. MITAT'S TOWNCAR - SPEEDS THROUGH BOULEVARDS

Mitat, The Man and the Albino check the window, but no sign of Ethan. They're in the clear...

THE MAN

Looks like you lost him. Good job.

MITAT

I think it would be safer for you to get out of the car!

THE ALBINO

I think we've seen the last of him!

MITAT

I know the guy. He never gives up.

Suddenly, from the left, the Peugeot hurtles out of a side street and rams into the middle of the town car.

The collision is astonishingly violent. The town car goes into a spin and slams into another car. The crumpled Peugeot bounces off other cars.

Ethan bursts the airbag and hauls himself out of the car, slightly dazed.

Drawing his gun, he advances on the town car, as flames flicker from the front end. The Man is out cold in the back, his face turned away from the camera. The Albino is nowhere to be seen.

Ethan unbuckles Mitat, who is wounded, and pulls him out of the car.

ETHAN

I told you not to do anything stupid!

MITAT

Why don't you kill me already? I would have killed you a hundred times by now.

ETHAN

I need you, Mitat.

MITAT

No, you don't

ETHAN

Yes, I do. You're the father who
knows the best.

Suddenly, the Albino leaps on Ethan's back and starts
throttling him, a shard of mirror in one hand.

The Man comes round and staggers out of the car. Ethan's on
the ground with the Albino on top of him.

With all his might, Ethan stops the jagged shard from
slitting his throat. In the mirror, he sees The Man getting
away.

Ethan has to act, but the shard of mirror inches closer to
his throat.

Ethan sees a metal spike poking out of the mangled wreckage.
He slithers over, edging the Albino closer to the spike.

The Albino sees what he's up to but can do nothing to prevent
it. Either he lets go or he gets impaled on the spike.

He decides to let go. But Ethan clings onto him and keeps
moving, gently impaling the Albino on the spike.

Ethan jumps up, looking round for The Man. He sees him up
ahead running into the Metro.

140 INT. GEORGE V METRO STATION - DAY

140

Ethan chases The Man through the tunnels, they jump over the
turnstiles... **Ethan hears the amplified echo of his
pounding heart. His head begins to spin...**

Ethan fires two shots... Keeps chasing hard past PANICKED
COMMUTERS... No more bullets. His gun is empty.

Ethan is closing on The Man when the dizziness sets in.

A train pulls into the station and a wave of PASSENGERS
surges out...

Ethan staggers forward, but the dizziness gets worse.

The train doors close... Ethan runs alongside the train...

He sees The Man wave goodbye as the train pulls out and
disappears into the dark tunnel.

Ethan out of breath falls on his knees. He takes his phone
out and dials Vivi.

VIVI
You got him?

ETHAN
(wheezing)
I saw him.

VIVI
I'm on my way.

ETHAN
Thanks.

Ethan collapses in an inert heap on the station platform.

FLASH:

Ethan runs on the beach with Zooeey who's 16 now.

He's happy but a coughing fit gradually brings him to a standstill, until...

INT - CONTROL ROOM - METRO

Ethan wakes with a cough.

Vivi is there, a syringe in her hand, her apprentice agent behind her.

VIVI
Feel better?

ETHAN
Yes... Where am I?

VIVI
Metro control room. George V station. You called me.

Ethan notices five subway employees lying dead on the floor.

ETHAN
Thank you... What happened?

VIVI
Bryan needs some training.

ETHAN
Good. Soon he can take my job!

VIVI
You said you saw him?

ETHAN
Yes...

Ethan gets up, rubs the back of his head and sits at the console. Types on the keyboard.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Platform 1. Around 10:15 a.m.

Ethan finds the security camera footage of The Man boarding the subway. The doors close and he turns to wave at Ethan.

Ethan freeze-frames and zooms in until he has a pretty clear shot of The Man's face on screen. Vivi takes a photo with her cellphone.

VIVI
The very first photo we have of The Man! I'll send it to base. They'll soon have a name for us. Good job Ethan.

ETHAN
Can I take the evening off?

VIVI
The prom?

ETHAN
I promised to be on time.

VIVI
Anything else?

ETHAN
I'll need a new suit.

Ethan's suit is torn and blood-stained.

Vivi slowly turns and smiles at Bryan.

Bryan gets the picture. He sighs and begins to pull at the knot of his tie.

143 INT. APARTMENT - DAY

143

Ethan walks in and he's clearly entered the eye of the storm.

Zooey and Christine, half-dressed... Run between rooms... Slamming doors. Really going at it...

ZOOEY
Mom, don't ruin my night!

CHRISTINE
That's what I'm trying to help you avoid.

ZOOEY

Whatever. Now can you just help me
glue these eyelashes on?

ETHAN

Why do you need those, you've got
beautiful eyes.

Zooey and Christine turns to Ethan and give him a look.

ZOOEY

Oh my god! Hugo Boss himself!

Zooey runs to her room.

CHRISTINE

(smiling)

Nice suit.

ETHAN

Thanks. I'm getting into them.

Christine turns to Zooey who puts on her pumps.

CHRISTINE

Take along a pair of flats!

ZOOEY

No!

ETHAN

What's wrong with the shoes?

CHRISTINE

Your daughter bought six inch
heels!

ETHAN

She can't dance with them on?

CHRISTINE

She's going to have trouble getting
out the door.

ZOOEY

No I am not... Here, look...

Zooey walks toward them, wobbling like a drunken sailor...

Ethan and Christine share a look.

ETHAN

Can you at least forget the
eyelashes?

ZOOEY

No way!

Zooey disappears into her room.

Ethan turns to Christine who struggles to zip her dress...

ETHAN

You need a hand?

CHRISTINE

Yes.

Ethan steps towards Christine who turns, revealing her back.

He stares at her a moment, smells her scent, kisses her neck and slowly manages to slide the zipper up.

145 EXT. MODERN BUILDING - ALLEYWAY- NIGHT

145

Ethan, Christine and Zooey, who's pouting, step out of a cab and head inside...

CHRISTINE

Smile and try to have a good time will you?

ZOOEY

Why..? I hate this dress.

ETHAN

The dress, the shoes... It's all working for you, sweetie.

ZOOEY

No, nothing's working, Ethan. I feel like little miss sunshine!

Ethan doesn't get it.

Christine stops to chat with a GROUP OF MOTHERS and waves for them go up without her...

146 INT. PRIVATE ELEVATOR - RIDING UP

146

Ethan stares at Zooey who nervously checks her reflection off the elevator door. She plays with her eyelashes...

ETHAN

Zooey... I just want you to know. There was nothing good in my life until I came back home to you and your mother.

ZOOEY

(eyes still closed)
God, Ethan... Could you be more dramatic?

ETHAN

Yes I can...

ZOOEY

Alright, what's the point of this conversation right now?

ETHAN

The point is... use your best judgement with Hugh.

ZOOEY

You barely know him.

ETHAN

You barely know men.

ZOOEY

You're right... it's better without.

Zooey starts to peel off an eyelash.

ETHAN

No... Please don't do that...

Zooey yanks the eyelash off.

ZOOEY

Ouch! Ahhhhhh!

ETHAN

You can't just keep one, sweetie!

ZOOEY

Why not? If I'm going to look ridiculous anyway! Besides, if he loves me, he should love me for me, shouldn't he? Isn't that what you said?

ETHAN

(long smile)

Too damn right!

The elevator stops, the door slides open, and Hugh enters, wearing his tux.

ZOOEY

(beaming)

HUGH!

HUGH

Zooey you look amazing.

Hugh steps towards Zooey but Ethan steps between them...

HUGH (CONT'D)
Yeah... Hi Mr. Zoe.

Ethan is stunned to see The Man get on the elevator.

The doors slide closed behind him.

HUGH (CONT'D)
I want you to meet my father.

THE MAN	ETHAN
(stunned)	(stunned)
You're Zooey's father?	You're Hugh's father?

Ethan and The Man realize their kids are each other's prom date. Reach for their concealed guns...

They desperately want to blow each other to hell. But restrain themselves, held back by the danger to Zooey and Hugh who now stand between them.

Ethan's cell rings. He checks called I.D. -- It's Vivi.

VIVI
We just located The Man to a
penthouse at 113, Rue de Rivoli.
Get over there and kill him.

ETHAN
I'm on my way.

Ethan hangs up and turns to Zooey.

ZOOEY
How do you two know each other?

ETHAN
Business...

ZOOEY
Okay. How weird is this, Hugh?

Ethan and The Man reach an unspoken agreement to play along for the sake of their kids.

THE MAN
Yes... Indeed...

The elevator door opens, and reveals a spectacular view of Paris. The catered pre-prom party is in full swing...

ETHAN
Thanks for inviting us. I
never would have found you.

Zooey and Hugh run out to join their friends.

THE MAN

You expect me to be your host?

ETHAN

That's not the worst of it...
I'm supposed to kill you, too.
But you know the rule?

THE MAN

Yes... Never involve family.

The Man shakes Ethan's hand to seal their deal... He steps out of the elevator.

147 INT. PENTHOUSE- BUFFET - NIGHT (P116)

147

Ethan tosses out his hors d'oeuvre, and keeps an eye on The Man who mingles with his guests...

Christine approaches and hands him a drink... He stares at the umbrella and tiny straw in his glass.

CHRISTINE

They're not serving beer.

ETHAN

Of course not.

ZOOEY

I still cannot believe you and
Hugh's dad work together.

CHRISTINE

(suspicious)

So, how do you know Hugh's father?

ETHAN

(uncomfortable)

He's a big client.

Zooey rushes off to join Hugh... Christine turns and locks eyes with Ethan...

CHRISTINE

(disgust)

You bastard, you're working
again.

ETHAN

Yes...

(off her look)

Hugh's dad is a problem I'm trying
to solve.

CHRISTINE

This is why you're back in Paris.

ETHAN

No, Tina. I came back to see you and Zooey.

CHRISTINE

It was all a lie. You're lying to me again. You're probably not even sick.

As Christine turns in disgust Ethan grabs her arm spinning her back to him, he rolls up his sleeve and shows her the track marks from the syringe.

ETHAN

I'm not lying Tina. I am sick. And yes, I'm working, but if you at least let me explain to you...

CHRISTINE

(fuming)
And what if I'm tired of your explanations?

148 INT. PENTHOUSE. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

148

Ethan notices a THUG IN A SUIT, looking around, not mingling with the guests. He approaches The Man.

THUG IN A SUIT

(in French)
I received a call from our friend. The police will be here in twenty minutes with a warrant for your arrest.

THE MAN

(in French)
Fuck.... I'll get the files and meet you downstairs. Meantime, kill him.

149 INT. PENTHOUSE. BUFFET - NIGHT

149

Christine, completely unaware of the drama that is about to play out, stares at Ethan whose gaze is fixed on The Man...

CHRISTINE

You used our daughter as cover, Ethan! At least have the decency to look at me.

ETHAN

I took the job after I got back.

CHRISTINE
You promised me you'd keep your
work away from us.

151 INT. PENTHOUSE CORRIDOR - NIGHT

151

Hugh holds Zooey's hand, leads her through the lavish space which is adorned with family photos. He walks her into...

INT. "THE MUSIC ROOM" - DAY

Zooey stares wide-eyed at the huge empty space with nothing but pillows and huge bean bags...

HUGH
You're going to love this.

Hugh presses a remote button which lights up a giant flat screen TV with hundreds of album covers, like an oversized iPad.

HUGH (cont'd) (CONT'D)
Pick any one you like.

Zooey smiles and with a flick of her hands on the screen starts to scan through the albums.

INT. PENTHOUSE BUFFET - NIGHT

Christine turns to leave but Ethan grabs her, and moves her away from the guests.

ETHAN
Tina, please listen to me.

CHRISTINE
No... You used us both. You're sick, Ethan!

ETHAN
Yes... And they promised me a treatment if I came back. A drug I would never have had access to on my own. And it's working, Tina. I can feel it... It's the only reason I took the job.

CHRISTINE
Why should I believe you now?

ETHAN
Without this drug I would be dead by now. But now that you and Zooey are back in my life, I'd do anything not to lose it.

CHRISTINE

(lost)
Oh God.

ETHAN

Listen... I'm a bad person. But I
try to be better every day. I
swear to you...

Ethan notices the Thug In a Suit closing in on him.

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)

And I love you Tina. I always did.

CHRISTINE

And your love is supposed to
protect us, is that it?

Ethan struggles to answer.

CHRISTINE (cont'd) (CONT'D)

(resigned)
I can't do this again Ethan. I'm
sorry.

Christine begins to cry, she turns around to wipe her tears
with a cocktail napkin, just as...

The Thug In A Suit lunges at Ethan with a knife from behind
Christine.

Ethan sidesteps the Thug and grabs the napkin from Christine.

ETHAN

I'm going to need this.

Things go very fast. In one balletic motion Ethan grabs the
lunging arm of the thug, and twists it back to his throat.
With the other hand he grabs Tina and jams the napkin in her
mouth, perfectly muffling her scream. Ethan stands with the
two bodies in his arms, Christine eye to eye with the dead
thug.

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)

(hushed)
Stay calm Tina. This man wanted to
hurt me. But it's okay now.
(off her wide eyed stare)
Things are under control.

Ethan slowly releases his grip on the thug who slides down to
the floor. With a gentle shove Ethan kicks the thug
underneath the white cloth of the buffet table.

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT

A panicked thug approaches The Man.

THUG #2
He killed Robert.

THE MAN
Fuck. Let's get out of here.

INT. MUSIC ROOM - NIGHT

Zoey selects her album... The Cure

ZOOEY
This one!

Hugh smiles and hits play. The music envelops the room, and the following scene...

153 INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - NIGHT

153

The Man hides in the corner while his thugs spread out around the party guests, guns in plain sight.

Ethan forces Tina under the table.

CHRISTINE
(scared to death)
What are you doing?

ETHAN
(determined)
Stay there until I come back for you.

Under the tablecloth, Tina lays nervously next to the dead thug while Ethan grabs his gun.

CUT TO:

Thugs approach from every angle.

Ethan fires one shot in the air. The guests scream and duck for cover, leaving only the armed thugs standing like perfect targets.

Quickly and precisely Ethan picks off three thugs, who drop dead to the floor.

The remaining thugs respond with gunfire.

Ethan dives under a couch to avoid the onslaught and starts to crawl amongst the terrified guests.

THE MAN is crawling amongst the guests too in the direction of the elevator.

Ethan sees The Man and grabs the gun from the lifeless hand of a fallen thug.

Two more thugs approach, Ethan shoots at them. Two more bodies hit the floor. He's definitely used up his quota.

Suddenly another thug jumps on him from behind. The fight is on.

CUT TO:

Zoey and Hugh, half naked now dancing and kissing to the music...

CUT TO:

The Man reaches the elevator and gets in.

Ethan runs towards The Man but the doors close in front of him.

He picks up a discarded AK-47 and shoots the elevator doors until they open and then opens up on the elevator cables.

The cable disintegrates, the cabin plunges from the fifth floor, crashing into the lobby.

Ethan turns back from the open shaft when a thug lunges at him. They almost fall into the shaft, but recover for a hand to hand fight.

CUT TO:

Zoey and Hugh are really close to making love, writhing together on the floor.

Like her father and the thug.

CUT TO:

CLOSE on Zoey lying on the floor, gasping for air, eyes on the ceiling... About to climax.

CLOSE on Ethan lying on the floor, gasping for air also, eyes on the ceiling. About to die. His groping fingers find a fork.

While Ethan's daughter reaches orgasm, the Thug screams in agony, a fork sticking out of his neck.

CUT TO:

Zoey rolls over, panting hard.

CUT TO:

Ethan rolls over, panting hard.

CUT TO:

The room is silent now. Everybody's flat on the floor.

Tina is still under the table.

CHRISTINE
(murmurs)
... Ethan?

CUT TO:

Ethan rushes down the stairs. He's in a bad way, overwhelmed by dizziness. The faster he goes, the longer the staircase becomes.

157 INT. LOBBY - NIGHT

157

The Man is also gasping for air. Seriously hurt, he staggers out of the mangled elevator. He's about to make good his escape when he catches two slugs in each leg.

ETHAN
(on the verge of collapse)
You're not going anywhere.

Ethan slumps down on one knee.

THE MAN
You neither, by the look of you.

Ethan crumples. His gun skitters across the tiles. He stares at the ceiling, trying to keep breathing to avoid slipping into a coma.

The Man hauls himself towards the gun. It's only a few feet away, but with all his injuries it seems to take forever.

Ethan watches him edge closer but can't do anything about it.

Police sirens wail in the distance. A car screeches to a halt outside.

The Man inches towards the gun, ready to blow Ethan straight to hell, when...

Click... Click... Click. Vivi crosses the lobby in her pumps and gracefully kicks the gun away, just in time.

She stands directly over Ethan's head giving him a direct view up her skirt. He squints up at her...

ETHAN (cont'd)
Am I in hell?

VIVI
Does it look like hell from your angle, cheri?

Vivi smirks, hitches up her skirt and sits on Ethan's chest. From her purse she pulls out a BLUE vial and syringe, and preps the injection.

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)
Your initial tests came back today... The treatment is having positive results. They just tweaked the solution. It won't cure you but, at least, it will really slow down the process.

She plunges the needle into Ethan's neck.

VIVI (cont'd) (CONT'D)
So, as long as you take regular shots, you can consider yourself... "alive."

She extracts the syringe and slips it back in her purse.

Ethan stirs slowly, Vivi gives him a once over and leans in to kiss him on the lips.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. BEACH ROAD - DAY

A broad beach with rolling dunes, bright sunshine and scattered wooden beach houses. The landscape is familiar to us.

A small car advances very slowly.

INT. EXT. CAR - DAY

Christine and Zoey are in the car. Tina spots the house.

CHRISTINE
This is it. My God, it hasn't changed at all.

ZOEY
(in a bad mood)
Yeah, it's just as creepy.

CHRISTINE
Oh, come on, you were the one who wanted to spend Christmas with your dad.

ZOEY
Yeah, but not here. This place is full of bad memories.

They park, get out of the car and walk round to the trunk.

CHRISTINE

That's not true. We had some great times here. Knowing your dad, he's probably got all our old home movies ready to prove it.

Christine pops the trunk and hands Zooey a bag of presents.

ZOOEY

(rolls her eyes)

I don't need home movies to remind me of the shitty house plant he tried to pass off as Christmas Tree because he left it too late to buy one.

CHRISTINE

(fond smile)

At least he's inventive.

ZOOEY

(shudders)

And I swear to God if he's wearing that creepy santa suit.

They start walking to the house, bags in hand.

CHRISTINE

Lighten up, it'll be fun.

Christine rings the doorbell.

ZOOEY

For you guys, maybe. It's just going to be the three of us for the entire weekend, you two reminiscing and me by myself.

The door is opened... By Sumia!

SUMIA

(big smile)

Hello, Tina! Hello, Zooey! I'm Sumia.

Zooey is happily surprised.

ZOEY & CHRISTINE

Hi!

Abduh appears at Sumia's side with a beaming smile.

SUMIA

And this is my brother... Abduh.

Jules pokes his head up behind them.

JULES

And I'm their dad... Jules!
Welcome to your house! Please,
please, come in.

Confused, Christine and Zooey enter the living room. A beautiful Christmas tree towers over them, almost touching the ceiling. A little black Santa Claus perches on the top.

Mama and the two aunts are setting a long dining room table. A cradle rocks to one side.

JULES (cont'd) (CONT'D)

So happy to meet you both! Ethan
has told us so much about you!

CHRISTINE

(genuinely confused)
Really?

Zooey sees a cradle, on the table.

ZOOEY

Who's baby is this?

SUMIA

Mine... She's a girl.

Sumia picks up the baby.

ZOOEY

(melting)
Oh... she's adorable.

SUMIA

Here. Take her!

Zooey is taken aback when Sumia thrusts the baby into her arms.

ZOOEY

What's her name?

SUMMIA

Ethan...

Christine is perplexed. What has Ethan been doing?

SUMMIA (cont'd) (CONT'D)

And that's her dad. Nasor.

Sumia points to Nasor who stands atop a ladder, putting the finishing touches to the Christmas garlands. He turns to give a proud wave.

Ethan arrives from the kitchen.

ETHAN

Oh hi! I didn't hear you guys come in... I was having a little fight in the kitchen...

(off Christine's appalled look)

With a turkey. The oven's a bit small.

Everybody smiles.

ETHAN (cont'd) (CONT'D)

So you met my friends?

CHRISTINE

We did!

ZOOEY

(still cradling the baby)

I want one.

ETHAN

Yeah... Well, you've got a little bit of time for that

CHRISTINE

(without hesitation)

Definitely!

161 EXT. THE BEACH - DAY

161

Ethan and Zooey stand on the beach and stare out at the surf.

They talk, laugh and surprise each other. Pure and simple happiness between a dad and his daughter.

INT. THE BEACH HOUSE - DAY

Ethan, Zooey and Christine celebrate Christmas with Jules, Abduh and Company...

Holiday songs are sung, food is passed around, and presents are opened...

Zooey walks over to Ethan and hands him a gift wrapped box.

ZOOEY

Dad, this one has your name on it.

ETHAN

Thank you.

Everyone is busy opening their gifts. Ethan unwraps his box, inside is a vial of PINK serum. He reads the small note with it.

(MORE)

ETHAN (CONT'D)
Enjoy your holiday, cheri.
Vivi - x

He looks up at Zooey, Christine and the others, a broad smile on his face.

Happiness is not always, but it's so good when it comes...

THE END