

`RED CIRCLE`

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INT. QUEENS HEAD PUB/SNOOKER HALL (HONG KONG) - NIGHT

In a large pool/snooker hall, a single snooker table is lit by the square overhead light. The balls are set up for the break. Other unlit tables are in shadow. A fly buzzes around the fluorescent light, casting a moving shadow on the table...

The fly lands on the white cue ball. Suddenly...

The cue ball is struck by a cue and the balls scatter...

From directly above the table we see the balls following their various trajectories. We see the caption...

Caption. *The Red Circle...*

Credits continue over what follows...

When all the balls have come to rest, we see a close up of the circular tip of the cue as it is chalked with RED chalk by the player, who is still in shadow. We see *the red circle of the tip*. The players' lips come close and he blows a small cloud of red dust into the air.

Through the cloud of dust, we see, in the near background, a door opening and on a blade of light the Manager enters (THOMAS). He's overweight and wheezes as he approaches...

We still see the snooker player in silhouette until Thomas casually flicks on some lights as he passes a bank of switches. Suddenly, all the other snooker tables in the hall light up...their lights flickering into life.

We see the snooker player is SEAN, around twenty five, good looking, unshaven.

We also see that ANOTHER MAN is lying down on one of the other snooker tables, apparently asleep. We don't see him clearly yet, but this is COREY.

Sean stoops to take another shot. Thomas has gone behind the bar and poured himself a whiskey. There is a PARROT IN A CAGE above the bar and it angles its head at Thomas.

In the background, Corey, still lying down, lights a cigarette with a zippo lighter. Up close we see MILITARY INSIGNIA on the lighter. Corey blows smoke up into the light then speaks without moving.

COREY

What time is it, fat man?

Thomas pours two more whiskeys and brings them to Sean and Corey...

THOMAS

It worries me when you need to
know the time. It means something
is going to happen.

Sean sips his whiskey. Corey finally sits up but lays his
whiskey aside and draws his knees up to his chest.

COREY

Yeah.

Corey slides off the snooker table. Thomas shrugs...lights
a cigarette...

THOMAS

You're working for Mr Santi
tonight, right?

Corey and Sean glance at each other. Thomas gestures at
the parrot...

THOMAS (CONT'D)

The parrot tells me things.

(As Corey flicks his cigarette, on his forearm we see A
MILITARY TATTOO which we see more clearly than on the
lighter...It signifies that he was in the British Parachute
regiment...)

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You should take insurance. I've
got a gun in the safe.

Thomas gestures toward the bar.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Soldiers from the regiment should
stick together.

Corey and Sean give each other a dubious look. Corey
glances at the snooker table and makes a fast count of the
balls Sean has left. There are three reds still remaining
and all the colors. He glances at Sean, at the
table...then at the safe.

Sean peers at Corey with amused disbelief...reading his
mind before we do.

Corey draws on his cigarette. Sean shakes his head and
casually leans into his shot...then suddenly...

Sean fires off his shot fast, smashing a red into the
pocket.

The race is on.

Corey leaps over the bar. Sean is potting balls as fast as he can, stalking around the table as Corey pulls open a hidden door at eye level behind the bar and locates the safe.

The parrot hops around and squawks... 'God save the Queen' over and over...

Corey begins to expertly crack the safe as Sean continues to pot balls. This is a tight race. We cut between the balls being fired into the pockets and Corey, delicately turning the dial of the safe (another red circle) with his cigarette smouldering in his mouth.

Suddenly...

Sean is standing with the cue and the white cue ball in his hand, the table cleared. Almost at the same moment, Corey cracks open the safe and pulls out a small semi-automatic pistol.

Sean smiles. Corey looks genuinely pissed off that he lost. He engages the pistol and gestures at the ball in Sean's hand.

COREY
Double or quits.

Sean thinks for a moment, shrugs then nods.

Sean tosses the white cue ball into the air and dives for cover. Corey takes aim. We cut close to the white cue ball spinning in slow motion in mid-air... a red circle on its side where the cue hit it. Corey fires. The white cue ball explodes into a thousand pieces as the bullet hits.

The dust settles.

As Sean slowly gets to his feet, Thomas emerges too... a little shaken up. Corey grabs his coat and pockets the gun as he speaks to Thomas.

COREY (CONT'D)
Your balls are too soft, fat man.

Corey heads for the door... Sean follows. They leave and the door swings closed.

EXT. OVERVIEW, HONG KONG, DRIPPING WITH LIGHT - NIGHT

We see an aerial shot of the night time City of Hong Kong stretched out before us.

EXT. QUEENS HEAD PUB/SNOOKER HALL

We see Corey and Sean emerging from the snooker hall. They toss away their cigarettes and climb into a black Mercedes.

A jet flies low overhead. Corey glances up at it as he gets into the car...

INT. JET FLYING INTO HONG KONG

In a crowded jet, flying in from Bangkok, we scan the faces of some of the passengers as they strap on their seat belts. Then, we look over the shoulder of a passenger who is reading The Times of London. We don't see this guy's face, we just see that he has almost completed The Times crossword...

The guy is wearing an iPod and we can just hear the percussion of the music...

INT. HONG KONG AIRPORT, PASSPORT CONTROL

The flight from Bangkok has just landed and a long queue of Chinese and Europeans are waiting to have their documents checked.

We see a guy in a dark suit and shades, a woman with some song birds in a cage. Tired kids play around their parent's feet. There is also the young Anglo who we glimpsed on the plane...

Once again, we don't see his face. We just see that he is dressed like a backpacker. He's consulting a fold-out map and listening to his iPod.

We will learn that this ordinary looking guy is VOGEL.

The border guard calls him forward. Vogel pulls his iPod from his ear as he approaches the border guard. We hear the percussion of the music he's listening to.

The guard flicks through his passport...checks out the passport photo and looks up at Vogel, studying the face we haven't seen yet.

The guard seems satisfied and stamps his passport with *another red circle*.

INT. SANTI'S CLUB/CASINO - NIGHT

The place is full of well heeled gamblers and Euro-trash playing blackjack and roulette. We see Corey walking fast through the crowd. Eyes turn as he passes.

He arrives at a secure door which has a sign '*Strictly No Admittance*'. There is a large HEAVY guarding the door. Corey approaches and says one word.

COREY

Corey.

The heavy immediately frisks Corey thoroughly, then opens the door and Corey walks through it.

INT. CUSTOMS AREA, HONG KONG AIRPORT

We glimpse Vogel walking through the baggage area of the airport. He could be anyone in a crowd.

INT. SANTI'S CLUB/CASINO, STAFF AREA - NIGHT

At the same speed we see Corey walking past empty offices. Casino staff walk by with briefcases of cash on chains.

INT. LAVATORY, HONG KONG AIRPORT

We see Vogel walking into the men's lavatory.

A Chinese guy is washing his hands at a sink and reacts when he sees Vogel entering in the mirror reflection. It's as if he's been waiting for Vogel.

He picks up a package which is resting beside the sink...

INT. LAVATORY CUBICLE, HONG KONG AIRPORT

Vogel enters, turns and sits down into shot. For the first time, we see Vogel's face fully.

He takes his ear piece out of his ear and we hear the percussion of the music again. He unzips a pocket in his rucksack to put his passport away.

Inside the pocket, we see a dozen passports from different countries.

He has a pen to hand and completes The Times crossword.

Then, at his feet, he notices the package being pushed under the side panel of the cubicle. This comes as no surprise to Vogel and he picks it up casually and unwraps it.

Inside, he finds...A 9MM PISTOL taped into a clear plastic bag. In a small bag inside the first bag there are bullets and he proceeds to load a clip of bullets into the gun with easy professionalism.

He pockets the gun, puts his *iPod* back into his ear, and leaves...

INT. SANTI'S CLUB/CASINO, STAFF AREA

Corey arrives at an office at the end of the long corridor. It is guarded by two more HEAVIES. They block his path. Corey says one word again.

COREY

Corey.

Corey is frisked again, this time more thoroughly. They pull his jacket back onto his shoulders with a jerk, and dig their hands between his legs. It seems as if the frisking is a deliberate humiliation, which Corey takes without expression.

Finally they step aside and one of them opens the heavy, padded door.

INT. SANTI'S CLUB/CASINO, OFFICE

As Corey enters, we find SANTI sitting in a pool of light, talking on the telephone. He is late forties, ANGLO, hard as nails and mean looking, even though he is immaculately groomed. His face is bathed in light from the computer screen which is on screen saver.

The screen saver is a smiling portrait of a beautiful woman (who we will later discover is Santi's wife, AN).

Santi is talking on the phone in a soft, intimate voice as Corey enters.

SANTI (INTO PHONE)

Baby you wear what I want you to wear....

As Corey enters he is confronted by Santi and the face of An on the screen saver.

It is as if Santi wants Corey to see the face on the screen. Corey doesn't even glance at the face. Santi continues with his intimate conversation as if Corey wasn't there.

SANTI (CONT'D INTO PHONE)

Yeah you wear what I tell you to wear because I know what looks good. I'm better than a mirror.

For just half a second Santi appears to be checking Corey's reaction to the face on the screen and to his conversation.

(We will later learn that Corey is having an affair with Santi's wife who is pictured on the screen saver, but for the moment, we see only the flicker of tension in their faces.)

Santi reaches into a drawer in his desk and takes out a sheet of paper, continuing to talk into the phone...

SANTI (CONT'D INTO PHONE)
I just have some shit to clear up
here first.

Santi hands Corey the sheet of paper and we see three sets of numbers written on it (they are safe deposit codes). As Corey takes the sheet.

SANTI (CONT'D INTO PHONE)
When I get home I'm going to take
a swim and a shower and I'm going
to fuck you.

Santi looks up at Corey...

SANTI (CONT'D SOFTLY INTO PHONE)
I love you, OK?

For the first time Corey glances once at An's face smiling out from the screen saver. He is holding back a huge emotion but he does it well. He folds the sheet of paper and walks smartly out of the office.

INT. CAR/EXT. BANK, HONG KONG TRADING PARTNERS

Corey is driving the car fast as Sean loads a clip of bullets into his gun. Corey looks like an angry man keeping his emotion in check for the sake of the work he must do.

A traffic light changes from green to red. *Another red circle...* Corey pulls up at the lights...

We see a young boy with his mother, holding a reflective balloon with a toy parachutist dangling from it. The mother and boy are waiting to cross. When the lights change we see they are crossing in front of Corey and Sean's Mercedes.

Corey and Sean pay no attention to the boy with the balloon. Instead we see them peering over at the TRADING PARTNERS bank with professional eyes.

A beaten up old truck behind them hoots its horn because the lights have changed. Corey pulls away...The boy with the balloon disappears around a corner...

EXT. HONG KONG CENTRAL/HOLLYWOOD ROAD - NIGHT

We hear the thud of music from inside a night club.

Crowds of young hip kids queue up to enter. We see two large, shaven headed doormen on the door. Also among the crowd we see the balloon...

The boy and his mother are hurrying through the crowd towards their home. The boy is staring up at his balloon and bumps directly into a Chinese guy in his late thirties in a suit and tie.

He looks out of place among all these hip kids but when he smiles at the boy with the balloon...he has young eyes. This is JUNJIE...He speaks in Cantonese...

JUNJIE

(Look where you're going kid,
huh?)

As the boy steps back, he lets go of his balloon and it flies away into the night sky.

The boy's mother grabs the boy's hand and glares at Junjie before tugging the boy away. Junjie glances up at the balloon as it flies then steps on his cigarette and heads for the door of the night club...

INT. HONG KONG, CENTRAL, HOLLYWOOD ROAD - NIGHT

The shrill electronic beat of night club music. DOZENS of young, hip LOCALS mix it up on the dance floor - this is where the youngsters go to party...

Then we see JUNJIE pushing his way toward the bar.

JUNJIE

(Beer).

The barman slaps a bottle of imported beer down. The Chinese barman speaks in English.

BARMAN

Fifteen dollars.

JUNJIE

For a beer?

BARMAN

For the music.

Junjie reaches for his wallet...

JUNJIE
(I'd pay fifteen dollars to
switch it off. Give me a whisky
too.)

The barman laughs and pours Junjie a large whisky. Junjie checks his watch. It's ten thirty.

INT. CAR/EXT. ALLEYWAY, BEHIND THE BANK

Corey checks his watch too. It's ten thirty...

Corey and Sean pull up in a dark alley behind the bank among giant trash cans.

They both get out of the car and Corey grabs a bag of tools from the trunk. Sean pulls on a balaclava and tosses one to Corey.

INT. NIGHT CLUB

Junjie is leaning against a wall, staring out at the hip crowd. He is sipping whisky and smoking a cigarette.

After a moment, a young, fashionable looking Chinese girl arrives at Junjie's side. This is MAI. She's dressed to kill with a stylish haircut.

At first, from the way Mai is glancing at Junjie, we may think that she is hitting on him. Then Mai and Junjie begin to speak softly to each other in Cantonese and *it is obvious they don't want anyone to see them talking*. They both look straight ahead. (We will learn that they are cops).

MAI
(How come they sent you?)

JUNJIE
(Why not?)

MAI
(We're undercover. You look like
someone's dad.)

JUNJIE
(Just show me where he is.)

Mai takes a swig of water...looking around as if Junjie isn't there. Then she sets off. Junjie swigs down his whisky and turns to follow...

MAI
(You shouldn't be drinking whisky
on duty.)

JUNJIE
(You sound like someone's dad.)

INT. HONG KONG TRADING PARTNERS, BOILER ROOM

Sean and Corey drop into shot from a trap door in the ceiling. Corey drops an EQUIPMENT BAG onto the concrete floor.

They are faced by a large security door with a key pad. Corey takes the piece of paper Santi gave him and smooths it out. He punches the first line of numbers into the key pad.

Sean pulls out a small truncheon.

SMASH TO:

INT. HONG KONG TRADING PARTNERS, CORRIDOR

A crowbar slams into the edge of a steel door inside the secure area. Sean and Corey heave the door open and hurry through it.

INT. HONG KONG TRADING PARTNERS, CORRIDOR

Two security guards are strolling down the corridor, chatting. Suddenly they are both grabbed from the shadows, one by Sean and one by Corey. The guards are struck once and instantly fall into unconsciousness (we should realize by now that Sean and Corey are skilled in martial arts.)

INT. HONG KONG TRADING PARTNERS, GUARD OFFICE - NIGHT

A nervous looking SECURITY GUARD is pouring himself a cup of coffee when the door bursts open and Sean enters in his mask. The guard drops his coffee and fumbles for his gun. Corey, his face also masked, steps toward the guard with his truncheon raised. As he does, the guard glances up at the CCTV security camera and whispers to Corey...

GUARD (WHISPERING)
Make it look good.

Corey slams the guard over the back of the head with his truncheon...

As he does...

EXT. NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

SLAM...

Junjie shoves a big, shaven headed doorman (BRUCE) into a doorway and pulls his gun. The guy hits the door hard. Mai is behind Junjie and looks a little startled at Junjie's hard line approach.

JUNJIE
(I hear you've been selling
cocaine to kids.)

The big guy turns and slowly looks Junjie up and down...After a moment...he smiles. Junjie peers at him...

JUNJIE (CONT'D)
(Hey Mai look at the smile. He's
relieved we're cops and not
Triad.)

Junjie smiles.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)
(And he knows we're honest cops
because we're wearing cheap
shoes, right? And because we're
honest all he has to do is say
nothing.)

Bruce shrugs then holds open his coat, ready to be frisked. Mai goes through his pockets fast and finds...nothing.

MAI (PUZZLED)
(He's clean).

Bruce smiles. To our surprise, Junjie leans close to Bruce's face.

JUNJIE
(Kiss me.)

The big guy steps back but Junjie points his gun. He smiles then puts his hand to Bruce's cheeks. We think he is going to kiss Bruce...but instead, Junjie squeezes harder and harder to open Bruce's lips and we see a bag of cocaine hidden inside Bruce's mouth. Junjie pulls it out.

Bruce tries to make a break for it but Junjie makes a move and flattens him to the floor.

Junjie looks up at Mai and smiles...

JUNJIE (CONT'D)
('He who knows does not speak. He
who speaks does not know').

EXT. ALLEYWAY, BEHIND THE BANK

In the half light we find Corey's Mercedes parked...and in the wing mirror reflection we see...VOGEL approaching.

He examines the front passenger seat. He studies the lock and smiles. He reaches into his backpack and pulls out a length of wire. He expertly jabs the wire into the window seal near the lock and within a second has opened the door.

He reaches in and releases the trunk. He goes to the back of the car, opens the trunk and tosses his backpack in before CLIMBING INTO THE TRUNK HIMSELF. He lies down and pulls the trunk lid down so that it is almost closed. He pulls his pistol from his backpack and lays it on his chest.

Then he pulls a PSP computer game from his backpack and flicks it on.

This is some strange guy. Playing games at a time like this.

The blue light of the computer game lights his face and he begins to play a PSP game right there in the trunk of the car...

EXT. HONG KONG TRADING PARTNERS, VAULT

Two uniformed guards sit fast asleep in hard backed chairs, their mouths open. Sean and Corey step into shot from either side. Corey makes a gesture and Corey and Sean silently remove their balaclavas. They turn the balaclavas around and quickly pull them down over the faces of the guards back to front, so that when the guards open their eyes in shock they see nothing. Both guards leap to their feet, blinded and confused. Corey and Sean beat them to the ground.

INT. HONG KONG TRADING PARTNERS, VAULT

Corey and Sean approach a thick vault door of the old-fashioned combination lock variety. Corey is studying the vault door as Sean sidles up to him and peers at the lock.

Corey again produces the piece of paper from his pocket with the combination numbers on it. He sets to work on the combination lock...

EXT. HONG KONG STREET - NIGHT

Junjie is driving Mai back to the precinct. The streets are alive and the neon lights intermittently light their faces. Junjie is smoking a cigarette. Mai is being a little sour.

JUNJIE

(What's wrong with you? We did well. We should have a drink.)

MAI

(We're still on duty.)

Mai coughs a little and opens the window to takes a big breath of air. Junjie realizes the problem is his cigarette...

JUNJIE

(You kids don't do anything unhealthy anymore. What are you going to die of?)

Mai glances at Junjie's cigarette...

MAI

(Other people's sins.)

INT. HONG KONG TRADING PARTNERS, VAULT

From inside, we see the vault door opening, revealing Corey and Sean. Across the vault, a wall of SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES is visible in the dim light.

INT. HONG KONG TRADING PARTNERS, CORRIDOR

Corey and Sean are making their escape with the cash.

INT. TRUNK OF THE CAR, OUTSIDE THE BANK

Vogel is lying in the trunk of the car with his gun resting on his chest, and playing the PSP computer game. He hears Sean and Corey emerging from the bank. He lays the game aside...

EXT. HONG KONG TRADING PARTNERS

We cut to the door where Corey and Sean are bursting out of the rear entrance of the bank with their bags of money. They both rip off their balaclava masks.

Sean hurries to the trunk of the car and lifts it. As he does, he is greeted by a gun pointed directly at him. Vogel keeps the gun pointed as he steps out of the trunk and takes the bag of money out of Sean's hand. The PSP game continues to play inside the trunk, filling it with eerie, flickering light.

Corey has turned and seen that Vogel now has a gun pointed at Sean and has one bag of money in his hand. Corey still has the other bag of cash.

Vogel speaks dead-pan...

VOGEL

If you give me the rest of the
money, I'll let your brother
live.

Corey assesses the situation quickly. His hand moves slowly toward the pocket where he put the gun Thomas gave him...

COREY

Who the fuck are you?

Vogel smiles...

VOGEL

The winner. So I take it all.

They stare at each other. Corey glances at the bag of money in Vogel's hand and smiles.

COREY

You misunderstand. What you have
in your hand is my brother's
share.

A pause.

COREY (CONT'D)

That's *his* problem.

Vogel reacts. Corey walks around the car. He calmly opens the car door and throws the bag of money onto the passenger seat. He then fires the engine and switches on the headlights.

Vogel glances at Sean...

VOGEL

Nice family.

Vogel's eyes die in his face. He engages his pistol and is about to shoot Sean point blank in the head.

In that heart beat, Corey slams the car into reverse and as he does, Sean aims a blow at Vogel's throat. Vogel drags Sean out of the way of the reversing car and as they fall against the wall Vogel once again puts his gun to Sean's head to kill him.

However, Corey has rolled from the car with his pistol in his hand as he reversed and he points it directly at Vogel's head.

We now have a three way stand off.

EXT. BANK, TRAFFIC LIGHTS

We see the same set of traffic lights outside the bank changing from green to red.

We see Junjie and Mai approaching in their car.

If the lights were on green, Junjie and Mai would drive on and never be involved in what happens next. But as they approach the traffic lights...the lights turn red...

A red circle of light changes their fate...

They pull up at the red light.

Mai has her window down because of the smoke. She turns her head away and, as she does, she sees three long shadows in the alley way behind the bank...and sees Corey and Vogel holding guns to each other's head.

MAI
(Junjie? Look...)

Junjie has already seen and has leapt out of the car. Mai follows.

EXT. BANK

We rejoin the stand-off and hear Junjie cry out in Cantonese...

JUNJIE
(Armed police!)

Vogel glances in the direction of the voice and Corey takes his opportunity. He knocks Vogel's gun-hand skyward. Vogel drops his bag of money. Junjie fires a warning shot and they all dive for cover.

Vogel rolls fast behind a trash can. Corey is behind the car. Sean is on the other side of the car.

The bag of money is now isolated in the headlights of the car.

There is silence...apart from the percussion of Vogel's iPod coming from the shadows...

There are...shapes moving. A rat scuttles through a blade of light. Vogel shoots it dead. Junjie calls out from his position at the entrance of the alley...

JUNJIE (CONT'D)

(Put down your weapons).

Corey and Sean open fire at Vogel. A bullet hits the trunk of the car and as it ricochets it smashes the PSP. Vogel sees and laughs...

VOGEL

Game over.

Corey fires a shot at the source of the voice and scores a direct hit on the iPod, which shatters. But Vogel has left it as a decoy and suddenly appears behind Corey to fire off a shot. Corey rolls out of the way.

Then suddenly Junjie appears from nowhere, gun raised at Vogel...and because he's a cop he doesn't fire off the killer shot. He hesitates...

Vogel takes the chance to roll into the shadows.

We cut around Corey, Sean, Vogel, Junjie and a very scared Mai, who is approaching the scene from the opposite direction to Junjie, her gun raised, her hand shaking.

The bag of money casts a long shadow against the headlights of the car.

We cut close to Corey. He calls out into the darkness.

COREY

Hey officer! This is a private matter. We don't need police. How much do you want to leave us alone?

Vogel hears...

VOGEL

I say we offer them fifty grand, yeah?

COREY

You're very generous with other people's money...

JUNJIE

Just put down your guns. We have
already sent for reinforcements.

Vogel calls out to Junjie.

VOGEL

How much do you earn in an
average year?

Junjie smiles...

JUNJIE

That's confidential information.

COREY

A hundred grand each. Final
offer.

JUNJIE

We just want your guns.

Vogel fires off a shot and there is a short burst of
bullets being exchanged.

We hear sirens approaching. Corey, Sean and Vogel know that
time is short. We study their faces as they try to decide
what to do next...

A moment later...one by one...they see something glistening
above their heads. A balloon with a parachutist hanging
from it...descending from the heavens. It is the balloon
the boy was carrying through the streets.

In the uncertain reflection of the balloon they see each
other. The moment lasts and lasts but it is Vogel who is
first to see the opportunity. He breaks cover and opens
fire at Sean...

The balloon bursts. The plastic parachutist falls and this
is a cue for the mayhem to begin.

They all break cover and open fire. Corey is hit in the
shoulder by a bullet and falls. Vogel fires...and Sean
falls dead.

Corey sees that Vogel has killed his brother and reacts
through his own pain.

He fires off a shot at Vogel but Junjie fires back.
Junie's bullet whizzes past Corey and hits Mai in the
forehead.

Mai falls down, mortally wounded.

Corey has fallen to the ground and his eyes are close to
the fallen plastic parachutist.

We see his agony as he pulls up to Sean and finds he is dead. He reaches into Sean's shirt and finds a silver dog-tag on a chain. He pulls it free with the last of his strength.

Junjie meanwhile has fallen to his knees beside Mai and cradles her head.

JUNJIE

Mai?

Mai looks up briefly at Junjie and whispers...

MAI

(Other people's sins).

Mai dies in Junjie's arms and we see Junjie's world collapsing.

Vogel sees his distraction and realizes the coast is clear. Quick as lightning, he races into the beam of the headlights, picks up the bag of money, jumps into the car and puts it into reverse...

Corey watches him go through half closed eyes and makes an attempt to fire off a shot but Vogel is driving away fast...Corey then turns back to Sean...We see a deep burning grief in his eyes.

Finally the pain of his wound makes him roll onto his back and stare into the night sky.

We pull up and away from Corey's face and see the whole scene from above...

Vogel is driving fast in reverse down the alley with the money.

Corey is lying unconscious beside the body of his dead brother.

Junjie is staring down at the body of Mai.

As the police cars begin to arrive we see a caption...

"When men, even unknowingly, are to meet one day, whatever may befall each, whatever their diverging paths, on that day, they will inevitably come together... in the Red Circle." - Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha".

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. SHEK PIK PRISON HOSPITAL (LANTAU ISLAND) - NIGHT

We find Corey lying unconscious in a hospital bed. We hear the beep, beep of the heart monitor and the flashing red and green lights all around him. Only when we come close do we reveal that one hand is handcuffed to the bed.

INT. MORGUE - NIGHT

Lying dead on a slab we find Mai. She has a single bullet wound in her forehead (another red circle). Then the door to the room opens and Junjie enters.

He is wrecked, destroyed by what happened. He walks slowly toward the dead body and peers at the face and the wound he inflicted. He lowers his head and closes his eyes tightly shut.

The door behind him is still open and after a moment, a young uniformed officer arrives and stands in silhouette. Then he joins Junjie at Mai's side. The uniformed officer is MATTEI. He is younger than Junjie, smartly uniformed.

Junjie controls his emotions as Mattei arrives. Mattei peers at Mai's body then at Junjie. He speaks softly and with great tenderness to Junjie.

MATTEI

(Sir? They have confirmed the bullet came from your gun. They are waiting to speak to you.)

Junjie nods and tries to gather himself. Mattei moves closer and speaks confidentially...

MATTEI (CONT'D)

(They want you to take a blood test.)

Mattei glances around and produces a half full bottle of whisky from his pocket which he offers to Junjie.

MATTEI (CONT'D)

(Tell them you had this bottle in your car and you drank it afterwards. Say you drank it for the shock. They all know you are a good cop. It'll be ok).

Junjie turns slowly and glares at Mattei, horrified by the suggestion that he would lie.

JUNJIE

(Mattei? Didn't I teach you anything?)

Mattei looks down at his feet to hide emotions. Junjie puts a comforting hand on his protege's shoulder.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)
(What I get...I will deserve.)

Mattei looks once more at the body of Mai.

Junjie turns and leaves. Mattei peers at the dead woman, controlling his emotions. We see Junjie passing through the open door to meet his destiny.

INT. PRISON CELL - MORNING

We are at the bars of the cell. We hear Corey grunting...

We find him stripped to the waist, performing push ups on the cold concrete floor. We see his military tattoos and also see that his body is now even more toned and muscled than it was before.

He gasps for air as he pushes his body to the limit. Daylight streaks his back through the shadows of prison bars.

We see a caption...*Five years later.*

Corey completes his last push up and stops. He sits with his knees pulled up to his chest. There is a livid scar on his shoulder where the bullet hit but it is well healed now. We see him deep in thought...as if embers were glowing behind his eyes. Then the door to the cell opens and a prison guard enters. He speaks in Cantonese...

GUARD
(Let's go.)

Corey springs to his feet...(a powerhouse now)...and grabs his prison T-shirt. The walls are bare so there's nothing to gather up.

INT. PRISON RELEASE ROOM

Corey is being given a bag of belongings by the guards. They speak to him in Cantonese, and COREY REPLIES IN PRISON CANTONESE...accented and slangy.

GUARD ONE
(We've got your clothes).

The first guard pulls a blood stained shirt from the bag. The stain is brown now but we see the bullet hole where Corey was shot. The guard laughs and pokes his finger through the hole.

COREY

(Keep the shirt, asshole. On
your salaries you need charity.)

As he speaks, Corey pulls his jacket from the bag of
clothes. It's the one he wore that night five years ago.
The bullet hole is still there...

GUARD ONE (VICIOUS)

(You want this?)

Corey sees that the guard is holding up a military dog tag
on a chain. Corey takes it and we glimpse the inscription.

'Corey Mahoney, 2nd battalion Parachute regiment'.

Corey looks up at the guards.

COREY

(Where's my brother's tag?)

The second guard produces a second dog tag and dangles it.
We see the silver disc spinning and glimpse the name...

'Private Sean Mahoney...1st battalion, parachute regiment'.

Corey takes the second dog tag and places it around his
neck.

EXT. HONG KONG PRISON

Corey emerges into daylight. His shirt is unbuttoned. He
takes hold of Sean's dog tag around his neck. He lights a
cigarette and takes a first breath of freedom. Then he
heads away with purpose.

EXT. SANTI'S VILLA, BEAUTIFUL FLOWER GARDEN

We are in a grove of orange trees and rose bushes in a
steeply sloped garden with breathtaking views of Hong Kong
harbor. There is a vast, plush villa in the background,
but in the foreground...a man in his late forties is
pruning his roses.

When he turns we see this is SANTI.

He dead-heads the roses and sniffs the living ones with
great relish...Then in the corner of his eye he notices a
police car making its way up the long, winding path that
leads to his home.

EXT. SANTI'S VILLA, MAIN ENTRANCE

Red setter dogs bark and leap around the police car as it parks. A uniformed driver gets out and opens the rear door. MATTEI gets out.

He looks a little older and has been promoted so he is no longer in uniform.

Mattei doesn't care for the dogs and makes his way awkwardly toward the front door of Santi's villa...where two large security guards are waiting to open the door.

INT. SANTI'S VILLA, DRAWING ROOM

The room has a vast panorama over Hong Kong. A maid is serving tea as Santi and Mattei sit face-to-face over an exquisitely carved table.

There are large golden Buddhas all around the room.

They both sip their tea in silence, waiting for the maid to finish. It takes an age for her to leave. Finally they are alone...

SANTI

I assumed it was about my dog.

MATTEI

Your dog?

SANTI

One of my dogs disappeared. I reported it to the police.

MATTEI

No. It isn't about your dog Mr Santi.

Santi drops some sugar into his cup.

MATTEI (CONT'D)

A man you double crossed five years ago was released from prison today.

SANTI

Do you keep a dog, inspector?

MATTEI (MATTER OF FACT)

I believe this man is going to kill you.

Santi allows himself a smile which Mattei interprets...

MATTEI (CONT'D)

You have excellent security here
Mr Santi but he is a trained
killer like no other. He has
medals for it.

Santi sips his tea...and glances up at the crucifix on the
wall among all the Buddhas.

SANTI

You sense an opportunity,
inspector.

MATTEI

I'm offering you salvation.

A pause.

MATTEI (CONT'D)

The only safe place for you now
is in protective police
custody...

Santi smiles.

MATTEI (CONT'D)

...Which I will provide in return
for a full confession of any one
of your many crimes over the past
twenty years.

Through the professional exterior we suddenly see a deep
burning hatred on Mattei's face.

MATTEI (CONT'D)

Any one of the murders, armed
robberies or rapes. I will allow
you to choose.

Santi begins to chuckle, dismissing the idea as if it were
ludicrous. Mattei immediately gets to his feet.

MATTEI (CONT'D)

Very well. You have chosen death.

Mattei turns and heads for the door, pressing his hat down
onto his head. In a small flicker of concern we see that
Santi is a little troubled that Mattei has abandoned his
quest so easily...

However as Mattei leaves, Santi picks a rose from the vase
on the table and studies it.

SANTI

If you hear anything about my dog
you will let me know won't you.

Mattei slams the door. After Mattei has gone, Santi suddenly looks deeply concerned and lets the rose fall onto the table.

INT. SANTI'S VILLA, CORRIDOR

Mattei is walking towards the door, pulling on his hat. A fountain dribbles. Buddhas chuckle at him. Then a large ornate door opens...

In the doorway we see AN, Santi's beautiful young wife, whose face we saw on Santi's screen saver.

Mattei stops to peer at her. She stares back at him. There is a communication between them which we don't yet understand. Finally...Mattei whispers...

MATTEI
(Freedom will come soon).

She appears to take a breath of hope.

INT. QUEENS HEAD PUB/SNOOKER HALL

Thomas is clearing up for the night. Two Chinese guys smoke and play in the background. Then, as Thomas approaches the bar, Corey suddenly appears in the doorway.

Their eyes meet in silent greeting. After a moment Thomas goes toward the cabinet door that houses the safe, but Corey gently stops him...

COREY
I need the practise.

He steps up to the safe. The parrot hops in its cage and squawks '*God save the Queen*'. Without a word, Corey begins to crack the safe open. It only takes a few moments.

Inside, he finds an urn which contains his brother's ashes. He takes the urn out and stifles his reaction. Thomas peers at him...and dares to give advice.

THOMAS
Leave Hong Kong Corey. Forget.
Forgive.

He looks at Corey and sees his words are having no effect. Almost reluctantly Thomas has opened another drawer and produces a Magnum pistol which he hands to Corey.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
If you're staying, you'll need
this.

Corey walks out of the snooker hall. Thomas watches him go. He speaks softly to himself...

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Good luck Corey...

EXT. FERRY TO MACAU - NIGHT

The ferry horn hoots mournfully as Corey peers out at the ocean, the small boats, the fishermen and the dazzling lights of Hong Kong in the distance.

Corey takes Sean's dog tag from around his neck and peers at it.

As he does, a figure in shadow appears on deck and lights a cigarette a few yards away. The figure leans on the guard rail and stares out into the ocean. This is THE ASSAILANT, one of Santi's men. For now we may not notice him.

Corey opens the urn that contains the ashes. He drops the dog tag into the water and we watch it flash in the reflected lights as it sinks. He lets the ashes fall into the water and drops the urn.

As he lets go of the urn, we see Corey look to the right just once.

The ASSAILANT has pulled a gun and is about to fire. Corey leaps over the guard rail to avoid the bullet then springs back onto the deck just a yard from the assassin. The gun man is about to fire again but Corey leaps on him and pushes him against the rail with his arm pulled up his back.

Corey jerks the guy's gun arm until it breaks. The guy screams in pain and his gun falls into the water. Corey hisses in his ear.

COREY
I'd kill you right now but I want
you to go back to Santi and give
him a message.

Corey turns the assassin around and holds his face tight in one hand. Corey then produces a tungsten tipped bullet from his top pocket and holds it close to the guy's face.

COREY (CONT'D)
I am a weapon.

We see that Corey has scratched the word 'SANTI' onto the side of the bullet.

COREY (CONT'D)
This is the bullet.

Corey turns the guy around and shoves him onto the deck where he writhes in pain. Corey steps over him and walks.

INT SANTI'S VILLA, BEDROOM - NIGHT

Santi is having sex with An in the bed. We see the scene in half light but sometimes we glimpse An's face. From her face we see that she is imprisoned by this man. She is used to the pain and suffers silently.

Santi tries to kiss her but she turns her head.

The sex continues in the half light. Then Santi's phone rings beside the bed.

EXT. SANTI'S VILLA GROUNDS - NIGHT

We see the same roses which Santi was pruning earlier, but this time in moonlight.

On the perimeter wall we see an armed guard patrolling. Santi's villa is a fortress with all the latest hi-tec security equipment.

The roses are lit by headlights. A limousine drives up to the gates and as it passes through we glimpse the guy who attacked Corey inside. He now has his arm in bandages.

INT. SANTI'S VILLA, DRAWING ROOM

The driver of the limo brings the assailant with his broken arm into the room. The guy is still in intense pain. Santi is in a silk dressing gown, staring out of the window. He turns.

SANTI

I am told he showed you a bullet
with my name on it.

The assailant looks terrified. He nods hesitantly.

SANTI (CONT'D)

You saw it with your own eyes.

The assailant cowers. Santi comes close and takes the guy's head in his hands and stares into his eyes.

Santi moves his thumbs around and presses them against the guy's eyes.

SANTI (CONT'D)

These eyes.

Santi then presses his thumbs into the guy's eyes harder and harder. The guy falls back and Santi continues to press his eyes into his brain.

We do not see the details of the murder. As Santi completes the killing, we see only the expressionless look in Santi's own eyes.

EXT. BUSY WORKING CLASS STREET IN HONG KONG

We find Corey smoking a cigarette, apparently haggling IN CANTONESE with a local landlord who also runs the grocery store on the street. Corey's Cantonese is good and he has a mastery of street slang. He is counting out dollars...

COREY

(Look. Cash. It's your lucky fucking day. Two months rent in advance. And I will give you twice as much as you advertized).

LANDLORD

(What are you talking about? Twice?)

COREY

(If you tell me who comes and goes I pay double. If anybody asks questions you tell me).

The landlord looks uncertain.

LANDLORD

(Why? Who is looking for you?)

COREY

(I have a lot of girlfriends you know? Some of them are married).

The landlord grins.

COREY (CONT'D)

(I'm a lucky son of a bitch huh).

LANDLORD

(Yeah you look lucky).

The landlord takes the cash. Corey smiles...

COREY

(I'm only lucky so long as you tell me who comes and goes).

INT. APARTMENT WITH BARE WALLS

The apartment is sparsely furnished with a small stove in the kitchen. Corey enters with a large suitcase. We hear kids playing and dogs barking outside.

Out of the window there is a view of the harbor.

Corey immediately begins to check the place out in a military style, checking eye lines from the windows, examining locks and sashes. He pulls down all the blinds then un-clips his suitcase and produces a crow bar. He falls to his knees and uses the crow bar to lift a floorboard.

Once he has removed three floorboards, he goes back to the suitcase and produces three assault rifles and a stack of ammunition, which he places under the floorboards.

He then stands on a chair and pushes out the small attic door and eases himself up to look into the attic space.

INT. APARTMENT, BATHROOM

Inside the tiny, cramped bathroom we find Corey has removed the side of the bath and is pushing packages of plastic explosive into the space around the bath.

INT. APARTMENT, MAIN ROOM

We find Corey attaching new deadlocks to the door.

As Corey works, we should sense that he is a professional going about his business.

Finally we find Corey sitting on the bare floorboards, smoking a cigarette, his mind racing as the dying rays of the setting sun fill the room.

He crushes his cigarette into a dish. Then his cellphone rings and he checks the number before taking the call. He listens for a moment then interrupts...

COREY
Just tell me where.

EXT. IDYLLIC BEACH, THAILAND

A wave crashes onto perfect white sand.

From the foam, emerges a guy in a wet suit with a harpoon and a large fish *which is still alive but bleeding from the harpoon.*

The fish is three feet long. The guy is tall and tanned. The setting is beautiful. It should look almost primal...

As the wave dies, we see that the man is VOGEL.

A beautiful Thai girl is tending a small fire on the beach. There is no one around for miles and this is as close to paradise as it's possible to get.

Vogel smiles his dazzling smile as he places the flapping fish down for the girl to cook. She is about to begin the process of cleaning and roasting it but Vogel takes her hand and tugs her sarong open.

She lies back on the sand. There is a smile on Vogel's face as he begins to try to peel his wet-suit off. It's difficult and they both laugh as they begin to make love on the sand. A wave catches them but they continue to make love.

The fish is still dying in the sand beside them and blood splashes on their half naked bodies...but this is still paradise....until...

The girl spots something over Vogel's shoulder. She speaks in Thai...

THAI GIRL

(Samuel...look. Someone coming).

Vogel turns...and sees a man in a suit marching towards them through the waves with menace and purpose. The foam laps around his shoes but he marches towards them as if regardless of the water.

Vogel stares at the approaching figure for a moment...then produces a harpoon and laces it into his harpoon gun.

THAI GIRL (CONT'D)

(Do you know him?)

Vogel doesn't answer.

As Vogel gets to his feet with his harpoon in his hand, we see that the approaching figure is...COREY.

Corey stops walking twenty yards from Vogel. Smoke from the fire blows between them. Corey pulls the Magnum pistol from his inside pocket and Vogel engages his harpoon gun. It seems that right here in paradise these two men are going to kill each other.

The Thai girl steps out of the way. A pause.

VOGEL

How did you find me?

COREY

I found someone in Hong Kong who
was more scared of *me* than he was
of you.

The waves crash....

VOGEL

I don't have your money. Santi
double crossed me as well.

The sand and smoke blow around.

COREY

I know.

Vogel asks the question with his eyes.

COREY (CONT'D)

You killed my brother.

Vogel nods and prepares.

VOGEL

Revenge. That I understand.

A pause.

VOGEL (CONT'D)

What I *don't* understand is why
you are giving me a chance. If
you'd come to kill me I would be
dead already.

Corey's face is expressionless. A wave catches his shoes.

COREY

I have a job for you.

A pause.

COREY (CONT'D)

Twenty five million dollars.

Vogel appears to be considering the amount...but then
suddenly fires his harpoon directly at Corey. Corey manages
to dive out of the way. Vogel grabs the knife the girl was
using on the fish but Corey is on him and the knife flies
from his hand.

Corey then grabs Vogel and holds his face close to the
flames of the fire. Meanwhile, the girl has grabbed the
knife and she comes for Corey's throat.

Corey parries her attack and she falls back into the sand
but Vogel is now freed. We should see that both Corey and
Vogel are trained martial arts fighters.

Meanwhile Vogel has reached for another harpoon and managed to lace it into the harpoon gun...Corey has retrieved his gun and is pointing it at Vogel.

The stand off is resumed. The fish is still flapping around among them.

Corey catches his breath. Vogel peers at him...

VOGEL
Not enough.

COREY
You also get to help me kill
Santi.

Vogel reacts. He still has his harpoon raised and Corey has his gun raised. The smoke of the fire blows between them.

COREY (CONT'D)
We both want to kill the same
man. But without me, you will
fail. And without you, I will
fail.

A pause. Vogel thinks for a moment.

VOGEL
What about your brother?

Corey sits down on the sand.

COREY
After the job is done...

He looks to Vogel...

COREY (CONT'D)
...we will settle our other
business.

He appears to enjoy the strange proposition. He fires the harpoon into the sand. Corey puts his gun away and they sit opposite each other across the fire, looking like two warriors who have made a pact.

INT. PLUSH PENTHOUSE OFFICE ON THE TWENTY FIFTH FLOOR

Through the panoramic windows we see another breathtaking view of Hong Kong. We see computers blinking in the morning light.

Three young executives, two men and a woman, are starting up their computers, sipping coffee...others are just reporting for work.

Then we hear the clatter of a metal bucket...and after a few moments, a haggard looking cleaner enters, with a mop and bucket. It is only when we get close that we realize...this is JUNJIE.

He looks older, hollowed out and ravaged by booze. He is wearing a blue overall. He puts the bucket down to take his coat from a hook with a shaking hand. His work is finished and he is going home.

As he walks through the office one of the young guys giggles and gestures to the others. They all hide smiles as if they are about to execute a trick.

Then the first guy produces a bottle of cheap whisky from his desk drawer and waves it at Junjie.

EXECUTIVE

(Hey. Junjie. You want something to clear your head?)

Junjie stops and hesitantly steps forward. The others giggle. The young executive unscrews the top of the bottle and sniffs it. He holds it out for Junjie then withdraws it. Junjie tries to grab it but the executive stands on his chair and holds it out of reach.

Everyone laughs. We should sense the pain of these humiliations is familiar but no less painful for that.

EXT. OFFICE BLOCK

At the foot of the huge tower, Junjie emerges from the rear entrance and lights a cigarette. Commuters and heavy traffic are all around and he is the only still point. He looks drunk, shamed, broken.

Through the smoke of his cigarette he sees another still point in the crowd. Someone staring at him across the street, also smoking. Traffic passes between them.

Traffic lights change from green to red...The guy is Corey.

Junjie slowly begins to recognize Corey and looks startled. Corey crosses the street, oblivious of the traffic which hoots and brakes sharply around him...

Junjie stands face-to-face with Corey. They both smoke their cigarettes. They stand in the rivers of commuters making their way to their offices and they are dwarfed by the high buildings around them...

INT. SMALL RUN DOWN CHINESE BAR

Corey and Junjie sit among other desperate people in a dangerous looking dive bar where people are drinking hard at ten in the morning. Junjie is sipping whisky. They are both smoking cigarettes...

JUNJIE
You're insane.

COREY
Amongst other things.

Junjie looks down at his own shaking hands...

JUNJIE
What use would I be to you?

COREY
I need an invisible man. Chinese.
Poor looking. A face in the
crowd.

JUNJIE
Hong Kong is full of invisible
men.

Corey peers through the smoke.

COREY
But it was you who was there that
night.

Junjie immediately lowers his head.

COREY (CONT'D)
And every morning you wake up
wishing you could undo what you
did.

Finally Junjie looks up.

JUNJIE
Helping you to kill Santi would
not undo anything.

COREY
Before I *kill* him I'm going to
steal all his money.

Before Junjie can comment on the absurdity....

COREY (CONT'D)
Your cut will be twenty five
million dollars....

Junjie stops.

COREY (CONT'D)
...You can give it to the family
of the girl you killed.

Junjie takes a breath. After a moment, Corey gets to his feet and peers down at Junjie.

COREY (CONT'D)
They say you used to be the best
marksman in Hong Kong.

Junjie's hand shakes as he takes a drink. Corey takes out a card with a number scribbled on it and places it on the table.

COREY (CONT'D)
I need someone who can shoot
straight too.

JUNJIE
I can't do *anything* straight
anymore. I can't help you.

Corey considers Junjie for a moment then leaves. Junjie finishes his drink. He peers at the empty glass then looks all around at the other drunks who are drinking there. He thinks for a moment then pockets the card.

EXT. AIRPORT

In the line of arrivals where before Vogel was dressed as a backpacker, he is now dressed in a sharp business suit. He is neatly groomed and has a *French* passport in his hand.

The only familiar thing is the *iPod*. He pulls it from his ear as he approaches the passport control desk. The guard studies his passport and runs it through the computer.

GUARD
What is your business?

Vogel has an impeccable French accent.

VOGEL
French Guyana bananas. Import
export.

The guard smiles.

GUARD
I like bananas.

Vogel gives his dazzling smile...

VOGEL
You know something? Everybody
likes bananas.

The guard stamps his passport with the *red circle*.

Suddenly...

INT. GREYHOUND RACETRACK - NIGHT

A group of greyhounds are released from their traps and begin to run.

Across the course, six more greyhounds are paraded in circles for BETTORS' evaluation, ready for the next race. As the race dogs are being led into the starting gates, in a flashing light, we see Junjie with a betting slip. From his pocket he takes a quart of whisky which he swigs.

As he puts the whisky bottle back in his pocket he finds the card Corey gave him. He glances at it only for a second.

The next set of dogs are ready to go. Junjie whispers a prayer. As the starting gates crack open and the crowd begins to yell, Junjie feels a hand on his shoulder. He turns quickly....and sees MATTEI.

They peer at each other as the dogs race past.

Junjie makes a decision and walks away, trying to ignore Mattei. Mattei follows...

MATTEI
(Boss? Boss I need to talk to
you ...)

Mattei takes Junjie by the shoulder and peers into his eyes. We see the compassion in Mattei's eyes but Junjie laughs.

JUNJIE
(You still call me 'boss'? Boss
of what?)

Junjie offers Mattei a swig of whisky but he simply peers at Junjie.

MATTEI
(I hear Corey spoke to you.)

Junjie turns and walks...

EXT. DOG TRACK BY THE RAIL

Junjie is walking into a position where he can see the end of a race. Mattei is pursuing him...

MATTEI

(I know he talked to you. I'm having him followed. What did he say?)

JUNJIE

(I was drunk, I don't remember).

MATTEI

(Junjie, I need your help).

JUNJIE

(A police officer who is fired can not be re-hired.)

MATTEI

(This would be unofficial business).

Junjie's dog loses the race and he curses quietly and turns back to the track. Mattei then produces a thick wad of cash and offers it to Junjie. Junjie now looks even more startled.

JUNJIE

(Mattei? What are you doing?)

MATTEI

(We can clean the City of them. All of them. Santi, Corey, Vogel. That's what you always wanted. A clean city).

Junjie looks pained as he remembers. Mattei forces the money into Junjie's pocket.

MATTEI

(Do as Corey says. But report to me.)

Junjie explodes...

JUNJIE

(You can not count on me!)

Mattei peers at Junjie...

MATTEI

(You were the best Junjie. If a man like Corey would trust you, then I would trust you too.)

Mattei turns and walks.

INT. MATTEI'S MODEST APARTMENT - NIGHT

Inside the half lit rooms we find a dozen cats dozing and stalking. We hear the key in the door...

Mattei enters with his briefcase. He looks anxious to be in his home environment. As he walks through the apartment we see five cats all appearing from the shadows, looking to be fed.

Mattei tosses his briefcase onto the table and goes about opening some cans of cat food. We see that this is an apartment where a man lives alone. As he opens the cat food he talks to his cats...

MATTEI
(I apologize for being late,
ladies.)

He dumps some meat onto a plate...He puts the plate down and the cats begin to devour it...

MATTEI (CONT'D)
(I am...working beyond my usual
shifts. Tonight I was with a lot
of dogs. Very fast runners. You
wouldn't have liked it at all.)

He sits down heavily. Then we hear his phone ring. He sighs.

MATTEI
(Hello?)

After a moment he looks delighted and smiles...

MATTEI (CONT'D)
(Yes, boss.)

INT. PENINSULA HOTEL

The plush lobby is filled with the wealthy and the curious. Through the doors we see a taxi pull up. Vogel gets out and enters the lobby, carrying only hand luggage.

He goes to the desk to check in. As the clerk processes his reservation, he looks across to the bar and notices Corey sitting at a table, smoking a cigarette. Their eyes meet briefly...barely a nod of recognition.

Corey then looks across the lobby. We find Junjie...who is standing awkwardly near to the door, anxiously wiping his mouth, fidgeting.

Vogel follows Corey's eyeline to Junjie and peers at him for a moment. He looks back to Corey who nods confirmation that this is the other guy. Vogel looks back to Junjie and looks a little disturbed. The clerk hands Vogel his room key.

Corey gets to his feet and begins to walk toward the centre of the lobby. Vogel picks up his room key and walks toward the centre of the lobby too....

After a moment, Junjie begins to walk toward the centre of the lobby...

Their paths cross briefly in the middle of the lobby, just long enough for Corey to place a small cellphone in each of Vogel and Junjie's hands.

With the slight of hand transaction over, they all walk on in their different directions as if they had never met.

INT. VOGEL'S HOTEL ROOM - LATER

There are ten passports from ten different countries laid out on the bed. We spend some time on them...see that Vogel's photo is in every one, each with a different name and identity. There are also two automatic pistols and a night sighted rifle in pieces. Sitting on the pillow...in pride of place...is the cellphone that Corey gave to him.

After a moment the phone begins to ring.

Vogel walks in, wet from the shower and wearing his dressing gown. He grabs the phone...

INT. COREY'S SMALL RENTED APARTMENT WITH A VIEW OF THE HARBOUR

Corey is on the phone speaking flatly as he stares out at the boats passing...

COREY
We're going to need two Barrett
sniper rifles.

INT. VOGEL'S HOTEL ROOM

As Vogel listens, a beautiful young Chinese girl emerges from the bathroom, wrapped in a towel. Vogel smiles and waves at her as she appears...

VOGEL
Beautiful..

INT. COREY'S APARTMENT

Corey is peering into the distance...

COREY
I've heard you have contacts.

INT. VOGEL'S HOTEL ROOM

Vogel takes the girl to him and speaks softly into the phone...

VOGEL
I can get anything I want.

The girl begins to kiss Vogel...

INT. COREY'S APARTMENT

Corey is still staring out at the boats...

COREY
Mr Vogel? Are you alone?

INT. VOGEL'S HOTEL ROOM

The girl is unbuttoning his shirt. He smiles and kisses the girl...

VOGEL (CONT'D)
Men who kill for a living are
always alone.

Vogel reacts to the call being cut and peers at the phone.
The girl kisses him but he is still staring at the phone...

VOGEL (CONT'D SOFTLY)
You know, I mix with people who
have absolutely no manners.

INT. TINY, RAMSHACKLE BOARDING HOUSE ROOM

Junjie's cellphone is sitting on a bedside table, beneath a flickering candle.

It begins to ring and a strange shadow swoops across it....

*We find Junjie lying on the bed next to the phone...AND TO
OUR HORROR we see he is being attacked by a flock of bats.*

They swoop at him and tear at his hair as he struggles to fight them off.

The swooping and screeching continues for a while until Junjie becomes aware of the cellphone ringing somewhere...

Junjie staggers to his feet...

Slowly, the swooping bats disappear and we realize they are simply a hallucination caused by his sudden detox from alcohol.

Junjie's hands shake ferociously as he ransacks his pockets to find his spectacles and answer the phone. He presses a few wrong buttons before finally answering...

JUNJIE

Hello?

INT. COREY'S APARTMENT

Corey is on the phone and has a newspaper open on his knees at the classified section. He has put a *red circle* around a particular job vacancy...

COREY

There's a job I want you to apply for.

INT. JUNJIE'S ROOM

Junjie listens to his instructions while catching his breath and trying to piece his world together. He sits down on the bed....

JUNJIE

Wait, wait. Let me get a pen.

We see Junjie's hands shaking horribly as he finds a pen and scribbles details down onto the skin on the palm of his hand in Chinese...

We see his hand shake as he writes, then he closes his fist around the information.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)

Ok. Yes. I am ok. I am ok.

Corey cuts the call. Junjie takes a huge breath and clenches his fists. He tosses his cellphone on the bed and sits down with his head in his hands, not sure if he is going to be able to pull this off.

EXT. QUEEN'S HEAD PUB/THOMAS'S BAR - NIGHT

A limo pulls up outside the pub and Santi gets out with two heavies. He enters.

INT. QUEENS HEAD PUB/SNOOKER HALL

A couple of people are playing snooker in the pools of light as Santi and his men enter. The Chinese barman sees Santi and evidently recognizes him. He casually presses a concealed 'panic' button.

Santi removes his jacket and grabs a snooker cue. One of the heavies racks up the balls. After a few moments, Thomas arrives at a run from upstairs, pulling on a shirt.

When he sees Santi he stops dead. He pours himself a whisky and walks casually to the table where Santi is now potting balls.

Thomas watches Santi pot a ball then Santi straightens and chalks his cue. He looks a little pained...

SANTI
Where is Corey?

THOMAS
I don't know.

SANTI
Has he been here?

THOMAS
No.

SANTI
You were in Afghanistan together,
isn't that right?

THOMAS
The last I heard Corey was in
jail.

Santi knows Thomas is lying. He pots another ball and moves around the table. He speaks casually.

SANTI
Your daughter is nine years old.

A pause. Thomas begins to react slowly.

SANTI (CONT'D)
She stays late at school on
Wednesdays. Art club. At the
moment they are making New Year
masks. She does basket making on
Thursdays with a teacher called
Miss Ling.

Thomas's face begins to drop into a look of horror...

SANTI (CONT'D)

Those are the only days your daughter leaves school at five pm. The other days it's three thirty. She walks home by the canal. There's a fence broken down. It's dangerous there.

Santi straightens and peers at Thomas.

SANTI (CONT'D)

You have one week to give me Corey's head.

EXT. HONG KONG MACAU FERRY TERMINAL - EVENING

The bus pulls up and people start filing off. Among the passengers we see Vogel. He steps off and heads over to the pier to catch the ferry, just another face in the crowd.

INT. HONG KONG MACAU FERRY TERMINAL - EVENING

Vogel stares off across the mysterious waters of the bay as he waits for the boarding call.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(in Cantonese and English)

(Now boarding ferry 347 to Macau.)

Vogel heads for the ferry.

EXT. PET SHOP, MACAU BACK STREET - NIGHT

A trotting stray dog takes us past a small but exquisite pet shop. We see lots of caged birds in the windows. Vogel approaches and knocks the door...

After a while an old Chinese lady (MADAM LAU) opens it.

MADAM LAU

(We are closed).

Vogel steps a little way into the light. Madam Lau recognizes him and reacts. Vogel speaks in Cantonese.

VOGEL

(I need to buy some gifts for a friend).

She quickly ushers him inside.

INT. PET SHOP, BACK ROOM

Water is coming to the boil on a blue paraffin flame. In a cage a hamster is running fast on his wheel and Vogel is peering at it like a cat. There are also various lizards and SNAKES in cages. Madam Lau enters and begins the process of making tea. She speaks in Cantonese...

MADAM LAU

(I just made a call to my uncle in Hanoi. Barrett rifles are only military issue. Very hard to find).

VOGEL

(You are the person I come to when things are very hard to find).

Vogel dribbles some seed to the hamster in the cage.

MADAM LAU

(I cannot just conjure military issue. This is not Libya).

Madam Lau half turns...

MADAM LAU

(Why do you need Barretts? Are you planning to kill someone from a long distance?)

Vogel turns to her, surprised by the question but hiding his surprise. We sense the question was significant to him. She fusses with the cups.

Vogel knows something isn't right and he slowly pulls his gun. He speaks in English.

VOGEL

Madam Lau? You know I don't trust people who ask 'why'.

Madam Lau still has her back turned but she has sensed the gun. She speaks softly...

MADAM LAU

Mr Vogel let me speak plainly. I have a business proposition for you to consider.

Vogel begins to check out the exits. She turns and offers him a cup of tea.

MADAM LAU (CONT'D)

Mr Santi came here two nights ago. He said he will give ten million dollars to anyone who can deliver Corey to him.

Vogel steps back.

MADAM LAU (CONT'D)

You are a businessman. We can split the ten million dollars fifty fifty.

A pause.

MADAM LAU (CONT'D)

What do you say?

A pause. Vogel is sensing immediate danger before we do.

COREY

I say ten million dollars is not enough.

Madam Lau shrugs and sighs...

MADAM LAU

(Very well...it is a pity...)

Then suddenly, Madam Lau reaches into one of the snake cages, grabs a snake and hurls it at Vogel.

The snake bites Vogel's hand and he falls back but manages to grab the snake by the throat and choke it. Meanwhile, Madam Lau has swivelled around and produced a huge Semi-automatic pistol which she engages and aims at Vogel's head with both hands...

(Even in these brief seconds, we see that Madam Lau is an expert with weapons, in spite of her age).

She speaks calmly...

MADAM LAU (CONT'D)

The venom of the snake will kill you in one hour. I have the antidote. Tell me where Corey is or you will die a painful death.

Vogel staggers back against some reptile cages.

MADAM LAU (CONT'D)

Soon the pain will be so great you will tell me anyway. Save yourself the agony.

Vogel thinks fast. He lets out a groan of pain and appears to be falling to the floor. Instead he reaches down with his good hand and grabs a metal cage which contains a small lizard. He twirls around and slams the cage against Madam Lau's head, knocking her off her feet. She goes to grab her gun but Vogel grapples with her and the gun goes off in her hand.

She falls dead with a wound to her heart. Vogel lets her slip slowly to the floor. He looks down at his bitten hand and at Madam Lau's dead body. She was his only hope.

VOGEL

Shhhhit.

He looks all around the chaotic back room.

The hamster is still racing round and round on his wheel.

Vogel is breathing hard. He goes to a drawer and pulls it out but it just contains chaotic files and papers.

In pain he begins to ransack the office. He staggers from drawer to cabinet but finds nothing. Finally he stops. He catches his breath. He checks the bite and sees that the wound is swelling...

EXT. BACKYARD OF THE PET SHOP

We see Vogel hurrying through the chaotic backyard in half darkness. He has tied a tourniquet around his arm to slow the flow of the poison. We also see that he has the dead snake in his other hand.

INT. PARKED CAR NEARBY

Vogel is expertly hot-wiring the car even though his bitten arm has gone numb. He has draped the dead snake over the rear view mirror.

Vogel fires the engine then roars away.

EXT. STREET, MACAU

Vogel is driving fast, almost losing consciousness. Then he sees a police car up ahead, which has stopped for traffic lights.

Vogel opens his eyes blearily. *He deliberately puts his foot on the gas and rams the police car.* His horn hoots as Vogel opens the door. Two cops with guns raised come to the driver's side.

Vogel grabs the dead snake and waves it at them.

VOGEL
Get me to a hospital.

INT. MATTEI'S APARTMENT

Mattei is asleep in bed. In the half light we see his cats dozing all around him...

His phone beside the bed begins to ring.

INT. SMALL POLICE STATION HOLDING CELL IN MACAU

Ten guards are crammed uncomfortably into the tiny cell with Vogel. Vogel has evidently been given the antidote and is back to his old self, though his hand is bandaged. He is handcuffed to the table but he is still managing to show everyone some card tricks with one hand.

The senior officer is YONG, who is late twenties and just as engrossed as all the others.

We watch Vogel pull a particularly clever trick and the guards all burst into spontaneous applause. As the applause continues, Mattei is shown into the room and looks around sourly. He's unshaven, just out of bed. The guards all stop clapping.

Mattei sits down opposite Vogel.

MATTEI
Mr Vogel? I understand we just saved your life.

Vogel smiles and offers the pack.

VOGEL
Pick a card.

Mattei peers around at all the officers crammed into the room. Yong steps up to explain...

YONG
(I have gathered so many officers because this man's file says he has escaped police custody four times).

Vogel has turned the five of diamonds.

VOGEL
Five actually.

A couple of the guards begin to applaud then think better of it. A pause. Mattei peers at Vogel.

MATTEI

In return for saving your life
perhaps you will tell us what
Corey is planning?

VOGEL

Who is Corey?

Mattei gets to his feet.

MATTEI

(We will take him to the City.)

EXT. SANTI'S CLUB/CASINO - NIGHT

Junjie is standing outside the casino, watching the well
dressed gamblers and diners walking in. He lights a
cigarette. There are lots of bars and stores selling hard
booze and we see the temptation in Junjie's eyes.

He checks his watch. He wipes his mouth and stares again
at the booze bottles in the windows.

He seems to weaken and checks the change in his pocket. Is
he about to enter? Suddenly...

COREY

Thirsty?

Junjie turns and sees Corey in the shadows. He hurries to
Corey and hisses angrily...

JUNJIE

Why do we have to meet amongst
all these booze shops?

Corey gestures at the entrance of the casino opposite. He
then produces what looks like a half bottle of whisky which
he hands to Junjie.

Junjie looks astonished....

INT. SANTI'S CLUB/CASINO, HONG KONG - NIGHT

Wealthy Chinese BUSINESSMEN hide in dark corners to smoke
and play Baccarat. JET SETTERS and FOREIGN TOURISTS play
Blackjack and Craps. Flawless Asian COCKTAIL GIRLS flit to-
and-fro with trays of drinks and favor their customers with
suggestive glances.

Standing at the central table we find Santi. He is playing
craps with a bunch of cronies and a dozen bodyguards.

The guards stand in a semi circle around Santi, checking out the clients as if Santi were a president. A cocktail girl is allowed through to serve him a drink. He takes it, sniffs it then smiles and hands it back to her.

SANTI
You drink it.

She looks a little embarrassed and puzzled. Santi suddenly grabs her face and squeezes her cheeks, forcing the cocktail down her throat. The drink spills and she half chokes on it.

He puts the glass down. He turns to his bodyguards and speaks casually...

SANTI (CONT'D)
Until the current state of
emergency is over I don't take
drinks from strangers.

He produces a hip flask from his own pocket. He takes a swig.

INT. SANTI'S CLUB/CASINO, ENTRANCE

In the shadows of the doorway, we see Junjie entering.

He follows a cocktail girl into the light...and we see Junjie looks extremely drunk.

We stay on him as he shambles toward a Craps table. There we see AN, playing craps and looking beautiful. In his discount clothing, Junjie sticks out like a sore thumb among this hip crowd. Stepping up to a Blackjack table, Junjie squeezes his way in between a pair of FEMALE GAMBLERS who, upon seeing Junjie, decide to go to a different table.

Junjie is now next to An, though he seems oblivious to her. He is swaying...and suddenly looks even more drunk than before.

THE DEALER looks up at Junjie with a sour expression. He catches the PIT BOSS' eye, who casually picks up a SECURITY PHONE. Junjie lays down a bet and staggers back a little, taking hold of An's arm as if to steady himself.

As he does he manages to put a scrap of paper into AN's hand and squeeze her fingers around it.

As An reacts, Junjie pulls out a bottle of whisky which he swigs. Two security guards arrive and begin to throw him out.

An looks all around and glances at the scrap of paper. We see her hide her reaction and look back at Santi, who is busy winning a jackpot. After Junjie has gone she turns and places another bet but with her mind racing.

EXT. SANTI'S CLUB/CASINO

Junjie is waiting in an alleyway and we see he is now completely sober. After a moment he hears a match being struck and turns to see An approaching, lighting a cigarette.

Junjie produces his 'whisky' bottle and holds it up.

JUNJIE

Cold tea.

AN

You were very convincing.

JUNJIE

I've had a lot of practise.

AN

Who sent you?

Junjie doesn't answer. Instead...suddenly...

COREY

I did.

Corey is still half in shadow when An sees him. She gasps with astonishment.

AN

Corey?

We instantly see the huge emotion she feels on seeing Corey and also see the love in Corey's eyes. They stare at each other for a long time. Junjie looks a little puzzled at the way they are silently communicating with each other.

Then An remembers the danger. She glances back toward the casino...

AN (CONT'D)

Corey you must not be here.

Corey answers in Cantonese...

COREY

(I am always at your side...)

AN

(No. No...he will see you. Your precious life...).

An and Corey stare into each other's eyes for a long moment. Junjie is realizing (along with us) that there is a deep connection. An reaches out her hand and Corey reaches out too. They touch each other.

Corey fights huge emotion. We see some movement near the door of the casino and Corey knows he has to be quick. He produces an envelope from his pocket and presses it into her outstretched hand.

COREY

(Do this).

As An takes the envelope their fingers touch again briefly. There is an electric charge between them which Junjie sees.

Once the envelope is passed, Corey turns and disappears into the shadows. An stares after him. A heavy approaches from the casino to check on An. Junjie turns up his collar and walks away...

An waits alone to be taken back to captivity, staring at the disappearing shadow of Corey.

INT. MACAU FERRY - LATE AT NIGHT

Vogel sits languidly on a bench surrounded by a semi-circle of UNIFORMED POLICE, all facing away from him. Mattei is at his side, his eyes closed but awake. Vogel rolls his neck and catches a glimpse of a young Chinese BOY nearby holding a RED BALLOON. The boy's arm is in a cast. Vogel leans toward the boy.

VOGEL

(in perfect Cantonese)
(How did you break your arm?)

Mattei opens his eyes with a start. The boy hesitates to answer a stranger.

MATTEI (TO VOGEL)

Please do not speak to anyone.

BOY

(I fell off my bike.)

VOGEL

(That's not a very good story).

Vogel raises his bandaged hand...

VOGEL (CONT'D)

(I was bitten by a snake.)

MATTEI

Be quiet please.

The boy giggles.

MATTEI (CONT'D)

Vogel, you should get some sleep,
we are almost there...

Mattei gestures out of the window. We see the lights of Hong Kong a mile away. Vogel stares out at the lights for a moment. Mattei closes his eyes again. The boy looks quizzically at Vogel. Vogel whispers in Cantonese...

VOGEL

(I bet if you had crashed your bike
into a rhinoceros, you'd get
something better than a balloon.)

Vogel WINKS at the boy, who smiles uncertainly - there's something not right about Vogel. Vogel then waves his handcuffed hand at the boy...then looks around to make sure no one is looking. He then extends his left hand toward the boy....

Revealing that he has freed himself from his handcuffs.

The boy begins to applaud. The ferry's WHISTLE blows, and the cabin lights dim as the ENGINE draws power.

Mattei opens his eyes. He turns to Vogel...but Vogel has gone...

SMASH TO:

INT./EXT. DOUBLE-DECKER FERRY - NIGHT

Mattei and the cops pound down the deck of the ferry, frantically pushing through the crowds of people.

MATTEI

Move!

ACROSS THE BOAT

Yong and the other cops race through the throng as well searching for Vogel.

Meanwhile, Vogel athletically vaults through the confused crowd on his way to the front of the ferry. Mattei and Yong close in on each other at the bow of the ferry, just in time to see Vogel LEAP over the front railing. Mattei looks over the railing to see Vogel edging around the windows on the level just below them. Vogel looks up at Mattei, GRINS, before slipping in through one of the open windows.

MATTEI (CONT'D)
(to Yong)
Down! Go!

Yong and the four cops take off. Mattei starts to run after... but Mattei stops. He turns back toward the bow of the boat, his eyes narrowing. Mattei approaches the bow of the boat, his gun drawn. Slowly, he peers over the edge-- NO VOGEL. Mattei turns around - Vogel is right behind him.

Vogel DIVES INTO THE HARBOR. COPS rush over to assist Mattei, but Vogel has already disappeared into the murky waters of the bay. Mattei looks over to see the boy with the red balloon standing nearby. The boy looks up at him.

Mattei stares out across the dark waters...

EXT. HONG KONG STREET - NIGHT

Street life goes on all around and we find Corey driving through the bustling night time streets, smoking a cigarette, his head filled with images of An.

Then we see a police road block up ahead and Corey slows. A cop with a flashlight approaches and Corey lowers his window.

COREY
Is there a problem?

COP 2
Some guy escaped from handcuffs
on the Macau ferry. Disappeared
into the bay. We are searching
every car.

Corey flips his trunk. Then he thinks for a moment and a possibility occurs to him. He slowly begins to think the possibility is a *probability* as the cops search his car. He picks up his cellphone...

INT. UPSTAIRS ROOM IN A HONG KONG BROTHEL

A young chinese prostitute is making tea on a stove as Vogel pulls on a dry shirt. His old wet clothes are hanging on the heaters to dry.

His phone rings. He checks the number and answers...

INT. CAR

Corey speaks into his phone with amused curiosity...

COREY
Are you wet?

INT. BROTHEL

Vogel is buttoning his shirt sleeves with the phone held to his ear with his shoulder...

VOGEL
Not anymore. I'm in a brothel.
You'd be amazed what men leave
behind. By the way, my supplier
let me down.

INT. COREY'S CAR

The light changes from red to green. Vogel's madness seems to restore Corey's spirits.

COREY
Then we'll have to try elsewhere.

He pulls away and smiles.

INT. QUEENS HEAD PUB/SNOOKER HALL, NEXT MORNING

Thomas is feeding nuts to his parrot behind the bar. The snooker tables are all covered and there are shafts of sunlight coming through battered blinds.

Corey and Vogel enter. Thomas was evidently expecting Corey. They arrive at the snooker table nearest the bar and Thomas joins them. He gestures at Vogel.

THOMAS
Who's this?

COREY
He imports bananas.

THOMAS
Should I trust him?

COREY
You can if you want. I don't.

Vogel smiles.

COREY (TO THOMAS)
So you said you've got something
for us?

Thomas tries to act naturally...

THOMAS

Maybe. You're looking for
Barretts right.

Corey and Vogel are experts on fear and they can
immediately sense something not right about Thomas.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Why do they have to be Barretts?

Vogel angles his head. Corey is watching Thomas like a
hawk. Thomas half turns as he walks to the bar...

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I'm just curious.

Thomas goes behind the bar.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I worry about you Corey...

The parrot squawks '*God save the Queen*'. Corey steps
towards the bar. Thomas looks more anxious now. His hand
shakes as he pours himself another whisky.

Corey notices the shaking hand too.

On Thomas's wrist we see the military tattoo. *..We also see
him casually reach under the bar and press the 'panic
button'....*

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You want a drink Corey?

COREY

I thought you brought us here to
talk business.

Vogel smiles and reaches into his inside pocket. We should
sense that in spite of his casual manner he is preparing
for something.

Corey stands squarely and watches Thomas as he sips his
whisky. Corey's suspicions are all but confirmed. He
speaks softly.

COREY (CONT'D)

Has it come to this Thomas?

Corey and Thomas look at each other. In just a flicker of
emotion, we get the idea that Corey really doesn't want to
believe his old friend is about to betray him....but we
don't get time to dwell...

Suddenly the door to the snooker hall bursts open and four
armed chinese guys fly into the room, already firing.

Corey turns and pulls his gun.

Thomas has grabbed his gun and fired at Corey. Vogel casually takes aim and hits Thomas in the head. He then turns and takes out two of the assassins with two bullets.

The remaining two of the attackers now dive for cover under the snooker tables. Corey and Vogel do the same.

The gun fight now takes place at ground level, between the legs of the snooker tables with bullets ricocheting all around.

Corey grabs a red ball from one of the tables and rolls it along the ground to distract one of the gun men before rolling into position and firing. He misses. A bullet hits the ball and it flies into the air.

For fun Vogel shoots it and it explodes...

Then Corey leaps on top of a table and jumps from table to table before taking out one of the assassins. Only one is left.

After a moment the guy calls out...

ASSASSIN

Ok, don't shoot. I surrender.

A gun skids across the floor and the Chinese guy stands with his hands held high. Corey stands and peers at him.

ASSASSIN (CONT'D)

I don't want to die. I got kids and...

Vogel takes him out with a single shot to the head. Vogel turns to Corey with dead eyes. Vogel seems surprised at Corey's look. He studies Corey for a few moments.

VOGEL

What's wrong Corey? Are you going soft?

Corey stares at Vogel for a long time. We should sense that a difference is emerging between the two men. (Maybe Corey has humanity. Maybe his love for An has given him compassion. Maybe Vogel is beyond redemption. We will see).

Corey puts his gun away and goes to Thomas's body. He turns him over and peers into his face.

The parrot begins to squawk...'God save the Queen'. Vogel doesn't care for the fact that Corey apparently disapproved of his shooting the unarmed man and won't let it rest...

VOGEL (CONT'D)

I shot him for you. I wasn't
sure you had the stomach.

Corey turns sharply to Vogel who is still studying him with
dead eyes. Corey then turns to his old 'friend' who is
lying dead on the floor.

COREY

You should go to war some time,
Vogel.

Vogel looks all around at the dead bodies strewn across the
snooker hall.

VOGEL

I am a war.

Corey goes to the safe and cracks it open quickly. He
finds a big bundle of cash inside which he takes.

On his way out Corey finishes his drink and heads for the
door with Vogel at his side.

EXT. QUEENS HEAD PUB/SNOOKER HALL - LATER

Mattei is leaving the crime scene with Yong at his side.
As he ducks under the tape, a large, unmarked police car
cruises to a halt and Mattei reacts with some alarm. He
straightens his tie. A uniformed officer leaps out of the
car and opens the door for a very senior Hong Kong police
officer in a smart suit (YUEN TSO).

He lights a cigarette as Mattei approaches. There is
silence for a while.

YUEN TSO

(Santi is losing a lot of men.)

Mattei nods gently.

MATTEI

(Yes Sir.)

A pause. Yuen Tso draws on his cigarette.

YUEN TSO

(Somebody's cleaning up our City
for us.)

A long pause. They stare into each other's eyes.

MATTEI

(Yes Sir.)

YUEN TSO
(But who will clean away the
cleaners?)

Mattei's face is steely.

MATTEI
(I will Sir.)

A pause.

MATTEI (CONT'D)
(It is under control).

Yuen turns and heads for the car.

EXT. WATERFRONT DINER, PARKING LOT - MORNING

A beautiful Hong Kong morning. We find Junjie smoking a
cigarette. He looks anxious.

People are eating breakfast outside the diner. In the
harbor we see small boats moored. The ocean sparkles.

In the distance we see a JOGGER in a tracksuit running
toward us. When he gets close...we're surprised to learn
it is VOGEL.

He stops in the parking lot and rests against the trailer
of a truck to get his breath. After a moment...

JUNJIE
You know I didn't have you down
as a jogger.

Junjie steps from the shadow of the parked truck. Junjie
offers Vogel a cigarette and he takes one. As Junjie
lights it...

JUNJIE (CONT'D)
You know what this meeting is
about?

VOGEL
Yeah.

JUNJIE
He said some crazy stuff about
buying the guns from pirates.

VOGEL
Pirates was my idea. I have a
very interesting address book.

A long pause.

JUNJIE
You dealt with pirates before?

VOGEL
Yeah. You can't trust them.

JUNJIE
But we're desperate, right?

VOGEL
No. Just reckless.

A pause. They both smoke and Vogel checks his watch.

VOGEL (CONT'D)
This isn't like our military
friend. He's three seconds
late...

At that moment both their phones begin to ring...

EXT. WATERFRONT

On the dock, lots of small boats are moored. Junjie and Corey walk along the dock, looking for a particular boat. Finally they see the name...*'Mary Louise'*.

They peer into the boat then both hear a voice behind them...

COREY
All aboard.

They turn to see Corey who has two life-jackets in his hands. He tosses one to each of them. Junjie catches his jacket and hesitates.

JUNJIE
I just want you both to know I
think this is a bad idea.

EXT. HONG KONG HARBOR

The *'Mary Louise'* is a small boat with a high prow.

We watch it leaving the dock against the stunning back-drop of Hong Kong. Then we join Corey at the wheel. Corey is consulting a GPS system...

Junjie enters, looking anxious, and stares out ahead...

JUNJIE
I heard about these people when I
was a cop. They're Vietnamese.

Vogel arrives, engaging a Winchester hunting rifle and checking the sights by pointing at a passing ship...

JUNJIE (CONT'D)

They sell the same guns over and over. They take the money then shoot you.

Vogel lowers his gun.

VOGEL

Exactly.

Junjie looks uneasily at Corey. Vogel speaks softly.

VOGEL (CONT'D)

That's the good thing about truly bad people. You always know precisely what to expect.

Vogel and Corey look at each other...

EXT. OCEAN - LATER

A ramshackle Vietnamese junk ship makes its way through choppy waves. It looks like a pirate ship and the guys aboard look like pirates too. They call back and forth in Vietnamese and a young kid of fourteen at the prow scans the horizon.

We study the boat and the crew for a while. These guys look mean as hell.

The kid at the front yells out in Vietnamese...

KID

(Boat ahead!)

EXT. COREY'S BOAT

Corey is peering through binoculars at the approaching ship. He hands the binoculars to Junjie...

Junjie peers through the binoculars. Corey and Junjie peer at each other.

There is no sign of Vogel.

EXT. OCEAN FROM THE AIR - A MOMENT LATER

From above we see the pirate boat approaching the Mary Louise in open water. Sun shines and the scene is idyllic...but we sense death in the air.

EXT. OCEAN - LATER

The two boats come side-by-side in silence. Both engines are cut. The wind moans through the rigging. The pirate ship creaks.

COREY
You speak English?

The leader of the pirates steps up. He's a wiry guy but looks hard as nails. He has a sub machine gun slung around his back.

PIRATE
Little.

COREY
You give us one gun, we give you
half the money. Second gun
second half.

The leader gets a fast, whispered translation from the kid who was the look-out. After a moment he nods.

One of the pirate crew comes from below carrying a BARRETT SNIPER RIFLE. It is a huge beast, with an enormous range and complex sighting on the barrel. It is the professional sniper rifle of choice...

Junjie steps forward with a cigarette dangling. He has a wad of cash which he hands to Corey. Corey speaks softly...

COREY (CONT'D)
You speak any Vietnamese?

JUNJIE
They've got Hanoi accents. So I
only get half what they say.

Corey steps to the edge of the boat and offers the money. The pirate leader offers the rifle and one bullet. The exchange is done quickly...

Corey tosses the Barrett to Junjie who loads it like a professional and takes aim. The pirates are checking the money with a machine to be sure it isn't counterfeit. Corey calls out to the other boat...

COREY
About to discharge a weapon. Stay
calm.

Junjie takes aim at a seagull which is soaring overhead. He fires...the seagull continues to soar. He smiles and hands the rifle back.

JUNJIE

I missed on purpose. I like
birds.

Corey stows the gun and Junjie has already arrived with the other half of the cash. Corey steps toward the edge of the boat with it.

The pirate leader steps up with the second rifle and a box...Corey and the pirate leader are face-to-face at the sides of their boats. Corey takes the gun just as the leader takes the cash...

The hand-over is frozen in time for a moment. The seagull overhead shrieks...

The leader of the pirates turns and is about to yell an order. Before he can, Corey hurls the rifle into the air and calls out...

COREY

Now!

The pirate leader is suddenly hit by a harpoon fired from the water line near the prow of the boat. As he falls, we see Vogel emerging from under the water in his wet suit.

As their leader falls back, Corey and Junjie open fire on the pirates. Guns begin to blaze from the pirate ship. Corey dives to the deck. Junjie takes a stance and begins to pump away at the enemy boat like a good cop.

Meanwhile, a pirate has leapt aboard Corey's boat. Junjie takes him out with a boat hook and bullets continue to fly.

At that moment, we hear the fast clip of a hand gun firing steadily. Corey and Junjie look across to the pirate boat to see that Vogel has climbed up onto the deck of the pirate ship, taken a pistol from inside his wet suit, and in a few seconds has taken out all but the kid who translated.

Vogel has him covered and the kid raises his hands. Vogel stares at the kid with his dead eyes.

We cut back to see Corey pointing his gun at Vogel.

COREY (CONT'D)

You shoot him, I shoot you.

Vogel's eyes glisten as he stares at his potential victim. We see the steel in his eyes.

VOGEL

What the fuck is the matter with
you Corey? You're breaking the
rules.

JUNJIE

He's just a kid.

VOGEL

Junjie you don't even *know* the rules.

Corey still has his gun aimed at Vogel and Vogel knows that Corey isn't bluffing. Finally Vogel lowers his gun.

VOGEL (CONT'D TO THE KID)

Nice doing business with you.

Vogel steps up to the Captain's body and takes the money back from him. The kid stares into Vogel's eyes...and we see a deep burning hatred there. Vogel speaks softly.

VOGEL (CONT'D)

You see Corey? When this little bastard grows up he will want revenge.

A pause. Vogel turns pointedly to Corey...

VOGEL (CONT'D)

In our business leaving angry people alive is just careless.

Corey fixes Vogel with a stare. Vogel knows that some day Corey is going to try to kill him. The moment lasts...

Then we hear the sudden swoop of a helicopter.

All heads turn to see A HELICOPTER coming fast and low toward the boat. The guys react...then the passenger door opens and someone opens fire with a heavy machine gun. We recognize the gun man as one of Santi's heavies.

Vogel and Corey dive for cover. *Junjie grabs the kid and pulls him to safety.*

Bullets riddle the pirate boat and the Mary Louise as the chopper swoops past. It banks steeply ready to return.

Vogel grabs the Barrett rifle and loads it.

VOGEL (CONT'D)

I haven't used one of these for years.

He takes aim and fires at the helicopter. The bullet smashes a hole in the bubble but the chopper keeps coming.

COREY

It shows.

Corey has loaded the second rifle and fired. The chopper keeps coming. Junjie grabs the first rifle out of Vogel's hand and takes aim. When he fires, the bullet smashes into the pilot's chest and the chopper falls away at a crazy angle before landing in the ocean and exploding.

Vogel and Corey turn to Junjie, a little astonished at his cool accuracy. Junjie calmly hands the rifle back to Vogel and turns to the kid. He speaks in Vietnamese.

JUNJIE

(You want me to cook you some
noodles, kid?)

EXT. OCEAN - LATER

We see the Mary Louise towing the pirate boat toward land in an exquisite sunset. The kid is standing at the prow of his boat.

Corey walks to the back of the Mary Louise and pulls a knife. He begins to cut through the tow rope which is attaching the pirate ship.

As he cuts...Corey calls out to the kid.

COREY

Land is that way. Just point
straight ahead.

KID

(I don't need your directions ass
hole).

Corey shrugs and tosses the cut rope into the ocean. Vogel steps back a little way to join Corey and calls out to the kid...

VOGEL

If you come looking for me when
you're older my name is Corey.

Vogel dusts his hands as the kid takes the wheel of his ship.

INT. SANTI'S VILLA - NIGHT

Santi is staring out across the harbour at the view of Hong Kong. For the first time he looks anxious.

An enters with a tray of food and lays it down.

AN

I cooked you something.

He peers at her for a moment then looks back at the view.
We see the flicker of suspicion on Santi's face.

SANTI
You seem different lately.
Content.

An doesn't reply. Instead she turns to walk away. As she reaches the door...

SANTI
No. I want you to wait. There's
something I want you to see.

EXT. SANTI'S VILLA

Silhouetted against the setting sun we see a guard standing on the perimeter wall. Suddenly the guard is overwhelmed by a shadow which appears from nowhere and beats him unconscious.

The ASSAILANT is dressed all in black and is wearing a black balaclava. Is it Corey? Is he making his move already?

INT. SANTI'S VILLA

Santi is eating noodles. An sits opposite him, concerned and unsure why she has been told to stay. Santi checks his watch and glances at the door. He appears to be expecting something.

EXT. SANTI'S VILLA, GARDEN NEAR TO THE HOUSE

A fountain flows in changing blue, orange and purple lights. A second guard sits down on the edge of the fountain and lights a cigarette. He senses a shadow somewhere and looks over at the manicured lawns, which are lit by spotlights. He returns to his cigarette.

The colored lights of the fountain suddenly go dark. In the pitch dark we hear the water dribble and splash. The lights are only off for a few seconds but when the lights come back on again, the guard is floating in the fountain.

INT. SANTI'S VILLA

Santi continues to eat with An in attendance.

EXT. SANTI'S VILLA, ROOF

We see that the assailant has made it past the garden security and is now on the roof. We see a panoramic view of Hong Kong behind him. The assailant begins to remove roof tiles using a small crow-bar. He removes enough to make a small hole and then produces a knife to cut into the roof material.

INT. SANTI'S VILLA

Santi finishes his meal and pushes his plate away. An goes to collect it and take it away but he grabs her wrist.

SANTI
I said stay.

An hesitates then sits down. Santi peers into her eyes. Then suddenly the door to the drawing room flies open and the assailant burst in.

He pulls a revolver and walks fast to Santi's side and points the revolver directly at Santi's temple. An steps back in shock.

For a moment we think Santi has breathed his last. A few seconds later three bewildered guards come racing into the room obviously in pursuit of the assailant.

They skid to a halt when they see that the assailant has a gun to Santi's head. A horrified moment...

Then...the assailant pulls off his balaclava and we see it is a Chinese guy. He lowers the gun and steps back, giving a respectful bow to Santi. He hands the gun to Santi...telling us he is working on Santi's orders.

Santi takes the gun and addresses the three guards.

SANTI (CONT'D)
This man is nowhere near as good
as the man who wants to kill me.

A pause.

SANTI (CONT'D)
And yet he managed to reach me.

The three guards look terrified, realizing that this was an exam they just flunked. Santi stares at them impassively. Then he turns to An and smiles.

SANTI (TO AN CONT'D)
This is what happens to people
who let me down.

Without taking his eyes off An, Santi shoots two guards in the head. The third man immediately falls to his knees. Finally Santi turns to the trembling guard and addresses him in Chinese.

SANTI (CONT'D)
(You have learned a valuable lesson).

Santi turns to An.

SANTI (CONT'D)
And so have you.

Santi hands the gun back to the 'assailant', who bows and walks out of the room.

INT. COREY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Through lines of washing, stray cats and trash we find Corey's apartment.

The interior is cramped and we hear kids outside and neighbors squabbling in the alleys. It's a hot night. Vogel is cooking chinese food in a wok. Corey is slicing garlic. Junjie is filling out a lottery ticket.

The two Barrett sniper rifles are lying on a table side-by-side.

Vogel's face disappears in a flame as he cooks. He calls out to Corey.

VOGEL
If it's ok with you guys, I'm not using ginger..

Corey continues to slice. Vogel brings the stir fried food to the table...

VOGEL (CONT'D)
I knew this woman once who tried to poison me. She used ginger to hide the taste.

He speaks pointedly to Corey...

VOGEL (CONT'D)
Since then, ginger tastes like secrets.

Vogel and Corey peer at each other as Vogel sits down. Corey has picked up his chopsticks. Corey is about to eat but Vogel grabs his hand. Vogel speaks evenly and softly.

VOGEL (CONT'D)
Secrets are very bad for a
relationship.

Corey jerks his hand free...Junjie sees danger and
intercedes. He speaks brightly, casually...gesturing at
the rifles...

JUNJIE
I think Mr Vogel thinks it's time
you told us what the fancy rifles
are actually for.

They both turn to Corey. There is a long silence with Corey
giving nothing away. Corey and Vogel stare at each other.
Suddenly...insanely...Vogel pulls his gun and points it at
Corey.

VOGEL
I already know what they are for.

Corey stops eating.

VOGEL (CONT'D)
Santi keeps all his money in one
bank vault. I know the vault very
well because I was planning to
rob it myself.

A pause. Vogel begins to speak fast and with certainty.

VOGEL (CONT'D)
To open the vault two buttons
have to be pressed at the same
time on opposite sides of the
bank. You're planning to press
the buttons with spent bullets
from long range rifles. That's
why you need snipers like me and
Junjie.

Junjie turns to Corey and sees from his face that Vogel is
right.

A pause. Corey goes back to eating. Vogel's gun is still
raised.

COREY (CONT'D)
If you know the plan you and
Junjie could do it alone. So you
can go ahead and kill me anytime
you want.

Vogel engages his gun. Corey sips some soup.

COREY (CONT'D)

But you should know Vogel I'm
always one second ahead of you.
Under the table I've had a gun
pointed at your balls ever since
you sat down.

Vogel glances down and sees that Corey has one hand hidden
under the table. A moment of tension. Suddenly Junjie
slams his fist on the table and yells...

JUNJIE

Stop this!

They all stare at each other.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)

It's bad enough we've got to all
live here together in this little
box. It'd help if you two didn't
keep pulling guns on each other.
You have a deal, right? First
Santi. Then each other.

Corey and Vogel peer at each other. Junjie gestures at
them both...

JUNJIE (CONT'D)

House rules. From now on no guns
at the table. Ok?

Junjie decides to tease them a little...

JUNJIE (CONT'D)

Also no cards for money and no
women after eleven pm.

Vogel half smiles. Corey doesn't. Vogel lowers his gun.
Corey brings his hand from under the table and we see he is
holding a SPOON.

Junjie serves himself some food.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)

Now let's eat and go to bed.
Some of us have to get up for
work in the morning.

EXT. EMPIRE BANK, REAR ENTRANCE - VERY EARLY MORNING

Junjie hurries to join a group of office cleaners who are
waiting at the back door. There are women and men, all
wearing ID tags. A young guy in uniform opens the door and
checks their ID's as they enter.

INT. EMPIRE BANK - VERY EARLY MORNING

We find Junjie mopping the floor in the non-secure customer area of the bank. He slops the water onto the floor and then checks out the young bank official who is heading for the secure area. He watches as the guy punches in a security code.

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY - DAY

We find Corey with one of the Barrett sniper rifles. The countryside is flat and desolate. Beside him, a wooden stake has been driven into the ground and there is a red silk scarf tied to the top of it. Corey raises the rifle onto a tripod and makes adjustments as he takes aim into the far distance.

Through the telescopic sight of the rifle, in the cross hairs, we see Vogel, who is also holding a rifle.

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY, ONE MILE AWAY

We join Vogel, who is standing beside a similar stake driven into the ground. He has the other Barrett rifle and lifts his rifle onto his tripod and takes aim.

In a reverse of the previous shot, we see Corey in Vogel's sights.

For a moment this should look like some kind of crazy duel, taking place with the two men a mile apart. The red silk scarves look almost heraldic. Are they going to kill each other?...

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY

Back with Corey, we see Corey settling in to his aim. Through his telescopic sight we once again see Vogel and perhaps sense a temptation to pull the trigger.

However, Corey adjusts his aim and we see he is aiming at a small target painted onto the wooden stake at Vogel's side.

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY, ONE MILE AWAY

We see Vogel settling his aim. He also takes aim at the target painted onto the wooden stake at Corey's side.

Vogel checks his watch...waits...and then fires...

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY

Corey fires at the same time. Half a second after he has fired, Vogel's bullet thuds into the wooden stake beside Corey.

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY, ONE MILE AWAY

Corey's bullet thuds into the wooden stake beside Vogel. He turns to see a hole in the center of the target. He's impressed by the accuracy. He pulls the stake from the ground.

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY, WIDE SHOT

In a long shot, we see Corey pulling his stake from the ground too and then the two men walk toward each other with their wooden stakes in their hands, the red silk scarves fluttering.

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY BETWEEN THE TWO

Corey and Vogel meet with their stakes in their hands. As they come together they stick the wooden stakes into the ground side-by-side.

Corey and Vogel examine the two bullet holes. Both holes are deep, with the bullets embedded into the wood. Corey looks disappointed and Vogel understands.

COREY

Even at a mile the bullets are hitting too hard.

VOGEL

They'll break the casing around the security pad and set off the secondary alarm.

Corey peers at Vogel, perhaps surprised at the depth of his knowledge.

COREY

Do you have any ideas?

VOGEL

Increase the distance.

COREY

Then we increase the risk of missing.

VOGEL

I won't miss.

Corey puts his finger into the bullet hole Vogel made. It is an inch off target. Then Corey walks away and Vogel calls out...

VOGEL (CONT'D)

Ok so we just need softer bullets.

INT. HONG KONG FISH MARKET

In the bustle of the market we find Junjie buying live lobsters. We find Mattei in the crowd, watching Junjie.

As the live lobsters are being scooped out of the tank, Mattei comes to stand beside Junjie at a discreet distance.

Junjie reaches into his pocket for change and sees Mattei.

INT. SMALL MARKET CAFE

In a dark corner, Mattei and Junjie are sipping tea. Junjie is checking the shadows as they pass but the market is full and bustling, so they are easily lost in the crowd. Junjie lifts his cup.

MATTEI

(Your hands don't shake anymore).

JUNJIE

(Just tell me how this ends.)

MATTEI

(A clean City).

Mattei warms his hands on his cup.

JUNJIE

(Corey and Vogel die too?)

MATTEI

(If we arrested them they'd just escape. Why not?)

Junjie nods and hides his uncertainty. Mattei peers at him as he blows steam from his cup. Then Mattei glances down at the live lobsters in Junjie's bags.

MATTEI (CONT'D)

(Your turn to cook, huh?)

Junjie nods. Mattei peers at him then at the lobsters, perhaps aware that Junjie is getting a little close to Vogel and Corey.

INT. COREY'S APARTMENT

We see the pink, cooked lobsters inside a pot full of boiling water. Junjie is cooking and Vogel is brooding at the table, completing the London Times crossword.

Corey is making calculations on a sheet of blank paper.

Junjie has produced a feast, with lobster, fish, pork ribs. He brings the first dish to the table.

Vogel picks up his chopsticks and takes a taste of the food. Corey stops and lays down his piece of paper.

Junjie serves some food to Corey...Vogel concentrates on eating....Corey starts to eat. Junjie brings the lobsters and sits down facing Corey.

After a moment Junjie reaches into his pocket and produces a TIN SOLDIER. It is an old fashioned toy soldier but it has its head missing. Junjie slams the soldier down on the table hard enough for Corey and Vogel to both look up.

They stop eating and peer at the headless soldier.

VOGEL

What the fuck is that?

JUNJIE

It is the answer to the problem.

Vogel and Corey glance at each other. Then Junjie produces his gun and engages it.

VOGEL

Hey. You said no guns at the table.

JUNJIE

This is a demonstration, watch.

Junjie playfully takes aim at Vogel, who instantly ducks. Junjie fires and hits the wall. He then takes aim at Corey, who also ducks. Junjie again fires and hits the wall. He fires the two shots in quick succession. Vogel and Corey sit back up and peer at Junjie with bafflement. Junjie gestures at the bullet holes.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)

Look at the holes.

Junjie gets to his feet and visits each of the bullet holes in turn.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)

The first bullet was a regular bullet. The second I made out of the head of that toy soldier. It was made out of tin.

Junjie puts his finger in the first bullet hole.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)

Come and see.

Corey doesn't react for a moment, then he and Vogel get up to study the holes in the wall. The first hole is deep. The second is shallow and the tin bullet is still squashed in position.

Corey takes the tin bullet out and studies it. He realizes Junjie has solved the problem.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)

Now go and sit down and eat. The food is getting cold.

Corey and Vogel look at each other.

EXT. HONG KONG STREET MARKET

Corey and Vogel walk down the street where household items and hardware are being sold. Corey stops at a particular vendor who is stacking metal tool boxes on his stall.

Corey offers him a cigarette and the guy just stares...

COREY

(I'm looking for the tin man.)

EXT. SCRAP YARD

Old cars and steel and iron junk rusts in the sun. A ferocious German Shepherd snarls as the giant corrugated iron doors are opened.

An old chinese guy with only one leg drags open the door and grabs the German Shepherd. Corey and Vogel step inside the yard and look around.

The guy urges them to follow and hurries forward on his crutches. We cut close to Vogel and Corey as they follow and Vogel speaks softly, evidently mortified.

VOGEL

Corey, we have reputations as international criminals. I hope to God no one sees us buying stolen tin from a man with one leg.

Corey keeps walking.

EXT. HONG KONG STREET

Corey is carrying a large brick of tin toward the Mercedes car. Vogel opens the trunk and Corey lifts it inside. They both climb inside the car and Corey fires the engine...

As he does we see the guy with the one leg hurriedly closing the huge iron doors of his scrap yard as if his life depended on it.

Vogel spots it out of the corner of his eye and looks puzzled. He then peers into the crowds of Chinese who are now blocking the path of the car. Corey glances at him, getting the same itchy feeling.

VOGEL

Do you ever get the feeling that everyone works for Santi.

Corey makes a grab for the car door...

COREY

Get down!!

At that moment, three of the 'passers-by' pull guns and open fire on the car. Vogel rolls from the car and sets about taking the guys out. Corey uses the car door as cover and opens fire.

People flee as the battle continues. Corey rolls around to the back of the car and grabs the lump of tin. Vogel covers him as they make their way into the crowd, leaving four of Santi's men dead in their wake...

INT. EMPIRE BANK

We cut to Junjie mopping his way across the secure floor. Outside a certain steel door there are three big heavies in suits, standing to attention.

There is also a young FEMALE CLERK checking her watch. She is counting down seconds under her breath...

FEMALE CLERK

Five, four...

There is a large red button near to her head.

INT. EMPIRE BANK, A HUNDRED YARDS AWAY

Three more guards are standing outside a bank vault door and a second MALE CLERK is also counting down seconds. There is an identical red button near to his head. He counts down under his breath...

MALE CLERK
...three, two...

INT. EMPIRE BANK

The female clerk finishes the count...

FEMALE CLERK
...one.

She presses the red button and the bank vault door begins to rise. As it rises, we see an identical door rising fifty yards away and see the male clerk entering the space between the two doors.

We should get the idea that these buttons must be pressed exactly simultaneously in order for them to open.

As the doors open, we see the shadow of the first door rising across Junjie's face as he looks up.

Junjie sweeps his way towards the female clerk who pressed the button. He gestures at the door...

JUNJIE
(That's some smart vault).

Junjie nods and whistles like a simple man who is impressed.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)
(For uncles I bet)

The clerk turns on him...

FEMALE CLERK
You don't have much water in your bucket.

Junjie peers into his bucket, nods and hurries away.

INT. COREY'S APARTMENT

A blue flame burns from a Bunsen burner and we see Junjie's face close to it.

He has moulds made from rock and we see the lump of tin twisted on the draining board beside the sink.

Junjie is making tin bullets.

He works with great care. In the shadows at the table behind him we see Corey and Vogel.

We stay with Junjie for a while and study the process of making bullets. Junjie's hand is now steady as a rock.

Corey and Vogel watch him work, their faces lit by the blue flame. Finally we sense that their attention is bothering him and he turns to Corey.

JUNJIE

Aren't you supposed to be cooking dinner tonight?

INT. COREY'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - LATER

Corey has cooked burgers with fried onions. He makes up three burgers and puts them on plates. He squashes a cockroach with a ketchup bottle. We see the tin bullets cooling in the background.

INT. COREY'S APARTMENT, LIVING AREA

Vogel and Junjie are at the table as Corey lays down their burgers. The ketchup bottle is on the table. Junjie sniffs the burgers...

JUNJIE

I don't know how you eat this American stuff.

VOGEL

Actually burgers are German originally...

Junjie sniffs his burger and speaks in Cantonese...

JUNJIE

(I think originally this was a horse's ass).

Vogel and Corey laugh as they take bites. Vogel speaks with his mouth full.

VOGEL

Try it with some ketchup.

Vogel picks up the ketchup bottle and goes to squirt some onto Junjie's burger. However, he misses and instead squirts ketchup onto Junjie's shirt.

Junjie looks down then glares at Vogel. Vogel shrugs. Junjie suddenly picks up the ketchup bottle and squirts ketchup onto Vogel's shirt.

Corey looks alarmed and reaches into his jacket. Vogel has dead eyes for a moment. Then, he picks up the ketchup and squirts Junjie's face.

Junjie leaps to his feet. Corey tries to come between them. Junjie has grabbed the ketchup bottle and fired, but he hits Corey. Corey grabs the bottle and fires at Junjie...

The ketchup fight gets out of hand and the guys are all now hooting with laughter until at last the ketchup is all used up. They stand and stare at each other...breathless.

The ketchup looks like blood. Corey and Vogel peer at each other and realize that some day...it *will be* blood. Junjie senses the darkness. He sits down.

Corey and Vogel catch the mood and sit down uneasily at the table. Corey wipes ketchup from his face.

COREY

We should make the most of all
this fun we're having.

A pause.

COREY (CONT'D)

We get the codes tomorrow.

EXT. OPEN FOOD MARKET, HONG KONG

In a bustling market where every kind of food and clothing is for sale we find An shopping. Except An can never shop alone. Behind her we see four heavies who follow at a discreet distance, watching her every move.

An is browsing through the different stalls and when we cut close we see a tension in her eyes. She has already bought a few items but her attention seems to be elsewhere.

She glances across the street and sees a small market stall selling dresses and T-shirts. There is a hand written sign above it which says in Cantonese '*Mr Freedom Clothes company*'. She looks at the sign for a moment then heads for the stall.

As she approaches, we see a market stall keeper wearing a large hat with his back turned. An speaks brightly...

AN

(I'm looking to buy a dress.)

The owner of the stall turns. We see it is Junjie. He smiles and An smiles back. Junjie lifts a green dress from the hanger. An hardly even looks at it. The four heavies are coming close now and we sense that An knows she has to do this transaction quickly...

AN (CONT'D)
(That looks good.)

JUNJIE
(Ten dollars.)

An reaches into her purse. One of the heavies steps up and offers to pay but An waves him away. She hands Junjie a roll of notes.

As he takes it, we just notice a scrap of paper rolled up inside the roll of dollars.

EXT. STREET MARKET - LATER

One of the heavies accompanying An produces car keys as they approach a large parked Mercedes which is almost lost in the swirling crowds. He opens the rear door. An climbs in and we find Santi waiting in the back seat, reading the Financial Times.

They begin to make slow progress through the swirling crowds. Santi doesn't look up from his paper.

SANTI
What did you buy?

AN
Lots of things. Junk mostly.

Santi doesn't ask permission, he simply takes the first bag off An's lap and takes a shirt she's just bought out of the bag. He smiles. Then he picks up a second bag and finds an old bamboo snuff box which he admires. Then he pulls out the dress she bought from Junjie.

He peers at it, puzzled...

SANTI
You never wear green.

An looks deeply anxious but laughs.

AN
I told you, it's just junk. It's for my sister...

Santi studies her...senses deceit. He taps the glass divide and speaks to the driver...

SANTI

Stop.

EXT. MARKET

Junjie is hurrying through the market, carrying a small bag of dresses which he was selling on his stall. He is also speaking on his cellphone.

JUNJIE

I got them.

We see him dump the dresses in the trash and turn up his collar as he walks on.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)

Yeah, I'll get a cab.

A moment later, we see one of the heavies who accompanied An following Junjie at a discreet distance. He speaks softly into his cellphone as he hurries in pursuit of Junjie.

EXT. COREY'S APARTMENT

Through lines of washing we close in on a rooftop opposite Corey's window. We see the silhouette of a man looking through binoculars at the apartment.

INT. COREY'S APARTMENT

Vogel is washing up dishes while Junjie and Corey play chess. He has his *iPod* in his ear and when he takes it out he reacts. Outside it is usually noisy. Now it is silent..

Vogel hears a dog barking and the slam of a car door.

He stops washing the dishes and walks to the front window. He peers down into the street. *He sees it is deserted.* This seems to confirm something for him.

He then catches a glinting reflection of the binoculars from the rooftop opposite.

He turns around to stare at Corey and Junjie playing chess. He studies them both and makes a fast decision.

Vogel pulls his gun and engages it. His eyes are dead.

VOGEL

Everybody is working for Santi.

After a moment, Corey and Junjie turn around and see Vogel with his gun raised. It isn't an unusual sight and they simply peer at him.

COREY

What the fuck are you talking about?

Vogel gestures at Junjie. He then aims the gun at Junjie and walks slowly toward him.

VOGEL

Santi's men are outside.

Junjie laughs...

JUNJIE

You know they say the fumes from burnt tin can send you a little crazy.

Corey respects Vogel's instinct and gets to his feet to go to the window. Vogel is glaring into Junjie's eyes with his gun still pointed.

Corey is crouching by the window and peering out, pulling his gun. Vogel glances back.

VOGEL

Two on the roof, three in the bakery doorway.

Corey quickly pulls down the blinds as Vogel yanks Junjie to his feet.

VOGEL (CONT'D)

If we're going to die you're going to die first.

Suddenly a burst of gunfire rakes the room and they all hit the floor. Corey begins to pull up the floorboards as Junjie hisses at Vogel...

JUNJIE

I'm not working for Santi...

VOGEL

So how did they find us?

Another burst of gunfire is followed by the sound of footsteps outside. Corey has pulled up the floorboards and retrieved the assault rifles. As he grabs them...

COREY

Did you get a cab from the market?

Junjie hesitates...

JUNJIE

Taxi's are a waste of money.

Another burst of gunfire.

VOGEL

Shhhhit!

Vogel reacts with disgust and Junjie yells...

JUNJIE

I'm just an ex-cop, ok!? An
honest cop! I used to live on a
wage. I'm not like you people!

Corey throws an assault rifle to Vogel...and then..as an
act of faith...throws one to Junjie too.

COREY

Come on.

He crouches and opens fire through the broken window in the
direction of the incoming fire.

Vogel and Junjie glance at each other, then both take up
positions. The battle begins in earnest. Corey, Vogel and
Junjie exchanging fire with Santi's men.

As the bullets fly, Corey leaps into the bathroom and
retrieves plastic explosives which he distributes among the
three of them.

COREY (CONT'D)

If we stay here, we're dead,
let's go.

Corey and Vogel grab the Barrett rifles and put them in the
bag. Junjie pockets the tin bullets. One-by-one they lift
themselves up into the attic.

INT. STAIRWAY

Six of Santi's heavies are preparing to break in through
the apartment door...

Suddenly a lump of plastic explosive drops down from the
ceiling and explodes. Junjie, Vogel and Corey then drop
into shot, shooting their way down the stairs. We hear
sirens approaching.

EXT. STREET

One-by-one, Corey, Vogel and Junjie emerge from the rear door of the apartment into the street and engage with various gunmen who are waiting for them.

As they fight, Junjie takes a hit in the shoulder and stumbles.

Vogel races to his side and pulls him to safety in a doorway, saving his life.

Vogel holds his hand to the wound and smiles.

VOGEL

It never hurts for the first
thirty seconds.

Junjie speaks dead-pan...

JUNJIE

Twenty eight, twenty nine...

Right on cue, Junjie yells with pain.

EXT. STREET NEAR THE GUN BATTLE

Three police cars skid to a halt as the bullets continue to fly. We see two cops leap out of one of the police cars and race into position. As they go, they leave the door of the car open and leave the keys in the ignition.

As the leather fob of the key swings gently...we see a hand..then a face. It is Corey. He eases himself into the driver's seat of the police car, fires the engine and races forward.

EXT. DOORWAY

A wounded Junjie and Vogel are leaping over a low wall and through lines of washing, dodging bullets as they go. They burst through a wooden gate into the street...to be met by a police car.

VOGEL

Ah shit...

Vogel is about to use his gun. Then they see Corey leaning over from the passenger seat.

COREY

Will you just get in the fucking
car.

INT. POLICE CAR

Corey hits the siren and they shoot down the road between the cops and Santi's men, who are now engaged in a full-fledged gun battle. Then Corey spins the police car around a sharp bend and they hit the open road.

EXT. HONG KONG STREET

Corey is still driving fast with the siren blazing. He peers in the rear view mirror at Junjie.

COREY

Bad?

JUNJIE

I'm ok.

Junjie grimaces in pain. They drive on fast through the crowded streets. They look from one to the other.

COREY

Santi will move the money. If we're going to hit the vault we have to do it in the next half hour. There's no time to go to the hospital.

Corey examines their expressions in the rear view mirror. After a moment Junjie turns to Vogel and nods.

Vogel produces a small pen knife which he uses to cut open Junjie's shirt. The bleeding appears to be staunched. Vogel studies the wound.

A pause. Vogel looks into Junjie's eyes. Junjie nods again. The police car hurtles through the streets with sirens blazing.

Vogel gets a firm grip and then digs into Junjie's wound. He locates the bullet with precision and speed and digs it out.

Junjie makes a deep animal grunting sound, but only at the end of the lightning fast operation.

Vogel holds the bullet in his hand and we can see the admiration in his eyes for Junjie.

Corey looks once more into the rear view mirror at Junjie and Vogel AND WE SENSE HE HAS NEVER HAD COMRADES LIKE THESE.

EXT. ROOFTOP, HALF A MILE FROM THE EMPIRE BANK

We see a dazzling view of Hong Kong in the background as Corey begins to set up his Barrett sniper rifle on a tripod. He works calmly, screwing the sight onto the barrel, tightening the tripod.

EXT. SECOND ROOFTOP

We see Vogel doing exactly the same on a rooftop with a similarly vast panorama. He has his *iPod* in his ear and hums along to the music.

He checks his watch.

INT. STOLEN POLICE CAR, PARKED NEAR TO COREY'S ROOFTOP

We find Junjie, wounded and in extreme pain but fighting it. He checks his wound and reacts. He looks around in agony and sees a liquor store in the near distance.

EXT. COREY'S ROOFTOP

Corey checks his watch and produces a tin bullet.

EXT. VOGEL'S ROOFTOP

Vogel produces his tin bullet. Then his cellphone rings.

INT. LIQOR STORE

Junjie enters the store, hiding his wound and speaking through pain...he lays some cash on the counter.

JUNJIE
(Bottle of vodka).

EXT. COREY'S ROOFTOP

Corey is speaking into the phone.

COREY
Synchronize watches...

EXT. VOGEL'S ROOFTOP

We see Vogel checking his watch with the phone to his ear.

EXT. COREY'S ROOFTOP

Corey adjusts his watch.

COREY
Sixty seconds from...

He waits...

COREY (CONT'D)
...Now.

Corey cuts the call and peers through the sight of his rifle...

From his point of view we see a gap between two steel shutters. Through the gap we see the security button the size of a thumbnail. Corey adjusts his sight to get the button in the cross hairs.

Suddenly...there is a hand on his shoulder. Corey freezes then turns. It is JUNJIE. He has a bottle of vodka in his hand which is half empty.

Corey peers at him. Junjie smiles.

JUNJIE
Anti-septic. I used it to clean
the wound.

Junjie stands with the lights of Hong Kong in the background. He looks to be in pain but he's holding up. He very deliberately pours the rest of the vodka away.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)
Let me make the shot.

A pause. They stare into each other's eyes.

JUNJIE (CONT'D)
This time I'm not drunk and I
won't miss.

Corey can tell how much this means to Junjie. He peers at Junjie for a little while longer then glances at his watch. Thirty seconds to go. Corey steps aside from the rifle.

COREY
It's locked on target. Just pull
the trigger.

Junjie takes up position on the rifle and immediately his professionalism takes over.

JUNJIE
You don't pull, you squeeze.

EXT. VOGEL'S ROOFTOP

Vogel is peering through the telescopic sight and counting softly under his breath...

VOGEL
Twelve, eleven, ten, nine...

He pulls his *iPod* from his ear.

EXT. COREY'S ROOFTOP

Corey is counting as Junjie takes aim...Junjie suddenly pulls the sniper rifle off its tripod and takes aim manually...Corey reacts but keeps counting...

COREY
Three, two, one...

Junjie fires. He is frozen in time. Corey stares at him. After an age, Junjie turns and places the rifle back on the tripod.

He nods firmly. Corey sighs with relief...

EXT. ROOFTOPS

Vogel is bounding across rooftops in the direction of the bank. Along the way he sees a stray black cat and stops. He scoops the cat up and bounds off with it...

EXT. EMPIRE BANK, ROOFTOP

We see Vogel squeezing in through a skylight into the interior of a store beside the bank.

INT. EMPIRE BANK, STORE ROOM ON THE TOP FLOOR

We see Vogel placing a small explosive charge next to a wall and taking cover. He takes care to hide the cat from the effects of the explosion. He hits his TV remote control and the explosion blows a hole in the wall.

INT. EMPIRE BANK, AIR CONDITIONING VENT

Vogel is prizing a vent away from its casing. He squeezes out through the hole. He reaches back and grabs the cat.

INT. EMPIRE BANK, CORRIDOR

The cat drops down into the corridor from the ceiling.
Vogel follows and approaches a secure door.

He then takes the private security codes which An gave to Junjie and begins to punch the numbers into the key pad.

We hear a click and Vogel opens the secure door.

INT. EMPIRE BANK, VAULT - NIGHT

Three heavies sit in guard at the door of the vault. Two of them are asleep, one is reading a book of poetry, almost nodding off.

After a moment, the black cat appears from the shadows and walks through an invisible beam.

An alarm begins to sound and the three heavies begin to wake. They see the cat and react with puzzlement.

HEAVY 1
(How the hell did he get in here?)

The biggest of the heavies gets to his feet and approaches a control panel which he uses to switch off the alarm. As he does, another of the heavies goes after the cat.

HEAVY 2
(Get it out of here or we'll never get any sleep).

The two remaining heavies settle down and close their eyes. A few seconds later Vogel appears where the cat emerged a few seconds before. No alarm sounds. Vogel smiles...

EXT. HONG KONG STREET - NIGHT

Corey and Junjie jump into a large baker's van and drive off at speed.

EXT. EMPIRE BANK

Corey and Junjie park at the rear entrance of the bank where Junjie reports for work. They both pull on balaclava masks and climb out. From the back of the van they produce wheeled trolleys.

Junjie is still in pain but he's running on adrenaline.

They approach the secure door and find it is closed but unlocked, the locks held back by tape.

COREY

He's in.

INT. EMPIRE BANK

Junjie leads Corey to the first secure door. He pushes it and it opens. Junjie looks relieved.

INT. EMPIRE BANK, CORRIDOR

Corey and Junjie walk stealthily through the corridor. Then they hear a noise ahead. Corey pulls his gun. They see a shadow on a far wall...then see the black cat. Junjie studies it. They press on.

INT. EMPIRE BANK, CORRIDOR, NEAR TO THE VAULT

Corey and Junjie arrive at the corner beside the vault. Corey peeks around the corner and sees the three heavies sitting in their chairs, with their eyes closed.

It's as if they are all asleep.

Corey stares, unsure if they are alive or dead. He thinks for a moment...Suddenly a voice...

VOGEL

What kept you?

Vogel has the cat in his hands, stroking it gently. Corey gestures around the corner.

COREY

Are they dead?

VOGEL

Of course they're bloody dead.
I've been here ten minutes.

Corey, Junjie and Vogel break cover and approach the vault door where the three dead men sit in peace.

COREY

Just three more inside.

Vogel hands the cat to Corey...who takes it awkwardly.

VOGEL

Hold her.

Vogel reaches into his bag and produces some plastic explosives which is pliable like clay. Junjie sneezes and Corey reacts.

JUNJIE
I am allergic to cats...

INT. EMPIRE BANK, CORRIDOR/VAULT DOOR

Vogel, Corey and Junjie have lined the edges of the vault door with plastic explosives which they have pushed into the recess all around it.

The cat is yawning and stretching. Vogel scoops up the cat and grabs his bag. The three of them retreat twenty yards down the corridor. Vogel produces three TV remote controls and hands one to Corey and one to Vogel.

VOGEL
Ok. On three press power.

They all point their remotes...

VOGEL (CONT'D)
One, two, three...

They all press their remote controls. Nothing happens.

VOGEL (CONT'D)
Shit.

He thinks for a half second.

VOGEL (CONT'D)
Take two paces forward.

In a line, the three men step forward. They stop and press power. Nothing happens. Vogel sighs and they all step forward in a line again...

(We study them as they step forward together. They look like soldiers marching forward, real comrades).

They all press their buttons again and nothing happens. They step forward and they are now ten yards away. They stop and press...Nothing.

COREY (SOFTLY)
This isn't going to work....

BOOM.

The three of them are thrown off their feet. As the dust settles, they see the door has been destroyed and they see the interior of the vault.

The vault is filled with gold bars and stacks of cash.

Corey, Vogel and Junjie are dazzled by the sight for a moment then take cover. There is silence. Vogel is on guard but moves forward first. Corey follows, then Junjie.

Then bullets start to fly from inside the vault.

The heavies are using the gold bars as cover and are firing from behind walls of gold. A gun fight now ensues, with Vogel and Corey taking up positions on either side of the vault door, while Junjie takes careful aim at anything that moves.

Blood drips from Junjie's wound, but he appears to feel no pain.

Vogel meanwhile has pulled one of the dead guards to his feet and holds him like a shield in front of his body. He steps into the doorway with the body in front of him. A heavy sees his friend and hesitates.

Vogel shoots him dead.

Another heavy takes aim at Vogel and Junjie shoots him, saving Vogel's life. Corey then rolls to the side of one of the golden walls, kicks away some bricks and shoots the third heavy.

There is silence and smoke. Finally Vogel speaks up...

VOGEL
I make that three.

Slowly, Corey, Vogel and Junjie emerge from their cover. They look from one to the other, in the presence of billions of dollars worth of gold.

A smile appears on Vogel's face. Then suddenly... a *fourth* heavy pops up and takes aim. Vogel is first to react and shoots him in the head, saving Corey's life.

Corey and Vogel peer at each other.

INT. EMPIRE BANK, CORRIDOR

Corey, Vogel and Junjie wheel trolleys of gold down the corridors of the bank. The black cat is riding on Vogel's trolley.

EXT. EMPIRE BANK, REAR ENTRANCE

Corey and Junjie emerge from the bank with their trolleys of gold. They leap into the bread van and Vogel emerges with the black cat and gently puts it into the van.

EXT. MARY LOUISE

By moonlight we find Junjie, Corey and Vogel loading the last of the gold and cash onto the boat. We hear sirens blaring all over the City. Junjie sneezes and Vogel lets the black cat slip away into the night.

Vogel has produced a can of kerosene and he is dousing the bread van with it. He throws the balaclavas and the sacks into the van then closes the door.

Corey starts the engine of the boat and Vogel hurries aboard. Junjie unties the rope and climbs aboard too. As Corey steers the boat away from the dock, Vogel points a TV remote control at the bread van and presses 'power'. There is a small explosion and the bread van bursts into flames.

Corey shifts gear and the Mary Louise roars away across the harbor as the lights of Hong Kong twinkle like stars.

EXT. OPEN WATER - NIGHT

Under real stars the boat makes steady progress. The boat is low in the water from the sheer weight of the gold.

Corey is at the wheel, Junjie is sipping tea. He has his shirt off and we see that his wound has been expertly bandaged. He is sitting on bricks of gold which are stacked up all over the boat. There are also piles of cash stacked around the cabin and in the hold beneath their feet.

Vogel appears from the deck with a bottle of champagne which he pops.

VOGEL

I dangled it over the edge for a
bit so it's pretty cold.

He takes a swig and offers it to Corey. Corey simply stares at Vogel.

COREY

We still have work to do.

Corey, Vogel and Junjie all look from one to the other.

VOGEL

You want to hit Santi *tonight*?

Corey stares straight ahead.

COREY

Yeah. Tonight.

VOGEL

What's the hurry?

Vogel offers the champagne to Junjie but he shakes his head. A pause. Junjie is studying Corey. After a moment...

JUNJIE (TO COREY)

Aren't you going to tell him?

Vogel peers at Corey too...takes a swig of champagne.

VOGEL

Tell me what?

A pause. Vogel slowly gets to his feet.

JUNJIE

Mr Vogel, maybe this is stuff you wouldn't understand.

VOGEL

I said...tell me what?

Corey stares straight ahead as the boat makes progress. In the distance we can see Santi's villa lit up on a hilltop. Junjie speaks up.

JUNJIE

When I was a cop we had a wire tap on all of Santi's phones. We knew his wife was having an affair with some bad guy...but we didn't know who.

Vogel begins to put the pieces together.

Corey snatches the bottle of champagne off Vogel and tips it upside down, pouring it away. The champagne fizzes on the deck...

COREY

I don't want her getting hurt OK?
We bring her out in one piece.

Vogel stares at Corey with disbelief for a moment. Corey feels his stare...

COREY (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you looking at?

VOGEL

I don't know what I'm looking at anymore.

A pause.

VOGEL (CONT'D)

Not revenge. Love.

Corey turns to glare at Vogel, who is peering intently at him.

VOGEL (CONT'D)

That's why you've gone soft.

Corey doesn't react but continues to steer the boat straight ahead. Vogel and Junjie swap looks. Junjie speaks up first.

JUNJIE

We'll be careful not to hurt her.

Corey half turns.

COREY

You're not coming Junjie.

Junjie reacts.

COREY (CONT'D)

You're going to wait on the boat.
Me and Vogel are going to swim
ashore and do what we have to do.
You're wounded. And killing
Santi isn't your affair.

The boat slows. They all become sombre. Corey and Vogel confirm agreement with their silence.

Vogel approaches Junjie and puts a hand on his shoulder. We expect comforting words. Instead...

VOGEL

And if you disappear with the
gold my friend, I will find you
and kill you..

Corey knocks the boat engine out of gear.

COREY

He won't disappear.

Corey turns to Junjie and cuts the engine. Silence.

COREY (CONT'D)

He's a good man. That's the other
reason he's not coming ashore.

EXT. BOAT - MOONLIGHT

Vogel and Corey are wearing wet suits. They have waterproof bags carrying guns and ammunition slung over their backs. We should sense that they have everything planned.

Junjie stands on deck in front of them. A pause. Junjie looks from one to the other.

After a moment Corey and then Vogel both drop into the black water of the harbor. Junjie watches them disappear into the darkness. He lights a cigarette and tosses the match into the water.

INT. BOAT, CABIN

Junjie returns to the cabin with his cigarette. He looks around at all the gold and cash. He becomes thoughtful then considers his cellphone.

INT. MATTEI'S LIVING ROOM

A cat sits on top of the phone as it begin to ring. Mattei hurries to it with a mouthful of food. He lifts the cat gently off the phone and takes the call.

MATTEI
(Hello?...Hello?)

INT. BOAT, CABIN

Junjie is holding the phone but he can't bring himself to speak. He cuts the call, puts the cellphone down and draws on his cigarette.

EXT. SANTI'S VILLA, PERIMETER WALL

Corey drops down from scaling a wall and rolls into cover. A little further away we see Vogel do the same.

Corey stares all around and looks puzzled. Suddenly Vogel is by his side.

VOGEL
What happened to the dogs?

Corey is obviously puzzled too.

EXT. SANTI'S VILLA, FOUNTAINS

The fountains are all switched off and the water stagnates. Birds drink water undisturbed. Corey's shadow flickers across the surface of the water.

INT. SANTI'S VILLA, MASTER BEDROOM

The ornate and beautifully furnished bedroom is silent and An is lying in bed, apparently asleep. Suddenly a body explodes through the ceiling and lands with a roll on the floorboards.

It is Vogel who already has his gun raised and scans the room like a commando.

He sees An and steps closer. He reaches down to shake her awake but as he rolls her onto his back, he sees a single bullet hole in her heart. Her dress is stained with blood around the wound.

The red circle of the wound tells us that An is dead.

As Vogel reacts, the door flies open and Corey rolls into the room. He straightens and aims his gun at Vogel. Vogel peers at him then glances at the bed and at An's body.

Corey sees An and half a second later, he sees the wound and realizes she is dead. He freezes. Vogel slowly puts his gun away.

Corey's stares down at the body of the woman he loved.

He lowers his head and his gun drops from his hand onto the floor.

There is a long silence. Finally...

VOGEL

Junjie was right. I don't understand.

Corey slowly takes An's hand in his own and holds it. Here is a man who has no room for emotion and who is now almost overwhelmed by it.

Then he looks up at Vogel and perhaps realizes that in all the world, Vogel is one of the only men who possibly could understand the effect love would have on men like them. He speaks softly, almost confused.

COREY

You said that men who kill for a living are always alone.

A pause. Corey gestures down at An's dead body.

COREY (CONT'D)
Now I am alone again.

Vogel studies Corey...and suddenly his expression changes...

Vogel has spotted a red light shining on Corey's chest coming in through the window. *It is the red light of a telescopic sight and Vogel realizes that this is a trap and Corey is about to be shot.*

Vogel dives on Corey and pushes him onto the floor just as a bullet flies through the window and hits a vase behind where Corey was standing.

Suddenly the room is riddled with bullets. An's body takes some more hits. Corey can't bring himself to leave her behind but Vogel drags him to the door.

EXT. SANTI'S VILLA, GARDEN

Corey and Vogel appear at the front door of the villa and take defensive positions behind two huge stone lions which guard the door. As they appear, gun men open fire from all around.

In a moment of pure rage, Corey breaks cover and stands in the open, pumping bullets at his assailants. Vogel realizes that Corey has temporarily taken leave of his senses and grabs him.

He pulls him back into cover and hisses at him angrily.

VOGEL
If I'm going to get out of here I
need you alive.

Corey takes a breath.

EXT. BOAT, DECK

To our astonishment, we find that Junjie has steered the boat to within fifty yards of the shore below Santi's villa.

He has also set up the Barrett rifle on a tripod on the deck of the boat and is peering through the telescopic lens at the villa.

From his POV we see him taking aim at one of the gun men who are surrounding Corey and Vogel. The gun man has his back to the ocean.

The movement of the boat means the target keeps rising and falling out of the sight so Junjie has to time his shot perfectly.

He squeezes the trigger.

EXT. SANTI'S VILLA, GARDEN

The heavy who Junjie targeted is hit and falls dead. Two of the other heavies react to the fire from behind them.

As they turn to take cover from the ocean side, Vogel and Corey make a break. Another heavy is hit by Junjie. Vogel takes out another as he runs.

EXT. SANTI'S VILLA, CLIFFSIDE

Under fire, Corey and Vogel make it to the perimeter wall. They cover each other as they scale the wall and jump over.

They land on a ledge just a yard wide, with a sheer drop into the ocean before them.

EXT. OCEAN

Junjie is racing toward the shore in the boat, a cigarette dangling from his mouth as he steers.

EXT. SANTI'S VILLA, CLIFFSIDE

Corey and Vogel glance at each other before making the same decision. They have no choice but to jump into the ocean.

Simultaneously they take the leap.

EXT. OCEAN

Junjie is just twenty yards from the shore. He cuts the engine and hurries to the side of the boat. Corey and Vogel climb aboard the boat on opposite sides.

VOGEL

What the fuck are you doing here?
If you'd hit the rocks you
would've lost the gold.

JUNJIE

I don't take orders from you.

Junjie sees Corey's look of desolation and is about to react.

Then bullets ricochet across the deck as gunmen take shots at the boat from above. Corey and Junjie return fire as Vogel races for the cabin and hits the throttle.

The boat speeds away into the ocean.

INT. BOAT, CABIN

Vogel is steering as Corey enters, followed a few moments later by Junjie.

They all peer from one to the other.

JUNJIE

What happened up there?

A pause. Corey goes to the cabin window and peers out at the moonlit ocean. Vogel speaks flatly.

VOGEL

Corey just re-joined a very exclusive club.

Corey turns sharply and fixes Vogel with a deadly stare.

COREY

You and me still have business.

Vogel stares back, just as deadly.

VOGEL

I wouldn't miss it for the world.

A pause. Corey goes to the wheel of the boat.

COREY

First we kill Santi.

A pause. Junjie looks from one to the other.

JUNJIE

You don't know where he is.

Corey takes the wheel, releases the throttle and turns sharply.

COREY

I know where he is.

EXT. OPEN COUNTRY, NEW TERRITORIES - SUNSET

In open country we see an old farmhouse...

It is in the middle of nowhere and is surrounded by miles and miles of REED BEDS. The reeds rustle in the wind. The farmhouse has outbuildings and a large barn.

Mist rises from the fields and birds flock around the reed beds. An old farm truck pulls up on a winding road above the valley with a good view of the farmhouse.

Then through the mist, we see Corey, Vogel and Junjie approaching. They look like three battle hardened warriors.

They stop on the crest of a hill which looks down on the farmhouse and the reed beds. Corey lights a cigarette as he peers down at the buildings.

VOGEL

You know his secrets.

Corey seems to be peering into his past...

COREY

Yeah.

JUNJIE

He can't have many men left.

COREY

He keeps the best close. I was one of them once.

Corey looks into the distance. Vogel puts his hand on Corey's shoulder.

VOGEL

At least we don't have to be careful anymore.

Corey's face is devoid of expression. He reaches into his shirt pocket and pulls out the bullet which has Santi's name on it. He loads it into a pistol.

Vogel throws an assault rifle to Junjie.

JUNJIE

What? I passed some kind of test?

Vogel doesn't answer. The three men head for cover and begin to make their way down the hillside toward the farmhouse.

INT. FARMHOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Two heavies are devouring a chicken boiled with noodles. We watch them devour the bird in silence for a while.

Then one of the guys stops eating. He listens...the other guy sees and stops eating too.

HEAVY 1

(What?)

HEAVY 2

(I don't know. I've got a funny feeling).

They both listen for a few moments. All they hear is the peacocks hooting mournfully outside.

HEAVY 1

(Maybe it's indigestion).

Suddenly the window explodes and they are hurled across the room.

INT. FARMHOUSE, BEDROOM - NIGHT

A guard is sitting at the window with a rifle at his side, sipping soup from a bowl. He hears the explosion and gets to his feet but a second later the door flies open and Vogel is upon him. Vogel takes him out with a single shot.

INT. FARMHOUSE, SPIRAL STAIRCASE

A mouse nibbles at crumbs. It flees when it hears heavy running footsteps. Two heavies run down the stairs with guns drawn.

INT. FARMHOUSE, STRONG ROOM

Moonlight is striped by strong-room bars at a high window. We see Santi sitting alone inside the strong-room, which also looks like a cell. The shadow of the bars fall across his face. We see the remains of a meal by his side.

As another explosion rocks the building, Santi picks up a semi-automatic and loads a clip of bullets into it.

He gets to his feet.

EXT. FARMHOUSE

In fast succession we see the back door and the front door being blown in by plastic explosive charges.

EXT. FARMHOUSE

Security lights come on all over the farmyard and the place is suddenly as light as day. Two more explosions rock the upper floors.

We see Junjie dash through the light and dive through some cellar doors.

EXT. FARMHOUSE, ROOF

Vogel is listening to his *iPod* as he kicks away some roof tiles and then tosses a hand grenade into the hole in the outhouse roof.

INT. FARMHOUSE, SPIRAL STEPS

Corey is half running, half stumbling down the steep spiral stairs. A guard appears and they exchange gunfire. The guard falls.

INT. FARMHOUSE, WINE CELLAR

Junjie is having a shoot-out with two heavies in a small room with stone arches where wine is being kept. A bullet just misses Junjie and hits a crate of wine. Red wine begins to pump onto Junjie's shirt...

Junjie rolls forward and opens fire, police style. The heavies fall one at a time among exploding bottles of red wine. Blood and red wine spray all around as the bullets fly...

INT. FARMHOUSE, STAIRS

Corey is stalking slowly down the tight spiral stairs, his gun raised. He hears footsteps and breathing coming down the stairs behind him. The footsteps stop. Corey stops.

Then a hand grenade with the pin pulled out begins to tumble down the stone steps and stops at Corey's feet.

Corey grabs the hand grenade and just in time manages to hurl it through a window. It explodes just the other side of the glass, sending a shower of glass into the staircase.

Corey is swept to the floor by the wave of the explosion. He gets to his feet to see Vogel arriving from above. He straightens and stares at Vogel.

The two men stare at each other. In the silence, Junjie arrives at a trot with his gun raised.

JUNJIE

Downstairs is clean. I'd guess
it's just Santi left.

A pause...Corey looks down into the shadows at the bottom of the stairs. Corey turns to Vogel. With just a gesture, Vogel gives Corey permission to take out Santi alone.

INT. FARMHOUSE, STRONG ROOM

A mouse is nibbling at the remains of Santi's last meal. The door flies open and Corey bursts in. He looks all around the room and sees that Santi has gone.

EXT. FARMHOUSE

Corey emerges into the doorway. The security lights are blinding. He looks all around. His breath clouds in the bright white light. Corey glances out from his position of cover and sees the barn door swinging open.

INT. BARN

In the half light from the swinging door we see a rat scuttling and in the shadows a goat bleats on its chain.

EXT. COURTYARD

Corey begins to shoot out the security lights. One by one he takes them out and the scene gets darker and darker.

Soon the farmyard is lit only by moonlight. The barn door is still swinging in the wind.

INT. BARN

We see the barn in darkness for a moment...then a blazing Molotov cocktail (petrol bomb) is thrown in through the door. The gasoline splashes and sets light to the cut reeds strewn across the barn floor.

The goat begins to panic and tug on its chain. The flames lick higher.

Then...in the growing orange light of the flames we begin to see the outline of a figure, standing dead still in the shadows with a gun raised.

We slowly realize that this is Santi, though he is as still as a statue, even as the flames begin to lick toward him.

We study his face for a moment, lit like the devil, with smoke billowing around him. He will not move until the moment comes.

We wait and we wait. The flames are close...

Then suddenly the wall of the barn bursts open with an explosion and Corey rolls in through the flames with his gun raised. Santi turns and rakes the flames with gun fire and at first we think Corey is dead...but then Corey stands from among the flames and fires once.

Santi falls dead.

The goat is bucking and rearing on its chain. Corey looks down at Santi and rolls his body into the flames with his heel. He then kicks the stump holding the goat and the goat runs free out of the door of the barn.

EXT. BARN

Vogel and Junjie are waiting outside in the yard, watching the flames licking up through the roof of the barn.

They see the terrified goat come running out of the barn. Junjie nods.

JUNJIE

Someone's spirit going to hell.

Vogel nods too.

VOGEL

But which one.

After a moment we see a figure appear in the doorway, silhouetted against the flames. Vogel and Junjie see that it is Corey.

As Corey steps away from the barn, the barn collapses on itself in a great flurry of flame and sparks. Corey keeps on walking without looking back.

EXT. FARM - DAWN

We see a beautiful sunrise over the fields of reeds. Smoke is still rising from the remains of the burnt out barn.

EXT. FARMYARD

Junjie, Vogel and Corey are sitting on the ground in a triangle. Smoke from the barn blows among them intermittently. They all have their guns on the ground in front of them.

They look from one to the other for a long time. The freed goat grazes beyond them.

Suddenly, Corey gets to his feet with his gun in his hands.

A second later Vogel gets to his feet with his gun.

Junjie looks up at both of them then gets to his feet too. He speaks imploringly.

JUNJIE
You are brothers.

VOGEL
Yes.

A pause.

COREY
Yes.

After a moment, Vogel sets off walking around the remains of the smouldering barn to the left. Corey sets off walking around the barn to the right.

From above we see them walking toward the endless expanse of reeds in parallel. Junjie is left behind, a still point beside the smouldering barn.

EXT. REED BED

Corey steps into the first of the reeds and lifts his gun above his head as he begins to wade into the cover. The reeds are sharp and they cut his skin as he walks. Blood begins to ooze from the deep scratches...

EXT. REED BED, NEARBY

Vogel wades into the reeds too and the reeds begin to splatter his face and arms with blood.

EXT. REED BED, FROM ABOVE

From on high we see the two men cutting their own paths through the endless reeds.

EXT. FARMYARD

Smoke blows and clears. We see Junjie with his cellphone in his hand. He hits a button. He stares toward the reed bed and speaks softly...

JUNJIE (INTO PHONE)
(Mattei? It is your boss here.
Santi is dead).

A pause.

JUNJIE (CONT'D INTO PHONE)
(No. I can't tell you where they
are. They have business to
settle.)

He cuts the call and stares toward the reeds. A flock of
cranes rises up to the left.

EXT. REED BED

As the cranes fly Corey looks up and then finds a rock to
stand on. He rakes the reeds with gunfire in the place
where the cranes flew up.

EXT. REED BED, NEARBY

We see Vogel taking a bullet to the arm and reacting.
Blood begins to pour. His face and arms are already cut to
pieces by the reeds. He catches his breath and opens fire
in the direction of the incoming fire.

EXT. REED BED, FROM ABOVE

We see the patterns the two men are making in the reeds.
It looks like two semi-circles moving toward each other.
It is as if they are going to make a red circle.

EXT. REED BED

Corey is wading cautiously when suddenly he steps into a
clear patch and is hit by a single shot to the shoulder.
He rolls into cover and returns fire.

The reeds around Corey are smeared with blood as he forces
himself to move on.

EXT. REED BED, FROM ABOVE

The pattern which the two men have made in the reeds is now
elaborate. We see that they have come close and then
separated many times as the battle has continued.

EXT. REED BED

A single duck flies up from the reeds. Corey, in agony, lifts himself up and opens fire.

EXT. REED BED, NEARBY

Vogel takes another bullet and falls into the reeds, breathing hard. The reeds are stained with blood. He grits his teeth and gets to his feet. He sprays the reeds with bullets...

EXT. REED BED, FROM ABOVE

We see that the pattern is now a maze of lines which touch and part. The pattern is almost beautiful and the two men are still pushing their way through the endless expanse of reeds.

We pull away, higher and higher...until we are at the same level as a child's balloon which is hanging in the air.

We leave Corey and Vogel to their eternal struggle, etching their pattern in the reeds.

THE END