NATIONAL TREASURE
The Book of Secrets

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FADE IN ON:

1 EXT. DRY TORTUGAS, 70 MILES WEST OF FLORIDA - DAY 1

A cluster of small tropical islands surrounded by crystal clear, green-blue water. On one island, an unlikely site...

A MASSIVE MILITARY FORT. Or rather, the ruins of what once was one. This is...

2 EXT. FORT JEFFERSON DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK - DAY 2

1850s-era brick fortress. Trees and lush green grass carpet the spacious grounds inside the crumbling walls.

A RESEARCH BASE CAMP has been set up near the lighthouse.

Outside, the fort is encircled by a moat and then miles of waveless ocean. *

About a half-mile out...we see a SMALL SHIP. *

3 EXT. R/V INDEPENDENCE - DAY 3*

A 70-foot, oceanographic research vessel. On deck, a RESEARCH * ASSISTANT (20s) talks to his digital video camera. *

RESEARCH ASSISTANT *
(to his camera) *
Here we are in the Dry Tortugas where *
it is believed that in 1867 a supply *
steamer laden with Confederate Gold *
sunk while on its way to Fort *
Jefferson Prison. *

The research assistant pans over to Fort Jefferson in the * near distance then back to himself. *

RESEARCH ASSISTANT (CONT'D) *
(to his camera) *
Its mission: to bribe the guards *
and free the four conspirators in *
the Lincoln assassination who were *
imprisoned there. It's Day Five of *
our quest, and-- *

GRAD STUDENT (O.S.) *
--Day Six. *

The research assistant pauses his camera and looks over to a * bikini-clad GRAD STUDENT (20s), working on a laptop nearby. *

RESEARCH ASSISTANT *
Six days...really? I hope my TiVo's *
working. *

4 INT. UNDERWATER - DAY 4

Shafts of sunlight pierce the depths. We're about 80 feet down where...

THE WRECKAGE OF A CARGO STEAMER lies in a trench, completely overgrown with coral and other sea life. A TEAM OF DIVERS works here, the scene illuminated by underwater KLIEG LIGHTS.

5 INT. OCEAN FLOOR - DAY 5

The UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGISTS excavate the site, using hand-held underwater dredges.

6 INT. STEAMER WRECKAGE, GALLEY - DAY 6

A ballet of exotic fish swims past us as we push through the hold. We CONTINUE laterally out a door and down...

7 INT. STEAMER WRECKAGE, CORRIDOR - DAY 7

The walls are overgrown with moss. The view recedes into nearly complete darkness...

And then, a beam of light cuts through the murk...a shadowy figure approaches.

As the light grows in intensity, we see that the figure is strong, athletic...a DIVER. The beam of light emanates from his dive helmet. Through the dive mask, we see that...

...It's BEN GATES. He swims past us.

Another DIVER follows in his wake.

DIVER (VIA RADIO)
With all due respect, Dr. Gates, we've been over every inch of this ship. This wreck's been picked over.

Ben ignores him, swimming to a twisted metal ladder, leading down into...

8 INT. STEAMER WRECKAGE, CARGO HOLD - DAY 8

Ben switches on his torch light and points it into the depths, catching glimpses of TWO WAGON WHEELS AND SEVERAL CRATES.

BEN (VIA RADIO)
If you're smuggling in gold, you don't store it with the rest of the cargo.

The floor of the hold is covered in coral. Ben swims along the coral, searching for something. He stops, pulls out a small hammer and chips away the coral, revealing...

...A HATCH. The diver is surprised and impressed.

8 CONTINUED: 8

DIVER (VIA RADIO)
That wasn't on the sonar.

Ben yanks the hatch handle, but it's rusted shut. The diver tries to help to no avail.

DIVER (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D)
It's stuck.

Ben grabs a cutting torch from his belt and sparks it to life. The burning electrodes light his face. Water sizzles and sparks.

Ben works for a moment and then switches off the torch. He and the diver pull the hatch open. The water clouds with silt and then dissipates to reveal...

...A LARGE METAL STRONG BOX. Ben and the diver share a grin.

DIVER (VIA RADIO) (CONT'D)
So, does this mean we're all getting A's, Dr. Gates?

9 INT. STEAMER WRECKAGE, CORRIDOR - DAY 9*

Ben and the diver lug the strong box down the narrow corridor.

With a LOAD GROAN, the ship suddenly SHIFTS in the current, throwing Ben and the diver against the wall.

A rusted metal beam collapses on the diver, pinning him. He screams as the water instantly fills with murk. Ben hurries to the diver.

DIVER (VIA RADIO)
I can't move! I can't move!

Ben tries to move the beam...to no avail. He finds a rusted iron bar, tries to use it as a lever...SNAP!

But just then with another GROAN, the ship SHIFTS again. More debris tumbles around them. Ben is hit.

So is the diver's helmet, cracking it, and sending a THIN STREAM OF BUBBLES into the water. The diver's eyes go wide in panic. He's losing air. This is bad.

BEN (VIA RADIO)
Anna Lynn, I need you to tie some dive weights to the Zodiac and throw it overboard.

10 EXT. R/V INDEPENDENCE, DECK - DAY 10*

The grad student (Anna Lynn) listens to her headset.

GRAD STUDENT
What? Why?

10 CONTINUED: 10

BEN (VIA RADIO)
Just do it! Now!

11 INT. OCEAN FLOOR - DAY 11*

Ben emerges from a breach in the shipwreck. The other DIVERS regard him with concern.

ANOTHER DIVER (VIA RADIO)
Where's Zach?

BEN (VIA RADIO)
He's pinned. Losing O-2.

Ben looks up as a block of rubber (the Zodiac) sinks from above and touches down on the ocean floor, kicking up sediment. Ben moves it and quickly removes the dive weights.

12 INT. STEAMER WRECKAGE, CORRIDOR - DAY 12*

Ben and the other diver carry the Zodiac to the pinned diver. He's starting to lose consciousness.

Ben quickly wedges the Zodiac under the fallen beam and then pulls the cord. The Zodiac instantly INFLATES (it's a raft), lifting the heavy beam like an inflatable jack.

Ben and the other diver pull the pinned diver free.

13 EXT. R/V INDEPENDENCE, DECK - DAY 13*

The diver now sits on the deck, dripping wet but relieved to be alive. He watches with anticipation as...

Something is winched out of the water...the barnacled STRONG BOX. It breaks the surface.

CUT TO:

Minutes later. Ben drills through the rusted lock. His face is stubbled, rugged. The research team has gathered around to watch.

Ben finally punches through the lock. He sets the drill aside and then pries open the box. It's filled with...

...SILT and SAND. Ben feels through the mulch and comes up with a HANDFUL OF CONFEDERATE GOLD COINS!

Ben's team erupts. Someone pops a bottle of champagne. The grad student hugs the research assistant. Then...

GRAD STUDENT
Aren't you recording this?

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
(realizes)
Oh crap!

13 CONTINUED: 13

The research assistant grabs his camera and switches it on.

As everyone celebrates, Ben continues to root around the strong box. He finally comes up with a small metal case, the size of a cigarette box.

Ben opens it. Inside is a rusted, pewter STICK PIN. Barely recognizable.

The research assistant ZOOMS IN on the pin.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT (CONT'D)
What's that?

Ben squeezes a mild solvent on the pin and wipes away some rust. Now, we see an enigmatic emblem on the pin: the letters "KGC" surrounded by a CIRCLE.

BEN
A forgotten piece of history.

CUT TO:

A HELICOPTER THUNDERS over the ocean's surface as a setting sun plays on the rippling waters. The chopper approaches the Dry Tortugas.

14 EXT. FORT JEFFERSON, INNER "PARADE" GROUNDS - DUSK 14

Now wearing a Smithsonian t-shirt and jeans, Ben stands with his team, watching as the chopper touches down in the grassy clearing.

Ben crosses to the chopper as it settles. DR. NICHOLS (50s, avuncular) climbs out. They shout over the din of the rotors.

DR. NICHOLS
Congratulations, Dr. Gates!

Ben holds up the pin to Dr. Nichols. Dr. Nichols eyes it, reading the letters in the emblem.

DR. NICHOLS (CONT'D)
"KGC." Knights of the Golden Circle. I'll be damned.

BEN
They were here. This proves they tried to help the conspirators escape.

DR. NICHOLS
And were likely behind the Lincoln assassination as well.

BEN
That's what my great-great-great-grandfather Thomas Gates always said.

Dr. Nichols stares at the pin in wonderment.

14 CONTINUED: 14

DR. NICHOLS
And how in the heck did he ever come to think that?

BEN
Well, you're never going to believe this, but Thomas Gates met John Wilkes Booth once...

As Ben narrates over, we slowly PUSH IN on the GOLDEN KGC PIN and...

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

The same PIN, only now it's pinned to the shirt pocket of a dandy gentleman (JOHN WILKES BOOTH). We're on...

15 EXT. STREET, WASHINGTON CITY, 1865 - NIGHT 15*

FIREWORKS CRACKLE AND POP in the nighttime sky, illuminating a 19th century street.

BEN (V.O.)
...In a tavern in Washington D.C., Washington City at the time, right after the Civil War had ended...

MEN run down the middle of the road, whooping and firing GUNSHOTS into the sky.

BEN (CONT'D)
...and just two days before Lincoln was assassinated.

Everyone is celebrating except for Booth who stops in front of a tavern. He buttons his coat, concealing the KGC PIN, and enters.

16 INT. TAVERN/BOARDING HOUSE, WASHINGTON D.C., 1865 - NIGHT 16

A PIANO PLAYER pounds out the Union anthem, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," while drunken REVELERS sing along in this smoky and dimly lit tavern. The mood is joyous.

A mustachioed BARKEEP reads a newspaper laid out on the bar. It's dated April 12, 1865. The headlines read:

"Glorious News!!! LEE SURRENDERS TO GRANT!"
"CIVIL WAR ENDS! JOY UNBOUND!"

IN A CORNER BY A FIREPLACE, a man sits at a table piled with books. This is THOMAS GATES (40). His clothes are dusty, and one thing he doesn't look is very prosperous.

BEN (V.O.)
...By 1865, Thomas had earned himself quite a reputation as a treasure hunter.

16 CONTINUED: 16

So engrossed in studying a map of Charlotte, North Carolina, Thomas takes no notice of Booth who steps up to his table.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...He had found Captain Kidd's treasure in the Thimble Islands a few years earlier, but all he really wanted to do was find Charlotte.

We now notice that everything on Thomas' table has something to do with Charlotte: a map of Charlotte, N.C., books by authors named Charlotte, even an etching of the tombstone of a deceased man, John Charlotte.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...When Booth introduced himself that night, Thomas didn't want to be bothered.

Booth pulls a leather-bound DIARY from his coat pocket, turns it to a page, and rudely lays it on top of Thomas' work.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...But Booth was insistent.

Thomas now looks up, and we immediately recognize the strong Gates family resemblance.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...Booth claimed he had a treasure map, or actually, a encoded missive leading to one.

Booth pulls up a chair and sits. Thomas sighs, resigned, and begins decoding. Quickly, a new string of letters emerges: C-I-B-O-L... Booth watches over Thomas' shoulder.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...The first word Thomas decoded...
(incredibly)
"Cíbola"--Spanish for "the City of Gold."

Thomas pulls an old book from his stack of materials and flips through the pages until he finds an ink line drawing.

THE DRAWING fills the screen. It shows a Spanish slave kneeling in awe before a great ancient cityscape of gold. The drawing is very dramatic. The city glitters under the dark sky. It's annotated, "*Esteban Mira Cíbola, 1533.*"

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...An entire city made of gold, built by the Native Americans, seen only once by a shipwrecked Spanish slave in 1528 as reward for healing their ailing chief with his knowledge of herbs and medicines.

16 CONTINUED: (2) 16

Thomas continues working, decoding more words.

BEN (V.O.)
...After that, the legend grew, and every great explorer who came to the New World--Pizarro, de Soto, Raleigh--came in search of it. But none would ever find it.

Thomas looks up from the cipher, in awe.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...Thomas was amazed. It was impossible. He asked Booth where he got the cipher, but Booth was evasive.

Now, Booth is leaning over the table, looking over Thomas' shoulder. His coat hangs open slightly.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...That's when Thomas saw the pin.

Thomas spots the KGC PIN sticking out of his pocket.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...Thomas realized Booth was part of the Knights of the Golden Circle. He had heard rumors that the KGC was looking to finance a rebellion, and Thomas wanted no part of it.

Booth quietly levels his DERRINGER under the table at Thomas.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...Thomas knew he couldn't allow Booth to leave the tavern with that cipher.

Booth cocks his derringer, but Thomas doesn't flinch.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...So he did the only thing he could do.

Thomas flicks his hand, knocking his drink over, spilling its contents onto Booth's suit.

Booth glances down ever so briefly, but it's enough of a distraction. Thomas RIPS a handful of PAGES from the diary and THROWS THEM into the fire. The pages instantly ignite.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...He grabbed a handful of pages, ripped them out of the diary, and threw them in the fire.

Booth's face falls as he scrambles for the burning pages. Booth burns his hand and then wheels around and...

16 CONTINUED: (3) 16

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
...And that's when Thomas got hit.

...SLAMS THOMAS square in the face with the butt of his gun! Thomas wobbles and then drops, out cold.

BEN (V.O.) (CONT'D) *
...So, I guess the lesson learned *
here is that if you burn another
man's treasure map, it's always a
good idea to duck...

LAUGHTER echoes in a large hall as we... *

TRANSITION TO:

17 INT. SMITHSONIAN, EXHIBITION HALL - DAY 17

Present day. The Templar Treasure is on exhibit in this vast museum hall. A seminar is in progress.

Now wearing a corduroy suit, Ben stands before a group of * HISTORIANS and WANNABE TREASURE HUNTERS sitting in rows of folding chairs. Ben has changed since the first movie. He's at home among the academics, more confident.

BEN
...Of course, two days later, John *
Wilkes Booth would become one of the *
most infamous men in American history
after he assassinated President
Abraham Lincoln.

One SNOOTY HISTORIAN in the front row scoffs.

SNOOTY HISTORIAN
Excuse me, Dr. Gates, but what part
of that story are we supposed to
believe?

BEN
I know. It sounds crazy.
(grins wryly)
But my family's been accused of saying
crazier things.

Laughter ripples through the audience.

SNOOTY HISTORIAN
So, you're telling us that the 18
missing pages of the Booth diary
were actually burned by your ancestor
because they contained a treasure
map to the City of Gold?

BEN
Actually, it was a secret message
that led to the map, not the map
itself. *

17 CONTINUED: 17

SNOOTY HISTORIAN
And where did Booth get this secret message?

BEN
Thomas learned years later that the KGC had intercepted it. He suspected it was originally written by a high-ranking mason.

A TREASURE FANATIC raises his hand. Ben points to him.

BEN (CONT'D)
You have a question?

FANATIC
Yes...

The fanatic refers to his notes, then...

FANATIC (CONT'D)
What exactly does the pyramid on the back of the dollar bill mean?

18 INT. SMITHSONIAN, EXHIBITION HALL - DAY 18

The seminar is over, and Ben is packing up his things. Dr. Nichols is here.

DR. NICHOLS
The KGC pin is being added to the Lincoln Exhibit at the American History Museum, along with the Confederate gold.

Just then, *Yankee Doodle* begins to play. Ben reaches for his phone, checks the caller ID, then looks to Dr. Nichols.

BEN
Excuse me. I gotta take this.

He steps away and talks low into his phone.

BEN (CONT'D)
Hello?

19 INT. NEW ENGLAND MANOR - DAY 19

A fully restored, majestic colonial estate. A team of MOVERS parade in and out of the foyer, carrying boxes and furniture.

A beefy MOVER stands in the adjacent dining room, talking on his cell phone.

MOVER
I'm at the house, and there's a lady here sitting in one of the chairs you have tagged for us to move.

19 CONTINUED: 19

We PAN to reveal that ABIGAIL CHASE is the lady he's talking about. She's sitting in an antique Queen Anne chair, arms crossed defiantly.

MOVER (CONT'D)
She won't let us take it.

ABIGAIL
That's because it's not his.

INTERCUT BETWEEN BEN AND THE MOVER TALKING ON THEIR PHONES.

BEN
Which chair?

The mover glances at the chair and shrugs. *

MOVER
I don't know. The ugly one.

ABIGAIL
(calls out)
Tell him it's the Queen Anne, and it's mine!

Ben can hear Abigail yelling in the background.

MOVER
(into his phone)
She said--

BEN
--I heard her. Tell her I found it.

MOVER
He says he found it.

ABIGAIL
And I painstakingly restored it.

BEN
I liked it the way it was!

MOVER
He says he liked it the way it was.

ABIGAIL
It didn't even have a seat cushion!

The mover offers Abigail his cell phone.

MOVER
Maybe you two should talk to each other.

ABIGAIL
No!

BEN (ON THE PHONE)
No!

The mover sighs.

19 CONTINUED: (2) 19

MOVER
(into his phone)
Look. I don't get battle pay. As long as the lady's in the chair, the chair stays.

Abigail grins, victorious.

20 INT. SMITHSONIAN, EXHIBITION HALL - DAY 20

Ben sighs, frustrated.

BEN
Fine.

He clicks off his phone. Dr. Nichols regards him.

DR. NICHOLS
The wife?

BEN
Almost.

DR. NICHOLS
Sounds like you dodged a bullet.

Ben nods, definitely. Just then, a voice from behind...

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
Dr. Gates?

They turn to find a gentleman, DEREK WILKINSON (30s). * Wilkinson is polite, has impeccable taste, and speaks with a * hint of a Southern drawl.

WILKINSON
My name is Derek Wilkinson, and I believe I have something that you will find truly interesting.

BEN
Let me guess. A map to Atlantis.

Dr. Nichols stifles a chuckle. Wilkinson regards the men.

WILKINSON
Now, why would I have a map to Atlantis?

BEN
Because usually the people who approach me after my seminars are searching for Atlantis. Or the lost treasure of King Tut's sister.

WILKINSON
I wasn't aware that King Tut had a sister.

20 CONTINUED: 20

BEN
I'm sorry, Mr. Wilkinson, but whatever you have, I assure you I'm not interested. Now, if you'll excuse us.

Ben takes his things and starts walking off with Dr. Nichols. Wilkinson follows, not giving up.

WILKINSON
If you'd just hear me out. You see, I have one of those great-great-great granddaddies just like you, way up there in my family tree, by the name of Jeb Wilkinson...

But Ben keeps walking, Wilkinson staying on his heels.

WILKINSON (CONT'D)
He owned and ran his own business in Washington D.C...a tavern. The same * tavern Thomas Gates visited that * same night two days before Lincoln was assassinated.

That stops Ben. He turns to face Wilkinson.

BEN
He knew Thomas Gates?

WILKINSON
He didn't know him. Jeb knew <u>of</u> him.

Wilkinson pulls something from his pocket. It's an antique DAGUERROTYPE CASE (folding photo case). He flips it open...

INSIDE is AN OLD BLACK & WHITE PHOTO of a man we recognize as the BARTENDER from the opening flashback and his family.

WILKINSON (CONT'D)
And like your ancestors, mine too passed down a story about that night. Except according to Jeb, John Wilkes Booth wasn't there to see a man about a treasure...

21 INT. TAVERN/BOARDING HOUSE, 1865 - NIGHT 21

FLASHBACK to the same scene we just saw, only this time, there are no revelers. The tavern is closed.

WILKINSON (V.O.)
You see, the Knights of the Golden Circle had called a meeting...

A CABAL (which includes BOOTH and THOMAS GATES) sits at the * table near the fire. The bartender (JEB) stands at his bar, reading the newspaper.

21 CONTINUED: 21

WILKINSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
As you know, the KGC was made up of powerful men, both Union and Confederate. The President had made himself a fistful of enemies with that Emancipation Proclamation of his. Jeb knew they were planning something, but he didn't know what...

BOOTH takes notes in his DIARY.

WILKINSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
When they were done talking, one of the men tore some pages out of a book and threw them in the fire...

Thomas grabs Booth's diary, RIPS out several PAGES, and THROWS * THEM into the fireplace. The pages ignite.

WILKINSON (V.O.) (CONT'D) *
But later, Jeb noticed the pages hadn't all burned up after...

22 INT. TAVERN/BOARDING HOUSE, 1865 - LATER 22

The tavern is empty. Jeb fishes a piece of a BURNT PAGE out of the fireplace.

WILKINSON
Jeb didn't realize the burnt page's significance until three days later when he heard President Lincoln was assassinated...

23 INT. SMITHSONIAN, MUSEUM - DAY 23

Present day. Wilkinson slides the B&W PHOTO out of its frame, revealing a FOLDED PIECE OF PAPER HIDDEN BEHIND IT.

Wilkinson unfolds the piece of paper. It's the BURNT DIARY PAGE. Half is burned away, but a handwritten list of names, Latin phrases, and the date "April 12" are clearly legible.

Thomas Gates's name is clearly written. Next to it--*equinus*. *

Ben and Dr. Nichols stare at the burnt half-page in amazement. Dr. Nichols reads the words on it and translates. *

DR. NICHOLS
"Caede tyrannus." Latin for "slay the tyrant."

WILKINSON
Yes, Booth was a student of the classics. He shouted his state's motto, "Sic semper tyrannis" when he shot the President, "Thus always to tyrants!"

23 CONTINUED: 23

DR. NICHOLS
"Arma," weapon.

WILKINSON
The derringer. Mary Surratt was convicted of hiding it in her attic.

DR. NICHOLS
"Caedite illi," slay those who are loyal.

WILKINSON
Atzerodt and Herold were supposed to assassinate Vice President Johnson on the same night but failed.

DR. NICHOLS
Thomas Gates, "equinus."

WILKINSON
Horses...for the assassins' escape.

Ben stares at Thomas' name and the word "equinus" on the burnt half-page in stunned disbelief.

BEN
Why didn't anyone in your family ever come forward with this before?

WILKINSON
Jeb claimed he thought about turning in the page but that he didn't know whom to trust. There were powerful men at that meeting. Years went by, and it became a family heirloom of sorts. No one ever really believed it was a page from Booth's diary, but then I heard you tell your story at a seminar in Boston about that same night in April 1865. So I went and dug the page out of Jeb's things. I thought maybe I'd find myself a treasure map. Instead, I found your ancestor's name written on it.

Ben is dubious and defiant.

BEN
Thomas Gates was never a member of the Knights of the Golden Circle. He would've never aided John Wilkes Booth.

WILKINSON
Well, it sure does look that way.

Dr. Nichols reaches for the burnt half-page.

23 CONTINUED: (2) 23

DR. NICHOLS
May I?

WILKINSON
By all means.

Dr. Nichols takes the burnt half-page and studies it in awe.

DR. NICHOLS
If this is indeed one of the missing Booth diary pages, this is an incredible find. Of course, we'll have to run some tests.

Ben just stares at the burnt half-page, gut-punched.

24 EXT. BORDERS BOOK STORE, D.C. - DAY 24

A new arrival is featured in the store window. On the cover is the unfinished pyramid from the Great Seal. A sign in the window reads, "BOOK SIGNING TODAY!"

25 INT. BORDERS BOOK STORE, D.C. - DAY 25

Crowded with CUSTOMERS. We wend our way through the people and aisles until we come to the HOBBIES section where...

The AUTHOR sits at an empty book signing table, doing a crossword puzzle.

Next to him, his book is displayed, STACKED IN A PYRAMID. Now, we see the title, *The Templar Treasure and Other Myths that Are True* by Riley Poole.

Now, we realize it's RILEY. He erases a wrong word on his crossword. *

A LADY CUSTOMER steps up and pulls one of Riley's books off the display. Riley watches her as she peruses the back cover. *

ON THE BACK COVER, there is a picture of the Templar Treasure on display at the Smithsonian.

The lady's eyes light up, realizing...

LADY CUSTOMER
Oh, wow! Is this a book about that treasure?!

RILEY
Well, yes, but it's also about other myths and urban legends, like Area 51 and--

The lady sees the "MEET THE AUTHOR" sign on the table.

LADY CUSTOMER
--The author's here, signing copies?

25 CONTINUED: 25

RILEY
(proudly)
Yes. I'm the author.

LADY CUSTOMER
You are?

Riley points to his name.

RILEY
See? Right there. Riley Poole.
That's me.

LADY CUSTOMER
I thought that guy Benjamin Gates
found the treasure.

RILEY
Well, yes, but I assisted him.

The lady regards him.

LADY CUSTOMER
And a publisher paid you to write a
book about it?

RILEY
Actually, no. I published it myself.

LADY CUSTOMER
I see.

The lady returns the book to the shelf and leaves just as a cute COLLEGE GIRL approaches. She grabs a copy and then looks to Riley, excitedly.

COLLEGE GIRL
Ohmigosh! Are you Ben Gates?

RILEY
(a beat, then)
Yes. Yes, I am.

26 EXT. D.C. STREET - DAY 26

Display stand tucked under his arm and carrying two totes filled with books, Riley schlepps his stuff back to his car.

He rounds the street corner to find a TOW TRUCK DRIVER hooking up his RED FERRARI. Riley's face falls. *

RILEY
No-no-no!

Riley drops his stuff and sprints over to the TOW TRUCK DRIVER who hands him a piece of paper.

TOW TRUCK DRIVER
Sorry. Just doing my job.

26 CONTINUED: 26

Riley reads the paper. It reads, "IRS REPO NOTICE."

RILEY
But you can't take my Ferrari. It's all I have left.

TOW TRUCK DRIVER
You should've paid your taxes.

RILEY
I have. Do you know what the taxes are on five million dollars?

The tow truck driver finishes hooking up Riley's Ferrari.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Six million dollars. Trust me. It is. Especially after your tax man sets up a corporation for you on an island that doesn't exist and assures you that that's how rich people do it. Then you get audited and slapped with a huge fine...with interest.

The tow truck driver moves to his truck cab.

RILEY (CONT'D)
How was I supposed to know? All I ever filed before was the 1040EZ. I got a tax refund every year.

The tow truck driver fires up his engine, not listening.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Oh, come on! How am I supposed to pay my taxes if I can't get to work?!

But the tow truck driver pulls away.

27 EXT. APARTMENT ROW, GEORGETOWN STREET - DAY 27

Riley walks home. He comes to an apartment complex to find BEN sitting on the front steps, waiting for him.

BEN
Out for a walk?

RILEY
Until the IRS garnishes my feet.

BEN
I need your help.

RILEY
Does it involve a treasure?

BEN
Possibly.

27 CONTINUED: 27

RILEY
Possibly? I love that word.

28 EXT. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY - DAY 28

The Behring Center is located in the National Mall.

RILEY (V.O.)
This is insane. It's not you...

29 INT. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY - DAY 29

Riley and Ben move through the various exhibits on display here (e.g., Washington's coat and the Star Spangled Banner.)

RILEY
...We're talking about some distant ancestor.

BEN
Thomas Gates is like the George Washington of my family, Riley. I wouldn't be the person I am today without him.

RILEY
No one even remembers anyone involved in the Lincoln assassination besides Booth.

BEN
(rattles off the names)
George Atzerodt, David Herold, Michael O'Laughlen, Samuel Arnold, Lewis Powell, John Surratt, and John Surratt's mother Mary.

RILEY
OK, no one except for you and maybe five other history fanatics, but they don't have any friends.

BEN
Do you know the origin of that expression, "his name is mud"?

RILEY
Someone once called someone else "mud," and it stuck.

BEN
Dr. Samuel Mudd was convicted of being a co-conspirator in the Lincoln assassination. The evidence was circumstantial, and he was later pardoned by Andrew Johnson, but it didn't matter. Mudd's name still lives in infamy. I will not allow the Gates' name to be mud.

29 CONTINUED: 29

RILEY
Yeah, but his name was Mudd. That name was going to get made fun of one way or another.

BEN
Riley, if I can't prove Thomas Gates is innocent, his name will be forever linked to the assassination of our country's most revered president

But Riley's not listening, his attention drawn to something over Ben's shoulder.

RILEY
Um...Abigail's here.

We REVERSE to find ABIGAIL trading handshakes with an officious group of ACADEMICS (including Dr. Nichols and a handsome historian named DR. CONNOR HAMILTON, 40s).

BEN
Of course, she's here. She's a documents preservation specialist. She was called in to help authenticate the Booth diary page.

She glances their way. She sees Ben and Riley but then acts like she doesn't see them.

RILEY
She looks good.
(off Ben's look)
Sorry.

BEN
I need you to go explain to her what I explained to you on the way over here.

RILEY
That's why you need me?

BEN
She won't talk to me...

ON ABIGAIL. She excuses herself, peels away from the group of academics, and crosses to Ben and Riley. Riley smiles and greets her.

RILEY
Hey, Abigail!

Abigail does her best to ignore Ben and speaks only to Riley.

ABIGAIL
Hello, Riley. Can you please tell Ben that the Booth diary page is authentic?

29 CONTINUED: (2) 29

RILEY
OK, um, Ben--

BEN
--Ask her if I can run a couple of tests on it?

Riley goes to translate, but they both talk over him.

ABIGAIL
Ask Ben what exactly he thinks he's going to find?
(jokes)
A treasure map?

BEN
(doesn't want to say)
Well, no.

RILEY
No? I thought you said it did.

Both Abigail and Riley glare at Ben. On the spot.

BEN
It's not a treasure map per se. It's more a map to a treasure map.

ABIGAIL
How come I feel like I've had this conversation before?

BEN
The Knights of the Golden Circle wanted to start their own slave nation. They needed financing for their rebellion...

As he talks, the group of academics disperses in the background, and Connor heads their way.

BEN (CONT'D)
...They had a coded message about a treasure map. Booth went to Thomas to decipher it.

ABIGAIL
Then, why did Booth write "equinus" next to his name?

BEN
I don't know. That's why I need to look at the page.

ABIGAIL
The page has already been thoroughly examined by the top experts in the field. I can assure you there is nothing else on it.

29 CONTINUED: (3) 29

BEN
Did anyone check the charred fringes? *
It's about a half-inch wide. Iron *
from ink can sometimes leave a latent
residual image in carbon.

Abigail considers that. It's not a bad idea, but she doesn't want to admit it.

BEN (CONT'D)
Please. Just one peek under UV light.
(then)
You can have the Boston Tea Tables.

ABIGAIL
Both of them?

Now, Connor steps up, interrupting. *

BEN
Connor. Good to see you again.

They shake hands.

CONNOR
Gates. I'm sure it isn't...under
such circumstances.

BEN
Yes, actually I was lying.

Connor laughs good-naturedly and then turns and holds out his hand to Riley.

CONNOR
Dr. Connor Hamilton, White House
Curator.

Riley shakes his hand.

RILEY
I know. We met, remember? When we *
were invited to the White House for *
the Lindbergh Award? I'm Riley Poole.

CONNOR
Oh, yes. Ben's assistant, right?

Riley grumbles. Connor turns to Abigail.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
Abby, how does six work for you?

ABIGAIL
(not wanting to do this here)
Great.

Connor leaves. Ben raises an eyebrow at Abigail.

29 CONTINUED: (4) 29

BEN
"Abby"?

ABIGAIL
(shrugs it off)
It's a nickname.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON THE BURNT HALF-PAGE lying under a camera on a lighting PANEL and bathed in a cold BLUISH LIGHT. On the page, everything looks the same, except now, the iron ink is blacker, the page is bluer, and the burned areas are lighter.

We WIDEN to reveal we're in...

30 INT. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY, LAB - DAY 30

The lab is dark, except for the dull glow from the lighting panel. All wearing gloves, Ben, Riley, and Abigail study the page, faces lit by the blue light.

BEN
You hate nicknames.

Abigail ignores him, searching the burned fringes of the page, but there is nothing.

ABIGAIL
No ink trace. No image ghosting.
(turns on the lights)
Satisfied?

Ben is deflated, but Riley tries to stay upbeat.

RILEY
Maybe the map is on the back. Or, maybe it's in invisible ink. Or maybe we need 3D glasses. Or maybe--

BEN
--What did you just say?

RILEY
Maybe it's in invisible ink?

BEN
No. About the back of the page.

ABIGAIL
Ben, the UV light penetrates the paper. Ink traces on either side would be--

BEN
--Not <u>that</u> page.

Ben points to the ACTUAL BOOTH DIARY, which lies open to its missing section on an examination table nearby.

30 CONTINUED: 30

BEN (CONT'D)
The one in the diary. The one dated April 13th.

Ben moves to the diary and reads the date on first page after the ripped out section. It reads, "April 13."

Ben holds up the burnt half-page.

BEN (CONT'D)
Before this page was ripped out and burned, these two pages faced each other...like this.

Ben gingerly takes the BURNT HALF-PAGE and puts it back where it used to be before it was ripped out of the diary.

BEN (CONT'D)
When the diary was closed, the pages were pressed together. Facing pages sometimes leave residual images on each other.

Abigail considers that. It's a good idea.

ABIGAIL
No one's ever tried to look at that before.

BEN
There was never a reason to.

CUT TO:

MOMENTS LATER. Now, the ACTUAL BOOTH DIARY is lying on the lighting PANEL and bathed in UV LIGHT. The words Booth scribbled in it after he shot Lincoln burn into the screen:

"I struck boldly, not as the papers say...I shouted Sic semper before I fired. In jumping broke my leg..."

The trio intently scans the diary page dated April 13th.

RILEY
I don't see anything.

BEN
There.

Ben points to a white fluorescent smudge.

RILEY
Oh yes, it says, "smudge."

ABIGAIL
Plumbago?

Ben and Abigail exchange a knowing look, realizing...

30 CONTINUED: (2) 30

BEN
He used a pencil!

Abigail quickly switches out the filter and flips a switch. The UV lighting HUMS and changes wavelengths.

CLOSE ON THE DIARY. Now, the dark ink writing disappears and is replaced with several dull green fluorescent smudges.

Abigail turns on a closed-circuit TV camera and monitor.

ON THE MONITOR, as Abigail focuses the lens, fragments of handwriting now appear!

All eyes fix on the screen, incredulous. We can make out pieces of letters, written in pairs, but in reverse...the mirror image of the previous page.

ABIGAIL
A cipher? *

Ben grins a little, vindicated.

BEN
A Playfair Cipher. Just like Thomas said. * *
(reads the letters)
This looks like an AX, then BF...

ABIGAIL
It could be an E...

Ben points to an illegible sequence.

BEN
I can't really make out anything here, but this...
(points to another pair)
...CL?

ABIGAIL
Or OL.

BEN
Yes...

They both look up from the page, and their eyes meet. But only briefly because they realize they're standing very close and quickly step apart.

BEN (CONT'D)
(to Abigail)
Can I get a print-out of this?

31 EXT. THE MALL, 14TH STREET - DAY 31

In a TELESCOPIC VIEW, we watch as Ben, Abigail, and Riley exit the American History Museum together. The SHOT FOCUSES, and so too do their voices. *

31 CONTINUED: 31

ABIGAIL (FILTERED)
Dr. Nichols is announcing the discovery of the page to the American Historical Consortium tomorrow.

BEN (FILTERED)
Tomorrow? Can't you ask him to wait just a few days? Until I figure this out?

THE SHOT ZOOMS IN on the MANILLA ENVELOPE in BEN'S HAND.

ABIGAIL (FILTERED)
I'm sorry. This is a huge find. We have an obligation to history.

32 EXT. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY - DAY 32*

The trio stands on the steps.

BEN
We have an obligation to the truth. People will believe Thomas Gates was one of the conspirators.

ABIGAIL
And how do you know he wasn't? What if you decipher the code and find out that Thomas <u>was</u> involved in Lincoln's assassination?

That stops Ben. His eyes flash at the thought.

BEN
Then I need to know the truth, either way.

FROM THE LONG SHOT POV, the SHOT WIDENS and then falls away as the trio disperses.

We REVERSE to reveal a MAN sitting in a car across and down the street. He lets down his TELESCOPE/SHOTGUN MIC.

We can't make out who it is. Two or three men, perhaps. The window powers up, and the car pulls away.

CUT TO:

A COMPUTER SCREEN. On it is the AMERICAN HISTORICAL CONSORTIUM website. In a media window, taped coverage of the earlier announcement plays. Dr. Connor Hamilton stands at a podium before a room of ACADEMICS.

CONNOR (ON THE SCREEN)
...the names of four of the known conspirators are written on it as well as a new possible conspirator, Thomas Gates.

32 CONTINUED: 32

PATRICK (V.O.)
Look at Hamilton. He's such a pompous ass...

We WIDEN to see we're in...

33 EXT. PATRICK'S HOUSE, STUDY - EVENING 33*

PATRICK GATES is watching the conference on his computer, growing angry. His study is crowded with books, framed maps, photos, and miscellaneous colonial keepsakes and artifacts.

PATRICK
Just because he wrote a book about Booth that nobody read doesn't make him an expert!

CONNOR (ON THE SCREEN)
Many historians have long contended that the pages of the Booth diary were destroyed to suppress incriminating evidence of other conspirators--

BEN (O.S.)
--Dad, stop watching that. You're making yourself crazy.

Patrick turns to find Ben standing in the doorway.

PATRICK
Have you figured out the key?

BEN
No. We're working on it.

PATRICK
You'll never crack the cipher unless you figure out the key.

BEN
I know that.

CONNOR (ON THE SCREEN)
...Next to Thomas Gates' name was the Latin word "equinus." We believe Thomas Gates provided the horses for Booth and Herold's escape.

PATRICK
(scoffs)
Horses. Everyone knows Booth got his horses through Samuel Mudd!

That stops Ben.

BEN
You're right.

33 CONTINUED: 33

PATRICK
Of course, I'm right.

BEN
That means "equinus" doesn't mean horses.

34 EXT. PATRICK'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING 34*

Moving boxes and antiques are piled everywhere. Riley is regarding a framed picture hanging on the wall.

IN THE PHOTO, Ben is receiving the Lindbergh Award from the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES on the White House lawn. Patrick, Abigail, and Riley stand at their sides.

Ben enters with Patrick on his heels.

RILEY
(re: the photo, fondly)
Look. Look at me. I was so rich back then.
(then)
I miss my Ferrari.

BEN
Try "equinus."

Riley considers that. Hmm. He moves to his laptop which is running a decryption program, scrolling through millions of keywords on the cipher.

Riley pauses the program and types in "EQUINUS." He hits enter, and almost immediately, a message appears on his laptop screen:

W-H-E-R-E-T-H-E-K-I-N-G-O-N-C-E-S-T-O-O-D

Ben and Patrick are elated.

BEN (CONT'D)
Where the king once stood!

PATRICK
Equinus was the key to the cipher!

But Riley's reserved.

RILEY
Actually, there's more than a 27% chance that permutations of incorrect cipher keys will result in legible phrases. Meaning, this could be a false positive. Or garbage.

PATRICK
It's not. I know what it means! It's a poem!

34 CONTINUED: 34

Patrick looks around at the impossible mess.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
If only I could find my poetry books.

Ben starts moving some boxes, saying...

BEN
It's only temporary. Until I get a new place.

Ben moves a box, revealing a dusty bookshelf behind it. Patrick grabs a worn book from the shelf and blows the dust off it. The title: *Poésies de 19th Siècle France.*

PATRICK
Poetry of 19th Century France.
(flips to page)
Voilà! I knew it! It's a famous French poem, "Where the King Once Stood" by Laboulaye.

BEN
Laboulaye? As in Édouard René de Laboulaye?

PATRICK
Why of course.

RILEY
Who's he? A famous French mime?

INTERCUT WITH:

ABIGAIL (V.O.)
Laboulaye was the one who first proposed the idea of the Statue of Liberty...

Classical music wafts through the air. We're in...

35 INT. CP STEAK RESTAURANT, D.C. - EVENING 35

Modern. Romantic. Spectacular views of the Capitol. Abigail sits in a booth with Connor. She talks animatedly as they eat. Her research is scattered about the table.

ABIGAIL
...in 1865 at a dinner at his home right after the Civil War ended...

Abigail points to the UV photo of the diary page. In the margin, we see that Abigail has also decoded the missive into "WHERE THE KING ONCE STOOD."

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
...the same time this coded message was written.

36 INT. PATRICK'S HOUSE, STUDY - EVENING 36

RILEY
So you're saying, there's a treasure map hidden in the Statue of Liberty?

PATRICK
Laboulaye was a mason. They built clues into everything.

RILEY
OK, I was kidding when I asked that.

37 INT. CP STEAK RESTAURANT, D.C. - EVENING 37

ABIGAIL
...Dr. Samuel Mudd was the one who helped Booth find his horse, so I thought maybe "equinus" was...
(notices Connor's distracted)
I'm boring you, aren't I?

CONNOR
No-no. I'm fascinated.

He grabs the wine bottle and refills her glass.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
So, "where the king once stood..." You think that's a reference to the assassination of the President?

ABIGAIL
Well, I suppose it could be, but I think it might possibly be referring to the Statue of Liberty.

38 INT. PATRICK'S HOUSE, STUDY - EVENING 38

BEN
The question is, which Statue of Liberty?

RILEY
There's more than one?

BEN
There are three actually. One in New York, one in the Jardin du Luxembourg, and the third on the River Seine in Paris...

39 INT. CP STEAK RESTAURANT, D.C. - EVENING 39

CONNOR
(patronizingly)
And this all leads where? To the City of Gold?

39 CONTINUED: 39

ABIGAIL
Aren't you even the least bit curious?

CONNOR
You can't go through life chasing windmills, Abby.

She grabs her glass and gulps her wine, feeling stupid. *

40 EXT. CP STEAK RESTAURANT, D.C. - EVENING 40

Connor and a tipsy Abigail (carrying a tote bag) exit the restaurant together.

ABIGAIL
...I wanted the one with the Whipple * Shells and Carnations, but he said * it was "too British." Can you * imagine?

CONNOR
Not at all.

ABIGAIL
I know. As if every wallpaper in colonial America wasn't influenced by the British. *
(then)
He was so pig-headed. Ben always had to be right about everything--

CONNOR
(changing the subject)
--Listen, the White House Egg Roll * is next Monday. If you've never been to one, they're really quite fun. The White House is decorated for Easter.

ABIGAIL
You know, I've always wondered... What happens if the kids don't find all the eggs? Does the Secret Service have to hunt them down?

Abigail stumbles down a step. Connor catches her.

CONNOR
Let me drive you home.

ABIGAIL
Oh no. I'll get a cab.

Before Connor can protest, a DOORMAN flags one down for her. The taxi approaches.

CONNOR
Well, good-night.

40 CONTINUED: 40

Connor leans in for a good-night kiss, but Abigail ducks it.

ABIGAIL
Good-night.

The doorman opens the taxi door, and Abigail makes a hasty retreat into it, waving to Connor as it pulls away. *

41 EXT. PATRICK'S HOUSE - NIGHT 41

Patrick carries a bag of Chinese take-out up his front walk. He steps up to his front door and fishes for his keys.

42 INT. PATRICK'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 42

Patrick opens the door to find that... *

His living room has been ransacked! Everything has been pulled off shelves, and the moving boxes have been torn open. *

Patrick's face falls. He hurries to...

43 INT. PATRICK'S HOUSE, STUDY - NIGHT 43

Patrick enters, flips on the lights, and sees that his office has also been ransacked. Books and papers are scattered everywhere. The trash has been upturned.

Patrick finds the MANILLA envelop. It's EMPTY.

44 EXT. LIBERTY ISLAND - DAY 44

A striking AERIAL PORTRAIT of the Statue of Liberty, standing in New York Harbor. The grounds are crowded with TOURISTS.

PARK RANGER (O.S.)
...The tablet Lady Liberty holds in her left hand reads in Roman numerals, "July 4, 1776" the day of America's independence from Britain...

We ARC AROUND her, catching a birds-eye view of her tablet...

PARK RANGER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
...There is also a reference to the Civil War...

We KEEP ARCING downward to find CHAINS AND BROKEN SHACKLES at the statue's feet.

PARK RANGER (O.S.) (CONT'D)
...Lying at Lady Liberty's size 879 feet are broken shackles, the crushed chains of slavery...

45 INT. LIBERTY ISLAND MUSEUM - DAY 4

The Statue of Liberty's original illuminated 1886 torch stands as a brilliant centerpiece to the museum floor.

45 CONTINUED: 45

TOURISTS explore the various historical exhibits. Wilkinson is here with two associates: JACKSON MCCRADY (26, a big guy with big techno-skills) and CLAY REESE (40s, calmly intense).

Wilkinson is studying the UV photo of the diary page. Scribbled in its margins are the notes: "Where the king once stood," "Laboulaye," and "Statue of Liberty."

McCrady studies an old NEWSPAPER in an exhibit about the Statue of Liberty's dedication.

MCCRADY
Maybe "where the king once stood" is referring to where President Grover Cleveland stood at the Statue of Liberty's dedication?

CLAY
Or maybe "king" is referring to someone named King?

Wilkinson's attention is drawn to an exhibit of STATUE OF LIBERTY REPLICAS around the world. There's one in Vegas, one at Legoland, etc.

Behind the glass, there is an ink drawing of a statue of a man sitting on a horse. It's captioned, "KING LOUIS XVI."

Wilkinson checks the UV PHOTO stolen from Patrick's house as well the decoded message "where the king once stood." Wilkinson flags down a passing PARK EMPLOYEE.

WILKINSON
Excuse me.

PARK EMPLOYEE
Yes?

WILKINSON
This statue of King Louis XVI, where is it?

The park employee peers into the exhibit at the photo.

PARK EMPLOYEE
That <u>was</u> in Paris before it was removed during the French Revolution.

The park employee points to a photo of the Statue of Liberty REPLICA on the River Seine.

PARK EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)
Lady Liberty's sister statue stands there now.

Wilkinson exchanges a knowing look with Clay and McCrady.

WILKINSON
Where the king once stood.

46 EXT. CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT - DAY 46

A plane touches down.

47 INT. CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT, TERMINAL F - DAY 47

Ben and Riley ride the escalator. Riley keeps glancing back at the TRAVELERS behind them.

BEN
Riley, will you just relax? We're not being followed.

RILEY
Do you realize how many people know about this treasure? You've been doing those seminars about your great-great-grandfather and the City of Gold for months. *
*

BEN
Yes, and now all those people think Thomas Gates conspired to assassinate Lincoln.

RILEY
Nobody cares about that but you. Everyone else is going to be looking for the treasure.

BEN
They wouldn't even know where to start.

RILEY
That's why they're following us.

Ben's cell phone rings. He checks the CALLER ID and then answers it.

BEN
Hi, dad.

48 INT. PATRICK'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 48

Patrick paces through his mess.

PATRICK
My house was ransacked.

INTERCUT BETWEEN BEN IN PARIS AND PATRICK AT HOME.

BEN
What? Are you sure? How can you tell?

PATRICK
Very funny. Ben, they took the research.

48 CONTINUED: 48

BEN
Did you call the police?

RILEY
(alarmed)
The police? What happened?

PATRICK
And tell them what? That someone stole a piece of paper that might lead to a treasure map?

BEN
Right. OK. Well, then, we'd better get there before whoever stole that does. *

49 INT. CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT, TERMINAL F - DAY 49

Ben hangs up. Riley stares at him.

RILEY
Someone stole something? Who? *

Ben looks back over his shoulder, suddenly alert.

BEN
The people who might be following us.

50 EXT. PARIS, FRANCE - VARIOUS - DAY 50

The Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame, and of course...

51 EXT. THE EIFFEL TOWER - DAY 51

Another stunning AERIAL PORTRAIT of the Parisian landmark, but we PUSH PAST it, MOVING toward the River Seine and toward the Grenelle Bridge where we find...

52 EXT. LITTLE STATUE OF LIBERTY - DAY 52

Standing on the Île des Cygnes, Lady Liberty's little twin sister looks west towards her big sister. Behind her, the Eiffel Tower stretches into the sky.

A few TOURISTS are here, taking pictures in front of the statue. They finish and move away as Ben and Riley approach.

RILEY
Maybe it's in the cornerstone. Freemasons always put things in their cornerstones.

Ben regards Riley, surprised he knew that. Riley shrugs. *

RILEY (CONT'D)
I did a lot of research when I was writing my book. *

52 CONTINUED: 52

Behind them, a ferry filled with TOURISTS arrives and docks.

BEN
Cornerstones are sacred to masons. They're not meant to be dug up. The masons prefer to hide things in plain sight.

RILEY
Those jerks. That makes it so much harder.

Ben finds a small bronze plaque on the base of the statue. He reads the French inscription aloud, translating.

BEN
"Across the sea, these twins stand resolute to preserve that which all men seek -- Laboulaye, 1876."

RILEY
"That which all men seek."
(hopeful)
Treasure?

BEN
He wants us to think he means "freedom."

Behind them, the tourists spill out of the ferry.

RILEY
So it's a riddle...the twin statues are pointing the way?

BEN
There is no mention of statues.

RILEY
Well then, what other twins stand resolute? The Doublemint Twins? The Minnesota Twins?

BEN
"Across the sea." They'd be separated by the Atlantic Ocean.

RILEY
OK. Resolute twins standing across the sea.
(thinks hard)
I'm out of ideas.

BEN
So am I.

RILEY
Ben. That's not funny.

52 CONTINUED: (2) 52

BEN
(still thinking)
Unless...
(then)
Resolute is referring to the HMS Resolute, a British ship that went missing in the arctic in the 1800s.

RILEY
And this ship had a twin?

BEN
No, the Resolute got trapped in the ice. It eventually broke free and was discovered by American whalers.

RILEY
...Who found a treasure map?

BEN
No. Congress returned the ship to England, and Queen Victoria was so grateful that when the Resolute was retired, she had twin desks made from its timbers...

But Ben's voice trails off as one of the approaching tourists catches his eye...

It's ABIGAIL. Ben and Riley are stunned.

BEN (CONT'D)
What're you doing here?

ABIGAIL
(blurts out)
Do you want to know what I did last week?

BEN
I believe you were appropriating my antique furniture collection.

ABIGAIL
I catalogued 357 letters from First Ladies about furniture and china. This Booth diary page is the most exciting thing that's happened in my job in two years.

RILEY
(to Ben)
Told you we were being followed.

ABIGAIL
(insulted)
I didn't follow you.
(MORE)

52 CONTINUED: (3) 52

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
(off their dubious looks)
What? You don't think I could figure it out myself? "Equinus"? "Where the king once stood"? Louis XVI? *

Ben regards her, impressed. *

RILEY
(facetiously)
Yeah, I guess it was pretty obvious.

ABIGAIL
Now, if you'll excuse me...

She pushes past them. Ben and Riley watch her as she heads toward the statue.

RILEY
Why'd you two break up again?

BEN
Well, for one thing, she won't admit that Whipple Shells wallpaper is British, not colonial. *

RILEY
Good. As long as it wasn't over nothing.

53 EXT. ÎLE DES CYGNES FERRY - DAY 53

Ben and Riley board the ferry. They watch as Abigail circles the statue and then pauses to read the plaque. She glances knowingly in Ben's direction.

RILEY
Ten bucks says she doesn't get it.

BEN
You don't have ten bucks.

RILEY
I will in a minute.

Abigail pulls out her TREO and keys something into it. Ben watches her and scoffs.

BEN
She's cheating. She's Googling it.

It only takes a few moments and then Abigail pockets her Treo and starts heading back to the ferry.

RILEY
She doesn't have it.

Abigail boards the ferry and rejoins them.

53 CONTINUED: 53

ABIGAIL
The Resolute Desk in Buckingham Palace.

BEN
What took you so long?

ABIGAIL
(shrugs)
I did some sight-seeing.

With that, she moves away and takes a seat on a bench.

BEN
(to Riley)
You owe me ten bucks.

RILEY
I hate Google.
(then)
They're billionaires, you know.

Abigail steals a glance Ben's way, and Ben steals a glance her way. They catch each other and quickly look away.

54 EXT. SKY - DUSK 54

A jumbo passenger jet soars over the Atlantic at sunset.

55 INT. JUMBO JET, FLYING - DUSK 55

First class. Clay wears headphones, watching a movie. Across the aisle, Wilkinson sits with McCrady who works on his laptop computer.

ON HIS LAPTOP SCREEN, we see that McCrady's running a search on an "IP SNIFFER" website.

MCCRADY
Dr. Chase's PDA's web browser is pinging from a new IP address.

WILKINSON
What's she looking at?

McCrady keys something into his computer and then turns the laptop so that Wilkinson can see the screen.

ON IT, the home page for Buckingham Palace appears.

56 EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, LONDON - MORNING 56

The Victoria Monument and great bronze and wrought iron gates * greet visitors to the magnificent home of Her Majesty. *

57 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, OFFICE RECEPTION AREA - MORNING 57

Ben and Riley sit in a waiting area outside an office. Riley thumbs through a British tabloid.

57 CONTINUED: 57

An elderly SECRETARY checks her watch.

SECRETARY
I'm terribly sorry, Dr. Gates. The curator's earlier appointment is running unexpectedly long.

BEN
That's fine. We appreciate that you slipped us in on such short notice.

Riley chuckles and then shows the tabloid to Ben. *

RILEY
I knew it! The House of Commons is haunted.

BEN
Will you put that away?

Riley turns the page, and something he sees makes him cringe. He quickly closes the tabloid and puts it down. *

RILEY
Good idea.

BEN
Why'd you do that?

RILEY
What?

Ben picks up the tabloid, quickly thumbs through the pages, and finds the article Riley was trying to hide from him.

BEN
Great.

ON THE PAGE: "Treasure Hunter Ben Gates' Ancestor Linked to Assassination of Lincoln." The article is accompanied by pictures of Ben Gates and President Lincoln.

Riley takes the tabloid and tries to make Ben feel better.

RILEY
Nobody really believes any of those things.

Just then, the office door opens. Ben and Riley stand as the BUCKINGHAM PALACE CURATOR exits his office, talking to someone we don't see at first.

BUCKINGHAM CURATOR
You understand. The desk is in her Majesty's private wing. Not even I'm allowed in there.

Abigail follows him out. Ben regards her with surprise...she * beat him here.

57 CONTINUED: (2) 57

ABIGAIL
Perhaps the Queen would reconsider if--

BUCKINGHAM CURATOR
(politely cuts her off)
--So charming meeting you, Dr. Chase.

The curator gestures the way out to Abigail. *

BUCKINGHAM CURATOR (CONT'D)
I will be sure to look you up next time I visit "the colonies."

They share a laugh at that. Abigail, not so much. As she leaves, Abigail shoots Ben a look like, "good luck." After she's gone, the curator sighs, exasperated.

BUCKINGHAM CURATOR (CONT'D)
Some people simply do not know how to take "no" for an answer.

The curator turns to face Ben and Riley. He smiles warmly at Ben and holds out his hand.

BUCKINGHAM CURATOR (CONT'D)
Dr. Gates. How delightful to finally meet you.

They shake hands.

BUCKINGHAM CURATOR (CONT'D)
Nasty business about your ancestor.

That stings Ben a little, but he masks it.

BEN
Yes, well, it's not true.

BUCKINGHAM CURATOR
("of course, it is")
Of course, it's not. Now, what can I do for you gentlemen today?

58 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, OFFICE CORRIDOR - MORNING 58

Abigail waits. Ben and Riley emerge from the curator's office. Both are carrying several long poster tubes.

ABIGAIL
What're those?

BEN
I believe they are poster tubes.

Ben and Riley brush past her. Abigail chases after them and snatches one of the tubes from Riley. Ben and Riley stop as she quickly opens the tube and pulls out a blueprint.

58 CONTINUED: 58

ABIGAIL
You got the plans to the palace?

BEN
Well, I couldn't very well ask to see the desk, not right after you did...

Ben snatches back the blueprint.

BEN (CONT'D)
...so I told Dr. Spellman that I'm writing a book on masonic influences in 18th century architecture.

Abigail eyes Ben, realizing...

ABIGAIL
You're going to break into the Queen's private wing.

BEN
I believe they refer to her as Her Majesty.

Ben and Riley continue down the hall. She chases them.

ABIGAIL
I can help.

BEN
We're not breaking in. *

ABIGAIL
Fine. Then, you won't mind if I alert the guards, let them know about you.

That stops Ben. He turns and faces her.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
Ben. You know I can help.

BEN
How?

Abigail considers that. She doesn't know.

ABIGAIL
By not alerting the guards.

RILEY
(to Ben)
That'll definitely help.

59 EXT. OUTDOOR LONDON CAFE - DAY 59

Ben, Abigail, and Riley sit at a table, pouring over the blueprints of Buckingham Palace. Riley points to a spot.

59 CONTINUED: 59

RILEY
Her Majesty's study is here. *

ABIGAIL
On the tour, the closest we ever got to the south wing was here...

Abigail points to another spot on the blueprint.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
...The White Drawing Room where the royal family has a private entrance.

RILEY
And where there were also four guards, multiple surveillance cameras, and magnetic locks on all of the doors leading to the private wing.

ABIGAIL
Can't you disable the security system or something?

RILEY
Yes, I could, if I wanted to trip the fail-safe and trigger the silent alarm.

ABIGAIL
All we need is five minutes to get in there and snap some pictures.

RILEY
This is Buckingham Palace. No tourist is ever even going to get near the private wing.

Ben studies the blueprint, getting an idea.

BEN
Unless we lose something.
(off their looks)
Look where "Lost and Found" is...

Ben points to a spot just off the south wing... THE GUARD ANNEX. In it is an office labelled "Lost and Found."

BEN (CONT'D)
...right next to the service entrance.

60 EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, TICKET OFFICE - DAY 60

The ticket office is crowded with TOURISTS. Wearing a camera, Ben and Abigail stand nearby, talking to a GUARD.

GUARD
You lost your wallet?

ABIGAIL
It was in my jacket.

60 CONTINUED: 60

GUARD
Can you describe it?

BEN
(to Abigail, annoyed)
I told you not to bring your jacket.

ABIGAIL
And I told you I didn't mind holding it, but you insisted.

BEN
Oh, so now it's my fault?

ABIGAIL
Well, it's not my fault.

Their voices rise as they argue.

BEN
Well, this is just turning out to be a fine honeymoon, isn't it, honey?!

GUARD
Please. Please. Just follow me.

61 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, GREEN DRAWING ROOM - DAY 6

Elegance reigns. A PALACE GUIDE stands before a large TOUR GROUP admiring a portrait of George V.

PALACE GUIDE
...The paintings hang here just as they did when Queen Victoria first set them in 1853...

Wearing a backpack, Riley kneels by a PHONE JACK, pretending to tie his shoe. While all eyes are on the paintings, Riley plugs a TINY WIRELESS AIRPORT ROUTER into the jack.

62 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, GUARD ANNEX - DAY 62

Ben and Abigail step through a metal detector. The guard stops Ben and points to his camera.

GUARD
Sorry, you'll have to leave your camera here.

Abigail and Ben exchange a look, but Ben has no choice. He sets the camera on a table.

63 EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, QUADRANGLE - DAY 63

Riley's tour has just ended, and TOURISTS spill out into the quadrangle. Riley peels away from the tour group, and pushes through a door.

It's the MEN'S RESTROOM.

64 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, MEN'S RESTROOM - DAY 64

Riley passes a line of urinals and slips...

INTO A STALL. Riley unzips his backpack, pulls out his laptop, sits on the toilet, and opens his computer.

ON HIS SCREEN, he brings up a WIRELESS CONNECTION STATUS window. He types in a command. *

65 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, GREEN DRAWING ROOM - DAY 65*

CLOSE ON THE TINY WIRELESS ROUTER. It flashes briefly. *

66 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, BATHROOM STALL - DAY 66*

ON RILEY'S LAPTOP, dozens of SECURED wireless networks appear. *

67 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, SERVICE CORRIDOR - DAY 67

The guard leads Ben and Abigail down the corridor. A HOUSEKEEPER pushes by with a linen cart. A FLORIST delivers flowers. They come to the LOST AND FOUND office.

68 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, LOST AND FOUND - DAY 68

Ben and Abigail follow the guard into the office. There are several plastic bins filled with lost items.

GUARD
When did you say you lost it?

ABIGAIL
He lost it. This morning.

69 EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, BATHROOM STALL - DAY 69

Riley is busy hacking away on his laptop.

ON HIS SCREEN, multiple windows are open now: the NETWORK listing, a PASSWORD SCREEN, and HEXADECIMAL CODE scrolling by too fast to read. *

After a moment, and the NETWORK PASSCODE is decrypted.

Riley keys it in, and on his screen, the BUCKINGHAM PALACE "THE MOAT" SECURITY SOFTWARE WELCOME SCREEN appears.

RILEY
(to himself)
The moat. Cute.

Riley brings up a screen showing all the security points in the palace. Cameras, motion sensors, etc.

RILEY (CONT'D)
OK, down with the drawbridge...

Riley types in several commands and hits a key.

70 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, SECURITY ROOM - DAY 70

A BORED GUARD is just about to put his feet up on a console when all of the SECURITY CHECK POINTS on his screen start BLINKING FROM "SECURED" RED TO "UNSECURED" GREEN.

He sits up straight and checks the computer, surprised.

BORED GUARD
Bloody hell!

71 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, LOST AND FOUND - DAY 71

The guard holds his earpiece, listening to something.

GUARD
(into his radio)
All of 'em? That's impossible. Right then. I'll check it immediately. * *

Ben and Abigail are still digging through the bins, bickering.

BEN
Who puts their wallet in their jacket anyway?

The guard moves to exit.

GUARD
You two, stay here. I'll be right back.

Ben and Abigail don't even acknowledge him.

ABIGAIL
I wanted traveler's checks, but you said they were a hassle!

The guard hurries out.

BEN
I didn't realize you were prone to losing things!

As soon as the guard's gone, Ben and Abigail stop bickering. Ben moves to the door and watches as the guard disappears down the corridor.

72 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, SERVICE CORRIDOR - DAY 72

Ben grabs a vase of flowers, and he and Abigail walk briskly down the hallway.

UP AHEAD, there is another security door: the SERVICE ENTRANCE to the private wing. A TECHNICIAN emerges though it, lugging a step-ladder.

Ben nods casually to the technician as he passes and then hurries to catch the door before it closes behind him. *

73 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, PRIVATE WING - DAY 73

Lavishly decorated with English Regency furniture and art. Ben and Abigail hurry to a door and slip inside. *

74 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, QUEEN'S STUDY - DAY 74

Ben and Abigail enter this gorgeous, 18th century study. There is a sitting area as well as an antique WRITING DESK.

BEN
That's it. The Resolute Desk. *

Ben sets the flowers down on a side table, locks the door, and then moves to...

THE TWIN RESOLUTE DESK. They both stare at it, struck by its history. They talk in whispers.

ABIGAIL
What are we looking for?

BEN
Writing, a furniture maker's stamp, a pattern in the carvings...it could be anything.

They immediately get to work, searching the desk's intricate carvings and floral swags for a clue.

Abigail opens a drawer, searches it, then goes to shut it, but...

BEN (CONT'D)
Wait.

Ben moves to the drawer to take a closer look. Along the bottom of the drawer, there is a serrated edge.

ABIGAIL
What is it?

Ben opens another drawer and finds the same serrated edge.

BEN
I've seen drawers like these before in a puzzle box.

Ben pulls out the drawers to demonstrate.

BEN (CONT'D)
They worked like the tumblers in a safe. You pulled each one out to a certain point, and...
(looks to Abigail)
...the puzzle box opened.

Ben roots around the drawers.

74 CONTINUED: 74

BEN (CONT'D)
All we need is the combination. There are four drawers, so it'd be a series of four numbers. It's got to be here on the desk somewhere...

75 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, SECURITY DOOR #7 - DAY 75

The light on the reader is green. The guard tries it, but it's locked.

GUARD
(into his radio)
The door's locked.

76 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, SECURITY ROOM - DAY 76

The BORED GUARD checks his screen. Several sectors are BLINKING "UNSECURED" GREEN.

BORED GUARD
That's not what I'm getting on my end. Check doors 8 through 10 and reset.

77 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, SECURITY DOOR #7 - DAY 77

The guard sighs and swipes his badge through the reader, resetting it.

78 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, BATHROOM STALL - DAY 78

Riley monitors his laptop, watching as the blinking green DOOR #7 goes SECURE. He flips open his phone.

79 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, QUEEN'S STUDY - DAY 79

Ben studies the desk, thinking. Abigail too.

ABIGAIL
Maybe it has something to do with the dimensions. The height, width, depth...

BEN
That's only three numbers. We need four numbers...

Abigail's phone vibrates. She flips it open.

INTERCUT RILEY IN THE STALL WITH ABIGAIL ON HER PHONE.

RILEY
How's the tour going?

ABIGAIL
We ran into a snag.

RILEY
You don't have time for snags.

79 CONTINUED: 79

Ben scans the room, the items on the desktop...a calendar.

BEN
It's a year! 1492, 1776, or 1880, the year the desk was made.

Ben quickly pulls out the drawers, counting off the number of notches, 1-8-8-0. But nothing happens.

ABIGAIL
There are hundreds of years it could be. The year of Queen Victoria's coronation, her birthday, or--

BEN
--Yes. Ask Riley.

Riley's overheard them and is already busy Wiki'ing it.

RILEY
Already on it.

80 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, MEN'S RESTROOM - DAY 80

A TOURIST enters the men's room. As he moves to a urinal, he overhears Riley whispering into his cell phone.

RILEY (O.S.)
Queen Victoria. Born in 1819. Crowned in 1838.

The man gives a shrug like, "Whatever gives you inspiration."

81 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, QUEEN'S STUDY - DAY 81

Ben and Abigail try the different years, but nothing happens.

82 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, MEN'S RESTROOM - DAY 82

The tourist zips up his trousers. Riley whispers...

RILEY (O.S.)
You want me to keep going?

The tourist reacts, a bit disturbed, and then hurries out.

INTERCUT WITH BEN AND ABIGAIL trying any combination.

ABIGAIL
Yes. Try some HMS Resolute dates.

Riley brings up another Wikipage on the HMS Resolute.

RILEY
The year the Resolute was commissioned, 1852. Found, 1855. Returned to England, 1856.

Ben and Abigail keep trying combinations to no avail...

83 EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - DAY 83

The forecourt is crowded with TOURISTS. Three of them we recognize...Wilkinson, McCrady, and Clay. They fan out.

84 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, SECURITY DOOR #9 - DAY 84

The guard swipes his card through the reader. The door unlatches. He opens it and then pulls it closed.

85 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, QUEEN'S STUDY - DAY 85

None of the combinations work. Ben stares at the desk, stumped. There are no carved pictures or clues on the desk. Then, it hits Ben...

BEN
The date on the plaque. Laboulaye's quote on the Statue of Liberty...

ABIGAIL
The Centennial...

BEN/ABIGAIL
1876!

Ben and Abigail pull out the drawers, 1-8-7... Ben pulls the fourth drawer out to six notches. There is a MUFFLED THUNK! The top of the desk unlatches.

Ben and Abigail exchange a look, and then together, they gently lift the desk top, revealing...

A HIDDEN COMPARTMENT. Lining the bottom is a DUSTY PIECE OF ANCIENT WOOD with enigmatic markings on it. They are mesmerized by the sight.

BEN
Native American writing. Looks to be late 1500s.

ABIGAIL
But that would predate the Resolute by three centuries.

86 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, SECURITY DOOR #10 - DAY 86

The guard swipes his card through the reader, pulls it open, and closes it. The blinking light goes red.

GUARD
(into his radio)
Doors 8 through 10, cleared and reset.

87 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, BATHROOM STALL - DAY 87

Riley checks the MOAT PROGRAM WINDOW. All of the blinking UNSECURED sectors are now SECURE again.

87 *CONTINUED:* 87

RILEY
(into his phone)
Guys, you really need to get back now.

88 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, QUEEN'S STUDY - DAY 88

Ben lifts the plank out and blows the dust off. The plank's about ten inches wide, eight inches long, and one inch thick. Ben and Abigail eye the plank, then at each other.

ABIGAIL
We'll return it as soon as we prove it's a treasure map to the City of Gold. * *

They both nod at that rationalizing and take the plank.

89 EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, QUADRANGLE - DAY 89

Riley also emerges from the men's restroom and blends back in with the crowd of TOURISTS.

90 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, SERVICE CORRIDOR - DAY 90

We FOLLOW the guard as he returns to the Lost and Found office. He enters to find...

91 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, LOST AND FOUND - DAY 91

...Ben and Abigail ARE HERE! Ben grabs the first jacket he can find, wraps the plank in it, and holds it up triumphantly.

BEN
Here it is!

Abigail briefly regards the jacket and sighs with relief.

ABIGAIL
Thank goodness! If we hurry, we might catch that Piccadilly shoe store before it closes.

Abigail grabs the jacket and quickly heads out. The guard eyes Ben, poor bastard.

GUARD
I believe the Church of England was created because of women like her.

92 INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, WEST WING (PUBLIC) CORRIDOR - DAY 92

Another TOUR is in progress in the upstairs corridor. Wilkinson is here, scanning the crowds.

He glances out a window which looks down into THE QUADRANGLE, where he spots Riley walking briskly away. Wilkinson gets on his cell phone.

92 CONTINUED: 92

WILKINSON
(into his phone)
One of them's in the quadrangle.

93 EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, ARCH - DAY 93

On his cell, Clay spots Riley, exiting the palace grounds.

CLAY
(into his phone)
I got him.

Clay hangs up and follows Riley.

94 EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE (SOUTH) - DAY 94

Ben and Abigail exit the guard station...

95 EXT. STREET NEAR BUCKINGHAM PALACE - DAY 95

...and hurry down a street lined with parked cars. They round a corner into...

96 EXT. LONDON ALLEY - DAY 96

But Ben and Abigail stop dead in their tracks...Wilkinson is here. And he has a gun to RILEY'S head.

BEN
Wilkinson.

RILEY
I told you we were being followed.

Now, Clay (also armed) and McCrady step into the alley, behind Ben and Abigail, surrounding them.

WILKINSON
I have a confession to make.
(matter-of-factly)
I lied.

BEN
Yeah. I figured that part out.

WILKINSON
Thomas Gates' version of the story was true. There was a treasure map. My family's been looking for the City of Gold for generations. I'm sure you know how that feels.

Wilkinson smiles at Ben who eyes him with disdain.

WILKINSON (CONT'D)
We always hoped that burned page held a clue. I figured if it did, you'd be just the man to figure it out.

96 CONTINUED: 96

Wilkinson eyes Ben and Abigail.

WILKINSON (CONT'D)
So now, why don't you show us what you found in there.

But Abigail doesn't move. Wilkinson nods to McCrady who steps in and grabs the jacket from Abigail while Clay keeps his gun trained on them.

McCrady unwraps the jacket, revealing the plank.

MCCRADY
It's a piece of old wood. It's got some writing on it.

McCrady extends his arm to hand the plank to Wilkinson.

But lightning fast, Ben SWATS CLAY'S HAND with a swooping upswing, sending the PLANK...

...FLYING STRAIGHT UP INTO THE AIR!

Everyone reacts, horrified. ALL EYES LOCK ONTO THE PRIZE, following...

THE PLANK as it tumbles end-over-end...high up into the air...

Ben seizes this moment of distraction and SLAMS HIS ELBOW INTO CLAY'S STOMACH!

Clay doubles over and then catches Ben's knee in his face! Clay goes down hard.

Riley follows Ben's lead and STOMPS ON WILKINSON'S FOOT!

Wilkinson reacts, turning his gun on Ben...

But Ben KICKS the gun out of his hand, sending it skittering down the alley.

The PLANK reaches its zenith and then starts to plummet...

MCCRADY and ABIGAIL both vie for the falling plank.

But Ben pile-drives his FIST INTO MCCRADY'S STOMACH! McCrady staggers back, wind knocked out of him.

Abigail catches the plank, and then SHE, BEN, AND RILEY BOLT!

97 EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 97

Ben, Abigail, and Riley sprint down the sidewalk, weaving through PEDESTRIANS.

98 INT. LONDON ALLEY - DAY 98

Clay and McCrady recover. Wilkinson scoops up his gun, and they give chase.

99 EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 99

Riley races Ben to a parked BMW RENTAL CAR.

RILEY
I'm driving!

Riley pulls ahead and reaches the driver's side first.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Yes!

But Ben wasn't really trying. He calmly moves to the passenger side and chirps open the doors with the key fob.

100 INT. BMW RENTAL CAR - DAY 100

Riley jumps in and stares at the dashboard where the steering wheel is supposed to be. Only it's not. Because it's on the other side where Ben slips in and looks to Riley...

BEN
We're in England, remember?

Riley curses himself. Abigail climbs into the back. Ben starts the engine and slams it into gear.

101 EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 10

Wilkinson, Clay, and McCrady spot them peeling out in the BMW. Clay rakes the BMW with gunfire!

102 INT. BMW RENTAL CAR, SPEEDING - DAY 102

The back window EXPLODES, spraying everyone with glass shards. Ben glances into the rear-view mirror at Abigail.

BEN
You all right?!

ABIGAIL
I'm fine. What about you?

Their eyes lock briefly in the rear-view mirror.

BEN
I'm good.

Riley brushes glass out of his hair, annoyed.

RILEY
I broke a nail on the door handle getting in, and now I'm a little cold. Thanks for asking. * * *

103 EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 103

WILKINSON jumps in front of a MERCEDES. The SPOILED PUNK DRIVER slams on his brakes.

104 INT. MERCEDES - DAY 104

The punk driver scoffs as his car doors all fly open at once, and Clay and McCrady climb in.

PUNK DRIVER
Hey! This is my dad's car!

The punk is yanked out of his dad's car by Wilkinson who slides into his place, throws it into gear, and takes off without missing a beat.

105 EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 105

The Mercedes shoots into busy traffic, cutting off several cars whose drivers lay on their horns.

106 INT. BMW RENTAL CAR, SPEEDING - DAY 106

Historic London buildings and sites whip by outside. Riley puts on his seat belt.

107 EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 107

The BMW accelerates onto a street lined with open-air cafes and stylish shops.

108 INT. BMW RENTAL CAR, SPEEDING - DAY 108

Abigail looks back and sees the Mercedes closing the gap.

ABIGAIL
Can't you go any faster?

BEN
(sing-song, annoyed)
Maybe if there was one less passenger. *

Ben expertly down-shifts, swerves, and maneuvers around a truck that cuts him off.

109 EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 109

The Mercedes blows recklessly through traffic.

110 INT. MERCEDES, SPEEDING - DAY 110

Clay powers down his window as they pull even with the BMW...and empties his clip into the BMW! * *

111 INT. BMW RENTAL CAR, SPEEDING - DAY 111

Everyone ducks as bullets pock the side of the BMW.

RILEY
I hope you paid the extra two Euros for the insurance, because it's really going to be worth it this time.

111 CONTINUED: 111

Ben throttles down and whips the wheel.

112 EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 112*

The BMW peels away from the Mercedes...

113 EXT. WATERLOO BRIDGE - DAY 113*

...and fishtails onto this bridge that runs over the Thames River.

114 INT. BMW RENTAL CAR, SPEEDING - DAY 114

Up ahead, Ben sees the sign for "Waterloo Station."

115 EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 115*

The Mercedes misses the turn. Wilkinson slams on the brakes.

116 INT. MERCEDES, SPEEDING - DAY 116

Wilkinson expertly K-turns and then floors it.

117 EXT. WATERLOO BRIDGE - DAY 117*

Its engine screaming, the Mercedes flies at breakneck speed to regain ground.

118 EXT. LONDON STREET - DAY 11

The BMW cuts suddenly hard to the left, leaving the road...

...and crashing down hard on an embankment...

119 EXT. EMBANKMENT - DAY 119

The BMW careens down the embankment and...

...CRASHES through a BARBED WIRE FENCE, bordering...

120 EXT. EUROSTAR TRAIN YARD - DAY 120

The BMW shoots forward, tires kicking up dirt.

The train yard is essentially a wide canal with a series of railroad tracks leading in and out of the east and west-bound EUROSTAR CHUNNELS.

Between the two gaping tunnels is a SERVICE TUNNEL.

121 INT. BMW RENTAL CAR, SPEEDING - DAY 121

Abigail looks back to see...

The Mercedes flying over the embankment. It crashes down hard, landing in a spray of sparks. It slews momentarily, straightens, and then charges after them. *

121 CONTINUED: 121

ABIGAIL
They're not stopping.

Ben drives, focused and intense. He cuts the wheel and heads straight for...THE TRAIN TUNNELS. Riley sees the tunnels.

RILEY
Ben...those are train tunnels.

BEN
I know.

122 EXT. EUROSTAR TRAIN YARD - DAY 122

The BMW cuts across the railroad tracks.

123 INT. BMW RENTAL CAR, SPEEDING - DAY 123

The BMW WHUMP-WHUMP-WHUMPS over the tracks.

RILEY
There are trains in there! Fast ones!

BEN
Not in the service tunnel!

124 INT. EUROSTAR SERVICE TUNNEL - DAY 124

The BMW blasts into the service tunnel...

125 INT. BMW RENTAL CAR, SPEEDING - DAY 125

Ben glances in the rear-view mirror and sees the Mercedes filling the tunnel behind them.

126 INT. EUROSTAR SERVICE TUNNEL - DAY 126

The cars tear down the tunnel like two runaway trains.

127 INT. BMW RENTAL CAR, SPEEDING - DAY 127

Ben milks every last bit of throttle the BMW has. *

ABIGAIL
Do you know long this tunnel is? *

BEN *
I believe it's 25 miles. *

Abigail looks back. The Mercedes is not falling behind. *

ABIGAIL
We'll never make it! *

BEN
I know! *

Ben looks ahead and sees a CHUNNEL SERVICE ACCESS sign. *

127 CONTINUED: 127

BEN (CONT'D)
Hold on!

Ben simultaneously whips the wheel and hits the brakes.

128 INT. EUROSTAR SERVICE TUNNEL - DAY 128

The BMW brodies to a sliding stop, ending crosswise, blocking the tunnel.

129 INT. BMW RENTAL CAR - DAY 129

The Mercedes BARRELS TOWARD THEM.

BEN
Get out! Get out!

Abigail and Riley don't have to be told twice.

130 INT. EUROSTAR SERVICE TUNNEL - DAY 130

Ben, Abigail, and Riley scrabble of the BMW and SPRINT TOWARD...THE CHUNNEL ACCESS PASSAGEWAY.

131 INT. EUROSTAR SERVICE TUNNEL - DAY 131

The Mercedes reaches the BMW and skids to a stop. Wilkinson, McCrady, and Clay burst out of the Mercedes, clamber over the hood of the BMW, and give chase on foot.

132 INT. EUROSTAR CHUNNEL ACCESS DOOR - DAY 132

Ben punches a button on the wall. The access doors WHOOSH open, immediately letting in the ROAR OF AN ON-COMING TRAIN.

133 INT. EUROSTAR CHUNNEL ACCESS PASSAGEWAY - DAY 133

Ben, Abigail, and Riley sprint down this short access passageway. Ben glances back just as...

Wilkinson appears at the other end of the passageway. He raises his gun and SQUEEZES OFF A ROUND.

BEN
Down!

Riley, Ben, and Abigail dive into the...

134 INT. EUROSTAR CHUNNEL - DAY 134

Ben, Abigail, and Riley all tumble down the dark steps. They hit hard, the ground...

...knocking the PLANK FROM ABIGAIL'S HAND! It clatters to the ground and skids into the darkness.

It's dark in here, except for the LIGHT OF THE FAST-APPROACHING TRAIN. Abigail roots around on the ground for the plank.

134 CONTINUED: 134

ABIGAIL
Ben, the plank! I dropped it!

Riley and Ben help her search for it, but it's too dark to see anything. Suddenly, bullets fly overhead, PINGING and SPARKING the wall on the opposite side of the Chunnel.

BEN
Get to the other side!

The TRAIN ROCKETS TOWARD THEM! Ben grabs Abigail's hand, and all three of them lunge ACROSS THE TRACKS just as...

...THE CHUNNEL LIGHTS UP, and the TRAIN BLASTS PAST THEM IN A DEAFENING ROAR!

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS

Wilkinson and his men emerge from the passageway to find the seemingly endless train thundering by and no sign of Ben, Abigail, or Riley.

Wilkinson sighs, defeated. He looks down, and what he sees brings a smile to his face...

...THE PLANK. Wilkinson scoops it up, victorious.

135 INT. DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, D.C. - DAY 135

Patrick waits at the gate as TRAVELERS emerge from Customs. Finally, Riley and Ben approach, carrying their bags.

PATRICK
Ben! How did it go?

But before Ben can answer, Abigail emerges from Customs behind them. Patrick smiles.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
Abigail! What a pleasant surprise!

ABIGAIL
Hello, Patrick.

She gives Patrick a peck on his cheek. Patrick beams as he looks to Ben and then back to Abigail...

PATRICK
How nice to see you two together again! *

ABIGAIL
Oh, well-- *

BEN
--We're not. *

PATRICK
Oh... *
(awkward beat) *
...so did you find anything? *

135 CONTINUED: 135

RILEY
Yes...

ABIGAIL
...but I lost it.

BEN
Dad, it was a plank with Native American writing on it. Pre-colonial.

That stops Patrick.

PATRICK
Are you sure?

Ben unzips his knapsack and pulls out a piece of hotel stationary with a DRAWING of the glyphs from the plank on it. The drawing's not exactly right but pretty damn close.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
Oh, crap.

Not the reaction we were expecting.

BEN
Dad, we have to go talk to her.

RILEY
Who?

PATRICK
There is no talking to her. Only arguing. You go talk to her. You see her every Christmas.

ABIGAIL
(realizing)
Your mother?

BEN
(to Patrick)
Yes, but she doesn't allow me to discuss anything to do with treasure.

PATRICK
And you think she'd allow me?

BEN
I'm thinking--united front.

PATRICK
I'm thinking--we don't mention treasure.

136 EXT. UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, RANDALL HALL - DAY 1

Carrying the knapsack, Ben, Riley, and Abigail stand with Patrick in front of Randall Hall.

136 CONTINUED: 136

PATRICK
Did you know the University of Virginia was the only college kept open throughout the entire Civil War? It was the site of more battles than any other publicly owned property.

Patrick looks reverently toward the Lawn.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
Union troops camped on this very lawn!

BEN
Dad. You're stalling.

PATRICK
(indignant)
These are very important historical facts.

ABIGAIL
Come on. She can't be <u>that</u> bad.

Ben and Patrick exchange a look. Riley doesn't like it.

BEN
(to Riley and Abigail) *
Maybe we should just go in, and you two wait out here. *

RILEY
No, we couldn't do that to you, but OK.

Riley parks himself on a bench, but Abigail doesn't. She follows Ben and Patrick into the building. * *

137 INT. UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, RANDALL HALL, CORRIDOR - DAY 137

Stenciled on the door is:

DR. EMILY APPLETON
Linguistics Department Chair

Patrick grows more and more nervous as they approach. *

BEN
Will you relax? *

PATRICK
It's been...what? Twenty years? *

BEN
Thirty-two years.

PATRICK
My God! That long?

137 CONTINUED: 137

Just then, the office door flings open as an UNDERGRADUATE GIRL storms out of the office, grumbling...

UNDERGRAD STUDENT
Bitch.

The undergrad pushes by them.

PATRICK
Well, at least, she's still going by the same nickname.

138 INT. UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, EMILY'S OFFICE - DAY 138

DR. EMILY APPLETON (60) works at her desk. She wears a buttoned up blouse. Her hair is pulled back tightly. She's a career academic with classically beautiful features.

Her office is cluttered with Native American artifacts, books, magazines, and ancient maps. There is a FRAMED PHOTO of Ben on a boat on her credenza behind her. The trio enters.

EMILY
(without looking up)
No, I don't grade on a curve. No one got higher than a C-minus. And no, there will be no make-up exam.

Ben and Patrick eye each other like, "You talk." The silence is just too awkward for Abigail, so she finally speaks...

ABIGAIL
Yes, um...
(clears her throat)
...I, I mean, we--

EMILY
(annoyed)
You have a question, I presume?

Emily finally looks up...and now she sees that it's Ben and Patrick. She barely reacts.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Hello, Benjamin. *

BEN
Hi, mom. *

EMILY *
(curtly) *
Patrick. *

PATRICK *
(short)
Emily. *

Emily eyes Abigail. Abigail smiles. *

138 CONTINUED: 138

ABIGAIL
I'm Abigail Chase.

EMILY
I know who you are. Ben's told me about you.
(then)
So, are you two engaged yet?

BEN
No.

ABIGAIL
We broke up.

EMILY
Smart girl.
(looks to Patrick)
Gates men never were the marrying type.

Patrick bristles.

PATRICK
Maybe you weren't the marrying type. Have you ever thought about that?

BEN
Dad. Please.

EMILY
I remarried.

PATRICK
And then divorced.

EMILY
Oh, so you're keeping up on me, are you?

BEN
Mom, please--

PATRICK
--You know what your problem is?

BEN
Dad--

EMILY
--Oh yes, Patrick. I would love to hear what my problem is according to you since you are the poster boy of mental balance.

PATRICK
You can't stand being wrong, and you were wrong.

EMILY
If you still think the Templar Treasure was the reason we divorced...

138 CONTINUED: (2) 138

Ben knows there's no stopping them, so he sets down his knapsack, quickly unzips it, and pulls out the DRAWING OF THE GLYPHS.

EMILY (CONT'D)
...then there's no explaining it to you...

Her voice trails off as she sees the drawing.

EMILY (CONT'D)
This writing is Croatoan.

That stuns the trio.

ABIGAIL
As in...Roanoke Island Croatoan?

EMILY
(condescendingly)
You know of another?
(then)
What is it from?

BEN
We were hoping you could tell us.

PATRICK
Can you translate it?

Emily shoots Patrick a perturbed look. *

EMILY
Of course, I can.

She studies the glyphs and starts deciphering them.

EMILY (CONT'D)
This symbol here means tall or towering, and this...
(points to a glyph)
...means stand. Stand at the highest point.

Ben grabs a pad of paper from Emily's desk and starts scribbling down the translation as she talks. * *

EMILY (CONT'D)
(points to two glyphs) *
Find...the noble bird... *

She studies the next series of glyphs, grabs a leather notebook from her bookshelf, and references her own research as she continues to translate.

EMILY (CONT'D)
He will take...your hand and give you...passage. Let the light guide you to...the sacred temple.

138 CONTINUED: (3) 138

She looks up, realizing.

EMILY (CONT'D)
This is a treasure map.

The trio shifts guiltily.

EMILY (CONT'D)
I should have known.

BEN
What else does it say?

EMILY
That's it. These glyphs here, they're only partials.

Emily points to the partial glyphs.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Looks like you're missing the rest of your treasure map.

The trio deflates a little. Ben tears the page from the pad of paper, folds it up, and stuffs it in his pocket. * *

Emily regards them balefully.

EMILY (CONT'D)
And so begins another generations-long, obsessive Gates family quest.

139 INT. UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, LAWN - DAY 139

Ben, Patrick, Abigail, and Riley cross the lawn.

RILEY
Well, this is just great.

BEN
Don't worry. We know where the rest of the map is.

PATRICK
What do you mean?

BEN
The plaque said, "these twins stand resolute to preserve that which all men seek." Not one stands; <u>both</u> stand. The clue was split in half, and half was hidden in each desk.

PATRICK
Wait. "Resolute"? "Desk"? You're talking about <u>the</u> Resolute Desk?

BEN
Unfortunately, yes.

139 CONTINUED: 139

PATRICK
But that's the President's desk!

RILEY
The president...
(realizing)
...our president?

BEN
The Queen of England made two desks from the timbers of the Resolute. She kept one desk and gave the other to President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1881. Since then the Resolute Desk has been used by almost every President.

RILEY
So then...the treasure map is in a desk...
(incredulous)
...in the White House?

BEN
The Oval Office actually.

RILEY
Good. As long as it's not easy.

PATRICK
How're we supposed to get in there?

ABIGAIL
There's the Easter Egg Roll at the White House on Monday?

The men regard her, confused.

RILEY
Good. Maybe the Easter Bunny can help us get the map.

ABIGAIL
Connor will be there. He invited me.

That makes Ben a little jealous.

BEN
We don't need Connor. I'll call the Executive Secretary and get us in.

PATRICK
Neither one will just waltz you into the Oval Office.

Ben considers that, getting an idea...

BEN
We'll see about that.

140 EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE, SOUTH LAWN - DAY 140

It's the Annual White House Easter Egg Roll. There's face-painting, egg dyeing, the Egg Roll races, Easter bunny and cartoon character walkabouts...a carnival-like atmosphere.

Abigail stands with Ben at a ring toss booth. Ben tosses a ring and catches a Coke bottle neck. Abigail is impressed.

ABIGAIL
You've done this before.

The CARNY WORKER hands Ben his prize, a SMALL STUFFED BUNNY. Ben stuffs it in his jacket pocket. *

BEN
You know, I won the Egg Roll when I was five. * *

ABIGAIL
(surprised)
Patrick brought you to the Egg Roll?

BEN
My mom, actually.

ABIGAIL
I thought your mom didn't believe in things like the Easter Bunny, Santa Claus, and buried treasure.

BEN
She doesn't, but my kindergarten class won some award and got invited. She had to bring me. * * *

Ben eyes the Easter Bunny walkabout, posing nearby with kids for pictures.

BEN (CONT'D)
She kept calling the Easter Bunny "Mrs. Nixon," but luckily for me, Mrs. Nixon refused to break character.

Just then, an 8-YEAR-OLD BOY tugs on Ben's coat.

8-YEAR-OLD
I know you!

Ben looks down and smiles at the boy.

8-YEAR-OLD (CONT'D)
Your grandfather killed President Lincoln.

Ben's smile fades.

BEN
No, that would be John Wilkes Booth.

140 CONTINUED: 140

8-YEAR-OLD
Eisenschiml says that Booth was just a tool in a greater conspiracy that involved men in Lincoln's own cabinet.

BEN
Eisenschiml's book is filled with spotty research and false assumptions.

8-YEAR-OLD
How do you explain why Lincoln's bodyguard left his post that night?

BEN
President Lincoln had never been accompanied by guards when attending the theater, especially on Good Friday.

8-YEAR-OLD
How do you explain why all bridges out of Washington were closed except one...the one Booth needed to escape?

BEN
How old are you?

8-YEAR-OLD
Eight and a half.

BEN
Why don't you come back in nine and a half years, and we'll discuss this then?

The boy points to the bunny in Ben's pocket.

8-YEAR-OLD
Can I have your bunny?

BEN
No.

The kid makes a face and leaves. Ben forces a smile.

BEN (CONT'D)
Cute kid.

A voice from behind interrupts.

CONNOR (O.S.)
Abby!

They wheel around to find Connor stepping up behind them.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
So glad you decided to come.

He eyes Ben, a little annoyed by his presence.

140 CONTINUED: (2) 140

CONNOR (CONT'D)
And Gates.

ABIGAIL
(explaining)
We just ran into each other.

BEN
(to Abigail)
So, are you going to ask him?

ABIGAIL
(under her breath)
Ben...

CONNOR
Ask me what?

ABIGAIL
Nothing.

CONNOR
No, really. What?

ABIGAIL
I wouldn't want to impose.

BEN
(to Connor)
What she means is, she doesn't think you can.

Abigail shoots a look at Ben.

ABIGAIL
Ben...

CONNOR
Doesn't think I can what?

BEN
She wants to see the Oval Office.

ABIGAIL
(quickly, apologetic to Connor)
I know. It's too much to ask.

CONNOR
No, I can do that.

Abigail and Ben exchange feigned looks of surprise.

ABIGAIL
You can?

141 INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, THE WEST WING CORRIDOR - DAY 141

Connor stands with Abigail and Ben as they sign in at a desk where a SECRETARY sits.

141 CONTINUED: 141

CONNOR
This is actually a good time. The President is out of town.

SECRETARY
(to Connor)
The First Lady was wondering if you wouldn't mind having the Lansdowne portrait moved to Mount Vernon for the party on Thursday. It's the President's favorite.

CONNOR
That'll be a nice touch. Of course.

Ben and Abigail finish signing in, and Connor escorts them down the corridor, past a SECRET SERVICE AGENT who nods.

SECRET SERVICE AGENT
Dr. Hamilton.

CONNOR
You're missing the egg hunt, Jim.

142 INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, THE OVAL OFFICE - DAY 142

Connor leads Abigail and Ben into the famous office.

CONNOR
Here we are...

There are several portraits and busts of Presidents past as well as other pieces of art and antique furniture.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
Amazing feeling, isn't it? Standing here?

Abigail's and Ben's eyes are locked in on the RESOLUTE DESK, which sits near the Rose Garden windows.

ABIGAIL
Yes...

BEN
...amazing...

CONNOR
I've been in here a hundred times, and it still gets me.

Connor now notices Abigail is looking at the desk.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
That's the Resolute Desk. You might recognize it from the famous photo of young JFK Jr. playing underneath while his father worked.

142 CONTINUED: 142

Connor leads them to the desk, which is different from its twin, but it still has four drawers. Ben reaches out to touch the desk.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
Don't touch anything, please.

BEN
Right, of course.

Ben pulls back his hand. Connor continues his spiel.

CONNOR
Many people don't know that this desk is made from the wood of a British ship, the HMS Resolute.

BEN
Really? Fascinating.

Abigail and Ben steal glances, trying to decide how they're going to do this.

CONNOR
Every president since Rutherford B. Hayes has used this desk except Johnson and Nixon.

BEN
And Ford.

CONNOR
Right.

BEN
The rug...I hear that each president designs his own?

CONNOR
Or sometimes the First Lady does.

Connor leads them away to the center of the room.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
Every Presidential rug is different, but they all have the seal at their center...

As they follow Connor, Ben mouths to Abigail, "distract him." She mouths back, "How?"

CONNOR (CONT'D)
And of course, each president also gets to choose the art with which to decorate the office... *

Connor moves to the paintings and various sculptures. Behind Connor's back, Ben tugs on his own earlobe, but Abigail doesn't understand.

142 CONTINUED: (2) 142

CONNOR (CONT'D)
This portrait of Lincoln is a popular choice of art among the presidents as is the Lansdowne Portrait...

Connor moves to the fireplace, over which hangs a portrait of George Washington.

CONNOR (CONT'D)
...of George Washington. You can't very well have an office of the President without a portrait of the father of our great nation.

Ben mouths "your earring" to Abigail, but she doesn't understand. Finally, Ben just says...

BEN
Abby, did you lose an earring?

Now, Abigail realizes the ruse.

ABIGAIL
Did I?

She touches her ear, covering her earring.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
Oh no, I did!

She deftly slips off her earring and pretends to be upset.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
These earrings were given to me by my grandmother.

CONNOR *
Are you sure you lost it in here?

ABIGAIL
I don't know where I lost it.

Abigail looks around, searching the carpet. *

BEN
Well, we'd better make sure it's not in here. You wouldn't want anyone finding an earring that doesn't belong to the First Lady in the Oval Office.

CONNOR
Excellent point.

Abigail drops to her knees and feels around the carpet. * Connor gets to his knees and joins her in her search.

BEN
We should retrace your steps. I'll check over here.

142 CONTINUED: (3) 142

Ben moves toward the desk.

ABIGAIL
Good idea.

NEAR THE FIREPLACE

Abigail and Connor search the floor together, but Connor becomes distracted by Abigail's cleavage.

BEHIND THE RESOLUTE DESK

Ben checks to see that Connor is preoccupied and then quietly pulls out a drawer. Indeed, there is a serrated edge just like the other desk.

NEAR THE FIREPLACE

Abigail pretends to spot something under the nearby sofa.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
I think I see it!

CONNOR
Where?

ABIGAIL
There! Under the sofa...

She crawls over to the sofa. Connor watches her backside as he follows her on his knees. *

BEHIND THE RESOLUTE DESK

Ben quietly starts pulling out the drawers to the 1-8-7-6 combination.

As he does, Ben notices the 8-YEAR-OLD BOY from earlier staring in at him through the French doors that lead to the Rose Garden. *

Ben gestures like, "Go away!" The boy shakes his head, "No."

Ben pulls the stuffed bunny out of his pocket and holds it up like, "I'll give you this, if you go away."

The kid nods like, "Deal" and leaves.

UNDER THE SOFA

Connor stretches out his arm and feels around. *

CONNOR
I can't feel anything.

BEHIND THE RESOLUTE DESK

Ben pulls the last drawer out. We hear a muffled CLUNK as a false bottom to the two middle drawers drops open!

142 CONTINUED: (4) 142

BY THE SOFA

Connor hears the noise and looks up. Abigail thinks fast and drops her earring next to Connor's other hand.

ABIGAIL
Connor, you found it!

CONNOR
I did?

Connor looks down to see the earring on the rug by his hand.

BEHIND THE RESOLUTE DESK

Ben peers into the hidden compartment. This time, however...

THE COMPARTMENT IS EMPTY!

There is a carved niche where the plank was once hidden, but there is no plank there anymore.

NEAR THE SOFA

Abigail scoops up her earring and hugs Connor.

ABIGAIL
Thank you so much!

Connor goes to stand, but Ben's not coming up yet. So Abigail stalls by...KISSING CONNOR!

BEHIND THE RESOLUTE DESK

Ben quietly closes the compartment and stands up to see Abigail and Connor kissing.

Ben loudly clears his throat. Abigail pulls out of the kiss, leaving Connor a little dazed. Ben forces a smile, jealous.

143 EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE, SOUTH LAWN - DAY 143

The 8-YEAR-OLD boy runs across the lawn, waving the bunny.

8-YEAR-OLD
Mom! Look what I won!

144 EXT. LAFAYETTE PARK - DAY 144

Ben and Abigail have rejoined Riley and Patrick in the park across the street from the White House.

PATRICK
The brightest men in our country have sat at that desk for over 100 years. One of them must have figured it out.

RILEY
My money's on little John John.

144 *CONTINUED:* 144

ABIGAIL
If a president found the other half of the plank, why was it never made public or part of the White House collection?

RILEY
Because they hid it.

ABIGAIL
Why?

RILEY
Because they figured out that it was a treasure map to the City of Gold? *

BEN
Half a treasure map.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON THE ANCIENT PLANK.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
Definitely not Egyptian or even European...

We WIDEN to see that we're in...

145 INT. AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM, OFFICE - DAY 145

Cluttered with art and artifacts from the Civil War. Dr. * Nichols (from the opening) studies the plank while Wilkinson, * McCrady and Clay watch on.

DR. NICHOLS
Where'd you say you got this again?

WILKINSON
In England.

DR. NICHOLS
Really? Because it looks early Native American. Very early.

WILKINSON
Can you translate it?

DR. NICHOLS
Are you kidding? This is an extinct language. There're only a handful of people who even know this stuff anymore.

Wilkinson considers that.

WILKINSON
And where might I find one of these people?

146 EXT. LAFAYETTE PARK - DAY 1.

Ben paces, thinking.

BEN
So, if you're President of the United States, where do you hide half a treasure map?

PATRICK
It could be anywhere. Buried in the Rose Garden. Locked away in a safe deposit box in the U.S. Mint and forgotten a long time ago. There's no way to know.

RILEY
It might be in the President's book.

Everyone looks to Riley, "What?"

RILEY (CONT'D)
Don't tell me you guys have never heard of the President's book?
(off their blank looks)
The super secret book filled with all the secrets only the President is authorized to know? Like, who really killed JFK, why were 18-1/2 minutes of the Watergate tape erased, the designs for the water-powered automobile, who really runs Microsoft, and what's really going on in Area 51? Come on. I sent you all a copy of my book. Didn't any of you read it?

ABIGAIL
Riley, the President's book is an urban legend.

RILEY
How do you know?

ABIGAIL
Because, well, no one's ever seen it.

RILEY
Except for every President of the United States of America.

ABIGAIL
That's just--

RILEY
--what? Crazy? Because we pretty much make our living on crazy.

146 CONTINUED: 146

PATRICK
The boy's got a point.

They all look at each other. A beat.

BEN
Well, if the book does exist, I know who would know.

147 EXT. FBI BUILDING - DAY 147

The authoritative building on Pennsylvania Avenue.

148 INT. FBI BUILDING, OFFICE - DAY 148

FBI AGENT SADUSKY sits behind his desk, staring incredulous at Ben who is sitting across from him. *

SADUSKY
The FBI isn't the Secret Service. * Why would I know something like that?

BEN
Because of the 43 men who have ever been President of the United States of America, 15 of them are confirmed freemasons. You're a 33rd-Degree Master Mason, a mason of the highest order. If anyone knows if this book exists, you do.

SADUSKY
Listen, I know this whole mess about * your great grandfather has been difficult for you...

BEN
A "yes" or "no" is all I'm asking.

Sadusky looks at Ben, straight up.

SADUSKY
No, Ben. There is no such book.

149 EXT. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - DAY 149

Ben walks down the gorgeous tree-lined Old Downtown street.

SADUSKY (O.S.)
Gates!

Ben turns to find Sadusky approaching.

SADUSKY (CONT'D)
If questioned, I will deny I ever had this conversation with you.
(then)
The book exists.

149 CONTINUED: 149

BEN
You lied.

SADUSKY
I was speaking to you officially. Now, I'm speaking to you unofficially.

BEN
Where is it?

SADUSKY
Hidden somewhere in the Library of Congress among the other 20 million books. Only the President knows exactly where. He keeps the location on his person at all times, along with the nuclear launch codes.

BEN
I need to see the book.

SADUSKY
Why?

BEN
I believe there's something in there that can clear my great grandfather's name.

SADUSKY
I'm sorry, Ben, but the President will never admit the book even exists.

BEN
If I could just talk to him--

SADUSKY
--Ben, trust me. The only way you're ever going to see that book is if you get elected president.

150 INT. LINCOLN MEMORIAL - DUSK 150

Ben is staring up at Lincoln. Patrick, Riley, and Abigail, are all here, looking dejected.

ABIGAIL
Well, that's it then.

PATRICK
It's as if the Gates name was always destined to be scorned.

RILEY
And I was always destined to be poor.

Ben moves to the Gettysburg Address inscribed in giant letters on the wall. He reads the words aloud.

150 CONTINUED: 150

BEN
"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."
(to the others)
Most people don't realize that Lincoln wrote that on the train to Gettysburg on the back of an envelope.

RILEY
(rolls his eyes)
Here we go.

BEN
Before the Civil War, people used to say, "the United States are." It wasn't until the war ended that people started saying, "the United States is."

Ben scans down the inscription and reads another part.

BEN (CONT'D)
"It is for us the living...to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

Ben stops there and stares at the words.

BEN (CONT'D)
(to himself)
The living is supposed to fight for those who have fought before us.

PATRICK
Son, you've done all you can.

But the words inspire Ben. He turns to face the others, suddenly determined.

BEN
The President's going to be at Mount Vernon on Thursday.

ABIGAIL
That's the President's private birthday party. There's no getting on that guest list. Even the serving staff was screened months ago.

BEN
We don't need to be on the guest list to get into Mount Vernon.

Ben and Patrick exchange knowing looks.

150 CONTINUED: (2) 150

PATRICK
We're not even sure that tunnel exists.

ABIGAIL
What tunnel?

BEN
During the Revolutionary War, Washington supposedly had a secret escape tunnel dug for his family.

ABIGAIL
Whoa, wait. You found an escape tunnel at Mount Vernon?

BEN
We didn't.

PATRICK
Thomas claimed he did.

ABIGAIL
That would be an amazing historical find--

RILEY
--Hello? Do you realize you're talking about crashing the President's birthday party?

BEN
(shrugs)
I'll bring a gift.

RILEY
This is the President we're talking about--the most protected man on the planet. It's the Secret Service's job to guard him from crazy people like you. You can't risk going to prison to ask the President a question he is never going to answer. *

BEN
I'll bring a really good gift.

151 EXT. MOUNT VERNON, VARIOUS - NIGHT 151

A formal party is in progress on these stately grounds that once belonged to George Washington.

SECRET SERVICE screen tuxedo'd MEN and WOMEN in designer gowns as they arrive.

More SECRET SERVICE agents lead bomb-sniffing dogs down a long line of limousines, towncars, and luxury sedans as they pull into the traffic circle.

152 EXT. POTOMAC RIVER - NIGHT 152

A lone fishing dingy drifts under the George Washington Memorial Parkway overpass. The lights of nearby Mount Vernon are visible through the trees. *

153 INT. FISHING BOAT - NIGHT 153

Wearing a wetsuit, Ben rows. Patrick scans the shoreline. They talk in whispers.

PATRICK
It should be right here, at the mouth of Little Hunting Creek.

Ben stops rowing and grabs his snorkel and faceplate.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
Don't forget your flashlight.

Ben holds it up. He's got it.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
Remember. Thomas said, "Find the pier. It will show you the way." * *

Ben grabs his backpack and slips it on.

BEN
I know.

PATRICK
The water's going to be cold.

BEN
I know.

PATRICK
Son--

BEN
--Dad, I got it handled.

PATRICK
Sorry, it's my first felony.

BEN
You're doing good so far.

PATRICK
Thanks.

Ben gets ready to jump in.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
Wait!

BEN
What?!

153 CONTINUED: 153

PATRICK
Don't forgot the gift.

Patrick grabs a small wrapped present sealed in a waterproof bag, stuffs it into Ben's backpack, and zips it up.

Ben turns on his flashlight, slips on his mask, and falls backwards into the water...SPLASH!

154 INT. POTOMAC, UNDERWATER - NIGHT 154

Ben swims, his flashlight cutting through the murky water. Just ahead, something emerges from the darkness...

A ROW OF MOSS-COVERED PILINGS, jutting up from the riverbed like granny's teeth.

Ben takes a deep breath, then dives down, kicking toward a tangle of aquatic flora. He pushes it aside, revealing...AN OPENING in the muddy bedrock. A PASSAGEWAY.

155 INT. UNDERWATER PASSAGE - NIGHT 155

Ben swims along the stone passage, lit only by the beam of his flashlight.

156 INT. SECRET PASSAGE, RIVER LANDING - NIGHT 1

Darkness. The sound of water. A beat, and then a small pool of water lights up from below as Ben surfaces.

He slips off his mask and scans the cramped space: a brick and mortar tunnel leads into more darkness.

Ben climbs out of the water and shucks off his backpack. He unzips it and pulls out a TUXEDO sealed in a waterproof bag. As he unfurls the tux, he mumbles to himself...

BEN
Just once, I'd like to wear this thing to a party I was actually invited to.

157 INT. SECRET PASSAGE - NIGHT 157

Looking sharp in his tuxedo, Ben moves quickly down the passageway, finally coming to the end...

A BRICK DOOR with an IRON LATCH. Ben presses his ear against the bricks, listens for a beat, and then pulls the latch...

158 INT. MOUNT VERNON, WINE CELLAR - NIGHT 158

A brick-lined wine cellar. We hear a SCRAPING sound as a stone wall pivots open, freeing 200 years of dust and debris.

Ben emerges from the passage and finds himself in the wine cellar. He leaves the flashlight ON, tosses it into the passage, and then shoulders the wall closed.

158 CONTINUED: 158

He moves to exit but pauses as he passes the racks of wine...

159 INT. MOUNT VERNON, KITCHEN - NIGHT 159

CATERERS hustle about, most of them too busy to notice Ben emerge from the cellar with a bottle of wine. One SERVER stops and regards him like, "what are you doing in here?" Ben hands him the bottle of wine.

BEN
The First Lady requested you serve this.

The server takes the bottle as Ben moves off confidently.

160 INT. MOUNT VERNON, LARGE DINING ROOM - NIGHT 160

The party is in full swing in this eloquent dining room. A small string QUARTET plays. SECRET SERVICE abound.

Ben adjusts his tie and breezes his way through the party, casually taking a glass of champagne from a passing tray. Ben smiles amiably at a group of GENTLEMAN smoking cigars.

BEN
Good evening, Senators.

The Senators nod to Ben as he continues past. Whoever he is, he looks important. Ben wends his way toward...

The PRESIDENT who chats with an AIDE. *

AIDE *
Sir, if you had opened up this party to the press, you could have raised your approval rating a few points.

PRESIDENT
Bill, get yourself a drink.

AIDE *
I don't drink, sir.

PRESIDENT
Then get me one because tonight, at least for the next hour or so, I plan on enjoying myself.

The aide leaves as Ben steps up. *

BEN
Happy Birthday, Mr. President.

The President turns to find Ben, standing behind him. He * recognizes Ben but can't quite place him. *

BEN (CONT'D) *
Ben Gates. The Templar Treasure? *

160 CONTINUED: 160

PRESIDENT
(realizes)
Right, Ben Gates! My Lindbergh Award winner. So glad you could make it. *

They shake hands.

BEN
Actually, you didn't invite me.
(off the President's look)
I came with Sue.

Ben gestures over his shoulder. The President follows his gaze to a crowd of guests which includes an elegant LADY holding court with several men.

PRESIDENT
Well, good for you.

ACROSS THE ROOM, the SECRET SERVICE watches the President.

LEAD AGENT
I thought Sue Hollins arrived with Gary Tramble.

AGENT #1
They broke up. It was on Page Six this morning.

The Lead Agent eyes Ben.

LEAD AGENT
That wasn't a question.

AGENT #1
Yes, sir. I'll check it out.

BACK ON THE PRESIDENT AND BEN. *

PRESIDENT
You probably have the Secret Service hopping right now, considering your lineage.

Ben chuckles good-naturedly.

BEN
I'm sure I do.

PRESIDENT
So, how's the treasure hunting business?

BEN
I prefer the term "history hunting."

PRESIDENT
Somehow, it doesn't quite have the same ring to it.

160 CONTINUED: (2) 160

PARTY GUESTS pass by, offering the President handshakes and "Happy birthdays."

BEN
Listen, I recently came across this. It belonged to my great uncle.

Ben hands the wrapped gift to the President.

BEN (CONT'D)
I know you're a great admirer of George Washington. I think you should have it.

ACROSS THE ROOM, the Lead Agent continues to watch Ben intently as the President unwraps his gift.

ON THE PRESIDENT. His eyes light up in amazement.

CLOSE ON THE GIFT--A FRAMED HAND-DRAWN MAP OF MOUNT VERNON, signed by George Washington, dated 1778.

PRESIDENT
(incredulous)
This a map of Mount Vernon drawn by George Washington himself!
(looks up)
Where did you say you got this?

BEN
My great uncle got it from the granddaughter of a slave named Charlotte who once worked here at Mount Vernon.

The President studies the map.

PRESIDENT *
What is this? It runs all the way from the manor to the Potomac.

CLOSE ON THE MAP. He points to a long dotted line that runs * from the house to the Potomac River.

BEN *
My uncle was told it was a tunnel, an escape route for Washington's family and servants in the event they ever came under attack during the Revolutionary War.

PRESIDENT
This is amazing! Why does no one know of this?

BEN
Well, in its day, I imagine it was a closely guarded secret, the kind that dies with the secret-keepers.

160 CONTINUED: (3) 160

PRESIDENT
(curiosity piqued)
Do you think it's still there?

ACROSS THE ROOM, the Lead Agent watches as the President exits the dining room with Ben.

LEAD AGENT
(into his wrist mic)
Falcon is leaving zone 3.

161 INT. MOUNT VERNON, KITCHEN - NIGHT 161

The President enters with Ben. Another SECRET SERVICE AGENT working here responds into his wrist mic.

AGENT #2
I've got Falcon, zone 4.

The President and Ben pass by the agent on their way to the cellar. Agent #2 steps in the President's path.

AGENT #2 (CONT'D)
Excuse me, Mr. President, but I need to walk ahead of you.

The President pauses and eyes the agent, condescendingly.

PRESIDENT
Craig, it's my birthday party. I have no enemies here.

AGENT #2
I'm sorry, sir, but it's my job to secure the area.

With that, the agent pushes ahead of the President and slips into the cellar.

162 INT. MOUNT VERNON, CELLAR - NIGHT 162

The Agent #2 scans the cramped space. The cellar is empty and completely bricked in. Totally secure.

163 INT. MOUNT VERNON, KITCHEN - NIGHT 163

Agent #2 emerges from the cellar.

AGENT #2
All clear, sir.

The President heads down the cellar stairs. Ben follows.

AGENT #2 (CONT'D)
(into his wrist mic)
Falcon leaving zone 4 and entering zone 9, refusing escort. Zone 9 secured.

164 INT. MOUNT VERNON, LARGE DINING ROOM - NIGHT 164

The party continues. *

LEAD AGENT
(into his wrist mic)
All right. Zone 9 has only one entrance and exit. Stay on it. Have we determined with whom Gates came to the party yet?

165 EXT. MOUNT VERNON, TRAFFIC CIRCLE - NIGHT 165

SECRET SERVICE agents pour over the guest list and video surveillance on their laptops.

AGENT #3
It wasn't with Sue Hollins. She arrived alone.

AGENT #4
Perhaps Gates was referring to Susan Mitchell? Or Suzanne Talbott?

INTERCUT BETWEEN THE VARIOUS SECRET SERVICE AGENTS.

LEAD AGENT
Stop guessing, and find out.

166 INT. MOUNT VERNON, CELLAR - NIGHT 166

The President and Ben move to the middle of the cellar and look around. The President refers to the map.

PRESIDENT
According to this map, it'd be right there...

The President gestures to the WINE CELLAR wall.

167 INT. MOUNT VERNON, KITCHEN - NIGHT 167

Agent #2 checks his watch.

168 INT. MOUNT VERNON, CELLAR - NIGHT 168

Ben moves to the brick wall and feels around.

BEN
Sometimes, they built these things on pivots.

The President watches as Ben pushes on the brick wall until it pivots open! The President is agape.

PRESIDENT
My God! There it is!

Ben slips through the secret door.

169 INT. MOUNT VERNON, KITCHEN - NIGHT 16.

Agent #2 checks his watch again, starts getting anxious, and pokes his head into the cellar.

170 INT. MOUNT VERNON, CELLAR - NIGHT 170

Agent #2 looks down the cellar stairs just as...

...the President slips into the SECRET PASSAGE and the door PIVOTS CLOSED!

The agent hurries down the stairs, panicked.

AGENT #2
(into his wrist mic)
We have a breach in zone 9!

171 INT. MOUNT VERNON, LARGE DINING ROOM - NIGHT 171

Instantly, the SECRET SERVICE AGENTS are all on the move.

LEAD AGENT
(into his wrist mic)
Repeat?

INTERCUT THE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS as they enact their situational protocol.

AGENT #2
There is a door, another door in zone 9, a secret door! * *

LEAD AGENT
A secret door?!

Agent #2 frantically feels around the wall, calling out...

AGENT #2
Mr. President!
(no reply)
Shit, shit, shit!
(into his wrist mic)
Falcon has left the nest. Repeat, Falcon is in the open!

172 INT. SECRET PASSAGE - NIGHT 172

Ben bolts the door with an IRON LATCH, securing it. He grabs the flashlight. The President watches Ben, in disbelief.

PRESIDENT
Gates, what are you doing?

BEN
I'm sorry, Mr. President. I know this is extreme, but I need to ask you a question that I know you couldn't answer unless we were alone.

172 CONTINUED: 172

PRESIDENT
I'm not answering any question, and you are going to prison. How soon you open that door will determine for how many years. Right now, you're looking at 5 to 10. *

Ben ignores him and starts in.

BEN
Thomas Gates burned 18 pages of the Booth dairy because there was information leading to a treasure map on them. The Knights of the Golden Circle had come to him for help finding the treasure which they wanted to use to finance a rebellion. * When Thomas burned those pages, he * quashed a rebellion. That night, * Thomas Gates was a hero, not an assassin.

PRESIDENT
10 to 15. Without parole.

BEN
Sometime between 1880 when the Resolute Desk was placed in the Oval Office and now, one of our presidents found a secret compartment. In that compartment was a very old piece of wood. Carved into it was Native American writing...a treasure map to * the City of Gold. *

PRESIDENT
You realize you are now Number One on the Secret Service, NSA, CIA, and the FBI's Most Wanted Lists?

But Ben continues, undaunted.

BEN
Sir, if I can prove that treasure map exists, I can prove Thomas Gates was innocent.

PRESIDENT
Why are you telling me this?

BEN
Because I believe the whereabouts of that treasure map is hidden in the President's book.

PRESIDENT
The President's book?

172 CONTINUED: (2) 172

BEN
Yes, sir. The book known only to the presidents. It contains all of our nation's secrets.

PRESIDENT
(scoffs)
I've never heard such nonsense.

173 INT. MOUNT VERNON, CELLAR - NIGHT 173

SECRET SERVICE AGENTS spill into the cellar.

LEAD AGENT
Where's the door?!

AGENT #2
Here.

Agent #2 points to the brick wall.

AGENT #2 (CONT'D)
Right here!

The agents all swarm the wall and push on it to no avail.

LEAD AGENT
(calls out)
I want a crowbar! I want a jackhammer! I want a bulldozer! And I want them now!

The agents scatter.

174 INT. SECRET PASSAGE - NIGHT 174

Ben continues.

BEN
I know you can't admit the book exists, but you <u>can</u> swear to me on your honor that you have never seen any entry in that book about an ancient plank that was found in the Resolute Desk. If you can do that, then I'll stop. I'll open this door and turn myself in.

The President studies Ben.

PRESIDENT
Why are you doing this?

BEN
(almost doesn't want to say)
Because...Lincoln is my favorite President, sir.
(quickly)
No offense.

174 CONTINUED: 174

The President is not amused.

BEN (CONT'D)
At Gettysburg, Lincoln said that it's the duty of the living to fight for those who have fought before us. Thomas Gates fought to stop the KGC, and now it's my duty now to fight for him.

That gets to the President a little, but...

PRESIDENT
You're asking me to do something I can't.

BEN
Then don't admit anything. I know the book is kept in the Library of Congress. I know keep the whereabouts on your person at all times.

The President's eyes flash with surprise.

BEN (CONT'D)
Just let me see it.

But the President doesn't move.

BEN (CONT'D)
Sir, please. Don't make me search you for it.

The President flips a mental coin, then pulls out his wallet, and finds an aged SLIP OF PAPER. He shows it to Ben.

ON THE SLIP OF PAPER is a code: XY234786.

Ben glances at it briefly.

BEN (CONT'D)
Thank you.

PRESIDENT
You'll be arrested before you get there.

BEN
I hope not, sir. But to at least give myself a chance...

Ben turns and BREAKS THE IRON LATCH, locking the President in the passage.

BEN (CONT'D)
...I'm sorry, but I know the Secret Service will eventually get you out.

With that, Ben shuts off the flashlight and disappears.

175 EXT. POTOMAC RIVER - NIGHT 175

Patrick watches the water as a light approaches. A beat, and then...

Ben quietly breaks the surface. Patrick helps him aboard. Ben swam in his tux pants, dress shirt, and fins.

PATRICK
How'd it go?

Ben pulls off his fins.

BEN
He seemed to really like the gift.

PATRICK
Oh, good. So, it went well?

Patrick wraps a blanket around Ben's shoulders.

BEN
(in disbelief)
Dad, technically, I think I just kidnapped the President.

PATRICK
Well then, we'd better get going.

Patrick fires up the outboard motor, grabs the rudder, and they speed away. Ben searches through his things and finds his cell phone.

176 EXT. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS - NIGHT 176

The Italian Renaissance-style Thomas Jefferson Building.

177 INT. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, NORTHEAST PAVILION - NIGHT 177

Abigail leads Riley down this empty hallway. Riley's studying the number on a piece of scratch paper.

RILEY
XY234786...Dewey decimal system?

ABIGAIL
Library of Congress has its own classification system. XY is used for the Librarian's Special Collection which is kept in the private reading room, reserved for dignitaries...

They reach a mahogany door and stop.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
...and researchers only.

Abigail swipes her badge through the reader, and the door unlocks.

178 INT. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, LIBRARIAN'S ROOM - NIGHT 178

A gorgeous office with open arches, painted ceilings, and floor-to-ceiling bookshelves which line the walls. Riley and Abigail slip in, closing the door behind them. *

179 INT. MOUNT VERNON, CELLAR - NIGHT 179

The cellar is teeming with AGENTS in a explosion of activity.

THREE AGENTS are JACKHAMMERING through the brick wall.

180 INT. SECRET PASSAGE - NIGHT 180

Blackness. The sound of jackhammers. Finally, one punches through, spilling light into the passage, illuminating...

The President's annoyed face.

The Lead Agent pokes his head in and is relieved to see the President.

LEAD AGENT
Mr. President! Are you all right?

PRESIDENT
Get me out of here!

181 INT. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, LIBRARIAN'S ROOM - NIGHT 181

Abigail and Riley are on opposite ends of the shelves, working their way toward each other.

ABIGAIL
XY234777...78...79...

RILEY
XY234792...91...90...

They each reach the end of their shelves. There is an empty space in the wall between the shelves, where a tapestry hangs.

RILEY (CONT'D)
There are no 80s.

ABIGAIL
That's impossible. The 80s have got to be here somewhere.

RILEY
Well, if I were a librarian, I would put them...
(a little frustrated)
...<u>right here</u>.

Riley points to the tapestry. And now, it dawns on them. They lift the tapestry together, revealing...

...NOTHING. A wood-paneled wall.

Abigail deflates. But Riley studies the wall panels. *

181 CONTINUED: 181

RILEY (CONT'D)
234786 isn't just the library code. *
It's the combination to a safe. *

ABIGAIL *
What safe? *

Riley touches the wall panel, and a push lock unlatches. A * panel pops open. Behind it...

...A 19th-Century WALL-SAFE!

RILEY *
This one. *

182 INT. MOUNT VERNON, CELLAR - NIGHT 182*

The AGENTS work furiously, knocking out bricks and opening up a large hole in the wall, out of which the President finally emerges, looking madder than a hornet.

LEAD AGENT
(into his wrist mic)
Falcon has been recovered. Falcon has been recovered!
(to the President)
Are you harmed, sir?

The President points randomly at the first three agents he sees, including Agent #2 (the one who tried to escort him).

PRESIDENT
You're fired, you're fired, and you're fired.

LEAD AGENT
(into his wrist mic)
Falcon appears to be unharmed.

Agents climb into the hole in pursuit of Gates.

183 INT. SECRET PASSAGE - NIGHT 183

We FOLLOW the agents as they race down the tunnel, finally coming to...THE RIVER LANDING, where they find Ben's wetsuit.

AGENT #4
(into his wrist mic)
Gates is gone. The tunnel ends in the river.

184 INT. MOUNT VERNON, CELLAR - NIGHT 184

LEAD AGENT *
(into his wrist mic)
I want search boats on the Potomac and check-points on all roads and highways within a 15 mile radius--

184 CONTINUED: 184

PRESIDENT
--Gates is headed to the Library of Congress.

LEAD AGENT
Why? What's at the Library of Congress?

PRESIDENT
I think I just said Ben Gates.

LEAD AGENT
Of course. We'll have a team there when he arrives.

185 INT. FBI BUILDING, LOBBY - DAY 185

Sadusky crosses the FBI SEAL in the lobby floor.

SADUSKY
(to the guard)
Good night, Ted.

Just as Sadusky is about to push through the exit, his cell phone rings. He sighs, resigned, and flips it open.

SADUSKY (CONT'D)
(into the phone)
This is Sadusky.
(a beat)
Mmm-hmm. I'm on my way.

He hangs up. He looks like he wants to choke the phone.

SADUSKY (CONT'D)
(grumbles)
Gates.

186 INT. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, LIBRARIAN'S ROOM - NIGHT 186

Riley spins the safe's tumbler, dialing in 23-47-86...CLICK! Riley opens the safe, and there it is...

The aged, leather-bound tome...THE PRESIDENT'S BOOK OF SECRETS. Abigail sucks in a breath. Riley gasps.

RILEY
Gah! I knew it!

ABIGAIL
Only presidents have ever laid their eyes on this book. *

Just then, we hear SIRENS, distant but approaching.

RILEY
Something tells me those sirens are headed here.

186 CONTINUED: 186

No time to be reverent. Abigail quickly takes the BOOK from the safe and sets it on the librarian's desk. The book is thick and stuffed with loose pages.

Abigail opens it. The binding CRACKLES. ON THE FIRST PAGE is George Washington's signature.

ABIGAIL
This goes back all the way to George Washington.

RILEY
Yeah, that's nice. Skip to the good stuff.

Abigail grabs a chunk of pages and flips forward to an official Office of the Air Force Letter circa 1950s stamped, "TOP SECRET" and "RE: AREA 51."

That's not what Abigail is looking for, so she leafs past it, continuing her search.

RILEY (CONT'D)
Wait! That was Area 51!

She keeps flipping through...the words "Kennedy Assassination" leap off a page. Riley is apoplectic.

RILEY (CONT'D)
And Kennedy! Hey!

ABIGAIL
We don't have time.

Abigail keeps leafing quickly through secrets, then finally finds something, and stops.

ON THE PAGE, there is an entry titled, "CITY OF GOLD." There is also something folded and stuffed between the pages. Abigail reads the entry on the page out loud.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
"1881. Plank found in Resolute Desk. Believed to be the last message of the Lost Roanoke colonists." Signed by President James Garfield.
(to Riley, incredulous)
The Roanoke colonists disappeared searching for the City of Gold.

Riley takes the folded piece of paper out of the book and unfolds it.

It's an aged B&W PHOTO OF THE AMERICAN HALF OF THE PLANK. The resolution is good. We can make out the Native American markings. There is a handwritten notation on the photo.

RILEY
It was translated.

186 CONTINUED: (2) 186

Riley reads the notation.

RILEY (CONT'D)
"'Islands of Stone in a Sea of Trees,' Native American land in the Black Hills of South Dakota. "'Follow the great cat and the red bird to the sacred path.'"

Abigail is already reading the next entry in the book.

ABIGAIL
"1881. Five-man expedition led by Lt. Colonel D. S. Haas sent to Black Hills in search of City of Gold. Never returned."
(reading another entry)
Then another in 1884 led by Owen T. Lowell...also never returned. *
(keeps reading)
Seven more expeditions were sent over the years. No one ever returned.

RILEY
Well, at least they didn't have to pay taxes.

ABIGAIL
Here's the final entry...
(reads)
"1925. City of Gold declared a foolish pursuit. Map and landmarks destroyed. Land declared sacred."
(looks up)
Signed President Calvin Coolidge.

But now, the SIRENS are upon them. Riley moves to the window * and looks out...

In the street below, government sedans and police cars skid to stops. SECRET SERVICE AGENTS and POLICE pour out and * sprint into the building.

RILEY
I think it's time to go.

Abigail pulls out her Treo and snaps two quick pictures of the CITY OF GOLD PAGE and the B&W PHOTO. Riley then closes the book and places it back in the wall safe.

187 EXT. POTOMAC RIVER BANK - NIGHT 187

A HELICOPTER ROARS just above the treetops. It circles, its tracking beam fixed on a DINGY pulled up into the foliage. *

A DOZEN SECRET SERVICE AGENTS swarm the dingy, weapons drawn, * but it's empty.

187 CONTINUED: 187

AGENT #5
(into his wrist mic)
We found his boat.

188 EXT. GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY - NIGHT 188

Flashing lights. A roadblock. SECRET SERVICE and HIGHWAY PATROL monitor passing drivers. The LEAD AGENT is here, holding his earpiece, trying to listen over the din.

LEAD AGENT
(into his wrist mic)
What the hell is he doing way down there? The President said Gates was headed to D.C.

189 EXT. POTOMAC RIVER BANK - NIGHT 189

The Secret Service find Ben's wet clothes and blanket.

AGENT #5
Looks like the President had some bad intel.

190 INT. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, GREAT HALL - NIGHT 190

Abigail and Riley merge casually with the other LIBRARY PATRONS who are exiting as SECRET SERVICE and POLICE spill into the lobby and fan out.

191 EXT. STREET, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS - NIGHT 191

A government sedan pulls up. Driving is Sadusky.

192 INT. GOVERNMENT SEDAN - NIGHT 192

Sadusky parks and cuts his engine. He opens his car door and moves to climb out but stops when he notices...

...two familiar faces in the crowd of exiting library patrons: Abigail and Riley.

Sadusky watches them as they move quickly to a car. Sadusky closes his car door and restarts his engine. *

193 NT. UNIVERSITY CORRIDOR - NIGHT 193

Wilkinson, Clay, and McCrady move down the empty hallway. There is a light coming from an office down the hall. It's Emily's office, and she's still here, working late. *

The men stop at her door, and McCrady compares the name stenciled on it to a short list of names he has.

MCCRADY
Dr. Emily Appleton. This is her.

Wilkinson knocks.

193 CONTINUED: 193

EMILY (O.S.)
Student hours are over!

194 INT. UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, EMILY'S OFFICE - NIGHT 194

Emily works at her desk, calling out without looking up.

EMILY
Come back tomorrow at 8am!

But her door opens, and Wilkinson enters uninvited. Emily looks up and annunciates her words.

EMILY (CONT'D)
Do you read lips? Because you're clearly deaf.

Wilkinson is about to answer, but he stops when he notices THE FRAMED PHOTO OF BEN GATES behind Emily on her credenza.

WILKINSON
(realizing)
Mrs. Gates...?

EMILY
(indignant)
I haven't been Mrs. Gates in 32 years.

Wilkinson just stares at her. He grins, disbelieving his good fortune.

WILKINSON
Well, I'll be damned.

EMILY
You watch your mouth, young man.

195 INT. ABIGAIL'S CAR, MOVING - NIGHT 195

Riley drives. Abigail's on her cell phone.

ABIGAIL
(into her phone)
We got it.

196 EXT. RURAL ROAD - NIGHT 196

An economy car speeds along this empty rural side road.

197 INT. RENTAL CAR, MOVING - NIGHT 197

Ben drives. He's changed out of his wet clothes and is dressed casual now. Patrick rides shotgun. Ben's on his cell phone.

BEN
(to Patrick)
They got it.

197 CONTINUED: 197

PATRICK
The plank?

BEN
No. That was lost...but they know what it said.
(into his phone)
Right. Uh-huh. OK. We'll be there.

Ben hangs up.

PATRICK
What did it say?

BEN
That the City of Gold is somewhere in the Black Hill and that basically anyone's who's ever gone looking for it has disappeared without a trace.

Patrick considers that with a shrug.

PATRICK
Well, that pretty much fits into our plans, considering the current events.

Just then, Ben's cell phone rings again. He answers it.

BEN
Yeah?

198 INT. BLACK H2, MOVING - NIGHT 198

But this time it's...

WILKINSON
(into his phone)
Ben.

INTERCUT BETWEEN WILKINSON AND BEN talking on their phones.

Ben is surprised to hear that voice.

BEN
Wilkinson?

WILKINSON
Good, you know who I am. Now, try to guess who this is.

We WIDEN to see that McCrady is driving, and Wilkinson and Clay are sitting in the back on either side of EMILY. Wilkinson puts the phone to EMILY'S ear.

EMILY
(into the phone)
Benjamin.

Ben's face falls like he's been kicked in the stomach.

198 CONTINUED: 198

BEN
Mom!

INTERCUT BETWEEN BEN AND EMILY talking on their phones.

EMILY
What kind of people are you associating with?!

BEN
Are you--

EMILY
--Is your father with you?

Ben looks to Patrick, not sure what to say...

BEN
Um--

EMILY
--Of course, he is. Put him on.

Ben hands Patrick the phone.

BEN
She wants to talk to you.

PATRICK
(whispers)
Me? No. I'm not here.

BEN
Dad...Wilkinson has her.

Patrick takes the phone, instantly alarmed.

PATRICK
(into the phone)
Emily, are you all right? Have they hurt you--

EMILY
--How many times have I told you? This is what happens when you get involved with treasure hunters.

INTERCUT BETWEEN PATRICK AND EMILY on their phones.

PATRICK
Would it help if I said I'm sorry and that you were right?

EMILY
Now, how would that help me, Patrick? I've been kidnapped.

PATRICK
Emily, listen...

198 CONTINUED: (2) 198

But Wilkinson takes the phone away as Patrick continues.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
...I am going to get you out of there. I promise.

WILKINSON
How noble.

PATRICK
If you hurt her, I swear--

WILKINSON
--Put Ben back on.

Patrick hands the phone back to Ben.

BEN
What do you want? The maps? You can have them. Just say--

WILKINSON
--I want the treasure.

BEN
That's impossible. Men have been searching for the City of Gold for a thousand years.

WILKINSON
Somehow I know you'll manage.

BEN
It may not even exist.

WILKINSON
For you mother's sake, it had better.

Ben thinks about that for a moment, then...

BEN
All right. Meet me at Mount Rushmore.

199 INT. BLACK H2, MOVING - NIGHT 199

WILKINSON
Fine. And just to be clear. I may not be as good at finding things as you are, but believe me, I excel at making people disappear...especially if I suspect the authorities have been notified.

With that, Wilkinson hangs up. Emily peers at him over her glasses.

EMILY
You should be ashamed of yourself, cheating off my son!

200 INT. RENTAL CAR, MOVING - NIGHT 200

BEN
There's roadmap in the glove compartment.

Patrick opens the glove compartment and pulls out a roadmap.

PATRICK
(impossibly)
The City of Gold is at Mount Rushmore?

BEN
Abigail said that President Coolidge decided in 1925 to destroy the map's landmarks in order to stop anyone else from ever seeking the treasure again.

PATRICK
So Coolidge had the giant heads of four presidents sculpted into a mountain?

BEN
How else do you erase the face of solid granite?

201 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE - MORNING 201

Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln look out over the sweeping Black Hills vista.

202 INT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, GIFT SHOP - MORNING 202

Ben, Riley, Abigail, and Patrick are here, blending in with the other TOURISTS, pretending to shop.

RILEY
So, let's recap. We've broken into Buckingham Palace and the President's desk, stolen a page from the President's super-secret book, and kidnapped the President. What do we have to do next? T.P. the White House? * * *

BEN
If only it were that easy.

Ben finds a book on Black Hills history. Patrick is beside himself with worry.

PATRICK
This is all my fault. I should have never encouraged you to be a treasure hunter--

202 CONTINUED: 202

BEN
--Dad, I am not a treasure hunter, and as I recall it, you never did encourage it.

Ben pages through the book.

PATRICK
But it's in your blood because of me. Us Gates, we're obsessed. Your mother always said that.

BEN
Dad--

PATRICK
--She was the love of my life, you know.
(then)
She was just impossible to live with.

Ben stops on a page.

BEN
Here it is.

CLOSE ON THE PAGE. There are two photographs of Mount Rushmore: a B&W "BEFORE" dated 1925 and a color "AFTER" photo dated 2001. *

BEN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
"The early settlers and Native Americans had various names for the mountain: Sugarloaf Mountain, the Grandfathers, and Cougar Mountain because the western-most peak was shaped like a cougar..." * * * *

Indeed, in the BEFORE photo, there is peak on top of which sits what looks to be a cougar.

RILEY
(incredulous)
The great cat. There it is.

BEN
"The peak was removed during the first phase of construction to clear the view."

They all look up from the photo, excited by the realization.

PATRICK
What did the map say exactly?

ABIGAIL
The translation was "Follow the great cat and the red bird to the sacred path."

202 CONTINUED: (2) 202

Riley scans the "BEFORE" PHOTO.

RILEY
So, where's the red bird?

They all join him, searching the "BEFORE" PHOTO.

BEN
There!

Ben points to the wall of granite behind the cougar peak.

BEN (CONT'D)
It's a cardinal.

Now, Patrick spots it.

PATRICK
Yes, there!

Patrick points to the distinct outline of the beak, its pointed feathered head, and its feathered neck.

RILEY
OK. I see a cat, and I sort of see a bird. But where's the sacred path?

ABIGAIL
The book said that all the landmarks were destroyed.

BEN
Not all of them. They didn't have the British half of the plank.

Now, Ben pulls out the piece of paper with Emily's translation of the British half of the plank scribbled on it.

BEN (CONT'D)
(reads)
"Stand at the highest point. Find the noble bird. He will take your hand and give you passage. Let the light guide you to the sacred temple."

Ben looks up from the translation and to the others.

PATRICK
Sounds like we gotta find the highest point.

203 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, AVENUE OF FLAGS - MORNING 203

Two aisles of columns waving state flags line the pathway leading TOURISTS to the visitors center and amphitheater.

Ben, Riley, Abigail, and Patrick emerge from the gift shop and are surprised to find...

203 CONTINUED: 203

...SADUSKY here, waiting for them.

BEN
Sadusky.

SADUSKY
Doing some sight-seeing before spending life in prison?

BEN
Actually, I was hoping the President would pardon me once he found out--

SADUSKY
--What? That your great grandfather was innocent? I doubt that will make any difference.

PATRICK
Thomas Gates wasn't just innocent. He was a hero. The Knights of the Golden Circle were the forefathers of the Ku Klux Klan. They wanted to annex the Southern States and parts Mexico and form their own slave nation. Had they found the City of Gold, they might have succeeded.

SADUSKY
Your son is about to go to prison, Mr. Gates. I'm assuming you don't want to join him?

That shuts Patrick up. Sadusky eyes Abigail and Riley.

SADUSKY (CONT'D)
I trust the book is safe?

Riley and Abigail shift, caught.

ABIGAIL
We only just looked at one page...

RILEY
...which I believe is our right under the Freedom of Information Act.

Sadusky considers that with a baleful stare.

SADUSKY
Well, you're lucky. I can't arrest you for looking at a book that doesn't exist. But you...

Sadusky turns to Ben.

SADUSKY (CONT'D)
You've given me no choice. Everyone with a badge is looking for you.

203 CONTINUED: (2) 203

BEN
Just give me a day, and then I'll turn myself in. I give you my word.

SADUSKY
I'm sorry, Ben. You know I can't.

Sadusky pulls out a set of handcuffs, but Ben doesn't budge.

SADUSKY (CONT'D)
I came alone out of respect for you. Don't make me call in back-up and turn this into a public spectacle.

BEN
You don't understand. There are other...
(doesn't know how to say it)
...factors. I need a day.

SADUSKY
You want to tell me about these "factors"?

Ben looks to Patrick. They want to tell Sadusky but can't.

BEN
I can't.

Sadusky cuffs Ben's wrists.

PATRICK
Is that absolutely necessary?

SADUSKY
Your son is a federal prisoner, Mr. Gates.

BEN
Dad, you have to find it.

PATRICK
I will.

ABIGAIL
We will.

Riley nods. Sadusky grabs Ben's arm and leads him away. When they're out of earshot...

RILEY
We're never going to find anything without Ben.

ABIGAIL
(trying to convince herself)
We can find it.

203 CONTINUED: (3) 203

PATRICK
We have to find it, or they'll hurt Emily. * *

As he talks, Patrick watches Sadusky escort Ben across the parking lot.

204 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, PARKING LOT - MORNING 204

Sadusky gets on his cell phone.

SADUSKY
(into his phone)
I have Gates.

205 INT. FBI BUILDING, BULL PEN - MORNING 205

A young FBI AGENT is on her phone. She calls out to the other AGENTS in the bull pen.

YOUNG FBI AGENT
Sadusky's got Gates!

Instantly, the room ignites with activity.

SADUSKY (ON THE PHONE)
I'm bringing him in.

YOUNG FBI AGENT
Sir, what is your location?

206 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, PARKING LOT - MORNING 206

A black H2 with tinted windows rolls up and then stops in front of Sadusky and Ben, cutting them off.

SADUSKY
(into his phone)
Mount Rushmore. Have a team meet me at the Rapid City--

Suddenly, the H2 door bursts open, and out jump Wilkinson and Clay who grab Ben and Sadusky, shoving their guns into their sides.

207 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, AVENUE OF FLAGS - MORNING 207

Patrick watches helplessly as Ben and Sadusky are forced into the H2.

PATRICK
Oh no...

RILEY
What?

Riley and Abigail follow Patrick's gaze to see Wilkinson.

207 CONTINUED: 207

RILEY (CONT'D)
Oh no!

They all take off running toward the parking lot.

208 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, PARKING LOT - DAY 208

ON SADUSKY'S CELL PHONE, lying on the blacktop, open and still on.

Then...CRUNCH! The H2's back tire runs it over and then pulls away.

209 INT. FBI BUILDING, BULL PEN - MORNING 209

The other AGENTS have gathered around the young agent.

YOUNG FBI AGENT
(into her phone)
Sadusky? Sir?
(to the agents)
I lost him.

SENIOR FBI AGENT
Where was he?

YOUNG FBI AGENT
Mount Rushmore.

SENIOR FBI AGENT
Let's get a team out there now!

210 INT. BLACK H2, MOVING - DAY 210

Wilkinson and Clay throw Ben and Sadusky into the back of the H2. In the far back sits...

...Emily, bound and mouth duct-taped.

BEN
Mom! Are you all right?

Emily indignantly admonishes everyone through her gag.

WILKINSON
As you can see, she's fine.

Sadusky reaches for his firearm, but Clay has his gun in Sadusky's face before he can get to it.

CLAY
I wouldn't.

Sadusky freezes. Clay quickly disarms him.

SADUSKY
(to Ben)
I take it these are the "other factors"?

210 CONTINUED: 210

BEN
Unfortunately, yes.

211 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, PARKING LOT - DAY 211

Patrick, Abigail, and Riley race to the rental car. They all move to climb in, but Patrick stops them.

PATRICK
You two stay here. They'll come back. Wilkinson still needs Ben to find the treasure.

Riley and Abigail consider that. He's right. Patrick opens the driver's side door and climbs in.

ABIGAIL
Where're you going?

PATRICK
Emily's in that car.

With that, Patrick slams the door and peels out in pursuit.

212 INT. BLACK H2, MOVING - DAY 212

Sadusky's gun and FBI badge are handed over to Wilkinson.

WILKINSON
I thought I was pretty clear about not contacting the authorities.

BEN
I didn't contact him. He was arresting me.

Ben holds up his handcuffed wrists as proof.

WILKINSON
(amused)
What'd you do?

SADUSKY
He kidnapped the President.

Wilkinson, Clay, and McCrady all regard Ben, impressed.

WILKINSON
Well. Then, I guess you owe us one.

Wilkinson searches Sadusky, comes up with his keys, quickly unlocks Ben's handcuffs, and then cuffs Sadusky's wrists behind his back.

WILKINSON (CONT'D)
Now, as you can see, your mother is fine. And she'll remain so, as long as you find the treasure.

212 CONTINUED: 212

BEN
(re: Sadusky)
And what about him?

Wilkinson regards Sadusky.

WILKINSON
Yes. He does present a dilemma for you, doesn't he? Do you save your mom or no one? Your choice.

Ben locks eyes with Sadusky. Both men know Ben has no choice.

SADUSKY
Go.

Ben nods, determined to make things right. He looks out the window.

BEN
Pull over here. We'll need flashlights.

213 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY 213

This highway runs alongside the west side of Mount Rushmore. George Washington's profile juts out of the cliffs above. The H2 pulls onto the shoulder. The door opens, and Wilkinson and Ben step off.

214 INT. RENTAL CAR, MOVING - DAY 214

Patrick drives, scanning the traffic, but there's no sign of the H2. There is a slow car in front of him that he can't get around.

He HONKS, then rounds a bend in the road, and finally SPOTS THE H2 PULLING back into traffic.

215 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, PRESIDENTIAL TRAIL - DAY 215

Riley and Abigail scramble through a ravine, between some steep boulders, and come to a chain-link fence. A sign on it reads, "PARK PERSONNEL ONLY--NO TRESPASSING."

Abigail stops to figure a way through the fence. Riley looks beyond the fence to see that...

There is a near-vertical metal staircase leading up the side of Mount Rushmore, at least 15-stories high.

RILEY
We're going up those stairs, aren't we?

ABIGAIL
The map said to stand at the highest point. That's where Ben will take Wilkinson. To the highest point.

215 CONTINUED: 215

RILEY
That's what I figured.

Riley looks back to the trail. The coast is clear. He starts climbing the fence. Abigail follows suit.

216 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE - DAY 216

A SWOOPING AERIAL SHOT across the faces of the presidents to the eastern side, where we find...

RILEY AND ABIGAIL ascending the metal steps that lead up a giant crevice that runs behind the heads of the presidents.

The SHOT continues over them and to the north, where we reveal that monument is actually built into the southern face of a two-mile-long virtual island of granite in a sea of trees.

We PUSH IN ON two small FIGURES trudging across the vast rocky surface...

...BEN AND WILKINSON.

217 EXT. GRANITE PLATEAU - DAY 217

Ben hikes across the rocks. Wilkinson follows, his gun in hand. The sun beats down on them.

WILKINSON
You may think I'm the bad guy, but I'm doing you a favor. You were done treasure hunting. If I hadn't forced your hand, you wouldn't be here, now, on the verge of finding what every great explorer came to the New World in search of...the City of Gold. *

Ben stops at a grouping of giant boulders and climbs up. Wilkinson watches him.

Ben reaches the top to find that he standing on the highest point around in miles. The view is incredible. Ben scans the rocky terrain below.

WILKINSON (CONT'D)
What're we looking for?

Ben refers to the translation on the piece of paper. *

BEN *
"Find the noble bird." *

Ben scans the rocks. *

BEN (CONT'D)
An eagle, most likely. *

Wilkinson joins Ben in searching the nearby rock formations.

218 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY 218

The black H2 cruises along the highway.

219 INT. BLACK H2, MOVING - DAY 219

McCrady drives. Sadusky sits in the back, his hands still cuffed behind his back. Clay sits nearby, his gun trained on Sadusky.

SADUSKY
So you're going to take me into the woods, kill me, and make it look like Ben did it?

Clay says nothing. Emily sits in the way back, listening to them talking.

SADUSKY (CONT'D)
What about Ben's mother?

Clay glances back at Emily and then shrugs.

CLAY
She'll simply disappear.

Panicked, Emily struggles with her binds to no avail.

220 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY 220

The black H2 pulls off the highway and onto a private road that leads into the woods.

221 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, PARKING LOT - DAY 221

SIRENS. POLICE, U.S. MARSHALS, and FEDERAL AGENTS have just arrived and are securing the scene.

U.S. MARSHAL
I want every person and every vehicle in the park ID'd and searched.

MARSHALS peel off to do as instructed.

U.S. MARSHAL (CONT'D)
I want every building searched and sealed...

FBI AGENT
(calls out)
Sir, we've located Agent Sadusky's phone!

The U.S. Marshall strides over to a group of agents standing around Sadusky's smashed phone lying on the blacktop.

FEDERAL AGENT
People, we have a missing federal agent. I want him found alive!

222 EXT. GRANITE PLATEAU - DAY 222

Ben scans the rockscape around him but can't see anything remotely resembling an eagle.

BEN
Maybe it's not an eagle....

He looks down to Wilkinson, stumped.

BEN (CONT'D)
Maybe noble bird means something else...

But Ben's voice trails off because now he sees it.

BEN (CONT'D)
There it is!

Ben points to the ground.

BEN (CONT'D)
It is an eagle.

Wilkinson looks around, confused.

WILKINSON
Where? I don't see it.

BEN
That's because you can only see it from up here.

FROM BEN'S POV, we look down, and we now see the shape of a giant eagle formed in the craggy terrain at their feet.

BEN (CONT'D)
You're standing on his wing.

Wilkinson steps back and regards the rocks at his feet. They do indeed form a feathered wing.

Ben slides down off the boulder and moves to where Wilkinson stands. Ben kneels at his feet and studies the rocks while reciting the poem. * * *

BEN (CONT'D) * * *
"Find the noble bird. He will take your hand and give you passage." *

Ben runs his hands along the wing. Wilkinson scoffs.

WILKINSON
It's a rock. It can't do anything.

Wilkinson points his gun to Ben's head.

WILKINSON (CONT'D)
Stop bluffing.

222 CONTINUED: 222

BEN
I'm not. It's here.

Ben feels around the rocks, thinking out loud.

BEN (CONT'D)
He will take your hand...

Ben's eyes are drawn to the beak. He moves to it.

BEN (CONT'D)
For the eagle to take your hand...

There is a small, thin crevice.

BEN (CONT'D)
...you must first offer your hand.

Ben slips his hand into the crevice. He reaches in deep, up to his elbow. Then...

...THUNK! We wince. Did Ben just lose his hand?

BEN (CONT'D)
It's a latch.

Ben pulls something we cannot see. Suddenly, there is a loud SCRAPING SOUND as one of the smaller boulders SLIDES OPEN. As it opens we can see...

A NARROW PASSAGE. Barely wide enough for one person to crawl through. Nothing but blackness beyond.

Wilkinson pulls his gun away from Ben's head and then waves it at him.

WILKINSON
Let's go.

Ben flicks on a flashlight, ducks down, and crawls inside. As soon as he does, the passage suddenly starts to close!

Wilkinson hurriedly follows...

223 INT. SACRED PASSAGE - DAY 223

...just barely squeezing in as the boulder rumbles shut.

Ben's FLASHLIGHT cuts through the blackness, revealing...

...An ancient PULLEY SYSTEM using thick vine-like ropes, logs, and boulder counter-balances. Ben studies the system, in amazement.

BEN
This looks to be...
(impossibly)
...ancient Aztec or Mayan. Same technology used to build the pyramids.

223 CONTINUED: 223

But Wilkinson couldn't care less.

WILKINSON
Yeah. Great. Where's the City of Gold?

Ben directs his light down a LONG NARROW PASSAGEWAY.

BEN
I'm guessing that way.

There is a pile of torches stacked on the cave floor. Ben grabs one.

BEN (CONT'D)
Got a match? *

224 EXT. PRIVATE ROAD - DAY 224

The H2 trundles down this winding, dirt road deep in the forest.

225 INT. BLACK H2, MOVING - DAY 225

McCrady drives. He scans the trees out the windshield. The road is rocky, overgrown, rarely used.

MCCRADY
This looks good.

McCrady parks and cuts the engine.

226 EXT. WOODED AREA - DAY 226

The H2's back door opens. Sadusky hops out, followed by Clay who drags Sadusky to a nearby spot in the brush.

Suddenly, WHUMP-WHUMP-WHUMP-WHUMP! A POLICE CHOPPER flies directly overhead, but there's too much tree cover for the chopper to see them. It passes.

CLAY
Some people just aren't lucky.

Clay forces Sadusky to his knees and puts his gun to the back of Sadusky's head.

Sadusky closes his eyes. This is it.

Clay squeezes the trigger, and...

...THWACK! Clay drops, out cold. Behind him, we see...

...PATRICK stands with a log.

Sadusky sighs with relief.

PATRICK
Are you--

226 CONTINUED: 226

Sadusky puts his finger to his lips like, "Shhh!" He then scoops up Clay's gun and FIRES IT INTO THE GROUND...BLAM!

227 EXT. BLACK H2 - DAY 227

McCrady hears the gunshot and smiles. He lights a cigarette and takes a deep drag. Suddenly...

...THE BARREL OF A GUN is pressed against the side of his head. It's Sadusky.

McCrady is big, but he's quicker than Sadusky's expecting. A scuffle ensues...

228 INT. BLACK H2 - DAY 228

Emily listens to the commotion outside, frightened. Something THUMPS outside! Then, a loud CRASH!

Emily jumps, startled.

Then, silence. Footsteps approach. The back door finally opens to reveal...

...PATRICK!

Emily sighs with relief. Patrick climbs into the back seat and gently pulls the duct tape from her mouth.

PATRICK
Are you all right?

But Emily says nothing. She just stares at Patrick.

PATRICK (CONT'D)
I know you're mad. This is all my fault. I deserve whatever it is that you're going to say--

Emily grabs Patrick and KISSES HIM HARD ON THE MOUTH!

Patrick is stunned...but doesn't fight it. After a moment, they're kissing passionately.

Off screen, we hear Sadusky clear his throat.

Patrick and Emily pull out of their kiss to find Sadusky standing there, watching them.

SADUSKY
You got a cell phone?

229 INT. SACRED PASSAGE - DAY 229

Carrying torches, Ben and Wilkinson move down the passage. * Ben comes to a torch sconce and lights it as he passes.

As they continue on, the passage narrows into a TIGHT PINCH. They stop and regard the pinch.

229 CONTINUED: 229

WILKINSON
After you.

230 INT. SACRED PASSAGE, PINCH - DAY 230

Pushing his torch ahead of him, Ben army crawls through the pinch, followed by Wilkinson. The pinch finally opens up into...blackness. A cavern.

Ben waves his torch in the air in front of him. Something twinkles back like stars in the night.

231 INT. SACRED CAVERN - DAY 231

Ben pulls himself through and tumbles out of the pinch, coming face-to-face with...A SKELETON!

Ben quickly rolls away. There are several more skeletons lying about. He studies what's left of their deteriorated colonial-era clothing.

Ben finds something etched into the wall behind one of the skeletons..."A. DARE, 1591"

Wilkinson jumps down from the pinch.

BEN
"A. Dare. 1591."
(to Wilkinson)
Ananias Dare. The Lost Roanoke Colonists. They made it here.

Wilkinson studies the skeletons, puzzled.

WILKINSON
How'd they die?

BEN
Maybe we should get out of here before we find out. *

But Wilkinson ignores him and holds out his torch, illuminating the cavern wall which shimmers in the torchlight.

WILKINSON
Gold!

Wilkinson hurriedly scrabbles down a steep decline and splashes down into...

...WATER! A LAKE! We didn't see it before, because the water is so clear. Now, it ripples and GLOWS as if by magic! But it's not magic. It's...

BEN
Bioluminescent plankton.
(to himself)
"Let the light be your guide to the sacred temple." *

231 CONTINUED: 231

As the rings of ripples expand across the lake, the GLOWING INTENSIFIES, illuminating the entire cavern in a glorious effect.

The stalagmites and stalactites sparkle. It looks like a nighttime cityscape. They're awe-struck by the sight.

WILKINSON
The City of Gold! We've found it!

Wilkinson gingerly walks across a series of flat stepping stones leading across the lake to...

A GOLDEN STALACTITE in the center of the lake.

Ben holds his torch to the cavern walls.

CLOSE UP we see that indeed the granite walls are speckled with big chunks of GOLD.

Just then, Wilkinson reaches the last stepping stone, which SINKS UNDER HIS WEIGHT!

SUDDENLY...THERE IS THE SOUND OF RUSHING WATER all around them. *

WILKINSON (CONT'D)
What's that?

BEN
Something very bad. *

Ben scrambles for the pinch...but he's too late. The pinch seals with a thunderous crash.

And then...A DELUGE OF WATER POURS IN, GUSHING IN FROM EVERY CRACK AND FISSURE IN THE CEILING AND WALLS!

The force of the thundering cascade knocks them both off their feet and sweeps them into the lake.

It also extinguishes their torches, plunging them into an eerie green bioluminescent light from the roiling waters.

They claw at the walls and slippery rock formations, trying to find purchase. Wilkinson calls over the din of the rushing water.

WILKINSON
How are we going to get out of here?!

Ben scans the raging bioluminescent waters. At the bottom of the lake, Ben spots...

A bioluminescent VORTEX WHIRLPOOL dancing over a pile stones.

BEN
(to himself)
"Let the light be your guide."

231 CONTINUED: (2) 231

WILKINSON
What?!

Ben takes a deep breath and disappears under the water's surface.

232 INT. CAVERN LAKE/UNDERWATER - DAY 232

Ben dives down to the lake bottom, a streak of photospores in his wake.

He reaches the glowing VORTEX. Water is being sucked to somewhere under the rocks. Ben starts quickly clearing the rocks away, revealing...

AN ARCANE STONE MECHANISM.

But Ben's lungs are bursting. He kicks back to...

233 INT. SACRED CAVERN - DAY 233

Ben explodes on the surface, gulping air. The cavern is filling quickly. Ben calls to Wilkinson.

BEN
I found something! Hold on tight!

Ben takes a breath and then dives back down.

Wilkinson clings to a stalactite.

234 INT. CAVERN LAKE/UNDERWATER - DAY 234

Ben kicks back down to the swirling vortex. He sweeps the remaining rocks, revealing a STONE LEVER.

Ben pulls the lever with all his might...

Suddenly, a stone slab underneath his feet DROPS OPEN like a hangman's hatch...

SUCKING THE WATER down into the void beneath!

Ben clings to the lever as the roaring water blasts past him...

235 INT. SACRED CAVERN - DAY 235

Wilkinson is torn away from his stalactite in the current of the now massive VORTEX.

236 INT. CAVERN LAKE/UNDERWATER - DAY 236

Wilkinson is swept into the void.

But Ben reaches out...and grabs his hand...

As the water gushes past, Ben grits his teeth, fighting to hold onto Wilkinson...

236 CONTINUED: 236

Finally, the gushing water starts to eddy...

They gasp for air and choke on swallowed water as their faces break the surface...

The last of the water drains out, leaving Ben and Wilkinson dangling over...

237 INT. VOID - DAY 237

A seemingly bottomless pit of blackness.

Ben is clinging to the lever, lying on the stone slab which is canted and slippery.

Ben is still holding onto Wilkinson, but Ben cannot pull himself up and keep hold of Wilkinson too.

BEN
You're going to have to pull yourself up!

But Wilkinson's attention is drawn down into the pit. Something down there...way down...SPARKLES.

WILKINSON
The City of Gold! It's down there! *

BEN
I can't hold on much longer!

WILKINSON
There's more water down there! I can see it!

Wilkinson lets go himself...and PLUMMETS!

And disappears into the inky blackness...a long fall...and then we hear it...

A FAINT SPLASH and a distant flash of iridescent light. Then nothing.

Just then...

RILEY (O.S.)
Ben?

Ben looks up to find...

RILEY and ABIGAIL standing over him, holding torches.

Ben smiles, relieved and surprised.

BEN
You guys figured it out!

ABIGAIL
Don't look so surprised.

237 CONTINUED: 237

Riley and Abigail kneel down and help pull Ben out.

RILEY
It wasn't that hard. Find the bird. *
Stick your hand in a hole. And follow *
the creepy tunnel. *
(then)
Actually, Abigail figured it out.

Ben rolls onto his back and catches his breath. Riley and Abigail take in their golden surroundings, in awe.

ABIGAIL
So this is it? The City of Gold?

Ben shakes his head.

BEN
No. That's pyrite.

RILEY
(disappointed)
Wait. You mean...Fool's Gold?

BEN
Yep.

RILEY
(crushed)
There's no gold?

BEN
Oh, no. There's gold. A whole city of it.

Ben pulls himself to his feet.

BEN (CONT'D)
The natives hid it from the explorers. It's down there.

Ben grabs Riley's torch.

BEN (CONT'D)
Take a look.

He drops the torch into the VOID.

238 INT. VOID/CITY OF GOLD - DAY 238

We FOLLOW THE TORCH as it falls, cart-wheeling down, briefly illuminating the impossible...

A GOLDEN PYRAMID...only lit a small portion at a time...it seems to go on and on...it's enormous.

Finally, the torch splashes down into some water and is extinguished.

239 INT. SACRED CAVERN - DAY 239

Ben, Abigail, and Riley look down into the void as the gold pyramid flashes briefly and then disappears.

RILEY
Tell me you both just saw that.

Abigail and Ben exchange a grin.

ABIGAIL/BEN
We saw it.

240 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, PARKING LOT - DAY 240

The park is closed, and a COMMAND CENTER has been set up in the parking lot. Sadusky is here with Patrick and Emily.

A FED comes running over to Sadusky with a cell phone.

FED
I got a guy on the phone claims he's Ben Gates.

Sadusky takes the phone.

SADUSKY
(into the phone)
You'd better be Ben.

241 EXT. GRANITE PLATEAU - DAY 241

Ben, Riley, and Abigail are standing on the eagle rock entrance. Ben smiles, relieved.

BEN
(into the phone)
Good to hear your voice, sir.

242 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, PARKING LOT - DAY 242

Sadusky signals to the agents around him, cupping the phone.

SADUSKY
It's him!

Emily and Patrick hug each other, desperately relieved. The agents muster to triangulate the call.

INTERCUT BEN AND SADUSKY talking on their phones.

BEN
How's my mom?

SADUSKY
She's safe. You got a lot of people looking for you.

242 CONTINUED: 242

BEN
Tell the President that I want to talk to him.

SADUSKY
That's not going to happen.

Riley's signaling Ben in the background like, "Go on...say it," but whatever it is, Ben is reluctant.

SADUSKY (CONT'D)
You promised you'd turn yourself in.

BEN
We found the City of Gold.

That stops Sadusky. He's impressed.

BEN (CONT'D)
Everything Thomas Gates said was true.

SADUSKY
It doesn't matter. You still committed a federal crime.

Riley keeps urging Ben who finally gives in.

BEN
Tell the President that I know what's on page 273.

RILEY
(whispers, correcting him)
274.

BEN
Page 274.

Sadusky doesn't respond, and we don't see his reaction.

BEN (CONT'D)
Sir?

SADUSKY
Gates, you've gotten much better at negotiating.

243 EXT. GRANITE PLATEAU - DUSK 243

A gorgeous Black Hills sunset.

244 INT. VOID - DAY 244

Wearing climbing gear, Sadusky rappels down the vertical drop. His headlamp illuminates the sheer granite and crystal walls as he slowly spirals down...

The passage opens up at the bottom into a glorious sight...

245 INT. CITY OF GOLD - DAY 245

An ENORMOUS CAVERN lit by dozens of torches. Not only is this cavern big enough to house one golden pyramid but four other pyramids and several other smaller structures made of gold as well.

It truly is a city made of gold.

Ben, Patrick, Abigail, and Riley are all down here already.

Sadusky touches down, joining them. They are dwarfed by the size and beauty of this great cavern.

Sadusky stares in wonderment at their surroundings.

SADUSKY
I think the President could pay off the national debt with this.

Sadusky turns and eyes Ben.

SADUSKY (CONT'D)
I can't believe you found it. Congratulations, Gates.

BEN
Thank you, sir.

Sadusky starts taking pictures of the cavern.

SADUSKY
Too bad no one can ever know about it.

Ben and Patrick deflate.

BEN
But this proves that Thomas Gates was--

SADUSKY
--Don't worry. The President will make sure your ancestor's name is cleared of any conspiracy allegations in the Lincoln Assassination.

Sadusky turns back to regard the cavern.

SADUSKY (CONT'D)
But no one can ever know about this. This is sacred land, and it's just too much gold. Too much temptation.

PATRICK
Yet another entry in the President's secret book? *

245 CONTINUED: 245

SADUSKY
You will all be credited with the discovery...in the book that no one will ever know exists.

RILEY
Just so I'm clear. Are you saying that we can't keep any of the gold?

SADUSKY
Yes, that's what I'm saying. But the President has agreed to give you a reward.
(then)
I don't know what's on page 274, but it must be a doozy.

RILEY
One more question. Regarding our reward...do we have to pay taxes on it?

246 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, AVENUE OF FLAGS - TWILIGHT 246

The park is open again and crowded with TOURISTS. Ben and Sadusky buy popcorn from a VENDOR.

BEN
One thing I keep wondering.

SADUSKY
Oh yeah, what's that?

The vendor hands them their popcorn, and they head to the amphitheater.

BEN
If you didn't want me to go after the book, why'd you tell me about it?

SADUSKY
Well, when you become a 33rd-degree master mason, you wonder if half the stuff they tell you is true.
(shrugs)
I was curious.

A park ranger dressed as ABRAHAM LINCOLN passes by, tipping his hat to them.

247 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, GIFT SHOP - TWILIGHT 247

Riley exits the gift shop wearing a bunch of those neon GLOW-NECKLACES around his neck. A cute BRUNETTE passes by. She recognizes Riley and stops.

247 CONTINUED: 247

CUTE BRUNETTE
Hey, you're that guy! That treasure hunter, right?

RILEY
No, actually, the guy you're thinking of, he's somewhere over there.

Riley points off into the near distance.

CUTE BRUNETTE
No. You're him. Riley Poole. I recognize you from your book cover.

She pulls off her backpack and unzips it.

RILEY
You read my book?

She pulls out his book, well-worn and oft-read.

CUTE BRUNETTE
Only about a hundred times. Will you sign it for me?

248 EXT. MOUNT RUSHMORE, AMPHITHEATER - TWILIGHT 248

The stands are filled with a large CROWD waiting for the fireworks show.

Carrying their popcorn, Ben and Sadusky move to their seats, where they find...

Abigail sitting with Patrick and Emily who are holding hands and looking cozy. Ben makes a face.

BEN
Do you guys have to do that?

EMILY
What?

PATRICK
This?

Patrick wraps his arm around Emily. She beams.

EMILY
Your father and I met on a treasure hunt, you know.

BEN
(rolls his eyes)
Yeah, I know.

EMILY
(to Patrick)
We should have never broken up.

248 CONTINUED: 248

PATRICK
I was a fool.

EMILY
No, I was the fool.

They kiss. Ben tries not to look as he pushes past, taking his seat next to Abigail. Ben hands her a bag of popcorn.

ABIGAIL
Thanks.

They sit there in silence for a moment, then finally Ben can't take it anymore. He sighs, exasperated.

BEN
Why were we fighting again?

ABIGAIL
I don't even remember anymore.

BEN
Me neither.

With that, Ben grabs the popcorn, tosses it aside, sweeps Abigail into his arms, and KISSES HER!

The FIREWORKS SHOW over Mount Rushmore begins as they continue kissing and as we...

FADE OUT.

The End.