

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE
ROGUE NATION

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WHITE SHOOTING SCRIPT 24 SEPT. '14
4TH GOLDENROD REVISIONS 23 MARCH '15

1

EXT. FIELD - BELARUS - DAY

1

An expanse of grass bordered by some distant trees. Hold on it for as long as you like - but eventually, there's the distinct *buzzing* of a cell phone, followed by an exasperated SIGH.

BENJI, in a ghillie suit, laptop beside him, raises his camouflaged painted face and answers his phone.

BRANDT (ON PHONE)

This isn't going very well.

BENJI

I can't talk right now.

BRANDT

The package is on the plane.

BENJI

I know.

2

INT. MOBILE COMMAND CENTER - NIGHT

2

Analyst WILLIAM BRANDT, at his computer screen.

BRANDT

It was never supposed to make it onto the airfield.

BENJI

There were complications.

BRANDT

Where is Ethan?

BENJI

Radio silence. I don't know.

BRANDT

That plane cannot take off with the package on board.

LUTHER

We're working on it.

BRANDT

Luther? What the hell are you doing there? You have an assignment in Malaysia.

3

EXT. LARGE ANTENNA ARRAY - MALAYSIA - DAY

3

Where Luther is on a laptop at the base of a massive antenna dish in a veritable field of them.

LUTHER

I am in Malaysia. Benji needed help.

BENJI

I don't need help. Assistance. It's not the same thing.

BRANDT

The *package* is on the *plane*.

BENJI

We understand. We're trying to cripple it remotely.

BRANDT

You can do that?

LUTHER

We can if the pilot left the satellite uplink switched on.

BENJI

Which he has.

4

INT. MOBILE COMMAND CENTER- NIGHT

4

Brandt, rubbing his temples, eyes closed.

BRANDT

How do you access the uplink?

LUTHER

It involves hacking a Russian satellite.

BRANDT

I can't authorize that.

LUTHER

Which is why I didn't ask for permission.

5

EXT. FIELD / INT. COMMAND CENTER / EXT. ANTENNA - DAY

5

Intercutting the following conversation, but never revealing Ethan until his sprint along the wing.

Benji hears engines whine, looks through his binoculars to see the plane's propellers turning.

BENJI

Uh... Luther.

BRANDT

I'm reading a heat bloom. The engines are starting.

BENJI

I'm well aware.

LUTHER

Benji, you're connected.

The plane's systems appear on Benji's screen.

BRANDT

The package is on that plane.

BENJI

We all acknowledge the package is on the plane.

LUTHER

Shut down the fuel pump.

BENJI

Yeah, mechanical's on lockdown.

BRANDT

What about the electrical system?

BENJI

Encrypted.

LUTHER

Hydraulics?

BENJI

Uhhhhh, maybe. Make that a no.

The engines roar, the plane moves.

BRANDT

Benji, the plane is moving.

(CONTINUED)

BENJI
 (typing faster)
 I see it, I see it.

BRANDT
 BENJI.

BENJI
 YES. THE PACKAGE. I GET IT.

ETHAN
 Can you open the door?

BRANDT
 Ethan. Where are you?

ETHAN
 I'm by the plane. Can you open the door?

Benji looks to the plane through his binoculars. Sees no sign of Ethan.

BENJI
 Of course I can open the door.
 That's easy.

ETHAN
 Open the door when I tell you.

ETHAN HUNT, wearing a dark suit, sprints across the wing of this 4-engine turboprop towards the fuselage as the plane turns, headed for the runway.

He slides down the wing flap, landing on the landing gear cowling, hauling himself up to the paratroop door by a windscreen as the plane accelerates.

ETHAN
 I'm on the plane.

BENJI
 How did you get in the plane?

ETHAN
 Not in the plane. I'm ON the plane.

The plane taxis past Benji, who sees Ethan clinging to the para door, shouting at Benji as he passes -

6 CONTINUED:

6

ETHAN

OPEN THE DOOR.

On Benji's screen:

SYSTEM OVERRIDE: FAILED

BENJI

Damn.

7 **EXT. A400 - PARA DOOR - DAY** 7

Ethan looks down, the tarmac flying by at 80 mph.

ETHAN

THIS IS NOT AN OPTION.

8 **INT. OFFICE - DAY** 8

Brandt rockets to his feet, bringing his fists down on his desk shouting -

BRANDT

Ethan, abort. ABORT, NOW.

9 **EXT. LARGE ANTENNA ARRAY - DAY** 9

LUTHER

Oh my God...

10 **EXT. FIELD - DAY** 10

Benji watches in horror as SCREAMING TURBOPROPS roar past-

11 **EXT. A400 - DAY** 11

The plane LIFTS OFF, Ethan's clothes and skin rippling in the gale force wind as the world falls away at 180 MPH. He's certainly committed.

12 **EXT. FIELD - DAY** 12

On BENJI, his fingers a blur.

BRANDT

BENJI, OPEN THAT DOOR. RIGHT NOW.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

BENJI

Come on. I'm trying...

He hits 'return'. On his screen:

SYSTEM OVERRIDE - ENGAGED

ETHAN

OPEN THE DOOR!

BENJI

GOT IT, HA. Opening... NOW.

Benji presses a key and -

13 **EXT. A400 - PARA DOOR - DAY**

13

The rear lift gate opens - far out of Ethan's reach.

Ethan looks back - 'you've got to be kidding me.'

14 **EXT. FIELD - DAY**

14

Benji's face deflates.

BENJI

Uh oh.

15 **INT. A400 - FLIGHT DECK - DAY**

15

A warning flashes. The PILOT sees the lift-gate is opening by itself. Confused, he hits the button. Gets nothing.

16 **EXT. FIELD - DAY**

16

Benji, typing furiously -

17 **INT. A400 - FLIGHT DECK - DAY**

17

The pilot hits the control again. Finally, he shouts something to the NAVIGATION OFFICER, who unharnesses and walks out.

21

CONTINUED:

21

There's Ethan, hurriedly strapping himself to the pallet. He looks up.

Their eyes lock for a moment before Ethan reaches up and pulls a ripcord, causing a cargo parachute to jettison out the lift gate.

The officer pulls out a handgun, but can't squeeze off a single round before Ethan, in an insanely rapid exit, rides the pallets out the lift gate, pulled by the parachute unfurling behind them. *Whooooooooosh.*

22

INT. COCKPIT - DAY

22

The nav officer walk in slack-jawed.

PILOT

What's going on?

The pilot and co-pilot turn to him.

NAV OFFICER

Some guy... in a business suit...
just took all our shit.

The pilot blinks.

PILOT

What?

NAV OFFICER

Yeah.

CUT TO:

23

EXT. BELARUS AIRSPACE - GOVERNMENT BUILDING - DAY

23

The parachute holding the pallet deploys.

Ethan holds on as the pallet descends rapidly towards the city. He passes a cell tower on top of a building, floats over a government building quadrant where an official car pulls up.

Ethan jumps off the pallet onto a roof.

Squads of soldiers in ceremonial dress stand to attention and salute as a dignitary steps out of the car to greet the waiting party when the pallet smashes into the dignitary's SUV, crushing it. The soldiers dive for cover.

(CONTINUED)

23

CONTINUED:

23

Ethan watches from the roof as the pallet spills more cannisters.

ETHAN

The package is secured.

He ducks out.

24

EXT. LONDON - NIGHT

24

The strains of Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong singing "They Can't Take That Away From Me." Then London appears at the shimmering, rainy best. HIGH ABOVE Piccadilly - the streets busy and alive - ZOOM IN SLOWLY to a SINGLE FIGURE, walking toward:

25

EXT. THE VINYL OFFER - LONDON - NIGHT

25

They sell Vinyl. Proudly.

26

INT. THE VINYL OFFER - NIGHT

26

Ethan, looking a little worse for wear, walks in.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

We're about to close.

He turns to find a SHOPGIRL (20s) behind the counter, glasses perched on the end of her nose.

ETHAN

It won't be long.

He walks into the stacks, casually flipping through a few titles.

SHOPGIRL

Looking for anything in particular?

ETHAN

Something rare.

SHOPGIRL

Let me guess. Classical?

ETHAN

Jazz.

(CONTINUED)

SHOPGIRL
Sax?

ETHAN
Coltrane.

SHOPGIRL
Piano?

ETHAN
Monk.

SHOPGIRL
Shadow Wilson on bass.

ETHAN
Shadow Wilson plays drums. Are you testing me?

SHOPGIRL
Maybe. Know why they call him Shadow?

ETHAN
Because he had a light touch.

The woman's demeanor changes very so slightly. She reaches under the counter and produces a blank, white record sleeve.

SHOPGIRL
You're in luck. I have a first pressing.

Ethan approaches, takes the record. She nods to a listening booth at the back of the store. As Ethan turns to walk away.

SHOPGIRL
It really is you.

He stops, looks back. After a beat, he nods.

SHOPGIRL
I've heard stories. They can't all be true.

He considers the question, decides it's one better left unanswered, and continues towards the booth.

27

INT. LISTENING BOOTH - NIGHT

27

Ethan enters, closes the heavy, sound-proof door and studies a state-of-the-art record player. He opens the glass lid, pulls out a record from its white sleeve, places it on the player and starts it spinning.

A beam of light from the needle arm illuminates the underside of the upright lid, making a small screen.

ECU on the needle, riding the groove of the record. A VOICE is heard -- male, smooth and authoritative.

VOICE (ON RECORD)

Good evening, Mr. Hunt. The weapons you recovered in Belarus were confirmed to be VX nerve gas, capable of devastating a major city.

The beam projects a schematic of the A400, the weaponry, a large metropolitan area flashing red.

VOICE (CONT'D)

The bodies of the aircrew were found less than 24 hours after they landed in Damascus. They were identified as low-level Chechen separatists - with neither the access or the ability to acquire the weapons they were transporting.

The beam projects photos of three men Ethan saw on the plane.

VOICE (CONT'D)

This would support your suspicion that a shadow organization is committed to inciting revolution by enabling acts of terror in nations friendly to Western interests. The IMF suspects this to be the same organization you have been tracking down for the last year. The IMF would be right.

On Ethan, his brow furrowing at the mention.

(CONTINUED)

VOICE (CONT'D)

Normally, you and your team would be tasked with infiltrating and disrupting this terrorists network. But we have taken steps to insure that this will not happen.

Ethan cocks his head - something is very wrong.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Because we are The Syndicate, Mr. Hunt. And now we know who you are.

Ethan abruptly turns, reaches for the doorknob, finds it LOCKED. Through the glass he sees:

The shopgirl. A MAN stands behind her, pistol to the back of her head, staring at Ethan not so much with malice, but confidence.

This is SOLOMON LANE.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to face your fate. Pursue us, and you will be caught. Resist us, and you will be killed.

Ethan pounds on the door with closed fists, the Shopgirl terrified, eyes pleading.

VOICE (CONT'D)

And your precious Secretary will disavow any knowledge of your actions.

Solomon's finger caresses the trigger - PULLS IT. He turns and casually walks out.

VOICE (CONT'D)

Good luck, Mr. Hunt. This message will self-destruct in 5 seconds...
5, 4,

The beam simultaneously projects the countdown 3, 2 -

Ethan stands back and kicks the door, over and over, as the spinning record begins smoking behind him, a toxic cloud filling the booth, overtaking him.

28 **INT. THE VINYL OFFER - NIGHT** 28

Pulling back slowly from the smoke filled booth. All we can see are Ethan's hands pounding the glass.

29 **EXT. THE VINYL OFFER - NIGHT** 29

Lane emerges onto the street and walks away. He places a cigarillo in his teeth and runs a match along the wall, IGNITING IT, taking us to the:

CREDITS

CREDITS. The fuse, the theme, flash-forwards that tease the action to come, all of it ending at -

30 **EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. - DUSK** 30

The Capitol Dome. The mall. The sound of a ringing phone O.S.

VOICE (HUNLEY) (PRELAP)

This is not an isolated incident.
The IMF's misadventures date back
to my earliest days in the CIA -
when the IMF broke *into* the CIA to
steal a list of covert operatives

31 **INT. SENATE CHAMBER - DAY** 31

HUNLEY

Or more recently, when a Russian
warhead-

BRANDT

Disarmed Russian warhead-

HUNLEY

Russian *nuclear* warhead-

BRANDT

Rendered safe-

HUNLEY

-clipped the TransAmerica Pyramid
before plunging into the San
Francisco bay -

Closed session. Reading lamps illuminate the faces of
SIX MEN on the dais.

(CONTINUED)

In the center is THE CHAIRMAN (60s), a silver lion of a statesman with a commanding presence. They face TWO FIGURES in the gallery.

One is CIA DIRECTOR ALAN HUNLEY (50s) sitting next to Brandt in the hot seat, facing the panel.

HUNLEY (CONT'D)

- all this made possible by IMF agents who did willingly provide the launch codes to a *known terrorist*. Do I have that right, Agent Brandt?

The six man panel shifts it's gaze to Brandt.

BRANDT

It's... a long story.

HUNLEY

Perhaps now is the time to tell it.

BRANDT

I can neither confirm or deny details of any such operation without the Secretary's approval.

Hunley stands and walks away to the TV screen, remote in hand.

HUNLEY

This was the same week - the *same week*, mind you - that IMF agents infiltrated the Kremlin.

He clicks the remote. An image of the Kremlin appears.

HUNLEY (CONT'D)

Here is the Kremlin before...

He clicks and a second image of the Kremlin appears - a pile of smoking rubble.

HUNLEY (CONT'D)

And the Kremlin after.

The panel looks to Brandt again.

BRANDT

I can neither confirm nor deny details of any such operation-

HUNLEY

-without the Secretary's approval. We know. Until this panel appoints a new Secretary, you can't say much of anything, can you, Agent Brandt?

BRANDT

Well, I didn't write the rules, Mr. Hunley.

HUNLEY

How convenient.

BRANDT

Mr. Director, the Secretary was not just my mentor and superior. He was my friend. And I happened to be sitting next to him when he was killed serving his country. I don't see anything convenient about it.

HUNLEY

Mr. Chairman, the IMF is not just a rogue organization, it's an outdated one -

BRANDT

(interrupts)
-Mr Chairman-

HUNLEY

-a throwback to an era without transparency or oversight.

BRANDT

(interrupts)
-Mr Chairman-

HUNLEY

-The time has come for the IMF to be dissolved and it's salvageable assets transferred to the CIA-

BRANDT

Mr. Chairman, the IMF has operated without oversight for forty years.

HUNLEY

(interrupts)
-Mr Chairman-

BRANDT

-Are its methods unorthodox, its results less than perfect?

HUNLEY

(interrupts)
-Mr Chairman-

BRANDT

Absolutely. But without the IMF-

HUNLEY

-there will be order and stability-

BRANDT

WITHOUT THE IMF YOU'LL HAVE-

CRACK. The Chairman's gavel brings silence.

CHAIRMAN

The panel recognizes the IMF's contribution to global security... But the events laid out by CIA Director Hunley also show a pattern of wanton brinkmanship and a total disregard for protocol. From where I sit, your unorthodox methods are indistinguishable from chance. And your results - perfect or not - look suspiciously like luck. I'm afraid today is the day when the IMF's luck runs out.

CLOSE ON: Ethan's eyes, closed, lids fluttering. Then his eyes open suddenly.

Ethan's eyes quickly focus. His arms are over his head, suspended by a strap around an upright steel pipe. His jacket and shirt are folded neatly on the table beside a rabbit foot's key chain with a single cuff key - presumably for unlocking Ethan's shackles.

Ethan tugs at his restraints, looks up, sees the pipe does not go all the way to the ceiling. Before he can consider his next move, the door opens.

A WOMAN enters (30s) - attractive, well-dressed.

Ethan glimpses TWO ARMED SENTRIES out in the hallway before the door closes.

The Woman carries a small tray in one hand. She places it on a table, removes her jacket and puts down the tray revealing two needles and several vials of liquid.

The door opens and FIVE MORE FIGURES enter. Faces we've never seen before. They stare at Ethan as if we were in a zoo - a thing to be studied.

The fifth man is a SCARY BLOND we'll call JANIK (40s). This guy is trouble.

The Woman confronts Janik, speaking in Swedish. Ethan studies them as:

THE WOMAN

[What are you doing here?]

JANIK closes and bolts the door.

THE WOMAN (CONT'D)

[Hey - I asked you - what are you doing here?]

He walks directly up to Ethan, looming over him. He takes off his jacket, rolls up his sleeves. Something about Janik strikes Ethan as curious.

JANIK

What does he see in you, I wonder.

ETHAN

Who is he?

Janik punches Ethan.

JANIK

[I want to see what he's made of.]

Janik walks over to the table, pulls a box out from underneath.

ETHAN

Take the cuffs off and I'll show you, Vinter.

JANIK

You know who I am.

Janik smiles, opens the box, revealing surgical tools - a saw, a hammer, etc.

ETHAN

You're Janik Vinter. They call you the bone doctor. Funny thing is, you were officially declared dead three years ago. Nice shoes, by the way.

Janik and the Woman look at Janik's feet.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Not his. Yours.

The Woman looks at her own shoes, then Ethan. She can't believe this guy. She walks up to Janik.

THE WOMAN

[Our instructions were to break him down, not kill him.]

He walks away from her back to Ethan.

JANIK

[Some guys break different than others.]

Janik punches Ethan in the gut, twice. Ethan takes it as well as can be expected.

JANIK (CONT'D)

(to the Woman)

You see. This one's a fighter.

He punches Ethan again, twice.

JANIK (CONT'D)

(to Ethan)

He'll die before you turn him.

THE WOMAN

Are you worried he'll take your place?

ETHAN

I don't remember applying for the job.

Janik looks at her. She's struck a nerve. He walks to her, looming. Janik punches Ethan in the ribs, twice.

JANIK

(re: Ethan)

He will be the death of us all.

(CONTINUED)

32

CONTINUED: (3)

32

Janik punches Ethan again, in the face this time.

ETHAN

(to the Woman)

You should go before this gets ugly.

The Woman quietly palms the rabbit-foot key-ring in her hand.

JANIK

He's right. You should go.

Vinter crosses the table. The Woman counters to the other side of the room, staring at Ethan.

Vinter picks up any tool you like. Ethan notices an object in the Woman's hands. A rabbit's foot with a cuff key on it. From this vantage, only Ethan can see it. Vinter and the other goon are none the wiser. She gives Ethan a look that says "do something". He's not sure what she means. She does it again.

Vinter approaches with the tool. Ethan braces.

THE WOMAN

[Du, Vinter.]

Vinter turns his head to address her and:

WHACK - Ethan kicks up both feet, catching Vinter in the chest and sending him flying.

All eyes in the room follow the flying Swede. In an instant, the Woman throws the rabbit's foot. Ethan catches it.

[FIGHT ENSUES]

33

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

33

Staring at the steel door from the outside. Five gunshots ring out. Then silence.

The Sentries exchange a confused look.

34

INT. SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBER - NIGHT

34

WIDE SHOT of all five men on the floor. Incredulous pause. Then:

(CONTINUED)

34

CONTINUED:

34

ETHAN

What just happened here?

A knock on the door. One of the sentries calls out. When he hears no reply, he bangs, shouts louder.

THE WOMAN

This way.

Ethan follows her out of the chamber as Vinter slowly comes to.

35

INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

35

She walks toward a cage door at the end of the hall, opens it. Ethan steps through to make sure the way is clear. To his surprise, she slams it behind him. Ethan grabs the gate, yanks it. Locked.

ETHAN

What are you doing?

THE WOMAN

I can't leave.

ETHAN

You can't stay here. We just killed those men.

THE WOMAN

We didn't kill them. You did.
(touching her bruised
eye)
Right before you knocked me
senseless.

ETHAN

Who are you?

Ethan hesitates. The sentries are slamming against the door, trying to break it down. He hesitates.

THE WOMAN

Better hurry now. Good luck.

The Woman turns and runs out. Ethan hears shouting.

He backs up and races down the long corridor as Vinter and the other Sentry run round the corridor and fire at him through the locked gate.

36 [OMITTED] 36

37 INT. SWITCHBOARD - DAY 37

A hand connects a modern version of an analogue phone terminal. THE OPERATOR connects a cable and answers.

OPERATOR
Satcom seven.

VOICE (ON PHONE)
Western Europe unsecured.

OPERATOR
Designator?

VOICE (ON PHONE)
Bravo, echo, one, one.

OPERATOR
Connecting.

38 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY 38

A cell phone rings. A hand picks it up. REVEAL WILLIAM BRANDT (30s).

BRANDT
This is Brandt.

ETHAN (ON PHONE)
Go secure.

He taps the screen on his phone. We hear three beeps.

BRANDT
Go.

ETHAN
London terminal is compromised.
I repeat, London compromised.
Agent... Agent in place is down.
Request immediate extraction.

BRANDT
Do you have anything to go on?

Ethan closes his eyes: sees Lane walking away from him in the record store.

(CONTINUED)

38

CONTINUED:

38

ETHAN

A face. He could have killed me
but he didn't... He wanted
something... Not information...

BRANDT

What do you think it means?

Ethan thinks. Remembers the record player. Realizes:

ETHAN

The Syndicate is real. They know
who we are, how we operate...

(realizing)

I think I know why they've been so
hard to find.

(focusing)

Focus operations on gathering any
available intel regarding former
covert operatives - it doesn't
matter what country or agency -
just as long as they're dead or
presumed dead. Start with Janik
Vinter, also known as the Bone
Doctor.

39

[OMITTED]

39

40

INT. CORRIDOR / EXT. STREET - INTERCUT

40

Brandt is looking down the corridor at the panel
members filing out of the conference room, Hunley's
look to Brandt is unsettling. Brandt keeps an eye on
him throughout:

BRANDT

I can't do that.

ETHAN

What are you talking about?

BRANDT

The Committee shut us down.
Operations have been handed over
to the CIA. Ethan... There is no
more IMF... I'm sorry... I've been
ordered to bring everyone in.

ETHAN

I understand.

(CONTINUED)

40

CONTINUED:

40

Ethan looks down to reveal he's holding a compress to his side. He's been shot.

BRANDT

Ethan-

ETHAN

I understand, Brandt. We never had this conversation. I've disappeared in London. You don't know if I'm dead or alive.

BRANDT

This man you saw... Can you find him?

ETHAN

I have to find him... I won't stop until I do.

Brandt looks up and sees Hunley approaching. He speaks quickly.

BRANDT

This may very well be out last mission, Ethan. Make it count.

Brandt hangs up, leaving Ethan alone in the world. He erases his phone. Looks up to see-

41

[OMITTED]

41

42

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

42

Hunley walking out of the Chamber towards him.

BRANDT

Mr Director. Mr Director, sir.

Hunley turns back to face Brandt.

HUNLEY

What is it Brandt.

BRANDT

With all due respect, you're making a mistake you may live to regret.

(CONTINUED)

HUNLEY

My only regret is that your principal agent of chaos wasn't here to see what happened today. Now Brandt, since we're going to be working together I want you to choose your words very carefully. Where is Hunt?

BRANDT

I don't know.

HUNLEY

Of course you don't.

BRANDT

I have no way of contacting him. He was deep cover. The last I hears he was tracking the Syndicate.

HUNLEY

Let's cut the bull. You know who we are, what we are capable of. How is it that the CIA has *never* uncovered any actionable intelligence regarding this "Syndicate"?

BRANDT

Would you like a polite answer or the truth?

HUNLEY

Where are they based? What is their ideology? Who are their members? Who is their leader? Do you, in fact, have any Syndicate intel not furnished by Ethan Hunt himself?

BRANDT

What are you implying?

HUNLEY

Not implying. *Stating*. Leveling an accusation. Hunt is both an arsonist and a fireman at the same time. I believe the Syndicate is a figment of his imagination - created to justify the IMF's existence. Well, I'm going to find him, Brandt.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (2)

42

HUNLEY (CONT'D)

And when I do, he'll be called to answer for every wanton act of mayhem he's responsible for. Welcome to the CIA.

As he leaves:

BRANDT

You'll never find him.

HUNLEY

Set your watch, Brandt. Hunt is living his last day as a free man.

BLACK. SILENCE.

TITLES: SIX MONTHS LATER

43 **EXT. TROPICAL CITY - DAY**

43

TITLES: HAVANA, CUBA

ZOOM IN SLOWLY on a coastal shanty town.

The sound of intense breathing O.S.

44 **INT. GRUNGY APARTMENT - DAY**

44

The home of a laborer. A bed, a basin for washing, a hotplate, few pots and pans. The breathing continues.

REVEAL Ethan, his face covered in a bears and moustache, his hair slicked back, his skin tinged by the sun. He has a recently healed scar on his side. He's doing pull-ups, breathing steadily.

On the table in the center of the room we see cut up newspapers, a ball of red twine, pencils, scissors, the remnants of some project.

45 **INT. WAR ROOM - DAY**

45

The dark heart of the CIA's technology-centric universe. Low lights emphasize large monitors watched by YOUNG TECHNICIANS. TWO DRONE PILOTS prowl the skies half a world away.

Hunley strides out his office past a Technician in front of a bank of screens.

(CONTINUED)

HUNLEY

Are you sure he's there this time?

TECHNICIAN

Hundred percent, Sir.

HUNLEY

He better be.

Hunley goes down the stairs as we find Brandt watching him from the balcony. He strides through the main war room.

HUNLEY (CONT'D)

Right everybody, heads up. This is it.

He stops next to LAUREN (20s), his right hand and the epitome of the new CIA and leans down to a Technician sitting in front of a large monitor.

On the center screen, we see that aerial shot of the shanty town. Our establisher was a CIA drone.

HUNLEY (CONT'D)

Execute.

A TECHNICIAN presses a button.

TECHNICIAN

Langley, Brimstone. Go. I say again, we are go.

On the center screen, two local vehicles, both junkers meant to avoid attention, screech to a halt in front of the building.

On a second screen, we see video from inside the cars. Each is occupied with SOLDIERS (based on their haircuts). All wear civilian clothes, trying badly to look local. Half of them wear head-mounted cameras, transmitting what they see back to Hunley.

They bail out and:

THE DRONE P.O.V. watches the soldiers from above as they rush the front door of the grungy building.

- 47 **INT. GRUNGY APARTMENT - DAY** 47
Ethan calmly continues his pull-ups.
- 48 **INT. CORRIDOR - DAY** 48
The Military men approach a door at the end of a hallway, weapons drawn.
- 49 **INT. WAR ROOM - DAY** 49
Hunley can hear Ethan's breathing just inside the room. With a look his men in Havana count 3, 2, 1-
And crash through the door. Hunley watches as the men rush in, fan out, search the small apartment. No Ethan, no pull-up bar, no table covered with trash.
- 50 **INT. GRUNGY APARTMENT - DAY** 50
Just a cell phone on a chair, propped up and facing the door. The screen is blank, but we hear the sound of Ethan's breathing on the speaker.
- 51 **EXT. PARIS - DAY** 51
Aerial establisher of the city of light. Push in slowly on a small apartment window. Inside it, we find:
- 52 **INT. GRUNGY APARTMENT - DAY** 52
Ethan Hunt, half a world away, watching via cell phone as the CIA searches an apartment in Cuba.
He drops to the floor, shuts off the phone.
- 53 **INT. WAR ROOM - DAY** 53
Brandt joins Hunley.
SOLDIER (ON SCREEN)
Brimstone, Langley. There's no one here.
Something catches Brandt's eye.

(CONTINUED)

BRANDT

Langley, Brimstone. Face the North wall.

Hundreds of miles away, a soldier faces the wall of the grungy apartment revealing:

A map of the world. On one side of the map are newspaper clippings: bank collapses, assassinations, acts of sabotage such as plane crashes.

On the other side of the map is a perfect grid of photographs. Dozens of them. Each is a simple dossier-style image. Each is marked with one word, be it English, French, German, Russian...

PRESUMED DEAD, DECEASED, TERMINATED.

Some of the photos have been taken from the grid and pinned to the map along with a gloomy article.

Brandt hits a button. The giant center screen freezes on the collage.

HUNLEY

Is this a joke?

BRANDT

No, it's a message.

Hunley shakes his head and walks back to his office.

He passes the Tech.

HUNLEY

Hundred percent my ass, you're fired.

On the next screen, a soldier picks up a lone sketch from a rickety table: a drawing of the Woman, less like a composite sketch and more like a portrait.

Brandt takes notes.

The sound of epic opera music takes us to:

The newly minted off-shoot of the CIA's Langley HQ.

55

INT. CIA TECHNICAL CENTER - DAY

55

Clean lines, cleaner surfaces. A place for sifting through trillions of bits of data, overlooking a massive array of data servers. Welcome to the age of big data. Here we find:

BENJI DUNN (30s), once bookish, now a bit rugged, hard at work on a keyboard, presumably crunching code with the most powerful computer on Earth. REVEAL:

He's playing Halo on a three screen array. He glances up at a rear view mirror strategically placed on the screen, sees someone coming, he pulls off his headphones and the opera music instantly stops.

He hits a button and the game vanishes, replaced by:

Three screens: 1) email 2) streaming raw code (which he types nonstop) and 3) a browser in Chinese as:

A CLERK drops the day's mail on his desk and moves on. Benji picks up the mail and sifts through it, finding one piece in particular that catches his attention. He opens and removes a BROCHURE and a letter. The brochure reads:

YOU'VE WON! VIENNA OPERA

He smiles bitterly, almost disappointed. The phone rings, startling him. He answers:

BENJI

Dunn.

Benji's face darkens.

BENJI (CONT'D)

Is it that time already?

56

[OMITTED]

56

57

INT. CIA - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

57

Lauren is strapping Benji to a polygraph. The process is rather intimate - blood pressure cuffs, chest straps, etc.

A legal-size box sits on the center of the table.

After a long silence.

(CONTINUED)

BENJI

You changed your hair...

(laughs)

It's a joke... because you...
never change your hair. Or your
expression...

Lauren doesn't answer.

BENJI (CONT'D)

What's in the box? I ask because
it's sitting there rather
ominously.

Lauren doesn't answer.

BENJI (CONT'D)

Do you like opera? I love opera. I
just won two tickets...

LAUREN

Are you asking me out?

BENJI

No, no, no.

LAUREN

Because department policy strictly
forbids that.

BENJI

Yes, of course. Can't go anyway...
Can't get the time off... I never
used to think about time off. Work
was always interesting. Seeing the
world. Always something new every
day. Stressful, sure, but... Never
felt like a job, you know? Do what
you love, love what you do...

(distant)

I wonder if this is just a job to
you. That would explain why you
never smile. Unless, of course,
you love not smiling.

She fastens one last strap, bringing them face to face.
She stares at him expressionless.

BENJI (CONT'D)

In which case we're having the
time of our lives right now.

(CONTINUED)

There is some flicker in her eyes - a hint of her guard coming down.

LAUREN

I'm going to ask you a series of control questions-

Lauren takes a seat at her laptop.

BENJI

Yes, I know. You'll ask me to answer truthfully. Then you'll ask me to intentionally lie. Let's go.

LAUREN

State your name.

BENJI

You ask me that question every week.

LAUREN

Your name.

BENJI

The King of Norway.

His vitals fluctuate.

BENJI (CONT'D)

That was a lie. I'm actually third in line to the throne.

His vitals don't fluctuate.

The door opens and Hunley enters Brandt follows.

Benji is instantly nervous.

Hunley walks up, staring at Benji, making him even more tense.

HUNLEY

Has Ethan Hunt contacted you?

Benji's vitals jump. Hunley makes note.

BENJI

Why would he contact me?

Hunley opens the box, throws down a pile of newspaper clippings, hand-drawn images of Lane and the woman, along with photos of how it had been arranged in Havana.

(CONTINUED)

We see stories of plane crashes, fires, a seemingly random mish-mash of disasters.

HUNLEY

He resurfaced again. This time in Cuba. He left this behind. Tell me what do you make of this?

BENJI

He's taken up scrapbooking?

He tries to smile, but withers under Hunley's gaze.

HUNLEY

Look at the photographs, Dunn. Know what they have in common?

Benji shrugs.

HUNLEY (CONT'D)

They're all missing or dead. Every one. All of them were government agents. Russian, French, British, Israeli, you name it. These are highly classified files. Hunt has no problem collecting them? He always manages to stay one step ahead of us. I'm wondering how.

Brandt and Benji exchange a look.

BENJI

Are you suggesting I'm helping him?

HUNLEY

The thought crossed my mind.

BENJI

Six months I've been here. Half a year sifting through mountains of metadata, exabytes of encoded excrement. I've decrypted, processed, parsed and interlaced more data than anyone in my section. And every week you haul me in and ask me the same question in a different way.

HUNLEY

And today you haven't answered it.

57 CONTINUED: (4)

57

BENJI

You seem to think I have some obligation to him. Nothing could be further from the truth. Ethan is still out there in the field. And I'm stuck here answering for it. He has never called. We are not friends. I owe him nothing.

No fluctuation. Lauren is convinced. And is Brandt.

HUNLEY

That'll be all, Dunn.

BENJI

Right. Same time next week?

58 INT. CIA - DAY

58

Benji walks back to his station. Across the atrium, he sees Hunley watching him from his glass enclosed room.

59 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

59

Brandt, sifts through the papers on the table.

HUNLEY

What did you want to say to me Brandt?

BRANDT

Politicians and CEOs dying, banks collapsing, governments dissolving, and a lot of innocent people are dying in the process.

HUNLEY

Just another day at the office.

BRANDT

Western Civilization is slowly coming apart.

HUNLEY

It won't happen on my watch.

BRANDT

Unless...

Hunley doesn't reply.

(CONTINUED)

BRANDT (CONT'D)

Unless these random catastrophes aren't random at all. And some of these dead operatives... aren't really dead. That might explain why the Syndicate is so hard to find. We're looking for the living...

Hunley shakes his head, dismissing.

HUNLEY

C'mon Brandt.

BRANDT

Hear me out. If I'm reading this right... Ethan's telling us someone is recruiting operatives to attack the very same system that created them. A rogue nation. One who has no regard for collateral damage.

HUNLEY

I told you before. Hunt is making it up.

BRANDT

I hope he is, sir. If he's not... This is your worst nightmare.

Brandt focuses on two images in particular: The sketches of Solomon Lane and the Woman.

INT. CIA TECHNICAL CENTER - DAY

Benji angrily returns to his desk, sits down, tries to resume working. He stops, looks down at the brochure and tickets on his desk.

YOU'VE WON! VIENNA OPERA

Long pause.

Fuck this. He grabs the envelope and leaves.

EXT. VIENNA - NIGHT

Establishing the old city in all it's glory.

62

INT. METRO - NIGHT

62

Benji emerges from a train in a tuxedo, feeling pretty good about himself. He takes only a few steps when a hooded musician presses a manila envelope into his chest and walks away without saying a word.

Benji opens the envelope, pulling out a program for the Vienna opera, and a pair of dark-rimmed eyeglasses. He notices metal disks on the inside of the earpiece. Realizing what they are, he puts the glasses on and his head is filled with a voice saying:

ETHAN (ON COM)

Benji, do you copy?

Benji tries to contain his reaction. He sort of manages.

BENJI

Ethan? Where are you? Where the hell have you been?

ETHAN (ON COM)

No time for that now. Keep walking. Make sure you're not being followed.

Benji does as he's told.

63

INT. METRO TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

63

Benji walks as:

BENJI

I didn't win these opera tickets, did I?

ETHAN

No.

Benji curses under his breath.

BENJI

Where do we meet?

ETHAN

We don't. For your sake, you can't be seen with me. You have mail.

64

INT. METRO - ESCALATOR - CONTINUOUS

64

Benji mounts the escalator, looks around, growing paranoid.

Benji's phone chimes in his pocket. He pulls it out and a face appears on the screen - a photo of Solomon Lane, blurry, grainy, taken at some distance.

BENJI

Who is he?

ETHAN

That's what we're here to find out. What I do know is he's out only possible link to the Syndicate. And I have reason to believe he's going to be here tonight. But I can't find him alone. Are you in?

(repeats)

Are you in?

BENJI

Yes, yes, of course. What's the play?

65

INT. METRO - PLATFORM - CONTINUOUS

65

Benji steps off the escalator onto another platform.

ETHAN

You find him, we tag him, I follow him wherever he goes.

BENJI

And after that?

ETHAN

After that, you're on a plane. Back at work Monday morning. No one is the wiser.

BENJI

Wait, you mean that's it?

ETHAN

You're in enough danger as it is. I didn't want to involve you this much, but I had no choice.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

BENJI

Well - yes, but I've come all this way. I might as well.

66 INT. ESCALATOR II - NIGHT

66

Benji sighs as he rides up to the street.

BENJI

If you're going to bring me all this way, at least give me something a little more... dramatic.

ETHAN

You want drama, go to the opera.

And Benji emerges from the metro TO REVEAL:

67 EXT. VIENNA OPERA HOUSE - NIGHT

67

Scene of a fabulous gala: A command performance of Puccini's Turandot - an Italian Opera set in Ancient China. Red carpet, limos, paparazzi and flashbulbs.

68 [OMITTED]

68

69 EXT. STAGE DOOR - SIDE OF THE OPERA HOUSE - NIGHT

69

CLOSE ON: Hands open an instrument case containing pieces of flute. A POLICEWOMAN inspects it.

CLOSE ON: the owner - A MALE FLAUTIST (30s). We are not allowed to see his face, making us instantly suspicious of him. The Policewoman waves him on. The Flautist shuts the case and enters the stage door with other ORCHESTRA MEMBERS, all of whom are subject to search tonight. We stay outside, watching him through the open door. We notice the members of the orchestra turn right as they enter.

But not the Flautist. He goes straight, vanishing into the shadows... Up to no good.

70 EXT. OPERA HOUSE - NIGHT

70

CONTINUOUS TRACKING SHOT:

(CONTINUED)

70

CONTINUED:

70

Photographers, reporters, red carpet, expensive cars.

A limousine arrives: State seal on the door, fender flags, SECRET SERVICE and MOTORCYCLE POLICE escort.

The STATELY CHANCELLOR (60s) and HIS WIFE (40s) emerge from the vehicle to both cheers and jeers from the crowd. They wave. ANGLE ON:

Security is tight. The POLICE are out in force. MEN IN BLACK TIE and WOMAN DRIPPING WITH JEWELS must pass through metal detectors, regardless of status.

Benji is at the metal detector. He is allowed to enter the opera.

A POLICE OFFICER (30s). Something about him we don't like- the way he watches the Chancellor. He's no good.

71

INT. OPERA HOUSE - BAR BALCONY - NIGHT

71

An elegant setup on the second floor of the opera house - small, chest-high tables, PEOPLE dressed to the nines. Ethan stands at the balcony. He looks down at the Chancellor and his wife, finishing their photo-op and heading in. Ethan turns and we track with him from the outside bar to-

72

INT. OPERA HOUSE - GRAND STAIRCASE - NIGHT

72

A central space five stories high, balconies all around. From this vantage, Ethan sees the Chancellor and his entourage mount the grand staircase on the ground floor. He spies Benji at the top of the stairs. When Benji speaks, we hear him as if he were right beside us.

BENJI

Did you know the Chancellor was going to be here?

ETHAN

No.

BENJI

Right, so - an European head of state is here at the same time as a nefarious terrorist.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

72

CONTINUED:

BENJI (CONT'D)

I'm sure the two things are completely unrelated and, as you assured me, I'll be back at my desk Monday morning playing video games, no one's the wiser.

ETHAN

Benji. Show's about to start. Just take your position and tell me what you see. Nice tux, by the way.

Benji spins on his heels, expecting to find Ethan. But Ethan is gone.

72

73

INT. OPERA HOUSE CORRIDOR - NIGHT

73

Benji arrives at a service door marked with electronic symbols. He quickly works the lock and slips into-

74

INT. ELECTRICAL ROOM - NIGHT

74

A cramped space, humming with electrical conduits. He's very out of place in a tux. He finds a junction box he's looking for, opens it, studying the dense mass of wires inside. He attaches a device, opens the program to reveal a paper-thin computer screen and keyboard inside.

75

INT. OPERA HOUSE - STAGE MANAGER'S BOOTH - NIGHT

75

The nerve center of the opera. From here, THE STAGE MANAGER (FEMALE, 30s) can see anything on, above or behind the stage via several monitors. Two static wide angle cameras show her the audience and the lobby. She whispers in German into a small headset.

STAGE MANAGER

[Final checks are complete.
Everyone on standby please.]

76

INT. LIGHTING BOOTH - NIGHT

76

From here, TWO TECHNICIANS control the sophisticated lighting for the entire opera. Talking quietly into their headsets, they manipulate a few controls and:

77 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - SKYTOWER - NIGHT** 77

A trestle high above the stage - the bottom encrusted with lights - descends into place.

78 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - BACK STAGE - DRESSING ROOMS - NIGHT** 78

CAST MEMBERS rush to take their places. We see-

79 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - STAGE MANAGER'S BOOTH - NIGHT** 79

-the same image on one of the stage manager's monitors. All the screens flicker simultaneously. Before she can even react, they are back on.

80 **INT. ELECTRICAL ROOM - NIGHT** 80

Benji has wired the laptop to the junction box. The screen lights up with a glowing checkerboard. Each square is the POV of a camera. He's hacked into the stage manager's station. He can touch any square to zoom in. Three words appear:

RUN FACIAL RECOGNITION

Fine lines rapidly scan any face with amazing speed. In the upper right hand corner of his screen, he has the constant, grainy image of Solomon Lane.

BENJI

I have eyes. Searching. Great sketch by the way. Next time try a photo.

ETHAN (ON COM)

Good to have you back Benji.

Benji sighs, looks at his dank surroundings.

BENJI

Join the IMF. See the world. On a monitor. In a closet.

81 **INT. LOBBY - NIGHT** 81

The lobby is empty apart from a lone WOMAN, ELEGANT AND LEAN IN A FETCHING YELLOW DRESS. We can't see her face.

- 81 CONTINUED: 81
- The lobby lights dim. The show is about to begin...
The sound of a tuning orchestra takes us to:
- 82 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - NIGHT** 82
- ANGLE ON: The magnificent chandelier in the center of the opera house ceiling as it dims...
- A rapid tapping O.S. The tuning orchestra falls silent. A CONDUCTOR'S HAND, holding a baton, rises into frame, snaps down and the opera begins - the music as turns triumphant and foreboding. The orchestra renders the ominous "Tre enigmi m'hai proposto." Subtitles above the stage translate:
- <Three riddles have I proposed.>*
- 83 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - BACK-STAIRS - NIGHT** 83
- CONTINUOUS TRACKING SHOT: Ethan emerges through a set of glass doors. He crosses a long, brightly lit hallway where STRAGGLING LADIES AND GENTS check their coats. He slips through a side door and into-
- 84 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - UPPER BOX - NIGHT** 84
- an upper box with a view of the whole opera house. He can see the audience, the orchestra, the stage.
- REVERSE ON ETHAN TO REVEAL: In the box just below him, the Chancellor and his wife are sitting down. TWO BODYGUARDS scan the audience.
- 85 **[OMITTED]** 85
- 86 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - VARIOUS** 86
- VARIOUS ANGLES FROM AROUND THE HOUSE - from the lights high above, the box across the auditorium - each a perfect vantage of The Chancellor.
- 87 **INT. ELECTRICAL ROOM - NIGHT** 87
- Benji bounces from camera to camera on his laptop. He stops on the cast area. The CAST AND CHORUS wear either heavy make-up or masks. His facial recognition software becomes confused, flickering:

(CONTINUED)

87

CONTINUED:

87

READ ERROR

BENJI

Dammit.

An image of a backstage camera catches his eye. A Man walk away from camera with a case under his arm. THE FLAUTIST. But Benji cannot see his face. His movements are suspicious, however. He ducks out of sight to let TWO CHORUS MEMBERS pass. Then he proceeds off camera.

BENJI (CONT'D)

Uh... Ethan... I might have something. Cannot confirm.

88

INT. OPERA HOUSE - UPPER BOX - NIGHT

88

ETHAN

Where?

BENJI (ON COM)

Back stage. I'll direct you.

Ethan stands and rushes out of the box.

89

INT. OPERA HOUSE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

89

The shadowy Officer steps out of a door and walks down a corridor.

90

INT. OPERA HOUSE - PROPS STORAGE - NIGHT

90

A hallway filled with props. The Woman walks through and climbs a metal ladder to platform.

CLOSE ON: the Woman's hand inspects the scaffold, taps a struts, removes it. It quickly transforms into a rifle. The Woman in yellow turns, walks away from us.

91

INT. ELECTRICAL ROOM - NIGHT

91

Benji tracks the Flautist on one monitor, Ethan on another, approaching a door:

BENJI

Take the door on your left. He should be right in front of you.

92

INT. OPERA HOUSE - BACKSTAGE DOOR - NIGHT

92

Ethan throws the door open, turns right, finding an empty corridor.

ETHAN

Where is he?

BENJI (ON COM)

I lost him.

ETHAN

Find him.

BENJI

I'm looking.

Hearing footsteps behind him, Ethan turns, just in time to see the Woman in the yellow dress crossing the opposite backstage area.

ETHAN

Benji, did you see that?

BENJI

See what?

ETHAN

That woman.

BENJI

What woman? Where are you?

Ethan looks down, sees the Flautist climb the stairs backstage.

ETHAN

I'm backstage.

BENJI

I can't see you.

93

INT. OPERA HOUSE - WINGS - NIGHT

93

Extreme shadows, shafts of light streaming through the semi-transparent backdrop and the stage beyond.

Hidden in the shadow, rifle in hand, the Woman moves toward a Chinese-style tower with a parapet. She slips inside just before TWO STAGE HANDS walk past.

(CONTINUED)

93

CONTINUED:

93

A beat later, a stage door opens and Ethan enters. No sign of the Woman. He looks left, right, up into the fly tower high above - light trestles and back-drops suspended from cables in a cavernous space rising one hundred-plus feet above the stage.

Then he see him: the Flautist on the far side of the stage, moving in silhouette, his case under one arm.

BENJI (ON COM)

Ethan I see him. Back-stage,
heading east.

ETHAN

I see him.

Ethan takes a step when the set besides him moves unexpectedly. Ethan jumps back, nearly crushed by the Chinese tower moving to the stage. We recognize it immediately. He has no idea the Woman is hidden inside. By the time he makes his way around the set, the Flautist is gone.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

There's a woman back here, too.
Find her.

He looks up at a catwalk above him, sees a ladder.

94

INT. CHINESE TOWER - NIGHT

94

The Woman peers through the louvers of the tower as it slides into place, ending in a perfect vantage of the Chancellor and his wife. She assembles her weapon.

95

INT. OPERA HOUSE - STAGE - NIGHT

95

The lavish production continues, the light dimming dramatically, the music assuming an air of chilling suspense, the stage largely empty. Mist hangs in the air. We hear A CHORUS, but their voices are far away. They sing from back stage, creating an eerie effect.

96

INT. ELECTRICAL ROOM - NIGHT

96

The image on Benji's computer flickers. He bangs on the electrical box.

100

CONTINUED:

100

One thing puzzles us: From here, we cannot see the audience, let alone the Chancellor.

EXTREME LOW ANGLE looking up at the Flautist as he loads a single round. We sense movement above him. So does he. The Assassin moves like a cat, turning and firing upwards with his silenced rifle:

POP. WHAM. Ethan lands hard. A direct hit would have crushed the Flautist. But the blow is a glancing one.

Bullets scatter. The flute case falls-

101

INT. OPERA HOUSE - BACK-STAGE - RIGHT

101

-landing in the jagged horns of an upright dragon set-piece.

102

INT. ELECTRICAL ROOM - NIGHT

102

Benji's earpiece squeals.

BENJI

Ethan - do you copy? Ethan - come in!

103

INT. OPERA HOUSE - TRESTLE - NIGHT

103

Ethan and the Flautist grapple for the gun - the Flautist ends up on top of Ethan, pressing the weapon against Ethan's throat.

Ethan (and we) see the Flautist's face clearly for the first time. It's not Solomon Lane.

CLOSE ON: The Flautist's face... His eye.

ECU ON: He wears a contact lens in one eye, crossed with delicate lines of circuitry. A camera.

104

INT. OPERA HOUSE - AUDIENCE - NIGHT

104

CLOSE ON a small screen held in a man's hand. On the screen is Ethan's face, looking directly into the Flautist's eye.

REVEAL: The face of the man holding the phone. It is a calm, peaceful face. Making it all the more frightening.

(CONTINUED)

- 104 CONTINUED: 104
- It is Solomon Lane. He pockets the phone and exits the auditorium.
- ANGLE ON: A GRAY-HAIRED MAN (ATTLEE) in one of the boxes, glancing over to watch Solomon leave. Remember him...
- 105 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - TRESTLE - NIGHT** 105
- Ethan and the Flautist trade blows, silhouetted through the translucent backdrop behind them.
- A flash of steel. The Flautist has a knife. The fight intensifies with the music.
- 106 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - STAGE MANAGER'S BOOTH - NIGHT** 106
- EXTREME LOW ANGLE: looking up at the stage manager. She is too involved in conducting her business to notice the struggle on the trestle high above her.
- 107 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - STAGE - NIGHT** 107
- THE TENOR sings "*Nessun Dorma*" <No One Sleeps>, the opera's passionate signature piece.
- THE CONDUCTOR turns the pages of his libretto, keeping perfect time.
- 108 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - PRESIDENT'S BOX - NIGHT** 108
- The Chancellor takes his wife's hand. She smiles.
- 109 **INT. LIGHTING CONTROL BOOTH - NIGHT** 109
- The Two Technicians are too busy to notice the door opening slowly behind them, let alone that shadowy Police Officer slipping in - tazer in one hand...
- 110 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - TRESTLE - NIGHT** 110
- Ethan's in trouble, struggling to dodge a knife on a narrow trestle in the dark sixty feet up.
- The upstage backdrop lowers as the downstage backdrop rises with the music, revealing a second backdrop - this one translucent. A bright light descends.

- 111 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - NIGHT** 111
- For the audience, the effect is breathtaking. The light creates a sunset in the misty sky. And it completely obscures the action going on behind it.
- 112 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - TRESTLE - NIGHT** 112
- But from Ethan's P.O.V. the entire house is visible - including the Chancellor and his wife. The Flautist lunges with his knife. Ethan parries.
- The Flautist falls to his death, landing on the dragon's horns. Ethan turns to the house, the Chancellor. His eyes lock in horror on the lighting control booth at the back of the auditorium.
- No one sees the Officer but Ethan.
- 113 **INT. LIGHTING CONTROL BOOTH - NIGHT** 113
- The Two Technicians are unconscious and bound. The Officer assembles his own weapon: A barrel extension disguised as a baton, a laser sight disguised as a flashlight. He draws the rifle's action from his holster, of course.
- 114 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - TRESTLE - NIGHT** 114
- Ethan puts a hand to his ear, says something we cannot hear over music.
- 115 **INT. ELECTRICAL ROOM - NIGHT** 115
- Benji puts a hand to his ear, taps the monitor and brings up the lighting booth.
- He sees the Officer there with his weapon. Benji rushes from the room.
- 116 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - TRESTLE - NIGHT** 116
- Ethan grabs the Flautist's rifle at his feet. He searches frantically for a bullet, sees one resting on the edge of the unsteady trestle, threatening to fall. He has to move fast, but can't move too fast.

117 **INT. LIGHTING CONTROL BOOTH - NIGHT** 117

The Officer sets his sights on the Chancellor. He activates the laser scope, but we see nothing. The officer puts on green sunglasses.

OFFICER'S P.O.V. a green beam, invisible to the naked eye, sweeps across the room.

The Officer glances at the libretto - a note circled in red. He raises his weapon chest-high. His eyes sweep from the Chancellor's box to the Chinese tower and back. He waits.

118 **INT. CHINESE TOWER - NIGHT** 118

The Woman shoulders her rifle, glancing down at the orchestra, the audience beyond.

119 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - TRESTLE - NIGHT** 119

Ethan snags the bullet. He quickly loads the rifle, turns to aim and, to his renewed horror, he sees:

The Woman and her rifle in the Chinese tower. Worse still, from this position, we see her face for the first time. It's *the woman. That woman.*

Ethan is momentarily stunned. Reluctantly, he aims at the Woman, then the Officer, then back. With only one bullet - and an unthinkable emotional conflict - what can he do? The choice is impossible.

As the music reaches its highest high, Ethan turns on his heels, aims at the Chancellor, and fires as:

120 **INT. CHINESE TOWER - NIGHT** 120

The Woman fires.

121 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - PRESIDENT'S BOX - NIGHT** 121

Ethan's silences bullet grazes the Chancellor's shoulder. He lurches to one side as the Woman's bullet hits the back of his chair. Shocked, his wife and bodyguards react and rush to his aid, obscuring him.

The aria finishes on stage and the audience erupts into thunderous applause.

- 122 **INT. CHINESE TOWER - NIGHT** 122
- The Woman tries to see. Is he alive? Is he dead?
- 123 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - TRESTLE - NIGHT** 123
- Ethan too.
- 124 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - PRESIDENT'S BOX - NIGHT** 124
- The Chancellor gets to his feet, perfectly fine. He is rushed from the box by his security.
- 125 **INT. LIGHTING BOOTH** 125
- The Officer sees this. He quickly aims his weapon.
- Not at the Chancellor. But at the Woman.
- He fires just as the door bursts open and Benji attacks. The Officer reacts. Shooting wide-
- 126 **INT. CHINESE TOWER - NIGHT** 126
- his bullet strikes the wood just inches from the Woman's head. She reacts, searches for where the shot came from. Her eyes find Benji grappling with the Officer in the lighting control booth. She aims as:
- 127 **INT. LIGHTING CONTROL BOOTH - NIGHT** 127
- The Officer gets the better of Benji. They spin suddenly and:
- THUNK.* A bullet hits the Officer square in the back.
- 128 **INT. CHINESE TOWER / LIGHTING BOOTH - WOMAN** 128
- THE WOMAN'S SCOPE P.O.V: The Office drops, revealing Benji's stunned expression in her cross-hairs.
- 129 **INT. LIGHTING CONTROL BOOTH** 129
- A single stage light flashes past the Chinese tower. For one instant, Benji sees the Woman and her rifle. He wisely hits the deck and backs out.

(CONTINUED)

- 129 CONTINUED: 129
- The applaude subsides, the music resumes, frantic, matching the drama backstage.
- 130 **INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT** 130
- One Bodyguard tears open the Chancellor's sleeve, revealing a flesh-wound. The other gets on the radio.
- 131 **[OMITTED]** 131
- 132 **INT. CHINESE TOWER - WOMAN** 132
- The Woman turns to leave when she sees Ethan's vague silhouette moving behind the backdrop. She aims, the bright light making the shot difficult.
- 133 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - TRESTLE - NIGHT** 133
- A bullet pierces in the backdrop, just missing Ethan's head. Then a second shot. He's trapped on the trestle. He sees the Flautist's knife at his feet. He grabs it and leaps into space, stabbing into a black upstage backdrop, gripping the knife with both hands and sliding to the floor a la Errol Flynn.
- 134 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - BEHIND SET- NIGHT** 134
- Ethan sees The Woman's shadow slipping from the base of the tower into the winds. He goes after her.
- 135 **INT. AUDITORIUM - NIGHT** 135
- Police and Secret Service enter from every exit.
- POLICE MAN (O.S.)
(in German)
[SEAL THE EXITS. SEAL ALL OF THEM
SEAL EVERYTHING.]
- For the first time, the audience is aware of a problem. THE DIRECTOR crosses the orchestra pit and signals the Conductor. Confusion. The music stops.

136 **INT. OPERA HOUSE - STAIRWELL - NIGHT**

136

The Woman is making her way down the steps when she halts. She hears voices and footsteps coming up. She turns, runs directly into Ethan.

ETHAN

I have a way out if you're interested?

She considers the alternative.

THE WOMAN

Lead the way.

They run.

137 **INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT**

137

The Chancellor and his wife are rushed to a waiting armored SUV by their security detail.

CHANCELLOR

(to his wife)

[I'm all right, I tell you. I'm all right.]

138 **EXT. OPERA HOUSE - ROOFTOP - NIGHT**

138

Sirens approaching in the distance. Ethan and the Woman burst through a doorway and onto the roof.

THE WOMAN

What's next?

Ethan looks around, sees three flagpoles jutting over the side of the building. They look down at a fountain on the side of the opera house, surrounded by grass and a low wall. He quickly wraps his necktie around his hand.

ETHAN

There!

THE WOMAN

What? There? Okay.

She runs after Ethan along the roof. Ethan vaults down to the next level. The Woman sits on the ledge, and looks down expectantly at Ethan.

(CONTINUED)

138

CONTINUED:

138

THE WOMAN (CONT'D)

Shoes...

Ethan looks down at her high heeled shoes, at the uneven roof. He takes them off and helps her down.

They run, jump and slide down to the edge of the roof. The Woman grabs the back of Ethan's jacket to stop him from shooting over the edge.

Ethan loops the rope around the center flagpole, slides it out a few feet and tugs. The knot clings to the pole. Ethan jerks the rope harder. The joint holding the pole in place snaps. The pole sags.

ETHAN

Did you have another plan?

THE WOMAN

Not a better one.

The doorway opens and THREE POLICE OFFICERS emerge onto the roof. From their vantage, they don't immediately see Ethan and the Woman. She leaps up, wraps her arms and legs around Ethan.

THE WOMAN (CONT'D)

Go.

And he launches them both over the railing.

139

EXT. OPERA HOUSE - NIGHT

139

They fall like a stone. Thanks to the street performers, no one even notices.

140

EXT. STREET - SIDE OF OPERA HOUSE - NIGHT

140

An instant later, two black SUVs roar up the nearby ramp to the parking garage, streaking right past the BMW. FOUR POLICE MOTORCYCLES join as escort. Ethan and the Woman watch the Chancellor go. Safe.

141

INT. SUV - NIGHT

141

CHANCELLOR

[Everyone be calm. For God's sake, it's just a flesh wound.]

(CONTINUED)

141 CONTINUED:

141

ANGLE ON: The LEAD SECURITY MAN looks down at a silver briefcase on the floor. He realizes.

LEAD MAN

[STOP THE C-]

142 **EXT. STREET - SIDE OF OPERA HOUSE - NIGHT**

142

An explosion. Not a large one - just a muffled blast with enough force to buckle the doors of the SUV from the inside out. The windows turn opaque.

Ethan and the Woman watch the car slow, veer to one side. A larger secondary explosion, lifts the SUV off the ground, blasting the motorcycle in four different directions. The sidewalk are screaming, running.

The Woman is as shocked as Ethan. Benji pulls up in a BMW.

BENJI

Get in!

He grabs her and pushes her into the back seat of the car. Benji hits the gas and they drive away, with Ethan and the Woman looking out the back window at a pillar of fire.

143 **INT. BMW - NIGHT**

143

Benji sees the Woman, does a double take.

BENJI

What th- She tried to *shoot me*.

ETHAN

That doesn't make her a bad person.

(to the Woman)

I'm going to have to search you.

She puts her hands on her head. Ethan frisks her. She stares at him, making him a little uncomfortable.

THE WOMAN

You need to let me out.

BENJI

Not a chance.

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN

I assumed you were deep cover back in London. But isn't this taking the role a bit far?

BENJI

Hold on. You know her?

ETHAN

We haven't formally introduced. I'm pretty sure she's British Intelligence.

He finds a knife on her thigh:

THE WOMAN

(extends a hand)

Ilsa Faust. And you're Ethan Hunt.

Ethan finds a lipstick, pockets it.

ILSA

That shade is very hard to find.

ETHAN

What were you doing at the opera tonight?

BENJI

Besides killing the Chancellor.

ILSA

Saving your life in London put me in a tight spot with some very dangerous people. I was sent to kill the Chancellor to regain their trust.

BENJI

So you *admit* you killed him.

ILSA

No, I went through the *motions*. That's not the same thing.

Ethan finds a carbon fiber spike in her hair. Jesus.

ETHAN

You thought you'd put him in the hospital. Take him out of harm's way.

ILSA

The same thing you tried to do.

BENJI

You don't actually *believe* that.
What about the rest of her team?

ILSA

Those other two idiots?
Redundancies.

ETHAN

One man to kill the Chancellor if
you missed, the other to kill you.
A test.

ILSA

The second one I've failed, thanks
to you.

ETHAN

And the car bomb was insurance.

BENJI

And shooting me? What was that?

ILSA

I had a choice of two targets. I'm
beginning to regret my decision.

(to Ethan)

It was never my intention to kill
anyone. I certainly didn't plant
that bomb in the Chancellor's
motorcade.

BENJI

You did, however, shoot him.

ETHAN

I shot him. She missed.

BENJI

You shot the Chancellor?

ETHAN

I saved his life.

ILSA

We merely delayed the inevitable.
Now please, for your sake and your
friend, let me out-

(CONTINUED)

BENJI

We have a tail.

Ethan looks back, sees a vehicle looming in the rearview mirror. Ethan produces his phone - the photo of Solomon.

ETHAN

Who is he?

ILSA

We're after the same thing. I can help you. But if you want to bring down the Syndicate, you *have to let me out.*

BENJI

Uhhh... They're closing.

She looks back at the car behind them.

ILSA

This should look like an escape. Just throw me out anywhere.

Ethan produces the photo of Solomon.

ETHAN

Who is he?

Her expression darkens. But before she can answer:

BOOM. Bullets hit the back window - the bulletproof glass holds - men firing from the car behind them.

BENJI

CHANGE OF PLAN. LET HER GO.

ILSA

YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO FIND ME.

More bullets. Everyone ducks. Benji brakes, turns as:

Ilsa opens the car door and jumps out.

Ilsa spills out onto the street in a heap. The BMW speeds away into the night. A BLACK SUV screeches to a halt. TWO GUNMEN jump from the back, shooting at the BMW.

145 **INT. BMW - NIGHT** 145

Benji has no choice but to drive. The shooting stops and Ethan looks back as the scene behind him fades.

Lost her again. Dammit.

146 **EXT. STREET - NIGHT** 146

Ilsa, a complete mess, is pulled to her feet by one of the gunmen.

ILSA

Your boss is going to be very upset with you.

BRANDT (PRELAP)

The evidence is strictly circumstantial.

147 **INT. HUNLEY'S OFFICE - DUSK** 147

Coverage of the Chancellor's assassination on CNN. Hunley staring out the window, his back to Brandt.

HUNLEY

Less than twenty-four hours after we interview Benji Dunn about Ethan Hunt, he's on a plane to Vienna with tickets to the Opera. Within six hours of his arrival, the Chancellor is dead. That might be circumstance to a public defender, but to the CIA, that is actionable intelligence.

BRANDT

Consider for just a moment the possibility that Hunt's investigation led him to the opera. That *he's* the one with actionable intelligence.

HUNLEY

Consider for just a moment that Hunt has taken his delusion to the next level. That his little rogues gallery is actually a trophy room.

(CONTINUED)

147 CONTINUED:

147

BRANDT

You're not actually suggesting
that he killed all those agents?
(off Hunley's look)
You don't know Ethan at all.

HUNLEY

On the contrary. I know him just
enough. You know him too well. In
any case, finding him is no longer
a pet project. Special activities
Division has full discretion.

BRANDT

You mean shoot to kill.

HUNLEY

Wether or not Hunt is taken alive
is entirely up to him.

148 **EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT**

148

Ethan and Benji ditch the bullet riddled BMW in the
shadows and walk away.

149 **EXT. CANAL - BARGE - NIGHT**

149

Ethan and Benji board a small barge in a canal.

150 **INT. BARGE - NIGHT**

150

Ethan manually bypasses a hidden lock and opens a hatch
in the floor-

151 **INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT**

151

- and drops down into a hidden safe-room in the bow.
Vintage IMF - bunks, medical kit, spare equipment and
weapons. Ethan opens a drawer, produces a bag containing:

ETHAN

Your new identity - passport,
cash, move map, change of clothes
in that bag - everything you need
to make it back to D.C.
Undetected. Once you're there,
you'll have to inform on me.

(CONTINUED)

BENJI

What?

ETHAN

Tell the truth. You came to Vienna believing you won two tickets to the opera. I attempted to recruit you into assassinating the Chancellor. You refused.

BENJI

That's not the truth-

ETHAN

Your life depends on them believing you, Benji. It'll be easier if you tell them what they want to hear.

(before Benji can argue)

When Hunley asks, you sell me down to the river. It won't make my situation any worse.

BENJI

Ethan... At least tell me what is going on here...

ETHAN

Ever have a crises of faith, Benji?

BENJI

More than once. Am I fighting for the right side? Should I really risk my life for a world that doesn't seem to care?

ETHAN

And sometimes the answer is no.

Beat. Benji nods, yes. He's not proud of it.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

It happens to the best of us. Of course, most of us come back from that place. But not all.

Ethan clicks on the TV with a remote control. Photos of faces we have seen before in Havana and again with Brandt and Hunley.

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Recognize anyone?

Benji finds a face we know. The Cop from the opera. Benji points at the photo.

BENJI

Him.

ETHAN

He's former KSA. German intelligence. Missing, presumed dead.

BENJI

He was at the opera tonight.

Ethan produces a photo of the flautist.

ETHAN

This one, too. Former Mossad.

BENJI

Let me guess. Presumed dead.

ETHAN

Tonight I made it official.

Benji looks at the image that started the night. Solomon Lane.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

I was looking for him in the Bosphorus, the same day a car accident killed the visiting President of Malawi. He slipped away again in Jakarta, just before a passenger plane vanished over the Pacific with two hundred and thirty six passengers. I just missed him in the Philippines... right before a fire at a petrochemical plant gassed a village of two thousand people.

BENJI

(a little unsure)

You're not saying these accidents are connected.

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN

(to chemical plant)

That fire bankrupted a global arms corporation.

(pointing to plane crash)

That missing plane was carrying the Secretary of the World Bank.

(to car accident)

This wreck triggered a civil war. These are no accidents. They're links in a chain. The work of a single organization: the Syndicate. An army of lost souls trained to do what we do. Only now they have a sense of purpose.

Benji looks at the photos with new eyes.

BENJI

An anti-IMF.

ETHAN

Out to destroy civilization as we know it... And since Hunley shut us down, they've been escalating unchecked.

(*ALT*)

Out to destroy the system that created them, regardless of who's in the way. And since Hunley shut us down, they've been escalating unchecked.

BENJI

Or... these could all be just what they appear to be. A series of random disasters.

Ethan points to the photo of Lane.

ETHAN

He was there, Benji. Every time. Just like he was there tonight. I'm sure of it. I don't know who he is, where he comes from or how he's funded, but I know he's the key. If I can bring him down, I can make everything like it was. Maybe even get you your life back.

(CONTINUED)

BENJI

Ethan, I'm back. This is my life. This is what I signed up for. Let me help you find him.

ETHAN

That's why I brought you here, and look what happened. I gambled with your life tonight and I lost. I can't be sure how this ends. I can't protect you. That's why I need you to leave.

BENJI

That's not your decision to make. Ethan, I'm a field agent. I know the risks. More than that, I'm your friend - no matter what I tell the polygraph every week. You called because you needed my help. You still do. I'm staying. And that's all we're going to say about it.

Ethan is moved. He nods.

ETHAN

Ok.

BENJI

Ok. Where do we start?

ETHAN

Ilsa.

BENJI

How do we find her?

ETHAN

She said we have everything we need.

Ethan reaches into his pocket and produces the lipstick. Benji picks it up. Fiddles with it for a moment. He turns it upside down, twists it and:

A USB connector pops out. The game is afoot.

Solomon Lane sits at a table making notes in a small book - a glass of wine and a meal are untouched.

The door opens. Ilsa is escorted in by one of the gunmen from the car. As soon as Ilsa sees Solomon:

She turns on the gunman, punches his throat, disables and disarms him. With a pistol in her hand, she stands over Solomon. He never flinches.

ILSA

We had an agreement. You send me to do a job, I do it. But my way. My script. Not yours.

SOLOMON

And where did I deviate?

ILSA

You put two more gunmen at the opera tonight. One of them tried to kill me.

SOLOMON

You missed.

ILSA

I missed because Ethan Hunt was there. Looking for you. You just had to play games. You wanted him to see your face in London. Well, now it's blown back to you.

SOLOMON

Ethan Hunt is in Vienna because you let him in escape in London.

ILSA

Vinter would have killed him in London. That's not what you asked for.

SOLOMON

Still, that's twice you've let him slip away. Curious.

ILSA

Are you questioning my loyalty? Or my ability?

SOLOMON

I can't decide.

ILSA

I told you before? Trust me or
kill me. But if you're going to
kill me, be a man...

She tosses a gun on the table, scattering his dinner.

ILSA (CONT'D)

Do it yourself.

Solomon stares at the gun for a beat. He picks it up,
aims and fires. Ilsa reacts. For an instant, we think
she's been shot. Until the gunman she disarmed falls
dead. Lane places the gun down on the table as if nothing
happened.

SOLOMON

Did he say anything?

Ilsa looks at the dead man on the floor, collects
herself.

ILSA

He knows about Morocco.

Solomon's cool demeanor darkens.

SOLOMON

What does he know about Morocco?

ILSA

Now who's upset?

SOLOMON

What does he know?

ILSA

He knows about the power plant. He
doesn't know what's in it.

Solomon thinks for a moment. Then:

SOLOMON

Can you find him?

ILSA

He'll find me. I've seen to that.

153

EXT. ROOFTOP - WASHINGTON D.C. - DUSK

153

Brandt stands with a panoramic view of the city behind him. Wind roars as a helicopter touches down. A MAN climbs out, carrying a duffle bag. REVEAL:

LUTHER STICKELL, his rough exterior concealing a genuinely gentle disposition. They shout over the sound of the engine.

LUTHER

What couldn't you tell me over the phone?

The helicopter takes off, drowning out their voices as Luther is caught up.

BRANDT

The Chancellor of Austria has been assassinated. We believe Ethan and Benji were there. Hunley has handed this over to Special Activities Division. We have to find Ethan before they do.

As the helicopter fades away, Luther's expression hardens.

LUTHER

Not interested.

BRANDT

Luther, listen-

LUTHER

Man, I know Ethan Hunt. I don't know you. Except that you work for Hunley.

BRANDT

And I don't know you, except that you resigned.

Luther just stares. Brandt backs off.

BRANDT (CONT'D)

Let's be honest. Neither one of us is where he should be.

LUTHER

And you think running Ethan down is the answer to that?

(CONTINUED)

BRANDT

I'm not asking for our sake. I'm asking for his.

LUTHER

You don't worry about Ethan. They're never gonna catch him.

BRANDT

They're not out to catch him, Luther. This is Hunley, we're talking about. The CIA.

That gives Luther pause.

BRANDT (CONT'D)

They're going to kill him. Benji, too. Unless we can find them first.

Luther chews on this. Finally:

LUTHER

Understand something... Ethan is my friend. If I doubt you for one second whose side you're really on... I'll take you out.

Brandt considers this, nods.

BRANDT

I believe you.

Luther ponders this, then:

LUTHER

Arrright, what have I got to go on?

Brandt pulls two folded sheets of paper from his breast pocket. Luther unfolds them to reveal:

Ethan's hand-drawn sketches of Solomon and Ilsa.

BRANDT

Not much - and not a lot of time.

TIME CUT:

154 CONTINUED:

154

Benji has the lipstick USB drive plugged into a computer. As Benji decrypts, images appear on the screen: a schematic of a strange looking structure - something out of science fiction.

BENJI

That's interesting.

ETHAN

What is it?

BENJI

It's a skiff. A secure computer facility. Off-line, ultra contained. Impossible to hack into it from the outside. It's essentially a digital safe-deposit box. Strange thing for a lady to be carrying in her sundries.

ETHAN

Where is it located?

BENJI

Morocco.

ETHAN

Morocco.

155 **EXT. CASABLANCA - DAY**

155

A city by the sea, a tangle of white-washed buildings and a towering Mosque - the tallest in Africa.

156 **INT. BMW X-5 - DAY**

156

Ethan drives, directed by the GPS.

ETHAN

You're sure this is it?

BENJI

These were the coordinates in the file.

157 **EXT. VILLAGE - DAY**

157

Ethan brings the car to a stop and they climb out. They find themselves on a sunbaked dirt road, mud-brick walls on the other side, perhaps centuries old.

(CONTINUED)

157

CONTINUED:

157

It's quiet except for a GOATHERD and his goats meandering by. Ethan and Benji walk, wondering where the hell they are. They come to a door in the old wall and something catches Ethan's eye.

A piece of paper tacked to the door. A woman has used it to blot her lipstick, leaving a mark like a kiss.

Ethan knocks. No answer. He reaches for the bolt. The door opens. With an uncertain look from Benji, they enter and walk up a flight of narrow stairs.

158

INT. MOROCCO SAFE-HOUSE - DAY

158

They find themselves in an unexpected oasis - a completely modern home inside, made to match the surrounding village. We notice surf boards and the associated gear along the wall.

Out back, through the wide open sliding glass, is a long infinity pool, the desert and the mountains beyond. Someone is swimming.

Ilsa emerges from the cool water, steps out. Dripping wet, she reaches for a towel.

ILSA

And what brings you gentlemen to Casablanca?

She extends a hand. Ethan pulls something from his pocket - holds up her lipstick.

159

INT. MOROCCO SAFE-HOUSE - DAY

159

The lipstick is on a table next to Ethan's phone, showing the image of Solomon Lane.

ILSA

His name is Solomon Lane. He created the Syndicate.

ETHAN

Where does he come from?

ILSA

He's former British Intelligence.

BENJI

Well then Hunley knows about Lane-

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN

Maybe - or maybe not.

BENJI

If British Intelligence knows the Syndicate exists, why don't they tell the CIA.

ETHAN

Because they don't want anyone knowing the Syndicate was created by one of their own.

ILSA

I was send undercover to earn Lane's trust and eventually identify the members of his organization. For the first time in two years I'm close to knowing who they are.

She holds up the drive.

ILSA (CONT'D)

Lane had a ledger. It contained the identities of his operatives, his terrorist associates, the entire inner workings of the Syndicate. One of Lane's agents stole it, hoping to blackmail him. He stored the ledger in a highly secure computer facility, for safe keeping. He died being interrogated for the access code, leaving Lane with a serious problem.

ETHAN

The key to crushing Lane is sitting in that computer just waiting for someone to take it...

BENJI

So why hasn't Lane just sent someone to steal it?

ILSA

He did. He sent me and I can tell you it's impossible.

Ethan and Benji share a look. The game is afoot.

160 **INT. MOROCCO SAFE-HOUSE - LATER**

160

The room is dark. A projector connected to a laptop beams images on the far wall. It shows pictures and a blueprint of the massive power plant.

Benji controls the display via a tablet, zooming through photographs of the large, modernized facility. Buried deep underneath the plant's saucer-like control room is the Skiff (Secure computer facility).

ILSA

The facility is hidden beneath the local power plant under military guard.

FLASH - What we see next is a live version of what Benji proposes. These images rush by us as he speaks:

Images of soldiers and military vehicles around the compound.

ILSA (CONT'D)

And the only way to access the computer room is through the central terminal located there.

The image of the central computer room where information is accessed.

BENJI

That's easy, we just impersonate the agent who stole the ledger in the first place - and I get to wear a mask!

161 **INT. SAFE-HOUSE BACK ROOM - DAY**

161

The mask machine makes a perfect copy of THE AGENT'S face from a photograph. Being Benji's fantasy, he wears the mask, with Ethan helping him put it on.

162 **EXT. POWER PLANT - DAY**

162

Benji, disguised as the agent, uses an ID to pass through security, to the main building and:

163 **INT. POWER PLANT - LOBBY - DAY**

163

Into the main reception area.

(CONTINUED)

163

CONTINUED:

163

ILSA (V.O.)

Unfortunately, to reach the off-line computer terminal, you also need to pass the main gate, access the elevator with fingerprint recognition, and open three separate combination locks...

BENJI

Yeah, *but*, suppose we can beat all that, we'd be home free - right?

The first lock is a simple key cars to enter the lobby.

The second lock is a thumb print scanner to enter the elevator.

164

INT. SECURITY CORRIDOR - DAY

164

TWO SECURITY GUARDS man the corridor at the far end.

The corridor is curved with three glass partitions. Each partition has a different lock.

In a series of jump cuts, Benji in his mask passes through three doors, each one them relying on a specific combination lock.

165

INT. SECURE COMPUTER LAB - DAY

165

Masked Benji enters a secure computer lab. He sits at a terminal and inserts a thumb drive.

ECU on the screen: FILES COPIED

166

[OMITTED]

166

167

INT. SAFE HOUSE - BACK ROOM - DAY

167

Ethan and Ilsa are waiting. The agent walks in, holds up the drive and peels off his face revealing Benji, triumphant.

168

INT. MOROCCO SAFE-HOUSE - DAY

168

Back to Benji in front of the TV. Ilsa points at the images of several security cameras.

(CONTINUED)

168 CONTINUED:

168

ILSA

Even if you could make it past every other security measure, you won't beat the last one. And that's because it's protected by a gait analysis - the next step beyond facial recognition.

169 **INT. SECURITY CORRIDOR - GATE ANALYSIS - DAY**

169

REVEAL: A second corridor at a right angle from the security corridor.

This one is long and straight, occupied by a large body scanner on a track. It follows disguised Benji as he walks down the hall towards the computer room.

The Security Guards man a computer screen. The screen analyzes Benji's movements to determine he is really who he claims to be.

ILSA (V.O.)

These cameras actually know how our agent walks, how he talks, how he *moves*, and down to his facial tics.

On a screen somewhere, software analyzes his move, flashing red.

The gate analysis array fires tasers at disguised Benji, electrocuting him instantly.

Disguised Benji is grabbed by the two guards who rip off his melting mask off.

BENJI (O.S.)

Yes, so what you're saying is no mask can beat it. We're screwed before we even reach the vault. And I wind up in a Moroccan prison.

170 **INT. MOROCCO SAFE-HOUSE - DAY**

170

BENJI

I don't get to wear a mask.

Ethan stares at the info before him, thinking. He turns to Ilsa. She enjoys watching someone else wrestle with the problem.

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN

And there's no other way into the computer lab?

BENJI

No other way in.

ETHAN

Air shaft?

ILSA

Six inch diameter pipe.

ETHAN

Foundation?

ILSA

Twelve feet of concrete, top and bottom.

Ethan and Benji look at each other.

ETHAN/BENJI

Electrical conduit.

BENJI

Bottom line: there's no way into that terminal unless your profile is pre-installed in the security system.

Long silence.

Benji walks across the room to the projector.

Ethan turns to Ilsa. She smiles: "now you've got it."
Ethan turns to Benji:

ETHAN

Profiles? Where are the profiles stored?

Ilsa studies the pair as they work. Benji searches, calls up the blue print of the torus - a water-filled tank shaped like the inside of a donut, twenty feet high. The walls are lines with hundreds and hundreds of data drives.

BENJI

All security data is stored off-line in the liquid cooled array here, in the Torus-

(CONTINUED)

Benji taps the screen, zooms in.

ETHAN

Liquid cooled. You mean that thing
is under water.

ILSA/BENJI

Yes.

Ethan takes a beat.

ETHAN

So to get the ledger, one of us
needs to enter the torus and
change the security profile so
that the other one can access the
computer without being caught...
That's the only way.

ILSA

That's the *only* way.

Ethan's eye catches something on the torus wall. He
motions to it.

ETHAN

Can I get in to the torus through
there? What's that?

ILSA

That's the service hatch. Can't be
opened from the outside, and even
if you could, you'd be hit with
seventy thousand gallons of
pressurized water.

Ethan walks behind Ilsa, thinking. Takes a beat.

ETHAN

Where does the water come from?

ILSA

Desalinized sea water flows
through an intake located inside
the power plant.

He points to large pool with a giant, gaping, steel and
concrete mouth in the center - a circular waterfall.

BENJI

So: I have to make it past gait analysis in order to access the computer room and steal the ledger.

ILSA

Exactly.

BENJI

For me to do *that*, all *Ethan* has to do is enter the torus, install my profile into the security system and escape through the service hatch.

ILSA

Unfortunately, an alarm will sound automatically if any metal enters the intake.

ETHAN

(realizing)
No oxygen tanks.

Not to be deterred...

BENJI

How long would it take to free-swim from the intake to the surface?

ILSA

Two minutes with the current at full power.

BENJI

(to Ethan)
You just have to hold your breath for two minutes.

ILSA

What about installing the security profile.

BENJI

Which would take like - a minute - tops.

ETHAN

(really thinking)
So I have to hold my breath for *three* minutes.

(CONTINUED)

BENJI

You can do that.

ILSA

The thing you're overlooking is the physical exertion. The more you exert yourself, the faster you consume oxygen.

BENJI

Don't worry about him, alright - all he has to do is install the fake profile before I reach the gait analysis. It's the only way - you said it yourself. And that doesn't seem... impossible.

A peaceful, shady oasis overlooking Casablanca and the ocean beyond.

Ilsa sits facing the sea in quiet contemplation, her eyes closed. Then:

ILSA

Do you ever wish you didn't know the things we know?

She opens her eyes turns to find: Ethan walking up behind her. She sensed him there.

ETHAN

Not anymore.

He takes a seat behind her, looks out at the sea.

ILSA

I figure you have two and a half minutes to make the switch. The only way to conserve oxygen is to minimize-

Ilsa is taken aback as Ethan interrupts:

ETHAN

Lane doesn't really believe you escaped from us in Vienna.

Ilsa is taken aback. Finally:

ETHAN (CONT'D)

What aren't you telling me? What else does Lane want from you?

ILSA

Deliver the ledger. Deliver you.

ETHAN

What do you want to do?

Beat.

ILSA

We use the ledger to take apart the Syndicate from the ground up. We can hunt them down, one at a time. Isolate Lane... And kill him.

Ethan says nothing.

ETHAN

I wish I could, but that's not what I do.

ILSA

So what's the play?

ETHAN

I don't know yet. Let's just try to make it through tomorrow alive.

ILSA

Two and a half minutes. No longer.

ETHAN

That's the plan...

A glass enclosed office overlooking the fully functioning war room.

One screen is tracing flight routes in real time from all over the world. Luther sits in the center of the frame, typing furiously. Brandt stands behind him.

BRANDT

DNA profiling, facial recognition, gait analysis... drone strikes. Drone surveillance.

(points)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BRANDT (CONT'D)

And that guy can even read your
vital signs over your home wifi?
He knows you have a heart problem
before your doctor does.

He shakes his head as if to say: what have we become?

BRANDT (CONT'D)

(turns to Luther)

So how are we going to find Ethan
and Benji before they do?

Screens display security camera footage from all over the
world, blazing past in the blink of an eye.

LUTHER

I'm not even looking for them. I'm
looking for her.

BRANDT

What do you mean?

Luther motions to the sketches of Ilsa and Solomon.

LUTHER

Look at the sketches, Ethan is
telling us what he knows. What do
you see?

The sketch of Ilsa is undeniably more forgiving.

BRANDT

Well, he's not exactly sure who
this guy is. But the woman...
(picks up sketch)
He knows her. He's invested.

LUTHER

He *trusts* her. I'm betting he's
already with her, or he's on his
way. Find her, find Ethan.

BRANDT

Tell me it's possible to pull
facial recognition from a sketch?

LUTHER

For mere mortals? No. But me... I
could'a done this from home.

BRANDT

How long is this going to take.

(CONTINUED)

172

CONTINUED: (2)

172

He types a few keys and a dossier opens. Luther hits a button and an image file opens.

As Luther reads:

LUTHER

Found her.

BRANDT

Where?

LUTHER

Not where she is. It's *who* she is?
She's bad news.

On the screen, we see Ilsa's face and her file. She's British Intelligence, all right. At least she was. Her image is stamped in bright red letters:

WANTED: TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY

173

EXT. SKIFF - PRE-DAWN

173

Establishing the fortress-like perimeter around the facility.

174

EXT. SKIES ABOVE CASABLANCA - PRE-DAWN

174

Looking straight down at the power plant from high above, two skydivers free-fall past camera...

175

[OMITTED]

175

176

EXT. POWER PLANT - ROOFTOP - PRE-DAWN

176

ECU on a small security camera. A dart hits it. A red light on the camera dies. Two pairs of feet sail into frame from above as:

Ethan and Ilsa touchdown, skid on the gravel surface and haul in their chutes.

177

EXT. MAIN GATE - DAY

177

Establishing as Benji pulls up to the security gate in a BMW M3.

178 **INT. MAIN GATE GUARD HOUSE - DAY** 178

A wall with 12 monitors, each split into four windows, displaying the feed from security cameras all over the plant.

The DUTY GUARD in military garb, armed with a machine gun, stands, pausing when he notices a single window on the monitor go dark.

He makes a note, heads out to greet Benji.

179 **EXT. ROOFTOP SKYLIGHT - DAY** 179

Ethan approaches one of the windows and produces a small, palm sized device. It emits a high-pitched noise when activated. Ilsa covers her ears.

Ethan holds the device in his palm, placing it on the glass. The device fires a shockwave of energy and:

The window is pulverized into sand, revealing a gantry just ten feet below. This is suspended 100 feet off the floor of the power plant.

180 **EXT. GUARD HOUSE - DAY** 180

Benji hands the officer an ID with his picture on it. The guard swipes it as we:

Focus on the BMW's GPS display. Benji presses an icon on the screen. A readout displays the car's ability to hijack the card reader.

A moment later, Benji is cleared and waved through as:

181 **EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY** 181

Ilsa slips through the shattered window and onto the gantry below.

BENJI (ON COMM)

I am through the front gate,
heading to reception.

Ethan turns back, aims a small remote at the security camera. Click.

182 **INT. GUARD HOUSE - DAY** 182

The guard comes back in, about to address that glitchy monitor when it comes back on, showing the rooftop, empty.

183 **[OMITTED]** 183

184 **INT. POWER PLANT - GANTRY - DAY** 184

Arc welders, angle grinders, sparks and atmosphere, the deafening hum of generators.

Ethan and Ilsa scale down to a lower portion of the gantry where they are hidden from the floor below.

Ilsa patches in the laptop as Ethan strips off his jump suit to reveal a wet-suit underneath. He slips on a pair of fingerless gloves - the right one bearing a timer and O2 meter.

When he inhales deeply, the O2 meter rises swiftly, then slowly falls.

The same information shows up on Ilsa's laptop.

Ethan sets his timer for three minutes. Ilsa synchronizes a timer on her laptop.

Ethan removes a hard drive from his overalls. He stuffs it in a pocket on one leg of his wet-suit. In the opposite pocket he checks for a special folding tool made of carbon fiber.

Ilsa opens a laptop and goes to work patching into an electrical main. The laptop screen comes alive:

INTAKE VALVE CONTROL - 80%

A graphic demonstrates animated water pouring into a circular intake as well as a graphic showing the torus - it's mechanical arms periodically moving.

Another display indicates:

<SERVICE HATCH: SECURE>

185 **INT. SEDAN - DAY** 185

Luther and Brandt drive. Luther has a computer on his lap. He is checking the security cameras of every hotel in Morocco. So far, nothing...

186 **[OMITTED]** 186

187 **INT. INTAKE FACILITY - DAY** 187

The gantry slowly moves as:

ILSA

One more time: You have two and a half minutes to switch the security profile. Thirty seconds to reach the surface.

188 **[OMITTED]** 188

189 **INT. POWER PLANT - GANTRY/INT. LOBBY - DAY** 189

Benji enters the lobby via a revolving door and moves to the first layer of security.

BENJI

Important note: If you haven't switched that profile before I reach the last gate, I'm dead.

He nods to a SECURITY GUARD behind the reception desk and walks to a small gate. He flashes his ID and waves it over a sensor on the gate.

ECU on the ID itself. We notice a wire attached to the card, running up Benji's sleeve.

A green light flashes and Benji is allowed to enter.

ILSA

Conserve oxygen. No unnecessary physical exertion.

BENJI

Don't move a muscle if you don't have to.

(CONTINUED)

ILSA

Just switch the profiles and get out.

BENJI

Remember. It's not over when you open the service hatch.

ILSA

Leave yourself enough time to reach the surface.

He makes his way to the elevator at the end of the lobby and presses his thumb on the sensor there.

ECU on Benji's thumb and a small wire protruding from under the false flash there, also running up his sleeve.

BENJI

If you're not opening that hatch in two and a half minutes, you're dead. Assuming... you can hold your breath for three minutes, I mean.

Ethan ignores this, swallowing air as he does so, his blood O2 rising. He looks down at the intake, inhaling tens of thousands of gallons of water every second. Merciless.

ILSA

The current will carry you to the torus. Once you're there, I'll shut it down. You'll have two minutes before it automatically restarts.

The elevator opens. Benji enters.

BENJI

You do *not* want to be in the torus when that happens. Believe me.

ILSA

Thank you, Benji.

I.E. Shut the fuck up, Benji.

BENJI

I'm in the elevator.

Ethan is still inhaling, trying to shut out the noise.

189 CONTINUED: (2)

189

ILSA

Remember... It's at least thirty
from the service hatch to the
surface. If you haven't made the
switch by the time your readout
turns red, abort.

Ethan nods, keeps breathing. Ilsa taps a few more keys
and:

190 **INT. INTAKE FACILITY - ATOP GANTRY - DAY**

190

The gantry stops. A section of the floor opens, revealing
the intake, one hundred feet below - a giant, gaping,
steel and concrete mouth, inhaling thousands of gallons
of seawater every second.

The gantry is passing over it as the huge floor sections
slide away. Ethan breathes deeply, in and out,
oxygenating his blood.

He presses the button on his watch and sets it to three
minutes.

A clock on Ilsa's tablet reads three minutes as well. She
can also see Ethan's heart rate and his blood's O2
levels.

Ethan nods, turns to leave. Ilsa grabs his arm, stops
him. She cannot hide her anxiety anymore. Ethan nods to
her reassuringly and goes.

Ethan climbs up onto the railing and jumps. He plummets
away from the camera, entering the roaring intake feet
first and:

191 **INT. INTAKE - DAY**

191

The sound of the roaring intake facility is replaced by a
constant, muffled thunder. We're looking up at a curtain
of violently churning white. A blue light and a
crystallin particles sterilize the water.

Ethan plunges through it, sinking rapidly.

PAN WITH HIM as he streaks past, sucked into a large
steel mesh tunnel and the blue light beyond. The clock on
his hand counts down:

2:51

- 192 **INT. GANTRY - DAY** 192
- Ilsa's clock corresponds. Ethan's heart rate returns to normal.
- 193 **INT. INTAKE TUNNEL - DAY** 193
- Quieter now. Ethan descends feet first, pinching his nose to clear his ears. He looks down at his clock.
- 2:45
- Other than this, he remains perfectly still to conserve oxygen.
- 194 **INT. GANTRY - DAY** 194
- Ilsa checks Ethan's vitals, the clock...
- 195 **INT. INTAKE TUNNEL - DAY** 195
- 2:30
- Ethan arrives at:
- 196 **INT. TORUS** 196
- The current whips Ethan around like a sock in a washing machine. He finally manages to grab a hold of the side. The current pins him. Meanwhile:
- 197 **INT. GANTRY - DAY** 197
- Ilsa looks down at her watch, taps controls on her laptop. After a few seconds, the display is in her control.
- <REBOOT> appears on screen. She presses it.
- The display shuts down and reboots, as expected.
- 198 **INT. FACILITY - MAIN CONTROL ROOM - DAY** 198
- Not unlike the control room in a nuclear power plant: A large, brightly lit room with a circular console in the middle manned by SIX TECHNICIANS in white overalls.

(CONTINUED)

198

CONTINUED:

198

The walls are covered floor-to-ceiling with analogue and digital gauges, colored lights and monitor screens. Every function of the facility is monitored here.

A single red light comes on. This causes a chain reaction. Several more red lights flash. All six technicians look up from their work. While they are not immediately alarmed, they are not dismissive.

TECHNICIAN 1

What's the problem?

TECHNICIAN 2

The cooling system is rebooting.
By itself.

TECHNICIAN 1

Power surge maybe.

Technician 2 shrugs.

TECHNICIAN 2

Let me know when it's back up.

They go back to their work.

199

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

199

Benji emerges from the elevator into the security corridor.

He moves to the first combination dial lock.

Using his body to block the dial from view, Benji fixes a small device in the center of the dial.

The device transmits an X-ray image of the lock itself. Benji can see the tumblers in the lock on his without even looking at the numbers.

200

INT. TORUS

200

Complete silence, eerie blue light. Particles in the water betray the gentle, circular current while giving the impression of being inside a giant snow globe.

Hard drives line the walls, containing hundreds of numbered drives. Ethan drifts with the slowing current, conserving O2, looking for 108. He has to be careful to avoid:

(CONTINUED)

200

CONTINUED:

200

The two robotic arms - one high and one low - moving elegantly through the space in their never-ending process of maintenance.

Ethan notes the service hatch. His way out. His eyes track the drives on the wall, 98, 99...

Up ahead he sees 108. He grabs hold and takes the tool from his pocket.

Movement out of the corner of his eyes. He ducks as the high arm whips past, just missing his head.

2:01 and counting down. At 2 minutes the numbers on his watch turn from green to yellow.

201

INT. GANTRY - DAY

201

Ilsa notes Ethan's heart-rate increasing.

202

INT. CORRIDOR - DOOR 2 - DAY

202

Benji arrives at the second combination lock. He attaches the device and goes to work as the first.

203

INT. TORUS

203

ETHAN'S WATCH: 1:31 and dropping. Heart rate increasing.

Ethan removes the cover. He pulls out the drive, puts it between his teeth and pulls out the replacement drive. He holds it up as:

The low arm comes up behind him and knocks into him on its way past, taking him with it. The tool sinks to the bottom. Shit.

204

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY 3 - DAY

204

Benji approaches the final combination lock. His moves are familiar to us now as he gets to work.

205

[OMITTED]

205

208

CONTINUED:

208

- then over at the service hatch, his way out for the drives in his teeth.

He looks back at the two identical drives in his hand.

His air is out. He puts one drive in, not knowing whether it is the right one.

0:00

The hatch light turns from red to blue.

Ethan starts to pass out as he is swept away toward the service hatch, coming up fast. He reaches for the lever, misses. He manages to grab hold of one of the spikes on the wall.

209

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY 3

209

Benji arrives at the last security barrier: gate analysis. Here, the corridor turns right to a long, straight corridor - the computer lab at the far end.

He presses a button and glass doors open. At the same time, the gate analysis array slides toward him on a track. Benji's eyes lock on the tazers mounted on both sides of the array - ready to shock him.

He steps inside to an uncertain fate.

210

INT. GANTRY - DAY

210

On Ilsa's display:

SERVICE HATCH: SECURE

The computer reboots. The display restored. The humming of the generators decreases.

The clock reads 9...8...7...6...

Heart rate pounding.

211

INT. FACILITY - MAIN CONTROL ROOM - DAY

211

TECHNICIAN 2

The cooling system is at full power. All systems normal.

A technician notices on a security camera:

(CONTINUED)

211 CONTINUED:

211

TECHNICIAN

Why is the intake open?

TECHNICIAN 3

I don't know.

TECHNICIAN

Well *close* it.

Technician 3 hits a button.

212 **INT. TORUS**

212

Ethan manages to grab the service hatch lever. His face shows the strain. He is completely out of air.

He heaves the lever into position but before he can give it the final twists... He blacks out. His hands slip from the lever and he is carried away...

213 **[OMITTED]**

213

214 **INT. INTAKE FACILITY - DAY**

214

The intake remains submerged, sucking in water.

But the giant floor begins to close. TILT UP TO REVEAL:

215 **INT. INTAKE FACILITY - ATOP GANTRY - DAY**

215

Ilsa, directly over the hole sees the floor is closing. No time to consider her next move.

She jumps, falling toward an ever narrowing gap of steel and concrete. She drops into the gap with inches to spare. The floor slams shut.

216 **INT. INTAKE - DAY**

216

That curtain of violently churning white. The blue light. Ilsa plunges through it, sinking rapidly.

217 **INT. INTAKE TUNNEL - DAY**

217

She rockets past and is-

218

INT. TORUS

218

- shot into the torus like a bullet. She sees Ethan's body orbiting around the center pedestal. She swims with the current, trying to catch him.

Her face shows the strain already, this exertion consuming oxygen rapidly.

She grabs Ethan's motionless, heavy form and wraps her legs around his waist, keeping her hands free.

With no mask, she has to feel blindly for the service hatch. She has to hope.

CLOSE ON: The extended service hatch handle. Ethan and Ilsa whip past, her hand missing by several feet.

CLOSE ON: Ilsa's hand, camera following it, the handle coming up fast in the background. Her fingers find it, but her grip misses.

CLOSE ON: Ilsa's face, frustration turning to panic.

CLOSE ON: Ilsa's hand, camera leading it, fingertips skimming along the outer wall of the torus past drive after drive. Milk it. Then:

Her hand finds the lever. She grabs it. Her eyes roll... She's blacking out.

Her body and Ethan's are slammed against the wall of the torus. Her legs strain to hold on to Ethan. With both hands she pulls them both in front of the hatch and turns.

Her body goes limp and her legs release Ethan as:

The hatch blows. An instantaneous implosion of air engulfs them before the pressure of the water blows them both out.

219

INT. CISTERN - DAY

219

BLACK.

A long, interminable silence, giving way to a high pitch whine, like a ringing in your ears, growing louder... And then:

ZZZZ-THUNK

(CONTINUED)

Ethan's eyes spring open. He gasps, coughs, gags.

The first thing he sees is Ilsa, wet, shivering, slightly blue. Her trembling hands told a defibrillator - charging in case she has to hit him again.

When Ethan inhales a second time, she sits back, relieved. She puts down the defibrillator and looks down at Ethan. He puts his hand to her face.

Benji runs down the stairs.

BENJI

I knew you could do it - three minutes is nothing. I have to confess, I had this terrible feeling you weren't going to m-

He suddenly sees Ethan and stops.

BENJI (CONT'D)

What happened? Is he ok?

Benji takes in the scene - the defibrillator, Ilsa soaking wet and shivering. He realizes, pulls her clothes from the bag. As she takes them:

BENJI (CONT'D)

I misjudged you.

Ilsa nods, turns her back to change. Benji steps in and takes her place beside Ethan.

BENJI (CONT'D)

Hey buddy - you ok?

ETHAN

Benji - what are you doing here?

BENJI

You're going to be fine. Just a bit of sunshine, you'll be good as new.

Benji holds up the drive.

BENJI (CONT'D)

We got it. I knew we would get it.

As she pulls on her dress, Ilsa looks over her shoulder and eyes the disc. Ethan tries to speak:

BENJI (CONT'D)

I really appreciate everything
you've done for me but, seriously,
one of these days you're going to
take things too far.

Benji tries to laugh. Ethan tries to say something but
can't. Benji's smile gives way to sincerity.

BENJI (CONT'D)

I owe you my life, man. Thank you.
(holds up the disc)
We got it. We're gonna get this
bastard.

Ethan's eyes widen as:

ZZZZ-THUNK - Ilsa shocks Benji with the defibrillator,
stunning him. She grabs the drive. Ethan tries to grab
it, but he can't get up.

She exits.

TIME CUT:

Ethan staggers to his feet. Benji is coming to -

ETHAN

Tell me you put the tracker on the
disc?

Ilsa emerges through a doorway. Runs to Ethan's BMW, and
tries to open the door - it's locked and she can't open
it. The hand recognition system does not allow her
access.

She is suddenly aware of a man in biker leather
approaching her.

LEAD MAN

Where's Hunt?

She looks around. Another biker steps up, closing off her
access.

ILSA

He's dead.

She follows the LEAD MAN out.

221

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

221

Ethan emerges from a doorway, having pulled on a change of clothes. She's gone. Benji emerges behind him. Ethan rushes to a waiting BMW, opens it.

Ethan moves to get in the car. Benji stops him.

BENJI

Are you sure you're OK to drive? A minute ago you were dead.

ETHAN

What are you talking about?

Ethan gets in behind the wheel. Benji sighs and gets into the passenger seat.

BENJI

This is not going to end well.

TIME CUT: as the BMW speeds way, bumping the parked car behind as they go.

222

INT./EXT. MEDINA - BACK ALLEY - DAY

222

BEAT LATER: Ilsa, now changed into biker leathers, zips up her boots as she glances at the bikers surrounding her.

The riders watch her as she gets on her bike, putting on her helmet and gloves.

The bikers start revving their bikes. Ilsa makes her decision. She guns the throttle and speeds towards the bikers, turning 180 degrees taking out the bikes, and takes off.

223

EXT. MEDINA - VARIOUS - DAY

223

The walls are bone white, the streets are cobblestone. There is not a soul in sight.

Ethan and Benji in the BMW drive up a narrow street, they see Ilsa riding straight towards them.

BENJI

There she is!

Ilsa spins the bike one-eighty degrees and heads back the way she came, chased by the BMW.

(CONTINUED)

223

CONTINUED:

223

The streets are narrow, but not narrow enough. Ilsa isn't going to shake Ethan in this environment.

Ilsa turns a sharp left corner. The BMW drifts round the corner, chasing towards...

224

EXT. STEPS - MEDINA - DAY

224

Ilsa emerges from the medina and turns down a long set of stairs. Ethan rounds the same corner, drifting down the stairs almost sideways.

The stairs slope down gradually toward the busy inner city of Casablanca's marker: Jewish Quarter.

225

EXT. STREET - JEWISH QUARTER - DAY

225

Luther and Brandt are driving through Casablanca, looking for Ethan - a needle in a haystack.

Luther and Brandt bicker.

BRANDT

I thought you said you could find him.

LUTHER

I said I was going to locate him. You have to find him.

Suddenly Brandt slams on his brakes as Ilsa streaks past him out of an alley, followed by Ethan and Benji in the BMW.

Ethan makes eyes contact with Brandt before gunning the engine and chasing after Ilsa.

BRANDT

Found him.

Brandt tries give chase, as another six bikes streak round the Land Rover, slowing them down.

The difficulty in turning around is hopeless. They are out of the fight before they even start.

BRANDT (CONT'D)

You just had to the get the four by four, didn't you! - Look out! It's a high speed chase!

(CONTINUED)

225 CONTINUED: 225

LUTHER
You want me to drive?

226 [OMITTED] 226

227 **EXT. STREET - JEWISH QUARTER - DAY** 227

Ilsa on a straightaway, the BMW chasing Ilsa. All six bikers chasing behind the BMW.

Ilsa looks back, flips down her visor and guns it.

One biker overtakes the BMW, slipping in between the BMW and Ilsa and rises his gun - has a bead on her.

Ethan accelerates and clips the back wheel of the biker chasing Ilsa, wiping him out. Now there are five Bikers chasing the BMW. Ethan closes the distance rapidly.

228 [OMITTED] 228

229 **EXT. STREET - JEWISH QUARTER - DAY** 229

The FIVE BIKERS chasing Ethan draw their guns and immediately open fire.

KAKAKAKA. The back window explodes from small-arms fire. Ethan looks at his wing mirror in time to see it explode. He ducks as the bullets fly past, hitting his headrest. The main rear-view mirror explodes. Benji covers his head.

Ethan has no choice. He evades, turns down a side street. Two bikes carry on forward chasing Ilsa. Three bikes turn the corner, chasing Ethan and Benji in the BMW.

230 **EXT. SIDE-STREET - JEWISH QUARTER - DAY** 230

The speed picks up and the turns are more aggressive.

231 **INT. BMW - DAY** 231

Ethan hits a button on the dash and the GPS switches to REAR-VIEW CAMERA.

232 **EXT. SIDE STREETS - VARIOUS - JEWISH QUARTER - DAY** 232

The three bikers chasing him try to get a bead, but Ethan is too slippery. As long as he keeps moving and turning, his pursuers have to keep both hands busy while driving.

233 **EXT. NARROW STREET - DAY** 233

A tight space - just enough room for incoming cars to move past. Ethan is going like hell - no more mirrors to see how close his attackers may be.

234 **INT. BMW - DAY** 234

Up ahead, Ethan sees a garbage truck coming, taking up most of the alley, laying on the horn.

BENJI

We're not going to make it. We're
not going to make it.

PROXIMITY WARNING on the display. The bikes are approaching on either side of the car - two on his left, one on his right. Ethan gauges the proximity warning on his screen and the oncoming truck.

He slams on the breaks and cranks the wheel.

235 **EXT. NARROW STREET - DAY** 235

The BMW spins count clockwise. The front two bikes are instantly crushed against the alley walls by Ethan's bumpers. One rider ends up on Ethan's hood. He aims to shoot at Ethan and Benji as:

The truck hits the spinning BMW's right fender and

The car snaps into full reverse. The Rider on Ethan's hood is thrown off and into the alley wall.

236 **INT. BMW - DAY** 236

One Bike remains, accelerating, leveling his weapon. Ethan is driving in reverse. He tries to hit the breaks, but they're gone. With no other choice, he keeps the BMW in reverse and punches it.

(CONTINUED)

236 CONTINUED:

236

The rider opens fire. Benji hits the deck. Ethan's windshield spiderwebs and turns opaque. He ducks behind the dash.

237 **EXT. T-SECTION - DAY**

237

The BMW is going full-bore, in reverse, bashing through a guard-rail and over a steep embankment. We're airborne for an agonizing long time before:

IMPACT. The BMW slams down to earth squarely on its rear bumper.

238 **INT. BMW - DAY**

238

With Ethan and Benji as the BMW flips end over end.

239 **INT. BMW - DAY**

239

Benji is out cold. Already not in the peak form before the chance, Ethan struggles to pull himself from the overturned and utterly wrecked car. The sound of an approaching motorcycle renews his focus. He tries to move faster, but he's trapped. As he struggles:

Ethan's P.O.V. A low angle, upside down. Ethan sees the motorcycle come to a stop. He sees the rider's boots as he dismounts, walking this way. The rider draws his weapon. The sound of Ethan's doom.

Then a screeching of tires.

The rider turns and is hit by a car - his boots flying out of frame. The sound of two car doors opening. The sight of two pairs of feet approaching.

Brandt kneels down, sticking his head in the window.

BRANDT

You good?

ETHAN

It kinda got out of hand.

Ethan unclips his seatbelt and climbs out of the back. Brandt helps him out. Ethan emerges from the car, shaken, dazed.

Brandt and Luther rush round the car to help Benji, who can't undo his belt.

(CONTINUED)

239

CONTINUED:

239

Ethan looks up to see Ilsa race down the street from the Jewish Quarter, chased by two Bikers.

He grabs his sunglasses, still intact after crash and heads for the bike.

Meanwhile, Brandt pulls out a knife, and tries to cut Benji's seatbelt.

New tension. The sound of police sirens approaching.

The sound of a motorcycle revving. Brandt and Luther turn in time to see Ethan racing away on the dead man's bike.

Brandt drops the knife and they turn for the car.

BENJI

WAIT! Where are you going? Don't leave.

Benji sees them take off.

BENJI (CONT'D)

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
(tries to reach the
knife)
You could've dropped it closer!

240

[OMITTED]

240

241

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

241

Ilsa merges onto the open highway, medium traffic. She is still being followed by the two bikes.

She throttles faster now, speeds exceeding 100 mph.

242

EXT. WINDING ROAD - DAY

242

Ilsa and her two pursuers whiz past as:

Enter Ethan, gunning the bike up the highway in fast pursuit.

243

EXT. HIGHWAY - ILSA - DAY

243

Ilsa looks in her rearview mirror to see Ethan behind the two riders. She shakes her head. These guys just don't stop.

- 244 **EXT. HIGHWAY - BLACK BIKES - DAY** 244
- One rider notices Ethan in his mirror. He signals to his partner. "We have company."
- The second Rider nods, grabs his pistol and slows down to allow Ethan to catch up.
- 245 **EXT. HIGHWAY - ETHAN - DAY** 245
- Ethan at max speed, catching up, threading the needle through slower cars, trucks.
- 246 **EXT. HIGHWAY - ETHAN / ILSA / RIDERS - DAY** 246
- NEW HIGHWAY ACTION - Ilsa causes accident, one biker crashes and Ethan avoids.
- 247 **EXT. HIGHWAY - WRONG WAY - DAY** 247
- Two 18 wheelers approach, side-by-side. Ethan passes between them with inches to spare.
- 248 **EXT. HIGHWAY - RIGHT WAY - DAY** 248
- He falls in just behind the last bike just as Ilsa banks hard, just making an off-ramp - the last biker makes the turn with ease.
- Ethan cuts off a speeding car and makes it by a hair.
- 249 **EXT. MOUNTAIN ROADS - DAY** 249
- Down to just two lanes. The road here is windy, treacherous, a steep drop down one side.
- The countryside is red and rocky, punctuated by ancient mud-brick villages.
- Only the occasional car passes, but on these roads, that's more than enough. Cars tend to straddle the line on the narrow turns, appearing without warning from around a sudden turn.
- Ethan catches up to the rear bike. They are side-by-side as they lean into a turn. Ethan's on the inside, just inches from the rider beside him.

(CONTINUED)

249

CONTINUED:

249

Ethan brings his bike upright, nudging the biker beside him. At this speed, it's all you need.

The last biker wobbles, struggles to regain control. He hits a guardrail at 80 MPH. The biker slams into a stone wall.

His bike explodes on impact.

Now it's just Ethan and Ilsa. But she's gained separation

The road opens up. She pours on the speed. On his own turns, Ethan follows.

CLOSE ON: Ethan, his face rippling in the wind high.

250

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - ETHAN - DAY

250

Just Ethan now. He pushes the bike as hard as he dares, going as fast as he can.

ETHAN'S P.O.V. the rocks and trees blurring into swaths of red and green. The road seems to vibrate. We expect to see Ilsa any second. What he doesn't expect...

He leans into a curve to find:

An oncoming truck, straddling the line in the road. Ethan reacts. Breaks, turns, too hard. He dumps the bike and winds up sliding on his back, feet first - a human bullet. The bike hits debris in the road and suddenly flips up in the air, cart-wheeling violently, disintegrating as it spins, kicking up dust. Ethan slides into the cloud of debris a beat later and vanishes from view. We go after him, into the cloud, flying blind.

Silence.

The smoke clears slowly, painfully. Ethan emerges, battered and staggering. He wipes the dust from his eyes in time to see Ilsa driving past, heading back the way she came. She flips up her visor and we see the relief in her eyes. He is alive. And he's finished.

She flips back her visor and accelerates. Gone. Ethan flops back in the dirt, wasted.

After a moment, a car drives past, stops, backs up. The back door opens and Solomon Lane climbs out, followed by TWO MEN. Lane approaches Ethan, crouches down to come closer.

(CONTINUED)

LANE

You need to learn to let go, my friend.

Ethan tries to sit up. Lane pushes him back down gently.

LANE (CONT'D)

No, you stay still. You may have broken something.

Lane keeps his hand on Ethan's chest.

LANE (CONT'D)

Your mission, should you choose to accept it... I'm curious... Did you ever choose *not* to? Did you ever question who was giving the orders or why?

(off his look)

And what is your reward for years of loyal service? When it suits them, they cast you aside. I would never do that to you Ethan.

Lane walks away, looks down the road in the direction Ilsa left. Ethan sits up painfully.

LANE (CONT'D)

If it's any consolation, she did it for your sake. But there's nothing out there for her now. She'll have to come back. It's inevitable.

(looks back to Ethan)

She'll keep telling herself she's playing the part. But you and I both know that's just a slippery slope. One day she'll wake up and find herself on my side.

(back to Ethan)

And so will you.

(off Ethan's look)

Oh, I don't expect it to happen all at once. Volunteers are zealots. Fanatics. That sort of thinking clouds the mind. No, I want converts. People from whom there's simply nothing left. Self-radicalized.

Lane crouches at Ethan's feet.

LANE (CONT'D)

You're already on your way. I sent Ilsa to kill the Chancellor. But you shot him? You can tell yourself you were trying to save his life. But he was a bad guy, Ethan. Part of a corrupt and crumbling system. One you've had a hand in perpetuating. One you've long-since ceased to question. He had to be dealt with. And if you'd fired a few inches to the left... he'd be just as dead. But his wife would still be alive.

As Ethan processes.

LANE (CONT'D)

It hurts, I know. The first one is the hardest. But the pain you feel is your own shell breaking.

He turns and walks away. His men follow.

LANE (CONT'D)

The next time we speak, I'll have a job for you. And for the sake of others, you'll do it. Deep down, you may even want to. After all, I'm not out to break you Ethan. I'm out to see you free.

EXT. ROADSIDE BAR - OUTSIDE MOROCCO - DAY

A beat-up truck pulls up and stops. Ethan painfully and slowly climbs from the passenger seat. A small wave to say thanks.

INT. ROADSIDE BAR - OUTSIDE MOROCCO - DAY

A place with some character, local color, a little live music.

Ethan sits at a table and stares into space. A half drunk beer in his hand.

THROUGH THE DOOR BEHIND HIM: A familiar vehicle pulls up outside.

(CONTINUED)

252

CONTINUED:

252

Luther and Brandt walk in, see Ethan and sit at the table. Ethan looks at Luther. The two old friends share a bittersweet smile.

ETHAN

He was right in front of me. I know who he is.

Luther looks around, leans in to Ethan.

BRANDT

You know we gotta take you in.

LUTHER

You ready?

ETHAN

(nods)
I'm ready.

253

EXT. AMERICAN EMBASSY - MOROCCO - DAY

253

Establishing America's local patch of turf.

254

INT. AMERICAN EMBASSY - WAR ROOM - DAY

254

A large reception area has been converted into a CIA field office. Large monitors show real-time satellite surveillance. There are even TWO DRONE PILOTS at work.

In the center of this hive is Hunley, papers in one hand, a phone in the other. He hands up as Brandt and Luther escort a handcuffed Ethan into the room.

CLOSE UP on hand-cuffs, Ethan drops down into a chair and we see that it is Ethan who is in cuffs. Luther and Brandt's hands guide Ethan into his chair. They move off to the side, clearly embarrassed at the awkwardness of the situation.

Hunley saunters all the way down the very long corridor.

HUNLEY

Ethan Hunt. It's an honor to finally meet you face-to-face.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HUNLEY (CONT'D)

You've had a very busy weekend - participating in the assassination of the Austrian Chancellor, drafting a former colleague into an imaginary witch-hunt, breaking into a secure computer facility and streaking down a Moroccan highway doing a buck-eighty on a motorcycle with no helmet. You, sir, have single-handedly redefined the term covert operative.

Ethan moves to speak, but Hunley is quicker:

HUNLEY (CONT'D)

And yet I owe you an apology. See, I was convinced the Syndicate was a ruse created entirely by you. But you know what makes the CIA great? Why we'll always win? Because we confront something no one else can: Truth. We face it, no matter how ugly. We accept it, no matter how hard. And we deal with it, no matter what it takes. And the truth is, I was wrong... The Syndicate isn't a figment of your imagination after all. It's a figment of hers.

He opens a manila file and holds up a piece of paper. Ilsa's image, along with the words:

WANTED: TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY

HUNLEY (CONT'D)

Ilsa Faust. Former British Intelligence.

(off Ethan's look)

Oh, did she not mention the former part? She was disavowed.

ETHAN

It's a cover.

HUNLEY

You don't think I made that assumption Hunt? I've been a spy since you were eating lunch out of a paper bag on the playground.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HUNLEY (CONT'D)

Being the courteous sort, I put in a call to my British counterpart before targeting one of his own. Seems the Brits have been just a half-step behind her since she took her skills to the open market - saboteur, assassin, you name it. In fact, the more they told me about this woman, the more familiar her story sounded...

Hunley holds up another piece of paper. A photograph of Ethan's pyramid of evidence appears. Evidence collected in places Hunley is listing...

HUNLEY (CONT'D)

Jakarta, Manila, the Bosphorus... Every one of the attacks you attribute to the Syndicate. She was there.

ETHAN

Because she was after the same man I am. The man you should be looking for right now. Neither one of us is equipped to fight this guy alone.

HUNLEY

Hunt, are you familiar with the term confirmation bias?

ETHAN

It's the tendency of the human mind to focus only on facts that support a foregone conclusion.

HUNLEY

You destroyed your entire life trying to prove there's a Syndicate. But the truth... The *truth* is it was just her. A woman who had your number from day one. Her own people confirmed it. And the Brits didn't just give me the green light to take her out, they signed it Tally Ho.

ETHAN

I came here today because I believe you're a good man-

(CONTINUED)

HUNLEY

Came here? You must've fall off that motorbike pretty hard. You were captured and *brought* here. Because Brandt and Stickell were smart enough to pick the winning side.. More than I can say for your pal, Benji, when I find him. How long do you think he'll last in Leavenworth?

ETHAN

I need your help.

HUNLEY

I can help you, Hunt. I can get you twenty minutes of sunshine every weekend for the rest of your life... Tell me where she is.

ETHAN

Solomon Lane - that's the former British Agent you should be looking for.

Hunley turns away and addresses the two Agents.

HUNLEY

Shackle him. We're going to the airport.

As Hunley walks away:

ETHAN

The Brits don't want you to know he even exists. Ask yourself why.

Hunley pauses for a step, then keeps walking.

As Ethan is taken away, he sees Brandt and Luther standing off to the side. All three man make eye contact. Ethan's expression is stone. Then he's gone.

As Brandt and Luther walk away:

BRANDT

I need you to do me a favor.

LUTHER

It'll be my pleasure.

255 **INT. AMERICAN EMBASSY - WAR ROOM - DAY**

255

CLOSE ON: LUTHER at a CIA work-station. A thumb drive sticking out of a USB slot. The computer requires a password. Luther scoffs.

A moment later, he has access. A few keystrokes and:

<DOWNLOADING DATABASE> appears on the screen. A progress bar begins. Almost there. Luther looks around nervously.

VOICE (O.S.)

Stickell.

Luther turns with a start to find Hunley staring at him. Brandt is with him. They share a look. Shit.

HUNLEY

You're coming with us.

Hunley turns and walks. Luther snatches the thumb drive and follows with Brandt.

256 **INT. EMBASSY LOBBY - DAY**

256

Ethan is escorted by the two Marines. They all walk out the front door to a waiting SUV. Ethan is shackled into the back.

Hunley leads Luther and Brandt out the front door and -

257 **EXT. EMBASSY - FRONT STEPS - DAY**

257

- down the steps where TWO MARINE GUARDS stand sentry.

Two SUVs are waiting. Ethan is placed in the back seat of the SUV. Hunley points to Stickell.

HUNLEY

Stickell - you're driving.

(to CIA agents)

You two ride with them.

Luther nervously climbs behind the wheel. Hunley motions for Brandt to get in the rear passenger seat. Hunley climbs in next to Brandt.

The remaining four agents climb into the front vehicle and all drive away.

258 **INT. SUV I - DAY** 258

Ethan, Brandt, Hunley, Luther. An awkward silence.

259 **INT. SUV II - DAY** 259

The Agents ride in bored silence. The driver periodically glances in the mirror at Hunley's SUV behind them.

260 **EXT. EMBASSY FRONT STEPS - DAY** 260

Hunley exits the building and comes down the front steps. Confused? So is he. He turns to a MARINE.

HUNLEY

Where is my car?

The Marine looks at Hunley, perplexed.

261 **INT. SUV II - DAY** 261

Looking through the heads of the four Agents and the window behind them: We can see Hunley's SUV make a sharp turn and vanishes down a side street.

A beat later, the Driver looks back, does a double take. He hits the brakes.

262 **INT. SUV I - DAY** 262

Luther turns to Hunley and nods. Hunley grabs a hold of his chin and pulls, tearing off his face. REVEAL:

Benji.

BENJI

(in Hunley's voice)

Admit it - I was great!

Benji pulls off voice control patch on his throat.

They drive in silence for a few moments.

Benji pulls the cord to deflate his suit. He starts to laugh. Brandt looks across at him and starts to laugh. Luther joins in, breaking the mood. Ethan smiles.

The laugh subsides. Luther tips his hat at Ethan. Ethan looks to Benji.

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN

Please tell me you still have a copy of that disk.

Benji holds up the drive.

BENJI

Still got it.

He nods. Brandt hands the handcuff key through the glass to Ethan.

BRANDT

Where to now?

ETHAN

London.

Ethan deep in thought. We go to:

EXT. PARLIAMENT - LONDON - DAY

Ilsa walks past Big Ben and along the embankment. A man sits on a bench looking at the Houses of Parliament, waiting. He's well dressed, a newspaper by his side. He nods politely. We recognize his face. He's the GREY-HAIRED MAN from the opera.

His name is ATTLEE. To you, anyway. Ilsa sits beside him. She places the hard drive containing the ledger on the newspaper and holds it over.

ILSA

A ledger - the Syndicate's entire infrastructure - who they are, they politicians they control, where their money comes from. It's everything you want to know.

Attlee is silent.

ATTLEE

How can you be sure this so-called ledger is authentic?

ILSA

Why would Lane want it so badly if it wasn't authentic?

ATTLEE

Why would he ever let you have it if it was?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ATTLEE (CONT'D)

(off her look)

Did you stop to consider he might want me to have it? Misinformation. Manipulation. It's what he does, Ilsa. It's what he was trained to do. Lane lies to you, you sell his lie to Hunt. Together, you compromise yourselves. That's Lane's real objective. This... It *may* be authentic. But the only one I trust to *verify* the information... is you.

ILSA

(realizing)

No... my orders were to deliver-

ATTLEE

Your orders were to infiltrate the Syndicate so that we may learn more about them. First hand.

(re: disk)

This is not proof. This was a test. Like everything else. The only way to pass... is to go back.

ILSA

I can't do that. I've betrayed Lane's trust once too often.

ATTLEE

And in every instance, you did so on your own volition.

ILSA

He was going to torture and kill an American agent.

ATTLEE

And you should have let him. Then you would still have Lane's trust. This is the trade. Hunt understands that.

ILSA

I wasn't going to leave him to die. *He's our ally.*

ATTLEE

There are no allies in statecraft - only common interests.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ATTLEE (CONT'D)

As it stands, Ethan Hunt is a man without a country. This makes killing him decidedly less complicated.

Grim pause.

ILSA

Are you ordering me to kill Hunt?

ATTLEE

That would be crude. No. Lane will give you the order. And, to regain his trust, you'll do it.

ILSA

You sent me to do a job, I did it. Now bring me in.

ATTLEE

Need I remind you, you're without a country of your own.

Ilsa stands, turns to walk away. His voice stops her:

ATTLEE (CONT'D)

The director of the CIA called to inquire about you personally. To protect your cover, I had to lie. To the Americans, you're a rogue assassin. A target of opportunity.

Ilsa turns back, glares at him.

ATTLEE (CONT'D)

Precious few people know your true identity. It would be unfortunate if they forgot.

He looks down at the drive on the newspaper. She walks back, picks it up, thrusts it in her pocket.

ATTLEE (CONT'D)

Good to know you're still with us.

Ilsa turns and walks away. Attlee waits a beat before unfolding the paper yet again, revealing a cell-phone there. The screen shows the outline of the drive Ilsa laid on the paper. The screen reads:

COPY COMPLETE

(CONTINUED)

263 CONTINUED: (3)

263

Attlee collects the phone and the paper, a satisfied look on his face.

264 [OMITTED]

264

265 **EXT. CEMETERY - DAY**

265

Long forgotten, grass overgrown, any potential mourners have since passed. Ilsa walks down the center drive, the main road far behind her, hands in her pocket. Up ahead, a car is parked, waiting...

The door opens and one of Lane's goons climbs out. A beat later, Lane emerges, then Vinter. Anxious pause.

Lane extends a hand. She pulls a hands from her left coat pocket and produces the drive. Lane takes it.

LANE

All is forgiven.

He hands it to his goon. The goon places a laptop on the hood of the car, plugs in the drive and enters a few keys. Meanwhile, Lane motions for her to walk.

ILSA

It isn't a ledger, is it?

LANE

You didn't look for yourself?

ILSA

Of course I did. But the file was encrypted.

LANE

Why would I lie to you?

ILSA

So that I would lie to Hunt.

LANE

If he knew what it really was, he would never have stolen it. And you wouldn't have helped him.

ILSA

And what exactly is it?

Lane doesn't answer.

(CONTINUED)

LANE

I'll be honest with you when you start being honest with me. You and I both know why you really came back. And you're only wondering what's on the disk because Attlee let you keep it.

She glances at Vinter.

LANE (CONT'D)

Relax. If I was going to kill you, I would have done it in Vienna.

(stepping closer)

You're still alive because I believe in your potential. But I'm losing my patience. Why do you continue to resist?

ILSA

Because you're a terrorist.

LANE

That would be true if my goal was to spread fear. My methods are more... surgical.

ILSA

You kill innocent people.

LANE

I helped my government kill many innocent people and more - killing to keep things as they were. Now I'm killing to bring about change. We're not talking about good versus evil. We're talking about the lesser of two. Which would you rather be?

ILSA

Neither.

LANE

I'm afraid there's no third choice.

ILSA

Ethan Hunt would disagree.

Lane smiles.

(CONTINUED)

LANE

Hunt is a gambler. One day his luck will run out. And thousands, *millions* of innocent people will pay the price. Which of us will be a villain then?

Vinter approaches, whispers something in Lane's ear, handing him the disc. Lane turns to Ilsa, his expression darkening. He sighs.

LANE (CONT'D)

I'm through playing games.

ILSA

I don't know what you mean.

LANE

There may have been something on that disc in Morocco, but it's empty now.

Lane and Vinter exchange a grim look. Then they look back at Ilsa.

She pulls a pistol a pistol from her right coat pocket, but Vinter is faster. He grabs her wrist and disarms her, holding her fast.

LANE (CONT'D)

I'm curious... Who will you blame for what happens next?

BRANDT (PRELAP)

What do you mean you can't open it?

A dimly-lit room in a third floor walk-up, heavy curtains over windows.

Luther's tablet lays on the table, actively searching for Ilsa. Luther and Benji are huddled over a laptop puzzling over the drive stolen from the torus. Brandt and Ethan are sorting through IMF-issue gear.

LUTHER

I mean we can't open it. Ever.

BENJI

It's a red box.

BRANDT

A what?

ETHAN

A red box. The British government uses them for transporting state secrets.

BRANDT

If you mean a *ministerial* red box, you're talking about an actual box. Painted red.

LUTHER

This is a *virtual* red box.

BENJI

Triple encrypted, only accessible with a fingerprint, retina scan and a pass-phrase spoken by one specific person.

ETHAN

The Prime Minister of Great Britain himself.

Ethan sits down, deep in thought. As he calculates:

BRANDT

What you're saying is, to be clear, this isn't a ledger at all. Which means we don't have proof the Syndicate even *exists*. We're back to square one. Only *now* we're *all* wanted by the CIA. Awesome.

BENJI

What I don't understand is why a red box would be sitting in a private data vault in Morocco?

LUTHER

And why would Lane want it if he can't open it?

BENJI

If Lane wants it, you can be sure he has a way to open it. We just helped him steal it.

(CONTINUED)

LUTHER

(realizing)
He's going to take the Prime
Minister.

ETHAN

Yes he is. Question is how.

The realization hits the team. After a beat.

BENJI

We have to warn the British
Government.

BRANDT

(reaches for phone)
Yeah - MI6-

ETHAN

Put down the phone. Just put the
phone down.

(thinking)
Let's just think about this for a
minute. First, the British hide
the existence of the Syndicate
from the CIA. Next, a file we
believe to be the ledger turns out
to be a top secret British
government document. Lane worked
for the British Intelligence. We
can't be sure the person you're
warning doesn't work for Lane.

BRANDT

That may all be true, it doesn't
change the fact that we have a
responsibility to warn the British
Government, and not to gamble with
the Prime Minister's life. Just so
you can beat the guy who's beaten
you at every turn. I'm sorry.

ETHAN

Is that what you think this is,
Brandt? Is that what you think?

BRANDT

I think right now, you're
incapable of seeing any other way.

LUTHER

Sometimes Ethan's the only one
capable of seeing the *only* way.

(CONTINUED)

BRANDT

And if he's wrong, it's Vienna all over again.

ETHAN

Brandt! You don't know this guy. If Lane wants something to happen, you can't prevent it.

BRANDT

Exactly. Which is why we have to warn the British.

ETHAN

Maybe that's exactly what he wants us to do.

BRANDT

Are you listening to yourself? We are going to warn the British.

ETHAN

No, no we're not. We are going to find Lane. We are going to get Lane before he takes the Prime Minister.

BRANDT

Ok. Let's get Lane. So tell me, how are we going to do what we've not been able to do thus far.

Luther's tablet chimes. He glances at it.

LUTHER

Found her.

A crowd of COMMUTERS file in and out of a door leading to the platform. Focus on one in particular:

Ilsa is on the move, walking through the crowd. Just as she passes a small cafe, she stops when she sees:

Ethan's face in the crowd about twenty feet away - the only face looking directly at her. She looks behind her and sees Benji's face.

Two new faces are staring at her. To the left is Brandt at a news stand, to her right, Luther at a pay phone.

Ilsa is surrounded, she sidesteps to the cafe and sits at a table with two chairs. Ethan approaches, sits opposite to her.

At a distance, the team watches them stare at one another for a moment. (Note: Ethan can hear them, Ilsa cannot.)

BRANDT (ON COMM)

So that's her.

BENJI (ON COMM)

That's her.

Luther studies the way Ethan looks at her.

LUTHER (ON COMM)

Oh boy.

ON ILSA AND ETHAN

ETHAN

I have to say. You sure can ride.

ILSA

In all fairness, you were in no condition to drive.

They share a slight smile, then:

ILSA (CONT'D)

Ethan-

ETHAN

You were just doing your job.
That's all we're ever going to say
about it.

ILSA

Attlee said you would understand.

ETHAN

Attlee. Is he your handler.

(off her nod /
realizing)

He didn't bring you in.

(she nods again)

Even after you gave him the disc.

ILSA

You know perfectly well it was
blank.

Only Ethan can hear:

(CONTINUED)

BENJI (ON COMM)

That's a lie. The disc she took from me was an exact copy. I'm sure of it.

ETHAN

Was it in your possession the entire time?

FLASH - In her mind, Ilsa sees Attlee on the bench by the river, the disk on his newspaper. She picks it up and leaves. Attlee unfolds the paper and reveals his phone underneath. The screen reads:

FILES DELETED

BACK ON ILSA, containing her rage, humiliation.

ILSA

(realizing)

You knew I'd take it to him.

ETHAN

I hoped you would. I hoped it would be enough to get you out.

BENJI (ON COMM)

Wait. That means Lane doesn't have the disc. Only we do.

BRANDT (ON COMM)

I have a question. If the disc was blank, why is she still alive?

Beat. Ethan realizes.

ETHAN

So who are you working for now?

ILSA

Lane. Attlee. Your government, mine. They're all the same. We only think we're fighting for the right side because that's what we chose to believe.

ETHAN

Where does that leave us?

ILSA

The way I see it, you have three choices. One, you hand me and the disc over to the CIA.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ILSA (CONT'D)

I'm proof that the Syndicate exists. Lane becomes their problem and your work is done.

BRANDT (ON COMM)

My thoughts, exactly.

BENJI (ON COMM)

Works for me.

ILSA

But you know they'll never believe you. You're all tried for treason. Lane goes free.

LUTHER

I'm afraid she has a point.

ILSA

Two, you let me walk away to an uncertain fate. You use the disc as bait to trap Lane. But some part of you suspects you've met your match. And, being a gambler, you'll end up handling Lane that disc whether you want to or not.

BENJI

That's... entirely possible.

ETHAN

And option three?

ILSA

Come away with me. Right now.

LUTHER

Oh boy.

ETHAN

And what happens to Lane?

ILSA

Forget Lane. There will *always* be another Lane. And there will *always* be people like us to face him. We've done our part and now we've been cast aside. We can be anyone, do *anything*... It's only a matter of going.

Ethan glances at the TRAVELERS walking past, on their way to ordinary lives. The look on Ethan's face says he's almost tempted. But then:

ETHAN

Lane sent you to deliver a message.

What hope she had for him slips away.

ILSA

You can't beat him, Ethan. With or without your team.

ETHAN

What's the message?

ILSA

I saved your life twice. I won't be able to do it again.

ETHAN

I don't expect you to.

Ilsa places a phone on the table, slides it across.

A crackling noise and a piercing electronic squeal in Ethan's ear.

ANGLE ON the pay phone. Luther hears it, too.

ANGLE ON the newsstand. Brandt hears it, too.

ANGLE ON Benji. Where is Benji?

Ethan is on his feet in a flash. The phone rings. Ethan grabs it, running to the spot where Benji was just a moment ago. He answers the phone.

The phone beeps. Ethan looks at it. To his horror he sees someone's direct POV, much like the contact lens in Vienna. He sees Benji, unconscious, a bag being thrown over his head as he is dragged away.

ETHAN

(re: Ilsa)

Parking garage. Luther, stay with her.

Ethan and Brandt run for the escalator.

267

CONTINUED: (5)

267

Luther moves through the crowd towards Ilsa. She sits still, looking right at him. He loses sight of her for only an instant. But in that instant, she vanishes.

Meanwhile, as Ethan runs, he watches on the phone as Benji is dragged toward a van, thrown inside.

THE POV moves to the passenger-side door, calmly climbs in and adjusts the mirror TO REVEAL:

Vinter, winking directly at himself and thus Ethan. He puts the van in drive. Ethan runs faster.

268

INT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

268

Ethan and Brandt emerge just as the van Ethan saw on the phone roars past, down a long tunnel and out of sight. Benji is gone. A moment later, Luther rushes up from behind.

LUTHER

She's gone. I lost her.

BRANDT

She set us up.

ETHAN

No. She delivered a message-

BRANDT

She set us up. She led us here.
She *knew* this was going to happen-

ETHAN

Only *Lane* knows what's going to happen.

The phone rings again. Ethan answers.

269

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

269

Lane on the other end of the phone. He faces a television on mute, watching a press conference in front of 10 Downing street - our first glimpse of the PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN.

LANE

(on phone)

As promised, I have a job for you.
And for the sake of your friend,
you'll do it.

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN (V.O.)

I'm listening.

LANE

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to bring me the unlocked disc by midnight tonight. Now say the words.

Ethan is thinking...

LANE (CONT'D)

Say... the words.

ETHAN (V.O.)

...I accept.

LANE

I knew you would.

Lane clicks off the phone.

ETHAN

He wants the disc. Unlocked. By midnight tonight.

LUTHER

Ethan, only one person on Earth can unlock that disc...

ETHAN

We have to take the Prime Minister...

BRANDT

Think about this. For just a minute-

ETHAN

It's the only way to get Benji back.

BRANDT

Just think. It's exactly what Lane wants us to do.

ETHAN

WHICH IS WHY IT *HAS* TO HAPPEN.
THIS IS HOW WE BEAT LANE.

(MORE)

270

CONTINUED:

270

ETHAN (CONT'D)

This is how we make everything
right. Can't you see that...?

Ethan walks away. Luther and Brandt share an uncertain
look before Luther follows, leaving Brandt to contemplate
the horrible direction this is headed.

271

EXT. SKIES OVER THE MED - DAY

271

A private jet streaks westward.

272

INT. JET - DAY

272

TWO CIA AGENTS sit at the back of the plane. Hunley is
seated near the gallery, looking out the window,
contemplating his next move. He thumbs a tablet, swiping
images collected by Ethan - the map, the photos of dead
agents, a sketch of Ilsa.

The satellite phone rings. The 1st agent answers and
brings the phone to Hunley.

1ST AGENT

William Brandt, sit. He says it's
urgent.

Hunley sets aside the tablet, snatches the phone. He
thinks for a beat as to how he wants to play it.

HUNLEY

I had a feeling you'd come to your
senses, Brandt.

273

EXT. STREET - DAY

273

BRANDT

Let's be clear. I'm calling you
because I have no other choice.
I'm trying to avoid a catastrophe.

HUNLEY

I can understand that. Where are
you?

BRANDT

London.

Hunley covers the phone, turns to the agent -

(CONTINUED)

HUNLEY

Reroute us to London, now.
(into phone)
Where in London?

BRANDT

I'll tell you that when you land.
Not before.

HUNLEY

I'm not interested in playing
games, Brandt.

BRANDT

And I'm not interested on seeing
you kill my friends. If I'm going
to betray them, I'm going it on my
terms. Not yours. Keep your phone
on. Instructions to follow.

CLICK.

Luther checks out the equipment as Ethan pores over the
plans of Blenheim on the computer. Luther looks up as
Brandt walks across the room to his packed bags.

LUTHER

You should have gone.

BRANDT

Yeah.

LUTHER

Is everything okay?

He grabs his bags and turns to leave.

BRANDT

We're supposed to take down the
Prime Minister of Great Britain
tonight - so - no.

Brandt starts to walk out. Ethan stops him.

ETHAN

Brandt - I can't see another way.

BRANDT

Because there isn't. We do what we
have to do for our friends. Right?

274 CONTINUED:

274

Brandt walks out. Luther watches him, concerned.

275 **INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY**

275

Benji has a hood ripped from his head to find himself seated in a chair, in a hotel room with a sweeping view of downtown London.

Before him stands LANE, to his side, Vinter. As Benji glares:

LANE

You look like you've just seen a ghost.

BENJI

You're not a ghost yet... but you will be.

Lane smiles, leans in to Benji:

LANE

Get him ready please.

Vinter picks up an explosive vest and walks over to Benji.

276 **EXT. BLENHEIM PALACE - DRIVE - NIGHT**

276

Establishing the grand residence, open this evening for a charity auction. Cars deposit ATTENDEES at the base of the grand stairway leading to the entrance.

PHOTOGRAPHERS are on hand to take pictures. Shades of Vienna.

One of these delivers Hunley, emerging from the vehicle with TWO CIA MEN. Hunley nods to his men. They step forward and pat Brandt down, going so far as to check his eyes, ears, pulling his face.

HUNLEY

You were right to call me, Brandt. Where is Hunt?

BRANDT

He's on his way here. You don't have a lot of time.

HUNLEY

What does he intend to do?

(CONTINUED)

BRANDT

What matters is he's alive. I want assurance that he will stay that way.

Brandt nods to an arriving motorcade, complete with police escort and armored SUVs. A HANDSOME COUPLE emerges and PHOTOGRAPHERS press forward to take pictures. As they head up the palace stairs:

HUNLEY

Have you informed the British government that Hunt is targeting the Prime Minister?

BRANDT

I'll help you capture him alive. That's the deal.

Just then, over Brandt's shoulder, Hunley spies a familiar face emerging from a limo and walking up the steps: ATTLEE.

HUNLEY

You've learned more bad habits from your friend, Brandt. The worst being the belief that you can control any outcome.

(to his men, re:
Brandt)

Stay with him.

Attlee is almost at the door when:

HUNLEY (O.S.)

Chief Attlee.

Attlee turns, surprised to find Hunley.

ATTLEE

Director Hunley. How delightful to see you here. The last time we spoke, you were hunting rogue agents in Morocco.

HUNLEY

Too long to explain, I'm afraid. But I have a reason to believe the Prime Minister's life is in danger.

277 CONTINUED:

277

ATTLEE

Really?

HUNLEY

Bear with me.

Off Attlee's alarmed expression:

278 **EXT. BLENHEIM PALACE - DRIVE - NIGHT**

278

Brandt watches helplessly as Hunley spills the beans to Attlee - both of them glancing this way.

279 **EXT. BLENHEIM PALACE - FRONT STEPS - NIGHT**

279

ATTLEE

Fascinating.

HUNLEY

That's one way to put it. In any case, we need to warn the Prime Minister.

280 **INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - LIBRARY - NIGHT**

280

An auction is underway. The Prime Minister is in the audience, sitting with his wife. A BODYGUARD approaches, whispers in his ear.

BODYGUARD

Chief Attlee from MI6 needs to speak to you. He says it's urgent.

The PM looks at the bodyguard, confused, then concerned. He whispers something to his wife and excuses himself.

281 **INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

281

The PM, escorted by two bodyguards, finds Attlee waiting at the door to a stateroom.

PRIME MINISTER

What's this all about?

ATTLEE

A matter of national security, Prime Minister.

(CONTINUED)

281

CONTINUED:

281

He opens the door to a stateroom, revealing Hunley and Brandt inside. As the PM steps in:

ATTLEE (CONT'D)
(to bodyguards)
Under no circumstances is anyone
to enter. Do you understand.

Attlee steps in and slams the door:

PRIME MINISTER (PRELAP)
Fascinating.

282

INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - STATEROOM - NIGHT

282

The Prime Minister sits while Brandt, Hunley and Attlee stand.

PRIME MINISTER
Who is this man? Why is he after
me?

ATTLEE
I'm afraid Prime Minister,
Director Hunley and I share
responsibility in this.

HUNLEY
Hunt was part of a disgraced
intelligence agency that has since
been dissolved.

ATTLEE
He's gone rogue, unfortunately,
intent on dismantling an imaginary
terror network.

HUNLEY
At first we believed he had
fabricated this network in a
tragic bid to justify his agency's
existence. But new intelligence
suggests he has been manipulated
by one of your former agents.

The PM looks to Attlee who clears his throat.

ATTLEE
Ilsa Faust, Prime Minister. She
disappeared two years ago.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ATTLEE (CONT'D)

Both MI6 and the CIA are working together to bring her in, along with Hunt.

PRIME MINISTER

If you don't mind me asking, what do I have to do with this phantom network?

HUNLEY

Sir - William Brandt, a former colleague of Hunt. He came forward with first hand knowledge of the plot against you.

BRANDT

Sir, Hunt is in possession of a virtual red box that can only be opened by you.

The PM's expression changes when he hears the words "red box." His gaze shifts to Attlee and remains there as:

BRANDT (CONT'D)

He believes it's the key to bringing down the Syndicate.

The word "Syndicate" strikes a cord with the PM. His eyes shift back to Brandt. Attlee is visibly nervous.

Hunley senses the shift in the room immediately.

PRIME MINISTER

The Syndicate, you say.

BRANDT

Yessir. That's what he calls it.

PRIME MINISTER

Attlee - he couldn't possible mean *that* Syndicate.

(before Attlee can respond)

Because you assured me that *that* Syndicate was merely an exercise.

ATTLEE

And it was, sir. I can assure you.

PRIME MINISTER

Yet here we have the Central Intelligence Agency indicating otherwise.

(CONTINUED)

Hunley is confused.

HUNLEY

I'm sorry. I don't understand.

ATTLEE

Mr. Prime Minister, your life is in danger. Our main priority is to move you to a secure location-

HUNLEY

Sir, does the name Solomon Lane ring a bell?

PRIME MINISTER

Yes... Unfortunately, it does.

HUNLEY

(to Attlee)
So there actually is a Syndicate.

Attlee struggles for a response.

PRIME MINISTER

It was the hypothetical brainchild of Chief Attlee. Recruit former agents from other nations, supply them with new identities, use them to exterminate our enemies at home and abroad. Its operating budget was to be hidden off-shore in a *virtual red box* which I alone would control... It would have made me judge, jury and executioner. With zero accountability. I unequivocally rejected the proposal.

(focusing on Attlee)

Furthermore, I was given every assurance that the program never passed the planning stage...

Hunley can't believe his ears. He looks at Brandt as:

ATTLEE

Prime Minister, there is no Syndicate. These men have been duped by Agent Faust-

PRIME MINISTER

Attlee. Save your words for the Public Inquiry.

(CONTINUED)

The Prime Minister moves to the door. Hunley stops him.

HUNLEY

I urge you not to leave this room.

PRIME MINISTER

Excuse me.

HUNLEY

Please. Hunt is uniquely trained and highly motivated - a specialist without equal and immune to any countermeasures. There is no secret he can't extract, no security he can't breach, no person he can't become. He has most likely anticipated this very conversation and is waiting to strike in whatever direction you move. Ethan Hunt is the living manifestation of destiny. And he has made you his mission.

(realizing)

And I've unleashed him.

ATTLEE

Prime Minister-

CLACK. The PM recoils, slumps in his seat. Hunley turns to find Attlee with a pistol in his hand, swinging it from the PM to Hunley and Brandt before they can react.

Then Attlee reaches under his collar of his shirt and rips off his face to reveal:

Ethan. As he peels the voice synthesizer from his neck, Hunley grasps for words, managing finally to find:

HUNLEY

Hunt.

Ethan pulls off the voice patch and motions to Hunley with the pistol.

ETHAN

Sir, please step away from the Prime Minister.

Ethan nods at Brandt. He moves for the PM and checks his pulse.

(CONTINUED)

BRANDT

Just relax sir -
(pulls out the dart)
- everything's going to be
alright.

PRIME MINISTER

(slurring)
Attlee shot me.

BRANDT

Yes he did sir.
(nods to Ethan)
We're good.

Brandt stands as Ethan pulls out a hand scanner. Brandt looks into the Prime Minister's right eye.

BRANDT

Just going to look at your eye.

HUNLEY

Hunt, I hope you realize you've just set US-UK relations back to the declaration of independence.

ETHAN

Desperate times, desperate measures, sir.

Ethan pulls out a cell phone and dials.

INT. LONDON SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

A cell phone rings and Luther answers.

ETHAN

Stand by to receive.

Luther plugs the disc stolen from the torus into a laptop. On screen, a graphic appears:

1) RETINAL SCAN

LUTHER

Ready.

284 **EXT. BLENHEIM PALACE - FRONT STEPS - NIGHT** 284

A limo pulls up and a familiar face emerges. Attlee. The real Attlee. He addresses A BODYGUARD posted by the stairs.

ATTLEE

The Prime Minister's office asked me to meet him here. Where is he?

285 **INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - STATEROOM - NIGHT** 285

Brandt removes small dart from the Prime Minister's neck, checks his pulse.

Brandt holds open the PM's eye-lid and holds a hand-held scanner to it. The PM's eye rolls, dazed.

BRANDT

Just need to look at your eye.

PRIME MINISTER

Of course, by all means.

The scanner in Brandt's hand flashes across the PM's eye and transmits:

286 **INT. LONDON SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT** 286

The real-time image of the PM's eye to Luther computer screen which reads:

1) RETINAL SCAN: CONFIRMED

LUTHER

Retinal scan, confirmed.

287 **INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - FRONT HALL - NIGHT** 287

Attlee heads toward the stateroom corridor.

288 **INT. LONDON SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT** 288

Luther's screen reads:

2) BIOMETRIC SCAN:

LUTHER

Biometric scan, confirmed.

289 **INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - STATEROOM - NIGHT** 289

Brandt places the PM's hand on a second scanner.

290 **INT. LONDON SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT** 290

Luther computer screen reads a series of points, including fingerprints, body temperature, electrical impulse and stress levels. The screen reads:

- 1) RETINAL SCAN: CONFIRMED
- 2) BIOMETRIC SCAN: CONFIRMED
- 3) PASS-PHRASE:
KIPLING

291 **INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - STATEROOM - NIGHT** 291

LUTHER (ON PHONE)
The prompt is Kipling.

ETHAN
The prompt is Kipling.

Ethan tosses the phone to Brandt who holds the phone up to the Prime Minister's face.

BRANDT
Mr. Prime Minister. I need the pass-phrase. The prompts is Kipling.

PRIME MINISTER
(a little slurred)
If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs. If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you...

292 **INT. LONDON SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT** 292

- 1) RETINAL SCAN: CONFIRMED
- 2) BIOMETRIC SCAN: CONFIRMED
- 3) PASS-PHRASE: CONFIRMED

292

CONTINUED:

292

The screen flashes, Attlee appears on the screen. He talks to camera.

ATTLEE

Greetings, Prime Minister. If you are viewing this message, you have chosen to activate the Syndicate. This disk grants access to 2.4 Billion pounds sterling in untraceable currency - enough for the Syndicate to operate undetected for decades. For your chief operative and sole contact I have chosen my top man, Solomon Lane. He will be in charge of recruiting field agents and supplying them with new identities. I know, Prime Minister, that you've expressed doubts about Lane's methods in the past, but there is no man more loyal to Britain and British interests. I am confident that time will prove him out. The 2.4 billion in operating funds is hidden in a series of numbered accounts all over the world. Instructions for how to access these funds are as follows-

LUTHER

Oh my God.

BRANDT (ON PHONE)

You got it?

LUTHER

I got it. Oh man, do I got it.

293

INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - STATEROOM - NIGHT

293

ETHAN

We get it?

BRANDT

We get it.

294

[OMITTED]

294

295

INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

295

Attlee arrives at the stateroom door, much to the confusion of the two bodyguards who've already seen him go in. They share a look.

ATTLEE

I'm here to see the Prime Minister.

BODYGUARD

Uh... We were told not to let anyone in?

ATTLEE

By whom?

BODYGUARD

... You, sir.

296

INT. BLENHEIM PALACE - STATEROOM - NIGHT

296

Attlee and the Bodyguards burst in through the double doors and, only to find Hunley standing over a semi-conscious Prime Minister.

ATTLEE

Hunley? What is this? Security!

Both bodyguards from the hall rush in past Attlee and toward Hunley and the PM. Ethan and Brandt step from behind the open doors.

CLACK, CLACK. Both bodyguards go down without ever seeing Ethan. Attlee turns to face Ethan.

ETHAN

Chief Attlee. Kind of you to accept our invitation.

CLACK. Attlee goes down, too.

ATTLEE'S P.O.V. looking up at Ethan, Brandt and Hunley.

ATTLEE

What happened?

ETHAN

We know you secretly created the Syndicate.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

It was supposed to protect British interests, but Lane went rogue and turned it against you, didn't he - And you've been desperately trying to cover it up. That's why you erased the disk when she brought it to you.

ATTLEE

(confused)

That's... true.

ETHAN

Now Director Hunley has some questions for you regarding Ilsa Faust... namely how you framed her.

ATTLEE

That's also true.

Ethan stands, faces Hunley as:

ETHAN

(handing over needle)

Antidote.

BRANDT

(motions to PM)

When the Prime Minister found out about the Syndicate, Attlee attacked him...

PRIME MINISTER (O.S.)

That's true.

Ethan offers the gun to Hunley.

BRANDT

And you saved the Prime Minister, sir.

PRIME MINISTER (O.S.)

Did he?

Hunley looks to the PM.

PRIME MINISTER (CONT'D)

I'm very grateful.

Hunley turns back and takes the gun.

297 **INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT**

297

A cell phone rings. Solomon Lane checks his watch and answers.

LANE

You're cutting it very close
Ethan.

298 **EXT. BLENHEIM PALACE - FRONT STEPS - NIGHT**

298

Ethan and Brandt hurry down the front steps.

ETHAN (INTO PHONE)

I have what you want.

299 **INT. LOADING DOCK - (TRAP LOCATION) - NIGHT**

299

A car carrying Ethan and Brandt screeches to a halt by:

Luther, standing by a white van. On the open tailgate is a laptop computer. We glimpse the materials in the back of the truck, but can't be entirely sure what they are. Ethan moves to open the laptop. Luther places a hand on it.

LUTHER

Ethan. Wait -

ETHAN

If I'm not there in fifteen minutes, he'll kill Benji.

LUTHER

Ethan... The mission is to bring down the Syndicate. If Lane gets his hands on this money, we're unleashing a terrorist's superpower.

ETHAN

He'll never take me alive. I'll be sure of that. Just be ready.

Luther and Brandt share a concerned look.

BRANDT

And if you can't make it back here?

(CONTINUED)

299 CONTINUED:

299

ETHAN

I'll make it back.

Luther steps back, taking his hand off the computer. Ethan opens the laptop. On the screen: bank accounts, each containing tens and even hundreds of millions.

PUSH IN ON ETHAN, intently staring at the screen - the blues and whites of raw streaming data transmorphing -

ETHAN pulls out the disk and drills a hole in it, destroying the data.

300 **EXT. TOWER BRIDGE - LONDON - NIGHT**

300

Sweeping overhead shot of the city, past the iconic landmark, finding:

301 **EXT. TRAITOR'S GATE - NIGHT**

301

A restaurant on the waterfront alongside the Tower of London. Tower Bridge looms in the background. PEDESTRIANS are everywhere. It's not the place we expected to meet.

Ethan stops, noting the few FACES IN THE CROWD looking at him - some we recognize.

They are LANE'S GOONS - Vinter, Saif and three others - all keeping a distance. Off. Then he sees:

Benji, motionless, eyes front, a closed laptop on the table in front of him, along with two glasses of wine. Next to him sits Ilsa: also perfectly still.

Ethan approaches slowly, and as comes closer he can see the beads of sweat on Benji's forehead, the neutral look on Ilsa's face. Eerie. Benji looks up:

BENJI

This is the end, Mr. Hunt.

Ethan sees an earpiece in Benji's ear.

ECU on Benji's eye - a contact lens like the one the assassin wore at the opera.

Then Ethan sees it - a small light flashing under Benji's coat. Ethan reaches over.

(CONTINUED)

301 CONTINUED:

301

ILSA

Be careful.

Ethan gently pulls it open. REVEAL: Benji is wearing an explosive vest. A lighted keypad sits smack in the middle of Benji's chest. The timer is ticking down.

302 INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

302

Lane sits before a monitor, watching Ethan.

LANE

Two pounds of semtex, five hundred thirty calibre ball bearings...
Your friend is-

303 EXT. TRAITOR'S GATE - NIGHT

303

BENJI

- sitting on a highly sensitive pressure trigger. So no sudden moves.

Ethan looks down at Ilsa's hands in her lap, sees the pistol there.

ETHAN

Your final test.

ILSA

When Lane has what he wants, I kill you and Benji. If not...
Everyone dies.

Ethan looks at the PEDESTRIANS and DINERS all around them. Innocent victims...

304 INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

304

LANE

No time to think, Ethan... Have a seat.

305 EXT. TRAITOR'S GATE - NIGHT

305

BENJI

- have a seat.

Ethan sits down opposite Benji.

(CONTINUED)

305

CONTINUED:

305

LANE

Human nature. My weapon of choice.

ETHAN

(to Benji)

You never meant to recruit us. You never had to.

BENJI

Everything you've done is because I wanted you to do it. From the moment I killed that woman in the record shop, I knew you'd stop at nothing to catch me. And I also knew Ilsa wouldn't have a choice. Whether she broke you that night you met or let you go, whether you let her run in Morocco, whether she went to Attlee or not...

ETHAN

You were certain we'd end up where we are right now... Then again... so was I.

306 [OMITTED]

306

307 [OMITTED]

307

308 [OMITTED]

308

309 **EXT. TRAITOR'S GATE / INT. HOTEL ROOM - INTERCUT**

309

ETHAN

I know you, Lane. Somewhere along the line you had a crisis of faith. Am I fighting for the right side? Should I risk my life for a world that doesn't seem to care? One day the answer was no. Human life didn't matter anymore or maybe it never really did. Either way, you'd killed too many innocent people without ever asking who was giving the orders or why.

Close on Lane, Ethan's words hitting home. The timer continues counting down...

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You blamed the system for what you are instead of yourself. You wanted revenge. But Rome wasn't destroyed in a day. You needed help. You needed money. A lot of it. And you'll stop at nothing to get it. That's how I know I'm gonna put you in a box.

BENJI

Where's the disk?

Ethan produces a pen, starts writing on a napkin.

ETHAN

(writing)

You like to play games. I have a game for you. I'll give you 50 million dollars to let Benji go.

With an assuring glance to Ilsa, he finishes writing and holds up the napkin to Benji's confused face.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

But not Lane. He sees a series of letters and numbers on the napkin, along with the name of a bank.

Lane types on the laptop. A beat later, a familiar interface appears on the screen. ECU on the number:

50,000,000.00 GBP

EXT. TRAITOR'S GATE - NIGHT

Ethan puts the napkin down. The time continues...

LANE

Where is the disk?

ETHAN

You're looking at it. I *am* the disk. I memorized it. All two point four billion in numbered accounts. If that vest goes off, you get nothing. And without this money you're nothing. Without *me* you're nothing.

312 **INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT** 312

Through the screen, Ethan stares at Lane. Waiting. Lane boils. The timer counts down.

313 **EXT. TRAITOR'S GATE - NIGHT** 313

ETHAN

Right now you're thinking it's a bluff. I'd never let me friends die. I couldn't possible memorize the entire disk. There's only one way to be sure. Let Benji go.

314 **INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT** 314

He stands, paces. Finally, he presses a button and:

315 **EXT. TRAITOR'S GATE - NIGHT** 315

The timer stops at :03. Benji and Ilsa exhale. Ethan glances about.

316 **INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT** 316

LANE

Take him.

317 **EXT. OUTSIDE TRAITOR'S GATE - NIGHT** 317

Vinter hears this in his ear. He nods to his goons. They all step closer.

ETHAN

(to Ilsa)

If they come any closer; Shoot me.

Ilsa smiles, admiring the play. She slides her seat next to Ethan, plans her gun in his ribs.

318 **INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT** 318

Lane is furious. Trapped.

LANE

Stop. STOP.

319 **EXT. TRAITOR'S GATE - NIGHT**

319

Vinter and his goons halt...

BENJI

Remember when I said some day you were going to take things too far... and that's me speaking - not him.

ETHAN

The only way this ends is you and me, Lane. Face-to-face. Only this time I won't be locked in a glass box or half-dead on some highway.

Ethan leans closer to the lens...

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You want your money... the bone doctor's gonna have to beat it out of me... Now let Benji go!

320 **INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT**

320

Lane ponders, paces. Finally:

LANE

One-three-nine...

321 **EXT. TRAITOR'S GATE - NIGHT**

321

Benji listens, looks down at the keypad on his chest. He nervously punches in a series of numbers. The light on the timer dies and the five-point harness springs open. Benji sheds the vest as discreetly as he can. Wrapping it in his overcoat.

ETHAN

Go.

BENJI

Ethan-

Ethan slides a phone across the table.

ETHAN

Luther and Brandt are waiting. Go.

With a final look to them both, Benji walks away. He dials the phone as he goes.

322 [OMITTED] 322

323 [OMITTED] 323

324 **INT. LOADING DOCK - NIGHT** 324

The loading dock of an office building. Brandt is crouched by a glass door, rigging a hinge. His phone rings.

BRANDT

Go.

BENJI

(on phone)

It's Benji. Where am I going?

Brandt turns to Luther seated nearby.

BRANDT

He's coming.

LUTHER

We're not ready.

BRANDT

GET READY.

(to Benji)

Alright - listen carefully -

325 **EXT. TRAITOR'S GATE - NIGHT** 325

As he walks past Vinter:

VINTER

What do we do?

LANE

Kill the woman. I need Hunt alive.

Tense pause. Vinter and Ethan make eye contact. Then:

Vinter and his goons all reach for their guns as:

Ethan and Ilsa stand in a single motion. Ethan spins, covering Ilsa with his body as she aims and fires with her silenced pistol. Two goons drop. The commotion draws the attention of NEARBY BYSTANDERS. As the panic starts:

(CONTINUED)

325

CONTINUED:

325

The other two goons rush through the crowd behind Ilsa. Ethan spins, grabbing Ilsa's gun, takes out the other two guys. Pedestrians and patrons scramble, realizing now that something bad is going down. Ethan grabs a phone off a dead man and he and Ilsa take off into the crowd.

ILSA

Where are we going?

326

[OMITTED]

326

327

[OMITTED]

327

328

EXT. ALLEYS - NIGHT

328

Ethan and Ilsa round the corner, and Ethan pushes her back just as gunfire explodes across the wall above.

Ethan pulls his weapon, fires, a goon taking cover.

ON A GOON, reloading, getting an angle, sees Ilsa flanking him, thinks he has a bead on her when -

He's blown back, Ethan taking him out.

ILSA

Which way?

329

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

329

Ethan and Ilsa, ducking, running through some archways. A goon follows them around a corner - too close. Ethan RAMS him through a nearby window.

330

[OMITTED]

330

331

EXT. ARCHWAYS - NIGHT

331

Ilsa round the corner, ducks below a pillar, as the goon in pursuit is close behind.

She elbows his midsection, drives a knee into his solar plexus, finishing him off. She turns to head back towards Ethan, when, from behind another pillar steps -

Vinter. Puffed up and looking like he's like nothing more than to strangle her with his bare hands.

(CONTINUED)

331 CONTINUED:

331

She draws a knife. He draws a bigger one. Oh shit.

332 **EXT. OTHER ALLEYWAY - NIGHT**

332

Ethan runs from gunmen, grabbing cover, turning and killing one, before running down a narrow passageway. 2nd goon follows, looks down there. Sees nothing. He starts checking each doorway along the way. Ethan drop down from ABOVE him, crushing him to the pavement, Ethan's leg crumpling beneath him.

333 **EXT. ARCHWAYS - NIGHT**

333

Vinter and Ilsa circle each other. She slices him, but he's unaffected, countering with his backhanded hilt to the side of her head. She recoils, looking at him.

VINTER

Now we'll see what you're made of.

He's the physically superior, but she's the more lithe and cunning, allowing her to parry every attack - quick and violent, no holds barred.

334 **EXT. ALLEYS - NIGHT**

334

Grimacing, Ethan checks his gun. Empty. He tosses it. Hangs his head, breathing hard. The sound of a car approaching. A car is coming from his left. He looks right, confronted by a long box alley.

Nowhere to run. He looks to a glass foyer across the alley and runs for it as:

The car arrives from around the corner to his left. The vehicle stops and Lane emerges, along with TWO GOONS. Ethan runs toward the glass doors as they fire. The glass shatters and Ethan throws his body through.

335 **EXT. ALLEYS - NIGHT**

335

Convinced he's going in for the kill, Vinter gets careless, allows Ilsa to swing up behind him and DRIVE her blade into his chest. He sinks to the ground, her riding him all the way to the ground.

The sound of the alarm makes her look up, and she sprints away.

336 **INT. BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION - NIGHT**

336

Ethan, stumbling, falling forward through a pane of glass, past construction materials. He trips, falls through a square hole cut in the floor. Lane walks to the edge, looks down. He sees:

Ethan's legs, dragging out of frame 10 feet below.

Lane jumps down into a -

337 **INT. LOADING DOCK - NIGHT**

337

He sees Ethan, immobilized, 10 feet away. He walks forward. Bump. He hits something. Holds his hand out.

A pane of glass. He turns right, hits another pane. Turns left, hits another. He's in a box.

THUNK. Something above. He looks up and sees:

Benji, smiling. He fires. The bullet appears to explode in mid-air.

Lane turns to find Ethan standing in front of him - inches away. Lane fires. The bullet hits the tempered glass, useless. He looks to his left to see Brandt emerging from the darkness. Luther appears from the right. He looks up again and sees:

Ilsa, standing beside Benji, looking down at him with contempt, and more than a little pleasure.

He fires again. And again. Nothing. He's trapped in a bulletproof glass box.

ETHAN

It hurts. I know. The pain you
feel is your own shell breaking.

Ethan nods to his friends. Benji smiles and holds up a trigger in one hand. He presses the button.

The glass portico fills with gas. Lane glares at Ethan, pounding his fists on the glass, screaming noiselessly, flailing like a poisoned spider, until he is still, and disappears in the fog.

Ethan steps back and shoves the case.

The light flicker on to reveal the box containing Lane rests on the edge of a large loading dock.

(CONTINUED)

337

CONTINUED:

337

Energy, movement, a sense of urgency.

JUMP CUT as the box is slammed to the floor on it's side.

JUMP CUT as a large van marked POLICE backs up to the dock.

JUMP CUT as the rear doors are opened and the box is slid inside the back of the van.

Luther, Brandt and Benji slip on bright police jackets and hats before climbing into the van.

Ethan turns to Ilsa - both of them battered and exhausted from the night's ordeal - approach a waiting car.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

You're free now.

Beat.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Where will you go?

ILSA

I don't know.

Ethan gives her a look. He doesn't need to say it. She shakes her head, no.

ILSA (CONT'D)

I've done my part.

Ethan nods, understanding.

338

EXT. BLACK ROCK BANK - NIGHT

338

Police cars pull up outside the building. POLICE rush in through the smashed window.

339

INT. LOADING DOCK - NIGHT

339

The sound of sirens above. Pressure mounting.

LUTHER (O.S.)

Ethan, we gotta go.

And in that moment, they embrace - not as lovers but as comrades. They kiss, not with passion, but with understanding - a moment that says "I'll miss you."

(CONTINUED)

339 CONTINUED:

339

ILSA
Better hurry now.

ETHAN
Good luck.

She climbs in the car and starts the engine.

ILSA
You know how to find me.

And she drives away. Ethan watches her go down a long tunnel into the unknown before turning to the waiting vehicle. As Benji starts the engine:

340 **INT. BLACK ROCK BANK - NIGHT**

340

Police fill the desolate space - flashlight beams cutting the semi-darkness.

ONE COP approaches a hole in the floor. He kneels down, shines his light inside.

341 **[OMITTED]**

341

342 **EXT. STREET - NIGHT**

342

A POLICE VAN screams past, sirens wailing, lights flashing. POLICE CARS scream past in the opposite direction.

That police van kills the sirens and the lights.

343 **INT. POLICE VAN - CAB - NIGHT**

343

Benji, Brandt and Luther dressed in a police uniforms. Benji drives.

344 **[OMITTED]**

344

345 **INT. SENATE CHAMBER - DAY**

345

Closed session. SEVEN MEN on the dais. In the center is the Chairman. They face two figures in the gallery.

One is Hunley. The other is Brandt.

(CONTINUED)

CHAIRMAN

Director Hunley... *Director
Hunley.*

Hunley snaps out of his thoughts.

HUNLEY

Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN

Six months ago you stood before
this panel and demanded that the
IMF be dissolved.

HUNLEY

That is correct, sir.

CHAIRMAN

How do you explain your testimony
today?

HUNLEY

It's quite simple, really. We had
reason to believe the Syndicate
had infiltrated our government at
the highest level. For our man to
infiltrate the organization, his
cover needed to be absolute. The
entire operation was known only to
myself, Agent Brandt and a handful
of IMF operatives.

CHAIRMAN

So... the shuttering of the IMF
was all part of an elaborate
scheme to expose this so-called
Syndicate.

HUNLEY

That is correct, sir.

CHAIRMAN

Which is why you're here today
asking that the IMF be reinstated.

HUNLEY

That is correct, sir.

The Chairman sits back, ponders.

345

CONTINUED: (2)

345

CHAIRMAN

I'm not sure the committee
approves of your methods, Director
Hunley.

HUNLEY

Desperate time call for desperate
measures, Mr. Chairman.

Long, tense pause. The Chairman turns to Brandt.

CHAIRMAN

And you, Mr. Brandt... How do you
justify this deception.

BRANDT

Sir... I can neither confirm nor
deny details of any such operation
without the Secretary's approval.

346

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE HEARING ROOM - DAY

346

As Brandt and Hunley walk briskly away:

BRANDT

Welcome to the IMF, Mr. Secretary.

347

[OMITTED]

347

348

[OMITTED]

348