

CHERNOBYL

BY Shawn Davis

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FADE IN:

INT.RUSSIAN TRAIN-NIGHT

SUPER:1986

A train moves toward its destination with two men in the main engine compartment. VLADIMIR(50) rugged, bearded and BORIS, younger,clean cut.

VLADIMIR

Very cold tonight. Did you bring extra coffee?

BORIS

I did.

Boris opens a thermos to pour coffee. Vladimir takes a drink.

VLADIMIR

Good. We will be arriving in five minutes. Contact Chernobyl,let them know we are on time.

BORIS

Engine forty nine to Chernobyl receiving. Approximate arrival time, five minutes.

On the radio - STATIC.

BORIS

No response.

VLADIMIR

Switch to frequency two eleven.

A turn of a knob.

BORIS

Chernobyl receiving, engine forty nine, approaching estimated ETA of five minutes. Please advise.

In the distance, through the conductors windshield - A GLOW.

VLADIMIR

Boris.

They both look to the glow.

VLADIMIR
Slow to twenty.

BORIS
Slowing to twenty.

The radio static continues.

VLADIMIR
Oh my God. Full stop, full stop now
dammit.

The train grinds to a halt.

VLADIMIR
Get rail central on the radio
now. tell them...

Boris walks out to the side of the conductor car.

VLADIMIR
What the hell are you doing? Boris,
do it now. Call central.

Boris in a rush grabs the microphone.

BORIS
Rail central, engine forty nine
declaring an emergency.

On the radio - STATIC.

BORIS
Captain, there is no answer.

VLADIMIR
It's not them. Full back now. Full
back, it's radiation! It's jamming
the radio. Get us the fuck out of
here!

The train speed increases in reverse. As the GLOW continues
in the distance.

BORIS
What does this mean? What are you
saying? Are we?

VLADIMIR
I don't know Boris. Increase speed
and keep trying rail central. God
help us.

The train disappears into the night as the GLOW continues.

INT. COLLEGE AUDITORIUM - PRESENT DAY

SUPER: PRESENT DAY

PROFESSOR KINSEY (50) Thin, edgy, long hair in a pony tail, stands in front of a group of students.

PROFESSOR ADAM

And as we often have a proclivity to do, you can see the distention between what western civilization assumes to be a martyr, a terrorist or a hero often times are blurred based on affiliation and ethnicity.

A students hand rises.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

Yes

STUDENT

So a Japanese man that flies a plane into a ship is a Kamikaze, a hero but a middle eastern who flies a plane into a building is a terrorist?

PROFESSOR KINSEY

I see! It's easy to confuse an act of domestic terrorism with war. The naval ships in which the Japanese pilots attacked were designed to destroy but take for instance the New York twin towers. They were a symbol of capitalism, not a means of war. The hero or soldier attacks to destroy their aggressor, the terrorist attacks to make a statement and destroy the innocent.

STUDENT

Regardless of ethnicity?

PROFESSOR KINSEY

Regardless of ethnicity.

INT. COLLEGE AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Two students together in the audience, JEFF (20) clean cut and MARCUS (21) black, fashionable dreads.

MARCUS

You don't think this shit is profiling?

JEFF

Maybe. Whats wrong with profiling?

MARCUS

You did not just ask that? whats wrong with it? Where do I even start?

JEFF

Okay, a group of rowdy white rednecks, cowboy hats and drunk coming out of a bar. You, (a) walk up and ask if they any white bitches around, or (b), get your ass on the other side of the street and hope the hell they don't load you up for some country fun?

MARCUS

Point taken, but you think that we have evolved enough to leave some of the stereotype bullshit out of race?

JEFF

Is that what you would tell them rednecks? Hold on fellas, aint we evolved?

MARCUS

You need to drop the nigga talk. Besides, you wouldn't find me near a red neck bar walking at night to begin with. Jazz club maybe.

JEFF

With a sniffer of Hennessy, right?

MARCUS

Yea, right after the monster truck rally. Can we finish this later?

INT. RACHEL KINGS HOME - DAY

RACHEL KING (50) frail, but beautiful stands at her kitchen sink over dishes, suddenly she clutches her chest. She positions herself on the counter and reaches for the phone.

With the phone in hand, she dials nine one-one.

She grabs her chest again and drops the phone. She falls to the floor.

INT. COLLEGE AUDITORIUM - DAY

A man walks down the aisle and up to Jeff.

MAN

Excuse me, you're needed in the deans office.

INT. DEAN'S OFFICE - LATER

Jeff sits in DEAN HANSON'S (55) office, he is distinguished. The two stare at one another for a moment.

DEAN HANSON

Jeff, I am sorry to be the one to tell you this but I have some bad news. It's your mother.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A phone rings. Jeff sits alone. A couple more rings and he answers it.

JEFF

Hello?

PHONE VOICE

Hello, yes this is Franklin Memorial home. Am I speaking to the person responsible for Rachel King?

JEFF

Yes, I will be making the arrangements.

PHONE VOICE

I am so sorry for your loss but we will need to meet tomorrow if possible to make sure all of her affairs are in order. Mr. King, are you there?

JEFF

Yes, yes I'm here. Tomorrow will be fine.

The phone hung up, Jeff picks up a picture. In it, Jeff and his mother. He weeps.

INT. FUNERAL HOME VIEWING ROOM. - DAY

Jeff walks up with hesitation to the open coffin. A large wreath of flowers sit atop.

He looks into the coffin, then places a flower on his mothers chest.

EXT. GRAVESIDE - DAY

Jeff towers over a mound of dirt. Flowers piled on top. Some friends by his side. One of his friends, KIRSTEN (20)chubby, pierced, holds his hand.

KIRSTEN

Jeff, your mom was great. We're all going to miss her. Anything you need?

JEFF

No, I'm fine. Thanks guys. All of you, I mean it.

MARCUS

Want a a ride home?

JEFF

Some family are meeting over at mom's. A lot of us haven't seen each other in a while. You know!

MARCUS

Nah, it's good. Just take care of yourself and we will see you back at school. Okay?

JEFF

Yea, Okay guys, thanks.

INT. RACHEL KING'S HOME - NIGHT

The wake moves well into the night. People start to leave and give well wishes to Jeff.

AUNT

Sweetie, don't you worry about a thing. Your momma is in a better place. She was such a wonderful woman and damn did she love you.

They hug as another in the procession approaches.

UNCLE

Now son, don't try and do all of this yourself. Anything you need, and I mean anything, don't you dare hesitate to call. My sister would have wanted it that way.

One more well wisher as they funnel out.

WELL WISHER

Are you going to stay here tonight?

JEFF

Yea, I thought it would be nice.

WELL WISHER

Call me tomorrow. I want to know you are Okay. Okay?

JEFF

I promise.

The last person leaves. The noise quiets. Jeff is alone. He stands alone, then walks the rooms his mother once lived.

INT. RACHEL KING'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jeff stands at the doorway. On the bed side table, a picture of his mom and a man standing in the snow. He picks it up.

In the picture, a boarder stop with Russian writing on the building. The two appear happy.

He puts the picture down and approaches her dresser. A small ballerina sets atop a music box. A few turns and the dancer comes to life and glides across the glass surface.

He lays on the bed as the music plays until his eyes stay closed.

INT. LAWYERS OFFICE - DAY

STEVE, a well dressed man, cowboy hat(55)sets at his desk with Jeff in front of him.

STEVE

Your mom, Rachel had her affairs in order. There are however some things we need to go over. First off, the will. As you already know, she left most of her estate to you.

(MORE)

STEVE (cont'd)
There are a couple items that we
agreed I would give to you
personally.

JEFF
Oh yea? Like what?

Steve goes to his safe, retrieves an envelope and returns.

STEVE
First off, a key. The address of
the safe deposit box is in the
envelope.

He hands Jeff the envelope.

JEFF
Did she tell you what was in it?

STEVE
No, but she was very adamant about
making sure I tell you to go alone.

JEFF
And?

STEVE
Her passport.

JEFF
Her passport?

STEVE
She did not want this in the safe
deposit box.

JEFF
Anything else?

STEVE
That's it. As for the transfer of
her estate, it will take a couple
of weeks. I will let you know when
it's complete.

JEFF
Thanks Steve.

The two rise and shake hands.

INT. RACHEL KINGS HOME - NIGHT

Jeff sits at his mothers desk. He opens the envelope to look at the address of the bank key. Then, the passport. As he thumbs through it, the view of many countries stamps are displayed.

EXT.SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF BANK - DAY

Jeff stops in front of a building, looks at the envelope and walks into the building.

INT. BANK BUILDING - DAY

He stands at the personals bankers desk.

BANKER

If you could please just come this way sir.

JEFF

Thank you.

INT. BANK BUILDING VAULT - DAY

The box is removed from the wall and placed on a table.

BANKER

Will there be anything else?

JEFF

No, this is fine.

The banker leaves as Jeff has a seat. With the box now open, the contents are revealed. First, a notebook. Jeff thumbs through it. Drawings and scientific writing.

Secondly, a small stack of photos and a journal in a box and yet another passport.

JEFF

Another passport?

He gathers the contents and leaves.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jeff and Marcus thumb through the notebook at Jeff's dining room table.

MARCUS

It looks like some kind of electrical diagram. Way over my head. You ought to show these to Professor Kinsey. See what he thinks.

JEFF

Why would she leave these things in a safe deposit box. Just notes and pictures.

MARCUS

I don't know man. maybe there is something here were not seeing.

JEFF

Yea, maybe. I'll take it by to him tomorrow.

MARCUS

All right man. You got everything you need?

JEFF

Yea, I'm fine and thanks again for everything this week. I mean it.

Marcus leaves as Jeff fans through the notes once again. He put down the note book to take a moment to look at the two passports.

The journal grabs his attention. Jeff takes a drink of beer and opens the journal to page one.

JEFF

(Reads aloud)

I don't expect anyone to ever understand the reasons for my actions. But I do hope someday to be able to shed light as to the motives of my heart.

Jeff puts down the journal and picks up a photo of his mother Rachel. She is with a woman standing in front of a hotel. The snow falls and is very deep.

JEFF

(Reads aloud)

I can't really say when I discovered I would betray those who believed in me. All I can say is that I never imagined my name in the company of Judas. With my arrival..

EXT. SIDEWALK KIEV RUSSIA - DAY

SUPER: APRIL 25, 1986

Two women stand in front of a Russian hotel as they have their picture taken by the cab driver. Rachel (25) Slender, attractive approaches the cab driver.

RACHEL (V.O)

..to Russia, the whole world seemed to be open to me.

He hands her the camera.

RACHEL

Thank you.

The two rush up the stairs into the fine Russian hotel. Her friend LISA (25) brunette, also attractive by her side.

They approach the greeting counter.

RACHEL

I have reservations for two under the name of King.

DESK PERSON

Yes mam. Will you be needing help with your things?

RACHEL

Yes, thank you.

A man sits in a leather chair in the lobby. Open newspaper from which he does not read.

He is dressed formally. ANDREI (30) Clean cut, handsome folds the newspaper, rises to approach the two women.

ANDREI

Excuse me, you are Rachel King?

He extends a hand.

RACHEL

Yes I am.

ANDREI

If I may? The Russian Commission of Foreign Affairs ask that I offer any assistance to make your trip as pleasant as possible.

RACHEL

I see. Well thank you. Exactly what is it that you do Mr..

ANDREI

Please call me Andrei.

RACHEL

Andrei.

ANDREI

It is for me the pleasure to insure that you experience our country in its best possible light.

RACHEL

So, you're a tour guide?

ANDREI

Not quite, but close. Your university asked that we..

RACHEL

I see, my university. Did my university also ask that you keep an eye on me?

ANDREI

No mam. That, Rachel I will gladly do without the necessity of being asked. Would the two of you care to join me for dinner? I know of a lovely place that truly represents our native flavors.

Rachel looks to Lisa. Lisa shrugs in acceptance.

RACHEL

That would be fine.

ANDREI

Seven then? In the lobby?

RACHEL

Seven.

ANDREI

Until then, ladies.

Andrei departs, the ladies are escorted to their room.

LISA

He was flirting with you.

RACHEL

No he was not. You think?

The elevator bell rings.

LISA

Oh yea! He will gladly keep his eyes on you. Welcome to Russia.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SUPER:PRESENT DAY

Jeff closes the journal to reach for the two passports. He thumbs through one, then the other.

JEFF

But why two?

Jeff finishes his beer, sits down the documents then gets up to get a beer. Through his window he spots headlights. Casually he walks over to see who it is.

As he cracks the curtain, the car backs up and speeds away.

JEFF

What the fuck?

He rushes through the front door.

EXT. OUTSIDE JEFF'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

He arrives to the front where his car is parked. On it, a business card stuck on his windshield.

It reads - KEVIN ROTH - 210-784-5562

JEFF

Kevin Roth?

He takes the card and returns back inside to his apartment.
As the front door slams.

INT. COLLEGE - PROFESSOR KINSEY'S OFFICE - DAY

The two stand over a table, the note book Jeff retrieved
from the safe deposit box lays open.

As the pages are flipped the more serious the look on the
professors face gets.

PROFESSOR KINSEY
You said your mother left this to
you in a safe deposit box?

JEFF
That's right.

PROFESSOR KINSEY
Good place for it. Better yet in a
shredder. Jeff, This is some
seriously heavy shit. You probably
shouldn't even have this in your
possession. Come to think of it,
neither should I.

JEFF
What exactly is it?

PROFESSOR KINSEY
Notes. Which seem to be authentic
enough, but are of an extremely
sensitive nature. Man, These are
notes for what is known as a light
water reactor system. The kind used
in nuclear power plants. This is
high level stuff.

JEFF
More than likely declassified by
now, right?

PROFESSOR KINSEY
This level of shit never becomes
declassified. But that's not where
the real problem with these notes
are.

JEFF
What's that?

The professor pulls a pen from his jacket to circle a word
in the notes.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

Some of this is in Russian, most in English but I definitely know this word.

In the notes, the word "CHERNOBYL" was circled. He taps the word with his pen.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

This part here pertains to stability factors when a positive void coefficient exist in a RBMK reactor.

JEFF

In English.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

I'm going to be straight up with you on this one Jeff. You really need to hear me? I never saw this shit, Okay? This stuff needs to so not be in the open. What I'm saying here man, the fucking book your holding is a hand book showing the details on how to destabilize a Russian light water nuclear reactor.

JEFF

Get the fuck out of here. Are you serious?

PROFESSOR KINSEY

It gets worse. These are notes on Chernobyl.

The professor circles a date of March 11, 1986 on the paperwork.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

Jeff, they're dated a month before that reactor was destroyed. Do you know what this means?

JEFF

Somebody came by my house last night. Left a card on my car.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

Did you call em?

JEFF

Not yet.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

Listen to me. Jeff, you listening?

JEFF

Yea.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

Certain people would take a great interest in acquiring these notes. More important, there are many more who would rather these notes never existed and I'm pretty sure they would do what ever necessary to make them go away. You feel me?

JEFF

You think I'm in danger?

PROFESSOR KINSEY

I think you need to contact our government. Let them know what you have.

JEFF

Wait a minute, wait a minute, wait the fuck a minute. Lets slow down. Why would my mother have information on a wet water..

PROFESSOR KINSEY

..light water

JEFF

What ever, light water reactor? She was a teacher for Gods sake.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

You mentioned your mother went to Russia.

JEFF

Yea, so..

INT. JEFF'S CAR - DAY

Jeff drives as he talks on the phone.

JEFF

Shit, Marcus for all I know someone gave them to her. Yea, meet me at my apartment.

He hangs up his phone.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - DAY

Marcus, sits on the living room couch as Jeff paces frantically.

MARCUS

Are you sure Professor Kinsey was right? I mean shit man. Your mom? Nuclear reactors, meltdowns?

JEFF

People leaving cards on my car.

MARCUS

Did you call him?

JEFF

No, Kinsey thinks I should call our government.

MARCUS

And Tell em what? Hello, I have evidence that Chernobyl might have been sabotage? Oh and by the way, my mother had the notes all the time?

JEFF

You're right.

Jeff reaches for the phone, looks at the card and dials the number.

PHONE

Hello.

JEFF

Hello, you left a card on..

PHONE

Jeff King. I know who you are. Question is, do you know who I am?

JEFF

What do you want?

PHONE

The same as you want. For Rachel's name to stay out of this. You have something. Something that was meant for me many years ago. I would like it back.

JEFF

The notes?

PHONE

So it's true. When can we meet?
Tonight would be best. I can..

Jeff hangs up the phone. It begins to ring again.

JEFF

I don't think that was a good idea.
We need to leave.

MARCUS

I'm not sure I want to be seen with
you man. We'll take my car.

JEFF

You sure?

MARCUS

Oh yea, If I'm gonna get shot or
something, I don't want to be found
in that piece of shit you drive.

Jeff gathers some things quickly and they rush out.

INT. MARCUS HOME - NIGHT

The two sit in Marcus's dining room.

JEFF

It's got to be in the journal.

MARCUS

What?

JEFF

Her journal, she left this in the
safe deposit box.

INT. MARCUS HOME STUDY - NIGHT

Jeff sits alone. The journal now open once again.

JEFF

(Reading aloud)

I would be lying if I said he wasn't very attractive. He was gorgeous. We sat and talked for hours that night. He seemed..

INT. RUSSIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

SUPER:1986

A vibrant atmosphere as Russian music plays in the background. A vodka bottle half empty as the three patrons have a wonderful time.

RACHEL (V.O)

..to have an air of mystery and confidence you don't see in many men. It might have been the vodka, but I don't think so.

ANDREI

Your president, Mr.Reagan, a great man. A cowboy.

RACHEL

In the movies he was, yes.

ANDREI

He and our President Gorbachev are doing great things. A time of Perestroika if you will. It means restructuring.

RACHEL

Yes, yes I know. In the spirit of Glasnost, right?

ANDREI

Openness, yes that's right. I'm impressed. The average Russian has not heard of the movement.

RACHEL

Well believe it or not, Americans look to Russia right now to see if you will take that leap to democracy. You seem so close.

Lisa looks to her watch.

LISA

You two have officially worn me out. I going up to the room. you coming?

RACHEL

I should.

ANDREI

Unless you would like a cup of coffee?

LISA

Enjoy! I'm going to sleep.

RACHEL

I really should be..

ANDREI

Come, Would you let me show you something?

RACHEL

Okay.

EXT.HOTEL BALCONY - NIGHT

A dark snowy night, the balcony overlooks downtown KIEV. The two drink coffee.

RACHEL

It's beautiful.

ANDREI

Yes, Kiev has had many lives. From great prominence to relative obscurity. But tonight, it is yours. Would you like to take a walk?

RACHEL

I would like that.

EXT. KIEV SIDEWALK - NIGHT

The snow falls as the two walk.

ANDREI

I understand you are in town to give a lecture at the university.

RACHEL

Yes, that's true. Would you like to come? I can arrange it.

ANDREI

I would, but I'm afraid all of that talk about atomic energy is a bit over my head.

RACHEL

I'm a professor and it is still over my head.

ANDREI

What, but aren't you the ones who come up with these things? If you don't understand it then who does?

RACHEL

Very funny Andrei. So will you come?

ANDREI

Yes, I would not miss it.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

SUPER: APRIL, 25TH, 1986

Men in white uniforms and hats move about a busy room. Chief engineer, Dmitri DYATLOV (55) peppered greased back hair stands watch.

Two engineers discuss a scheduled test to be done. Alexei (35)chubby, and Mikhail (30)slim with horned rimmed glasses.

ALEXEI

This is the fifth time we have completed this test in a year and a half and still we have not passed.

MIKHAIL

I hear we will be shutting down the scram as well. Who's idea was that?

DMITRI

I will be making that call when the test is performed and if you insist

(MORE)

DMITRI (cont'd)
on objecting to protocol, you will
be removed from this control room.
Do I make myself clear?

ALEXEI
Yes, sir.

DMITRI
Mikhail?

MIKHAIL
Yes, sir.

DMITRI
Good. We will be going off line
tomorrow at two pm. Begin a five
percent power reduction per hour to
fifty percent and hold at one
thousand mega watts. Inform me when
we are at twenty five hundred.

ALEXEI
Yes sir, twenty five hundred. Sir,
not to be forward but is it true
you are considering bypassing the
scram system.

DMITRI
With scram in place, it is
difficult to determine the true
reaction time of the back up
generator during a power failure.
Or perhaps you have a better
option.

ALEXEI
No sir, it's just without the scram
in place it will be impossible to
counter an unforeseen spike. It
could destabilize the reaction.

Dmitri slams his coffee mug to the floor.

DMITRI
Don't you fucking stand here on my
floor and lecture me about safety.
Do so again and I will have you
removed from this plant. Do you
completely understand me?

ALEXEI

Yes sir.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

A man stands in the reactor area. He is engineer MISCHA KAVANOCH (40) tall, slender, blinks his eyes very hard. A loud speaker announces..

LOUDSPEAKER

Mischa, line one.

He goes to the phone.

MISCHA

Mischa. Yes, I understand. Five percent per hour. Thank you.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

Inside of the reactor, three rods move in a upward direction.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

As the rods are removed in the reactor pool, the generator power decreases and the megawatt meter reduces from thirty five hundred mega watts to thirty two hundred and twenty five watts.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

Mikhail walks over to the control panel to confirm the reduction in power.

MIKHAIL

Five percent confirmed.

Alexei walks over to him.

MIKHAIL

I swear to God he is going to get us all killed. Remember Lithuania? Same type of test and they almost lost control, had the system not scrambled. Listen, did you make a copy of the notes?

ALEXEI

Yes. I will have them with me tomorrow. And yes, I remember her name is..

INT. KIEV UNIVERSITY - AUDITORIUM

A man stands at a podium in front of a packed room of college students and engineers.

ANNOUNCER

..Ms. Rachel king

The crowd applauds as Rachel takes the podium.

RACHEL

Thank you. Thank you.

The crowd settles down.

RACHEL

With the advent of nuclear technology, we find ourselves at a crossroads of what we deem invaluable and at what price we are prepared to pay for it.

As she speaks, Alexei sits in the audience.

INT. KIEV UNIVERSITY - AUDITORIUM - LATER

Rachel is on the verge of completing her lecture.

RACHEL

America has stepped up it's program to increase the number of plants to be online by the year two thousand by more than twenty percent with Russia taking an even stronger role. It is my belief we will meet a critical mass with respect to waste and what to do with it. As the leaders of the world, we must set the example that nuclear energy has to be used wisely or deal with the fallout. Pun intended. Thank you.

The crowd gives a rousing round of applause.

The announcer approaches the podium.

ANNOUNCER

Ms. Rachel king.

The crowd applauds and begins to leave.

Rachel stands on the stage being greeted by well wishers.

Andrei walks up.

ANDREI

Fantastic. I did not understand most of it but good job.

RACHEL

Thank you. I think I was a little long winded.

Lisa walks up.

LISA

Sweetheart, great job.

The two hug.

RACHEL

Are you sure?

LISA

Am I sure? Just wait until they get this transcript back at the college.

As they speak, Alexei walks up.

ALEXEI

Excuse me miss?

RACHEL

Yes, hello.

ALEXEI

My name is Alexei, I work as an engineer at Chernobyl power plant just outside of Prypiat. I wonder if I might have a moment of your time?

RACHEL

Yes absolutely!

ALEXEI

Is it possible that we might speak alone?

He takes her aside.

RACHEL
What can I do for you?

ALEXEI
I need to talk to you regarding something of great importance. A matter that I am going to have to trust you with. But not here. Please believe me when I say, the information I have can cost me my life.

RACHEL
Where would you like to meet?

ALEXEI
There is a cafe near the square called Victors, meet me there in an hour. Alone please.

RACHEL
I'll be there.

ALEXEI
Thank you.

Mikhail leaves.

ANDREI
What was that about?

RACHEL
Just a fan I suppose. He asked me to lunch.

ANDREI
Did you accept?

RACHEL
You don't think I should have?

EXT. VICTORS CAFE - DAY

Alexei waits for Rachel. She shows up and has a seat.

ALEXEI
Thank you for coming.

RACHEL
I said I would. So what can I do
for you Mr.

ALEXEI
Please call me Alexei, What I am
about to tell you may sound
fantastic but I assure you is true.

RACHEL
I'm listening.

ALEXEI
I have information that will show
the planning of a terrorist attack
to take place this very afternoon
at the Chernobyl nuclear power
plant.

RACHEL
I'm sorry. You have what?

ALEXEI
I have

RACHEL
I heard what you said. I don't know
what you think I might

Rachel gets up to leave.

ALEXEI
No, no please sit down. Let me
explain.

She stands for a moment looks around, then seats herself.

RACHEL
Are you insane? Why are you telling
me this? Why don't you go to your
police or government?

ALEXEI
The man involved, he is very
powerful. One of the most powerful
men in the nuclear industry. I
would be laughed at and my career
destroyed.

RACHEL
Why me?

ALEXEI

Because I don't think we can stop him but if it does happen, I can prove he was the one who perpetrated it.

RACHEL

Perpetrated what? What is it he is going to do?

ALEXEI

Rachel, it is my belief that Dmitri Dyatlov, our chief engineer will commit an act of domestic terrorism against the Soviet Union by destroying reactor four at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant sometime today.

RACHEL

You're out of your mind!

Alexei opens a note book.

ALEXEI

Please wait, these notes. I copied them from his notebook. They explain the primary means to create an unstable positive void coefficient by shutting down primary cooling turbines to the reactor pool.

RACHEL

That's a test done once a year in every nuclear plant in America. It's required by law. Now if you're through..

ALEXEI

Wait. He plans to do it below the minimum mega wattage of 200. In his notes he plans to drop the reactor to 50 mega watts.

RACHEL

Increasing the coefficient.

Alexei taps the notebook hard.

ALEXEI

While disabling the scram.

RACHEL
That's against international law.

ALEXEI
There is more. The test is planned for two PM today. If these notes are correct, it will be delayed until this evening.

RACHEL
That's significant, why?

ALEXEI
All of the primary engineers are on call today. If there is a delay, he will be the only chief engineer on deck. No one to question or stop him.

RACHEL
How could he delay a test of this importance?

ALEXEI
That I don't know. But if he does, will you at least consider believing the rest of this might be true?

RACHEL
One thing you haven't answered me; why? Why do think he would do this?

ALEXEI
Again, I don't know, but if he succeeds, if he succeeds, we will no longer know life the same way in the soviet union.

INT. MARCUS HOME STUDY - NIGHT

SUPER: PRESENT DAY

Jeff closes the journal.

JEFF
This cant be happening.

INT. COLLEGE - PROFESSOR KINSEY OFFICE - DAY

JEFF

I think you're right. I might be in over my head here. My mom, she was way involved in something outside your normal trip to Russia.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

Did you contact someone?

JEFF

No, look there is someone else. That person who came to my house? I called him. He knew about the notebook.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

How do you think he knew where you lived?

JEFF

Beats the shit out of me. But I can tell you this, I think it has something to do with the two passports.

The door busts open.

Three men formally dressed rush in. One of the men, Kevin ROTH (50) stocky approaches them.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

Can I help you?

KEVIN ROTH

You will need to come with us Mr. King.

JEFF

What the fuck. You can't just barge in here...

Kevin Roth pulls a badge from his coat vest.

KEVIN ROTH

Yes I can young man and I will. Homeland security, sir you will need to come as well.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

I have a class I...

KEVIN ROTH

It will be taken care of. Please
come with us.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

Just do what they say Jeff. It's
going to be okay.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Two sports utility vehicles wait outside. It's raining.

The two men are taken to individual cars. They speed away.

INT. SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE - DAY

Jeff looks out of the window to see the other vehicle turn
off as they go straight.

JEFF

Where are you going with Professor
Kinsey?

KEVIN ROTH

Things pertinent to him will be
discussed. It is you we want to
talk to. You have some things we
want.

JEFF

Yea, like what?

KEVIN ROTH

First tell me where you were last
night?

JEFF

Let's see, I was at none of your
fucking business.

KEVIN ROTH

You are in a lot of trouble Mr.
King. It would do you well to try
and cooperate.

JEFF

Fine I was at a friends.

KEVIN ROTH

You mean Marcus's home, don't you?

The two stare off.

KEVIN ROTH

Oh, don't worry. Marcus is fine. He is safe as well. But in order to clear him of any allegations, you need to come clean.

JEFF

Are you threatening me?

KEVIN ROTH

You bet.

JEFF

You're not homeland security are you?

KEVIN ROTH

I appreciate your candor. We have been looking for the documents you have in your possession for a very long time. The longer you carry them, the less likely you are to live.

JEFF

I suppose candor appreciation can go both ways.

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Jeff sits alone. Kevin Roth comes in with a couple cups of coffee and a folder.

KEVIN ROTH

Thought you might like a cup.

Jeff takes a sip.

KEVIN ROTH

Can I get you anything?

JEFF

Yea, a lawyer!

KEVIN ROTH

Lawyers are for people inside the system. You do not have those rights at this particular time. You understand?

JEFF

You can't keep me here...

KEVIN ROTH

Kevin Roth. I left my card, we spoke last night. You were rude. We don't want to keep you long.

Kevin Roth opens the folder. In it Rachel's journal. He hands it to Jeff.

KEVIN ROTH

This was all that was at Marcus's home. Where is the rest?

The two stare off.

KEVIN ROTH

Rachel King was a very special person Jeff. You may want to finish reading this before you make any rash decisions. I will give you some time to think.

Kevin leaves the journal on the table and departs.

The door shuts. A moment passes. He cracks the journal open and picks up where he left off.

EXT. STREET CORNER - RUSSIA - DAY

SUPER: 1986

RACHEL (V.O)

I stood on a street corner, stunned. What if Mikhail was right? What if, as I stood there, a mad man was plotting to destroy Chernobyl? What if I did nothing to try and stop it?

She throws her arm up.

RACHEL

Taxi!

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - DAY

SUPER: APRIL 25TH, 1986

The crew stands ready for the scheduled test on reactor four.

DMITRI

We have confirmation to proceed at two pm.

INT. REACTOR POOL - DAY

Three more reactor rods are lifted from the reactor pool to further slow the boiling process.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM - CHERNOBYL - DAY

The generator is at a steady pace. The mega watt meter shows fifteen hundred mega watts.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - DAY

ALEXEI

Sir, reactor four is currently at fifteen hundred mega watts.

DMITRI

Please inform the energy commission that reactor four will be removed from the Kiev grid in approximately fifty two minutes.

MIKHAIL

Yes sir.

A look across the room between Alexei and Dmitri.

DMITRI

Is there something you wish to say?

ALEXEI

No sir.

MIKHAIL

Sir, Kiev confirms your transmission but requests a delay in the test due to an unforeseen need to maintain current levels.

DMITRI

What? They are just now telling us this? Contact Leningrad, tell them to increase its production to compensate?

MIKHAIL

Please hold sir.

A moment passes as Alexei and Mikhail look to one another.

MIKHAIL

No sir. Leningrad reports it is already positioned to take on a fourteen percent increase during the test and will not be able to contribute more to the grid.

DMITRI

Kiev on the phone. Now!

MIKHAIL

Yes sir.

A moment passes as the reactor room crew grows increasingly more agitated.

One of the engineers walks up to Alexei.

ENGINEER

You do realize this will not do well for your certification? The fifth time, no?

ALEXEI

There is no reason to not run the test. We should proceed in my opinion.

ENGINEER

But it's not your opinion that counts. Is it? If we cannot compensate for the grid deficit during the test, it will be postponed.

MIKHAIL

Sir, Kiev energy command on two.

Dmitri walks to the phone.

DMITRI

What is the meaning of this? You wait until we call you? This is unexceptional. You hear me? I will file a report regarding this. You hear me?

Dmitri slams the phone on the table. Another engineer rushes to hang it up.

DMITRI

It seems we have no choice. Maintain fifteen hundred. Kiev requests we stay on grid until twenty three hundred hours at which time the decision will be made to continue on with testing.

ENGINEER

You do realize we have been here for twelve hours already. Why not simply postpone testing until we are all refreshed?

DMITRI

Given the time I will make that decision. Until then the primary staff is dismissed.

ALEXEI

Sir, this is highly unusual.

MIKHAIL

The primary engineers are required to be on deck during this test. You do understand this?

DMITRI

According to counsel measures, only one chief engineer is required to oversee a turbine free wheel measurement. Unless of course there are objections?

The group remains silent. No one objects.

DMITRI

Then the primary engineering staff is relieved until tomorrow.

ALEXEI

What? You can't do this. You can't..

DMITRI

You are relieved. Get off my deck.
Guards escort him from the
premises.

Two guards appear.

ALEXEI

You're not going to get away with
this. I have the right to be here.
This is a set up. Does anyone
listen, this is a set up.

DMITRI

Get him out of here.

Alexei is taken out.

DMITRI

Mikhail, maintain fifteen hundred
mega watts until such a time a
decrease is ordered. Do you
understand? Or is there a necessity
for your removal as well?

MIKHAIL

No sir, fifteen hundred mega watts
until your orders.

An engineer walks up to Dmitri.

ENGINEER

Perhaps it is best I stay?

DMITRI

Not necessary.

ENGINEER

Then tomorrow.

INT. ALEXEI'S APARTMENT - PRYPIAT RUSSIA - LATE DAY

The door bursts open. Alexei rushes in. His wife KARINA
(38)Slavic old world spins around as she tends to a child in
a booster seat.

ALEXEI

Get our things. We're leaving now.

KARINA

Wait, Alexei what is wrong?

ALEXEI

We will discuss it once we get out of here. I will start in the kids room. You start packing food.

KARINA

Food? For how long? When will we be back?

ALEXEI

We wont be.

KARINA

Alex, Alex, stop for a moment. Let me look at you.

ALEXEI

Get everything Karina. Tomorrow there will be nothing left to come back to.

KARINA

Oh my God. Okay, everything.

The two scramble to make their escape.

EXT. ALEXEI'S APARTMENT - LATE DAY

The two finish loading up what they could into their car.

NEIGHBOR

Alexei, where are you off to in such a hurry?

ALEXEI

Karina, her mother is ill. We will be out of town for a few days.

NEIGHBOR

A few days? It almost looks like you're moving.

ALEXEI

I'm in a bit of a hurry.

NEIGHBOR

Sorry. I hope Karina's mother feels better.

ALEXEI

Thank you I will tell her.

KARINA
Should we say something?

ALEXEI
And risk a wide spread panic? No,
we leave.

EXT. AMERICAN EMBASSY - LATE DAY

Rachel exits the taxi.

RACHEL
I hope this is the right thing.

Up the stairs and through the front door. She steps up to
the front desk.

DESK PERSON
May I help you?

RACHEL
I need to speak with someone
regarding a possible, I need to
speak with a representative please.

DESK PERSON
Let me see who is available.

A well dressed man in his (40's) walks up to Rachel. FRANK
LIVELY.

FRANK
Hello, my name is Frank Lively. I
am an American representative. What
can I do for you?

RACHEL
Is there somewhere we can talk, in
private?

FRANK
Sure. Sally, hold my calls please.

DESK PERSON
Yes sir.

FRANK
Right this way, Ms.?

RACHEL
King, Rachel King.

FRANK

Ms. King.

The two go into his office and have a seat.

INT. AMERICAN EMBASSY - DAY

FRANK

And how can I help you today?

RACHEL

I don't quite know how to say this, and I want you to know I have no knowledge of anything before today and if what is supposed to happen, happens...

FRANK

Please hold on. Let's start over. Can I get you something to drink?

RACHEL

No thank you.

FRANK

Okay, slowly. Are you in danger?

RACHEL

I was approached by a man today, an engineer. He works at the Chernobyl power plant. He threatened my life if I were to go to anyone. He may have followed me here.

FRANK

If I may ask, have you ever met this man before?

RACHEL

No. I had just finished a seminar I was invited to by the Soviet Union, when he approached me. He said he had important information about an attack that was going to happen today.

FRANK

Where is this attack to take place?

RACHEL

Leningrad.

FRANK

And what kind of attack is it going to be? Did he say?

RACHEL

Yes, he stated that an engineer has placed a large amount of explosives near the reactor pool and plans to detonate it sometime today.

Frank hits the intercom button.

FRANK

Sally, get me the KGB on the phone.

FRANK

If what you are saying is true, we have a potential renegade on our hands.

INTERCOM

Sir KGB, line one.

FRANK

Have you swept it?

INTERCOM

Yes sir, you are good to go.

Frank picks up the phone and begins speaking in Russian. As he speaks, Rachel looks around the room.

FRANK

What was the engineers name?

RACHEL

He called himself Alexei.

Frank resumes his discussion on the phone. He then puts his hand to the phone.

FRANK

An engineer by that name was expelled from Chernobyl earlier today. The KGB is on their way to his home in Prypiat.

Frank talks for a moment longer, then hangs up.

FRANK

It appears your story may have some validity Ms. King. I just pray to God you're wrong.

EXT. ALEXEI'S APARTMENT - PRYPIAT RUSSIA - LATE DAY

KGB pulls up and rolls out to go inside.

INT. ALEXEI'S APARTMENT - PRYPIAT RUSSIA - LATE DAY

Several hard knocks on the door. Some words shouted out in Russian. A pause and then the door is battle rammed in.

After checking every room they come together.

KGB AGENT #1

They are gone.

KGB AGENT #2

I can see that. Find them.

EXT. ALEXEIS APARTMENT - LATE DAY

The KGB agents rush out to the car.

NEIGHBOR

You won't find them home soon.

KGB AGENT #1

And you know this how?

NEIGHBOR

He and his wife left earlier. Said they were going to her mothers. But took most everything.

The agent reaches for his microphone in the car.

KGB AGENT #1

They are on the run.

INT. ALEXEI'S CAR - LATE DAY

The two sit quietly for a moment. Then Karina blurts out.

KARINA

How can this be happening? I thought you said if you

ALEXEI

I know what I said but this is now. I spoke with the woman yesterday. She will see to it Dmitri is discovered for what he is.

KARINA

But our friends, our family Alexei, they are all back there and we just left them to die.

ALEXEI

And us? Should we go back? Do you want to be with them? I told you if we told anyone, it would implicate us as though we knew.

KARINA

Our life, it's over anyway. Isn't it?

A car speeds up behind them and tail gates them for some time.

KARINA

Who is it?

ALEXEI

I don't know. Don't make any sudden movements.

The car continues and then the following car lights begin to flash.

KARINA

Don't pull over.

ALEXEI

I don't have a choice Karina.

The cars pull over together.

ALEXEI

We are on the way to your mothers. She is sick. Okay?

KARINA

Okay.

The two cars stay parked on the side of the road for some time when the men get out and approach the car.

ALEXEI

KGB. Fuck.

A man walks up to the car. He is AGENT FEDYA (46) very tall, very muscular. He taps on the driver side window.

Alexei rolls down the window.

AGENT FEDYA

You seem to be in a bit of a hurry.
Would you like to explain why?

ALEXEI

Of course, my wife, her mother fell
ill. We are on the way to her home
in Leningrad to see to her well
being.

AGENT FEDYA

Leningrad. She lives there?

ALEXEI

Yes sir, yes she does. I have
papers permitting me to cross lines
to Leningrad.

AGENT FEDYA

Do you currently hold a position
within in the Chernobyl power
plant?

Karina and Alexei to one another.

ALEXEI

That's amazing you know these
things. Yes sir, yes I do.

AGENT FEDYA

Please exit the car sir.

KARINA

I don't understand sir. We have
done nothing wrong.

ALEXEI

What my wife means is why are you
questioning us?

AGENT FEDYA

That will be explained. Now step
out of the car.

The two open the car doors. They are taken to the ground the
moment they exit.

ALEXEI

I, my child. We have done nothing.

KARINA

Alexei?

The two are handcuffed and raised to their feet.

AGENT FEDYA

Your apartment in Prypiat, it seems you intended to never return. Is there a reason why?

ALEXEI

Of course we were coming back. We were just visiting her mother's as I said.

AGENT FEDYA

Put them in separate cars.

KARINA

Our child. Please wait, no, Alexei for Gods sakes tell them.

Agent Fedya stops everyone for a moment.

AGENT FEDYA

Tell us what?

ALEXEI

There is an attack planned today.

AGENT FEDYA

Yes we know. Now please come with us.

ALEXEI

I don't understand? you know? Then you're going to stop it?

AGENT FEDYA

Load them up.

The child and Karina are loaded into one car, Alexei another.

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

SUPER: PRESENT DAY

Kevin Roth walks back into the room where Jeff stops for a moment.

JEFF

I'm not sure I follow.

KEVIN ROTH

It will make sense in time. Lets take a walk. I want to show you something.

INT. HOMELAND SECURITY - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY

The two walk in to a room that is dark. Large monitors are on the wall.

KEVIN ROTH

Have a seat.

Kevin picks up a remote.

KEVIN ROTH

How much do you know about Chernobyl?

JEFF

What the books say. Why is there more?

KEVIN ROTH

Basic stuff. Okay. I am going to try and explain some things to you about Chernobyl that you won't find in the books. They tell me you're smart. Your mother was smart.

JEFF

You knew her?

KEVIN ROTH

Oh yea. We went back a ways. I am sorry for your loss. She was a good woman.

JEFF

Thanks.

KEVIN ROTH

Chernobyl's reactors were in full production in 1986. A class of light water reactor notorious for catastrophic situations.

On a large monitor, a scene showing the plant from the air.

KEVIN ROTH

On the morning of April 26 a test was performed to test the reaction time of the backup turbo generators and their ability to regain pressure during a power outage.

On the monitor a large generator spins.

KEVIN ROTH

At the time of the test, it was believed to carry with it some exceptional risk but there were backup systems known as scrams in place if for some reason things went bad.

JEFF

You mean something like a run away meltdown?

On the screen a computer generated scenario begins to play out. The reactor lid begins to rumble.

KEVIN ROTH (V.O)

Things that morning went horribly wrong. For reasons unknown, the reactor went out of control.

The scenario shows a massive explosion that causes the main reactor cap blow skyward and then land sideways back on top of the reactor like that of a man hole cover lid leaving the reactor wide open.

KEVIN ROTH (V.O)

At that point, the reactor cooling water which kept the reactor under control was completely severed.

The scenario shows steam plumes bellow from the reactor core.

KEVIN ROTH

Instantly vaporizing thousands of gallons of water which resulted in a complete core meltdown.

JEFF

I know most of this. What you're not telling me is how my mother was involved.

KEVIN ROTH

You have her journal. We gave it back to you because I feel you more than likely made a copy. Am I right?

JEFF

So far.

KEVIN ROTH

It only tells us part of the story.
We are hoping your knowledge of
your mother can help fill in some
of the gaps.

JEFF

I don't know how you think I can
help you.

KEVIN ROTH

The notes Jeff. We need them. I
stress to you just how damaging
those notes can be in the wrong
hands.

The screen changes to show a town deserted. A ferris wheel
in the background.

KEVIN ROTH (V.O)

Officially only thirty one people
died. The town of Prypiat was not
even notified until a full day
after the reactor explosion.

The screen shows hospitals full of radiation burn victims.

KEVIN ROTH (V.O)

Unofficially, the numbers go into
the thousands, with radiation
related cancer and childbirth
deformities increasing over one
thousand percent.

JEFF

How does this effect me?

KEVIN ROTH

For years the Soviet government has
denied any medical services to any
person who claims to have been
effected by Chernobyl. Proving
their involvement and cover up will
allow the U.N. to step in and
pressure them to take
responsibility.

JEFF

Look, you can have the notes. What
ever help I can be to you I will.
Can I go now?

KEVIN ROTH

Sure. One of my guys will take you to where the notes are and drop you off where you need to be.

JEFF

And Professor Kinsey?

Professor Kinsey comes from out of the shadows.

PROFESSOR KINSEY

Can you believe this shit? I mean really? Jeff, it makes more sense than it should.

JEFF

You alright?

PROFESSOR KINSEY

Yea! You go home. They asked me to stay and talk some more.

KEVIN ROTH

Jeff, you're free to go.

JEFF

Based on the fact you've just abducted me and forced us both into interrogation rooms, why should I believe anything your saying? Oh, that's right; you're the government.

Jeff stands on the side of the road as a car pulls away.

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jeff sits at his dining room table. Some things are in front of him. He picks up the pass ports.

JEFF

Why two? Why did she leave them for me?

He thumbs through one, than another. He stops on a page. It is stamped with an official customs stamp marked Leningrad.

JEFF

Leningrad?

He flips through the other pass port. There is no Leningrad stamp.

JEFF

But why was she in

He stops, grabs the journal to find a page. Mikhail wasn't in Leningrad, she was.

Under the stamp in the passport, an address and number. He rushes to his computer and "goggles" the address.

On the screen, it shows the St. Petersburg National library in Leningrad. He clicks on it.

JEFF

(Reading aloud)

Fire at National library destroys
four hundred thousand books on
February fourteenth nineteen eighty
eight. Wide spread criticism over
cover up sounds reminiscent to
Chernobyl. But whats the deal with
the other number?

INT. MARCUS HOME - NIGHT

Marcus is on the phone.

MARCUS

You're going where?

INT. COMMERCIAL PLANE - DAY

Jeff makes himself comfortable for the long trip. He drinks a beer and returns to his mothers journal.

Six rows back, a man sits.

JEFF

(Inner monologue)

I was in so deep by now, there was
no going back. The plans that were
made are in motion and all I could
do now was watch.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

SUPER:1986

The clock on the wall displays nine PM. The crew works at last minute preparations on the test to be done.

DMITRI
Mikhail, please come here.

MIKHAIL
Yes sir.

DMITRI
Reduce the reactor to one thousand
mega watts. Contact Kiev to let
them know of our intentions.

MIKHAIL
Yes sir.

Mikhail returns to his control panel to make the adjustment.

Moments later.

MIKHAIL
Sir, Kiev confirms the reduction
and is no longer in need of
additional power on the grid.

DMITRI
Very well, continue the reduction
and inform me when we are at one
thousand.

Dmitri leaves the control room. An engineer walks up to
Mikhail.

ENGINEER
Did you hear about Alexei?

MIKHAIL
No, what?

ENGINEER
He was picked up today by KGB as he
was leaving Prypiat. A friend told
me his car was loaded up as if he
were not coming back. They took him
and Karina.

MIKHAIL
Where?

ENGINEER
He didn't say.

MIKHAIL
Does Dmitri know of this?

ENGINEER
Not that I know of.

MIKHAIL
Keep it between us, Okay?

ENGINEER
Yea, sure.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

Reactor rods move in an upward direction.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The generator winds down and the megawatt meter shows one thousand two hundred, then one thousand one hundred and finally one thousand .

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

Dmitri walks into the control room with a cup of coffee.

MIKHAIL
Sir, we are currently at one thousand mega watts.

DMITRI
Very well. Inform pool engineer Mischa of our current conditions.

MIKHAIL
Yes sir.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

Mischa walks to the phone.

MISCHA
Mischa, yes? Very well to begin in three hours. Thank you.

INT. RUSSIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Rachel and Andrei have cocktails at their table.

ANDREI

It sounds like you have had quite a day.

RACHEL

Please understand, I can't get you anymore involved in this than I already have. I just need someone to talk to. Andrei, I'm scared.

ANDREI

And your friend, is she involved as well?

RACHEL

Lisa, no she doesn't know a thing. I don't want her to know.

ANDREI

And you have spoken to your embassy?

RACHEL

Yes, they were little help. Andrei, I'll be blunt. I don't want to be alone. Not tonight.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The two fall to the bed naked. Through the open curtains, the snow falls outside. Andrei kisses Rachel's lips, then her chin and on to her neck.

She smiles as he kisses her chest. She bites her lip as he goes lower.

Her eyes close as the snow falls.

INT. KGB INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

A hand flies across the face of Alexei. His head recoils.

The man who questions Alexei is KGB AGENT UEKOF (50)cold, intimidating.

AGENT UEKOF

Why were you going to Leningrad?

ALEXEI

As I said, to visit my wife's mother.

AGENT UEKOF

We have contacted her household. She is not sick. Listen to me you son of a bitch, you are going to talk to me, I swear it or so help me, I will personally take an interest in your wife's suffering. Now where the fuck were you going?

ALEXEI

I tried to explain to you earlier, there will be an attack at the Chernobyl power plant sometime today.

Alexei is slapped again.

ALEXEI

I wanted to escape before it happened. My wife's mother lives in Leningrad. I said she was sick as to not alarm my neighbors.

AGENT UEKOF

And how do you know of this attack?

ALEXEI

Our chief engineer, Dmitri Dyatlov had written notes outlining how he was going to destroy the reactor today by delaying the test until only he had control of the plant.

AGENT UEKOF

And where are these notes now?

ALEXEI

I spoke with an American today. I gave them to her.

Behind two way glass agent Fedya listen with another agent.

AGENT FEDYA

Rachel king. She is the one who went to the American Embassy today. Where is she?

AGENT

I do not know.

AGENT FEDYA

Find her.

AGENT
Sir, it's almost eleven o'clock.

AGENT FEDYA
Find her now. We may be running out
of time.

INT. RACHEL'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

A loud knock at the door. It opens.

LISA
Can I help you?

AGENT FEDYA
I would like to speak with Ms.
Rachel King if I may?

LISA
Rachel hasn't come back.

AGENT FEDYA
Do you suppose you might know where
she is?

LISA
No, I don't. Is everything Okay?

AGENT FEDYA
Everything is fine. We will need to
talk to her as soon as she arrives.

LISA
And you are?

INT. KGB INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Alexei tied to his chair is slammed over on its back
violently. He lies there face up to the ceiling. He is
beaten badly.

AGENT UEKOF
She wasn't there. You better pray
we find her and those notes.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Andrei is asleep. She lies in his arms, then slowly pulls herself from bed, dresses then leaves.

EXT. KIEV SIDEWALK - NIGHT

She walks until a taxi passes. She raises her arm.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

She looks to her watch. It's eleven thirty.

INT. COMMERCIAL PLANE - DAY

SUPER:PRESENT DAY

Jeff stops for a moment to take a drink. The fasten seat belt comes on. The intercom announces.

INTERCOM

Please make sure you are in the upright position. We will be arriving in Leningrad in approximately fifteen minutes.

Jeff puts his things away and prepares for the landing. The man a few rows back also prepares to de-board.

EXT. LENINGRAD AIRPORT - NIGHT

A view of an airplane as it touches down.

INT. LENINGRAD AIRPORT - NIGHT

A customs official questions Jeff.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL

Welcome to Leningrad. Are you here for business or pleasure?

JEFF

Pleasure.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL

Would you mind opening your suitcase?

JEFF
No, of course not.

Jeff opens the case. The customs man shuffles through it.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL
Do you have any items to declare?

JEFF
No, just these.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL
Thank you. Enjoy your stay.

INT. LENINGRAD HOTEL - NIGHT

Jeff stands in a hotel elevator as it ascends to his floor.

INT. LENINGRAD HOTEL - NIGHT

The elevator opens. He exits to the right for his room.

The elevator next to his opens as well. The man from the plane exits and goes to the left.

INT. LENINGRAD HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Jeff enters the room, closes the door, drops his bags. He walks to the window where he opens the shades. Outside is Leningrad.

JEFF
I've got to finish it.

He looks to the Journal.

RACHEL (V.O)
I now have an alibi, there was just one thing left for me to do.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

SUPER:1986

TAXI DRIVER
Where to miss?

RACHEL

Your nearest postal service please.

The taxi pulls up to a drop off. Rachel in a hurry looks at the package that is addressed to herself in America, then drops it in the drop box.

Back in the taxi, she once again checks her watch.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The clock on the wall displays twelve sixteen AM.

DMITRI

Mikhail, please inform Energy central that we will be off of the primary grid in fifteen minutes.

MIKHAIL

Central concurs and will await your conformation.

DMITRI

Begin power reduction to seven hundred watts and hold.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

With most rods now up several of the last remaining rods are lifted.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The generator slows to seven hundred watts.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The display on the control panel shows seven hundred.

MIKHAIL

Sir currently holding at seven hundred watts.

DMITRI

Remove us from the grid.

MIKHAIL

Sir, Kiev relay station six confirms we are now removed entirely from the grid.

DMITRI

All right gentlemen. In accordance to energy central guidelines, we will begin testing the TT-4 turbo generator during a free wheel power down exercise to determine reactive time of power regroup during a simulated power loss.

Dmitri hand an engineer a clip board to sign off.

DMITRI

With engineer Vacavaloch signature, we do affirm that Chernobyl reactor four is stable holding to seven hundred watts at twelve thirty eight AM, April twent six, nineteen hundred and eight six.

Dmitri pauses for a moment then turns to Mikhail.

DMITRI

Disengage the scram.

Mikhail does not move.

DMITRI

Mikhail, I will say this one more time. Disengage the scram.

MIKHAIL

Sir this test can be done with the scram in place and still

DMITRI

Is it your contention to contravene a direct order?

MIKHAIL

No sir.

Mikhail presses a few buttons. A few engineers look on.

MIKHAIL

Sir, at twelve forty four AM, as per your orders, scram back up support has been placed on hold.

DMITRI

Very well. Remove twenty five percent Xenon coolant rods and take water pumps one and two off line.

INT. WATER PUMP ROOM - NIGHT

Pumps one and two begin to slow to a halt.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The control wall confirms the two pumps stopped.

MIKHAIL

Pumps one and two are confirmed
offline.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

Inside, the graphite containment columns that house the now
exposed rods begin to vibrate. The water begins to vaporize.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The generator begins to slow. The meter reads three hundred
mega watts.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The meter on the control panel confirms what is happening.

MIKHAIL

Sir, the generator has dropped to
three hundred mega watts.

DMITRI

That can't be.

MIKHAIL

Sir, it just dropped to two
hundred.

DMITRI

Re insert the Xanon cooling rods,
now.

MIKHAIL

All of them?

DMITRI

All of them now.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

Rods are being inserted back into the reactor pool. The graphite continues to rattle at the bottom of the pool.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The turbine slow considerably. The meter shows one hundred mega watts.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The engineers are nervously checking the control board.

MIKHAIL

Sir, I have confirmation of one hundred mega watts and dropping. Sir the core may be becoming unstable.

Dmitri stands there, stunned.

MIKHAIL

The Xanon cooling rods were not effective. We are at thirty mega watts. Sir we are losing the water turbines and generator TT-4 is on the verge zero output.

Dmitri does not move.

MIKHAIL

We are losing the reactor sir. We have conformation of a reactor positive void coefficient. Sir the reactor is stalling.

DMITRI

Scram it, drop all rods. AZ-5 scram on my command. Do it.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

In the reactor, all rods begin to drop but stop.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The panel control lights up with hundreds of blinking light of red.

MIKHAIL

Sir, we have confirmation of a non insertion due to the coefficient.

DMITRI

To what percentage?

MIKHAIL

Forty percent sir. Sir Mischa reports a thermodynamic neutron flux.

DMITRI

Go with a full manual insertion.

MIKHAIL

Including Xenon?

DMITRI

Including Xenon, do it now.

Mikhail looks to him for a moment.

DMITRI

Do it now, dammit.

MIKHAIL

Manual insertion of two hundred and forty rods and sixty six Xenon cooling rods completed. Sir the generator is holding at thirty mega watts.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

Inside the reactor, the rods begin to glow and swell.

EXT. ST. PETERSBURG LIBRARY - LENINGRAD - DAY

SUPER:PRESENT DAY

Jeff walks up the stairs into the library.

INT. ST. PETERSBURG LIBRARY - LENINGRAD - DAY

Jeff looks about as a woman approaches him.

LIBRARIAN
(In Russian)
Sir may I help you?

JEFF
I'm sorry I don't speak

LIBRARIAN
I speak English. How can I help you
sir?

JEFF
I am not sure how your books are
laid out but I am looking for a
book or manuscript with this number
on it.

He hands her a piece of paper.

LIBRARIAN
This will be in our science
department if it is still here.

JEFF
Why wouldn't it be?

LIBRARIAN
The fire of nineteen eighty eight.
The most impacted area was the
science department.

They arrive at the science department. She thumbs through
the shelves.

LIBRARIAN
You are in luck.

She pulls out an accordion binder filled with paperwork.

JEFF
Do you have a copier?

LIBRARIAN
Yes sir, just over there.

JEFF
Thank you.

Jeff walks over to a table and has a seat.

He opens the folder to find paperwork. More notes pertaining to train schedules.

JEFF
What is this?

He opens an envelope. In it some pictures. One of which is or Rachel and the same man in the picture at her home.

Then he opens an envelope.

JEFF
(Reading)
I here by acknowledge full
responsibility for the attack on..

His eyes scan down the letter. A voice speaks to him.

VOICE (O.S)
Find something interesting?

Jeff jerks the letter down. Setting on the other side of the table is TIM JOHNSON (50)well appointed looks.

TIM
Well?

JEFF
Who the fuck are you?

TIM
My name is Tim. I was asked to come over here with you. I see you have managed to find what dozens of people have been looking to find for twenty three years. And it took you a whole day? Can I ask how?

JEFF
You still haven't answered my question. Who sent you.

TIM
Kevin Roth. He thought you might need some help.

He shows his badge.

TIM
May I?

Jeff hands him the letter. Tim eyes through it.

TIM
You know what this means?

JEFF
Yea, you set me up to find this.

TIM
No one told you to come here.

JEFF
But you knew I would.

TIM
Jeff, lets go. I would like to show
you something.

Jeff gathers up the papers and puts them in his jacket.

INT. TAXI - DAY

Tim instructs the driver.

TIM
CNPP, please.

They drive off. As they drive Tim points out area of
interest.

TIM
If you look over there, the roads
are barricaded. Down that road is
known as an exclusion zone. There
are many of them.

One of the barricades show a skull and a nuclear warning
symbol.

As they ride, a sign that states PRYPIAT 8-Km.

JEFF
Prypiat. Mikhail, poor bastard.

They drive further. A rusted sign that leans to the right
states CNPP 5-Km.

JEFF
We are going to Chernobyl?

TIM
It's decommissioned now. The
government finely closed it in two
thousand after many failed attempts
to make it safer.

They pull up to a gate just outside the plant.

TIM
Please wait for us.

TAXI DRIVER
I will be here.

EXT. CHERNOBYL - DAY

They take a walk. In the background, Chernobyl.

TIM
Well, there it is Chernobyl reactor
number four.

JEFF
Is it safe to be here?

TIM
Yea, you see to the right of that
tall stack, that is the sarcophagus
that houses the exposed core of
what was once reactor four.

JEFF
So they cleaned it up after the
explosion?

TIM
They sent in

BEGIN FLASH BACK:

Men as they rush to clean up debris then rush out.

TIM (V.O)
Men known a liquidators. Many
developed cancer, many more
suffered long term illness from the
exposure.

END FLASH BACK:

TIM
That night could have been
prevented very easily.

JEFF
Then why wasn't it?

TIM
Because of the times and who was
involved. Many factors.

JEFF
So based on the letter...

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

super:1986

The room slows it's panic as the reactor mega watts meter
starts to move upward.

MIKHAIL
Sir, the reactor has increased
production to ninety mega watts and
climbing.

DMITRI
Hold at two hundred.

MIKHAIL
One seventy, one eighty.

The crew stands frozen.

MIKHAIL
Sir, the reactor is holding at two
hundred.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

The reactor acts violently as the graphite rods begin to
slam into one another. Mischa walks in and see's the
activity. He rushes to the phone.

MISCHA
Come on, come on, pick up the
phone. Pick up the fucking phone.

He makes a dash for the emergency alarm.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

The rods are red hot as the graphite starts to shatter.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The crew stands ready to complete the experiment.

DMITRI

Begin sequence to disengage primary
turbo generator.

MIKHAIL

Yes, sir starting in one minute,
disengage primary. Standing by.

The entire control board on the wall lights up red and
yellow.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

Mischa slams on the emergency switch, red lights throughout
the building flash as a warning siren sounds out.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The warning lights flash as the siren goes off. The control
board completely lit up in red and yellow.

DMITRI

Reengage all water pumps.

MIKHAIL

Sir, reactor power has increased to
one thousand mega watts.

DMITRI

Pull all rods, pull all rods.

MIKHAIL

Sir, fifty five hundred mega watts
and climbing. We're losing it.

The crew scrambles.

MIKHAIL

Sir one point five giga watts. We
are past maximum production by five
times. The rods won't pull.

DMITRI

Call for evacuation.

MIKHAIL

My God, twenty giga watts and
climbing.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

The massive cement cap that holds the reactor starts to
tremble.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The generator screams as smoke pores from it. The mega watt
meter reads twenty five giga watts.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

Full panic explodes in the room. The overhead lights blink
on and off.

MIKHAIL

Thirty giga watts.

The room rocks as the percussion of an explosion occurs.

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

As Mischa runs for his life, the reactor explodes. A blast
of white.

EXT. REACTOR FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

The side of reactor four blows wide open. Debris on fire
rains on the surrounding buildings.

The massive reactor cap is blown into the air and lands
sideways back on top of the open core.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

Crew members panic as the lights go off. Flashing warning
lights only illuminate the rooms.

A second and louder explosion rocks the building.

EXT. REACTOR FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

An enormous fire ball rolls from the reactor as sound waves reverberate the explosion and shatter thousands of window panes at the plant.

EXT. FISHING HOLE - FIVE MILES FROM CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

Two men stand in a pool with poles in hand. From a distance, they witness the fire ball. The two look to one another.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

In a moment, everyone stops. Then within seconds the radioactive detectors on their vest simultaneously start to light up and buzz.

ENGINEER

My God the core, the core. It's exposed.

Several engineers start to rub their faces.

ENGINEER

I can feel it.

Complete panic breaks out. Dmitri stands as frozen.

Mikhail walks away towards the explosion.

DMITRI

Wait. Wait, the reactor may still be in, lower the..

Dmitri moves in stammered slow motion.

DMITRI

The coolant repression, is it..

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

SUPER-PRESENT DAY

The two stand there as the building looms.

JEFF

Dmitri never knew of the set up, did he?

TIM
 Eventually he understood but by then, he knew he he led himself to the slaughter, led himself by his own arrogance.

JEFF
 It was Mikhail all along!

INT. REACTOR POOL - NIGHT

SUPER-1986

The disintegrated room once known as the reactor pool lays in waste. Mikhail Stumbles over bent re-bar and large pieces of graphite.

TIM JOHNSON (V.O)
 He waited his whole life to repay the Russian guards for the execution of his parents.

EXT. SOVIET VILLAGE - DAY

SUPER:1971

Mikhail peers around a corner of wall unseen as in the background soviet guards execute his mother, then his mother.

INT. POOL REACTOR - NIGHT

TIM JOHNSON (V.O)
 Staring into that boiling caldron, to Mikhail, this was was not a tragedy.

Mikhail looks into the gaping reactor hole as it spews radioactive steam into the air. The core molten and aglow with toxic churning lava.

TIM JOHNSON (V.O)
 To Mikhail, this was his finest moment.

Mikhail looks up through the wide open roof to see the black star lit night.

Thin bands of translucent green ribbons of radiation rise as vapors interlaced through heavy debris infused steam. He then smiles back into the caustic furnace he created.

He then began to vomit.

TIM JOHNSON(V.O)
He never made it to morning.

EXT. CHERNOBYL - DAY

SUPER:PRESENT DAY

They continue in their walk.

JEFF
Dmitri was the patsy?

TIM
Dmitri was someone who was very
disliked in the industry. He was
considered brilliant, but
unmanageable.

INT. MIKHAIL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SUPER:1985

Mikhail sits at his desk late at night reading.

TIM (V.O)
Mikhail patiently learned Dmitri's
patterns. Then he found it, his
Achilles heal. Dmitri would not,
could not be questioned by anyone.

INT. REACTOR CONTROL ROOM FOUR - CHERNOBYL - NIGHT

SUPER:1985

In the control room as Dmitri loses his temper. He screams
at Mikhail.

TIM (V.O)
By simply questioning Dmitri,
Mikhail new he could steer him into
performing the test.

EXT. CHERNOBYL - DAY

TIM

In many ways, Mikhail was far smarter than Dmitri.

JEFF

And the notes?

TIM

Jeff, that's where Rachel, your mom comes in.

INT. COLLEGE AUDITORIUM - A YEAR EARLIER

SUPER:1984

The two talk at a cafe.

TIM (V.O)

Your mother met Mikhail at a college gathering when he was in America. He had very radical ideas. She liked his ideas and grew to love him deeply.

The two walk in a park.

TIM (V.O)

He convinced her of the soviet plan to over throw other countries including the United States. Remember, this was the cold war era.

JEFF (V.O)

And she just bought in?

EXT. CHERNOBYL - DAY

SUPER:PRESENT DAY

TIM

Not at first but over time, they saw things the same. He wanted to bring the soviet union to it's knees and with her help, he did it. He crippled the entire soviet economy.

JEFF

A domestic terrorist like timothy
McVay.

TIM

McVay wanted to make a statement,
Mikhail wanted to destroy the
attacker in his eyes.

EXT. SOVIET VILLAGE - DAY

SUPER:1971

Three guards hold a man and woman to their knees as a little
boy watches on from behind a wall.

TIM (V.O)

Mikhail's parents were both killed
during a village raid in some
obscure town you never heard of.

They question the two and then a soldier pulls a pistol and
shoots first the man and then the woman in the head.

EXT. CHERNOBYL - DAY

SUPER:PRESENT DAY

TIM

They were Soviet guards. After
that, he cared less who he
destroyed as long as he inflicted
as much pain on the Soviet Union as
he could. That includes Alexei.

INT. MIKHAIL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SUPER:1985

Mikhail and Alexei are in a room with paperwork laid out in
front of them. Mikhail points to various things on the
notes.

TIM (V.O)

Alexei was completely unaware. He
truly believed that it was indeed
Dmitri who was going to destroy the
reactor. In a way he was right.

Mikhail hands Alexei the notes.

JEFF (V.O)

And by giving him the notes to go to and present to my mother, he implicated himself to the KGB.

INT. AMERICAN EMBASSY - DAY

She speaks to the American ambassador.

TIM (V.O)

That took away the element that Mikhail had any involvement. Placing only Alexei and Dmitri in the cross hairs. Brilliant actually.

EXT. CHERNOBYL - DAY

SUPER:PRESENT DAY

JEFF

Seems like he had it all down.

TIM

Even to how to delay the test. He had studied the rail system over the course of several months to see when coal burning plants received their shipments.

EXT. RAIL ROAD CENTRAL RUSSIA - DAY

SUPER:1986

A car sets on the rail road tracks as it burns. A train slows down, then comes to a complete stop.

TIM (V.O)

By setting a car on fire in the middle of the track, the train was delayed in order to not only remove the car,

A crew works to remove the car with a tow truck.

TIM (V.O)

but to repair the ties that were damaged. This was a very calculated risk, but it payed off.

INT. CHERNOBYL - DAY

SUPER:PRESENT DAY

TIM

The coal was delayed which caused the plant to reduce output forcing Chernobyl to stay online until the coal arrived and support to Kiev regained.

JEFF

And my mom?

TIM

She never went back to the hotel.

INT. COMMERCIAL PLANE - NIGHT

SUPER:1986

Rachel, alone in a plane seat is handed a drink by a stewardess.

She looks at a picture of her and Mikhail arm in arm. She weeps quietly.

RACHEL (V.O)

From what the reports said, the next day was utter chaos. With the sunrise, came the knowledge of what had happened just hours before.

EXT. PRYPIAT SIDEWALK - MORNING

Several people stand in the street to gaze towards Chernobyl.

NEIGHBOR

What has happened?

NEIGHBOR/FEMALE

I don't know. My husband usually calls by now.

In the distance, a plume of smoke streams upwards to the clouds.

Helicopters fly overhead as they head in the direction of Chernobyl. Dozens of sirens heard in the distance.

EXT. CHERNOBYL - DAY

Dmitri stands in the court yard with several other engineers as sirens continue in the background. Their skin is bright red.

Helicopters begin to hover overhead but do not land. The engineers wave their hands.

The helicopters back up, they do not come closer or land.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

From the helicopter, a crew member looks down to a scene of a building completely blown open. A large stream of vapor pours from the hole in the middle of the building.

Several surrounding roof tops are on fire.

INT. KGB HALL WAY - MORNING

A KGB agent runs down a hall.

INT. KGB BREAK ROOM - MORNING

Agent Fedya pours a cup of coffee.

The KGB agent burst through the door.

KGB AGENT

Sir, it's Chernobyl!

His coffee falls.

RACHEL (V.O)

The Soviet government said nothing at first. Not even to the people of Prypiat.

INT. REACTOR ROOM, TWO - FORSMARK SWEDEN - LATE MORNING

A panel light on the control panel lights up.

ENGINEER

Sir, we have a parameter radiation detection alarm.

ENGINEER

Where is it coming from?

RACHEL (V.O)

It wasn't until the Forsmark power plant in Sweden detected the radiation that the government admitted any problems.

EXT. PRYPIAT SIDEWALK - DAY

Dozens of buses lined up along side military trucks as guards swarm about. Helicopters overhead as speakers blare instructions.

RACHEL (V.O)

And it was a full thirty six hours before Prypiat knew of the dangers and was forced to evacuate. Thirty six hours.

People load onto buses with only suitcases. Guards with maskS hurry them from their homes.

RACHEL (V.O)

While all along they received many times more the dosage of radiation every hour than ever imaginable. At the time, what they didn't know was that day sealed their fate and it was from Mikhail's hand. Mikhail's and mine.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

A view of Prypiat as the families are loaded up.

The sun sets and rises many times as Prypiat morphs into a ghost town. Cars parked in the middle of the road, doors still open.

A view of a classroom, books still on the desk. A ferris wheel, and a tricycle with a toddlers shoe next to it.

A new view of Prypiat, grass grown in the streets, windows shattered, trees grown in the middle of a soccer filed.

END MONTAGE:

EXT. CHERNOBYL - DAY

Jeff looks to Chernobyl then back to Tim.

JEFF

So she was a traitor!

TIM

To some that might be the perception.

JEFF

My mother was responsible for the collapse of an entire economy and destroyed tens of thousands of lives.

TIM

Your mother was a patriot. Jeff, Rachel worked for us. She was an American agent.

Jeff starts to walk off, then spins around and shoves Tim to the ground.

JEFF

Fuck you! She did it for love. You said so yourself.

TIM

Now you listen to me.

Tim gets up and brushes himself off.

TIM

Do you think for one second that Three Mile Island was an accident? In nineteen seventy nine, if the Russians had succeeded, there would be a concrete sarcophagus over one of our reactors and the entire northern United States would be just as Prypiat, a waste land. But were standing here, aren't we?

JEFF

Three Mile island was an attack? That's what you want me to believe? Tell that to the fucking people of Prypiat.

TIM

Three Mile engineers managed to control the melt down. Another thirty seconds though, who knows. The reactor was destroyed and deactivated completely. I can tell you this, that day at Three Mile cost us billions and we haven't built a single reactor sense.

Jeff looks to Chernobyl.

TIM

Oh, you're getting it now. Let me ask you this. On nine eleven, where do you think the plane that those brave passengers took over and crashed into a Pennsylvanian field was heading? You care to guess?

Jeff continues to stare to Chernobyl. Tim grabs him violently by the chest.

TIM

Answer me mother fucker. You care to guess? Suppose it might have been Three Mile? You want to be so quick to shit on your mother and call her a traitor. That was then. Go through an arms war, be where she was, then judge this and her.

JEFF

So why this? All this? I didn't need to know shit. So why tell me?

INT. COMMERCIAL PLANE - NIGHT

Jeff sets in a seat. A cocktail in hand.

TIM (V.O)

Your friend Professor Kinsey, we know he has a masters in physics. Top of his class when he graduated. We have been in discussions with him. He's very patriotic. A man who cares about his country. Are you Jeff?

INT. JEFF'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jeff sets at his desk. His mothers journal in hand as he closes the book. He takes a long drink of beer. The television plays in the background.

He looks to it. News shows footage of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as he gives a speech to the U.N counsel.

INT. UNITED NATIONS COUNSEL - DAY

Mahmoud rants to the counsel from behind the podium. As the dictator points his finger to the camera.

MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD

With Russian technology, we will have the means by which to enrich uranium by the end of this year. Iran will at last be a nuclear power.

Jeff leans forward.

MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD

The Americans do not wish for other countries to protect themselves from terrorists such as the Jewish nation. Israel is an enigma that must be stopped at all costs even if it means the complete destruction of that despicable race.

Jeff looks to his mother's notes. He then picks up a passport and opens it. Inside this passport is a picture of him.

JEFF

You think so mother fucker?

FADE OUT:

THE END.

