

Operation: Rogue

by
Rockland Mazaar

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rj07305@gmail.com
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FADE IN:

EXT. WEST 45TH STREET/NYC - DAY

BARRY REHNQUIST (44), average build, unremarkable, approaches a parked, unhitched RV trailer. He's dressed in a blue suit, white shirt, and brown hat. He looks world-weary.

He knocks on the trailer's door. A voice from inside replies:

VOICE (O.S.)
(sharp)
What!

REHNQUIST
It's Rehnquist. Open the damn door.

The door swings open. Rehnquist enters.

INT. TRAILER - DAY

TURNER (43), stands by the door. He has a potbelly and looks as weary as Rehnquist. MELVIN SHAW (52), fit, completely bald, wearing dark aviator sunglasses is seated in a cheap office chair. The trailer looks as if it was furnished by an office supply chain store.

TURNER
Hey, Barry.

REHNQUIST
What's up?

TURNER
It's bad news. Really bad.

REHNQUIST
What is it?

TURNER
It's Cole.

REHNQUIST
Cole? What happened?

TURNER
We tried to reach you, Barry. But you were on that job in Karachi.

REHNQUIST
What happened, Turner?

TURNER

Cole was on an assignment. A simple wet job. All he had to do was murk some schlub, a jeweller in Stockholm. Nice and easy.

REHNQUIST

And?

TURNER

He does it. But when he leaves, he takes something from the scene: a couple of suitcases.

Rehnquist's eyebrows raise.

REHNQUIST

Money?

TURNER

Diamonds. Canadian diamonds. Fifty million worth.

REHNQUIST

I gather he wants to keep them?

SHAW

He's gone rogue!

Rehnquist eyes Shaw askance.

REHNQUIST

(to Turner)

So what's the deal?

TURNER

He's staying right across the street at the Marriott. We want you to go in there and talk some sense into him. Tell him to hand over the diamonds and come back in for reprogramming.

Rehnquist ponders the task.

SHAW

You've probably figured out that this isn't our first attempt at making contact with Cole.

REHNQUIST

He is staying in a Times Square hotel, clearly a defensive move. He knows that you know that cameras are everywhere.

TURNER

Yeah.

REHNQUIST

Which tells me that the first attempt at contact went badly?

SHAW

(coldly)

Yeah.

TURNER

Porter and Smith took the assignment.

REHNQUIST

Porter! Cole and Porter hate each other. You tried kill him?

TURNER

That wasn't the plan. They were supposed to just talk to Cole. That's all. I think Porter went off script.

REHNQUIST

Cole killed them?

TURNER

They found Cole in Nazare, Portugual.

SHAW

He rigged a bomb in a suitcase. Porter found it.

TURNER

He must have thought it was the diamonds.

SHAW

The man was six foot, two-hundred pounds. What was left of him could have been buried in a mason jar.

TURNER

Smith was much luckier. Cole shot him in his right shoulder and in both kneecaps.

SHAW

He'll never work in the field again.

REHNQUIST

So Cole maimed Smith and closed Porter's file and, now, you want me to talk him in?

TURNER

You're his mentor, Barry. You trained him. You guys have history. He'll take that into consideration.

REHNQUIST

And not kill me?

SHAW

Like you said, he's in Times Square. He doesn't want violence.

REHNQUIST

So why don't you go, Melvin?

The sunglasses can't hide Shaw's disdain for Rehnquist. His countenance conveys contempt.

SHAW

The company's reputation is on the line!

REHNQUIST

Give me the details.

TURNER

He's in room 20 B. He just ordered room service. A pastrami on rye and an Anchor Steam.

REHNQUIST

Details!

SHAW

There's a wet unit on standby if things go bad.

REHNQUIST

Who's leading them? Grant or Donaldson?

TURNER

It's an independent firm out of Jo'burg.

REHNQUIST

Mercenaries.

SHAW

Private military.

REHNQUIST

They're not our guys, Shaw. They don't know me. They don't know what I look like. They probably don't know me from Cole? Do they?

TURNER

I'll take care of that, Barry.

Turner takes out a cell phone and dials

TURNER (CONT'D)

Drysdale, Turner. My man is on the spot: blue suit, white shirt, and brown hat.

(Low voice)

Make sure you don't shoot him.

REHNQUIST

Great. Now that that's all straight, you mind giving Cole a ring and telling him not to shoot me, as well?

TURNER

You're good to go, now. These guys are top-notch, as good as our own back-up squad.

Rehnquist removes his gun holster.

SHAW

You're going in unarmed!

REHNQUIST

What's the point. Cole has every advantage. He's younger, stronger, faster! Besides, he doesn't want violence. Right?

TURNER

Don't worry about it. He won't try anything with you, Barry. He respects you.

REHNQUIST

Yeah. Respect.

(Beat)

Room 20 B?

TURNER

Right. 20 B.

Rehnquist exits the trailer.

EXT. WEST 45TH STREET/NYC - DAY

Rehnquist starts to cross West 45th but has to wait for a fleet of five Hummer limousines to pass.

INT. TRAILER - DAY

Shaw looks out a window and watches the last Hummer drive by. He sees Rehnquist cross the street and enter the Marriott's parking garage.

SHAW

I didn't know Cole was trained in explosives?

TURNER

He's not. But Barry is. I'm sure that's how Cole came by it.

SHAW

I guess.

TURNER

You think he's on to us?

SHAW

No. I'm sure he thinks this is a priority of the company's.

TURNER

I'm not so certain. Why did he ask who was leading the back-up? He never asks for back-up.

SHAW

He's nervous. He's going into the lion's den.

TURNER

He's real crafty. Cagey, too. I'm telling you, I think he's on to us.

SHAW

Do you want to go in there and deal with Cole?

Turner mulls over that statement.

TURNER

If he comes out with diamonds?

SHAW

I know a nice, quiet place in Jersey where we can close ol' Barry's file.

TURNER

I have a bad feeling about this.

SHAW

You know you said that when we were planning the heist?

TURNER

And what happened? Your jeweller friend got greedy and ran off to Sweden! Then you lied to Cole and had him kill the guy. That went so well.

SHAW

The Swede is out of the picture, right?

TURNER

Yeah. But now Cole has the diamonds. How did he even know the Swede had diamonds?

SHAW

He probably offered Cole the diamonds in exchange for his life.

TURNER

This whole thing just feels off.

Shaw looks at his watch. It reads 5:30.

EXT. WEST 45TH STREET/NYC - NIGHT

A line a vehicles jams the street. Beeping horns and music reverberate between the tall buildings.

INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

TURNER

He's been up there for three hours.

SHAW

That's good. They're talking.

Turner pulls out his cell and dials.

TURNER

(into the phone)
Drysdale, it's Turner.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

DRYSDALE (38), is blonde with a thick neck. Four other fit men dressed in business causal are in the room.

DRYSDALE

(into the phone)
Yeah, mate?

INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

TURNER
What's going on up there?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

DRYSDALE
Nothing. It's pretty quiet. They
ordered room service about an
hour ago.

INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

TURNER
Okay, later.
(to Shaw)
They ordered room service.

Shaw checks his watch: 8:45.

EXT. WEST 45TH STREET/NYC - NIGHT

The familiar blue suit and brown hat exits the garage. He has two suitcases on a luggage carrier with him. He steps to the curb.

INT. TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Shaw sees Rehnquist step to the curb.

Shaw looks at his watch: 10:15.

SHAW
Here he comes.

Turner unlocks the door.

SHAW (CONT'D)
He has the suitcase but no Cole.
Send in the Afrikaans.

Turner takes out the phone and dials.

TURNER
(talking into the phone)
Drysdale, your team is a go.
Repeat, your team is a go.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Drysdale is talking into his phone.

DRYSDALE
Understood.

INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

Turner places the phone on a counter.

TURNER
It's a go.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

DRYSDALE
Okay. Let's roll, gents.

The five men exit the room, heavily armed.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

They step out of the room and walk over to the room next door: 20 B

INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

Shaw checks the window, again. No Rehnquist or suitcases. Only tour buses roll pass.

SHAW
Where the hell did he go?

A tour bus passes, then another, a third and finally a fourth.

INT. HALLWAY

Drysdale swipes the keypad. The door pops open. He and his team rush into the room with military precision.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Drysdale and his men see no sign of Cole.

The bathroom door is closed.

Drysdale approaches it. He opens it slowly.

Drysdale sees Rehnquist is bound, gagged, and stripped to his underwear.

Drysdale pulls out his cell and dials.

INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

The cell phone chimes.

Shaw answers it.

SHAW
(into the phone)
This is Shaw.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

DRYSDALE
(into the phone)
Shaw, Cole is gone. He may be
dressed as...

INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

The trailer door starts to open

Shaw has the phone to his ear.

DRYSDALE (O.S.)
...Rehnquist.

COLE (32), dressed as Rehnquist enters the trailer.

Cole draws his gun. It has a suppressor. He fires on
Turner. Before Turner hits the floor, Cole shoots Shaw.

Turner and Shaw lie on the floor dead and bleeding.

Cole grabs Rehnquist's holster and gun, then exits the
trailer.

DRYSDALE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Shaw? Shaw? Are you alright?
Shaw? Shit!

EXT. WEST 45TH STREET/NYC

Rehnquist is using his mobile phone. He's in a T-shirt and
gray dress slacks.

REHNQUIST
This is Rehnquist. I need a clean
up crew at the rear of the
Marriott on West Forty-
five...Someone closed the files
on Shaw and Turner...I don't
know. Turner contacted me and
said to meet him on West Forty-
five.

Rehnquist enters the trailer.

INT. TRAILER - NIGHT

Turner's and Shaw's bodies lie on the floor.

REHNQUIST

Looks like they were caught off-guard...Yes!...Yes!...Listen, Shaw is leaking badly. How long until that clean up crew arrives...Good. I'll be on the scene.

EXT. STATEN ISLAND, NYC - DAY

EXT. DINER - DAY

Rehnquist and Cole are seated at a booth near a window. They eat breakfast and sip coffee.

COLE

Are we in the clear?

INT. DINER - DAY

REHNQUIST

Yeah. We're fifty million dollars richer.

COLE

Sounds nice.

REHNQUIST

As far as the company is concerned, Shaw and Turner were running a rogue operation.

COLE

How did you know about Shaw and Turner?

REHNQUIST

You were supposed to do the Pakistan job. I saw the file. You're fluent in Urdu.

COLE

Shaw went behind the company's back and gave it to you.

REHNQUIST

I knew that job was the only one on it's agenda. So I called you.
(MORE)

REHNQUIST (CONT'D)

When you told me you had a job in Stockholm, I knew Shaw was off script.

COLE

What made you put them together with the diamond heist?

REHNQUIST

No one risks betraying the company unless there is a big pay day in it for him. When I heard about the heist, I figured that was Shaw's prize.

COLE

The jeweller must have been their inside man. But why kill him?

REHNQUIST

Someone got greedy.

COLE

The guy did have a small army protecting him.

REHNQUIST

You took them out?

COLE

Just one...What happened with the South Africans?

REHNQUIST

Once they saw Shaw and Turner were dead, they just left. They did give me a pair slacks.

COLE

I had your suit dry cleaned. It's hanging in my rental. I have your holster, too.

REHNQUIST

Donate the suit. I'll toss the burner in the river. I don't need it anymore. I'm officially done with this cloak and dagger, hired gun nonsense.

FADE TO BLACK.