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A Liaison In The Shadows

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. MANORFIELD PARK - NIGHT

Beautiful high rise buildings with several penthouses. A BLACK RANGE ROVER pulls up outside one of the buildings

INT. BLACK RANGE ROVER - NIGHT

A HIT MAN (face unseen) reaches for his .45 Calibre pistol.

INT. MANORFIELD PARK APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Tastefully furnished. A TV plays on low volume. Two suitcases stand near the door. A briefcase lies open on a settee. JIM BARBER (40's, rather wooden) picks up a TV remote and turns up the volume.

ON TV SCREEN

JAKE MANNING (surgeon, handsome, with brooding, intelligent eyes, 30's) is performing cardiac surgery in the operating theatre. KEN STUBBS (Anaesthetist, nerdish good looks, 30's), a theatre sister (50's) and a couple of resident surgeons assist.

Positioned strategically are hospital staff and TV crew, who observe through a glass window in a room just outside the operating theatre.

JAKE
Forceps , please.

Sister hands him the forceps

JAKE (CONT'D)
Suction...

Surgical residents comply...

ON TV SCREEN

Outside Heartlands hospital, crowds of protesters carry banners with slogans like: "BAN STEM CELL RESEARCH", "BIOPATENTING IS A DEADLY GAME", "STOP THE USE OF HUMAN EMBRYOS FOR RESEARCH", "END POSTCODE PRESCRIBING".

Among the crowds are camera crew, journalists and curious members of the public. TRACY DELLMAN (30's) is broadcasting.

TRACY
...Doctors at Heartlands hospital made history six months ago with this ground breaking procedure performed by Mister Jake Manning and his team on a sixteen year old boy with end stage heart failure.
(MORE)

TRACY (CONT'D)

Without the procedure or a heart transplant, the boy would have been dead in about two months. Every year thousands of people die waiting for a heart transplant...

BACK TO APARTMENT

Jim is staring intently at the TV. Telephone on the stool beside him RINGS. He picks up the receiver.

JIM

Hello...

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

Is that you, Jimmy?

JIM

Who is this?

MAN (V.O,ALTERED)

The Queen of Sheba. Who do you think? You been ignoring my calls, Jimmy. Not very nice. Not very nice at all.

JIM

What do you want?

MAN (V.O,ALTERED)

I am about to make you an offer you can't resist...

JIM

Really! I can't wait!

MAN (V.O,ALTERED)

We are about to make a killing, Jimmy old boy. The contract TEFCAS made with Jake Manning is a money-spinning cuckoo baby.

Silence.

MAN (V.O,ALTERED) (CONT'D)

You still there, Jimmy? Coz' you haven't heard the best part - I'm not talking small change, here; I'm talking money coming out of your ears.

JIM

Oh, I'm so happy for you. All that lovely money - and coming out of your ears too! I hope it gives you tinnitus.

MAN (V.O,ALTERED)
I wonder what Amanda would have to say about it...

JIM
Leave my wife out of this.

MAN (V.O,ALTERED)
Ex-wife.

JIM
This conversation is over.

MAN (V.O,ALTERED)

Wait. I'm offering you thirty percent of the shares plus profits. You know the value has tripled.

JIM
In return for what?

MAN (V.O,ALTERED)
You forget that uh ... unfortunate business.

JIM
You are simply hilarious. I've got a plane to catch.

MAN (V.O,ALTERED)
Ah, that. Legging it to Australia won't stop the bay hounds screaming for your blood. You were Chief exec of Heartlands when the fiasco hit the fan.

JIM
Goodbye.

Replaces handset.

INT. UN-NAMED LOCATION - NIGHT

Three men sit round a table. The room is dimly lit. They are boardmembers of TEFCAS pharmaceuticals and one of them is the chairman (50's). He angrily tosses a newspaper on the table.

The picture of a man (early 50's) smiles up from the front page. The caption reads:"Genglobe set to buy out TEFCAS pharmaceuticals"

CHAIRMAN (TO BOARDMEMBER #1)
This leak will cause pandemonium among our staff. What exactly is it you press secretaries do these days? Snooze and catch flies?

BOARDMEMBER #1

Yeah. While our good chairman sets the world to right - kissing arse and doing lunch.

BOARDMEMBER #2

Stop it - both of you! Let's concentrate on damage limitation! How much is Genglobe offering, anyway?

CHAIRMAN

Three billion. Pounds, not euros.

The others whistle

BOARDMEMBER #2

Jake Manning's contract with us is the honey trap, I expect.

CHAIRMAN

It expires in two weeks.

BOARDMEMBER #2

We should renew it easily enough - shouldn't we?

INT. MANORFIELD PARK APARTMENT - SITTINGROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jim dials a number.

JIM

...Olympia cabs?

INT. UN-NAMED LOCATION - LATER

CHAIRMAN

Genglobe's keen to tie the knot with us in six weeks. We need clean closets and new lingerie.

BOARDMEMBER #1

And we need an emergency board meeting. I'll arrange it.

He leaves. Chairman opens his briefcase, brings out a laptop and connects it. He clicks several times.

CHAIRMAN

Something I think you should know, a slight complication.

ON THE LAPTOP SCREEN

A HONDA CIVIC pulls up. A FORD FIESTA pulls up beside it. A YOUNG MAN steps out of the honda, sporting a smug smile.

A DARK SHADOWY FIGURE steps out of the ford fiesta, pulls a gun and fires at the young man twice. He collapses.

BACK TO CONFERENCE ROOM

BOARDMEMBER #2

Holy Vincent! Where did it happen?

CHAIRMAN

The old, Heartlands car park.

BOARDMEMBER #2

What was a spy camera doing in an abandoned car park?

CHAIRMAN

Like I said, slight complication. Nothing we can't fix.

BOARDMEMBER #2

Slight complication! I'd say it was crass carelessness and nincompoopery, letting himself get caught on camera like that. How did things get so ugly?

CHAIRMAN

Dead man's name's Chris Summers, some wannabe celebrity journalist. Freelance. Was hellbent on waking our naughty, little ten year old skeleton from her beauty sleep.

BOARDMEMBER #2

How did he know about that?

CHAIRMAN

You don't wanna know.

BOARDMEMBER #2

Couldn't you have offered him a "sweetner"?

CHAIRMAN

Convert a story-hungry journalist to a money-hungry blackmailer! Like hand feeding meatballs to a rabid dog. Too risky. Too high stakes...

BOARDMEMBER #2

And getting higher. Who else knows about this?

INT. MANORFIELD PARK APARTMENT - SITTINGROOM

Jim sits in front of a computer. He picks up a newspaper. On the front page is a picture of the young man, Chris, seen on camera. He smiles up from the page.

A large caption reads: " Journalist dies in car crash explosion". Jim picks up a CD from the desk, inserts it into computer.

ON THE LAPTOP SCREEN

Chris Summers emerges from honda with a smug smile. A shadowy figure emerges from the ford fiesta, pulls a gun and shoots Chris twice.

BACK TO APARTMENT

Jim taps away at the computer

ON LAPTOP MONITOR

The words "encryption complete" and "send" flash

Jim clicks the mouse a few times, takes out the CD and turns off the computer. He puts the computer in its case and into his suitcase. He pulls out an envelope from his coat pocket.

Inscribed on the envelope are the words: "Mr Jake Manning, Consultant Cardiothoracic surgeon". He pockets his passport, and the letter, after putting them in his wallet.

He puts the CD into his briefcase, picks up a framed picture. A beautiful woman and young girl smile up from the picture. He stares down at it with a mixture of emotions, then puts it back in briefcase.

He walks to the window and looks down at:

A BREATHTAKING VIEW OF BIRMINGHAM LIGHTS. He turns sharply as he hears a CLICK. The door knob turns and the HITMAN seen earlier, parked outside (face still unseen) steps in

JIM

How did you...?

SILENCED SHOT from hitman. Jim slumps to the ground. Hitman stands over him, confirms that he is dead. He picks up the briefcase, forces it open, picks up the computer, removes the CD and puts it into his coat pocket.

Phone starts RINGING. Man hesitates. Persistent ringing. Clearly irritated, Man walks over to it and presses the MUTE button. Ringing stops.

Doorbell RINGS. Man pauses, trying to collect his thoughts. This was clearly not part of the plan. Doorbell continues to RING persistently...

INT. BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - TERMINAL TWO
(DEPARTURES) - CONTINUOUS

People mill about. Passengers stand in queues.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Would passengers for Adelaide
please go to Gate ten...?

RACHEL CARTWRIGHT (30's, beautiful, struts about like the queen of Sheba in provocative clothes) glances impatiently at her watch, waiting for a reply as her mobile rings.

EXT. CAR PARK - DAY

Jake and PETER WEBB (late 40's) walk towards Webb's BMW. They get into the car, Webb in the driver's seat.

INT. BMW

WEBB
I hear you are operating on Gerald
Pickering, MP today.

JAKE
That's confidential.

WEBB
You know how it is with a public
figure: your medical history is an
open book, right down to the
haemorrhoids and warts.

Jake laughs, and pulls out a document from his briefcase and passes it to Webb.

JAKE
Seriously, though, Peter, what do
you think? I had a meeting with
TEFCAS pharmaceuticals yesterday.
They want me to renew the contract
with them. They seem really keen
to work with me again.

WEBB
But...?

JAKE
It feels so final, as if I would be
signing away my control of what
happens with the patent.

WEBB
That's understandable. Anyway, I'll
look through it and let you know
what I think.

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - OPERATING THEATRE - DAY

Jake emerges from theatre in his scrubs and walks into

DRESSING ROOM

He starts getting out of the scrubs. Ken joins him also dressed in scrubs and carrying a newspaper

KEN

Glad it's Friday. Seen this, yet?

Passes Jake the newspaper. Caption reads: "Buying and selling of organs - a booming business". Ken starts taking off his scrubs. Jake puts on his shirt.

KEN (CONT'D)

Jake ...er... Rachel and I are getting hitched.

Jake stares at him in surprise, then hugs him

JAKE

Oh, I'm dead chuffed for both of you.

KEN

I know this can't be easy for you.

JAKE

It's okay, Ken. Rachel and I were history a long time ago.

KEN

I'd like you to be best man.

JAKE

I'm honoured. I accept as long as Rachel's okay with it. When's the big day?

KEN

September, most likely. Rachel wants a big family wedding. You coming to the summer ball?

JAKE

Is the pope catholic?

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Various members of staff are leaving for the day. Jake walks down the corridor with his briefcase.

He sees Rachel Cartwright talking to a YOUNG MAN (mixed race, early 30's with an engaging smile) in a room just off the corridor. She hands him a file. Jake walks on.

HELEN PRESTON (30's, very attractive, you get a sense of dynamite enshrouded in mystique) walks towards him carrying some files and a briefcase.

JAKE

Hi, I'm Jake Manning, new
Cardiothoracic surgeon. You are the
new Chief exec. I don't believe
we've met officially.

HELEN

I know who you are. I'm Helen.

JAKE

Nice to meet you.

He offers his hand. They shake hands, their eyes lock,
lingering for longer than necessary.

HELEN

Attending the ball tonight?

JAKE

Yes.

HELEN

See you there, then?

Starts towards her office. Jake changes direction, walks
behind her. She suddenly stops abruptly just outside her
office. Jake catches up with her. The door is ajar. They both
walk into

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Paper, files, books and other stationery strewn everywhere.

JAKE

I'll call security.

He dials a number.

EXT. HOSPITAL CAR PARK - LATER

Dimly lit. Jake and Helen emerge

JAKE

Are you okay?

HELEN

I'm sure, I'll be alright.

Jake watches her get into her GREEN MERCEDES and drive off.
He walks towards his SILVER LEXUS.

INT. LEXUS

Jake levers himself into driver's seat. Suddenly sees a
MASKED FACE in his rear mirror. Before he can react, the
masked man clamps a gloved hand over his mouth and points a
gun to his head

MASKED MAN

One false move and I'll blow your
brains out. Now drive!

Jake starts the car and drives off

EXT. OPEN ROAD

Road looks deserted. Lexus emerges and pulls to a stop

INT. LEXUS

MASKED MAN

You've got two weeks to make your
stem cell procedures available to
everyone on the National Health
Service - doctor!

JAKE

The National Institute of Clinical
Excellence decides that. It's not
up to me.

MASKED MAN

The hell it isn't. Anyway, I'm not
interested in how you make it
happen. You've got two weeks.

INT. HILTON HOTEL - RECEPTION LOUNGE - NIGHT

The summer ball is in progress. Festive atmosphere. Doctors
and nurses in party dresses dancing and mingling.

PROFESSOR MASON (distinguished looking, 50's), Jake, Ken and
other doctors and nurses stand near the buffet tables eating
and sipping drinks

MASON

Quite a turnout this year. Must be
the feel good factor and Heartlands
becoming Centre of Excellence
extraordinaire...

Laughter all round. Mason looks around him and sees Helen
mingling and shaking hands with different people. She looks
extremely alluring in a long cream and beige dress

MASON (CONT'D)

Even our Chief exec is here.

Rachel joins them. She looks stunning

KEN

There you are, Rachel.
(kisses her)
You are late, darling.

RACHEL
Got held up sorting my flight.

MASON
Would that be the Vienna Cardio
thoracic convention?

Rachel nods.

MASON (CONT'D)
I understand Max Dunstan is one of
the speakers.

JAKE
Max? He is my mentor.

KEN
He is the guru of transplant
surgery. He'll probably be speaking
on that.

MASON
I hear he does a lot of mountain
climbing, now he's retired - and
giving lectures around the globe.

KEN
Listen up, everyone, I've got an
announcement to make. Rachel and I
are tying the knot.

MASON
Well, well. You kept that quiet.
Congratulations, both of you.

KEN
Engagement party's next Saturday.
You're all invited.

JAKE
(aside to Ken)
It's the same day as my parents'
anniversary party.

KEN
We'll sort something out.

HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN (portly and cheerful, 50's) takes a stand
on the platform

HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN
May I have your attention,
everyone, please?

Clears his throat. He has their attention now.

HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN (CONT'D)
I'm pleased to see that you've all
turned up in your fancy frocks this
year.

Laughter and cheering

HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN (CONT'D)
I would like to use this
opportunity to introduce two very
valued members of staff who
recently joined our hospital.
Doctor Helen Preston is our new
Chief executive, replacing Jim
Barber who has left us to take up
new employment in sunny Auzie...

Laughter all round

HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN (CONT'D)
Prior to joining our hospital,
Doctor Preston was the Medical
Director at the Queens hospital,
Nottingham. She is also a
Consultant Psychiatrist with a
special interest in
Neuropsychiatric disorders. Ladies
and gentlemen, Helen...

Loud cheering and applause as Helen joins him on platform

HELEN
Thank you, Mike for your kind
introduction. After all that, I
can't wait to hear what I have to
say.

General laughter

INT. HILTON HOTEL - CORRIDOR ADJACENT TO LOUNGE

HENRY BEADLE (wooden, 60's) and CLARICE GRENWALL (50's,
American, roguishly handsome, likeable) walk towards the
lounge

GRENWALL
I thought you said, we already had
Manning in the bag. He's not
committing himself; our opponents
are going in for the kill...

BEADLE
We as good as got him. Webb assures
me, he'll come on board.

GRENWALL
How much do you really know about
this Webb character?

BEADLE
Enough to know he'll do what it
takes to deliver the goods.

GRENWALL
I sure hope you are right.

They are joined by BRIAN ROUTLEDGE (40's, well-groomed, can't resist mirrors)

BRIAN
Aren't you gentlemen going to join
the party?

BEADLE
I didn't know you went in for that
sort of thing, Brian.

BRIAN
Well, you live and you learn,
folks. Let's join the action. I
could murder a large Vodka.

INT. RECEPTION LOUNGE

HELEN
...The National Health Service has
changed a lot since I joined it
fifteen years ago. More paperwork,
more women in top management and at
Consultant level...

Brian, Beadle and Grenwall enter

HELEN (CONT'D)
One of my first tasks is to review
the financial situation of this
hospital. This hospital is a Centre
of excellence and will live up to
its name. There'll be more
investment in patient care.

Cheering and clapping

GRENWALL
(in a whisper to Beadle)
She's good. She's very good...

BEADLE
All she needs now is a spin doctor -
for completeness.

They both laugh as Helen brings her speech to an end and steps off the platform.

HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN

Thank you, Helen. Ladies and gentlemen, I know you are dying to get the party going. I'll introduce one more member of staff and the hall's yours.

More cheers

HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN (CONT'D)

Mister Jake Manning recently joined our trust to replace Jim Barber as Consultant Cardiothoracic surgeon. As you know, he recently pioneered the new stem cell heart muscle restorative procedure. Ladies and gentlemen, let's hear it for Jake.

Loud clapping. Jake joins him on the platform

JAKE

Thanks, Mike. I'll keep it short and sweet.

Laughter from the audience

JAKE (CONT'D)

I'd like to thank all the members of staff at this hospital. I have enjoyed tremendous support from my colleagues and everyone in my time here. I would like more than anything to get the stem cell cardiac muscle restorative procedure on the National health so that more patients have access to it...

GRENWALL

(whispering to Beadle)
What does this mean?

BEADLE

(whispering back)
More clients.

Loud clapping as Jake steps off the platform

HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN

I now declare the summer ball officially open.

Salsa music comes on. People pair up and hit the dance floor. Ken and Rachel join them. Jake walks up to Helen

JAKE

May I have this dance?

HELEN

Now why would I dance with you?

Their eyes lock. Without warning, Jake pulls her to the dance floor with him. They start dancing. Helen dances self-consciously at first, but they are soon dancing in rhythm to the frenzy of the music

JAKE

Being in the same shoes, it's so apt we are dancing together.

HELEN

You've lost me.

JAKE

I mean, you in Jim Barber's shoes as Chief exec and me in his shoes as Consultant surgeon.

HELEN

I have no problem with shoes, the more the merrier. As long as they are not dead men's shoes.

JAKE

Any more about who trashed your office?

HELEN

They are still looking at the CCTV cameras. You know, Jimmy had to install lots of spy cameras because people's cars were being trashed and patients' documents stolen.

Brian eyes Helen and Jake with undisguised interest as he sips his drink. Beadle and Grenwall look on with amusement

GRENWALL

Our ice maiden CEO sure seems to be cozying up with the golden boy of the year.

BRIAN

There's a lot you don't know about the "ice maiden".

GRENWALL

(with raised eyebrows)

Something you wanna tell me? You may confess all to Father Grenwall.

Grenwall and Beadle wheeze with laughter. Brian smiles in spite of himself. Salsa music ends and softer music starts playing. Ken, Rachel and Jake leave the dance floor to rejoin Mason.

Helen joins Hospital Chairman, says something to him and leaves. Jake watches her go.

RACHEL

I'll have to turn in, now. Early start tomorrow.

JAKE

I'm attending the conference at Munich.

(to Mason)

You?

Mason nods. Rachel gives Ken a quick kiss and exits

EXT. NOVOTEL HOTEL - LATER

Five star hotel situated opposite Birmingham airport. The NOISE of planes can be heard in the background

INT. NOVOTEL HOTEL - MAIN RECEPTION

Jake approaches the reception desk. Receptionist hands him the key. He enters the lift and emerges onto

LANDING OF FOURTH FLOOR

He walks down the corridor and stops in front of one of the rooms, inserts electronic key

INT. ROOM 412

He steps in and stops short as he sees Rachel sitting on the bed in a negligee and holding a glass of wine. On the side table is a half empty bottle of wine.

She smiles and raises her glass of wine to him in mock salute.

JAKE

What are you doing here, Rachel?
More to the point, how did you get in?

Rachel puts the wine glass on the side table, glides seductively across the room and sidles up to Jake. He stares at her, wondering what her game is

RACHEL

You've kept me waiting long enough, big boy.

He picks up the rest of her clothing and tosses them to her

JAKE

You are drunk, Rachel. Get dressed.
I'm taking you home.

RACHEL
(giggling)
No need for that, Jakie, sweetie
pie. I'm staying in room 408 but I
like your room so-oo much more.

Without warning, she grabs him and kisses him hard,
passionately, desperately. Jake pulls away, breathing hard.
He walks over to the phone, lifts the receiver and dials.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
What are you doing, Jakie?

JAKE
Calling Ken.

Snatches the receiver from Jake's hand and slams it down

RACHEL
What's the matter, Jakie? Suddenly
got religion?

JAKE
I got the religion two years ago
when we split up.

RACHEL
Ever yearn for what might have
been? We were great together.

JAKE
Is there a point to this
conversation, Rachel? I'm tired and
I'd like to get some kip.

RACHEL
(starting to stroke him)
I always knew how to relax you.

Jake pulls away, then stares at her pensively

JAKE
What's your game, Rachel? Are you
in some kind of trouble?

RACHEL
I'm not in any kind of trouble,
okay? I just want you.

JAKE
Oh, but you are in a whole lot of
trouble. You've been dry for a
whole year. Till now. What's going
on, Rachel?

RACHEL
 (giggling)
 You, my darling. You are what's
 going on.

JAKE
 I'm glad you think it's very funny.
 You seem to have forgotten which
 boyfriend you are supposed to be
 marrying.

RACHEL
 (unfazed)
 Oh, come off your high horse,
 Jakie. Since when has loyalty ever
 stopped you? Even the night you had
 that almighty row with your father
 about me, you couldn't get me into
 bed fast enough. You never could
 resist me.

JAKE
 (sardonically)
 Of course not. I mean, how could
 any warm-blooded male possibly
 resist Rachel Cartwright? What-
 ever Rachel wants, Rachel gets.

RACHEL
 You said it, Jakie.

She walks over to the bottle of wine, starts topping up her
 wine glass. Jake takes both bottle and glass from her

JAKE
 Enough.

Rachel walks over to the couch, curls up on it. She whips out
 a cigarette, lights it with a golden lighter, takes a long
 puff. Jake watches her, intrigued.

JAKE (CONT'D)
 It must be bad, whatever it is.

Rachel blows off smoke with a nonchalant gesture

RACHEL
 A girl can smoke the odd cigarette.

She picks up the lighter and stares at it as if mesmerized

RACHEL (CONT'D)
 This used to be daddy's lighter.

A look of understanding crosses Jake's face. He walks over to
 the couch and sits next to Rachel

JAKE

(softly)

This is about your father, isn't it? The anniversary was last week. Rachel, I'm sorry. He should have been here to give you away.

Rachel looks as if she's about to cry. Jake pulls her into his arms. She pulls away and gets up abruptly. Jake stares at her, perplexed as she paces up and down.

JAKE (CONT'D)

You know you can talk to me.

RACHEL

(on a dry sob)

It's such a mess. I can't do this.

JAKE

Can't do what, Rachel?

Rachel starts crying. Jake walks over to her, holds her while she sobs

RACHEL

Jakie, there's something, I think you should know...

EXT. NOVOTEL HOTEL - DAY

Several police cars are parked in front of the hotel. The area is cordoned off. Several cameramen and journalists are already starting to gather outside

INT. NOVOTEL HOTEL - ROOM 412

Rachel's dead body lies on the carpet, her head covered with blood. Forensic experts collect evidence, taking photographs of the body and the crime scene.

A Forensic pathologist examines the body. Two uniformed policemen watch him

FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST

I'd place time of death at between ten p.m and midnight.

POLICEMAN #1

And the cause of death?

FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST

Death was probably due to a blow to the head with a blunt object. I'll know more after the autopsy.

POLICEMAN #2

By blunt object, you mean...?

He holds up a cricket ball. Forensic pathologist nods

POLICEMAN #2 (CONT'D)
 We'll check it for fingerprints.
 I'll bet my last fiver, our Mister
 Manning has his prints all over it.

He nods towards Jake seated at a table with DETECTIVE
 SUPERINTENDENT (D.S) COWAN (plain clothes, policeman,
 stocky, 30's) and DETECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT (D.S) WESTMORE
 (plain clothes policewoman, athletic, attractive, 30's).

Jake is clad in nothing except a vest and a pair of briefs.
 He looks as if he has been roused from a deep sleep

WESTMORE
 Let me get this straight, you
 walked into your hotel last night
 at eleven and the deceased was
 sitting on the bed, wearing a
 negligee and drinking...

JAKE
 That's right.

WESTMORE
 And you can't remember what
 happened afterwards?

JAKE
 I know it sounds stupid, but no.

WESTMORE
 Mister Manning, are you in the
 habit of developing amnesia after a
 night of passionate romping?

Cowan stifles a strong urge to laugh

JAKE
 I've told you all I know.

WESTMORE
 Forgive me, Mister Manning, if I
 don't buy your story. It just
 sounds a little too lousy and
 convenient to be true.

Jake, looking dazed, nods in the general direction of
 Rachel's body

JAKE
 Is... is she really dead?

COWAN
 Yes, Mister Manning, since you ask,
 very dead.

JAKE
(dreamily)
I can't believe it.

He shakes his head as if to wake himself from a bad dream

WESTMORE
Neither can I. Beautiful young woman, her whole life in front of her. Why would anyone want to kill her? Unless, of course, things got ugly last night.

She leans towards Jake confidentially

WESTMORE (CONT'D)
Tell me, Mister Manning, did she change her mind? Or perhaps, she decided to end the relationship.

JAKE
(Getting irritated)
I've told you what I remember.

He gets up abruptly

JAKE (CONT'D)
Am I under arrest?

WESTMORE
Not yet. But we need to continue this conversation at the police station. This is a murder inquiry. You can come with us willingly or in cuffs, your call.

JAKE
I'd like to call my lawyer.

COWAN
You got a mobile haven't you?

JAKE
Yes?

COWAN
Call him on the way.

Jake starts walking towards the en-suite

COWAN (CONT'D)
Where do you think you are going?

JAKE
Unless you want me to accompany you to the station in my under pants, I'll need to get dressed.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Westmore, Cowan, Jake and Webb are seated at a table. An interview is in progress

WESTMORE
Then what happened?

Door opens and DETECTIVE CHIEF INSPECTOR (D.C.I) RUDD (burly, with a no-nonsense attitude, 50's) enters. He beckons to Westmore and nods greetings to the rest.

RUDD
I'd like to see you in my office,
right away, D.S Westmore.

Westmore nods, then speaks into a tape recorder

WESTMORE
Interview terminated at ten.

She presses the PAUSE button on the tape recorder, gets up and follows Rudd out.

INT. CHIEF INSPECTOR'S OFFICE

RUDD
I just got a call from forensics.
The blood alcohol level in both the
deceased and Mister Manning was
very high. It appears they'd both
been drinking heavily.

WESTMORE
An empty bottle was found at the
crime scene, sir.

RUDD
That's just it. The amount of
alcohol in their blood was way in
excess of what was in the bottle.

WESTMORE
They might have had drinks before
going to the hotel...

RUDD
(cutting in)
Also, Manning's fingerprints were
all over the murder weapon. Why
commit a murder and make it look
like murder?

WESTMORE
(with a shrug)
Search me.
(MORE)

WESTMORE (CONT'D)

Might have been a crime of passion. They had a fight. He got carried away...

RUDD

She'd been raped before she was killed. Most likely with a condom. No DNA was recovered. With the alcohol in his blood, I doubt he would have been able to get it up much less rape anyone.

WESTMORE

Or he drank the excess alcohol after he raped and killed her.

RUDD

So how come there aren't more bottles at the crime scene? He would not have been able to stand to dispose of them.

WESTMORE

So, we let him walk, do we?

RUDD

You have no idea how badly I want to solve this case, and nail the bastard. I want to get Manning and I will. But we need something more substantial to build a case.

Westmore tries to protest

RUDD (CONT'D)

Otherwise his MP father will get him a hot shot lawyer and make the police force look like a bunch of fools. And his father is a real bastard, believe me!

WESTMORE

We've got opportunity, means and motive. And we've got forensic evidence. I'd say, we've got enough to charge him...

RUDD

(angrily)

You listen to me, D.S Westmore! If you show yourself incapable of professional detachment in this matter, then I'm going to have to take you off the case. This is a high profile murder inquiry and we can't afford any screw ups.

WESTMORE

Sir, I think...

RUDD

(cutting her off)

I'll be watching you, Westmore. One false move and I'll have you transferred to Fraud Unit faster than you can say "Uncle". Do I make myself clear?

Westmore stares at him incredulously, shakes her head and walks out. She walks back into

INTERVIEW ROOM

Westmore sits down, presses the tape button

WESTMORE

Interview resumed at ten thirty.
Persons present: Jake Manning,
Mister Webb, D.S Cowan and D.S
Westmore. Mister Manning, did you
have sex with the deceased on the
night of the murder?

JAKE

I don't remember.

WESTMORE

Try.

JAKE

I've told you what I remember.
What's this about, anyway?

WESTMORE

The deceased was raped before she
was murdered.

JAKE

(stunned)
What!

WESTMORE

(coldly)
Does that jog your memory?

JAKE

I take it you've done a DNA
analysis on the semen...

WESTMORE

No such luck. Whoever raped and
killed her knew enough not to leave
his calling card behind. A medic,
for instance...

WEBB

Now, that is way out of order. My client has tried to answer your questions the best way he can.

WESTMORE

Oh, but I beg to disagree. I have a sneaking suspicion your client is not telling all he knows.

WEBB

(getting up abruptly)
If you've got enough evidence to charge my client, do so. Otherwise, I demand you release him now.

WESTMORE

Interview terminated at eleven a.m.
You are free to go.

She presses the tape button

WESTMORE (CONT'D)

Don't make plans to go to Lanzarote without checking with us first.

EXT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

THE PRESS are gathered outside. As Webb and Jake emerge from the police station, they are besieged by the press

CORRESPONDENT #1

Mister Manning, did you murder your ex-girlfriend?

CORRESPONDENT #2

Why did you kill her?

WEBB

My client has not been charged with any of these allegations. Now if you'll please excuse us...

Webb and Jake elbow their way through the crowd who continue to bombard them with questions. They get into Webb's silver BMW and drive off

INT. WEBB'S BMW

WEBB

I suggest we enter your house through the back. The front entrance will be crawling with paparazi. I also think you should collect a few things and stay somewhere else for a few days.

INT. NORFIELD PRIVATE HOSPITAL - CONSULTING ROOM - DAY

JEFF VICKERS (40's, but looks younger), and Jake stand study a hard copy of an MRI brain scan on an x-ray viewer. Vickers indicates various parts of it with a laser pointer

VICKERS

As you can see, it is a normal scan. And there was no focal neurological abnormality on clinical examination.

JAKE

I've got retrograde amnesia, Jeff. Why?

VICKERS

You know as well as I do, there isn't always a physical cause found. For instance in transient global amnesia, although transient ischaemic attack, and Epilepsy may be causes, non-physical causes such as psychological trauma, sexual intercourse are just as causative...

JAKE

Jeff, transient global amnesia lasts for hours. I've been like this for days.

Vickers shrugs

JAKE (CONT'D)

I remember attending the summer ball, walking into my hotel room. Rachel was there, drinking on my bed. I remember everything that happened before but not anything that happened till the police woke me up.

VICKERS

Could someone have "spiked" your drink? Date rape drugs do leave this sort of after effect.

JAKE

You've seen my tox screen report. No benzodiazepenes detected. Just a huge amount of alcohol...

VICKERS

Well, had you been drinking?

JAKE

I drove from the summer ball to the hotel, Jeff. No, I had not been drinking.

VICKERS

Rachel had a drink in your room. Did you share the drink?

JAKE

There was only one bottle of wine. Even if I'd drunk all of it, it would not explain the alcohol level in my bloodstream.

VICKERS

(shrugs)

The whole thing is a mystery. Did Rachel leave the room at all?

JAKE

I don't remember.

He starts pacing up and down the room

VICKERS

Jake, I've known you from school days. I don't believe you killed anybody. Don't worry. Most amnesia is temporary. Your memory will come back.

JAKE

You thinks so?

VICKERS

Did someone else come into your room that night?

JAKE

I don't remember. I feel so stupid every time I say that.

VICKERS

Get some rest. It will slowly come back to you.

EXT. A QUIET ROAD BY THE BRIDGE - NIGHT

The place is dimly lit. Hardly anyone about. A BLUE VOLVO drives up and stops. Minutes later, a BLACK SEDAN pulls up beside it.

Rudd gets out of his volvo, carrying a briefcase. A large MAN steps out of the sedan, opens the back seat door. Rudd steps in. Man stays outside keeping a look out.

INT. BLACK SEDAN

Another man, well-dressed (face unseen) seats beside Rudd

WELL DRESSED MAN
Did you bring the documents?

RUDD
Yes.

He opens the briefcase, pulls out a manila folder. Well dressed man reaches for it but Rudd stops him

RUDD (CONT'D)
I'll let you have it, if you'll just tell me what you will be doing with it.

WELL DRESSED MAN
We'll brief you on a need-to-know basis. For once, Rudd, we are on the same side. You have a ten year old score to settle with old Gius Manning. I have business interests to protect. Between us, we'll bury Jake Manning.

RUDD
And if it doesn't stick?

WELL DRESSED MAN
That's what plans B to Z are for? So what do you say?

RUDD
It's a start.

Passes him the manila folder

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - BOARDROOM - DAY

A meeting is in session. Helen sits at the table with Brian, Mason, Beadle, hospital chairman, and other members of the hospital trust board

HELEN
Thank you for attending this meeting at such short notice. You know what it's about, so we'll cut to the chase. Mister Manning is involved in a murder inquiry. It is a police matter, rather than a professional misconduct and so, how we handle the matter is at our discretion.

BRIAN

He will be suspended pending
outcome of the inquiry, I presume.

HELEN

That's what we are here to decide.
He hasn't been charged yet and does
not warrant automatic formal
suspension.

BRIAN

What! You'll allow him to continue
working here while he is under
investigation?

HELEN

Let me finish, Mister Routledge.

BRIAN

(rather amused)
Mister Routledge, now, is it?

HELEN

Behave yourself.

MASON

I suggest leave with pay, pending
outcome of the inquiry.

BRIAN

(with a snort)
Good old Mark, always loyal to his
old boys network and his golden
boys! You feel responsible and so
you should.

MASON

Meaning what?

BRIAN

It was you who hired him. Your
golden boy with the patent for stem
cell cardiac regeneration!

MASON

He was hired because he was the
best candidate for the job.

BRIAN

You mean, the best candidate to
further your research?

HELEN

That's enough, both of you.

HOSPITAL BOARDMEMBER #1

(to Brian)
You were on the appointment panel.
(MORE)

HOSPITAL BOARDMEMBER #1 (CONT'D)
Mister Manning's appointment was done according to correct procedure as I recall.

BRIAN
I raised my objections then.

HOSPITAL BOARDMEMBER #1
Based on what? He was the best of the five candidates in terms of credentials and skill.

BRIAN
He's unstable. He rendered a man paralysed from the waist down while he was driving.

HOSPITAL BOARDMEMBER #1
He was not over the limit. He volunteered that information willingly. He was not obligated to do so. Besides, the man in question has since recovered.

BRIAN
That is beside the point. Jake Manning should never have been appointed as a consultant. The latest events prove that.

HELEN
(quietly)
He has not actually been charged with anything.

BRIAN
He's a blot to this hospital.

MASON
When his patent and the research based on it helped raise the profile of this hospital, your private practice soared. I didn't hear you complaining then.

BRIAN
(caustically)
Some of us do the hard work, while others swan off with the press, looking good and glamorous! I suppose, I'm privileged to have to have my profile raised - by association.

MASON

If you have some private jealousy or resentment over Jake Manning, this is hardly the time or place to discuss it...

BRIAN

(heatedly)

I decide when and how I air my views. You and your research team use theatre space meant for clinical work and you get all the credit and the A-merit awards.

MASON

You are a funny little man, Brian. You were still learning to tie your shoe laces when I qualified and you presume to compare your achievements with mine.

HOSPITAL BOARDMEMBER #2

Let's stick to the agenda please.

HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN

Let's put it to the vote if we can't agree.

HELEN

The options are: leave with pay pending outcome of the inquiry or suspension with pay pending outcome of the inquiry. Those in favour of the former?

Everyone in the room except Brian raise their hands

HELEN (CONT'D)

Those in favour of the latter...

Brian raises his hand

HELEN (CONT'D)

Mister Manning will be given leave with pay, pending outcome of the inquiry. Anyone got anything to add?

BRIAN

I think you are making a big mistake, all of you.

Helen looks round at the others. No-one wants to add anything further. She leaves.

INT. CHIEF INSPECTOR'S SECRETARY'S OFFICE - LATER

SECRETARY (50's) types away in front of her computer screen.
Helen walks in

HELEN

Joy, could you, please ask Mister Manning to meet me here in half an hour?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SECRETARY

I'll get on to it, right away.

Helen opens adjoining door and walks into

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

A very well-furnished office. Helen sits on her chair behind the desk, pulls out a folder from one of the drawers and peruses it. The door opens and Brian walks in.

HELEN

Don't you ever knock, Brian?

BRIAN

It never bothered you before. Usually, you couldn't wait to get me into that couch you had in your old office.

He smirks

BRIAN (CONT'D)

You used to live dangerously.

HELEN

Guess, I finally grew up. Did you want something, Brian?

BRIAN

Are you seeing Jake Manning?

HELEN

(taken aback)
What?

BRIAN

Manning does have rather a reputation! He's good at rubbing women up the right way, and I don't just mean, physically.

Helen gives him a long, disconcerting stare

HELEN

Your pre-occupation with my love life is almost touching. But it's none of your business.

BRIAN

(with menace)

That's where you are wrong, Helen. If it turns out that your decision today was based on pillow chats with Manning, it won't be my business alone but that of the entire trust.

HELEN

(rising to full height)

For one awful moment, that sounded remotely like a threat!

She walks up to him and looks him full in the face

HELEN (CONT'D)

Your godfather-cum-father-in-law, Lord Denning will not be too impressed to find out you've been making a fool of his blue-blooded daughter behind her back!

BRIAN

(with a sardonic smile)

You know, Helen it's nice to see that management and political correctness have not robbed you of your passionate spark. You weren't exactly a bystander.

HELEN

Perhaps I was mentally unstable. I was going through a messy divorce. What's your excuse?

Brian eyes her questioningly

HELEN (CONT'D)

I'm not having an affair with Jake Manning. And I don't intend to. I'd like to get back to work.

She repositions herself behind her desk

BRIAN

(glancing at his watch)

Me, too. I've got government targets to meet.

He pulls a face

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Isn't that what the National health service is about, these days?

He leaves after stealing a glance at Helen and walks into

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Secretary goes into Helen's office as Brian comes out. Brian sees Jake waiting. Jake nods a silent greeting to Brian who simply gives him a disdainful stare, his dislike very evident. Brian leaves. Secretary returns

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SECRETARY
She will see you, now.

Jake walks into

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Helen is going through some paperwork on her desk. She looks up as Jake enters

HELEN
Please take a seat, Jake.

Jake does so

HELEN (CONT'D)
Let's cut to the chase. You know what this is about, don't you?

JAKE
Yes, and I know the drill.

HELEN
I don't know much beyond the fact that you are in the middle of a murder inquiry.

JAKE
You've got a job to do. I understand. I'll clear my desk.

HELEN
That will not be necessary. You are going on leave-with-pay, pending outcome of the inquiry.

JAKE
Let me get this right, I am to go on "gardening leave", unofficial suspension, pending outcome of the inquiry?

HELEN
That about sums it up.

JAKE
Thank you. I really appreciate that.

HELEN
Have you seen a neurologist, Jake?

JAKE

Yes. I saw Jeff Vickers. He'll send you his evaluation.

HELEN

And a Psychiatric assessment?

JAKE

(rather taken aback)
What do I need that for?

HELEN

Speaking as a psychiatrist, I would have thought the answer to that question was obvious.

JAKE

Do you have anyone in mind?

HELEN

Yes, Carolyn Nield. She's one of the best. She combines drug therapy with hypnotherapy.

JAKE

(with a short laugh)
Hypnotherapy!

HELEN

What's wrong with hypnotherapy?

JAKE

Nothing in particular. Only I've always seen it as mumbo jumbo in which a lot of really dozy people just get dozier and dozier...

Helen stares him down

HELEN

You really do have an attitude!

JAKE

Look, I don't...

HELEN

(snappily)
You listen very carefully, mister! I know of no medications or surgery that can reverse amnesia. So unless you've got any bright and breezy ideas, I suggest you give my proposition some serious thought!

An uncomfortable silence

JAKE

I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that. I certainly did not intend to offend you.

HELEN

(with a thin smile)

Apology accepted. I should not have laid into you like that. I apologize. Let's call a truce.

JAKE

(with a nod)

I'll consider your suggestion.

He gets up and walks to the door, then turns and looks back at Helen

JAKE (CONT'D)

And Helen, thanks again.

He leaves

EXT. MILLWARD GROUNDS - NIGHT

A handsome, imposing mansion with extensive grounds. Jake's silver lexus glides up the driveway. Jake parks the car, walks to the house carrying a parcel

INT. RECEPTION ROOM

A party is getting warmed up. Soft music is playing. Most of the family members and close friends are already present but more guests are evidently likely to arrive later. The servants move up and down serving cocktails.

SARAH, Jake's mother (attractive, petite, 60's) talks with her younger sister, BELLA, a slightly younger version of herself, currently on her second or third glass of wine and, clearly lit up.

ALICIA, Auntie Bella's daughter (attractive, colourful, early 30's) chats to ADAM, Jake's brother (goodlooking, late 30's) and Adam's wife (30's). Their two children, a girl aged six and a boy aged four chatter away. Bell RINGS.

SARAH

I'll get it.

She goes to the door and opens it. Jake is standing at the door. Sarah hugs him

JAKE

Happy anniversary, mum.

SARAH

I'm so glad you could come.

He gives her the parcel and gives her a peck on either cheek.
They step into the entrance hall

SARAH (CONT'D)
Thanks, love.

She stares at him anxiously

SARAH (CONT'D)
How are you?

JAKE
Okay.

SARAH
You know we are all here for you.

They walk into

RECEPTION LOUNGE

Adam hugs him, giving him a slap across the back. His sister-in-law hugs him and kisses him on both cheeks. Alicia hugs him. Auntie Bella gives him a big hug, then stares intently at him

AUNTIE
I don't care what anyone says. You couldn't kill a chicken, much less a person. Alicia, you remember when Jake stayed with us? Must have been nine or so. A spider ran across the room and he squealed all the way upstairs.

Alicia laughs and pulls Jake to one side

ALICIA
You know what mum's like when she's had a glass or two. How are you keeping?

JAKE
Surviving.

Alicia pours drinks for both of them and sips hers. Jake eyes her apraisingly

JAKE (CONT'D)
And how are you, Alicia? New man in your life?

ALICIA
(coyly)
Is it really that obvious?

JAKE
You look radiant.

ALICIA

I should. I'm in love. Mum will have a fit if she ever found out his night-time occupation.

JAKE

Enlighten me. What does lover boy do - at night?

ALICIA

He is a male model, nudes mostly.

They both laugh

JAKE

You are quite right. She will have a fit!

EXT. A PETROL STATION - NIGHT

Webb is filling his tank. His mobile RINGS

WEBB

Hello...

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

Is this Peter Webb?

WEBB

Who am I speaking to?

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

Let's just say, we have a mutual acquaintance. He happens to be your client, Jake Manning.

WEBB

What about him?

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

We really need his signature on that document. You know the one.

WEBB

Shouldn't you be talking to him about this?

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

It's a bit awkward right now.

WEBB

What do you suppose I can do?

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

Persuade him to sign. You are his lawyer. We need it by next week.

WEBB

Sorry, I can't help you there.

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

Listen carefully, Webb, or shall I say, Donald Bayley...

Webb reacts

MAN (V.O, ALTERED) (CONT'D)

At least that was your name when you were doing time in Marchington jail. I expect that signature by next week.

WEBB

That's a very tall order.

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

I wonder what your professional body would say to a lawyer who fails to declare previous convictions, fraud, felony...

WEBB

Look...

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

Go on, don't be so modest. Getting a signature on a document should be a walk in the park for a man with your credentials.

INT. MILLWARD GROUNDS - BY THE SWIMMING POOL - LATER

Jake and Alicia are sipping drinks and talking

ALICIA

I'm moving to Birmingham next week. So I'll see more of you.

JAKE

You and this new boyfriend, it's serious then.

Alicia nods. Sarah joins them

SARAH

Jake, your father wants to see you. In the drawing room.

INT. DRAWING ROOM

GIUS (distinguished looking, 60's) is sitting behind a mahogany desk sipping sherry and pouring over some papers. A knock at the door

GIUS
(without looking up)
Come in.

Jake enters and closes the door. Gius indicates the chair opposite. Jake sits down.

GIUS (CONT'D)
How are you holding up?

JAKE
Not badly, considering.

Gius passes him a newspaper. Jake stares at it. Plastered on the front page is a smiling picture of Jake. The caption reads: "PATENT HOLDER OF STEM CELL CARDIAC SURGERY IN MURDER SCANDAL"

GIUS
That's what I wanted to talk to you about. I've been recommended one of the best defence lawyers in the country. His name is Henry Fills...

JAKE
I've not been charged with anything. I've nothing to hide.

GIUS
Charged or not, you are already in the middle of trial by the media. Just as well to be prepared.

JAKE
Thanks, but I'll get myself a defence lawyer if I need one.

GIUS
(impatiently)
You know your problem, Jake? You are headstrong, arrogant, impulsive and irresponsible!

JAKE
Right, dad, why don't you say what you've been dying to say all evening?

GIUS
You are an embarrassment to this family.

JAKE
You know, that really makes a refreshing change. I almost thought you were going to say: "You are an embarrassment to the constituency".

GIUS

Why couldn't you stay away from that woman? After all the trouble she caused you - the accident was her fault! I warned you, she was bad news.

JAKE

She's dead, dad.

GIUS

You got brains, talent, a future but your problem: you never could keep it in your trousers!

Jake rises to full height and laughs

JAKE

Who exactly are we talking about here? You or me? Take for instance, Francesca, our governess. She up'ed and left in a bit of a hurry, just as we were getting used to her. Mum must have found out.

Gius gets up and glares at him, his anger very evident

GIUS

You've said quite enough, young man!

JAKE

What's the matter, dad? Afraid of losing the moral high ground?

They look almost about to come to blows. Sarah rushes in

SARAH

Sir James is here...

She is suddenly aware of the tension between the two men

SARAH (CONT'D)

What's going on here?

JAKE

It's alright, mum, I was just leaving. I'll see you later.

He gives her a peck on the cheek and leaves

SARAH

(to Gius)

What have you been saying to him?

GIUS

We've got guests, Sarah.

SARAH
 (disdainfully)
 Of course, the guests. Everything
 in its place and your sense of
 priority as impeccable as ever!

GIUS
 We can't shield him all his life.

SARAH
 Has it ever occurred to you that he
 may not want your shielding? That
 all the boys ever wanted from you
 was to validate them?

GIUS
 You mean validate his
 irresponsibility?

SARAH
 (angrily)
 Our son is suspected of a crime he
 did not commit, and that is the
 best you can do!

GIUS
 Keep your voice down, Sarah.

SARAH
 You know, Gius, I'm not sure what
 it is we are supposed to be
 celebrating tonight.

She storms out and walks towards the driveway, trying to
 catch up with Jake. He is about to get in his car

SARAH (CONT'D)
 Jake, please wait.

Jake pauses. Sarah catches up with him

JAKE
 Look, mum, it's alright. I wasn't
 planning to stay long.

SARAH
 Your father can be very pig headed.
 And you are just as bad. Jake...

JAKE
 Yes?

SARAH
 Don't shut us out, please. You need
 your family at a time like this.
 Promise me you won't.

JAKE

You know, I won't, mum. Don't look so worried.

SARAH

I'm your mother. It's my job to be concerned.

JAKE

I'll see you later.

He gets in his car, waves to Sarah and drives off. Sarah fights back the tears as she watches his car retreat.

EXT. MOTORWAY - LATER

Not many cars this time of the night. Jake's lexus moves to the left lane and exits. A BLACK SEDAN follows suit

EXT. QUIETER ROAD

Jake's lexus emerges. Black sedan follows

INT. JAKE'S LEXUS

Jake looks in the rear mirror and notices black sedan following him. He picks up speed. Black sedan follows suit. Suddenly, sedan is side by side with the lexus. It hits the lexus from the side.

Lexus swerves to limit collision but instead somersaults, coming to settle in a gully the side of the road. Long pause during which sedan hovers. Jake crawls out of the wreckage, bruised and limping.

Black sedan makes a B line for him. He tries to limp away but sedan comes at him, nearly hitting him. Suddenly the sound of police sirens is heard. Black sedan quickly reverses and takes off

INT. NORFIELD PRIVATE HOSPITAL - DR NIELD'S CONSULTING ROOM - DAY

CAROLYN NIELD (petite, mousy, 40's) in glasses is seated on an armchair. Seated on a couch across from her is Jake. A hypnosis session is in progress

CAROLYN

...Relax. Clear your mind of all worries and anxieties. You are so peaceful. Just listen to the sound of my voice. You are now perfectly relaxed. I want you to go back to the night of the summer ball.

She clicks her finger

CAROLYN (CONT'D)

You have left the summer ball. You walk into the hotel and into your hotel room. What do you see?

JAKE

Rachel. She is sitting on my bed. She holds up a glass of wine.

CAROLYN

What do you feel?

JAKE

Surprise. How did she get in?

CAROLYN

What is she doing now?

JAKE

She walks towards me. Then she kisses me.

CAROLYN

How do you respond?

JAKE

I push her away and try to call Ken. She snatches the receiver from me and hangs up.

CAROLYN

What happens?

JAKE

She has a gold lighter. She says it used to be her father's. She's almost crying. I try to comfort her. Then she says: "It's all such a mess."

CAROLYN

Do you ask her what she means?

JAKE

She says: "There's something I think you should know". I am looking at the curtain. Something is wrong.

CAROLYN

What is wrong?

JAKE

I'm not sure, but something is definitely wrong with it.

CAROLYN

What happens next?

JAKE
Click, click, click.

He suddenly screams

CAROLYN
When I count to three and click my
fingers, you will wake up
refreshed. You will feel happy and
peaceful and secure. One...two,
three...

She clicks her fingers. Jake wakes up and stares around him

JAKE
I must have just nodded off.

CAROLYN
You did a lot better than that.

She presses the PLAY button on the tape recorder. As the
recorded session plays Jake stares on, stunned

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A MAN (face unseen) walks up to the back door. He breaks the
glass door with his gloved hand and enters

INT. JAKE'S SITTINGROOM

MAN walks into the room. He starts opening, searching and
closing drawers in turn. He becomes more and more frenzied,
tossing bits of paper and other contents as he rummages

INT. NORFIELD PRIVATE HOSPITAL - DR NIELD'S CONSULTING ROOM

CAROLYN
What did you mean when you said the
curtain did not look right?

JAKE
I'm not sure what was wrong about
it but something was very wrong.

CAROLYN
What about the click sound? What
could it have been?

Jake shrugs

CAROLYN (CONT'D)
Could it have been the sound of a
gun? A door opening?

Jake shakes his head

MONTAGE - JAKE IS INTERVIEWED BY THE POLICE

-- Jake's sittingroom - The police move around taking pictures of the scene and taking statements from Jake

INT. THE CULBERT RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Obviously a very popular restaurant, packed full. A BLACK WOMAN belts out The Blues accompanied by saxophone, piano, guitar and drums.

KATIE CAMPBELL (mid-30's, very fit) sits across from Jake. They sip drinks and wait for their order

KATIE

So what's this? A trip down memory lane?

JAKE

I need a friend.

Katie squeezes his hand sympathetically across the table

JAKE (CONT'D)

I'm drowning, Katie. There's a chunk of my existence I can't account for. I'm a suspect in a murder inquiry, someone broke into my house and someone is trying to kill me.

KATIE

What?

JAKE

On the day of the summer ball, some nut case jumped me from the back seat of my car and put a gun to my head. Said I'd be dead if I contacted the police and demanded that I make stem cell treatment available on the N.H.S...

KATIE

But it is not up to you, is it?

JAKE

That's what I told him but he wasn't having any of it. Then two nights ago, when I was coming back from my parents' wedding anniversary, a black sedan ran me off the road.

KATIE

What!

JAKE

If it wasn't for the police sirens,
well...

He shudders. Katie stares at him in shock

KATIE

Tell me you have reported this to
the police.

JAKE

I have.

KATIE

And?

JAKE

They are on the case. I'd like you
to be my private investigator.

KATIE

Oh, no. Not with our history.

JAKE

I know and trust you. You are
excellent at what you do.

KATIE

Thanks for the vote of confidence
but no.

JAKE

I'll pay handsomely.

KATIE

The answer is still "no".

JAKE

I've got to visit the gents. Go
ahead and order.

Jake walks past other tables and heads towards the Gents. Ken sitting at another table with some friends sees Jake. He reacts, gets up and follows Jake unseen by him

INT. NORFIELD PRIVATE HOSPITAL - DR NIELD'S CONSULTING ROOM

Carolyn presses a button on the tape recorder

CAROLYN

...Relax. Clear your mind of all
worries and anxieties. You are so
peaceful...

Carolyn fast forwards the tape

JAKE (V.O.)

...She says: "It's all such a mess."

CAROLYN (V.O.)

Do you ask her what she means?

JAKE (V.O.)

She says: "There's something I think you should know." I am looking at the curtain. Something is wrong.

Carolyn fast forwards again

JAKE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...Click, click, click...

She rewinds the tape, replays it. Something puzzles her. She picks up the receiver, dials a number and waits, then:

CAROLYN

Jake, this is Carolyn Nield...

INT. THE CULBERT RESTAURANT - GENTS TOILET - LATER

Toilet door opens and Jake walks over to a sink, starts washing his hands. The sound of a toilet flushing is heard. Ken emerges. The two men stare at each other, then Ken walks over to Jake, his manner menacing

KEN

Did you sleep with her? Or perhaps you got her drunk first, then raped her.

JAKE

I've been with some women in my time and I've never yet had to rape any of them.

KEN

(taking a swing at him)
You arrogant bastard! You couldn't handle the fact that she chose me over you!

He grabs Jake by the collar. Jake pushes him away

JAKE

Can't help you, Ken. I don't remember much about that night.

KEN

(with a sneer)
Pretty convenient, isn't it?
(MORE)

KEN (CONT'D)

You rape my fiancée, kill her and develop a bad case of amnesia!

JAKE

You know me better than that. I would never hurt Rachel.

KEN

(coldly)

No, I don't know you at all. Tell me something, Jake, one lover to another. Was it better than ever?

JAKE

She's dead and all you care about is whether we slept together.

KEN

(ashen-faced)

How dare you! I loved her more than life itself.

JAKE

And I didn't?

KEN

You killed her! And I am going to make you wish you were dead if it's the last thing I do.

He lounges at Jake and starts hitting him. Jake initially tries to avoid the blows with no success. He grabs both of Ken's wrists and pins him to the wall. Ken kicks him in the groin. Jake reacts.

Ken seizes the chance and kicks over and over again. Jake hits back. The door to GENTS opens and a WAITER walks in. He stares at both of them then separates them

WAITER

Stop or I'll throw you both out.

Ken stalks out into

THE DINNING AREA

He rejoins his friends. Jake emerges looking very disheveled, his face battered. He joins Katie who stares at him in consternation

KATIE

What happened to your face, Jake?

JAKE

Ken. He believes I raped and killed Rachel.

KATIE

You need a break from all this,
Jake. I'll take you up on
your offer.

JAKE

Thank you. This really means a lot
to me. I'll be staying the weekend
with Max on his boathouse but I'm
back on Monday.

KATIE

Max Dunstan, your mentor?

JAKE

Yes. He offered and I accepted.

Waiter arrives with their order

INT. NORFIELD PRIVATE HOSPITAL - DR NIELD'S CONSULTING ROOM -
LATER

Carolyn packs her tape recorder into her briefcase, picks up
a red file, switches off the lights in her office and walks
into

RECEPTION LOBBY

Security officer seats at the desk staring at a CCTV screen,
sipping coffee. He looks up as Carolyn walks in

SECURITY OFFICER

Going home, now, Doctor Nield?

CAROLYN

Yeah. I'm glad it's Friday.

SECURITY OFFICER

Have a nice weekend.

CAROLYN

You too, Fred.

She leaves the reception lobby

EXT. CAR PARK

It is only partly lit by street lighting. Carolyn unlocks the
door to her RED SIERRA with remote, opens the back door,
drops her briefcase and files on the seat.

As she straightens up, a MAN dressed in black suddenly
appears. Carolyn backs away in horror, tries to scream but a
gloved hand covers her mouth. Another gloved hand hits her
with a poker right across the head.

She falls beside the car, unconscious. MAN reaches into the back seat, picks up the files and briefcase, gets into a black sedan which drives off

MONTAGE SEQUENCE - AMBULANCE TAKING CAROLYN TO HOSPITAL

-- The motorway - Blue light ambulance whizzes by

-- Inside the Ambulance - paramedic crew work on Carolyn

-- Accident and emergency department - Carolyn is wheeled into the department. Doctors and nurses rush about attending to her

MONTAGE SEQUENCE = BOATHOUSE, BRIGHTON

-- Jake and Max (tall and athletic, 60's) stand at the helm of the boat, fishing

-- Max shows Jake round the boathouse.

INT. POLICE STATION - COMMUNAL OFFICE - DAY

Westmore sits in front of a computer going over files on screen frantically, a puzzled expression on her face. She suddenly gets up and walks towards

CHIEF INSPECTOR'S OFFICE

She taps on the door

RUDD (O.S.)

Come in.

Westmore walks into

RUDD'S OFFICE

Rudd is seated behind his desk. He looks up

WESTMORE

The files on Jake Manning. I can't find them, sir.

RUDD

I've reassigned the case.

WESTMORE

What?

RUDD

I think you heard me, Westmore.

WESTMORE

Who did you reassign the case to?

RUDD

D.S Cowan.

Westmore stares at him with incredulity and dismay

WESTMORE

If you've taken me off the Rachel murder case, I can understand that. At present, there isn't a case. But someone has made an attempt on Jake Manning's life. Let me at least investigate that.

RUDD

What part of "No" don't you get?

WESTMORE

Why am I off the case?

RUDD

Do you make a habit of questioning your superiors' decisions, Westmore? In that case, you are in the wrong job.

EXT. BOATHOUSE, BRIGHTON - NIGHT

Beautiful night with lights on other boat houses and stars illuminating the dark sky

INT. LOUNGE AREA

Beautifully furnished. Max and Jake play chess. A TV plays

NEWSCASTER (ON TV)

...The recent polls show that about eighty five percent of people in the UK believe that adult stem cell treatment should be available on the National Health Service (N.H.S) for the appropriate conditions...

JAKE

Gerald will be raising the issue in parliament.

MAX

You know he is running for Mayor of London?

JAKE

Yes.

MAX

Should he be getting into anything so involving so soon after surgery?

JAKE

The election is not for another six months. Besides, he's coming on very well.

(MORE)

JAKE (CONT'D)

He is on the outpatient cardiac rehab program now. Went home two days ago.

They continue playing chess

MAX

So have you managed to beat the computer at chess, yet?

JAKE

I haven't had much time, lately.

MAX

You know, Jake, you'll get through this. You remember our talk about stem cells after the accident?

(waits for Jake's answer)

That was how you got into stem cell research. The point is: you turned that situation around.

JAKE

I like how you've transformed the basement.

MAX

It flooded some months back. I was away. Anyway, it was lucky it did not get high enough to affect other parts of the house.

Jake stretches and gets up. Max gets up and goes to the drinks cabinet

MAX (CONT'D)

Care for a drink?

Jake nods, picks up a framed photograph on the mantelpiece. Max carrying mountain climbing gear smiles up from the picture. He picks up a second framed photograph which shows a younger version of Max with his wife and two daughters

JAKE

Still mountain climbing in Wales, then.

MAX

I'm still expanding my horizons.

JAKE

When is Patsy coming home?

MAX

(with a shrug)

I don't know.

Jake looks at him questioningly

MAX (CONT'D)

She left me. She's staying with our
eldest at present.

He pours the drinks

JAKE

I'm sorry to hear that.

MAX

I don't understand women. They see
you through thick and thin and blow
up over a technicality.

Max hands him a drink and sips his

MAX (CONT'D)

So, it looks like it's back to
bachelorhood. Let's toast.

JAKE

What shall we drink to?

MAX

To bachelorhood...

JAKE

...While it lasts.

They both raise their glasses

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It is raining heavily

INT. JAKE'S SITTINGROOM

Jake enters in his dressing gown, carrying a cup of tea. He presses the PLAY button on the ansaphone. He sits down in front of his computer, switches it on and sips tea, while waiting for it to boot up. The ansaphone plays.

CAROLYN (V.O.)

...Jake, this is Carolyn Nield.
I've just been analyzing the
session we had. I keep coming back
to that click sound you heard. I
think Rachel was trying to tell you
something when it happened. And
then, there's the curtain. I think
someone else was in the room that
night. We need another session.
Please call me as soon as you get
this message...

Doorbell RINGS. Jake gets up, walks to the door and opens it and sees Webb standing on the doorstep carrying a file. He steps aside, lets Webb in

JAKE
Would you like a drink?

WEBB
No, thsnks. I'm not staying long.

They both sit down. Webb pulls out a form

WEBB (CONT'D)
I've looked over the licence form.
It is quite kosher. I would be
quite happy to witness your
signature now.

JAKE
Can we, please, do this later,
Peter? I can't think straight.

WEBB
These guys are going to take stem
cell treatment to places you never
dreamed of. Besides I think you'll
do well out of it.

JAKE
I'm sure you are right, but I need
to think it through and right now
is not a good time.

WEBB
What is there to think about?
You've worked well with these guys
in the past. Besides they were the
ones who sponsored your research
when no-one else would.

JAKE
What's got into you, Peter? Why the
hurry?

Webb appears to ponder this for a moment, then gets up

WEBB
There is no hurry. Just thought I
might as well get it signed off.

JAKE
I'll think about it, Peter, okay?

WEBB
Okay. I'll see myself out.

He walks to the door and exits. Jake looks pensive for a
moment, sighs and returns to his computer. He types away

ON COMPUTER SCREEN:

A list of e-mails scroll down the screen. Jake clicks on one of them. The words "encrypted" flash and the name "Jim Barber" appears on screen

BACK TO PRESENT

Jake frowns. Bell rings. Jake walks over, opens the door and sees Helen standing on his doorstep. She looks as if she has been in the rain for quite a while. She looks distraught. Jake steps aside and lets her in

JAKE

What happened, Helen?

HELEN

(with a sob)

It's Carolyn. She died early this morning.

JAKE

(stunned)

What!

HELEN

She was attacked in the hospital car park on Friday and taken to the ICU where she died.

Jake walks over to the drinks cabinet, pours out a drink and hands it to Helen

JAKE

Drink this.

Helen gulps her drink

HELEN

I'm sorry to impose on you. When I heard I just walked and walked.

JAKE

The bathroom is at the top of the stairs. There are some dry, clean towels in the airing cupboard.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Rudd emerges carrying a black briefcase. From a top window, Westmore watches him. He enters a blue volvo and drives off

INT. POLICE STATION

Westmore moves like lightning. She looks about her furtively then types in an access code on Rudd's office door, turns the handle and walks into

RUDD'S OFFICE

It is in darkness. Westmore shines a torch then gropes her way till she finds a computer. She sits in front of it and starts typing

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - LATER

The rain continues to pelt down.

INT. JAKE'S SITTINGROOM

Jake has made up the a fire and sits by the fireplace, sipping his drink. Helen walks in. She looks a lot less disheveled. She joins him by the fire. Jake pours her another drink. They both sip in silence.

HELEN

I don't think it was random.

Jake looks at her questioningly

HELEN (CONT'D)

Carolyn - whoever attacked her took her files and briefcase. Why not simply take her purse?

Jake gets up and walks to the ansaphone

JAKE

There's something I think you should listen to.

He presses the PLAY button

CAROLYN (V.O.)

...Jake, this is Carolyn Nield...

Helen starts as she hears the voice. She gulps down the rest of her drink as she tries to regain control of herself

EXT. A RIVERSIDE - SAME

An elderly man wearing a raincoat walks his dog. Suddenly the dog breaks off and runs towards the river. The elderly man tries to keep up with it. He notices that something has caught the dog's attention.

He walks up to the scene, notices a man's hand dangling out of a suitcase. Elderly man clutches his chest and staggers away

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - LATER

A blue volvo is parked outside. Rudd is seated inside.

INT. JAKE'S SITTINGROOM

HELEN

Whoever attacked Carolyn was desperate to get hold of what was in the files, something incriminating maybe; possibly linked to Rachel's murder...

JAKE

You are saying...

HELEN

I'm saying there is something very sinister about this whole thing. Carolyn was a good friend, not just a colleague. I want the bastard who did this caught.

She shivers slightly

JAKE

Are you alright, Helen? Would you like another drink?

She nods. Jake moves to take her glass from her. His hands brush against hers. Their eyes lock for longer than an instant. The attraction between them is almost palpable. Helen gets up abruptly

HELEN

On second thought, maybe I'll give it a miss. I've had enough drink for one evening.

JAKE

Would you like me to drop you off?

HELEN

Thank you, but a taxi would be fine. I left my car in the hospital car park.

JAKE

I'll call one.

He starts dialing

HELEN

Jake, I know you are conducting your own investigation, but if there is anyway I can help, just let me know.

JAKE

Thanks. I appreciate that.

EXT. RIVERSIDE - LATER

The area is cordoned off. Plain clothes detectives including RUDD are on the scene with the forensic team. The body of Jim Barber lies in an open body bag. Rudd motions the FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST (stocky man, early 50's) aside.

FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST

Too early to be sure, but he's been dead at least several weeks. Gunshot to the heart. I'll know more after the postmortem.

One of the plain clothes detectives hands Rudd a letter and a passport, obviously the dead man's. Rudd looks inside it

RUDD

Name's Jim Barber. Where's Cowan? He's fifteen minutes late.

PLAIN CLOTHES POLICEMAN

He was called away, sir. A robbery.

RUDD

(impatiently)

Go and break the news to the dead man's family, then. Take D.S Westmore with you.

EXT. THE HORSE-SHOE PUB - NIGHT

Jake and Jeff Vickers are having drinks

VICKERS

...You saw Carolyn Nield. She hypnotized you and got murdered.

Jake nods. Vickers shudders

JAKE

You know a lot about amnesia-inducing drugs, Jeff. Which of them has a short half life, becomes untraceable fairly quickly but has lasting effects?

Vickers ponders this for a moment as he sips his drink

VICKERS

There's Chloroform, of course. Inhaled, it induces retrograde amnesia which can last a while. Its half life is about one and half hours. By seven hours, it is virtually undetectable.

JAKE

I have a favour to ask you, Jeff.

INT. NOVOTEL HOTEL - HOTEL LANDING - NIGHT

Jake and Vickers emerge from the lift and walk towards Room 412

VICKERS
How did you wangle the key from that receptionist?

JAKE
I have my means and methods.

INT. ROOM 412

The room is empty apart from the bed and hard furnishings. It is no longer cordoned off. They both look round the room

JAKE
It has not been used since that night. People are superstitious.

He stares at the en suite door

JAKE (CONT'D)
Jeff, could you help me with a small experiment?

VICKERS
(puzzled)
What sort of experiment?

JAKE
If you go into the en suite, then emerge while I face where Rachel was standing that night.

VICKERS
What do I do when I come out?

JAKE
I'll tell you as we go along.

Vickers exits through the en-suite door. Jake takes up position

QUICK FLASHES - JAKE'S MEMORIES OF NIGHT OF RACHEL'S MURDER

-- Rachel glides across the room

-- A MAN covers Jake's face with a handkerchief from behind

-- The MAN's wrist clearly visible with an expensive watch

INT. ROOM 412 - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

Vickers emerges from en suite. Jake has his back to him

JAKE
(hands him a handkerchief)
Try using this to gag me. I want to
explore something.

Vickers looks at him dubiously but does as he says

JAKE (CONT'D)
I need to be able to see your watch
while you do it.

Vickers makes the required adjustment

VICKERS
What's with the watch, anyway?

JAKE
You wear a GUCCI wristwatch. The
person that night wore a golden
watch with the inscription "KOYTA".
I saw it up close.

INT. POLICE STATION - C.I.D SECTION - DAY

Several plain clothes police officers sit at desks cajoling
each other, some working in front of screens. Jake walks in.

JAKE
I'm here to see D.S Westmore.

PLAIN CLOTHES POLICEMAN
It's her day off today but she'll
be back tomorrow.

Rudd comes into the room, notices Jake

RUDD
What brings you here, doctor?

JAKE
I've got some new information.

RUDD
About what?

JAKE
Could we talk somewhere private?

RUDD
This way.

Jake follows him into

RUDD'S OFFICE

He sits behind his desk and indicates the opposite chair.
Jake sits on it

JAKE

I have a recorded ansaphone message
from Carolyn Nield.

RUDD

The Psychiatrist that was mugged?

JAKE

She was not mugged. She
was murdered.

RUDD

(with a sneer)

And you are the expert, are you?

JAKE

I consulted her about my amnesia.
Perhaps, you'll get the picture
once you've heard the tape.

He removes an envelope evidently containing the tape and
hands it to Rudd

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - SITTINGROOM - NIGHT

Jake is working on the computer. TV is playing in the
background. Prime Minister's Question Time is on

SPEAKER (ON TV)

Order! Order!

He nods towards GERALD PICKERING (distinguished-looking, late
50's) sitting in a wheelchair

GERALD (ON TV)

Would the Prime Minister please
tell this house when he proposes to
make stem cell cardiac surgery
available on the National Health
Service?

Animated calls from other MPs and back benchers

SPEAKER (ON TV)

Order! Order!

PRIME MINISTER gets up

PRIME MINISTER (ON TV)

The National Institute of Clinical
Excellence (NICE) is likely to be
reviewing this soon.

GERALD (ON TV)

Speaking as a beneficiary of this
treatment, I suggest that it will
cost the N.H.S a lot less in the
intermediate and long term.

BACK BENCHERS

Hear! Hear!

GERALD (ON TV)

While we dilly dally waiting for NICE to decide, thousands of people are dying waiting for heart transplants. Many of these are children. So, would the Prime Minister please be more specific about the review time line.

Phone RINGS. Jake picks up receiver

JAKE

Hello? ...Katie. I was just thinking about calling you. Still got your whiz computer skills?

KATIE (V.O.)

Why?

JAKE

I received an e-mail from Jim Barber, buried among my numerous e-mails. It contains some sort of video clip but it is encrypted. No password.

Silence at the other end

JAKE (CONT'D)

Katie? Are you still there?

KATIE (V.O.)

Yes. Jake, I'm sorry to have to tell you this. Jim Barber's body was found last night near a river. He'd been murdered.

Jake stares at the phone in stunned silence

KATIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I know it's a shock.

JAKE

I thought he went to Australia.

KATIE (V.O.)

Well, he didn't.

A pause

KATIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I just had a thought. I think, I know how we might get the password to that e-mail.

EXT. AMANDA BARBER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Katie's GREEN FORD MONDEO is parked outside

INT. FORD MONDEO

Katie and Jake are watching the house. Jake clasps a laptop

KATIE

The number one suspect in any murder inquiry is almost always the spouse - or in this case the, ex-spouse.

AMANDA (the woman seen in photograph in Jim Barber's house earlier, late 30's, dresses very young but still looks very classy) emerges from the house. She gets in her WHITE SAAB and drives off

KATIE (CONT'D)

Let's go.

JAKE

Hope you know what you are doing.

They both get out of the car and head towards Amanda's house, Jake logging his computer under his arm. They ring the bell.

NICKI (the girl seen in the photograph with Amanda, about 15, and sporting a nose and lip piercing) opens the door

NICKI

Yes?

KATIE

(flashing her I.D)

I'm Katie, a private investigator - and this is Jake, a colleague of your father's.

Nicki nods as Jake shakes her hand. She lets them in to

INT. AMANDA'S SITTINGROOM

It reeks of opulence

JAKE

I'm sorry about your father.

NICKI

Thank you. Are you here to see my mum?

KATIE

Er...

JAKE

I want to show you something.

He pulls his laptop from its bag, puts it on the table and boots it up

JAKE (CONT'D)
Did your father send you an encrypted e-mail?

Nicki stares at him in surprise

NICKI
Why do you ask?

JAKE
Because he sent me one.

Jake types away at the keyboard.

ON LAPTOP SCREEN

The word "encrypted" flashes and "Jim Barber" appears. Nicki stares at it and exclaims

NICKI
He sent me exactly the same but with no password.

JAKE
He did not send me a password either. Could I have a look at the e-mail your father sent you?

Nicki leads him to her laptop lying on the dining table and starts to boot it up

KATIE
May I use your toilet, please? I'm desperate.

NICKI
(engrossed in her computer)
Up the stairs, turn left at the landing.

Katie heads up the stairs onto

LANDING

Katie emerges, looks around furtively, then enters

AMANDA'S BEDROOM

Very exquisitely furnished. Katie inspects the room then makes for the drawers. She opens each in turn, glancing at documents, letters.

She pockets one or two of them. She notices a computer on a desk in the corner of the room and heads towards it

INT. AMANDA'S SITTINGROOM

JAKE
Let's try your birthday as
password.

Nicki types away then shakes her head

JAKE (CONT'D)
(resigned)
If anything occurs to you, would
you call me or e-mail me? Here's my
card.

Hands it to Nicki. Katie joins them

JAKE (CONT'D)
Thank you for letting us in.

Nicki sees them to the door

EXT. TEFCAS PHARMACEUTICALS - DAY

Katie's Ford Mondeo is parked surreptitiously. Amanda emerges from one of the offices. The young man seen previously taking files from Rachel emerges from a different part of the office carrying a brief case.

Amanda notices him and her expression changes to that of fury. She walks up to him and an argument ensues

INT. FORD MONDEO

Katie and Jake watch unfolding events. Katie starts taking pictures of them

JAKE
(suddenly)
Hang on a minute!

KATIE
What?

JAKE
Isn't that the guy I saw talking to
Rachel on the day of the summer
ball? I'm sure it was him.

KATIE
(intrigued)
So what is he doing with madam,
here? And they seem to be having a
bit of a said to.

Suddenly, Amanda slaps the young man. He stares at her, stunned then walks away. Shortly after, a black sedan pulls up

JAKE

(dazed)

That was the car that ran me off
the road.

KATIE

Are you sure? How do you know it
was the same one?

JAKE

I know it was the same one.

Katie takes some more pictures as Amanda gets into the car.
As sedan drives off, Katie's Ford Mondeo follows

EXT. OPEN ROAD

Busy road. Katie's Ford mondeo tries unsuccessfully to tail
the black sedan which disappears into the stream of traffic

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - CARDIORESPIRATORY DEPARTMENT - DAY

A cardiac rehabilitation session is in progress. The patients
are on their ergometers, receiving instructions from the
cardiac rehabilitation nurse.

Gerald is one of the patients. Jake walks in as the session
is ending. The staff and some of the patients wave at him.
Gerald waves him over

JAKE

So, how are you doing, Gerald?

GERALD

Quite well, actually. I'm able to
walk half a yard with a stick
without getting breathless.
Anything longer, I need the
wheelchair at least for now.

JAKE

Give it time.

GERALD

That's what the rehab nurse says.

He levers himself off the ergometer and starts toweling his
hair dry

GERALD (CONT'D)

They make you work like crazy here.

JAKE

That's the idea. Listen, Gerald,
thanks for asking the question on
Prime Minister's Question Time.

GERALD

I'm going to keep pushing till it becomes available on the N.H.S.

Rehab nurse motions Jake to one side

REHAB NURSE

His ergometer findings are good. He could actually walk two miles without getting breathless if he let himself. His latest ejection fraction was fifty five percent.

EXT. HELEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Katie's Ford Mondeo pulls up.

INT. KATIE'S FORD MONDEO

KATIE

I'll pick you up at nine.

JAKE

Thanks, Katie. See you later.

He gets out of the car. Katie drives off.

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - SITTINGROOM - NIGHT

Very tastefully furnished. Modern art adorns the walls. Jake and Helen sit in front of a computer

HELEN

We must have tried scores of password combinations. Nothing seems to be able to open it. You know what I think?

Jake looks at her expectantly

HELEN (CONT'D)

Put yourself in Jimmy's shoes for a moment. You stumbled across something big on camera.

Jake ponders this for a moment

HELEN (CONT'D)

You could probably make copies and put them in a safe. But that is so cliché. Whoever knows you've got the tape will try and find your safe. So you hide it in a couple of people's e-mails and encrypt it.

JAKE

Why not send it to the police?

HELEN

What if he was in a position where he couldn't trust the cops?

JAKE

Sounds a bit farfetched to me. But there again, with all that has happened to me lately, maybe not.

HELEN

Where would you hide the password?

JAKE

I'm not sure.

HELEN

Once you figure that out, you'll crack the code. But that is not what I wanted to show you. You remember my office break in?

JAKE

Yes?

HELEN

I've got copies of the CCTV.

She slips a CD into the computer and clicks

ON LAPTOP SCREEN

Hospital staff walk up and down the corridors. Suddenly, Chief executive's office comes into view.

Rachel comes out carrying some files, looks about her furtively then walks quickly down the corridor. A DARK SHADOWY FIGURE (face unseen) follows

BACK TO HELEN'S SITTINGROOM

Jake shakes his head in disbelief

JAKE

Rachel was in your office! What was she doing there?

HELEN

If I had the answer to that, I...

JAKE

Have the police got a copy of this? And do they know the identity of the shadowy figure?

HELEN

Not yet. Look, Jake, there have been lots of strange goings on since I took over from Jimmy and it would appear the whole thing began even before.

JAKE

How do you mean?

HELEN

Since I arrived here, there have been rumors. What I'm about to tell you is confidential.

JAKE

I can be discreet.

HELEN

Heartlands received backing from a private company for its Foundation status. The condition for that backing was that the company would fund the hospital building project. Heartlands was in dire straits financially and desperate for Foundation status.

JAKE

And Jim signed up to it.

Helen nods

JAKE (CONT'D)

What was the name of the company?

HELEN

TEFCAS pharmaceuticals.

Jake stares at her in stunned silence.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Katie sits in front of a viewer. Various newspaper headlines, photographs and headlines mainly about TEFCAS appear as she scrolls.

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - SITTINGROOM - LATER

Gentle music plays in the background. It is clear that Jake and Helen have just finished a meal. They are clearing up.

JAKE

Thank you for supper, Helen. It was delicious.

HELEN

My pleasure. I'll stack the rest in the dishwasher, now.

She exits carrying some dishes. Jake stands admiring the paintings

JAKE

You've got a good collection of surrealist paintings.

HELEN (O.S.)

They were George's collection. I got them with the house as part of the divorce settlement.

JAKE

I'm sorry to hear about that.

Helen joins him

HELEN

Don't be. I initially put up with his philandering but I drew the line at sixteen year old girls.

Jake walks over and picks up a framed photograph and stares at it. A young boy of about fourteen smiles up at him

JAKE

Is this your son?

Helen nods

HELEN

His name is Alex. He is in boarding school at Eton.

JAKE

That's my alma mater.

Helen smiles

HELEN

He goes to his father's at the beginning of school holidays and stays with me for the rest. You? Ever been married? Children?

JAKE

No. I've come close, though. She walked.

HELEN

I'm sorry to hear that.

JAKE

I'd be married by now if my mother had anything to do with it. My older brother, Adam is married with two children.

HELEN

And you are close to your mother?

Jake nods

HELEN (CONT'D)

And your father?

JAKE

Dad and I are like chalk and cheese. We don't get on. Adam's the one that is close to my father. He ought to have been called "Junior". On second thought, maybe not.

HELEN

Why not?

JAKE

He would not have survived Eton with a name like Gius Junior.

Helen laughs

HELEN

So Adam is like your father.

JAKE

Oh yes, he's his father's son alright, even down to the way he gulps his sherry. He's taken over the family business now my father is in politics full time.

HELEN

And you, are you like your father in any way?

JAKE

Me? I'm just his alter ego.

HELEN

And what is this alter ego called?

JAKE

Augustus, the skirt-groper.

Helen laughs loudly. Jake joins in. They suddenly become acutely aware of the powerful attraction between them, making them self conscious.

HELEN

Do you always use humour to hide
your pain?

JAKE

Do you psychoanalyze everybody?

Helen walks over to the drinks cabinet and picks up a bottle
of wine

HELEN

Care for more wine?

Jake nods and watches her pour the drinks into two glasses

HELEN (CONT'D)

Ice?

JAKE

Yes, please.

Helen drops ice in both drinks, hands Jake a drink and gulps
hers down

JAKE (CONT'D)

Gosh, that was quick.

HELEN

Yeah, wasn't it just?

She laughs shakily. Jake stares at her intently

HELEN (CONT'D)

What? Haven't you ever seen a
jellyfish before?

JAKE

Not one that makes my head spin.
Dance with me, Helen.

She hesitates

JAKE (CONT'D)

Please...

She puts her glass down and moves towards him

EXT. LIBRARY - LATER

Katie emerges carrying her briefcase and files. She gets in
her car and drives off. A few minutes later, a black
sedan follows

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - SITTINGROOM - LATER

Helen and Jake are dancing to soul music, their bodies
swaying closely together, a slow, smooth dance. They gaze at
each other for a moment and start kissing passionately

EXT. HELEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Katie's Ford Mondeo drives up the road. She sees Jake and Helen kissing near the window. She reacts, pauses briefly to collect herself and drives off

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - SITTINGROOM

Helen suddenly extricates herself from the embrace and turns off the music

HELEN

What exactly are we doing? We've both been asking for this all night. I think you should leave now, Jake.

JAKE

I know. This is putting you in an awkward position. Perhaps there is some other way we could meet and discuss the case - on neutral territory maybe?

HELEN

I'll let you know.

JAKE

I'll see myself out.

EXT. HELEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jake emerges and heads down the road, turns the corner to

A COUNTRY ROAD

He continues walking. Suddenly, a black sedan emerges and races towards him. He starts running towards the fields. The sedan pursues him, nearly crashing into him.

He comes to a steep drop in the fields. He rolls down it. The sedan comes to a stop momentarily, then drives away

INT. HELEN'S HOUSE - SITTINGROOM - DAY

Helen is dressed smartly. There are suitcases in the sitting room. Bell rings. She opens the door and sees Katie standing at the doorstep

HELEN

I thought you were my cabbie.

KATIE

I can see you are in a hurry, so I'll get to the point. I saw you and Jake last night - I'd promised to pick him up.

HELEN

Look, Katie, it's not the way it looks.

KATIE

(curtly)

I know what I saw. But do tell, Helen, what was it meant to be? Up-close-and-personal psychoanalysis.

Helen appraises her with a mixture of mild irritation and amusement

HELEN

Is that a personal or professional question?

KATIE

Sorry?

HELEN

It hasn't escaped my notice that you are more than a little curious about Jake's love life - for a P.I.

KATIE

He's confused, Helen and he's trying to get his life back. He's vulnerable, right now - and you took advantage.

HELEN

And you are not taking advantage?

KATIE

I care a lot about Jake.

HELEN

Oh, I can see that.

KATIE

You know what I find most intriguing? You were the only other person that knew that Jake was going to see Carolyn Nield. And then, coincidentally, she gets murdered.

HELEN

What is that supposed to mean?

KATIE

(with a shrug)

You are the clever Psychiatrist. You figure it out.

She walks towards the door and exits. She gets into her Ford Mondeo, looks up and sees Helen watching her through the window and drives off

INT. RUDLEIGH'S CAFE - DAY

Jake and Katie are having coffee and scones

KATIE
So, how did last night go?

JAKE
I nearly got run over by the black sedan on my way home. You didn't show.

KATIE
I did but you were - busy.

Their eyes lock

JAKE
Look, Katie, I ...

KATIE
What do you do in your spare time is your business, Jake. Only I was under the impression you were fighting for your life. Here are all the documents and reports on my investigations to date.

She pulls out blue manila folder and passes it to Jake who opens it and stares at the contents

KATIE (CONT'D)
So tell me Jake, what is she? Therapy? This whole thing about my being your P.I was a bad idea. I'll find you an excellent investigator. I can't continue.

She gets up abruptly

JAKE
You are overreacting, Katie. I don't want you off the case.

KATIE
Good day, Jake.

She leaves. Jake stares after her, dazed

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - SITTINGROOM - NIGHT

Jake is working in front of the computer. The TV is playing in the background. Phone RINGS. Jake picks up the receiver

JAKE

Hello...Who is this?

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

You had two weeks to sign over your patent to the N.H.S. Instead, what do you do? You go into alliance with TEFCAS!

JAKE

What are you on about?

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

You better turn to ITV. You do watch the telly, don't you?

Jake picks up the remote and changes the channel. ITV news is on. Suddenly, Grenwall is on screen.

GRENWALL (ON TV)

...I can now confirm officially that Mister Manning has signed over his patent to TEFCAS pharmaceuticals and we can proceed with contractual agreement with private hospitals across the country, Europe and Canada to offer this surgical procedure to patients...

Jake stares at the screen, stunned

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

Are you still there, doctor?

JAKE

Yes. I never signed the document. In fact, I was considering ...

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

Save the blubbering for your fans, you hypocritical bastard. You've got one week to reverse that rather unfortunate mistake. Or you are a dead man!

JAKE

Who are you?

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

I am a man with nothing to lose.

JAKE

What you are doing is against the law.

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)
 You want to lecture me about the
 law? You've got one week. The clock
 is ticking...

CLICK as he hangs up. Jake stares at the receiver, dazed,
 then hangs up

INT. TEFCAS PHARMACEUTICALS - SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR'S OFFICE -
 DAY

SECRETARY is on the phone. Jake storms in.

SECRETARY
 Listen ...got to go.

Jake approaches her as she hangs up

JAKE
 May I speak to Mister Grenwall,
 please?

SECRETARY
 He's currently tied up. Would you
 like an appointment?

JAKE
 I need to see him, now.

SECRETARY
 I'm sorry, Mister Grenwall is in
 the middle of a meeting.

Jake walks past her, pushes open the door and storms into
 BOARDROOM

A meeting is in progress with Grenwall presiding. He looks up
 at Jake who is closely followed by protesting secretary

JAKE
 Mister Grenwall, we can have this
 conversation here, or in private.

GRENWALL
 Ladies and gentlemen, if you'll
 excuse me for a moment, this should
 not take too long.

He throws his secretary a glare and leaves with Jake

INT. GRENWALL'S OFFICE - SAME

Lavishly furnished office. Jake and Grenwall walk in

GRENWALL
 That was out of order, Mister
 Manning. Couldn't you wait?

JAKE

I want to know how you got my signature on that document - because I never signed it!

GRENWALL

Ask your lawyer. He delivered it, signed by you and countersigned by him.

JAKE

What!

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - CARDIAC UNIT - DAY

A ten-bedded unit complete with high tech cardiac monitors. Nursing staff bustle about attending to patients. WILL COLEMAN (tall, asthenic-looking, early 40's) occupies one of the beds. One of the nurses walks up to him

NURSE

And how are you today, Will?

WILL

Hanging in there - just about. I've only been here two days but it feels like months already.

NURSE

I'm sorry, the new cardiac donor was not a match.

WILL

So am I.

NURSE

But you are a fighter. That's why you are still here. And you won't give up, will you?

Will shakes his head

WILL

May I ask you a special favour?

NURSE

Ask away. Anything for my favorite patient.

WILL

I need to write a letter urgently.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - SITTINGROOM - DAY

Jake emerges, picks up some letters from his doormat and opens them

EXT. ALONG THE ROAD - DAY

It is pelting down with rain. Jake is driving a BLUE LEXUS. As he drives, the contents of the letter are read out by the MAN whose voice was heard earlier in a phone call to Jake

MAN (V.O, ALTERED)

"Dear Mister Manning, I can now release you from my earlier threat. I'm not in a position to carry it out, anyway. I was diagnosed with ischemic cardiomyopathy two years ago. I have been awaiting cardiac transplant but my exercise tolerance has been gradually deteriorating. My latest donor was not a match. Anyway, I am now on the Cardiac unit at Heartlands. It is very likely that I'm going to die in the next few months anyway. So, you are a free man. Your stalker."

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - CARDIAC UNIT - LATER

Will lies propped up in bed, connected to the cardiac monitor and oxygen mask. He appears to be asleep. Jake stands at the edge of his bed.

A nurse stands not too far off looking at his chart. Will's eyes flutter open and he sees Jake

JAKE

My enemy finally has a face. Does he have a name too?

Will tries to sit up but is clearly too weak to do so. He manages a weak smile

WILL

You came. Have you come to gloat?

JAKE

Quite frankly, mister, I have neither the time nor the inclination to gloat. I'm way too pissed off! You think, I am going to let you make my life hell and then take the easy way out? You can think again.

Will smiles in spite of himself

WILL

What exactly are you going to do? Dig up my corpse and throw it into jail?

JAKE

No, I've got a better idea.

WILL

My name is Will Coleman.

INT. TEFCAS PHARMACEUTICALS BUILDING - GRENWALL'S OFFICE -
DAY

Jake and Grenwall face each other across the desk

GRENWALL

You've got to be kidding. You expect me to approve some guy's stem cell cardiac surgery - just like that.

JAKE

You have my patent illegally. You would not be in a position to have this conversation at all if Webb had not forged my signature.

GRENWALL

Whatever. The answer is no.

JAKE

Well, try this, Grenwall. I go to the press and squeal that my patent was practically stolen from me. Whether or not I can prove it, are you really willing to hand your rival company something to work with?

GRENWALL

I could do you for extortion.

JAKE

Let's do each other for extortion, and I'll do you for fraudulent possession of my patent. Better still, let's do it in full view of the press.

Grenwall glares at him

MONTAGE - WILL GOING FOR SURGERY

-- Will is wheeled along the hospital corridor to theatre

-- Will being operated on by Cardiothoracic team

END MONTAGE

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - LATER

Will lies propped up against pillows, connected to the cardiac monitor, oxygen masks and I.V infusions. He is asleep. Jake and Mason observe him through the window

JAKE

How is he?

MASON

He'll live. The story, of course would have been different if he'd gone another few weeks without surgery.

EXT. KEN STUBB'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It is raining. Jake rings the bell. Ken opens the door, sees who it is nearly shuts the door in Jake's face.

JAKE

At least hear me out, Ken. I'll knock on your door and make a racket until you do.

KEN

You better come in.

He steps aside and lets Jake in

INT. KEN'S SITTING ROOM

Very tastefully furnished. Several empty bottles of brandy lie on the floor. It is clear that Ken has been drinking

JAKE

You look like shit.

KEN

Thanks. What do you want?

JAKE

Before I continue, I think you should listen to this.

KEN

(suspiciously)
Listen to what?

JAKE

Where's your tape recorder?

Ken indicates one in the corner of the room. Jake inserts a tape into it

CAROLYN (V.O.)

...Jake, this is Carolyn Nield...

As Ken listens in silence...

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A BLACK VAUXHALL pulls up in front of the house. Westmore gets out of the car, looks about her cautiously, then walks up to Jake's house and rings the bell.

INT. KEN STUBB'S HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - LATER

KEN
You consulted Doctor Nield!

JAKE
I had a session of hypnosis with her.

KEN
Cranky, Jake, corpses keep popping up everywhere you go.

JAKE
Thanks a bunch.

KEN
And Jim Barber, why did he send you an encrypted e-mail and not at least hint at where to get the password?

JAKE
Maybe he was going to but got killed before he could.

Ken ponders this for a moment

KEN
Come to think of it, there was something...

JAKE
What?

KEN
Something Rachel said. She was supposed to meet Jim at the airport at his request. But he never showed.

JAKE
And now they are both dead.

KEN
I need a drink.

He reaches for another bottle of brandy

JAKE
(eyeing him
disapprovingly)
Rachel used to do that a lot -
after her father died.

KEN
Don't bring her into this.

JAKE
She would have expected you to try
to find her killer.

KEN
Uh-huh?

JAKE
You remember when Rachel started
giving you the eye? I cornered her
one day and asked her why she was
hitting on my best friend. You know
what she said?

KEN
No, but I'm sure you are about to
tell me.

JAKE
She said: "In addition to obvious
attributes such as good looks and
intelligence Ken is tough inside.
He always looks like life could
never get to him. I'm going to
marry the guy."

KEN
She said that?

JAKE
Her exact words. And I knew you
were a marked man.

Ken smiles in spite of himself

JAKE (CONT'D)
She chose you, Ken.

KEN
Care for coffee? I know I could use
some.

JAKE
Yes, please. Milk and two sugars.
Ken...

KEN
Yes?

JAKE

Did Rachel keep a diary, a journal or anything like that in the last few months?

KEN

Now you mention it, she was keeping one when she attended the A.A meetings. Should still be in the guest room.

JAKE

Did Rachel ever mention hearing anything about TEFCAS that bothered her?

KEN

Yes. Some journalist she met at the A.A meetings felt something fishy was up. Anyway, I told her to stay out of hospital politics.

JAKE

Hospital politics! Don't you see, it may be the reason she was killed. Maybe she mentioned something to Jimmy.

KEN

I thought she gave it all up when the journalist died.

JAKE

Died?

KEN

Crashed his car. Rachel thought he may have gone back on the booze - he'd missed meetings.

JAKE

What was the name of the journalist?

KEN

Surname was something like Summers. I remember because I used to joke about her meeting up with her "summerboy".

JAKE

May I crash in the guest room, tonight? It will be a long night.

KEN

Sure. You know where it is.

MONTAGE - JAKE RESEARCHES

-- INT. KEN'S GUEST ROOM - NIGHT -
 Jake sits up in bed reading Rachel's diary

-- INT. LIBRARY - DAY - Jake looks through old newspaper cuttings. Some of them read "Journalist Dies In Car Crash"

-- INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT - Jake sits in front of a viewer. Various newspaper headlines, photographs and captions appear as he scrolls:

They include: "COURT CASE AGAINST COMPANY DROPPED", "TEFCAS PHARMACEUTICALS WINS LIBEL CASE", "CHIEF POLICE OFFICER RESIGNS OVER TEFCAS", "BONE TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT CLAIMS HEPATITIS CONTRACTED FROM TRANSPLANT".

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

Staff settling into routine. A handful of people about. Helen walks up to a librarian with some books. She suddenly notices Jake slumped over one of the desks asleep. She walks over, taps him on the shoulder. He stirs, smiles up at her

HELEN

Have you been here all night?

JAKE

What time is it?

HELEN

Nine a.m. Saturday. I'll drive you home.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - SITTINGROOM - DAY

Jake sits on the sofa sorting through some mail. One of them is a note with the inscription: "Meet me at the Ledar pub this Saturday night at eight. I have info. Westmore."

HELEN (O.S)

When was the last time you shopped for groceries? It's a good job I know how to be creative with food.

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A black sedan cruises.

INT. JAKE'S SITTINGROOM

Jake sits having a meal while Helen sips tea.

HELEN

You really ought to know better than burn your candle at both ends, doctor.

JAKE

Stop acting like my mother. Thanks for the meal.

HELEN

Eat up and get some sleep.

INT. ALICIA'S HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

Guests drinking and mingling. Bell rings. Alicia opens the door and hugs Jake who is at the door holding a bottle of wine. They both step in. Guests mingle

ALICIA

Come and meet my boyfriend, Lucas.

LUCAS (the young man seen earlier being slapped by Amanda) turns and smiles at them

ALICIA (CONT'D)

There you are. Lucas. Meet my cousin, Jake. Jake, Lucas.

LUCAS

Nice to meet you.

JAKE

Have we met before, Lucas?

LUCAS

I doubt it.

They mingle with the rest of the guests

INT. LEDAR PUB - NIGHT

Busy night. Jake and Westmore have drinks at a table.

JAKE

Our last meeting was littered with accusations.

WESTMORE

A lot can change in two weeks.

She pulls out some photographs from her handbag

WESTMORE (CONT'D)

(showing him the photographs)

You know Rudd, of course, but do you recognize the other man in the photograph?

Jake stares at the photographs which show Rudd and the Chairman seen previously and nods

JAKE

His name is Bruce Henderson. He is the chairman of TEFCAS.

WESTMORE

He's been hanging out a lot with Rudd. I think Rudd is trying to frame you.

JAKE

Rudd had a run in with my father ten years ago. Allegations were made against TEFCAS that were later unsubstantiated. Rudd was on the case.

Westmore nods understanding

JAKE (CONT'D)

My father was Minister for Trade and Industry at the time. He leaned on Rudd, but his boss, D.C.I Keegan took responsibility.

WESTMORE

And?

JAKE

Keegan resigned.

WESTMORE

Watch your back, Jake. Trying to frame you is not the only thing they will do. It sounds to me like they are both on a mission.

JAKE

A mission!

WESTMORE

To destroy you - or worse.

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - PHYSIOTHERAPY GYM - DAY

Will is walking between parallel bars under the supervision of a PHYSIOTHERAPIST. Jake joins them. Will steps off the bars and sits on a bench with Jake

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Be back in a jiffy.

He leaves

JAKE

How are you feeling?

WILL

Better than I've done in ages. I'm having an ECHO at the end of the week. Then it's home with a follow up appointment.

JAKE

I'm glad you are better.

An uncomfortable beat

WILL

I feel really stupid about the crazy things I did to you.

JAKE

Listen, I understand. I don't condone the particularly crazy bits, but I can understand them.

WILL

I was a solicitor, working for a lucrative firm in Wooster, before I took ill. Then the number of sick days increased and I got laid off work. I had taken out private insurance. I obviously didn't pay attention to the small print. Ever heard of a lawyer who doesn't read the small print?

JAKE

No, but the small print might have been in code. How many people out there actually know for sure that their health insurance covers new treatments like stem cell procedures.

Jake glances at his watch

JAKE (CONT'D)

My solicitor left me in the lurch and I haven't got one at present. I would like to hire you as my solicitor.

WILL

You are offering me a job? Just like that!

JAKE

I need a solicitor and you need a job. We'll do it on a trial basis to start with.

WILL

Thank you. What happened with your solicitor?

JAKE

Long story.

EXT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Most of the staff are leaving for the day

INT. LIFT

Helen and several other people dressed in business suits are in the lift. Jake stands near to Helen. He hands her a note. She reads it.

Scribbled on the note are the following: "Have you seen my resignation letter?" Helen throws him a reproachful glance. Other people get off the lift except Helen and Jake

HELEN

What did you go and hand in your resignation for?

JAKE

The situation had become untenable.

HELEN

What situation?

JAKE

I can't stop thinking about you. I know. I know. It's inappropriate, but you don't get to choose who you fall for.

HELEN

Jake, we can't...

JAKE

I'll go mad if I can't see you again. I'll self combust.

HELEN

I don't believe in spontaneous human combustion.

JAKE

Would you like me to persuade you otherwise?

He suddenly leans over, pinning her to the side of the lift and punches a button

HELEN

What do you think you are doing?

JAKE
(softly)
What does it look like I'm doing?

He kisses her hard on the lips. She gasps, then responds, tentatively at first. They kiss passionately, hardly coming up for air

INT. POLICE STATION - OFFICE ROOM - NIGHT

Westmore is working in front of a computer. Rudd pokes his head round the door

RUDD
Would you step in here for a moment, Westmore?

Westmore follows him out into

RUDD'S OFFICE

Rudd settles into the chair behind his desk and curtly indicates the chair opposite

RUDD (CONT'D)
You were seen with Manning last night. He is under surveillance.

WESTMORE
Why is he under surveillance?

RUDD
None of your business, lady. You are off the case - oh, but that sort of thing does not stop D.S Westmore. So, what was it with Manning, business or pleasure?

WESTMORE
I resent the implication.

RUDD
Resent away. As of this moment, you are suspended.

WESTMORE
What?

RUDD
Take a vacation, you are long overdue. Look at it as leave with pay.

He gets up abruptly

RUDD (CONT'D)
Hand me your badge and baton.

Westmore drops the badge and baton on the table and exits

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - THE ROOF - LATER

Helen and Jake stare down at the beautiful city lights. Jake pulls Helen into his arms, starts stroking her

JAKE

What am I going to do?

HELEN

What?

JAKE

I finally meet the girl and my timing's off.

HELEN

(pulling away)

You are not thinking straight.

JAKE

I may not be thinking at all but I know what I feel...

HELEN

Jake, you should be fighting for your life not getting emotionally entangled. This madness needs to stop before it gets out of hand.

JAKE

It's already out of hand. And I've done little else but fight for my life the past few weeks.

HELEN

Seems to me you are drowning.

JAKE

So save me.

HELEN

It's not funny, Jake. You've never really had to fight for anything in your life. Now you are suddenly confronted with a major life crisis and you think that by ignoring it, by having an affair, it will all go away.

JAKE

I never planned any of this.

HELEN

No, you just sleepwalked into it - same way you sleepwalk into all your love affairs.

JAKE
That's not fair.

HELEN
So welcome to the real world.

JAKE
It doesn't preclude love.

HELEN
You are greedy for love, Jake. It's like you can't get enough.

JAKE
How come you know so much about me?

HELEN
I know people. It's what I do for a living.

JAKE
Fixing damaged hearts is what I do for a living. And you've been so badly hurt.

He pulls her close

JAKE (CONT'D)
So how about you fix my screwed up mind, while I mend your broken heart?

HELEN
(pulling away)
How about you leave me alone? Stay away from me, Jake.

JAKE
I'm not George, Helen.

HELEN
You are all the same man.

Starts walking away

JAKE
I'm not your father, either.

Helen retraces her steps, walks up to Jake and slaps him. He grabs her and pins her arms together

JAKE (CONT'D)
You know, Helen, you have got a reputation for being the Ice maiden bitch. But I suspect that underneath all that cold, hard exterior is a child crying for love, and comfort.

Helen smirks

HELEN

That is so cliché.

(disengages herself)

You are such an expert on women, of course. You imagine that being loved by every woman on the planet will, somehow, make up for your perceived lack of paternal love. Well, you can't replace one kind of love with another. I found out the hard way.

Jake stares at her, patently hurt

JAKE

I know, I've behaved badly with women, but this is different.

HELEN

How?

JAKE

I think, I'm in love with you.

HELEN

You think! For a man who has been through more skirts than trousers you don't know what you want.

Jake flinches

HELEN (CONT'D)

Stay away from me. Is that clear?

JAKE

Crystal.

Helen walks away. Jake leans over the balustrade

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - LATER

It is dark. Jake walks along the corridor with his mobile phone. As he passes an office he suddenly hears voices. He pauses

MAN #1 (V.O.)

...It really is necessary to do this. The deadline is two weeks away. We can't stop now.

MAN #2 (V.O.)

The killings have got to stop. I would never have gone along with this if I knew the body count would mount.

MAN #1 (V.O.)

You sanctimonious bastard! I get my hands dirty for you and you lecture me. Here's how it plays. You get your political goals. We all get rich. Everybody wins.

MAN #2 (V.O.)

Except the victims.

MAN #1 (V.O.)

A bit late in the day to get squeamish. If you do anything to jeopardize my operations, I'll take you down with me...

Jake's mobile phone falls to the floor with a loud CRASH. A MAN appears through the door. Jake quickly picks up his mobile and scurries into the darker part of the corridor. MAN follows (face unseen) down the corridor.

Jake quickly enters a room and ducks under some lockers in the corner of the room which is in darkness. MAN enters the room, slowly looks about him. Feels for the switch. No joy.

Suddenly, Jake's phone RINGS. Jake presses MUTE button. Man walks towards where Jake is hiding. Jake jumps out at him. They struggle. Jake disengages himself and starts running. MAN runs after him onto

OFFICE CORRIDOR

The pursuit continues till they come to the lifts. Jake quickly runs into one and holds the door stopping MAN entering. MAN dashes down the stairs

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - BASEMENT

Jake emerges from the lift and dashes towards the morgue. MAN emerges from the stairs. Jake quickly uses a card and swipes himself into

MORGUE

The refrigerator section is in darkness but there is a glimmer of light in the adjoining postmortem room. The MORTICIAN is clearing up.

Jake runs towards the refrigerator section, opens a door which is locked. Quickly tries other doors but finally manages to yank open one of them. He levers himself into it, lies next to a cadaver covered with a white sheet.

MAN enters, his footsteps echoing. He hesitates, looks around him, then starts trying the different refrigerator doors. Door to the postmortem room opens. Mortician enters

MORTICIAN
Hey, who is this?

MAN
I was walking past the lab. I noticed the light was on.

MORTICIAN
We had a postmortem an hour ago. I'm tidying up.

MAN
Well, glad everything is fine.

Man leaves. Mortician starts checking doors to the refrigerators. He opens the door to the one Jake is hiding in and nearly faints as Jake jumps out

MORTICIAN
You nearly gave me an heart attack, Mister Manning. What are you doing here?

JAKE
Hiding from an assailant - the man who was here earlier.

He dashes out. Mortician stares after him, perplexed

EXT. ROAD - LATER

Jake is walking briskly. A BLUE TOYOTA follows him. He quickens his step. The driver honks. The car pulls up beside him. Westmore winds down the window

WESTMORE
Get in.

Jake gets in the car and they drive off

INT. TOYOTA

JAKE
I thought you were someone else - that you were coming at me. What happened to your own car?

WESTMORE
I got suspended.

JAKE
What?

WESTMORE
We were seen together. You are under surveillance - and I suspect I am now, too. So, I rented a car.

Jake pulls out a photograph and gives it to Westmore

JAKE
Do you know this guy?

Westmore stares at the photograph. Lucas smiles up from the photograph

WESTMORE
I can't say I do. Why do you ask?

JAKE
Just a hunch. Something Rachel referred to in her diary. There was a mole at TEFCAS leaking e-mails to a journalist about the organ donation scandals. Then it all went quiet.

WESTMORE
The mole left?

JAKE
The journalist died.

WESTMORE
How?

JAKE
In a car crash. Apparently, he used to be an alcoholic.

WESTMORE
(eyeing the photograph)
And you think this chap is the mole?

JAKE
I'm not sure but it is worth checking out. I know he has a link with TEFCAS and knows Amanda Barber.

WESTMORE
I'll look into it.

INT. TEFCAS PHARMACEUTICALS - GRENWALL'S OFFICE - DAY

Grenwall and Will sit facing each other. Will is in a wheelchair.

WILL
I'm here on behalf of my client, Jake Manning.

GRENWALL
How may I help you?

WILL

My client would like to contest the licence you have obtained on his patent.

GRENWALL

His signature is on the contract.

WILL

He never signed it and he is willing to prove it in court - unless you are reasonable and are prepared to negotiate.

GRENWALL

There's nothing to negotiate.

WILL

I've got an appointment with Mister Keating, your rival, in oh...
(glances at his watch)
...two hours. I'm sure he'll have a lot to say about all of this.

He starts wheeling himself towards the door

GRENWALL

Wait ... er ... I'd like to hear a bit more about this negotiation you mention.

Will wheels himself back to the desk, pulls out some documents from his briefcase

EXT. MARTIAL ARTS CENTRE - DAY

Jake approaches

INT. EXERCISE ROOM

Katie and a group of thirteen other women are performing karate. The instructor prances up and down giving cues and corrections. Katie looks out through the window and sees Jake outside the centre.

Their eyes lock. Jake raises a placard that reads: "I MISS YOU WHEN YOU ARE NOT MY FRIEND". Katie tosses her head in disdain for a minute then appears to relent.

INT. ALICIA'S HOUSE - SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

Jake and Alicia sit in front of the TV sipping tea

ALICIA

So spit it out Jake, what is it?.

JAKE

Can I ask you something?

ALICIA

Uh-huh?

JAKE

Do you think I'm greedy for love?
That I've been through more skirts
than trousers? Am I really that
bad?

ALICIA

She really has got to you, whoever
she is. It must be love.

JAKE

So what do you think?

ALICIA

That you are a terrible womanizer
and you can't get enough of love,
lust, whatever? Well it depends...

JAKE

On what?

ALICIA

On whatever you want the truth, the
whole truth and nothing but the
truth, the abridged version, or just
"pick me up". I've learned to ask
first.

JAKE

How about "all of the above"?

ALICIA

(laughing)

You are greedy! Anyway, whoever she
is, just wants to be sure that when
the dust and dazzle settles, you'll
both still be content. You think
you can?

JAKE

She's a right tigress, tenacious,
bright, with a big, fat chip on
each shoulder. Not exactly married
bliss material.

(sighs)

I love her.

ALICIA

That's not enough - and it's not
the point.

Jake shifts uncomfortably in his seat

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Ever ask yourself why Rachel left you for Ken, a guy that's neither as good looking nor as exciting as you?

Jake shrugs

JAKE

She - I don't mean Rachel - suggested I was trying to compensate for lack of paternal love. She's a psychiatrist.

ALICIA

A shrink, aye? You've come up a peg or two.

They sip their tea in silence

ALICIA (CONT'D)

You know, when daddy left, I thought it was all my fault, that he didn't love me. One of the things I learned from therapy is that parental love is a given. But it's complex and sometimes, the significant others in our lives don't know how to show or feel love.

Bell rings

ALICIA (CONT'D)

That will be Lucas. He said he'd be coming over to return my ipod.

(smirks)

Like he needs an excuse to come here.

She walks towards the door, opens it. Alicia reappears followed by a masked figure with a gun to her head

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Jake, just do exactly what he says, please.

JAKE

Don't hurt her, please. Just tell me what you want.

Suddenly, the masked man starts laughing. Alicia turns on him and unmask him. It is Lucas and he continues laughing. Alicia throws one of her cushions at him

ALICIA

Don't ever pull a stunt like that again! Do you hear?

Jake stares at Lucas in stunned rage, then grabs him by the shoulders

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Leave him, Jake. Lucas is a practical joker. He doesn't know when to stop.

Jake picks up his jacket and heads for the door

JAKE

I'll see you later, Alicia. And Lucas, your practical jokes are not very funny. Go easy.

EXT. ALICIA'S HOUSE

Jake emerges, walks to his blue lexus parked on the other side of the road, gets in and waits. Moments later, Lucas and Alicia emerge together, laughing.

She kisses him goodbye, watches him enter his BLACK SAAB and drive off. She goes back into the house. A few minutes later, Jake's lexus follows the saab.

EXT. LUCAS' HOUSE - LATER

Lucas pulls up to the driveway, gets out to the front door and fumbles with his keys. Jake parks on the other side of the road, gets out and creeps up behind Lucas

LUCAS

You nearly gave me a fright.

JAKE

Oh, please. Don't pretend you didn't see me tailing you.

LUCAS

What are you doing here?

JAKE

I figured we should get to know each other. I mean, we are practically family.

LUCAS

Come in, then.

He unlocks the door and they go in

INT. LUCAS' SITTING ROOM

Expensively furnished. Jake and Lucas enter

LUCAS

(opening the drinks cabinet)
(MORE)

LUCAS (CONT'D)
What would you like? Scotch?
Whisky?

JAKE
No, I'm driving. Thanks. I already
had tea.

Lucas pours himself a drink and sits down. Jake joins him.
Lucas sips his drink, appraising him silently

JAKE (CONT'D)
Nice place.

LUCAS
Thanks. But you haven't come to
tell me that.

JAKE
Like I said...

LUCAS
I know what you said. What do you
want?

JAKE
Information.

LUCAS
What sort of information?

Jake pulls out several snapshots and lays them out on the
table. Lucas picks them up, looks through them

LUCAS (CONT'D)
Where did you get these?

JAKE
The usual way people get them. You
are an undercover detective. You
should know.

Lucas turns pale

LUCAS
Who told you that?

Jake rolls up his eyes in mock amazement

JAKE
I've got friends in high places,
didn't you know?

LUCAS
Get your info from your cronies.
And stop wasting my time.

Jake grabs him by the shoulders

JAKE

Listen up, pep boy! Better start talking! 'coz the way I see it you are in a lot of trouble.

Lucas disengages himself

JAKE (CONT'D)

I know, you are the mole at TEFCAS pharmaceuticals. Rachel referred to you in her journal. I think you know what Chris Summers was working on when he died - rather mysteriously.

LUCAS

Chris died in a car crash.

JAKE

That covers a multitude of things. Maybe he did; maybe it just looks that way. Either way, you are about to put me out of my misery. I saw you with Rachel the day she died.

LUCAS

What?

JAKE

I saw her hand you some files. I also know you'd been passing information to Chris. I think you know a lot more about his death than you are letting on. And you are afraid for your life. I can see it in your eyes.

LUCAS

Listen, posh boy, you are out of your depth with this one. You have no idea how deadly these people are.

JAKE

Oh, I know just how deadly they are. Between their nearly running me over and their trapping me in the morgue with a cadaver, I am under no illusions.

Lucas laughs

LUCAS

You mean you actually spent the night with a cadaver instead of a live broad? What was she like?

JAKE
 (smiling in spite of
 himself)
 Cold. And I didn't get to spend the
 night.

LUCAS
 I was hired by someone, I can't
 name for obvious reasons, to dig up
 secrets for them at TEFCAS. You
 are, of course, aware that the big
 conglomerate, Genglobe, is planning
 to buy out TEFCAS, for three
 billion pounds.

Jake whistles

LUCAS (CONT'D)
 VISTA was their competitor for
 Genglobe's takeover bid. I worked
 briefly for them.

JAKE
 I see. How much did Rachel and Jim
 Barber know? And where does Amanda
 Barber fit in?

LUCAS
 Have you got all night?

EXT. LUCAS' HOUSE

A black sedan cruises slowly

INT. SEDAN

Well-dressed man is speaking on a mobile

WELL DRESSED MAN
 ...Manning's gotten quite cozy with
 our leak...Yes ...But we only have
 one week before we close the deal.
 Nothing must be allowed to get in
 the way ...Obviously, it will have
 to be a neat job, not arouse
 suspicion...

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

A spy camera footage plays. Grenwall, Beadle, Hospital
 Chairman, and Brian watch

ON CONSOLE

Helen and Jake kiss passionately

BACK TO SCENE

All four spectators react

INT. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Helen is on the phone. Brian enters

HELEN

...I'll have to go now. I'll call
you back.

She hangs up

HELEN (CONT'D)

What do you want, Brian?

BRIAN

I came to warn you.

HELEN

About what?

BRIAN

You and Manning in the lift, you
were caught on spy camera.

Helen stares at him in shock as the information sinks in. She
walks over to the window and stares out

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Reckless and impetuous, I know you
are. Stupid, I know you are not.
How could you jeopardize your
career like that?

HELEN

How was I to know Jimmy would go
completely mad and install cameras
everywhere? Did he also install
them in the toilets?

BRIAN

Do you love him - Jake, I mean?

HELEN

(turning to face him)
Look, Brian, thanks for coming to
warn me. I appreciate it. But it's
none of your business.

BRIAN

You are having an affair with an
employee.

HELEN

He's no longer an employee. He
handed in his resignation.

BRIAN
 (sardonically)
 That's all right, then. He is not
 worth it, Helen.

HELEN
 And you are?

BRIAN
 We'll never know, now, will we? You
 ended our affair.

HELEN
 Jake and I are not having an
 affair.

BRIAN
 You could have fooled me. He's
 charming and vulnerable, an
 irresistible cocktail. It's not
 love, Helen.

HELEN
 And you would know all about that.

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jake lies in bed and stares at his blinds. He stares at the white shades, mingling with the dark patterns. It appears to be having a hypnotic effect as he soon falls asleep. He starts tossing and turning.

DREAM SEQUENCE - INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Rachel glides across the room towards him

RACHEL
 ...There is something I think you
 should know, Jakie. It's about
 TEFCAS...TEFCAS...TEFCAS...

Amanda wearing high heeled shoes emerges from the en-suite, her shoes CLICKING. The curtains in the room billow as the wind blows from outside.

The curtains part and a dark figure emerges through what appear to be French windows...

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM

Jake wakes up with a start, perspiring. He stares around him, slightly disoriented, then picks up the receiver on his bedside cabinet and dials a number

WESTMORE (V.O, HALF ASLEEP)
 Hello...

JAKE

Hi, Claire, it's me. Sorry to wake you but I was scared if I didn't tell someone, I'd lose this information.

WESTMORE (V.O.)

Jake. It's two in the morning.

INTERCUT - JAKE'S BEDROOM / WESTMORE'S BEDROOM

Westmore is lying in bed, holding her handset

JAKE

There were two other people in the hotel room that night. One of them was Amanda Barber.

WESTMORE

You are starting to remember.

JAKE

And there's something else...

Suddenly the line goes dead

WESTMORE

Hello? Are you still there?

No answer. Westmore looks puzzled

INT. JAKE'S BEDROOM

The room has gone dark. Jake tries dialing again. No dialing tone. Jake gets up, edges his way to the switch, presses it.

No action. He fumbles for a torch, finds one and flashes it, looking round the room. He walks cautiously onto

THE LANDING

He starts making his way down the stairs. At the bottom of the stairs he reaches for the phone, picks up the receiver. Line is dead.

He fumbles for his mobile phone but unable to find it. He notices the door is open and the wind is blowing through it. He walks out through the door to

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE

Jake stares at the red painted scrawl on the door that says: "BASTARD". At that point his mobile phone RINGS. He feels his way to the sitting room

INT. SITTING ROOM

He stumbles in and finds mobile phone. He picks it up

JAKE

Hello...?

Heavy breathing at the other end of the phone

JAKE (CONT'D)

Who is this?

Line goes dead. A dark shadow falls over Jake. He raises a blunt object and hits Jake over the head. Jake keels over. A MASKED FIGURE wearing gloves stands over him, then drags him by both arms

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - GARAGE

MASKED FIGURE drags Jake's unconscious form into Jake's lexus

INT. LEXUS

Masked figure positions Jake in the driver's seat and switches on the ignition. He connects Jake to the hose pipe, presses PLAY button on CD player. Jazz music plays

INT. JAKE'S HOUSE - SITTING ROOM

Masked Figure sits in front of Jake's computer, typing away quickly on the keyboard

ON THE MONITOR

The following words appear:

"Dear DCI Rudd,

I can no longer bear the guilt of knowing I killed the woman I loved, Rachel Cartwright. I also killed Mister Jim Barber. Tell my family I am sorry for the pain I have caused them.

Jake Manning."

The mouse button clicks on Send

BACK TO SCENE

Masked man switches off computer then walks over to the fuse box, tinkers with it. The lights come on

EXT. ROAD - LATER

Westmore is driving along the road

EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE

Westmore pulls up the opposite side of the house, walks up the drive way. Notices smoke billowing from the garage. She runs up to the garage, tries to open it from outside. It is a real struggle. She dials quickly on her mobile

WESTMORE

Hello? Is that ambulance control?
Please come quickly... Victim of
smoke inhalation...he's trapped in
garage ...Thanks...24 Goldsberg
drive.

She has another go at trying to open garage door. It opens a crack. She crawls under and enters

INT. GARAGE

It is full of smoke. She yanks open the door of the lexus, switches off the ignition and pulls Jake out. She forces the garage door open, carefully positions him on the ground outside the garage.

She quickly checks Jake's airway, breathing and pulse, then starts cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The sound of ambulance sirens is heard

MONTAGE SEQUENCE

-- EXT. JAKE'S HOUSE - NIGHT - Ambulance crew work on Jake.

-- EXT. ROAD - NIGHT - Jake being transported to hospital

END OF MONTAGE

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - DAY

Jake is being ventilated. Ken and Mason watch him from outside

KEN

He'll make it. It was touch and go
for a while.

MASON

What was he thinking?

KEN

You think this was attempted
suicide? You are quite wrong.

Glances at his watch

KEN (CONT'D)

He's being weaned off the
ventilator. He should be
transferred to the main medical
ward later today.

INT. POLICE STATION - MEETING ROOM - DAY

A debriefing session is in progress. Rudd stands in front of a group of non-uniformed officers. There are pictures of Rachel, Jim Barber and Jake on the wall

RUDD

...What is it that connects these two murders? One man about to be exposed. Last night he tried to take the coward's way out. Sent me a nice, little e-mail, maybe to ease his conscience before meeting his maker. Who knows? Anyway, Jake Manning confessed to both these murders.

Gasps and surprised murmurs from the officers

RUDD (CONT'D)

We have dispatched two of our officers to question him tonight. He'll be off the ventilator and able to speak...

The door suddenly opens and Westmore bursts in

RUDD (CONT'D)

...Ah! Our Knight in shining armor appears.

WESTMORE

I need to speak to you - now. You can fire me afterwards if you like, but there is someone I think you should meet.

RUDD

This had better be good, Westmore.

He follows Westmore out of the room into

RUDD'S OFFICE

Rudd settles behind his desk. Westmore opens the door and Lucas enters carrying a briefcase

LUCAS

My name is Leslie McKenzie. I used to be with Special branch. I left after I had an accident and became a P.I. I was hired to investigate TEF CAS.

RUDD

(clearly interested)
Who hired you?

LUCAS

I just spoke to my client over the phone and explained the urgency of the situation and he's given me the go-ahead to reveal what I know.

(MORE)

LUCAS (CONT'D)

He is retired Chief superintendent Keegan.

RUDD

If this is supposed to be a joke, it's in very bad taste...

LUCAS

Please hear me out. I have evidence here with me that proves that ten years ago, TEFCAS pharmaceuticals were, indeed, involved in an organ donation scam which led to the death of at least five people we know of...

Rudd suppresses a look of gleeful vindication. Lucas opens the briefcase, produces documents which he passes to Rudd

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - MEDICAL WARD - NIGHT

Jake is lying in a side room. He is half asleep. Helen enters, walks up to his bed, sits down in a chair next to it. Jake's eyes flutter open. Their eyes lock for a moment. He smiles weakly, then starts drifting off

HELEN

(trying to rouse him)
Jake, who did this to you?

Jake opens his eyes and stares at her

JAKE

Tell Claire, it's written in blanks.

Drifts off. A NURSE enters

NURSE

He's exhausted.

HELEN

I'll leave, now.

She gets up and leaves. Nurse checks Jake over then leaves

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE - LATER

Helen is packing her briefcase, getting ready to leave. Secretary enters

SECRETARY

A Katie Campbell to see you.

HELEN

I am about to leave, but I'll accommodate her.

Secretary exits re-entering with Katie. She then leaves closing the door behind her

KATIE

I haven't come to kiss and make up.
I'm here because of Jake. I've got
more information on TEFCAS and I
think I can make a link with
Rachel's murder. But I need your
help.

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - MEDICAL WARD - LATER

Jake stirs and sees a FIGURE IN SCRUBS coming towards him. The figure draws a drug up into a syringe and approaches. Jake becomes instantly alert.

He presses an emergency button. Nursing staff rush in. The figure seems to have disappeared into thin air by now

NURSE

Can I help you?

JAKE

Someone was in this room just now.
They were wearing scrubs.

Nurse looks round the room and makes a show of looking under the bed

NURSE

Mister Manning, you have been
through a nasty ordeal...

JAKE

(stubbornly)
I know what I saw.

NURSE

Okay. Just ring me again if he or
she reappears. Okay?

JAKE

Okay.

Nurse leaves

INT. TEFCAS PHARMACEUTICALS - GRENWALL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The office is in darkness. Grenwall walks in, switches on the light. He notices that his swivel chair is facing away from his desk, towards the window.

The view from the window is of beautiful night lights. As he walks towards the chair, the swivel chair suddenly swings round and reveals Helen sitting on it, looking very alluring in a black dress and pointing a gun at Grenwall.

Grenwall stops in his tracks, surprised, then appears to recover quickly.

GRENWALL

There's nothing as sexy as a beautiful woman with a toy gun.

Helen fires a blank. Grenwall freezes, stunned

HELEN

This is not a social call, Grenwall.

GRENWALL

I didn't know you Brits owned guns.

HELEN

We don't.

She strokes the gun gently

HELEN (CONT'D)

I have to confess, I don't have much experience with these things. I'm not sure in what order the blanks and bullets are stacked. And I'm feeling very nervous right now.

GRENWALL

Listen...er, I was actually on my way to take a leak. Could we continue this conversation after?

HELEN

Do you suffer with prostate problems, Mister Grenwall?

GRENWALL

No.

HELEN

Then hold your water. Or do it the baby way. I promise not to faint with amazement if you choose the latter.

GRENWALL

What do you want from me?

HELEN

Info. You see, Grenwall, as of today, I became one of the shareholders with TEF CAS pharmaceuticals. I want to know who owns the majority shares.

GRENWALL

Why didn't you just say? Why the big hoo-ha with the gun?

HELEN

Just covering the bases with plan B. Katie, you can come out now.

Katie steps out from adjoining room. Grenwall stares at her

GRENWALL

How in the world...?

KATIE

Oh, you don't want to be boring yourself with the gory details. Just give us that name.

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - MEDICAL WARD - NIGHT

Jake is sitting on the edge of the bed, fully dressed. Gerald enters quietly

JAKE

Am I glad to see you, or am I glad to see you?

GERALD

It's good to see you looking better. How are you feeling?

JAKE

As well as can be expected.

GERALD

I've come to get you out of here. The police will be here any minute. I have reliable sources that say they have built up a case against you.

He pulls out a note and shows Jake. He stares at it stupefied.

JAKE

This is outrageous. I never sent the e-mail.

GERALD

The police see it differently. Look, if I can get you to Max's place you'll be safe there until this whole misunderstanding is cleared up.

JAKE

We'll need to leave by the back.

EXT. BOATHOUSE, BRIGHTON - EVENING

Beautiful sunset, over a long stretch of sea. The boathouse is silhouetted against the breathtaking dusk.

INT. LOUNGE AREA

Max and Ken are playing chess and sipping drinks. Gerald and Jake walk in

JAKE

What are you doing here, Ken?

KEN

I was invited.

JAKE

Thanks, Max, for accommodating us.
I owe you one.

Max laughs

MAX

I'll be sure to collect.

GERALD

I need to be heading off.

JAKE

So soon?

GERALD

I need to be at a meeting in a few
hours. See you later.

Max walks Gerald to the door. Jake joins Ken at the chessboard. Max rejoins them

MAX

What would you like to drink, Jake?

JAKE

A stiff sherry would be nice.

KEN

Sounds ominous.

Max pours out a drink for Jake with his right hand. Jake stares at the watch on his right wrist. Engraved on it is: "KOYTA"

INT. ROOM 412 - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

A MAN approaches from behind. He quickly puts a cloth over Jake's face. Jake starts to lose consciousness as Rachel SCREAMS

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Jake looks dazed. Max and Ken are engrossed in deep conversation, apparently oblivious to what is going on

INT. ROOM 412 - LATER (FLASHBACK)

Jake, lying on the floor starts to open his eyes. Everything appears blurred. He sees Rachel lying on the floor lifeless. He struggles to get up. MAN comes over to him with a syringe.

He stares up into his face and sees that he is Max. Amanda holds him down while Max quickly injects the contents of the syringe into his arm. He slips back into a deep sleep

BACK TO PRESENT DAY

Jake suddenly looks pale and queasy. He quickly staggers out of the bar into

RESTROOM

He throws up into the urinal.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONFERENCE ROOM

Rudd, Westmore, D.S Cowan, Lucas, Helen, Katie and other plain clothes police sit round a table. Katie is on the phone. She appears frustrated

KATIE

He's still not answering his phone.

HELEN

It's probably switched off.

RUDD

What was the name of the majority shareholder at TEFCAS?

HELEN

Sam Nutsand. It doesn't even sound like a real name.

LUCAS

It isn't. It is an anagram for Max Dunstan.

The others stare at him, aghast

KATIE

That's probably where Jake is right now.

HELEN

Oh, my word!

RUDD

We'll dispatch armed police to his residence right away.

(MORE)

RUDD (CONT'D)

Now, Leslie or Lucas - where is this contract-signing with Genglobe taking place?

LUCAS

That's the tricky bit. They kept it very quiet.

WESTMORE

Aren't the press going to be there?

LUCAS

They will - after the fact. But I have a few hunches as to where the signing is likely to be.

INT. BOATHOUSE, BRIGHTON - REST ROOM - LATER

Jake washes his face and stares at his disheveled, tired image in the mirror. He quickly dials a number on his mobile

INTERCUT - RESTROOM / NICKI'S BEDROOM

NICKI

Hello...

JAKE

Hi, it's Jake. Nicki, I can't talk long. Where are you now?

NICKI

My room.

JAKE

Lock the door.

NICKI

Okay.

She locks her door

NICKI (CONT'D)

What's up?

JAKE

Open your computer.

Nicki does so

NICKI

Done.

JAKE

Click on the e-mail from your dad.

Nicki complies

NICKI

Yes?

JAKE

Change the font color from white to black.

Nicki complies.

ON THE MONITOR

The following words appear: "samnutsand"

BACK TO PRESENT

NICKI

It simply says: "samnutsand".

JAKE

That is the password. Type it in after clicking on attachment.

ON THE MONITOR

Video clip is unfolding...

NICKI

(fascinated)

The video is playing.

JAKE

Now, Nicki, save it. You can watch it later.

Nicki clicks several times

NICKI

Done.

JAKE

Good girl. Now type in: "www.bbcnews.org" in the web address.

Nicki does some more typing on her keyboard and clicks

NICKI

Sorted.

JAKE

Click send.

ON THE MONITOR

Camera footage is playing out. The arrow appears on the "Send" button

BACK TO PRESENT

Nicki clicks

NICKI
I've sent it.

JAKE
Thank you. Now, I want you to e-mail the clip to the following address: inspectorrudd@cid.co.uk.

Nicki types away at the keyboard.

INT. BOATHOUSE, BRIGHTON - LOUNGE AREA - LATER

Ken and Max play chess.

MAX
He's been a long time in there. Why don't you check on him?

INT. BOATHOUSE, BRIGHTON - REST ROOM

Ken walks in.

KEN
Are you alright? You've been here a long time.

Jake puts a finger over his lips to indicate silence. Ken stares at him, puzzled. Jake starts out onto

CORRIDOR

Ken follows. They tiptoe into

BEDROOM

Inside, Jake bolts the door.

MAX (O.S.)
Jake, where are you? Jake!

The sound of the lock turning is heard.

MAX (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I've got a gun, Jake. Either come out or I'll come and get you.

The sound of gunshots is heard. Max bursts in, looks around the room. Jake and Ken crouch behind one of the cupboards. Suddenly, Jake and Ken jump out at him knocking him over.

The gun falls off Max's hand but he quickly retrieves it. Jake and Ken run out of the room onto

CORRIDOR

Max's footsteps echo. They run to the entrance door, try it but it is locked. They sprint down some steps into

BASEMENT

It is pitch dark.

KEN
Where is this?

JAKE
The basement.

MAX (O.S.)
That's right, the basement.

He laughs. It sounds almost surreal.

MAX (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You are going to drown, boys. Like a pair of lab rats.

JAKE
Why, Max?

MAX (O.S.)
Why does anyone do what they do? Money, fame, a woman?

JAKE
Amanda Barber.

MAX (O.S.)
You always were quick on the uptake.

JAKE
And Rachel?

MAX (O.S.)
Jimmy should never have involved her.

JAKE
What was she doing in my room?

MAX (O.S.)
She was there to persuade you to sign the document. I got to her, you see. Ken why don't you tell Jake about the kick backs and the building project?

INT. POLICE STATION - CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Lucas is on his mobile. The others wait expectantly

LUCAS

...Yes...You found the place?
Where?...You are sure? Right. I'll
ring you back with instructions.

He hangs up

LUCAS (CONT'D)

That was Will, Jake's lawyer. He
knows where the signing is taking
place. Apparently, someone tipped
the press.

EXT. HILTON HOTEL - NIGHT

Guests mill in and out. The press are already gathered
outside the building

INT. THE LOBBY

Will enters in his wheelchair, looks around him, then heads
in the general direction of the DOMESTIC SECTION

EXT/INT. POLICE STATION - CONFERENCE ROOM

Rudd is debriefing the others. Lucas, Katie, Helen and
Westmore are also present. A NON-UNIFORMED OFFICER enters

NON-UNIFORMED OFFICER

I think you'd better come and see
this, Sarge...

RUDD

Not now, Farnetti...

NON-UNIFORMED OFFICER

It's really important, sir.

They all file after him to

COMMUNAL OFFICE

A desktop is on. They approach it.

ON DESKTOP SCREEN

A honda civic pulls up. A ford fiesta pulls up beside it.
SUMMERS steps out of the honda with a smug smile on his face.
A DARK SHADOWY FIGURE steps out of the ford fiesta, pulls a
gun and fires at the young man twice.

He collapses. The shooter quickly looks around him and his
face is now clearly visible. It is Max

BACK TO COMMUNAL OFFICE

Everyone gasps with amazement

HELEN

I'm really worried now, for Jake.

RUDD

The armed squad are already on their way there.

INT. BOATHOUSE, BRIGHTON - BASEMENT

The water is already rising.

JAKE

It's flooded before. Max told me.

KEN

We are going to drown.

JAKE

Maybe not. Max also told me that although the basement flooded, the rest of the boathouse did not. He was out of town. Something must have stemmed the flooding.

He starts feeling his way round the walls, wading through the water

KEN

What are you looking for?

JAKE

I noticed a trapdoor when he showed me round.

EXT. MOTORWAY - LATER

A Police car races down with sirens on full blast

INT. HILTON HOTEL - CONFERENCE ROOM

The signing conference is already in full swing. The chairman of TEFCAS, Max, Gerald, Grenwall, Beadle and Paul Munier of Genglobe conglomerate (seen previously on the newspaper front page) have taken up their various positions. The press take pictures

CHAIRMAN

...TEFCAS, has been involved in populating donor organs in a world chronically short of organs...

LUCAS (O.S.)

Is that why you ran an organ donation scam and gave dodgy organs to patients from improperly screened donors?

Stirring amongst the press. A security guard approaches Lucas who is sequestered among members of the press and starts elbowing him towards the door

LUCAS (CONT'D)

We know at least five people died because of your scam. And you, journalists, why don't you ask Max Dunstan what he did to your colleague, Chris Summers when he tried to investigate?

Max gets up angrily

MAX

This is preposterous! Did VISTA put you up to this? You used to work for them.

The press look on, taking pictures, clearly engaged

CHAIRMAN

Could we resume our conference and ignore this upstart, please?

Suddenly, the large Plasma TV in the conference room comes on

ON PLASMA SCREEN

A honda civic pulls up. A ford fiesta pulls up beside it. SUMMERS steps out of the honda with a smug smile. A DARK SHADOWY FIGURE steps out of the ford fiesta, pulls a gun and fires at the young man twice.

He collapses. The shooter looks around him quickly and his face becomes clearly recognizable as Max

BACK TO CONFERENCE ROOM

There is consternation in the conference room. Paul Munier looks accusingly at Max then gets up and walks out. The press go crazy.

Chairman tries to calm things down without much success. Suddenly, the whole place is crawling with police

INT. BOATHOUSE, BRIGHTON - BASEMENT ROOM

Jake and Ken are working on breaking down the trapdoor. The water is up to their shoulders

KEN

We are going to die here.

JAKE

If I die and you live, tell Helen I love her.

KEN

What!

He laughs. The water rises relentlessly. Jake continues to hit against the door. It suddenly gives way an inch. He continues to kick against the door. The water suddenly rises at great pressure and sweeps Jake and Ken with it.

It is very clear that these two are going to drown. Jake reaches below the water holding his breath, gives the door one more kick. It bursts open and the pressure of the water sweeps them out of the basement outside the boathouse.

Suddenly the sound of sirens is heard.

INT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - WARD - NIGHT

Jake is sitting on the chair surrounded by Westmore, Katie, Alicia and Lucas who are joking and laughing. He has his left arm in a bandage.

He glances at a newspaper on his bed. On the front page are pictures of Max, the chairman and Gerald. The captions read: "Top TEFCAS shareholders indicted" "MAX DUNSTAN CHARGED WITH MURDER".

KATIE

I think we'd better go and let Jake get some rest. We'll catch up when they discharge you.

They leave. Jake stares restlessly at the ceiling, then switches on the TV

TRACY (ON TV)

...The CEO of Genglobe conglomerate is in the middle of negotiations with Mister Will Coleman, on behalf of his client, Mister Jake Manning. This is part of a deal to be agreed with the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (N.I.C.E) to make stem cell cardiac transplant available on the National health service...

Knock at the door.

JAKE

Come in.

Helen comes in. Their eyes lock briefly but enough to convey the intense feeling between them

HELEN

How are you?

JAKE
Fine, thank you.

There is an awkwardness between them

HELEN
Jake, I...

JAKE
(getting up and walking
towards her)
Listen, Helen, life's too short to
play games. I love you. I want to
be with you.

He holds up his hand as Helen tries to interrupt

JAKE (CONT'D)
Please hear me out. I know, you
have issues with trust because of
how you've been hurt. And my track
record with women does not exactly
inspire confidence.

It's all coming out in a rush

JAKE (CONT'D)
I'll never lie to you. I'll
treasure you.

He takes her in his arms

HELEN
Jake...

JAKE
I love you, Helen. I just want to
make you happy.

HELEN
You can't make someone else happy.
We are all responsible for our own
happiness.

JAKE
It's got to be worth a try.

They stare at each other, then kiss, nearly devouring each other. A NURSE opens the door, sees them, reacts and closes the door quickly

EXT. HEARTLANDS HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Jake and Helen emerge, carrying Jake's overnight bag. They put it in the boot of Helen's green mercedes. Helen looks up sees Brian watching them from one of the office windows. She suddenly pulls Jake close and kisses him

JAKE
(smiling)
What was that for?

HELEN
Just making the point loud
and clear.

JAKE
I like the point.

They both get in the car

INT. MERCEDES

HELEN
Now that we've both handed in our
resignations, what will we live on
for the next few months?

JAKE
Love - and baked beans.

They drive off into the night.

FADE OUT.

