

THE CIRCLE

Short storyline

LOGLINE

The former President of a third world country takes his revenge upon the five leaders who overthrew him from power, holding the five most powerful countries in the world hostage. These Superpowers bring together the best spies from their own countries to build The Circle. Who must stop the ruthless madman before he destroys the world.

TONE/GENRE

Action thriller.

Intense. Fast paced. Smart. Edge of your seat.

OPENING TEASER

We're in the middle of nowhere. The jungles. Far away from civilization. But smack in the middle of this wild terrain is a circular concrete building. One floor. Surrounded by electrical fences. Heavily armed guards on high alert. Whatever (or whoever) is inside that building is not meant to get out... We go inside the building. A one-room prison. Cameras offer a complete 360 view of the room. A man sits on the dirt floor. Long beard. Dirt-spotted face. Tattered clothes. He's hard to see in the dark corner he takes refuge. His eyes piercing through the darkness. There is a hunger in those eyes that we won't forget. A man biding his time. Then. Shouting. Gunfire. An explosion. The walls of the prison rock. The man stands up slowly. Not rattled. Outside, a full on war escalates. Guards attacked from all directions. Air. Land. Masked men come swift. They've come to get their Leader out.

ACT I

Washington DC. The Director of the CIA's office. He's just received news of PHILIPPE CARDILLON'S escape from made-up South American country (we learn some back story here -- Philippe was the first democratically elected leader of a country with vast natural resources -- imprisoned after a military coup -- has been in prison for the past 5 years). The Director's phone starts lighting up. Multiple calls coming in at the same time. Beijing. Paris. Moscow. Tehran. Shit.

As each of the five superpower leaders talk about Philippe's escape (the audience wonders why this one man's escape is so important), we cut to the actual five cities. Seemingly everyday normal life. Then. A bus filled with passengers explodes on the streets of Beijing. The famed Paris Montparnasse metro station blows up. Tourists-filled Kremlin Square goes up in pieces. And the famed Tehran street bazaar falls in pieces. All public places. Everyday places.

A video message comes in through each country's secured channels. PHILIPPE

CARDILLON. Cleans up nicely. Intense. Difficult to read. But clearly enjoying the moment. How did he get on the secure channels? Turns out he hijacked communication satellites, compromising each country's communication. Philippe tells the leaders of the five countries that he is behind the five bombings. He will continue the bombings until each city is leveled to the ground. Destroyed. One of the leaders asks him what he wants. Philippe shakes his head. Nothing. This is not a negotiation. The screen goes to black. The leaders trying not to panic. The bombs were detonated via remote control. Easy solution. Find the control source using radar. But they can't. The waves are all scrambled. It looks like the control source is coming from everywhere and nowhere. How in the world is he doing that? Same thing with the satellites. They can't take back control of the satellite because they can't disarm where the control source is coming from. Holy shit. This guy has taken the five capitals pretty much hostage. There is no choice but to enact Continuity of Govnt...

Each country has its own version of an emergency plan. What happens in the worst-case scenario. Which is now. Mostly involves moving the Presidents/Prime Ministers/Premiers to secret locations. In the United States, the members of the three branches of gov't are split into three groups, and taken underground into secret bunkers. Bunkers are a misleading term. They're almost whole cities unto themselves. The Leaders decide they need to find Philippe and "deactivate" him. But the situation is delicate because of what he knows (the first plant that there is a bigger conspiracy at play). They need to send a deadly team that can also be kept under control. Initially, each country wants to use its own intelligent team. There's an argument. Someone suggests an alternative -- what if they bring together the best spy from each country. Not only would you form a dream team, but the spies can watch one another and make sure no one country is playing dirty. Agreed.

The five spies are put together... Code name: Circle. Each spy is the best each country has to offer. And they've been given orders to find Philippe, but also make sure no other spy knows more than the other (essentially, they're given a second mission to spy on the others). Work together, but don't trust one another.

ACT II

The Presidents/leaders go underground. Chaos and fear in the world. The Circle doesn't love the idea of working with former enemies. There's a lot of bad past blood. Initially, the five members of the Circle from five different countries have a hard time putting their differences aside. They naturally mistrust one another. But as more areas of the five cities get blown up, the weight of their mission brings them together.

They systematically search for clues for Philippe's hideaway. This search takes them to different countries... The chaotic streets of Mumbai (where they have to negotiate with the Indian mafia for information on who they delivered high tech sensors to). The South American country where the ruling General hides for fear that Philippe will come after him, and who knows more than he lets on. Philippe knows about them and loves playing with them. The best of the best? He'll see about that.

The Circle finally tracks him down. Philippe has built his hideaway into the side of a mountain. Just above a gushing waterfall. The reason why radar was not able to find him is

because of unique geological properties of the area. The force of the waterfall sits on top of an electromagnetic vortex -- a place that attracts and activates electricity and magnetism. Which allows him to take over satellite control and detonate bombs remotely without detection. [I've attached some photographs just to provide possible visual flavor for this place]. But the fortress is guarded heavily, and armed with "unusual" security systems. They work together to disable the security measures and take down the guards. When they finally reach Philippe. He's deep in his cave system control room. Just as they kill him. Philippe reveals that they're being used. Their governments won't let them live after they kill him. Because they may discover the secret Philippe knows. The reason why the five governments colluded together to take him down as leader of his own country, and then imprison him for the rest of his life. It's not just about the natural resources of his country. His country has been secretly used for a genetic experiment. A team of scientists from each country is blocking expression of the gene that codes for myostatin, a protein that limits muscle growth. To create ultimate warriors. His poor country was chosen to be the guinea pig. This is the government's secret weapons. The weapon they will no doubt use to come after The Circle. (Why did the five countries work together on this experiment? Because each were doing it on their own anyway and couldn't stop one another. The problem they ran into was finding enough test subjects -- why not target a poor country that no one gives a shit about).

When he was elected President five years ago, Philippe promised to stop the experiments. The five countries conspired together and aided a General to overthrow Philippe. Philippe was thrown in jail for the rest of his life. His family slaughtered. Philippe wants vengeance against the leaders of the five countries. Teach them a lesson that might needs to be used judiciously. He's already lost everything important to him -- his family, his country, his idealism. What does a man who has nothing left to lose do?

Cut back to the Leaders communicating via satellite. They have an important decision to make. If the world discovers their secret, they will be put on trial. They need to protect their secret.

Before The Circle can make a decision whether to kill Philippe or not. The control room starts shaking. Harnessing the electromagnetic energies of the location also causes great stress on the structural integrity. Everything's about to collapse. They need to get the hell out of there. But one of The Circle members overhears the Leaders talking on the secure channel. The leaders, knowing that The Circle has found Philippe, orders for the groups' assassination.

ACT III

The Circle makes it out alive. Philippe wasn't so lucky. They are now persona non-grate. Country less. They only have one another to survive. The leaders of the government orders for the successful test subjects (only four subjects have been success stories) to go out and chase the The Circle.

The Circle, on the run for their lives. How do they get out of this alive? They need to get to the leaders. The five of them split up. Goes to their respective countries. Each now has the impossible task of getting to the leaders. The showdown takes place in the five secret

locations. Once they reach the leaders, they come to a truce. The government leaders will order an effective stop on the hired killers. But in the public eye, The Circle will remain wanted criminals.

INSPIRATION FOR THE LAIR

