

UNTITLED WOODRUFF PROJECT

written by

Ken Woodruff

January 18, 2018

The FBI estimates there are as many as one hundred thousand foreign agents working *within* the United States today.

More now than during the height of the Cold War.

TEASER

EXT. WASHINGTON DC - DAY

It's the peak of the Cherry Blossom Festival and the trees lining Independence Avenue are explosions of pink and white.

Tourists and Locals alike flood the National Mall, watching as, nearby, a PARADE snakes its way through the city.

NEAR THE TIDAL BASIN...

Our eyes are drawn to a self-possessed woman moving along the riverwalk.

Meet **Erica Meroe**. She's forty-three years old. She's a mother. And even though we've only known her for a few seconds, we can tell there's something special about her.

Meroe stops near a gated path and dials her cell...

MEROE

Hey honey, are you close?

(beat)

Okay, I'm right by the entrance to
Ash Woods. See you soon.

Meroe hangs up and scans her surroundings. But she doesn't just casually take in the world around her, she notices details most of us never see. Breaks in pattern. Deviations. Anomalies...

Nearby, a Man leaning against a bench reads a newspaper *without moving his eyes*. A Woman in a baseball cap walks past carrying a gym bag, *the tag still on it*. A Meter Maid writing a ticket checks a license plate *for the third time*.

And what she sees now fills her with sickening dread.

MEROE (CONT'D)

No... not now...

But there's no stopping the storm that's coming. And Meroe knows it. She has only seconds. Maybe less.

She sets her bag on the ground. Lets her hands rest at her side, palms open. Then she waits.

It begins as a startled SHRIEK from someone behind her.

Meroe turns and sees that the Man has dropped his newspaper and is heading for her, a GUN in hand.

The Woman in the hat reaches into her unused gym bag and pulls a GLOCK. The Meter Maid eyes Meroe closely while speaking into a wrist mic.

FROM HIGH ABOVE...

We see more than thirty people circling Meroe, closing in on her like a noose. Then the shouting starts...

AGENTS

ON YOUR KNEES! HANDS BEHIND YOUR
HEAD! I SAID ON YOUR KNEES NOW!

Meroe kneels and puts her hands behind her head as dozens of ARMED FBI AGENTS swarm in and arrest her.

It's loud. Frightening. Aggressive. Meroe's being treated as if she's one of the most dangerous criminals in the world.

Because at this moment... *she is*.

KEATON (O.C.)

Erica Meroe...

Meroe is roughly lifted to face **Will Keaton (38)** a hard-charging Bobby Kennedy, Colin Farrell-type: fiery, mercurial, competitive, and driven by emotions. The kind of guy who gets in fights at pickup basketball games.

KEATON (CONT'D)

You're under arrest for espionage
and conspiracy against the United
States of America.

(leans in close)

I know what you did. I know
everything. Your life... *is over*.

Keaton glares at Meroe as if, given the chance, he would kill her with his bare hands.

KEATON (CONT'D)

Get her away from me.

Agents take hold of Meroe and begin to take her away when...

MEROE

Wait --

(they stop)

My daughter's on her way here. Let
me say goodbye to her. Please...

But Keaton has no mercy for Meroe. Not after what she's done.

KEATON

No.

Off Meroe, devastated, as she's dragged away...

NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)
 ...she's being called one of the
 worst spies in American history...

INT. TIME MAGAZINE PRINTING PLANT - DAY

Plate cylinders and dampening rollers spin at furious speeds
 as hundreds of freshly printed magazines fly past.

Over this, we hear a cacophony of NEWS ANCHORS and PUNDITS.

NEWS ANCHOR
 ...after CIA Operations Deputy
 Erica Meroe disclosed highly
 sensitive information to a former
 Russian intelligence agent...

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)
 ...officials are saying *four* CIA
 operatives were killed as a result
 of her actions...

PUNDIT
 ...the Benedict Arnold of our
 generation...

NEWS ANCHOR
 ...one of the worst traitors this
 country has ever seen...

PUNDIT
 ...she's a traitor...

NEWS ANCHOR
 ...a traitor...

PUNDIT
 ...traitor...

A magazine shoots out onto a stack of thousands just like it,
 and for the first time, we get a glimpse of the cover.

It's a single image. Meroe's face. And spread across it in
 huge red letters are two words... AMERICAN TRAITOR.

JUDGE BUCHANON (V.O.)
 Mrs. Meroe, please stand.

INT. EASTERN DISTRICT COURT OF VIRGINIA - DAY

Meroe stands at the defense table of Federal Courtroom.

JUDGE BUCHANON

It is the judgement of this court that the defendant, Erica J. Meroe, shall be and hereby is remanded to ADX Florence Federal Penitentiary, where you will serve *fifteen* consecutive sentences of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. May God have mercy on your soul.

The GAVEL CRACKS. Off Meroe, the most hated woman in America.

CUT TO BLACK.

KEATON (V.O.)

My name is Will Keaton...

INT. SUITE - HAY-ADAMS HOTEL, WASHINGTON DC - MORNING

KEATON

I'm a Special Agent with the FBI's Counterintelligence Division.

PULLING BACK, we see a television news program is filming an interview in a mahogany-paneled Washington DC hotel suite.

Correspondent **Scott Pelley** is questioning Keaton.

PELLEY

You investigate spies.

KEATON

Yes.

PELLEY

You're a spy hunter.

KEATON

I've been called that.

PELLEY

You've also been called a rising star at the FBI. In fact, you were promoted recently after arresting Erica Meroe, one the most infamous spies in modern history.

Even now, Meroe's name causes Keaton's jaw to clench.

PELLEY (CONT'D)

Meroe was Deputy Director of Operations at CIA and one of the agency's most valuable operatives. What made her so special?

KEATON

(begrudgingly)

She has exceptional skills in the field and an almost encyclopedic knowledge of tactics and spycraft. But what truly sets her apart is the way she sees the world.

PELLEY

How do you mean?

KEATON

Erica Meroe is a codebreaker. She was trained from childhood to see details and patterns the rest of the world is blind to.

PELLEY

Trained by her father, John Meroe.

KEATON

Yes. He was a cryptanalyst with the NSA for over thirty years. But she's far better than he ever was.

PELLEY

What makes someone like Meroe spy against their own country?

KEATON

Ego. She felt unappreciated at CIA.

PELLEY

Do we know how long was she doing this? How much damage she did?

KEATON

No. Meroe refused to cooperate with investigators. What I can tell you is that four CIA operatives are dead because of her. These were people she worked with. People who *trusted* her.

PELLEY

Meroe wasn't the only one responsible for these attacks, was she?

(MORE)

PELLEY (CONT'D)

A former Russian Agent, now a rogue operative named Mikhail Tal was behind those deaths you mentioned. Where is he today?

KEATON

...I don't know.

Off this haunting answer, we...

FADE TO BLACK.

"Three Years Later"

EXT. WASHINGTON DC - MORNING

The sun rises over DC as we find Keaton, running hard along the riverwalk. Pushing himself. Making it hurt.

The sound of his footsteps takes us to...

INT. COMMUTER TRAIN (MOVING) - PHILADELPHIA - MORNING

A MAN IN A BLOODY SPORT COAT runs for his life through the sparsely populated cars of a speeding Amtrak train. He's yelling for help, begging someone, anyone to save him from...

...the ARMED KILLER chasing after him.

The Man in the Sport Coat reaches the last car and tries to open the emergency exit. But it's locked. No way out.

The Killer approaches and raises his gun. Nearby passengers SCREAM, but it doesn't stop the Gunman. Nothing will.

He squeezes the trigger... *BANG! BANG! BANG!*... and the Man in the Sport Coat slumps to the floor, dead.

INT. BMW - CUSTIS MEMORIAL PARKWAY - ARLINGTON - MORNING

A WOMAN drives a BMW 5 Series across the Roosevelt Bridge just outside DC. Up ahead, there's construction on the far right lane, but traffic moves along at healthy clip...

The Woman reaches down to change the station on the radio, when out of nowhere...

...*WHAM!* A BLACK SUV swerves and RAMS into the driver's side of the BMW. The BMW is forced hard to its right and before the unsuspecting Woman has time to react...

...the BMW CRASHES through construction pylons and orange safety netting and sails off the side of the bridge, PLUMMETING eighty feet to the Potomac below, where the Woman is killed on impact.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - MANHATTAN - MORNING

A WOMAN in a NAVY BLUE SKIRT SUIT sits with TWO MEN also in SUITS. They're pouring over documents in a conference room on the twenty-fifth floor of a high-rise building.

The Woman rises and heads for the copy room near the elevators, when...

...BOOM! A huge EXPLOSION rocks the entire floor of the office building, blowing out the windows.

Down below, on the busy streets of Manhattan, people SCREAM and run as glass and burning shrapnel rains down upon them.

EXT. WASHINGTON DC - MORNING

Back with Keaton, still running. When suddenly...

...a BLACK SUV skids to a stop beside him and FBI Agent **Ali Ziai (34)**, Persian-American, wry, formidable, climbs out.

ALI

Keaton. We have to go. There's been an attack...

INT. SUV - MORNING

Ali briefs Keaton as they race through the city.

ALI

Three incidents in three different U.S. cities: Philadelphia, Arlington, New York --

KEATON

Victims?

ALI

Five dead so far. A Treasury Department Officer, a U.S. District Attorney... and three CIA operatives.

This hits Keaton like a bat to the head. His mind races.

KEATON

What time were the attacks?

Ali scans the incident reports on his cell.

ALI

8:04... 8:04, and... 8:06.

KEATON

It was planned. Synchronized. This is just like before, Ali. This was Tal.

EXT. J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING - MORNING

Two million square feet of America's top law enforcement agency looms over Washington DC.

KEATON (V.O.)

Mikhail Vassily Tal...

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING - MORNING

A thirty year-old grainy black and white PHOTO is up on a monitor. Keaton briefs a room of Intelligence Officers.

KEATON

...Believed to be forty-nine years old, though no birth certificate has ever been found. He served six years as a commander in Russia's Ground Division Army, where he led Special Forces teams into action in Afghanistan and Georgia. Shortly thereafter, he was recruited to the SVR, word is, by Putin himself. Then seven years ago, Tal went rogue. He was behind the Embassy shooting in Berlin, the USS Antietam attack in Virginia...

ON THE MONITOR, we see PHOTOS of sheet-covered bodies outside the front gate of the U.S. Embassy in Berlin; and the mangled hull of a guided missile cruiser docked in Norfolk.

KEATON (CONT'D)

And in 2013, he was responsible for the bombing of American Airlines Flight 6175 in Boston.

ON THE MONITOR, we see a Boeing 777 passenger jet with a charred, gaping hole in its fuselage.

KEATON (CONT'D)

Fifteen people lost their lives when a nitroglycerin-based bomb was detonated while the plane was at its gate. Had it been airborne, the death toll would have risen to include every single one of the 283 passengers onboard. That's what most of you know about the attack. What most of you *don't* know, is that the Flight 6175 bombing was a trial run... for twenty-six more bombings just like it.

Reactions in the room as a world map showing the paths of all twenty-six U.S. bound flights appears on the monitors. The visual of all those planes, *all those lives...* is chilling.

KEATON (CONT'D)

Four thousand American lives were saved thanks to intel gathered by CIA. But months later, Tal retaliated, using a CIA insider to find and kill the four operatives responsible for stopping the bombings.

Deputy Director of National Intelligence Danielle Cordova, turns to Keaton.

CORDOVA

Why is he doing this?

BREGMAN

Revenge.

This from Keaton's wise, paternal boss, **FBI Deputy Director of Counterintelligence, Richard Bregman (63).**

BREGMAN (CONT'D)

In 1983, the Soviets were fighting the mujahideen and a U.S. missile strike took out Tal's two older brothers. Since then, he's dedicated his life to killing as many Americans as possible. And he's just getting started...

CORDOVA

(to Keaton)

You're certain Tal was behind this?

KEATON

There's not a doubt in my mind.

CORDOVA

The attacks three years ago were retaliatory.

KEATON

So were these. Jim?

CIA Director James Shedd jumps in.

SHEDD

The victims killed this morning were part of a CIA led task force targeting Tal's finances. They'd identified offshore accounts totalling more than eighty million dollars and were working to seize the funds when, two hours ago, a bomb went off in their offices.

CORDOVA

Where's the money now?

SHEDD

...Unaccounted for.

CORDOVA

So Tal is out there. He's well-funded. And he's planning another mass attack on American lives. Is that what you're telling me?

KEATON

Yes.

The silence as this sinks in is unsettling. Cordova looks over the briefing on the table before her.

CORDOVA

No current photos. No biometrics. You've been investigating him for three years and this is all you have?

KEATON

We're dealing with one of the most sophisticated, elusive enemy operatives on the planet. Hunting Tal... it's like hunting a shadow in the dark.

CORDOVA

Well this shadow just killed five of our colleagues, Agent Keaton.

(MORE)

CORDOVA (CONT'D)

There has to be *someone* who knows how to find him.

KEATON

We're close. We're getting closer every day. But as of right now... there isn't.

A beat. Bregman clears his throat to speak...

BREGMAN

That may not be entirely true.

INT. BREGMAN'S OFFICE - FBI BUILDING - MORNING

Keaton and Bregman are in Bregman's office.

KEATON

What the hell was that about?

BREGMAN

The Deputy's right, Will. We need to be doing more. We need help.

KEATON

You want to bring in another agency? Foreign intel?

BREGMAN

No. Someone else. Someone who knows Tal better than anyone.

(beat)

I want to bring in Erica Meroe.

KEATON

What?

BREGMAN

She's an unused asset in the investigation. A bullet in the chamber we're not firing.

KEATON

She's a *traitor*.

BREGMAN

She's also the only person in the Western hemisphere to have actually *spoken* to Tal.

KEATON

...No.

BREGMAN

She worked with him, Will. She knows how he thinks. Hell, she was point on Tal for years at CIA --

KEATON

She killed Laine.

That name lands in the room like a bomb. And it's suddenly very quiet. Keaton fights for the words.

KEATON (CONT'D)

I loved her, Richard. I was going to marry her. And now she's dead because of Meroe.

(beat)

No. I won't do it.

BREGMAN

(contrite)

Then I have to find someone who will.

KEATON

You're not taking this case from me.

BREGMAN

You're not giving me a choice. Five Americans were killed this morning. God knows how many more are at risk. And Erica Meroe may be our only chance to find the man responsible.

A beat. Bregman knows how hard this is for Keaton.

BREGMAN (CONT'D)

I know what she took from you, Will. I do. But this is the only card we have left to play. I'm not asking you to like it. I'm asking you to do your job.

Off Keaton, left little choice...

PRISON GUARD (V.O.)

...Sector six, door "A"! Open door "A"!...

INT. ADMAX FEDERAL SUPERMAX PRISON, COLORADO - DAY

ADMAX Prison, lovingly called "The Alcatraz of the Rockies." Makes Guantanamo look like a day spa. Ted Kaczynski, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, Terry Nichols... they all call this place home.

Keaton and Bregman wait with a Prison Official.

BREGMAN

A word of advice? Don't try to lie to her. She'll know...

CLANK-CLANG! A heavy steel door is slowly swung open and...

Erica Meroe is brought out in shackles.

She's a stark contrast to the woman we saw in court. She's in a beige jumpsuit and slippers and without makeup. But even here, in the most humiliating, demeaning of circumstances, there's an inner strength to Meroe. A *dignity*.

As Meroe is led into an interrogation cell, she and Keaton lock eyes. It's the first time they've seen one another in almost three years. The atmosphere is electric.

INT. INTERROGATION CELL - ADMAX FEDERAL SUPERMAX PRISON - DAY

The interrogation cell door opens and Keaton steps inside. Guards lock the door behind him.

MEROE

Hello Agent Keaton.

It takes every ounce of restraint Keaton has to control himself. He hates her. Hates the sight of her. Hates that she's alive when so many are dead.

KEATON

This won't take long. I want to be here about as much as you do.

MEROE

Somehow I doubt that.

He approaches slowly, never taking his eyes off her.

KEATON

I'm here to make you an offer. The FBI, under authority of the Department of Justice, is willing to grant you certain concessions in exchange for your cooperation.

MEROE

With what?

KEATON

Mikhail Tal.

A beat.

MEROE

I haven't cooperated before. What makes you think I will now?

KEATON

You live in a concrete hole. You haven't been allowed a visitor in more than three years. And because, believe it or not, I can still make life worse for you.

Meroe stays silent, giving nothing away. Keaton considers, then decides *not* to take Bregman's advice...

KEATON (CONT'D)

We recently picked up chatter that Tal is planning to carry out another attack on members of the U.S. Intelligence Community. The FBI wants your help to stop him.

A long beat. Meroe takes Keaton in. Her highly discerning, highly observant mind working like a machine.

She looks to the one-way mirror and the observation room where Bregman is watching, then turns back to Keaton...

MEROE

You're lying.

KEATON

(thrown)

Excuse me?

MEROE

You're here because you want information about Mikhail Tal. That much is true. But there's only one reason the FBI would fly you of all people halfway across the country to get it... It's not because Tal's *planning* an attack. It's because he's already carried one out.

Keaton's anger grows. He leans over the table.

KEATON

I need to know how to find him.

MEROE

You won't. Not ever.

KEATON

Tal killed five people this morning. Three of them were CIA. I need you to tell me how he unmasked them. How he learned about the project they were working on. I need you to tell me if this was a security breach or something else. *Are you listening to me?!*

Even as Keaton's yelling at her, Meroe is calm and collected.

MEROE

It was someone on the inside.

KEATON

(processing)

...No. Not everyone's capable of selling their soul like you.

MEROE

You have no idea what people are capable of.

That simple line, *the look she gives when she says it*, is all it takes for Keaton to lose it. He LUNGES across the table.

The dam that's been holding back his rage gives way and he grabs Meroe by the throat, SLAMMING her against the wall.

KEATON

I knew this was a waste of time. But I came anyway. Because I wanted to look you in the eye and tell you I hope you rot in this hole for the rest of your life. Without a friend. Without your *daughter*.

Meroe can barely breath. Her face is turning red. But somehow she manages to speak, even if it is only a whisper.

MEROE

If you're trying to kill me...
(defiant)
Try harder.

Just then the door SLAMS open and Bregman and the Prison Guards rush in. Meroe drops to the ground, gasping for air as Keaton is pulled off her.

BREGMAN

What the hell are you doing?! You just ruined any chance we had with her!

(to the Guards)

Get him out of here! Now!

The Prison Guards shove Keaton out, when Meroe, who's lying in a heap on the floor, calls after him in a raspy voice.

MEROE

Wait...

Keaton stops and turns back.

MEROE (CONT'D)

(catching her breath)

This wasn't... a breach. It was someone... on the inside. I know because that's how Tal did it last time... With me.

(beat)

And as for helping you catch him...

Meroe pulls herself up off the ground and stands before them.

MEROE (CONT'D)

When do we leave?

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

CLOSE ON a tray of surgical instruments: scalpels, lancets, scissors, rasps...

MEROE (V.O.)
You want to be able to track me in
case I escape, is that it?

INT. OPERATING THEATER - ADMAX PRISON - DAY

An operating theater. Sterile. White. Find Meroe, shackled to a gurney while NURSES and a SURGEON hover over her.

BREGMAN (V.O.)
It's a non-negotiable condition of
your transfer.

MEROE (V.O.)
Fair enough. So which is it? Ankle
monitor or RFID chip?

KEATON (V.O.)
(beat)
Neither...

An incision is made into the skin of Meroe's upper chest.

KEATON (V.O.)
We're going to implant a GPS
transponder into your body.

The muscle tissue is pulled back exposing a ruby red artery.

KEATON (V.O.)
It'll be locked around your carotid
artery. Try to remove it... you'll
tear the vessel and bleed out
within sixty seconds.

The Surgeon affixes a small GPS TRANSPONDER to the lower segment of Meroe's carotid artery.

KEATON (V.O.)
You're not going *anywhere* without
us knowing.

INT. PRIVATE JET - DAY

An hour later, Meroe's sutured and bandaged and sitting comfortably on a private jet headed back to DC.

Meroe peers out the window at the rolling plains of the Midwest. At the cirrostratus clouds blanketing the sky. At the glorious sun. That's when we realize... this is the first time she's been outside that prison in *three years*.

Meroe presses her face to the glass, her breath fogging it. A thought strikes her. A *memory*. She draws something on the glass with her finger. It's a face. The face she thinks of every night before she falls asleep. The face she wakes up thinking about every morning.

Her daughter's face... Hannah.

INT. MEROE'S HOUSE - MORNING (FLASHBACK)

Three years ago... Meroe breezes into her kitchen. She shoots off an email, grabs a piece of toast, ducks a call from the office, all while pouring her half-finished coffee into a to-go cup -- the daily ritual of a working wife and mother.

MEROE

...I said no phones at the table,
Hannah.

Meroe's daughter **Hannah (12)**, hides her cell phone, not wanting her mom to see she's texting a boy named Dylan.

HANNAH

Sorry.

MEROE

I'm working late tonight, so dad's
going to pick you up from
volleyball practice, okay?
(sees her energy bar)
Is that what you're eating for
breakfast?

HANNAH

It's healthy.

MEROE

It's a candy bar in gym clothes.
Have some eggs.

Meroe starts to head out. Stops, takes a breath, then comes back and kisses the top of Hannah's head...

MEROE (CONT'D)

I love you, sweetheart.

HANNAH

Love you too, mom.

She means it. They both do. In spite of the craziness of Meroe's job, they're close. They're mother and daughter.

And just like that, Meroe's out the door. Without a clue this will be the last day of her life as she knows it...

INT. PRIVATE JET - DAY

Back to present day... The fog on Meroe's window fades. And with it, her daughter's face.

INT. BULLPEN - J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING - NIGHT

Ali enters the bullpen and finds **Kate Ryan (32)**, the prim, meticulous, straight-laced, Midwestern technical analyst on Keaton's team. Tracey Flick if she joined Anonymous.

ALI

Hey Kate, heads up. Keaton just pulled in downstairs.

KATE

What was he doing in Colorado, anyway?

ALI

He told me he couldn't say.

KATE

You're an interrogator, Ali. Can't you pull it out of him?

ALI

Even I'm not that good.
(re: her screen)
Where are you on the bridge footage?

KATE

No CCDP systems were in position, but FASTCATCH is mining SM sites for incidental footage.
(off his blank look)
I'm working on it.

PETTIGREW (O.C.)

Ali?

The newest member of Keaton's team approaches. **Jacqueline Pettigrew (39)** is a direct, physical, ambitious former cop from Baltimore.

PETTIGREW (CONT'D)

Philly PD's a vault with this Amtrak crime scene. I don't know how this works yet. Can we get our people in there, or not?

ALI

Not without the Deputy signing off on it. And that's not going to happen tonight--

KATE (O.C.)

Oh my God.

Ali and Pettigrew see Kate standing utterly slack-jawed. That's when they turn and see Keaton and Bregman entering...

With Erica Meroe.

The entire room stops cold. No one can believe their eyes. Erica Meroe was public enemy number one, *especially in the intelligence community*. And now here she is... standing in the middle of the FBI offices.

As Meroe's shackled to a chair, she quietly takes in the team's space. Observing. Analyzing. Recognizing patterns...

At Kate's desk, she notices a Northwestern coffee cup, a photo of Kate's big family, and a weekend pass and lanyard for DEF CON (ComiCon for Hackers). *Midwestern. Catholic. Technical analyst.*

With Ali, she focuses on the stitching of his suit. Handmade, but too fine a quality for an FBI Agent to afford. *Second generation. Persian. A tailor's son.*

Pettigrew's upright posture and Black Eagle Tactical low tops give away her background. *Former cop. Family in law enforcement. Ambitious.*

Off the team, staring at the monster in their house...

KEATON (V.O.)

This was not my idea.

EXT. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - NIGHT

Keaton, Ali, Kate, and Pettigrew are outside the FBI office.

KEATON

Bregman's bringing her in because he thinks she can help catch Tal.

KATE

And you went along with it?

KEATON

I didn't have a choice. Either we work with Meroe, or he's assigning the case to a team that will.

KATE

But...

KEATON

But what, Kate?

KATE

What about Laine?

The question is like a knife through Keaton's heart.

KEATON

The man that killed her is still out there. If I have to work with the devil himself to catch Tal, I will.

An uncomfortable beat. Which Ali finally cuts with typical wryness.

ALI

So, um... what do we do with her?

INT. BULLPEN - J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING - NIGHT

Meroe sits shackled in a chair when Keaton approaches.

KEATON

I don't care what Bregman says. I don't want your help. I don't want anything to do with you. I just want you to sit here and not say a word. Clear?

MEROE

As a bell.

Keaton moves to the center of the bullpen. MONITORS flick on showing various images and info regarding the three attacks.

KEATON

Alright, catch me up. Where are we on the car crash in Arlington?

PETTIGREW

Witnesses reported seeing a black or dark grey SUV, but no license plate number or description of the driver.

ACCIDENT PHOTOS show the BMW 5 Series being dragged out of the Potomac by FBI Forensics Units.

KEATON

Video?

KATE

No security cameras on the bridge. I'm searching for other sources.

KEATON

What about the bombing in New York? What do we know?

NEWS FOOTAGE of the bombing aftermath is on a monitor.

ALI

Not a lot. Forensics is working on the cause of the explosion. We scanned building security footage but came up empty. Whoever did this knew to stay clear of the cameras.

KEATON

Please tell me we have something on Philly?

CRIME SCENE PHOTOS of the shooting victim in Philadelphia. The Man in the Sport Coat lies on his side on the floor of the Amtrak Train, blood pooled beneath him.

PETTIGREW

Local police are still processing the scene. Could be tomorrow morning before we get anything useful --

KEATON

Dammit! It's been sixteen hours since five Americans were killed and we have *nothing*.

MEROE

That's because you're dealing with Mikhail Tal.

The room stops. Keaton rounds back on Meroe.

KEATON
What did you say?

MEROE
Tal knows how your investigations work and he knows how to beat them. That's why he's still out there. To find him, you have to pull on threads you've never thought to look for before.

(beat)
I can help you catch him, Agent Keaton. But not if you don't *let* me.

Keaton takes in Meroe. The nerve on this one. But then...

KEATON
What "threads"?

MEROE
In the past, Tal went after his targets' cell phones.

KEATON
Kate?

KATE
We checked their cells. All five victims. None of them were cloned.

MEROE
That's because Tal doesn't clone cells. He *rips* them.

PETTIGREW
I don't... What's the difference?

KATE
Cloning lets you see incoming calls and texts. It's like listening in on a second line. Ripping is when you make a digital *copy* of the phone. Not just of old calls and text messages, but contacts, emails, photos, calendar entries. It's a complete electronic profile of the target. It's also impossible to detect.

MEROE
Almost impossible.

KATE

No. Ops Tech told me there's no way to know if a cell's been ripped.

MEROE

Ops Tech is wrong.

KATE

How then?

MEROE

When a cell's being ripped, it can't receive incoming calls.

KEATON

So?

MEROE

So if one comes in during the twenty minute process, it'll show up on the phone records...

KATE

(running with this)
...But not on the phone itself.

MEROE

Find a discrepancy and you not only find evidence of a ripped phone... you find the exact time and date it happened.

A beat. Keaton, who's been listening, hits the brakes.

KEATON

Maybe you're right. Or maybe you're lying to keep us from following the real leads. You betrayed your country once before. Who's to say you're not doing it again?

MEROE

Yes. I could be lying. But you're still going to run a search of those phone records. Not because you trust me. But because you would walk through fire to catch Tal. And right now, I'm the only chance you have to do so.

Keaton doesn't like it, but she's right. He has nothing else.

KEATON

If you're wrong, you're on a plane
back to Colorado tonight.
(he turns to Kate)
Run the search...

INT. OPS TECH LAB - J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING - NIGHT

The following sequence plays out in QUICK CUTS:

- Kate opens evidence bags containing the three surviving cell phones.
- Kate downloads the call history of each cell and begins cross referencing them with the phone company records.
- Kate searches the call history of the second surviving cell phone when her eyes go wide...

INT. KEATON'S OFFICE - J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING - NIGHT

Kate's in Keaton's office with the phone records.

KATE

Joseph Sebring had a call come in
at 3:28 pm on Tuesday the
fourteenth. But the call never
showed up on his phone. That's
impossible unless...

KEATON

Unless Meroe was right. So how did
he do it?

INT. BULLPEN - J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING - NIGHT

Keaton's with the team and Meroe.

MEROE

Tal, or more likely someone working
for him, would need to be within
ten feet of the target's cell phone
in order to rip it remotely.

KEATON

Which means we're looking for
someone who was within ten feet of
Sebring at 3:28 pm on the
fourteenth...

EXT. VERIZON TELECOM FACILITY - NIGHT

Ali's on his cell outside a sprawling telecom facility in DC.

ALI

...Will, I just went through Sebring's credit card history. Turns out he made a transaction at a café in Queens within eight minutes of his cell being ripped.

KEATON

Get the owner on the phone. I want a copy of his security footage.

INT. BULLPEN - J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING - NIGHT

Kate opens an email attachment from the café owner.

KATE

I got it! Playing the footage now.

As the team gathers around, Keaton leans on the desk so that his arm is touching Kate's. It's incidental, but Kate suddenly gets very still.

Meroe clocks this, then turns her attention to...

ON THE MONITORS the victim, **Joseph Sebring (44)** is sitting alone at a café table.

Meroe scans the footage and spots a Dark-Haired Woman on a laptop who's back is turned to Sebring. A cell phone is face up on her table and a backpack is on the ground beside her.

MEROE

That's her. The woman with the laptop.

PETTIGREW

She's not even looking at Sebring.

MEROE

Yes she is. See the mirror?

Meroe points to a mirror on the wall of the café that affords the woman a perfect, discrete view of Sebring.

KEATON

If this woman ripped Sebring's phone, how would she confirm it worked?

MEROE

Any call going to the target's cell
will also go to the copy.

ALI

So, what? We're waiting for both
phones to light up at the same
time?

MEROE

Exactly.

All eyes turn to the video footage. After a beat, the dark-
haired woman's cell lights up from a call. At the same time,
Sebring reaches into his pocket and...

...Pulls his cell to answer the same incoming call.

KEATON

Find her.

INT. BULLPEN - J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING - NIGHT

Two hours later. An ID PHOTO of the dark-haired woman from
the café is up on the bullpen monitors.

PETTIGREW

Her name is Ines Nguyen. She's
twenty-seven, French-Vietnamese,
and she's been on NSA's radar for
suspicion of hacking.

KEATON

Where is she now?

EXT. LOWER EAST SIDE, NY - NIGHT

Ines Nguyen (24) turns a corner onto Stanton, when she sees
TWO FBI AGENTS climb out of an SUV.

PETTIGREW (V.O.)

Agents in New York just picked her
up and are putting her on a plane.

Nguyen turns and doubles back, running smack into TWO MORE
FBI AGENTS, who place her under arrest.

PETTIGREW (V.O.)

She'll be at Dulles in two hours.

INT. DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAWN

Keaton and Pettigrew watch as a jetway door opens and Two FBI Agents escort Ines Nguyen off an Airbus 350.

KEATON
Ines Nguyen. I'm FBI Special Agent
Will Keaton. Come with me.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - FBI BUILDING - MORNING

Keaton, Pettigrew, and Meroe watch from an observation room as Ali interrogates Nguyen with empathy not intimidation.

NGUYEN
...please, I'm telling you the
truth. I don't know anything about
these attacks.

ALI
Slow down. When you're ready, just
tell me what you do know.

NGUYEN
I was contacted by Alexandr Nemec.

IN THE OBSERVATION ROOM...

PETTIGREW
Who's that?

KATE
Nemec's one of Tal's top
lieutenants. We get him? We get
closer to Tal than we've ever been.

IN THE INTERROGATION ROOM...

NGUYEN
He paid me four grand to rip some
guy's cell. I didn't know he was
CIA or I never would've done it.

ALI
Where's Nemec now?

NGUYEN
I don't know. I have the phone
number he gave me, that's it.

ALI
What about Mikhail Tal?

NGUYEN

Who?

ALI

Did Nemec ever mention his name?

NGUYEN

No, never...

ALI

Ines, did Nemec have accomplices?

NGUYEN

I don't know.

ALI

Was anyone else with him?

NGUYEN

(beat; looks down)

...No.

Ali stops writing and looks up at Ines.

IN THE OBSERVATION ROOM...

Meroe's eyes narrow at this exchange.

MEROE

She's lying about something.

KEATON

(thinking)

No. Not something. *Someone.*

But as Keaton rushes out, we MOVE IN on Meroe, who has an uneasy feeling about this interrogation. There's something off about it. Something gnawing at her.

Before she has a chance to figure it out...

IN THE INTERROGATION ROOM...

Keaton barges in and goes right for Nguyen.

KEATON (CONT'D)

Who was with Nemec?

NGUYEN

What? I don't --

KEATON

Someone else was with him. I know you're lying, now tell me who it was.

(in her face; yelling)

Answer me, dammit! Who was with Nemec?!

NGUYEN

-- *I don't know her name!*

The room stops. It's suddenly very silent. Then...

NGUYEN (CONT'D)

The bombing was all over the news but... when they put the victims' faces on TV I... I recognized that guy Sebring and I freaked out. So I went to see Nemec...

(scared; shaking)

He was just leaving his place. He didn't see me... but I saw him. He was putting a woman in his car. Her hands were bound and... and she had tape over her mouth. I knew who she was right away... she was on the news, too. It was the woman from the bombing. She survived...

Keaton's eyes go wide. He can't believe what he just heard. One of the CIA victims *is still alive...*

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. APARTMENT - QUEENS, NY - DAY

CIA Operative Robin Bragg (31) lies unconscious on the floor of an apartment bedroom. She's being held against her will. She has superficial burns and lacerations from shrapnel...

But Robin Bragg is alive.

NATHAN (V.O.)

This is me and Robin at my
brother's wedding in Raleigh...

INT. LIVING ROOM - ROBIN BRAGG'S HOME - DAY

Keaton sits across from **Nate Carris (32)** a handsome, kind man with sad, tired eyes. Carris is scrolling through his iPhone, showing Keaton photos of his girlfriend Robin Bragg.

NATE

Here are some of her without
sunglasses. We were at the shore
but it rained the whole time.

Keaton looks over photos of Nate and Bragg on vacation in Cape May: holding hands on a pier; huddled beneath umbrellas in the rain; laughing at dinner together in an kitschy Italian restaurant. Snapshots of a young couple in love.

KEATON

These are perfect. Thank you.

Nate looks at a picture of Robin.

NATE

What do I do?
(tears in his eyes)
You have people in here like me.
What do you say to them? How am I
supposed to get through this?

Keaton knows the pain this man is feeling all too well.

KEATON

You tell yourself you're going to
see her again. No matter what
happens, you tell yourself that.

NATE
 What if I don't? I can't picture my
 life without her.

KEATON
 You won't have to.

INT. BULLPEN - J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING - DAY

Kate is at her desk working. Nearby, Meroe sits shackled to a chair, watching her closely. A beat, then...

MEROE
 Agent Ryan? How long have you been
 with the FBI?

KATE
 (not looking up)
 Six years.

MEROE
 You joined after grad school at
 Northwestern, is that right?

KATE
 How did you--

Meroe motions to the Northwestern coffee mug on Kate's desk.

MEROE
 Have you always worked in
 counterintelligence?

KATE
 Yes.

MEROE
 With Agent Keaton?

Kate's suddenly not so comfortable with these questions.

MEROE (CONT'D)
 How long have you been in love with
 him?

Kate stops dead in her tracks. Turns to Meroe.

KATE
 I don't know what you're talking
 about.

Then, as if one cue...

KEATON (O.C.)

Listen up --

The bullpen stops and looks to Keaton who has just entered.

KEATON (CONT'D)

The attacks this morning were Tal's attempt at shutting down a task force targeting his finances. But that wasn't the extent of his plan. Tal took Robin Bragg captive and he did so for a reason. He wants to know what CIA knows: how they found his money, who tipped them off, and what they're planning next. If Tal gets this information, it will set investigations back months, if not years. And it will free him up to carry out the next mass attack on American lives.

(beat)

Robin Bragg is out there alone and in danger. She's counting on us. Her *family* is counting on us. So no mistakes. No excuses. We find her and we bring her home.

ALI

Alright, here's who we're looking for...

The images on the monitors change to photos and background information of ALEXANDR NEMEC.

ALI (CONT'D)

Alexandr Nemeč. Czech. Forty-three years old. Wanted by seven different countries for espionage and political assassination. We checked his last known address and came up empty. Same with known associates. Ines Nguyen told us he's driving a silver Audi but she didn't get the license plate. So all we have to go off is Nemeč's cell number.

KEATON

Kate? Where are you on that trace?

KATE

Nemec's cell pinged off a tower near the bombing site twenty-four hours ago, but no activity since. Looks like he destroyed his phone.

KEATON

What about Bragg's cell?

KATE

Same. Nothing since the bombing.

Keaton's watching his few leads dry up right before his eyes.

KEATON

Pettigrew? Phone records?

PETTIGREW

Looking them over now. I think I found something...

(reading)

Seventy-eight minutes after the attacks, someone texted Nemec a photo from a blocked number.

KEATON

A photo of what?

Pettigrew pulls up the photo file on her monitor.

PETTIGREW

It's a satellite image of a street in Berlin.

ON THE IMAGE, there's a pin dropped on a building across from the canal.

KEATON

That building. What is it?

PETTIGREW

Hold on...

(typing; searching)

It's a children's hospital.

KEATON

Why is Nemec being sent a photo of a children's hospital in Berlin?

MEROE

He's not...

The team turns to Meroe, who's been listening quietly.

KEATON
Then what is this?

MEROE
A location cut out. It's been
decades since they've been used,
but they were common spycraft for
Soviet nations during the Cold War.

Meroe stands and approaches; careful of her shackles.

MEROE (CONT'D)
Back then, correspondence was
intercepted all the time.
Operatives couldn't risk sending a
map of their *actual* location, so
they would use a section of a map
from a different city that *looked*
like theirs. A cut out.
(pointing to the image)
Most cities have similar
features... roads, bridges, parks.
Or in this case...

KEATON
A canal.

MEROE
Nemec was last seen in Queens. I'd
start there.

KEATON
Kate --

KATE
Already on it.

ON THE MONITORS, Kate pulls up two images. On one side, the
map of Berlin intercepted from Nemec's phone. On the other, a
map of Queens.

ALI
Newtown Creek's the biggest canal
in Queens. Try that one.

Kate ZOOMS in on the Newtown Creek and checks various
sections of it against the Berlin map.

KATE
Anything?

KEATON
No. What else is nearby?

PETTIGREW
Fourth street basin. But that's
Brooklyn.

KEATON
Pull it up.

Kate ZOOMS in on the canal in the south section of Brooklyn.
Keaton scans it closely and...

KEATON (CONT'D)
That section there. By the park.

Kate ZOOMS in a little more. She rotates the image of the
Brooklyn map fifteen degrees clockwise. Then she overlays one
map onto the other.

ALI
You've got to be kidding me...

When placed one on the top of the other, the two maps are an
almost perfect match.

KEATON
What's the pinned building on the
Brooklyn map?

PETTIGREW
(searching)
...An apartment complex in Carroll
Gardens.

KEATON
We got Nemec.
(to Ali)
Call the New York office and get a
team on that building. How long for
the plane?

ALI
We leave now, we can be wheels up
in twenty minutes.

KEATON
Let's go.

Before he heads out --

KATE
Wait. What about Meroe?

Keaton looks across the bullpen at Meroe...

INT. HOLDING CELL - FBI BUILDING - DAY

SLAM! The heavy steel door shuts on Meroe as she's locked back in her holding cell.

MEROE

Don't do this. You wouldn't even know Bragg was alive if it weren't for me.

KEATON

If it weren't for you... now there's a happy thought.

MEROE

I can do more. I can help you.

KEATON

I know why you're doing this. You think if you help catch Tal, it'll somehow make up for the lives you took. But it won't. There is no redemption for you. No matter what you say, no matter what you do... you're a traitor. And you're a *killer*.

MEROE

(angry)

You don't think I know that? I wake up every day knowing *four people* are dead because of me--

KEATON

They have names. Those four people have names--

MEROE

--Steven Haibach. Brian Lanich. Desiree Villareal. And Laine Heffron. *Your* fiancé. I know their names, Agent Keaton. I know the names of their parents and their children. I know everything about them. Because I've lived with their ghosts for the last three years.

KEATON

So have I.

Keaton's words, the sense of loss he says them with, leave Meroe with no response.

KEATON (CONT'D)

You've been in my life too long.
Not just since the investigation.
Before that. When Laine was at CIA
she'd come home and tell me about
the talented, brilliant woman she
worked with. She didn't just look
up to you... she wanted to be you.
Thank God she didn't.

(beat)

Goodbye, Meroe.

Keaton heads out, leaving Meroe alone and angry and trapped like a caged animal. She kicks over the metal food tray and yells out in frustration.

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - CIA - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Three years earlier... The same day as the last flashback. Meroe's at CIA being briefed by her team of analysts, when --

AIDE

Meroe, you have a call.

MEROE

Take a message, Jane.

AIDE

It's your daughter's school. Hannah didn't show up today.

Off Meroe...

INT. HOLDING CELL - FBI BUILDING - DAY

Back to present day... Meroe paces like a lion. After a beat, she stops. She has an idea...

Meroe picks the metal food tray up off the floor and checks the hall for guards. Seeing none, she places the corner of the tray against her first molar.

She takes a deep breath and gathers all the strength she has... *because this is really going to hurt.*

Then Meroe rears back and...

...**WHAM!** She bashes the food tray against the concrete wall as hard as she can. Her tooth shatters and almost instantly, blood spills from her mouth. Meroe CRIES OUT in pain.

When Guards rush in, Meroe flashes them the jagged, bloody hole where her tooth once was.

Off the Guards' stunned faces...

EXT. KENNEDY AIRPORT, NEW YORK - NIGHT

Keaton, Ali, and Pettigrew climb off a jet and move for a caravan of SUV's on the tarmac. There, they rendezvous with a second team of FBI Agents who are already on the ground.

Agent Simons approaches, yelling over the jet engines.

AGENT SIMONS

Agent Keaton! We've got agents surrounding the address! No movement yet!

KEATON

Good! Pettigrew, with me! Ali, take the other car --

INT. DENTIST OFFICE, WASHINGTON DC - NIGHT

FBI Agents stand guard outside the door of a dental treatment room. Inside, Meroe's cuffed to a dentist's chair writhing in pain from her shattered tooth.

A DENTIST takes in the damage.

DENTIST

I'm going to give you some novocaine for the pain. Do you have any allergies?

Meroe shakes her head no. An Assistant hands the dentist a syringe of novocaine.

DENTIST (CONT'D)

Open.

The Dentist stabs the syringe right into the nerve ending. Meroe SCREAMS OUT in pain.

DENTIST (CONT'D)

(to his assistant)

Pilar, we're going to need x-rays right away --

The assistant hurries in and drapes a heavy lead radiation apron over Meroe's torso to prep for x-rays.

INT. DENTIST OFFICE, WASHINGTON DC - MINUTES LATER

Five minutes and three Novocaine shots later, the pain has subsided and Meroe has calmed down.

The Assistant places a photo cell tray in Meroe's mouth, then leaves the room to fire the x-ray machine.

As she does, Meroe eyes the plate glass window, and the set of dental instruments nearby...

EXT. APARTMENT HIGH-RISE, NEW YORK - NIGHT

Keaton, Pettigrew and Ali arrive at the high-rise apartment. They split off from the New York FBI Team and search the building, moving from one apartment to the next, peering in windows and knocking on doors in search of Nemec and Bragg.

After a beat, a loud COMMOTION from the second team of Agents down the hall gets Keaton's attention.

AGENT

-- *We got him!* --

Keaton rushes over just in time to Agent Simons and his team dragging a MAN out of an apartment at gunpoint. There's yelling, shouting. An old woman (*their mother?*) is swatting at the Agents with a broom.

OLD WOMAN

-- *Stop! He don't do nothing* --

Keaton leans down and checks the man closely, but when he sees him, his face falls...

KEATON

It's not him. It's not Nemec.

Shit... Disappointed, Keaton gazes across the courtyard at another row of apartments. When he does, a door that was open no more than an inch SLAMS SHUT.

KEATON (CONT'D)

Ali. Pettigrew. With me.

Keaton pulls his gun and leads the others toward the apartment.

OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT...

Keaton knocks on the door. No answer. He silently counts down... 3... 2... 1... then -- *BOOM!* -- he kicks the door down and the three rush inside, guns raised.

A Man in his twenties is in the living room, hands raised.

KEATON (CONT'D)
 -- On the ground! On the
 ground now! --

MAN IN HIS TWENTIES
 -- Don't shoot! Don't shoot!--

A tense beat. Until, without warning, the man reaches for a gun and FIRES on the team.

They dive for cover. Pettigrew, who's in the best position, FIRES BACK, unloading her clip on the suspect, hitting him twice in the chest, dropping him.

Keaton rushes over and kicks the man's gun away.

KEATON
 Search the apartment. Go!

They split up and sweep each room one-by-one.

KEATON (CONT'D)
 You see her?

PETTIGREW
 (from the other room)
 I got nothing!

KEATON
 Ali!

ALI
 (entering)
 She's not here. Neither is Nemec.
 But they were.

Ali hands Keaton a cell phone he found in the bedroom. The home screen is a picture of Robin Bragg and her boyfriend.

PETTIGREW
 It's Bragg's cell. It was in the
 back, powered off.

KEATON
 (gut punched)
 We missed her. She was right here
 and we missed her...

Keaton's eyes land on the suspect lying on the floor, blood pooling beneath him. A beat, then he rushes to his side.

Keaton checks for a pulse... nothing. He starts chest compressions, trying desperately to save the man's life. To bring back the only lead they have...

KEATON (CONT'D)
Call a paramedic --

But Ali and Pettigrew just stand there stunned as Keaton gives CPR to a *dead man*. He sits up to do chest compressions, blood smeared across his clothes.

KEATON (CONT'D)
I said call a medic!

Pettigrew pulls her cell and dials. Ali slowly approaches, then leans down and checks the man's pulse.

ALI
He's gone, Will.

KEATON
He can't be. He's our only lead...

Ali puts a hand on Keaton's shoulder.

ALI
Will. He's gone.

Finally, Keaton stops. He looks up at Ali and Pettigrew. His hands, his shirt, are covered in blood. He's exposed. Raw. Vulnerable. And he just let Bragg and Nemec slip through his fingers.

The room is dead silent, when --

A cell phone RINGS. Keaton climbs up, wipes the blood from his hands and answers...

KEATON
Bregman, she was here... Robin
Bragg was here and we missed her.

INT. DENTIST OFFICE, WASHINGTON DC - DAY

Bregman's standing in the dentist's office we saw earlier.

BREGMAN
I'm sorry to hear that. But it's
not why I'm calling...

Only now, the office is a disaster. The plate glass window has been shattered and glass and equipment are everywhere.

BREGMAN (CONT'D)
Erica Meroe has escaped.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. APARTMENT HIGH-RISE, NEW YORK - NIGHT

Keaton's on the phone with Bregman.

KEATON

She was *in our custody!* How did she escape?!

BREGMAN

Meroe had a medical emergency and was transported off site.

KEATON

Well where the hell is she now?

BREGMAN

...We don't know.

KEATON

You don't know?! The woman's a walking threat to national security and you don't know where she is! What about the device implanted in her chest? The one that can't be removed without killing her?

BREGMAN

It's gone dark. I don't know how Meroe did it, but her GPS device isn't transmitting.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Meroe's in an alley changing into clothes she stole from a goodwill donation drop. She pulls off a jacket to try on a warmer coat. And that's when we see just how she beat the GPS transponder...

...beneath the jacket, she's wearing the heavy lead RADIATION APRON we saw in the dentist's office.

Those vests are impenetrable. Designed to protect you from radiation, one of the strongest forms of energy on the planet. The FBI's GPS transponder never stood a chance...

EXT. APARTMENT HIGH-RISE, NEW YORK - DAY

Back with Keaton and Bregman.

BREGMAN

...We're sitting on Meroe's old address and her ex-husband's place. Nothing yet. You know her better than anyone. Where she's going?

KEATON

I have no idea. As far as I know, she hasn't spoken to anyone in three years.

BREGMAN

What about old contacts from CIA --

KEATON

I don't know, Richard. You let her go. You find her. I'm busy getting shot at in New York. Meanwhile, Nemec's still got Bragg and I have no clue where he's taking her.

BREGMAN

You're right. Focus on Bragg. I'll find Meroe.

KEATON

How?

BREGMAN

I've got thirty thousand employees and every state and local law enforcement agency in the country at my disposal. She won't get far.

OUTSIDE THE FBI BUILDING...

Agents spill into the streets, speeding through DC in SUV's in search of Meroe.

ON THE STREETS OF DC...

Lights flash and sirens wail as Metropolitan PD spread out around the city.

ON THE ROOF...

An FBI helicopter lifts off from a helipad. It flies low over the city, searching for any sign of Meroe.

EXT. STREETS OF DC - DAY

Meroe ducks behind a bus stop as police cars fly by in pursuit. She should be scared for her life.

But she's not. She's cool. Determined. Focused. Because she knows *exactly* where she's going...

INT. BULLPEN - J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING - DAY

Kate's at her desk when her phone rings.

KATE

Ali, what's going on out there?

EXT. APARTMENT HIGH-RISE, NEW YORK - INTERCUT

Ali's outside the apartment, which is now a crime scene.

ALI

No leads yet, but ERTU's still searching the apartment.

(then)

Hey listen. You talk to Keaton?

KATE

No. Why?

ALI

The guy Pettigrew dropped? Keaton tried to resuscitate him.

KATE

I thought you said he was killed right away.

ALI

He was.

Kate reacts. This is cause for concern. One of the ERTU Techs approaches Ali.

ALI (CONT'D)

Look Kate, I got to run.

KATE

Wait, Ali?

ALI

Yeah.

KATE

Keep an eye on him.

ALI

Always.

Ali hangs up and turns to the ERTU TECH.

ERTU TECH

I was scanning the browser history on the computer we found inside. Someone made multiple searches for locations in Boston: Logan Airport, Conley Terminal, and North Station.

Ali's off and running before the Tech can even finish.

EXT. STREETS OF DC - DAY

Meroe's standing on a sidewalk in Georgetown. It's quiet. Still. She checks her watch. Almost time.

In the distance she hear SIRENS. But there's no way Meroe's leaving... not yet.

EXT. APARTMENT HIGH-RISE, NEW YORK - DAY

Keaton and Pettigrew climb into the lead SUV. Ali climbs in the SUV behind them. Tires SCREECH as they race after Nemec.

INT. SUV - DAY

Keaton's on his cell with Bregman.

KEATON

...We think Nemec's trying to slip out of the country through Boston. We're on our way there now. Any word on Meroe?

BREGMAN

No. But we'll find her. Half of DC's flashing red and blue right now.

(beat)

You think this was her plan all along?

KEATON

I don't know. Maybe. I should've suspected something when she agreed to help. But I guess she would've done anything to get out of that prison...

Keaton stops. A thought suddenly strikes him.

BREGMAN

Will?

KEATON

Meroe didn't just want to get out of prison... she wanted to *come home*.

(then)

I know where she's going.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Meroe's still standing on the same Georgetown sidewalk.

After a beat, a BELL RINGS. Meroe's heart skips a beat. Because at that moment, the gates of a private high school open and hundreds of kids spill through them.

Meroe scans the crowd of teenagers, searching, looking, until...

MEROE

Hannah...

She sees her daughter **Hannah (15)** across the street.

We realize in that moment why Meroe did all this. Why she shattered her own tooth and risked her life...

She just wanted to see her daughter one more time.

Meroe is transfixed by the sight of her. She takes in every detail: how her hair is shorter, how she has started to wear makeup, how much bigger she seems, how much older...

Meroe is floating. The feeling she has now is better than anything she's ever felt before. She wants to run across the street and wrap her arms around her daughter. She wants to hold her. To smell her. To press her face against her daughter's skin and never let her go...

But she never gets the chance. Because even though she calls her daughter's name, her voice is drowned out by the dozens of FBI SUV's and Police Cars skidding up to surround her.

Tears stream down Meroe's face as she's thrown to the ground and taken back into custody...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. SUV - DAY

Keaton speeds along Highway 80 when his cell rings.

KEATON
Kate, what's up?

INT. BULLPEN - J. EDGAR HOOVER FBI BUILDING - INTERCUT

Kate's at her desk.

KATE
Meroe was taken into custody and is
being escorted back to holding. I
called as soon as I found out.
(beat)
How'd you know where she would be?

KEATON
Meroe's daughter is the thing she
cares most about in the world.

A sign ahead tells Keaton he's approaching Boston.

KEATON (CONT'D)
We're just getting into Boston now.
You hear anything on Nemec?

KATE
I alerted security at the locations
flagged on the recovered laptop,
but nothing yet.
(beat)
Listen, Will, there's another
reason I'm calling... Are you okay?

KEATON
What do you mean?

KATE
Ali told me what happened.

KEATON
(beat)
I'm fine.

KATE
Hey. It's me you're talking to. I
know you. I know what's going on.
(MORE)

KATE (CONT'D)

(beat)

I should've seen it earlier.

KEATON

See what?

KATE

Robin Bragg. She's CIA. About the same age. She was even in the same class at Langley.

KEATON

Kate--

KATE

--But it's not her, Will. She's not Laine.

And with those words, we understand why Keaton's so driven to save Robin Bragg.

KATE (CONT'D)

I want her back, too. I miss her every day. But, Will...

KEATON

I know. I just... I need to bring her home. I have to.

A long beat. There's so much unsaid between these two. But they're interrupted when an ALERT pops up on Kate's screen.

KATE

Will, I got something.

(reading)

A silver Audi was just spotted entering the port at Conley Terminal.

KEATON

It's Nemec.

KATE

How far away are you?

KEATON

Four miles.

KATE

If he boards one of those container ships with Bragg...

KEATON

He won't.

INT. SUV - DAY

An SUV drives through the streets of DC. Meroe's handcuffed in back with an FBI Agent. Bregman's riding shotgun.

BREGMAN

How could you have done this,
Erica?

(she looks up at him)

I don't mean escape. I have two boys so I'd probably do the same thing myself. And I don't mean spy for Tal. No excuse you gave in court, and certainly none you could give now, would ever make me understand how you could betray your country like that.

(beat)

No, I want to know how you could lie to the people who cared about you. People who trusted you. Not just your colleagues... but your husband. Your daughter.

(then)

How could you lie to me?

Bregman turns back to face Meroe. Hoping for the answer that's escaped him all these years. But Meroe just turns and looks out the window, tears filling her eyes...

EXT. CONLEY TERMINAL - DAY

Keaton and Pettigrew speed through the gates of Conley Terminal. Ali follows close behind in the second SUV.

INT. UNDERGROUND CORRIDOR - FBI BUILDING - NIGHT

Bregman escorts Meroe back to holding when his cell rings.

BREGMAN

This is Bregman... That's good to hear, Agent Ryan.

Bregman hangs up.

MEROE

They found Nemec?

BREGMAN

Spotted him heading into Conley Terminal. Keaton and his team are moving in now.

Bregman splits off toward the elevators. But as Meroe is escorted to her holding cell, she starts thinking. She starts *cracking the code...*

Meroe rips away from her handlers, running back for Bregman.

AGENTS

-- STOP! --

Meroe is grabbed roughly just as she gets to him.

MEROE

Tal's leading them back to Boston!

BREGMAN

What?

MEROE

It was the site of his first attack. The bombing at Logan Airport. Tal doesn't just want Robin Bragg. He wants to take out as many American lives as possible.

Bregman nods to the handlers, who loosen their grip.

MEROE (CONT'D)

Five years ago, I had a team of operatives hunting Tal in Belgium. They followed him to the port of Antwerp, but when they got there, it was a trap. Tal had planted explosives. IED's. Half a dozen Belgian Police Officers were killed. You have to warn Keaton.

EXT. CONLEY TERMINAL - DAY

Keaton's on a walkie, talking to Ali.

KEATON

Ali, I just got a call from Bregman. He has intel that Tal may have planted IED's here. Eyes open, okay?

ALI

Copy that.

The two vehicles fly past cargo containers and loading cranes, longshoremen and customs officials.

They turn a corner, when Ali catches something in his rear view mirror. He SLAMS on his breaks and turns back...

ALI (CONT'D)
Keaton, I got something. Silver
Audi a hundred yards behind me.

BEHIND ALI... an Audi is waiting to drive into the hold of a cargo ship when...

...the driver, **Alexandr Nemec**, sees Ali's car and guns it.

ALI (CONT'D)
It's Nemec! He's on the move!

Ali flips around in pursuit. Keaton does the same, following close behind Ali.

Up ahead, Nemec blasts through the shipyard in an attempt to escape, leading the Agents on an intense, deadly car chase through a maze of buildings and docks and containers.

Ali is right on Nemec's tail. Nemec turns down a long corridor of stacked shipping containers. Halfway down, Nemec swerves violently to avoid a patch of dirt in the road.

Ali tries to do the same, but his SUV isn't as agile. His right rear tire clips the dirt patch and...

...BOOM!...

An IED goes off filling the air with dirt and debris and mangling the back of Ali's SUV, which is now on its side.

Keaton and Pettigrew SLAM on their brakes. Pettigrew keys the walkie --

PETTIGREW
Ali?!
(silence)
Ali, are you alright?!

An agonizing beat, then...

ALI
...I'm okay. Go after him. Go!

Keaton SLAMS on the gas and races after Nemec. But by the time he exits the corridor, Nemec's Audi is gone...

KEATON
You see him?!

PETTIGREW
Tires tracks on your left --

Keaton guns it left, speeding down lane after lane searching for Nemec, but he's nowhere to be found. He drives past a pothole filled with gravel when...

...*BOOM!* Another IED goes off. This one detonated remotely. It's not a direct hit, but shrapnel pelts the side of Keaton's SUV.

PETTIGREW (CONT'D)
-- Stay away from dirt patches and potholes! That's where the IED's are planted --

Keaton races through the port, swerving to stay clear of any explosives, but there's still no sign of Nemec.

Finally, just when it seems they lost him, Keaton turns down a road behind a row of buildings and spots the Audi up ahead.

KEATON
That's him!

PETTIGREW
He's headed right for us...

KEATON
No. He's going for the exit.

Pettigrew spots the exit up ahead. A small opening in the fence almost exactly equidistant between the two cars.

Nemec guns the Audi for the exit. Keaton does the same. It's a race to see who gets there first...

Which means the two cars are headed right for one another.

PETTIGREW
What're you doing?

KEATON
I'm not losing her...

PETTIGREW
We're gonna crash --

But there's no way Keaton's letting off the gas.

PETTIGREW (CONT'D)
Keaton, *STOP!*

Keaton bears down on the wheel. Pettigrew grabs the handle on the door and braces herself. This is going to be close.

The Audi starts to make the turn out the exit, *Nemec's going to escape*, when...

...*WHAM!* Keaton crashes his SUV into the back of the Audi, crushing it against a nearby pylon.

Keaton fights the air bag away from his face. He turns to Pettigrew, but she's dazed badly from the impact.

KEATON

Are you okay?! Pettigrew?!

Pettigrew mumbles something. Keaton turns his attention to the Audi just in time to see Nemec fighting to climb out of his mangled car.

Keaton jumps out of his SUV, rushes over and tackles Nemec to the ground just as he gets out.

Nemec pulls a gun. Keaton lunges for it. It's a deadly hand-to-hand fight. Nemec fires off two rounds, nearly hitting Keaton. But Keaton gets a hand free and strikes Nemec in the face hard until he's forced to drop the gun.

Keaton manages to cuff Nemec just as Pettigrew climbs out of the SUV, gun pulled.

KEATON (CONT'D)

Cover him!

Keaton rushes to the Audi and pulls open the back door.

Inside, he finds CIA operative Robin Bragg restrained in back. She's on her side across the back seat, motionless. Keaton's worst fears kick in.

He pulls her out of the car and lays her on the ground. He rips the tape off her mouth and cuts the zip-tie restraints from her wrists. Keaton checks her pulse...

PETTIGREW

Does she have a pulse?

KEATON

It's faint.

Keaton takes her by the shoulders and shakes her.

KEATON (CONT'D)

Wake up! Come on, Robin! Wake up!

It's quiet. Tense. Each second an eternity.

KEATON (CONT'D)
Come on, wake up!

A long beat, then... a sharp inhale. Keaton stops, almost willing her awake until... Robin Bragg slowly opens her eyes.

KEATON (CONT'D)
It's okay... I'm Will Keaton with
the FBI. You're safe...

A beat, then Bragg reaches up and throws her arms around Keaton, sobbing onto his shoulder.

Keaton's completely overwhelmed. He struggles to hold back the emotion he feels, but it's no use, and tears begin to stream down his face.

She's not Laine. But she's alive. Because of him...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. HALLWAY - WALTER REED HOSPITAL - NIGHT

CIA Director Shedd exits a hospital room at Walter Reed when Keaton approaches...

KEATON

How is she?

SHEDD

Recovering. But she'll be fine. I'm glad you're here, Agent Keaton. These past few days have been a real body blow to the CIA. But because of you and your team there's one less family going home with a flag instead of their loved one. I know there's supposed to be a wall between CIA and FBI, but if you need anything from us, *anything*, just let me know. I want you to catch this sonofabitch.

INT. RECOVERY ROOM - WALTER REED HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Keaton heads inside. Robin Bragg is lying peacefully in bed. Her eyes open when she hears Keaton enter.

BRAGG

I was hoping I'd see you.

KEATON

I can come back if...

BRAGG

No. Stay. I want to thank you. So much. For what you did. I don't think I'd be alive right now if it weren't for you.

KEATON

I'm just glad you're okay.
(beat)
Where's Nate?

BRAGG

Getting coffee. I don't think he's slept at all.

A beat. Then...

BRAGG (CONT'D)
Are you going to find him?

KEATON
...I'm trying.

BRAGG
The people he killed. They weren't just my coworkers. They were my friends.

(beat)
I want to help you. With the investigation. I know there are hurdles to overcome, but I spent months tracking Tal's finances and I...

(beat)
I just need to make him pay for what he did.

Keaton looks at Bragg and sees so much of Laine in her it almost kills him.

KEATON
Okay... We'll figure it out. For now, get some rest.

INT. BREGMAN'S OFFICE - FBI BUILDING - NIGHT

Keaton's in with Bregman.

BREGMAN
...You're right. She's a traitor and a killer. Not to mention a pretty obvious flight risk. But I still believe Meroe's the best chance we have of finding Tal. I want to keep using her.

A long beat as Keaton considers. He looks up at Bregman.

KEATON
I can't work with the woman who helped killed Laine. I'm sorry. I just can't.

BREGMAN
Let's talk about it tomorrow. Go home. Get some sleep.

Keaton starts to go, when...

KEATON
Hey, I forgot to thank you.

BREGMAN
For what?

KEATON
The intel about the IED's at the port. Saved Ali's life. Mine and Pettigrew's, too.

BREGMAN
Wasn't my intel. It was Meroe's.

Off Keaton, knocked back on his heels...

INT. HOLDING CELL - FBI BUILDING - NIGHT

Later that night, Keaton enters Meroe's cell.

MEROE
I didn't think I'd see you again.
Not after today.

KEATON
I wasn't worried. I knew you'd be caught sooner or later.

MEROE
Do you really think I'd be sitting here if I had wanted to escape?

He eyes her closely.

KEATON
What are you doing, Meroe?

MEROE
I don't know what you mean.

KEATON
Why are you cooperating with us?
Why did you warn me about the port?
(the real question)
Why did you do it?

A beat.

MEROE
What if I can't answer that?

KEATON

Then I tell Bregman he either sends you back to Colorado tonight. Or I quit.

(beat)

I want to know what happened the day Laine was killed. I want to know why you did it. The real reason. I deserve that after what you took from me.

Meroe looks up at Keaton and, realizing she has no choice, begins to tell him the truth...

INT. MEROE'S HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Three years earlier... Meroe comes home looking for Hannah. But she's not there. Instead, Meroe finds a strange cell phone on her table. She looks at it a long beat. How did it get here? Then... IT RINGS.

It's a FaceTime call from an unknown number. Meroe answers. But instead of seeing someone's face on the screen, she sees a park and hears a MAN'S VOICE...

TAL

Hello, Erica.

In that moment, Meroe knows exactly who it is. Mikhail Tal...

Tal adjusts the image so Meroe now sees someone sitting alone at a park bench. The camera ZOOMS IN and Meroe gasps.

It's her daughter Hannah...

TAL (CONT'D)

She's a beautiful girl. You should be proud.

Meroe can't speak, can't even breathe.

TAL (CONT'D)

Don't worry. She doesn't know I'm here. But she will.

Meroe's heart is racing. Her worst nightmare come true.

MEROE

Please don't hurt her...

TAL
 That isn't my decision to make.
 It's up to you whether your
 daughter dies today.

Meroe breaks down, tears running down her face.

TAL (CONT'D)
 I want their names. The four CIA
 operatives that stopped those
 bombings.
 (beat)
 It's a simple choice... your
 daughter's life. Or theirs.

MEROE
 I can't... please, I can't...

Then she sees something that causes her to SCREAM OUT. Tal raises a GUN into frame and aims it at an unknowing Hannah.

TAL
 Yes you can. And you will. Their
 names. Now. Or she dies...

Meroe's hysterical. She begs him.

MEROE
 Please... please, don't do this...

TAL
 Three.

MEROE
 No... I can't...

TAL
 Two.

Meroe's hyperventilating. Can't get enough air...

TAL (CONT'D)
 One --

MEROE
 -- Steven Haibach! Brian Lanich!
 Desiree Villareal! Laine Heffron! --

Meroe gives up the names. She betrays her country and her colleagues. And does what every mother in the world would do.

TAL
 Thank you.

The cell screen goes black and Meroe collapses to the floor.

INT. HOLDING CELL - FBI BUILDING - NIGHT

Back in the cell with Meroe, tears run down her cheeks.

MEROE

I didn't work with Tal. I didn't spy for him. I made a choice to save my daughter.

Keaton struggles to understand.

KEATON

Why didn't you say anything? Why did you keep this a secret for three years?

MEROE

Hannah... Telling the world would mean she'd have to live the rest of her life knowing she was responsible for the deaths of four innocent people. I couldn't do that to my daughter.

(beat)

People say they would die for their children. But the truth is? That's easy. *Living* for your children. Suffering for them. Giving up your freedom and being hated by your country... that's hard.

Meroe wipes the tears from her face.

MEROE (CONT'D)

Yes. I want to be close to my daughter. I want to fight every day to earn my way back into her life. I want to be the parent my father never was... But I also want to stop Tal. Not just because he destroyed my life. But because every day that he's free, is a day my daughter's life is in danger.

KEATON

Why?

MEROE

Tal didn't come after me because I helped stop those bombings.

(MORE)

MEROE (CONT'D)

He came after me because of what I discovered.

(beat)

In 2009 there were a few dozen rogue spies like Tal working within the U.S. In 2011, there were a hundred. In 2014, that number skyrocketed to almost *three thousand*. And it's growing everyday. These are highly-trained, *deadly* operatives. They're in every state. Every city. Hiding in plain sight as teachers, as engineers. As husbands and wives. Ticking time bombs. This isn't random. This a coordinated effort.

KEATON

To do what?

MEROE

I don't know. Not yet. But I know Tal is connected.

A long beat.

MEROE (CONT'D)

You can stop them, Agent Keaton. But not without my help.

Off Keaton and Meroe, realizing this is the beginning of complicated partnership...

INT. RECOVERY ROOM - WALTER REED HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Later that night, Robin Bragg lies in a hospital bed. Her boyfriend Nate sits beside her watching TV.

Robin checks the clock on the wall. It's thirty seconds to nine. She turns to Nate.

BRAGG

Do you think the cafeteria is still open downstairs?

NATE

Why, are you hungry?

BRAGG

Yeah. Would you mind getting me some soup?

NATE
What kind?

BRAGG
Whatever. I don't care.

Nate heads out. Seconds later, at the stroke of nine, the phone beside Robin's bed rings. When she picks up, we hear a familiar voice on the other end... Mikhail Tal's voice.

TAL
Can you speak?

BRAGG
Yes.

TAL
Do they suspect anything?

BRAGG
No. Nothing. But something went wrong. Nemec was arrested.

TAL
Nemec played the part he was given.
So did Ines. Now it's your turn.
How long before you make contact
with Keaton?

BRAGG
I already have.
(beat)
Your plan worked perfectly,
Mikhail. I'm in...

Off Bragg, we...

SMASH TO BLACK:

END OF EPISODE