

DYAD  
A Screenplay  
By Karl Mearns

Adapted From The Novel DYAD By Karl Mearns

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INT. COLLEGE BASKETBALL COURT NIGHT

Twelve players move to the baseline for their last wind sprint. Gasping fills the air.

CALHOUN

All out. Dog it -- we go again.

Coach Calhoun blasts his whistle. Sneakers squeak as they start and stop.

CALHOUN

Come on Johnson -- Catch him Harv.

Blood vessels in Harv's neck bulge as he lunges for the end line.

Great job you two -- good hustle.

Players search their knees.

CALHOUN

Great practice. Tomorrow 6:30.  
Check the schedule for the rest of  
the week -- bulletin board.

HARV

Not there Coach -- checked before  
practice.

CALHOUN

I'll put another one up tomorrow  
morning. Practice uniforms in the  
dirty clothes.

Calhoun starts to his office and turns as his nine year old twins dribble from the other end of the gym.

KENNY

Come on Dad -- one on two.

KELLY

You're history.

CALHOUN

Few minutes guys. Kenny what's  
that?

Calhoun points at his son's shoes. Kenny looks down. Calhoun gives him an open palm uppercut.

CALHOUN

Too easy Kenny -- too easy.

(CONTINUED)

KENNY

Race you Kelly.

Calhoun enters his office and watches through window. He smiles, sits, and looks at the photo on the wall. "Rockfish Pioneers Men's National Champions Division II". He zeroes in on a framed article. "Jan./1968: Kenny and Kelly Calhoun, nine year old twins of Rockfish College Coach Ken Calhoun, shared the Virginia Basketball Association ten year old scoring championship --."

He studies the photo on the desk, the last picture of the four of them together. His twins enter.

KENNY

You promised Dad.

Calhoun lets them take the lead as usual.

CALHOUN

Game point -- you're in trouble.

KELLY

Make him go left Kenny.

Calhoun fakes right, drives left, and stops on the block. He fakes. Kenny jumps to block his shot. Calhoun scoops the ball up into his son's hands as he comes down.

CALHOUN

Killed me Kenny -- two shots -- maybe three.

KENNY

Come on Dad.

KELLY

Offensive foul.

Calhoun holds his hand like a broken wing. He grimaces and limps to the foul line.

CALHOUN

Hurts -- have to shoot left.

CALHOUN

Nothing but net.

KELLY

Pressure -- game point.

(CONTINUED)

KENNY

Don't let it get you.

The ball hangs on the rim and drops in.

CALHOUN

Winner buys. Coins on my desk --  
Coke machine in the hall.

Gym office 8:30 Night

Calhoun relaxes in a steaming shower with his eyes shut. A voice brings him back to reality.

HARV

Coach -- Coach.

Calhoun wipes his eyes.

CALHOUN

What's up Harv?

HARV

Your kids get a ride home with  
somebody?

CALHOUN

They're out at the Coke machine.

HARV

They just get into an old pickup  
truck. Went to check -- it took  
off.

Calhoun yanks his sweat pants over his dripping body. He chases Harv across the gym and down the hall. They barge through the front door. The December night air greets them. Crisp, dark, and still.

INT. STATION WAGON NIGHT

Calhoun and Harv straighten the winding road in Calhoun's wagon. A blinking light bounces off trees as he fishtails around the turn. A wreck blocks the intersection. He skids to a halt and races to the car.

TEENAGER

Over here.

A teenage boy emerges from the dark, holding a limp form in his arms. Calhoun recognizes the gym shorts.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

Kelly -- are you alright?

Blood trickles from the teenager's head.

TEENAGER

She jumped out after he hit us --  
didn't even slow down.

Calhoun wraps Kelly in his arms. She sobs.

CALHOUN

Her brother -- what about --

TEENAGER

Pulled him back in.

KELLY

A clown took Kenny -- go get Kenny.

TEENAGER

Red and white pick up. Tire  
rubbing.

HARV

Go Coach -- I'll get help.

INT. STATION WAGON NIGHT

Calhoun follows the bare rim track until it disappears through uprooted honeysuckle. He floors the car through the opening, pursues a fresh furrow across the lowlands and up a hill to a faint interior truck light. He grabs a flashlight and sprints to the truck's open door. He picks up a porcelain clown's mask from the seat and stares.

Avery's church lords above. A faint light flickers from the 19th C. manse. He races past the church to the house. Front door locked, back door locked. A open cellar door hangs from it's hinges. His light fluoresces off spiderwebs as enters the cellar. There aren't any webs above the board walkway and plank steps. A faint light escapes the door crack. He pushes the door. A lit oil lamp and a granite ware coffee pot sit on an old pine table. The pot is warm.

He enters the adjoining room. Black curtains cover the windows. An old cot, newspapers, magazines, an old trunk fill the room. He enters the third room. Empty cans, bottles, more magazines. He returns to the kitchen and slumps in a wooden chair. He notices an age-curved photograph tacked to the wall, a man handing a clown mask to another man. His head sinks.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

I promised I'd take care of them --  
Paige -- I promised.

He sees a piece of paper under the table and picks it up. He holds it to the light. His missing practice schedule.

INT. GYM OFFICE 2 Weeks Later Day

Calhoun reads the Police Report for the nth time. "Truck registered to Jakoba Construction Co. in 1955. False address and signer. 1978 IRS investigation. Church and manse registered to Victor Johnson. No forwarding address. Activity on property five times in ten years. Property taxes mailed from a different state each year. Money order. Two sets of fingerprints in the manse, one on truck and mask. Been there four days from food scraps and outhouse waste. Perpetrator 55-65. Russian or German. Newspapers and sports magazines both."

He answers the phone

SHERIFF

Something last summer -- Jason  
Thompson -- ten. California Age  
Championship -- last seen with a  
clown.

FBI wants to meet -- 2:00 at the  
manse.

INT. MANSE DAY

They sit on opposite sides of the table. Agent Moore holds the faded photo.

MOORE

Kaminski is handing Larinov the  
mask.

CALHOUN

Who took my son?

MOORE

Larinov -- prints on the mask.

CALHOUN

Victor Johnson -- Larinov?

MOORE

Same person. Been chasing  
him fifteen years. Relocated after  
Korea -- new identity.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

Why?

MOORE

Classified. He was a gymnast -- favored in the Olympics. An hour before his event, his nasal membranes blew up-- almost died. Ended his career. Became an instructor at the Sports and Fitness School in Leipzig -- PHD. We thought he was a serial killer -- kids.

Calhoun takes a deep breath.  
Shoots our profile all to hell.

CALHOUN

The clown mask?

MOORE

He put on shows for kids. Clown shows.

CALHOUN

Kaminski?

MOORE

Psychological Researcher -- mind control. Died -- East Germany -- 1968.

CALHOUN

What about Kenny?

MOORE

Dead End.

INT. COLLEGE GYM TWO MONTHS LATER

Calhoun prepares his team for UVA.

CALHOUN

Again Johnson. Pivot -- seal him -- elbows out. Wider -- target as you roll.

His trainer taps him on the shoulder.

CALHOUN

Not during practice --

(CONTINUED)

TRAINER  
Agent Moore.

CALHOUN  
Take over Larry -- Mid court trap.

He answers his office phone.

MOORE  
Good news -- bad news.

CALHOUN  
Could use some good.

MOORE  
Larinov grabbed another boy at the University of Alabama. Father hailed a cop -- grabbed him before he left campus. Killed himself -- poison pill. Boy's okay.

Calhoun takes a deep breath.

CALHOUN  
Bad?

MOORE  
No plates -- ID -- no trail. Dead.

CALHOUN  
Now what?

MOORE  
Sorry Mr. Calhoun. We'll call you if --

Calhoun drops the receiver to the hook.

EXT. HINKLE TREE DAY

Calhoun and Kelly wind up the mountain on a gravel road. He turns into a field to a creek. He guns it across the ford to an enormous oak. Kelly peeks inside the hollowed out tree. Calhoun boosts her up to a fork in the tree and climbs to join her. They sit facing each other.

KELLY  
Branches are hollow too -- not big enough to live in though.

CALHOUN  
First one was bigger. This one grew on the same spot.

(CONTINUED)



KELLY

Tell the story dad.

CALHOUN

Otto Hinkle was a Prussian soldier -- fought against the Colonies. He ran away -- helped America win its freedom.

KELLY

The tree part.

CALHOUN

After the war he came here with his family to find a place to live. Indians attacked their wagon. They took Otto's little boy Isaiah. Otto escaped with his wife and little girl. Hid in this tree -- only came out at night.

KELLY

What about Isaiah?

CALHOUN

Raised as an Indian -- became a brave warrior -- led raids on the pioneers to pay them back for killing his people.

KELLY

They attacked the cabin?

CALHOUN

Isaiah wounded Otto -- was about to kill him. He looked into Otto's eyes -- recognized him -- mother and sister too. He led the warriors away from the cabin -- saved them.

KELLY

Why'd he fight white people? He was white.

CALHOUN

Maybe they killed his new family -- friends -- maybe he was afraid.

KELLY

Like me -- ever since --

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN  
Okay to be afraid.

KELLY  
Remember when you got stuck?

CALHOUN  
How was I supposed to know the  
water was that deep?

KELLY  
Cause you're the Dad -- we were  
only six.

CALHOUN  
You looked like mud rats when I  
spun the tires.

KELLY  
Kenny got you a good one --

They talk until dark. Calhoun swings the car around ready  
for the run across the creek.

KELLY  
My Teddy Bear Dad -- in the tree.

He enters and kneels to pick up Teddy. The vibrating tail  
pipe funnels exhaust inside. His eyes water. Three hours  
before, he might have stayed.

#### 1980 - NCAA WOMEN'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

INT. LOCKER ROOM NIGHT 1980

Alumni Hall, Charlottesville, Virginia. The room vibrates as  
bands challenge each other from above. Calhoun sits on the  
bench in the middle of the room. The girls gather around  
him.

CALHOUN  
Finally here Ladies -- knew it  
would be -- been a great ride.

He wipes his eyes on his jacket.  
Kelly, mind if I stay here -- last  
time.

She nods. The players take each others hands and kneel.

TEAM  
Our Father, who art in heaven --

(CONTINUED)

KELLY

Don't need to say anything else.

The team leaves. Calhoun sits for a minute, then follows.

INT. ALUMNI HALL NIGHT

Calhoun pretends to sing the National Anthem. A drill Team marches off the floor, dodging tumbling cheerleaders and mascots. His team surrounds him with clasped hands.

CALHOUN

Here we go. Rotate to steal after a basket. Straight man out of bounds. 2-3 Zone under their basket. 2-2-1 after made foul shot. Defensive tip. Have fun.

TEAM

One -- two -- three -- defense.

The starters jog to center court. He can't hear the announcers twenty feet away.

ANNOUNCERS

The hype's over Bill. Referee Larry Symons from Toledo, Ohio dips and tosses. We're on our way. Maupin easily controls the tip to Leslie for the Steers. Picked up instantly by Calhoun -- battle of the All-Americans is on.

1-3-1 set -- Leslie to Johnson right foul line. In to 6-7 Maupin on the block -- fronted by Smith -- over the top. Easy two for the Senior.

The match up everyone's talking about Al. Coach Rippon didn't wait long to take advantage of it.

Calhoun turns to his Assistant.

CALHOUN

Trouble Larry.

INT. LOCKER ROOM HALF TIME

The room is quiet.

CALHOUN

Lucky we're only down four. It's simple. Steal the ball on the press -- we score. They get it in the paint -- they score. Kelly -- get in Leslie's face. Draw a charge -- tease her with the ball. Make it personal. She'll worry about you -- not her team.

Bodine -- Janine -- Michelle -- go right at them. Get to the foul line. Step up the pressure -- run. They're going to hit the wall -- ten -- twelve minutes.

He looks at his daughter

CALHOUN

Talk to them.

KELLY

You leave.

INT. ALUMNI HALL NIGHT

Kelly looks at the clock. 1:15. She stares at the rim. A thousand Texas Western fans vibrate Alumni Hall. A kaleidoscope of red and black streamers jump back and forth.

REFEREE

Bonus Ladies -- one and one.

He tosses the ball to Kelly. She runs her fingers through her hair, bounces it twice, and flips it away with a backspin. The Rockfish bench explodes as the Pioneers take the lead for the first time.

Play one ladies. In play.

Her release is mechanical. Calhoun leaps off the bench before the ball leaves the net.

CALHOUN

Red -- red -- red.

Four Pioneers overplay like demons. The big girl receives the pass. She pivots looking for help. FOUR -- FIVE. Michelle gives her room, then attacks when she dribbles. SEVEN, EIGHT. Her dribble is too fast and high. She crosses

(CONTINUED)

the ten second line and tries to stop. The ball bounces off her ankle into the Pioneer bench.

CALHOUN

Time out -- time out.

He looks up. 1:01. His team sprints to the bench. The Pioneer subs help the crowd rock Alumni Hall.

CALHOUN

Still a minute -- up two.

KELLY

Corners?

CALHOUN

Let's put it away -- Desperation.  
Sell it Janine -- good backdoor.  
Sandy -- directly to Janine. Don't  
leave it short.

He knew it would work. Ten seconds later Kelly beats the press and dishes to Janine. Janine high-steps it down the floor and shakes her fist at the Rockfish fans, waiting for the dam break.

INT. CENTER FLOOR ALUMNI HALL NIGHT

ANNOUNCER

We're here with Coach Ken Calhoun  
and his Rockfish Pioneers -- 1980  
NCAA Women's National Champions.

CALHOUN

Thanks Al. So happy for these  
girls. No words --

He waits for the Rockfish School song to finish.  
My respects to Coach Rippon and the  
Steers -- outstanding all year.

ANNOUNCER

Coach -- everyone knows you've been  
offered the Olympic job. Any news?

CALHOUN

Not worrying about that right now.

ANNOUNCER

Kelly come over here. You won the  
battle of the All --

(CONTINUED)

KELLY

We won.

REPORTER

What do you think. Is your Dad  
going to coach the Olympic Team?

She turns to her father.

KELLY

Well Coach?

EXT. HINKLE TREE LATE AFTERNOON

Calhoun pulls to the side of the road. The winter runoff fills Sugar Creek to its brim. He removes his thermos, bites into an apple, and hikes down through a hovering cloud to the edge of the creek. He stares at the torrent, heads upstream to the s-turn, and crosses a fallen pine to his fishing rock. He tosses the core into the pool and watches it meander to the curve where the current snatches it around the bend. He unscrews the cup from the thermos, undoes the cork, and pours. Hot steam hits the cool air in a battle of mists. He raises the cup.

CALHOUN

To you Paige.

The coffee masks the sting of the Bourbon. He empties the thermos.

What do I do?

He shakes the drizzle off his cap, follows the edge of the creek down the hill, and enters the hollow tree to escape the rain. A deer darts across a clearing and spreads its white tail as it clears a split rail fence.

CALHOUN

You'd be proud of Kelly. Works  
hard -- determined -- leader --  
feels good about herself. Lucky.

He watches a doe and two fawns meander across the field.  
She's dedicating the Olympics to  
Kenny.

He takes a deep breath.

Doesn't leave me much choice.

INT. WOMEN'S OLYMPIC TRAINING FACILITY ROCKFISH COLLEGE DAY

Ken Calhoun looks like the coach of the U.S. Olympic team ought to look. He flips on his tape recorder and surveys the room.

CALHOUN

Thanks for accepting our invitation to be part of the 1980 U.S. Women's Olympic Basketball Team. You've been selected because I admire your programs, and you as coaches. All of you have areas of expertise which will help us reach our goal.

Larry and I worked for a month with the coaches and fitness staff of the 72 and 76 Olympic teams. We've gleaned information about international competition -- a different animal.

The results of the last two months are in the books before you. We'll adjust as needed. No suggestion is too trivial. Our offenses and defenses are based on what we've learned from our past Olympic coaches and what we like to do. We'll be exciting.

You've heard rumors about the European's drug programs. They're true. But we're going into the games 100 percent clean -- we're staying that way.

Let's not beat around the bush why we're here. Our mandate is simply to win gold -- that's it.

EXT. GYM DOOR. 8:59 AM

CALHOUN

Didn't we just do this Larry?

He opens the door and walks to the podium. He checks his watch. 9:00AM. He scans the 26 hopefuls before him.

You look great in those USA uniforms ladies. Welcome on behalf of the coaches -- your country. It's a great honor to be chosen to try out for the US Olympic team. A

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN (cont'd)  
 compliment to you as a basketball  
 player -- a greater honor to you as  
 an individual. Definitely something  
 to tell your grand kids.

Nervous laughter fills the gym.  
 I'd like to introduce the coaches.  
 Larry Gallagher -- Rockfish  
 Pioneers -- 1980 National  
 Champions.

Boos begin at the coaching table and spread, drowning out  
 the cheers from his players.  
 Restless Larry.

Laughter fills the room. He finishes the introductions and  
 explains procedures.  
 Ladies -- we're choosing this team  
 by committee. On how you play here  
 -- not your press clippings.

Leadership, hustle, desire, effort,  
 skill, performance, and attitude.  
 We want role models for kids -- for  
 basketball -- but most important --  
 role models for America. Practice  
 begins at 9:45.

He makes his way to the coach's room. Kelly approaches.

CALHOUN  
 Kel -- we need a team leader. I  
 want you --

KELLY  
 Don't you have X's and O's to draw?

INT. GYM BASKETBALL PRACTICE DAY

Calhoun watches from the sideline as the team runs wind  
 sprints.

GALLAGHER  
 Building it up -- first of eight.  
 Problem Imrich?

IMRICH  
 Wind sprints.

GALLAGHER  
 Don't want to hear it -- all out.

(CONTINUED)



He blows his whistle sharply. Twenty six pairs of Cons squeak as they make their turns to the baseline. They breathe heavily.

Three more -- pick it up.

Gallagher checks his stopwatch and blasts his whistle. As they make their way to half court the big center begins to dog it. Gallagher blasts his whistle. All drop to one knee, except Imrich. Gallagher approaches.

GALLAGHER

No prima donnas -- two extra ones.

Twenty five pairs of eyes glare at Imrich. She mumbles. Something to say lady.

IMRICH

Don't run sprints in Europe -- and I'm making \$25,000.

All eyes are glued on Calhoun as he arrives. He speaks quietly.

CALHOUN

You're right Imrich. You don't have to run -- walk -- across the gym to the change room. Leave everything of ours on the bench.

Imrich stares in disbelief. Coach.

Gallagher blasts his whistle. Calhoun walks to him and folds his arms.

Wonder if she needs an agent.

INT. COACHES ROOM DAY

Calhoun walks to the desk, opens the top drawer and flips on the tape recorder.

MARY

Bodine was great in the tournament -- she's not doing it now.

CALHOUN

Tough D -- little out of sync offensively.

MARY

Can give you 2 of your players -- not three.

(CONTINUED)

Calhoun looks around the room. Coaches nod. They leave upbeat. Gallagher stays.

CALHOUN

She and Janine were my first recruits Larry -- seventh grade. Her mom called Kelly and Bodine salt and pepper.

He was quiet.

Maybe we can take them out for pizza later. Relive some things.

GALLAGHER

I'm in.

INT. GYM AFTERNOON PRACTICE DAY

ROSEALEE

They're here -- your office.

Calhoun Motions Gallagher to his office.

CALHOUN

When you're done.

He stops at the washroom on the way, rinses his face, and stares into the mirror. A few wrinkles but he's weathering the pressure. He enters his office.

RONSON

Coach Calhoun -- Jack Ronson -- US Olympic Committee.

CALHOUN

Nice meeting you.

They shake. Ronson looks like a used car salesman with a fresh haircut.

RONSON

Doug Smithson and Stan Crawford, US Food and Drug Administration.

CALHOUN

Agents Smithson -- Crawford.

RONSON

PHD's.

SMITHSON

Kinesiology -- Physiology of Exercise.

(CONTINUED)

CRAWFORD  
Molecular Biology

Smithson is fit for fifty. Six three, two-twenty, hair cropped to hide a bald spot. Crawford, same age, looks like a Molecular Biologist.

RONSON  
They'll fill you in on the Russians  
-- our program too. Good to meet  
you Coach.

CALHOUN  
Grab a Coke or coffee.

He flicks on his recorder, opens a Dr. Pepper, and sits at a round table.

The Russians?

CRAWFORD  
Intense performance enhancement --  
natural and artificial.

CALHOUN  
Legal and illegal.

SMITHSON  
They have to win -- their ideology  
against ours.

CRAWFORD  
Illegal if you get caught.

CALHOUN  
It's wrong -- legally and morally.

Crawford's double chin moves as he speaks. His voice box vibrates.

CRAWFORD  
No morals -- Russia and the US.

SMITHSON  
Latest is Human Growth Hormone.

CALHOUN  
Treats pituitary dwarfism.

CRAWFORD  
Too much -- giantism --  
Acromegally.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN  
The bald wrestler --

SMITHSON  
Angel.

CALHOUN  
The Russian center looks like the  
Angel.

CRAWFORD  
Don't know if they're producing it  
artificially or not -- we are.

CALHOUN  
We?

CRAWFORD  
Couple of pharmaceutical companies.

SMITHSON  
Testosterone -- increases muscle  
mass. Causes aggressive behavior --  
intensity -- competitiveness --  
meanness.

CALHOUN  
In basketball players?

CRAWFORD  
Women compete like men.

CALHOUN  
Tests?

CRAWFORD  
Dissipates in a hurry -- switch to  
it before competitions.

SMITHSON  
Blood doping -- increases oxygen  
capacity 35%. Stops fatigue --  
lactic acid build up. Long distance  
competitors.

CALHOUN  
Something happened to a cross  
country skier at the Winter Worlds.

SMITHSON  
Didn't replenish his liquids.  
Stroke -- died before they gave him  
plasma.

CRAWFORD

Steroids -- phenomenal strength improvement -- allows them to train harder and longer.

SMITHSON

East German swimmers train twelve miles a day. Their marathoner -- Bachorski -- runs two marathons a week

CALHOUN

Takes a month to recover from one.

CRAWFORD

Should.

Calhoun is silent.

SMITHSON

Ken -- we're playing on a downhill slope.

CRAWFORD

They're at the top.

CALHOUN

Are others doing it?

SMITHSON

All of them.

CALHOUN

They work together?

CRAWFORD

The East Germans hate the Russians. They steal each others research -- like we do.

CALHOUN

We're in the sports spy business?

Crawford shrugs.

We're behind in everything?

SMITHSON

Even in a few areas.

Calhoun stares at Smithson.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN  
We're doing what they're doing?

SMITHSON  
Field's level in some sports.

CALHOUN  
Who? The Government?

SMITHSON  
Experimental situations.

CALHOUN  
What the hell kind of coach would  
get involved in that?

SMITHSON  
One who has to win.

CRAWFORD  
We're not convinced you want to win  
bad enough.

CALHOUN  
Bullshit.

CRAWFORD  
You didn't let Jason White play in  
the '75 Finals? Best guard --

CALHOUN  
Broke a team rule -- warned him.

CRAWFORD  
Let a lot of people down. Players  
-- fans -- school.

Calhoun's neck tightens.

CALHOUN  
Some things more important than  
winning a game.

SMITHSON  
Not THE GAME.

CALHOUN  
Don't need to defend my coaching.

SMITHSON  
Not here to criticize you Ken.  
You're the best women's coach --  
maybe the best --

CALHOUN

Your point.

Smithson lowers his voice and relaxes.

SMITHSON

We're concerned you might not want to win badly enough -- for your country.

CALHOUN

Kiss my ass. I'll do my job -- you do yours.

CRAWFORD

We've already started.

CALHOUN

What?

CRAWFORD

Taking care of a few things -- same as the other teams.

CALHOUN

What are you talking about?

SMITHSON

Do a good job coaching -- we'll take care of the rest.

CALHOUN

Already started?

SMITHSON

Your cardiovascular endurance will improve 40 percent -- strength -- 50%.

CALHOUN

How?

SMITHSON

It's safe. Our man's experienced -- it's authorized.

CALHOUN

What are the long term effects?

SMITHSON

Fill you in later.

(CONTINUED)

Calhoun's walks around the table and leans close enough to smell Smithson's breath. His jugular pulses like a flashing neon sign.

CALHOUN

Already started -- no permission --  
never talked to me --

SMITHSON

Afraid you'd react this way.

CALHOUN

We're talking about kids --

Calhoun hammers the table in front of Smithson.  
-- not specimens in a a fucking  
jar.

He stares at Smithson, then Crawford.  
Don't ever come near my players  
again. Now get the hell out of  
here.

INT. GYM OFFICE DAY

Calhoun sits at his desk. Gallagher walks in.

CALHOUN

They've got us on drugs Larry --  
since camp started.

GALLAGHER

Who?

CALHOUN

Ronson -- Food and Drug  
Administration -- government --  
whoever the hell they are.

GALLAGHER

Can we prove it?

CALHOUN

Taped it.

Larry places his palms together and lifts them towards heaven.

Tell Mary to handle tonight's  
meeting. Tomorrow's practice is  
yours.

(CONTINUED)



Calhoun removes the recorder from the drawer. He turns it to rewind and waits for the whir. There is none. He jerks open the bottom drawer and grabs a new pack of batteries. He places them in the recorder, hits rewind, then play. He listens until the words slur.

RECORDER

You don't want to win bad --

Silence. Calhoun's head drops.

INT. OFFICE DR. HARVEY STINSON ENDOCRINOLOGIST DAY

HARV

Great to see you Coach.

CALHOUN

How'd a jock like you get a setup like this?

HARV

You had a little something to do with it Coach.

CALHOUN

Proud of your work with kids Harv.

HARV

Thanks. How can I help Coach.

CALHOUN

Ken.

HARV

Coach to me.

Calhoun relays his story.

HARV

I'll do the tests myself.

EXT. ROCKFISH GAP OVERLOOK NOON

Eliza sits on the stone fence looking over the valley. She pretends not to notice as he leans from behind and kisses her cheek. She looks up smiling.

CALHOUN

Still the second most beautiful woman I've ever known. Why didn't I grab your body?

(CONTINUED)

ELIZA

Asked the same question Calhoun.

They sit silently.

Why didn't you ever make a pass at me Ken?

CALHOUN

Would have been second fiddle to someone who wasn't around to compete with.

ELIZA

Could have handled it.

CALHOUN

And the black-white thing -- confusing for Kelly and Janine.

She nods.

ELIZA

Can't believe they've got our girls on drugs.

She hands him a folder.

Income tax records -- pay slips.  
The cook and help are paid by Arlington Food Services. Roger Smith's check comes from the U.S. Government.

CALHOUN

Bastards.

ELIZA

Have to go -- meeting

They walk arm in arm to her car. She places her head under his chin and massages his neck with her cheek.

Take care of my baby Ken.

INT. HAM'S BARBECUE HEAVEN AFTON MOUNTAIN DAY

Calhoun pulls into the parking lot at the bottom of the mountain. Ham sees him enter and turns to the serving window.

HAM

Samantha. Double up -- ribs and slaw -- rush it.

(CONTINUED)

She hands him a basket of cornbread in a checkered napkin. Ham's 6-5, 280 pound frame dwarfs Calhoun. He grabs a Dr. Pepper from the cooler and places it on the counter in front of Calhoun. Ice water drips down the bottle.

CALHOUN

How you doing Ham?

HAM

Doing.

SAMANTHA

It's up.

Ham scoops the plate off the counter, and drops it in front of Calhoun.

CALHOUN

How'd you know what I want?

HAM

Made a pig of yourself last time  
you were here -- took a chance.

Calhoun chuckles. Ham smiles. Calhoun scans the tattered room.

CALHOUN

Heck of a job decorating.

HAM

All you need to eat's your fingers  
-- food -- and your mouth.

Calhoun chuckles.

Calhoun -- wanna thank you for what  
you've done for my niece -- Liza  
too.

CALHOUN

Should be thanking her. She saved  
my life -- Kelly's too. Quite a  
woman.

Ham slowly nods.

HAM

Says you got a problem.

Calhoun looks right where two young black men dig in like  
it's their last meal.

Nephews -- no secrets here.

Ham remains expressionless as Calhoun tells the story.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

Can you take over our food services  
if I need you?

Ham thinks.

We'll be able to pay you --

HAM

Need three days to bring in my  
people.

Ham gets off his stool and scoops a third of an apple pie  
onto a paper plate. Steam trails as he drops it in front of  
Calhoun. He grabs the rib plate.

Looks like an elephant grave yard.

He chuckles and hands Calhoun another Dr. Pepper.

CALHOUN

This pie's better than sex.

HAM

Been away too long Calhoun.

Calhoun smiles.

CALHOUN

What do I owe?

HAM

Don't pay in my place.

He turns to help at the counter.

Int. Office Day

Calhoun answers the phone.

HARV

Dianabol Coach. Both of you --  
Kelly three times as high.

CALHOUN

Can you hide it Harv?

HARV

Putting me on the spot -- check it  
out.

CALHOUN

Has to be the drink dispensers.  
I'll bring some samples after  
supper.

INT. OFFICE 11:00 PM

Calhoun studies the Russians. The phone rings.

HARV

You were right Coach. All three samples -- same proportions.

CALHOUN

Thirstier you are -- more you pump yourself up.

HARV

Looks like it.

CALHOUN

What about the test?

HARV

Working on it.

Calhoun hangs up and ponders. He picks up the phone.

CALHOUN

It's a go Ham.

HAM

When?

CALHOUN

Going to Ottawa Wednesday. Back Sunday night. Can you be cooking Monday morning?

HAM

Already am.

CALHOUN

I'll give you the nutritional guidelines --

HAM

Got my own guidelines.

Calhoun jots down his coach's lunch and supper drinks. He writes down three names, Lawson, Talisman, and Thompson. He notes their programs. "Lawson - steady improvement, great recruiter. Talisman - dramatic rise, tough, aggressive, big, physical. Thompson - pro trainer, drug knowledge, availability, experience. He crosses off Lawson's name. He nods off for two hours on the sofa. He stirs and checks his watch. 8:00AM.

INT. CAFETERIA 9:00AM

CALHOUN

I'm terminating your services  
Roger. Arlington Food Services will  
no longer be needed after tonight's  
meal.

ROGER SMITH

Why?

CALHOUN

Irregular food additives.

ROGER SMITH

I've got a contract.

CALHOUN

Out by tomorrow.

ROGER SMITH

I'm calling Jack Ronson.

CALHOUN

Surprise. Tell him to bring  
Smithson.

INT. OFFICE 10:30 AM

Gallagher and Calhoun prepare for Canada. Ronson barges in,  
followed by Smithson.

RONSON

What's going on Calhoun?

Calhoun flips on Kelly's recorder.

CALHOUN

Having a meeting.

RONSON

Speak to you alone.

CALHOUN

My assistant's welcome to sit in on  
a meeting with an Olympic Committee  
member.

Ronson's mouth smiles. His eyes glare.

RONSON

Caterer says you fired him.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

Don't need him any more.

RONSON

What's this about food additives?

CALHOUN

Not putting any more of that crap  
in my players.

RONSON

Can't get rid of him -- he's  
contracted to us.

CALHOUN

My contract says I have complete  
control -- including food services.

RONSON

Why aren't you cooperating? We're  
working on the same goal.

CALHOUN

Not like that.

RONSON

Then I'm notifying you of your  
dismissal as coach of the Women's  
Olympic Team.

CALHOUN

On what grounds?

RONSON

Failure to give a highly qualified  
candidate an equal opportunity to  
make the team.

GALLAGHER

Bullshit -- everyone got a fair  
chance.

RONSON

Complaint from Maria Imrich. You're  
relieved of your coaching duties.  
Should have worked with us Calhoun.

CALHOUN

Want you to hear something.

He removed his tape recorder.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

Highlights --

TAPE

When it comes to Russia and the  
United States -- there is no right  
and wrong -- Don't know if they're  
producing it or not -- we are --

Ronson stares at Smithson.

CALHOUN

You get the idea. Need our help --  
already started -- monitored from  
within --

RONSON

We want the tape.

CALHOUN

Waiting to go out -- newspapers --  
TV networks --

Ronson brushes Smithson aside and steams through the door.  
Smithson glares at Calhoun and follows.

INT. TEAM ROOM INOCULATION DAY AFTERNOON

Ronson arrives with his medical staff to administer travel  
shots. Calhoun hands Ronson the Times Dispatch front page, a  
photo of Kelly and Janine presenting a signed T shirt to a  
young patient.

NEWSPAPER

Olympic Cagers Visit Children's  
Ward. After receiving their  
vaccinations for their upcoming  
trips to Canada and South America,  
the Olympians spent two hours at  
Civic Hospital brightening the  
lives --

INT. OFFICE MONDAY MORNING

CALHOUN

Thanks for taking care of things  
Larry.

GALLAGHER

How was Ottawa?

(CONTINUED)



CALHOUN

Beautiful city -- nice trip to the  
Parliament Buildings. Games were  
over by half.

GALLAGHER

Ham's running.

CALHOUN

Who painted the room?

GALLAGHER

Maintenance -- just showed up.

CALHOUN

Lousy job.

GALLAGHER

Tell the team yet?

CALHOUN

Just Kelly.

GALLAGHER

How'd she take it?

CALHOUN

Took a shower.

The phone rings.

SMITHSON

Doug Smithson. We'd like to meet.

CALHOUN

Keep away --

SMITHSON

Your daughter's future -- front  
gate -- 2:30.

EXT. FRONT GATE 2:30 PM

A gray Chev pulls up. Ronson lowers the back window.  
Smithson gets out and frisks Calhoun.

RONSON

Tape recorder.

Calhoun glares and removes his recorder. Smithson snatches  
it and drops the batteries to the ground. Ronson opens the  
back door.

(CONTINUED)

RONSON

Get in.

Smithson pulls onto the road.

Can't hurt us with the tape -- mild discomfort.

CALHOUN

Ready to be --

RONSON

Your batteries ran out.

CALHOUN

How --

RONSON

You resign. Talisman takes over. Assistants can stay.

CALHOUN

Not resigning.

RONSON

We'll test your daughter for steroids. She'll test positive. Not a good way to leave an Olympic team.

CALHOUN

You son of a --

RONSON

You've got until you come back from Columbia. Make up a reason -- don't care what it is. Let Mr. Calhoun out Doug -- we're done.

Ronson slams the door. Smithson pops the clutch.

INT. QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT COLUMBIA DAY

A Columbian player violently fouls An American. Calhoun jumps from the bench.

CALHOUN

It's a drug war out there.

BRAZILIAN REF

Okay. Okay.

The din of the crowd blasts the ref's words out of the air. The Cuban referee approaches.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

See the blood? They got your kids  
hostage somewhere?

Calhoun's coaches drag him away. He kneels over his downed player. Crowd jeers turn to high pitched whistles. Calhoun flinches as something whizzes by his head. Then another. Coins the size of silver dollars ricochet off the hardwood. His coaches shepherd the team to center court.

Vibrations sprout in the bowels of the building, resonating off the tunnel concrete. Well rehearsed boot steps, quadruple time, spring from the tunnel into the arena. Soldiers split left and right circling the floor with military precision. They meet. Their heels click. They unshoulder their rifles in unison and slam their rifle butts to the floor. They attach bayonets, and pivot to the crowd. Clicking heels echo. Bayonets glisten in the overhead light.

BRAZILIAN REF

Play now.

The crowd noise creeps up, but it's fervor is gone. The Americans huddle in the middle of the floor.

CALHOUN

Up ten -- 6:30 left. Corners. Don't  
drive -- don't leave your feet --  
pass before anyone gets near you.  
Better chance of breaking a leg  
than getting a call.

As he returns to the bench he turns to Rosalee.  
Hope they got enough ammo to last  
the rest of the game.

INT. OFFICE MORNING

Thirty-two Pesos jingle as his bag hits the floor. He sits at his desk and tries to sleep.

HAM

Coffee left?

CALHOUN

Up early.

HAM

Nam -- don't sleep. Good trip?

CALHOUN

If you like gorilla warfare.

(CONTINUED)

Calhoun puts his finger to his mouth and points to the walls.

HAM

Clean now. Three taps here -- two team room. Coach's room -- players room -- training room.

CALHOUN

How'd --

HAM

Arlington boys -- not enthused about the government.

CALHOUN

It's supposed to be a sport.

HAM

No sports for governments -- only wars. Testing Kelly day after tomorrow, evening practice. My niece too.

The phone rings.

HARV

We're okay.

CALHOUN

How --

HARV

Don't ask.

INT. GYM NIGHT

Calhoun watches the scrimmage from the second row as Ronson arrives.

RONSON

Here to test your daughter -- and Janine. Dr. Alderson will preside.

He nods to a tall white haired man.

CALHOUN

They're young women. He's not doing it -- Rosalee will. Give her the containers --

(CONTINUED)

RONSON  
I've got the --

CALHOUN  
-- or wait for a female observer  
from the IOC.

Ronson confers with the doctor. Calhoun moves closer. Ronson smells like a dentist.

CALHOUN  
Too late asshole.

INT. OFFICE DAY

Calhoun studies the Russian films. Gallagher enters.

GALLAGHER  
You can quit worrying about the  
Russians. The East Germans just  
blew them by thirty.

CALHOUN  
Come on --

GALLAGHER  
On the radio.

Calhoun checks his media list and dials.

CALHOUN  
Pete -- Ken Calhoun. Coming along.  
Qualifying scores come in? Germany  
- Russia. Are you sure?

Color drains from his face as he hangs up.  
82-53. They've never even beat  
England before.

INT. OFFICE DAY

CURRIER  
Sign here.

Calhoun opens the parcel like it's Christmas morning. He reads Louie's note.

LOUIE  
Got the last two games. Didn't  
expect them to win. Three vets.  
Together since twelve or thirteen.  
EG pro league. They're for real.

(CONTINUED)

He removes the films, threads the Russia-East German game, and studies like it's his first porno flick. It runs off the reel. He rethreads the film and heads to the coffee maker.

GALLAGHER

Make it two. Russians send their second team?

CALHOUN

Hammered them -- physically -- athletes -- back to a 2-1-2.

GALLAGHER

Must be big.

CALHOUN

Not as big as the Russians.

GALLAGHER

Can we press them?

Calhoun runs the film in slow motion.

CALHOUN

You tell me.

GALLAGHER

Holy shit -- run that back. That pass -- between the legs on the run -- Pistol Pete stuff.

They watch the tape silently.

She dominated. Never saw a European play like that. Mean streak too -- that pick --

CALHOUN

How'd they get this good?

INT. OFFICE 6:00AM

Calhoun watches the East German film. Ham enters.

HAM

Testing Kelly again -- next week.

CALHOUN

We're clean.

HAM

Waiting for it to show up.

INT. TRAINING ROOM 5:30 PM

Calhoun studies the two whirlpools, the two training tables. He opens the medical cabinets. He scans the trainer's clipboard. The door opens.

TRAINER

Hey Coach. What brings you to the  
dungeon?

CALHOUN

How things going?

TRAINER

So far so good. No serious injuries  
-- knock on wood.

CALHOUN

Seeing a lot of people.

TRAINER

Preventative -- try to see everyone  
each day.

Tanya enters in her swim suit. She eases into the steaming whirlpool. Mary enters and lies on the training table.

MARY

Don't need a man Coach -- just need  
Blair.

CALHOUN

Should have been a trainer.

MARY

All the women you want.

CALHOUN

At my age?

MARY

Best get a move on.

CALHOUN

Respect your elders.

She giggles.

MARY

Coach -- Blair and me gonna elope.

He laughs as he leaves

INT. OFFICE 10:00 PM.

CALHOUN  
Four minutes early.

HAM  
Clock four minutes slow.

Ham removes tin foil from a plate of ribs and slaw.

CALHOUN  
Not what had in mind.

Ham removes a twenty-sixer of Jamaican rum.  
Bingo.

He takes three gulps from his Dr. Pepper. Ham swigs from the bottle and chases it with Coke.

HAM  
Been a while -- couldn't stay away  
after Nam.

Calhoun hands Ham the clipboard. Ham scans.  
Blair Thompson?

CALHOUN  
Has to be.

He holds up a bottle of massaging lotion and samples from each whirlpool. He pours another shot and hands the bottle to Ham.

HAM  
Gone for a couple of days -- Congo  
look after you.

CALHOUN  
Where?

HAM  
Bethesda -- POW business -- making  
headway.

Calhoun takes a swig and passes the bottle.  
Forcing the bastards back to Nam --  
clean things up.

He drains his Coke.  
Arlington boys caught some lies --  
pictures.

(CONTINUED)



CALHOUN  
Makes me angry.

HAM  
Think now -- angry later.

INT. TRAINING ROOM DAY

Calhoun leaves the evening practice to take the call.

HARV  
Positive Coach -- lotion and water  
-- Dianabol. Absorbed through the  
skin. Need samples from Kelly and  
Janine.

INT. TRAINING ROOM NIGHT

Thomson fidgets when Calhoun walks into the room.

CALHOUN  
Why Blair -- why?

The Trainer leaves without turning back. Calhoun follows  
then stops.

Pump them full of drugs -- leave --  
that's it?

He sits on the training table with his head in his hands.  
Steam rises from the whirlpools. He reaches into the water  
and pulls the plug on the first, then the second. He opens  
the cabinets and throws all the lotion into the garbage can.

INT. BETHESDA MILITARY HOSPITAL DAY

The hubbub threatens to turn the Medal presentation into a  
circus. There are as many reporters as patients and vets.  
Two vets in wheel chairs are lined up like used cars, while  
make up people powder their faces. A Major reacts on cue.

MAJOR  
I now call on Johnathan Hilton --  
Vice President of the United States  
-- to bestow the awards.

JONATHAN HILTON  
Thank you Major Pritchard. I would  
like to relay President Willard's  
disappointment in not being here  
today. He's in Europe dealing with  
UN matters as you know.

He turns to the wheel chairs.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JONATHAN HILTON (cont'd)

Both of you were grievously struck  
down in the prime of your lives  
while saving the lives of your  
fellow compatriots. How great an  
honor. Your valorous deeds in the  
last days of occupation,  
contributed greatly to the safe  
evacuation of every last American  
soldier from the shores of Viet  
Nam. Gentlemen, your country  
salutes you.

The VP snaps to attention as do the soldiers in the room.  
They salute in unison. He steps in front of the paraplegic.  
Corporal Richard Larue, I bestow on  
you the United States Congressional  
Medal of Honor.

His aide presents the medal on a blue pillow. The VP places  
the red, white, and blue ribbon around the corporal's neck.  
Flash bulbs reflect off the medal like strobe lights. He  
steps to the right and repeats the procedure.  
Lieutenant Mel Finlayson --

His freshly shaved head glares in the lights. His hands turn  
white as he grasps the arms of his wheel chair. His leg  
stumps protrude towards the audience.  
I bestow on you the United States  
Congressional Medal of Honor.

He steps back, salutes, and leads the applause.

FINLAYSON.

Vice President Hilton, we're glad  
you're here today -- both of us --  
and the others who aren't so lucky  
-- those left behind. Corporal  
Larue has something he would like  
to say.

JONATHAN HILTON

What?

A nurse places a portable word processor on the Corporal's  
lap, and places a letter stick in his mouth. He lowers his  
head and moves the stick down like a chicken plucking corn.  
"L - Y - I - N --

The VP banters with reporters. Finlayson hands the VP an  
envelope.

(CONTINUED)

FINLAYSON

Sir -- in honor of all vets -- we want you to read this after the Corporal's done. Then we want to speak to you in the other room.

JONATHAN HILTON

Glad to Lieutenant.

Hilton looks at his watch. Corporal Larue continues. Ham and the other Vets close in around the VP, separating him from the Secret Service. The corporal points the stick at the nurse. She removes it from his mouth and turns the monitor outward. The VP reads the letters out loud.

L Y I N G

He reads silently.

B A S T A R D S. P O W ' S S T I L  
L I N V I E T N A M. The VP spins  
the processor against the  
Corporal's stomach and flicks the  
OFF switch.

Thank you -- uh--

He tries to escape the scrum.

FINLAYSON

The letter Sir -- forgot to read  
the letter.

Cameras roll as the VP tries to force his way through the maze of wheel chairs, patients, and vets.

REPORTER

Ron Jones -- CBS. Can you finish  
the Corporal's message?

REPORTER 2

Steve Martin -- NBC. The letter  
Sir.

Hilton grinds his teeth and opens the envelope. He shields the photocopies against his face and reads.

WASHINGTON POST

No POW'S Left Guarantees President.

He flips to the second one.

CIA

Memo to H.W.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CIA (cont'd)  
Another POW camp verified. 3  
Americans detected. Positive ID's.  
Have included satellite photos.

R.L.

Hilton stares at the Presidential Seal on the third page.

MEMO

Ron Lee

Director, CIA

Ron,

Re. POW's - Can't get involved in  
Vet Nam again. Political Suicide.  
Bury it.

Howard

Lights reflect off the VP's pale face like a mirror.

FINLAYSON

We'd like to meet with you now --  
you and us.

JONATHAN HILTON

I -- have a few minutes.

Hilton follows the Lieutenant's wheel chair. The crowd parts but closes as they pass, leaving Secret Service agents and journalists scrambling to get through. Finlayson's powerful arms propel his chair swiftly down the corridor around a corner. Ham opens the first door and motions them inside. He grabs a reporter by the collar and tosses him back through the door, banging him into a pursuing agent. He bolts the door. Hammering starts.

SECRET SERVICE

Secret Service -- open now.

Finlayson holds the memos to Hilton's face.

FINLAYSON

Tell them to fuck off or I'll throw  
them out to the press.

Hilton's knees waver as he approaches the door. He clears his throat.

(CONTINUED)

JONATHAN HILTON  
Okay Agent Roberts -- nothing to  
worry about.

Ham slams the door as agents surge to enter.  
What the hell's going on?

FINLAYSON  
Want the POW's out.

JONATHAN HILTON  
Look -- don't know what you think  
you've got --

Ham steps forward and hands a folder to the VP.

HAM  
Fifteen Americans held.

Hilton glances at the list.

JONATHAN HILTON  
How do you know?

HAM  
Camp 13. Corporal Louis Tucker,  
First Airborne, Atlanta, Georgia.  
Sergeant Jose Jordon, Third  
Engineers --

JONATHAN HILTON  
Anyone can --

HAM  
Lots of time to learn -- two years  
-- bamboo hell.

Another vet limps forward, his face greased with sweat, his  
unbuttoned faded army shirt hanging from his stooped  
shoulders like a tent.

VET  
Rolly Brown, Tuscaloosa, Alabama,  
First Armored --

The VP listens for two minutes. Sweat pours down his face.

HAM  
Tried to bring them out -- five.  
Too weak -- would have died in the  
jungle.

The VP slumps. Ham leans across the table to his face.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HAM (cont'd)  
Left my best friend -- to finish  
rotting.

Hilton draws back. Ham follows.  
Best not say there ain't no POW's.

Ham stares for thirty seconds.

FINLAYSON  
These papers can stay right here.

JONATHAN HILTON  
What do you want?

FINLAYSON  
Outfit a rescue force. Captain  
Tlley has our requirements. Give  
him what he wants. We know where  
the camps are -- need spy photos  
and coordinates. Total cooperation  
-- nothing less.

JONATHAN HILTON  
I can't authorize --

FINLAYSON  
Want to see the President getting a  
blow job? On Huntley-Brinkley?

He flips a photo onto the VP's lap.  
Oh yeah -- how's your little  
girlfriend?

He drops another photo. Hilton's eyes turn to saucers.  
Cooperate -- buried. This isn't a  
fucking game. Two days to get  
back -- or it's out -- 200 photos.  
Understand?

Hilton nods.  
We got two hundred men -- two  
thousand -- itching to get back in  
and get their buddies.

JONATHAN HILTON  
See what I can --

Ham approaches the VP. Sweat from his forehead bounces off  
the table as he leans forward. Hilton flinches.

HAM

Food and Drug boys hassling Olympic Basketball team at Rockfish. Pumping them girls full of drugs -- making them dirty. Don't want them dirty.

Ham stares and leans closer.  
No more.

The back of the VP's head hits the headrest. His eyes follow Ham's back and forth.

More -- hang your balls from a tree.

INT. OFFICE DAY

CALHOUN

Watch this pass Larry. Never saw a girl do it that way.

GALLAGHER

No age group tournaments -- no international experience.

The office door barges open. His limp is a result of supporting his enormous stomach, and seven knee operations.

SMITTY

A brain drain if I ever saw one.

Calhoun and Gallagher jump to their feet.

CALHOUN

Smitty.

GALLAGHER

Heard we were getting a new trainer. Was hoping for an updated model -- downhill from here.

SMITTY

Looks like it already started.

CALHOUN

Appreciate you helping us out on short notice.

SMITTY

Not much doing in the Riviera anyway.

Smitty's laugh was infectious.

(CONTINUED)

SMITTY

Been taking a little karate.

He feigns a chop.

Getting ready for this asshole  
Johnson -- or whatever his name is.  
Wish he never met me.

GALLAGHER

No doubt about that.

SMITTY

Wouldn't been in this mess if you  
hired me in the first place.

CALHOUN

Tried Smitty -- you know that.

SMITTY

How do I know I'm getting paid?

CALHOUN

Won't if you hang around here.

Gallagher gestures Smitty to follow.

SMITTY

All right -- I'm coming. Patch 'em  
up -- win another one.

INT. CAFETERIA MORNING

Ham unlocks the kitchen door. He hears Congo's voice.

CONGO

Ain't allowed in here.

SMITHSON

Allowed anywhere I want.

He holds out his ID.

What's your name boy?

CONGO

Best go now.

SMITHSON

Who left you in charge? Calhoun?

CONGO

Answer to Ham.

Smithson dwarfs Congo. Congo steps forward and stares up.  
Ham steps from behind the serving counter.

(CONTINUED)



HAM

Problem?

CONGO

Won't leave.

HAM

Off limits -- don't want your drugs  
here.

SMITHSON

Don't you have something to stir?  
Out of my way.

Smithson's right palm shoots forward. Ham chops it outward with his left, and drives his right palm into Smithson's voice box. As he reaches for his throat, Ham spins him, cocks his head, and applies pressure. He speaks into Smithson's ear.

HAM

Broke necks in Nam -- lots -- no  
noise.

Smithson gasps.

Smaller than you though.

Twenty seconds, thirty seconds, he applies pressure.

Ain't in a real good mood -- best  
leave.

Smithson gasps as Ham releases the pressure. He speaks like he's gong through puberty.

SMITHSON

Big mistake.

INT. TRAINING ROOM DAY

Gallagher chuckles at Smitty as he unlocks the door.

GALLAGHER

Told you to keep away from here.

Ronson closes the cupboard door.

SMITTY

Johnson?

RONSON

Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

SMITTY

Gallagher -- now we can do that  
research. Where are those tweezers?

He rummages through the medical kit.  
Here -- scalpel too.

Ronson starts to the door. Smitty blocks his way.

RONSON

Who the hell are you?

SMITTY

Hold on Johnson. Our new electron  
micro --

RONSON

Ronson.

SMITTY

Johnson -- Ronson -- our new  
electron microscope just got here.

RONSON

What are you talking about?

SMITTY

Magnifies a million times. Hop up  
on the table

RONSON

What --

SMITTY

Want to check out the size of your  
dick.

INT. ELIZA'S CHURCH DAY

ELIZA

See there. Being in church didn't  
make you crack.

CALHOUN

Not yet.

He places his fork on his plate.

ELIZA

Won't be church that does it -- the  
ribs.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN  
Your strawberry ice cream didn't  
help.

ELIZA  
Thanks for coming Ken.

CALHOUN  
Wouldn't miss it for the world --  
your ice cream.

She whacks him on the shoulder.  
Felt God when you were singing.  
Been eight years.

She lowers her head.

HAM  
Interrupting anything?

CALHOUN  
Discussing religion.

Ham looks at his sister. A smile creeps onto his face. He  
nods towards her.

HAM  
Make a good wife Calhoun.

He covers his head with his hands as Eliza pummels him. He  
uncovers his face.  
Very obedient.

She chases him behind the serving table. He grabs a serving  
spoon from the mash potatoes and sword fights. She turns to  
Calhoun and smiles.

HAM  
Ball game's about to start.

His chuckle fills the room.  
Lost the flip -- both on my team.

INT. OFFICE DAY

Calhoun answers the knock at his door.

KELLY  
Team asked me to talk to you.

CALHOUN  
Sounds serious.

(CONTINUED)

KELLY

These classes are driving us nuts.  
Fifty-three minutes -- showing us  
how to curtsy.

CALHOUN

The right protocol --

KELLY

Yugoslavia doesn't have a queen.  
Who are we going to curtsy to --  
Smitty?

INT. OPEN PRACTICE SARAJEVO DAY

Calhoun sits in the bleachers. The East German's straggle onto the floor in pairs. Isa Jakobie appears from the tunnel. She walks alone with a basketball under each arm and begins a series of ball handling drills. Her coaches arrive. Her team sprint to the baseline. On the whistle they begin 60 second sprints, 30 seconds rest. Calhoun sits on the edge of his seat. Twenty minutes later they stop. Two minutes later they run the field house stairs.

INT. WHITE HOUSE DAY

Agent Brown leads Ham down a hall to the Oval Room. Two Agents greet him.

HAM

Where's Lieutenant Finlayson.

AGENT

Inside Sir.

HAM

Sir -- my own doorman.

Ham enters the office.

HAM

Where's Lieutenant Mel?

AGENT

The Vice President will be here in  
a moment.

Ham scans the room. He spots a camera above a painting, and speaks directly at it.

HAM

Second Brown in the White House  
first one cleaned it.

(CONTINUED)

He walks to the portrait of Lincoln.  
Till he came along.

The VP waits for the President to be seated in the viewing room before he enters. He rushes past Ham to the desk.

JONATHAN HILTON  
Welcome to the White --

HAM  
Where's Finlayson?

JONATHAN HILTON  
Change of plans.

Ham starts to the door.

JONATHAN HILTON  
Wait Mr. Brown -- I hear your friends call you Ham.

Ham looks over his shoulder.

HAM  
Sergeant First Class Hamilton Brown.

JONATHAN HILTON  
Hold on Sergeant -- please. The President asked me to speak with you.

HAM  
Speak for himself.

JONATHAN HILTON  
Important meeting.

Ham walks back to the camera and looks up.

HAM  
Blow job from his little honey?

The President quivers behind the wall.

JONATHAN HILTON  
Mr. Brown -- after much consultation with our top advisers -- I'm authorized to offer you a job here -- as part of the white House team.

Ham stares at Hilton, then the camera.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JONATHAN HILTON (cont'd)  
A job which will enable you to work  
for your people -- a Civil Rights  
Job. Of course the salary will be  
substan --

HAM  
My people?

His nostrils flare.  
My people?

JONATHAN HILTON  
What I mean --

HAM  
My people still in Nam.

He holds up his wrists. Scars fluoresce like glow-in-the  
dark bracelets. He walks behind the desk to the VP. Hilton  
cowers. Doors burst open and four agents rush into the room.  
Bamboo cage too low to stand. Lie  
-- week at a time. Sweat steam --  
Cup of water a day. Eat bugs --  
Crawling. Body infected -- in and  
out.

JONATHAN HILTON  
VC bastards.

Ham moves face to face. Agents grab his shoulders.

JONATHAN HILTON  
VC -- not the bastards.

He shrugs off the agents and walks to the camera.  
You're the bastard -- left us to  
rot in our own shit.

The room is silent. He stares at the camera.

HAM  
President's little honey -- real  
soon -- theater near you.

Agents move to the side as Ham walks to the door.

INT. BAR SARAJEVO NIGHT

Calhoun sits at the bar, nursing a stein. Bavarian music plays. Louie enters. He hops down and sticks out his hand. Louie speaks in a Jersey accent.

LOUIE  
How you been Kenny?

CALHOUN  
Great -- if it wasn't for  
basketball.

Calhoun holds up his stein to the waitress.  
Nice shirt Louie.

LOUIE  
Aboriginal -- or something. Harry  
gave it to me -- Harry Knight.

CALHOUN  
Nicks?

The waitress drops a stein.

LOUIE  
Inking him tomorrow. Fifty grand.  
Ten percent. Not bad.

CALHOUN  
Wasn't worth fifty grand ten years  
ago.

LOUIE  
Seven footer -- magic number over  
here. Coach -- never thanked you --

CALHOUN  
Easier to make a call than than to  
quit the drugs. Did a great job  
there.

LOUIE  
More money here.

CALHOUN  
She's something else.

LOUIE  
Found an article -- her first  
championship -- Leipzig Anoles.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

Senior?

LOUIE

Yeah -- they were juniors -- five years ago.

CALHOUN

The fitness stuff?

LOUIE

Found a periodical. "Aerobic Capacity Related To Basketball Performance". Leipzig Anoles, 1975. Six on the Olympic team.

Louie looks at his watch.

LOUIE

Plane to catch. Hectic week. Run your traps at Isa. Force her left in the forecourt. Won't lose the ball but can't make the full court pass off the dribble.

CALHOUN

Owe you Louie.

LOUIE

Already paid. Want some serious coin let me know.

CALHOUN

Hands full right now. Louie -- get another shirt.

LOUIE

Only one I got.

INT. GYM EG-PUERTO RICO QUALIFYING GAME DAY

Calhoun and Smitty sit in the bleachers.

SMITTY

#21 looks like the Missing Link.

CALHOUN

Lotte. What's that scar on her chin?

SMITTY

Skin graft -- HGH -- grew out of her face. Who's the superhero?

(CONTINUED)



CALHOUN

Isa -- #24. Eighty percent stronger than the others.

SMITTY

Chicago Stockyard over here -- shooting them up like cattle.

CALHOUN

What do we do?

SMITTY

Gillette commercial. Redskins looking for linebackers. Going for a borchburger.

He returns with both hands full.

CALHOUN

What's that?

SMITTY

Least repulsive thing they had. Should have seen the worst -- pun.

Isa goes to the foul line. Three bounces, hand to hair, underhand toss away with backspin, breath, shot.

CALHOUN

Got some on your chin.

The Puerto Rican jitterbug hits from twenty feet. She hounds Isa down the court. She doesn't see Lotte pick, hands protecting her breasts, elbows out. The jitterbug is unconscious before she bounces off the floor.

INT. LOCKER ROOM US-RUSSIA QUALIFYING GAME HALF TIME

Hard breathing echos, hearts pound, sweat drips. Eyes are on Calhoun as he enters.

CALHOUN

They hurt our press over the top. We'll go 2-1-1 -- full court -- Leann in the middle. Deny the ball to the flasher -- be physical -- overplay the guards. Janine and Mary match up with the deep men. If it gets into the middle -- deny the back door. Too many two on ones. Break their pattern -- make their big men dribble.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN (cont'd)  
 We need this game to finish first  
 in our Pool -- it's important.

INT. US-RUSSIA QUALIFYING GAME SECOND HALF

The Russian dribbles hard to her left and reverses, but drags the ball too slowly. Kelly explodes behind her, tips it forward, and scoops it to score.

KELLY  
 Time out -- time out.

CALHOUN  
 Up four -- two minutes. Corners--  
 hold the ball. Make them come out  
 of the zone. Layups only. Straight  
 man-to-man -- no rotation.

The Russians score off a rebound. They retreat to a zone. Kelly holds the ball on her hip at center. FORTY -- THIRTY. The Russian coach screams. They run at Kelly and grab her arm. TWENTY-TWO seconds. The Russians call time out.

GALLAGHER  
 Up two -- still not shooting. They  
 have one to give.

KELLY  
 Corners?

CALHOUN  
 No. They have to go man.  
 Desperation. Let's get out of here.

It worked. His team was excited. He wasn't.

INT. HOTEL ROOM DAY

Louie came through. Calhoun rewinds the EG-Yugoslavia game to the warm up. The trainer chases Isa onto the court. She points at the floor. When he looks down, she gives him a soft uppercut under the chin.

Int. Gym EG-US Qualifying Game Night.

His team plays hard but is over matched.

Isa rebounds on the block, pumps, and waits for Maupin to sky. As she comes down, Isa scoops the ball under her arms, drawing contact, and drops like a shot pheasant. Calhoun signals his last timeout.

INT. DRESSING ROOM HALF TIME NIGHT

His team is silent as he finishes.

CALHOUN

Couple of things we can do -- we'll save them. Straight man -- rotate to help. Play hard. Got our ass kicked that half -- it's over. Go like hell for the rest of the game.

Kelly leads the funeral procession from the locker room. He grabs her arm and lifts her chin.

CALHOUN

You're doing a good job.

KELLY

Can't handle her.

CALHOUN

Never saw you play so hard.

Tears twist down her cheeks.

KELLY

Her eyes Dad.

He reaches to comfort her

CALHOUN

Her eyes what?

As he reaches, she bolts down the hall.

INT. EG-USA QUALIFYING GAME NIGHT

His faster lineup pays off. Tanya hounds the dribbler as she brings the ball over half.

KELLY

Pick right -- pick right.

Isa plants her feet and covers her abdomen with her hands. As Tanya turns, Isa's shoulder pops her head like a snap bean. Kelly kneels over Tanya. She looks up at Isa's blank face.

KELLY

You bastard --

Calhoun pulls her away by her jersey. She yells over her shoulder.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KELLY (cont'd)  
-- bastard.

Paramedics wheel Tanya across the floor. Kelly sobs with her head down.

CALHOUN  
Mavis -- sub for Kelly.

KELLY  
You're not taking me out.

CALHOUN  
Okay -- stop her then. You're the man Kelly -- you can do it.

The whistle blows. She starts onto the floor and turns. Tears stream down her cheek.

KELLY  
No Dad -- she's the man.

Isa catches a lead pass. As she takes off for a layup, Kelly hits her like a free safety, flipping her onto her head. Kelly springs to her feet. Blood spurts from her nose and mouth. She glares down at Isa.

INT. AIRPLANE DAY

Kelly holds a blanket against her neck. Calhoun slides across the aisle and sits next to her. She stares out the window.

KELLY  
Her eyes Dad.

She looks up.  
Did you see her eyes?

CALHOUN  
Don't be crazy.

KELLY  
The Hinkle Tree Dad.

CALHOUN  
A story.

KELLY

The scar above her right eye -- dreamt it a thousand times. Trying to get away -- blood pouring out.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN  
Can't be Kelly -- can't be.

Calhoun sits across the aisle from his daughter. He makes two lists, Basketball Similarities -- Physical Traits.

Int. Harv's Office Day

CALHOUN  
Feel like an idiot Harv.

He hands Harv his notebook. He discusses points one by one.

HARV  
Could explain some of it -- aerobic capacity -- endurance.

Heard a rumor -- Johns Hopkins Endocrinology Department. Defector -- East German Researcher.

CALHOUN  
Drugs?

HARV  
Performance Enhancement -- Sports Academies.

CALHOUN  
Can I talk to him?

HARV  
Soldiers all over the place.

INT. CALHOUN'S HOUSE MORNING

It was his first time home in two months. He finds the box in the closet and spreads the contents on an oval rug. He smiles when he sees the envelope.

ENVELOPE  
Kelly and Kenny - Age 6  
Woolworths - Waynesboro - Dec. 23  
Kelly - Here comes Santa Claus  
Kenny - Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer.

He takes the portable record player from closet, and places the forty-five on the turntable. Kelly sings Gene Autry. Her laughter at the end lights the room. He flips the plastic. Calhoun mouths the words as Kenny sings. He waits for the laughter. The needle circles and circles.

He wipes his cheeks, and studies the Hinkle Tree pictures. Their mud covered faces dredge forgotten smiles. He removes the family portrait like a rare book, and stands the picture on the floor in front of him. There's still a glint in Paige's eyes. His twins are clones.

INT. OFFICE NOON

He places the family portrait on his desk and watches home movies until he doesn't need the projector. He plays Kenny's Age Group film, threads the East German film into the other projector, cuts sections from each, and splices them together.

EXT. BACK DOOR 2:00 AM

A cigarette glows in the dark.

HAM

Late for a walk ain't it?

Calhoun sits on the stone fence beside Ham.

CALHOUN

Problem.

HAM

Heard.

CALHOUN

Kelly tell Janine?

The cigarette moves up and down.

Won't talk to me about it.

HAM

You ain't talking.

They listen to the crickets.

CALHOUN

You're smoking.

HAM

One a night for my buddies.

CALHOUN

How's that going?

HAM

President's coming around. Going in -- Thailand -- Special Forces.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN  
 Fantastic Ham.

Smoke hangs in the humid air.  
 Harv says there's a rumor -- Johns  
 Hopkins -- Endocrinology  
 Department.

The glow is still.  
 Defector -- something to do with  
 Sports Academies -- Performance  
 Enhancement. Soldiers all over the  
 place. Any connections there?

HAM  
 Maybe.

CALHOUN  
 Need to talk to him Ham.

INT. DR. STEIN'S OFFICE DAY

Louie came through, Sports Academy article. 12 year olds.  
 Calhoun stops by the Student Newspaper Office and drops off  
 the article for the photo to be enlarged. He enters the  
 language building and taps on the German Professor's door.

DR. STEIN  
 Lost Mr. Calhoun?

CALHOUN  
 Can you help me translate  
 something?

He hands the professor the article.

DR. STEIN  
 Sports -- records -- rankings.

His bushy eyebrows hide his eyes as he studies.  
 Factories named after what they  
 manufacture -- munitions --  
 uniforms. Except the last one.  
 Sports Academy -- Anoles.

He pivots his chair, and uses both hands to lift a worn  
 leather German Dictionary. It shakes the table when he puts  
 it down.

Anole - A chameleon type lizard. Blends with its  
 environment.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN  
Anything on German names? Meanings?

DR. STEIN  
Too old to reach this high.

He hands down a book.

CALHOUN  
Can I borrow it?

INT. HARV'S OFFICE DAY

HARV  
Coach -- Dr. Arthur Devon.

His six-six 280 pound body strains to escape his green medical frock.

CALHOUN  
Great catch to beat Carolina.

DR. ARTHUR DEVON  
Law of probabilities. Harv's filled me in a coach. How can I help you?

Calhoun glances at Harv.

HARV  
Best friend Coach -- it'll stay here. Art specializes in growth disorders -- hormonal -- genetic.

Harv hands Devon the pictures. He studies the portrait.

DR. ARTHUR DEVON  
Kelly didn't get her good looks from you Coach -- clones -- the three of them.

He looks at the enlargement.

HARV  
Isa Jakobie -- second from right.

DR. ARTHUR DEVON  
Twelve -- thirteen. Eyes different from your son.

He holds up the program photo and compares it to the enlargement.

Jakobie's eyes the same. Chin and nose different.

(CONTINUED)



He compares the enlargement to the portrait.

Your kids -- seven -- eight -- could be the same as the Sports Academy picture.

Calhoun's heart pounds.

CALHOUN

The Olympic program?

DR. ARTHUR DEVON

Chin reduction -- cartilage out of the nose -- might account for it.

CALHOUN

Why the difference between twelve and twenty-one?

DR. ARTHUR DEVON

Surgery -- squares the chin. Nose consistent with reduction surgery -- add a few hormones -- female.

CALHOUN

Why wouldn't the chin be like that when she was twelve?

DR. ARTHUR DEVON

Don't do bone reduction surgery until puberty -- until most of the growth is complete. Eyes -- simple tuck. How'd you get the Sports academy photo?

CALHOUN

Smuggled.

DR. ARTHUR DEVON

Never meant to get out.

Calhoun slumps in his chair.

Calculated guess Coach.

CALHOUN

Harv filled me in on what I need -- blood -- urine.

DR. ARTHUR DEVON

Chromosome test wouldn't hurt.

Calhoun leans back, eyes closed.

INT. OFFICE DAY

Calhoun scans the Dictionary. "Lotte - masculine. Isa - strong willed. Jakobie - Fem. for Jacob - supplanter". He picks up his English dictionary. "Supplanter - one who takes the place of another".

The phone startles him.

SECRETARY

Roberta Robertson. Olympic Committee office. Mr. Ronson would like to --

CALHOUN

Kiss my ass.

He slams the receiver. It rings instantly.  
Look lady --

SECRETARY

Only a secretary doing my job -- to give you a message.

CALHOUN

I'll talk to Barclay Carter -- he's honest -- or used to be.

INT. GYM DAY

Calhoun leans on the scorer's table while Gallagher runs drills. Barclay Carter crosses the floor.

BARCLAY CARTER

Let's go to your office.

CALHOUN

So you can record it?

BARCLAY CARTER

You have to keep the lines of communication open. The Europeans will be here in four days.

CALHOUN

Communicate.

BARCLAY CARTER

Olympic Qualifier-- Atlanta. An EG female marathoner collapsed. Trainers tried to grab her -- died on the way to the hospital. Battle over the body -- we got it.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

What was she on?

BARCLAY CARTER

Blood doping -- worse than that. We think she was a man.

Color drains from Calhoun's face.

INT. YAHOO'S BAR NIGHT

Calhoun sits in a booth. He pushes his half full plate away, and lifts his third draft. He stares at the overhead TV.

TV REPORTER

The Olympic excitement continued today as the Gold Medal favorite East German Women's Basketball Team worked out on the hardwood at Alumni Center, Charlottesville. I managed to catch up to East Germany's superstar -- Isa Jakobie.

The reporter maneuvers between Isa and her interpreter.  
How does it feel to be the best player in the world?

She laughs. Her interpreter steps between her and the reporter. She nudges him away.

ISA

Kareem is the best player in the world.

TV REPORTER

Women's player then?

Isa laughs. Her handler hustles her away.

EXT. CAFETERIA OUTSIDE 1:00 AM

Calhoun approaches the stone wall and sees the red glow.

CALHOUN

Don't know what to do Ham.

HAM

Been there.

Calhoun releases like a broken dam. He rambles about the marathoner in the morgue. The red glow moves up and down.

(CONTINUED)

HAM

That fella at Johns Hopkins -- got a hit.

Ham takes another puff.

Drug Researcher -- came over six months ago. Wife killed during escape -- daughter at college up north. New names.

CALHOUN

Can I see him?

HAM

Working on it.

INT. OFFICE 3:00 AM

Calhoun tries to sleep. He flicks on a light and grabs a Dr. Pepper. He picks up the Times Dispatch.

HEADLINES

Sonar Expert Tightens Noose At Jeffrey Trial. Richmond. Dr Lee Ashbough, expert witness for the FBI, clinched the State's case against kidnapper Levi Harper yesterday when he identified Harper as the caller caught on a Richmond City Police wiretap.

INT. OFFICE DAY

9:00 AM finally arrives. He dials.

CALHOUN

Dr. Lee Ashbough.

ASHBOUGH'S SECRETARY

Who's calling please?

CALHOUN

Ken Calhoun -- US Olympic Basketball Coach.

ASHBOUGH'S SECRETARY

What's the nature of your call Mr. Calhoun?

CALHOUN

Trying to identify a voice -- missing person.

(CONTINUED)

ASHBOUGH'S SECRETARY  
I'll see if Dr. Ashbough is  
available.

Calhoun squeezes his hand strengthener as he waits.  
Dr. Ashbough only works through  
referrals from the police and the  
courts.

Twenty minutes later the phone rings.

LEE ASHBOUGH  
Lee Ashbough. You called.

CALHOUN  
Your Secretary said --

LEE ASHBOUGH  
Filters the calls -- how can I  
help?

CALHOUN  
Is it possible to match the voice  
of an eight year old with her voice  
when she's twenty-one?

LEE ASHBOUGH  
How are they recorded?

CALHOUN  
A booth recording -- and a TV news  
report.

LEE ASHBOUGH  
Talking?

CALHOUN  
Laughing.

LEE ASHBOUGH  
Involuntary reflex. Definitely  
could after puberty. Variances  
would probably come through --  
could graph it.

CALHOUN  
When can I see you?

LEE ASHBOUGH  
Tomorrow morning -- 9:00 AM --  
Federal Building.

Calhoun checks his pad for the TV station number. Within an  
hour he had a copy of Isa's interview.

INT. DR. ASHBOUGH'S OFFICE 9:00 AM

Calhoun picks up a brochure from the waiting room table.  
\$150/hr. The Doctor arrives carrying a coffee.

LEE ASHBOUGH

Mr. Calhoun -- what's this all  
about?

CALHOUN

Custody case -- dad took off with  
the daughter -- gone thirteen  
years. Mother needs proof.

LEE ASHBOUGH

Let's have a listen.

Calhoun removes his recorder.

CALHOUN

Spliced them -- easier.

Kenny's high pitched laugh fills the air. The Doctor stares  
at the ceiling. As Isa's laugh begins, Calhoun searches for  
a sign.

LEE ASHBOUGH

Have a look.

Paper flows like a ticker tape. As Kenny laughs the needle  
jerks up and down. It slows to the background noise. Isa's  
laugh blasts it into action again. The Doctor picks up the  
paper from the floor. He cuts Isa's graph from the strip,  
then Kenny's. He tapes Kenny's above Isa's so the peaks and  
valleys correspond. He studies.

LEE ASHBOUGH

Laughter is an unconditional  
response -- a reflex to a stimulus.  
Babies laugh without learning --  
it's innate. My theory is that the  
autonomic sound pattern stays the  
same throughout life. That is if  
laughter is a genuine response --  
not put on -- the pattern will be  
the same -- child or adult.

CALHOUN

They're similar.

LEE ASHBOUGH

Damn close -- ninety-nine percent  
-- might stand up in court.

INT. OFFICE NIGHT

Smitty enters the office to pick up the new practice schedule. The Custodian looks up and flinches.

SMITTY  
Who the hell are you?

CUSTODIAN  
Coach told me to pick up a couple  
of recordings.

SMITTY  
Never seen you around here.

CUSTODIAN  
Short term disability.

SMITTY  
About to be permanent.

Smitty grabs a two foot trophy and swings at the Custodian's head. He ducks and darts from the room. Smitty calls the gym. Calhoun arrives and rummages through his shelves.

CALHOUN  
Bastard took my kid's record.  
Interview's still here.

Ham barges through the door.

HAM  
Outside.

Calhoun tells Ham about his trip to Richmond.

CALHOUN  
Called right back. \$150/hr. Hookers  
don't make that much. Didn't charge  
me.

HAM  
Explains it -- Government car at  
the General Store. Billion dollar  
budget-- bought a kid's record  
player.

INT. TRAINING ROOM DAY

CALHOUN  
How's Janine Smitty?

SMITTY  
Tweaked it -- she'll be alright.  
You look like shit though -- you  
okay?

Ham sticks his head in the door.

SMITTY  
Delivering take out?

HAM  
Take you out.

SMITTY  
Joints a little tight? Hop up on  
the table big guy.

HAM  
Ain't getting no where near my  
joint. Rather be farted on by a  
hog.

Smitty howls as he leaves. Ham motions Calhoun outside.

HAM  
Up for a trip to Arlington?

Calhoun nods.  
Boys bringing him to a motel. Front  
gate in a hour.

EXT. FRONT GATE NIGHT

A blue Dodge slows and stops. The rear door opens. It's hard  
to see his black face in the dim light.

VOICE  
No names -- places. Anything  
happens -- on your own.

When they arrive, he hands Calhoun a New York Giants cap.  
No one wears them -- Redskin fans.  
#213. Pickup -- 1:00AM -- north  
west door.

Calhoun exits the stairwell. A guard leans against the wall  
wearing a Redskin hat. They switch caps. Calhoun removes a  
key from the inside rim and unlocks the door. The light is  
dim. A voice has a German accent.

(CONTINUED)



RAHN

Back already?

A girl picks up her black silk dress from the chair. She pulls it over her bare body and steps into her high heels. She closes the door as she leaves.

You're white. Maybe they tell truth  
-- not kill me.

He sits on the bed and pulls up his boxers. He walks to the chest of drawers, picks up a quarter full vodka bottle, and pours two glasses. His gray hair recedes from his forehead. He puts on wire rimmed glasses.

At first -- thought you came to  
avenge the Master Race -- treat me  
better than own people. How is  
Aida?

CALHOUN

Uh -- fine.

RAHN

Want to be with her -- not done  
with me yet. Who are you?

CALHOUN

Coach Calhoun.

RAHN

Ahh -- my first coach.

CALHOUN

Why did you leave Germany?

RAHN

Take away daughter -- sports  
school. Stick with needles --  
experiment. Why? Beat Russians.

CALHOUN

Your wife died trying to escape?

RAHN

Shot at border. Dead -- prison --  
what matter?

He walks to the dresser, opens another bottle and fills his glass.

CALHOUN

Why drugs?

(CONTINUED)

RAHN

Must catch Russians -- government order.

CALHOUN

What was your job?

RAHN

Research cancer.

CALHOUN

At the Sports Academy?

RAHN

Must work for sports -- write thesis. Students -- doctors-- pharmacists -- trainers. Cancer must wait. You are coach?

CALHOUN

Olympic Basketball.

RAHN

Ah -- look for weakness.

CALHOUN

No -- just want to find out about your program.

RAHN

I help America now.

CALHOUN

Same thing?

RAHN

Cannot talk about that.

Calhoun chugs his drink. Rahn pours two more.

CALHOUN

How can you do that to kids?

Rahn's eyes drop to his lap.

They're doing it to my team.

Rahn looks up through glazed eyes.

I have a daughter -- on my team.

Rahn walks around the room in his underwear.

(CONTINUED)

RAHN

I look for cure to cancer. I find  
cancer -- tumors. Runners -- skiers  
-- swimmers. I write paper. They  
destroy.

CALHOUN

They didn't do anything?

RAHN

Athletes animals in laboratory.  
Throw away like paper in toilet.

He sits on the bed.  
Must hide cheating.

CALHOUN

Why are you doing it here?

He empties the bottle and nods. He awakes.

RAHN

So can see daughter.

He rambles incoherently.

CALHOUN

Need to talk to you about my Son.  
Disappeared twelve years ago -- Dr.  
Rahn.

Rahn looks up from his stupor. There's a knock at the door.  
Calhoun checks his watch. Rahn's head drops to his chest.

INT. OFFICE DAY

Calhoun breathes hard from his third mini marathon in three  
days. The phone is bad news. He answers anyway.

BARCLAY CARTER

We tested Jakobie.

CALHOUN

What? How?

BARCLAY CARTER

We give the IOC millions -- easy to  
get things done.

Calhoun rocks.

German doctor took the blood sample  
-- normal. Got another one when he  
left the room. Everything but

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARCLAY CARTER (cont'd)  
radioactive. Don't know how they  
did it. Same person -- same blood.

CALHOUN  
What about urine?

BARCLAY CARTER  
Masked. Odd though. She filled the  
beaker at the wrong angle -- missed  
completely at first. No stream --  
sprayed.

CALHOUN  
What's going to happen?

BARCLAY CARTER  
They'll argue it was illegally  
obtained.

Calhoun closes his eyes.  
The courts slanted downhill.

Five minutes later, Calhoun calls Harv and repeats the blood  
sample story.

HARV  
Wonder how. The urine?

CALHOUN  
Negative -- she had trouble filling  
the bottle.

HARV  
Whose doctor?

CALHOUN  
Ours. When he got it in the right  
place -- most of it missed.

HARV  
Explain.

CALHOUN  
She sprayed.

HARV  
Poblem at birth maybe -- blockage.  
Happens sometimes after -- surgery  
-- gender reassignment -- male to  
female. Would have to examine --

## INT. CAFETERIA DAY

Ham scans like a forward observer. The team piles their trays high with his cooking. Sweat pours down Calhoun's chin as he enters.

HAM

Rib night? Race to get here?

CALHOUN

Running. Have to talk.

Ham follows him outside. They sit on the wall.

CALHOUN

They've got Kenny.

Tears creep from the corners of Calhoun's eyes  
He's my Son Ham.

HAM

Need to bring him home.

## EXT. ROCKFISH GAP OVERLOOK DAY

Calhoun sits on a wall overlooking the Gap. A beat up Chev pulls in. He's not what Calhoun expects. Five-seven, one-fifty, coveralls, work boots, white T shirt, army air cut, forty years old, black. They shake hands. He straddles the wall facing Calhoun.

PLY

Ham says you're having trouble.

CALHOUN

He tell you about my son?

PLY

In the report. Questions about mind control?

CALHOUN

Can it be reversed?

PLY

If the indoctrination's incomplete  
-- no permanent damage during the  
brain emptying process.

CALHOUN

How do you know this?

(CONTINUED)

PLY

Masters in Psychology. Army Parapsychology Research -- Vietnam Interrogation -- two terms. POW Deprogramming Specialist.

CALHOUN

When you got out of the car --

PLY

Never judge a book by its coveralls.

CALHOUN

Ply?

PLY

Nam -- interrogation -- REPLY.

CALHOUN

How long does it take?

PLY

Three to five days -- sometimes longer. Sometimes never.

CALHOUN

Never?

PLY

Viet Cong -- wave after wave -- sticks. Climbing dead bodies to get at us. Ideology stronger than reason.

CALHOUN

How do they get that way?

PLY

Total psychological and sociological control. They eliminate individuality -- erase values. Control feelings -- thoughts -- actions.

CALHOUN

Can they fight it?

PLY

On going until breakdown -- until psychologically dependent.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN  
Like the Marines.

PLY  
Mild compared to this.

CALHOUN  
Kids?

PLY  
Easy -- no defense. Hitler Youth  
Corps -- killed millions.

Calhoun looks over the valley.

CALHOUN  
Can you help?

PLY  
Already am -- monitoring schedules  
and routines. Need three -- four  
days.

CALHOUN  
How can I get in touch with you?

PLY  
Don't exist.

EXT. SKYLINE CAVERNS FRONT ROYAL DAY

A bus pulls into the Skyline Caverns parking lot. East German Olympic players clamor down the stairs and gather in their team sweats for roll call. Three handlers, in matching cheap gray suits, herd them into the Gift Shop.

A distinguished elderly lady watches. Her white hair and tan glasses contrast with her dark face. She glances at a couple waiting in the ticket line. She checks the ticket counter, "11:12 AM, temperature fifty-five degrees, next tour 11:20 AM".

She enters the washroom and removes a vial from her purse, unscrews the top, pours the contents into her handkerchief, and closes her hand as the liquid permeates the cloth. She moistens her palms and fingers and drops the bottle and handkerchief in the trash can.

She locates Isa Jakobie, shuffles to the display table behind her, and looks at a photo of the Blue Ridge. Isa picks up a coonskin cap. She places it on her head and reaches behind to feel the tail. She peers into the fitting mirror, taps Lotte on the shoulder, models front and back for her, and speaks in German.

(CONTINUED)

The white haired lady shuffles forward and trips, propelling head first into Isa's back. She grabs Isa's sweat top from behind, pulling Isa halfway down as she crumples to the floor.

WHITE HAired LADY

Sorry -- I'm so clumsy.

Isa and Lotte help her to her feet. She loses her balance again and falls forward, grabbing the front of Isa's top.

ISA

Okay. It is okay.

WHITE HAired LADY

Thank you so much honey --you're so sweet.

Lotte hands her her purse.

WHITE HAired LADY

Thank ya'll -- thank ya'll so much.

She shuffles through the restaurant door. Isa retrieves the coonskin cap and resumes her mirror-show. The mid-thirties couple observe. The male, short blond hair, horn rimmed glasses. She, brown hair, sunglasses. Both wear khaki pants, black jogging shoes, sweat shirts, and backpacks.

The German leader makes an announcement. The players and one guard join the line. Two guards wait outside the turn style.

CAVERNS GUIDE

Welcome to the Skyline Caverns. I'm Tammi -- your guide.

She waits as the interpreter translates.  
We'd like to welcome the East German Women's Basketball Team, taking a day off from their busy schedule.

They wave to the crowd.  
Just remember to take it easy on our girls.

Blank faces.  
The steps we will be descending were originally --

The couple pinpoints Isa as she and the guard start down the stairs.

-- will eventually reach a depth of  
--



They descend into the cool cavern air.  
If you look to the left you will  
see --

Eight minutes later they reach the second turn. Indirect lighting on the walls and ceiling, give off a torch like glow. The couple closes the gap to the guide.  
On the left the first of the  
reflecting pools --

Exclamations fill the air as a spotlight illuminates a forest of stalactites.

INT. GENERATOR ROOM DAY

A worker wearing Skyline Caverns maintenance overalls, stops at a sign "Generator Room No Admittance". He picks the lock and enters. He unzips his coveralls and removes a hydraulic wire cutter from the pocket inside his leg.

He opens the main box and jerks the handle down. He finds the two inch outgoing cable and snaps it like an icicle. The auxiliary generator kicks in. He yanks its lever down and cuts its outgoing cable. He drops the cutter, opens the door, and sprays quick drying epoxy into the lock from the outside. He jerks the handle to make sure it's locked and hustles down the hall out the back door.

INT. CAVERN DAY

The blond glances back at Isa in the middle of the group. Lights flicker. Complete darkness.

GUIDE

Everyone stay calm.

She flicks on her flashlight and directs it at the group.  
The emergency generator will kick  
in --

Lights flicker, faintly illuminating the cavern.  
There we are -- the main power will  
--

She turns off her flashlight. The auxiliary light goes out. The blond rips the flashlight from her hand and hurls it into the void. The brunette drops her backpack and removes two infrared masks. She puts hers on and hands him his. She removes a syringe, pulls her backpack over her shoulders, and makes her way to the glowing hand prints on Isa's sweat top. She stabs Isa's shoulder, and thrusts the plunger. Isa yelps. The drug quickly takes effect. Isa slumps to the ground. The blonde throws her over his shoulder and bullies

(CONTINUED)

his way up the path around the corner. The brunette follows. Behind, a faint glow reflects off the rocks as the guard lights a match.

EXT. SKYLINE CAVERNS FRONT ROYAL VIRGINIA DAY

An ambulance jars to a halt in the No Parking area. Two attendants hop out before it comes to a stop. Both wear khaki red cross uniforms, black running shoes, and Front Royal Rescue caps. They yank a stretcher from the back and double-time into the shop. The crowd parts.

AMBULANCE ATTENDANT

Okay people -- minor emergency --  
nothing to worry about.

They arrive at the cavern stairs. One descends with the stretcher. The other tries to calm the guards in English.

INT. CAVERN DARK

The blond breathes heavily as he sees the faint glow at the bottom of the stairs.

AMBULANCE ATTENDANT

Hustle up -- on the stretcher.

They drop their masks, and sit Isa on the floor. The brunette removes a pink hooded sweatshirt from her backpack, pulls it over Isa's head, and forces her hands through the arms. She removes an oxygen mask, places it over Isa's face, and secures the strap. She pulls up the hood and places a sheet over Isa. The blond removes his sweatshirt, revealing a red cross top. He puts on a Front Royal Rescue cap. The brunette leads the way up the stairs as two attendants carry the stretcher.

BRUNETTE

Stand Back -- stand back.

The German security men peer over her shoulder down the stairs. They step back as the attendants emerge with the stretcher. The brunette grabs a guard by the lapel and points to the darkness.

They need you -- down there.

The guard leads the other guard down into the darkness.

EXT. SKYLINE CAVERNS FRONT ROYAL VIRGINIA DAY

The attendants hustle the stretcher through the gift shop to the ambulance. They slide it through the open back doors. The door slams, the siren blares, tires spin.

INT. CAVERN DARK

Echos distort the East German guard's screams as he works his way around the last bend, match by match. Two guards wait at the bottom of the stairs.

FIRST GUARD

Jakobie -- they have Jakobie.

They climb the stairs four at a time and sprint through the shop, banging onlookers into glass shelves. They exit, chests heaving. One points to an elderly gentleman placing a camera in the back seat of a running Chev wagon. They race to the car. The first opens the passenger door, yanks the man's wife from the seat, and hops in. The second takes the driver's seat, jams it into gear, and floors it. The third swears, gravel bouncing off his chest.

EXT. LITTLE CREEK TURN FOUR MINUTES LATER

As the ambulance flashes around Little Creek turn, an ancient stake truck, loaded with market hogs, creaks onto the road behind it. The driver drops and punctures both front tires, jogs ahead, and hops in the back of a pickup parked on the side of the road. Simultaneously, a farmer opens the opposite gate and shoos thirty-two head of cattle through the gate. He sprints to the truck and jumps in the back as it accelerates away.

The East German fights for control as the station wagon two-wheels it around the turn. His eyes dilate as he sees the cows. He jams the brake to the floor, sending the wagon into a 270 degree spin. He climbs out, greeted by the odor of burning rubber, a truckload of scared hogs, and thirty-two agitated cows.

INT. OFFICE DAY

Calhoun holds the Times Dispatch front page. "Soviets Blamed, Charlottesville. The kidnapping of East German star basketball player Isa Jakobie two days ago has turned into a full fledged international incident. Two infrared masks, a hypodermic needle, camera, and hydraulic cutter, all manufactured in the USSR, were found at the crime scene. The rental contract for the ambulance used in the kidnapping, signed by a Soviet Embassy worker, was found under the seat of the ambulance."

INT. GEORGE WASHINGTON MOTEL NIGHT

Calhoun knocks at #213. He senses the blur too late, as his face smashes into the door. He feels the cold steel against his neck.

HALL GUARD.  
Move you're dead.

CALHOUN  
Rahn's expecting me.

As Rahn unbolts the door, Calhoun's momentum carries him forward to the carpet with the guard on top. The gun bounces loose. Calhoun gets there first and jabs it into the Guards Ear.

CALHOUN  
Need to talk.

RAHN  
Going to shoot me?

CALHOUN  
Alone.

RAHN  
Will talk to him.

A hooker races through the bathroom door, buttons her blouse, and double times it out the door. The Guard follows.

RAHN  
Ronson is not your favorite.

CALHOUN  
Drugging my team.

Rahn pours two glasses of vodka.

RAHN  
About to change mankind -- make  
vaccine -- no -- must find way not  
reject plastic.

CALHOUN  
Plastic?

RAHN  
Blood bag -- insert in artery.  
Cells fight bag -- I stop.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

How do they get the blood out?

RAHN

Know where to stick needle.

CALHOUN

Aren't there scars?

RAHN

Far away -- push sac through  
artery.

CALHOUN

You had a choice.

RAHN

Not if I want to see Aida.

CALHOUN

Bullshit -- you're in America.

RAHN

Governments all same -- work for  
America now.

Calhoun fills his glass and walks to the bed. He trembles.

CALHOUN

You bastards stole my son -- turned  
him into a fucking girl.

Tears well in Rahn's eyes. Calhoun sits and sobs. Rahn fills  
Calhoun's glass.

Nine years old -- how could you do  
that?

RAHN

Government start program in America  
to catch Russians -- DYAD.

CALHOUN

Stealing kids --

The door bursts open.

HALL GUARD

Problem -- out right now.

## INT. CAR NIGHT

Isa lays unconscious in the back of a van. It slows at Eliza's church, and pulls behind the deteriorating General Store. Ply carries Isa down the cellar stairs to the a hidden door and down the hall to the third room. He places her on a bare mattress on the floor, returns to the meeting room, and sits with the others at a conference table. Detailed maps of Cambodia and Vietnam cover the twenty foot wall. Mini American flags mark the POW camps. Communication equipment fills one end of the room. Ham stands and places his earphones on the table. He gleams.

HAM

POW'S in the air -- twenty-two.

The place erupts.  
Coming home.

The din continues.  
Problem -- D Camp -- had to abort.  
Government gave us the wrong  
coordinates.

PLY

Casualties?

HAM

One wounded -- one too weak -- one  
dead.

Ham uncorks the bourbon, pours three fingers in each of the eight coffee mugs. They salute.

HAM

Long haul.

They drink in unison.

PLY

How many will I have?

HAM

Two here -- when strong enough.

PLY

I'll start with the girl when she  
comes to.

INT. ROOM THREE NIGHT

Isa wakes on a bare mattress in the center of the room. She looks around. A plastic water pitcher and two plastic cups sit on a folding chair in front of her. Her face is blank.

Across the hall, Ply looks in the bathroom mirror. White lines of zinc oxide fluoresce against his black skin, shirt, pants and beret. He picks up a clip board up and approaches Congo observing Isa through a two way mirror.

PLY

Here goes.

Congo throws open the door and Ply leaps into the room like a Jack In The Box. He stares at Isa and walks closer, bends his knees so his face is inches from her's. She flinches. He duck walks slowly around the mattress. Her eyes follow as far as they can, and turn to pick him up again. He springs into the air and lands on both feet.

Isa -- Isa -- welcome Isa.

He circles, jerking eccentrically as he goes.

They told you what to believe  
-- how to act -- what to say.  
Crammed doctrines in you head.  
Don't care what you think -- how  
you feel.

He circles.

Communism -- the answer --  
everybody equal. Leaders drive big  
cars Isa -- big cars -- big  
apartments -- everybody else is  
poor. What do you think Isa? Why  
are they rich -- nobody else has  
food? What do you think -- Isa?

His clipboard resounds off the concrete floor. He continues in German.

Is that fair Isa? Equal -- but they  
have a car? What do you think Isa?

She flinches at his movements.

Communism -- save the world. I got  
a big car -- fancy apartment -- I'm  
rich. Is that fair Isa?

He drops to his back and back springs to his feet. He circles faster.

Equal -- Isa eats bread -- they eat  
caviar. What do you think Isa?  
Caviar -- bread. Caviar -- caviar.

(CONTINUED)

Ply pours a glass of water and tries to hand it to her. She stares ahead. He places it on the floor in front of her. He dances and sings.

Chantilly lace -- had a pretty  
face. Do they let you sing? You  
sang when you were small -- before  
they stole you from your father and  
sister.

He hums In An English Country Garden..

You sang that song Isa -- your  
favorite. Your mommy hummed it so  
you could sleep -- remember your  
mommy?

Three hours later he leaves the room, sweat pouring from his face. Congo exits the bathroom, face and head bright red, as are his clothes. His feet are bare. Ply chuckles. Congo grasps the door handle, whoops, and springs into the room.

CONGO

We love you Isa --

EXT. SKYLINE DRIVE WAYNESBORO NIGHT

Calhoun drives 12.3 miles and pulls into an overgrown entrance to a logging road and douses his lights. A figure emerges and motions with a flashlight. Calhoun removes a suitcase and follows through the pines to a Jeep. Fifteen minutes later the Jeep bumps to a stop, a ten minute walk above Greenside. He follows the guide through a camouflaged entrance behind the general store.

MOUNTAIN GUIDE

Escape the revenuers.

They descend the stairs, past a generator, down a corridor to the first room.

MOUNTAIN GUIDE

Wait here.

He places his suitcase on an army cot.

PLY

Bring goodies?

Calhoun's eyes dilate when he sees Ply's painted face.

CALHOUN

Halloween?

(CONTINUED)



PLY  
Getting his attention.

Calhoun explains the significance of each article, and hands Ply a summary. Screaming amplifies as Congo opens the door, and continues after he slams it shut. He enters, wiping sweat off his red face and head.

CALHOUN  
Look like the devil.

CONGO  
Necessary.

PLY  
Go over all this with Congo.

Ply opens the door. The screaming resumes.

CALHOUN  
What --

CONGO  
Phase two. In a trance for twenty hours. Opened her mouth a few hours ago -- good one.

CALHOUN  
His -- his mouth. Can I see him?

CONGO  
Fill me in first.

INT. ROOM THREE NIGHT

Calhoun hears the screams as he walks down the hall.

ISA  
Who are you to tell me --

PLY  
A Doctor that's who I am.

Isa laughs.

ISA  
A doctor -- show me your proof.

Ply rips a sheet of paper from the clip board and jabs it into Isa's face. He circles, jamming it forward each time he passes. She tries to snatch it out of his hand.

(CONTINUED)

PLY

I know all about communism -- steal  
from the people --

ISA

Black doctor -- impossible.

PLY

-- give to the leaders. What do you  
think --

ISA

Black -- no intellect -- good only  
for sport. We will crush you.

PLY

Like Hitler crushed the Jews? Burn  
them? Burn every fucking body  
except the commies.

Ply's tongue darts at Isa like a snake's as he circles.  
Kill them -- thinking for  
themselves.

ISA

Inferior brain --

PLY

Is that what they tell you Isa?  
Think for yourself?

He picks picks up the pitcher and fills both cups. He chugs  
one and hands the other to Isa. She takes it but doesn't  
drink. He holds up a piece of paper.

PLY

Look Isa -- black doctor -- Isa --  
look.

She throws water in his face and grabs the paper. She rips  
it into shreds.

ISA

Capitalist pig -- inferior --

Ply bobs and weaves like a fighter.

PLY

Think for yourself Isa -- use your  
superior communist brain --

Calhoun turns to Congo.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

What the fuck's he doing in there?

He looks back through the window.

Leave my Son alone asshole.

He grabs the door knob. Congo hits his hand like a cobra.

CONGO

Arguing -- it's good.

CALHOUN

Making it worse -- would never --

Congo grabs Calhoun by both his shoulders and pulls his face to his.

CONGO

Necessary.

Calhoun sobs. Congo pulls his head to his shoulder.

CALHOUN

He's crazier than she is.

CONGO

As crazy as it takes.

INT. ROOM ONE NIGHT

Calhoun slumps on the edge of the bed. He raises the JTS Brown bottle and chugs. Ply enters. Calhoun hands him the bottle.

CALHOUN

What are you doing to my boy?

PLY

It's a war Calhoun -- a battle of wills.

CALHOUN

But --

PLY

They stole your kid Calhoun -- we're trying to get him back.

Tears well up in Calhoun's eyes.

CALHOUN

How long? How much more?

(CONTINUED)

PLY

Until he thinks for himself --  
questions what he's been taught.

CALHOUN

What can I do?

PLY

Find an emotional trigger -- make  
him laugh -- cry.

Calhoun's forehead rests against the two way mirror.

PLY

Want to show you something Isa.

He holds a picture of Paige and the twins.  
Nice family Isa. Twins -- mother.

ISA

Capitalist brats.

PLY

Innocent kids.

He holds the picture closer.

ISA

I hate this picture.

PLY

You hate your own family Isa --  
your family.

ISA

The State is my family.

PLY

Mother -- sister.

ISA

Skinny unintelligent --

PLY

Before they stole you away --  
pumped you full of drugs.

ISA

You know about drugs -- blacks  
prostitute themselves for drugs.  
All over America -- blocks from the  
White House.

(CONTINUED)

PLY

I own a farm Isa -- car -- TV --  
telephone. Free to do whatever I  
want.

ISA

Free -- where people are murdered  
by the government if they dissent.  
Kennedy -- Martin Luther King --

Ply jams the picture into Isa's face.

PLY

Your mother Isa -- your sister.  
That's you -- look.

Isa grasps for the picture. He walks to the door and turns  
back. He holds up the picture and leaves. Isa smashes the  
first chair against the wall, then the second.

INT. CALHOUN'S CAR NIGHT

Tears run down Kelly's cheek as they pull onto the camping  
road. Calhoun turns off his lights and creeps forward. The  
figure greets them.

Smithson monitors the signal three miles behind. He pulls  
onto the camp drive. He, Ronson, and two agents exit the  
car. The driver opens the trunk, hands out the pistols and  
shotguns. They make their way up the overgrown path. A hand  
reaches from behind and muffles Smithson's mouth. A blade  
bites gently into his throat. Sounds of guns hitting the  
ground violate the mountain quiet.

MOUNTAIN VOICE

Nice suits.

RONSON

Who the hell are --

He jams his M14 into Ronson's neck.

MOUNTAIN VOICE

Strip -- everything.

Smithson looks back. A gun barrel glances off the side of  
his head. Ronson tumbles as he pulls his pants over his  
shoes. When they are nude he speaks.

Hands behind your back -- cross  
your wrists.

Rawhide bites their skin.

Hike.

(CONTINUED)

They march for a while. Smithson uses his chin to dislodge mosquitoes feasting on his balls.

MOUNTAIN VOICE

Saw one stand flatfooted and screw  
a turkey.

He removes a roll of rawhide and ties them to separate trees. His partner levels his weapon as the moon breaks through the clouds.

SMITHSON

I got kids.

MOUNTAIN VOICE

Shame to waste a good hike.

He raises his M14. They cower. He lowers his gun and removes a plastic squirt bottle from his pack. He walks to Smithson and unscrews the cap. Smithson's head jerks at the stench. He sprays Smithson's privates with the liquid, then repeats the procedure three more times.

RONSON

What are you --

MOUNTAIN VOICE

Bitch Heat -- you're now female  
bears in heat.

He slings his sack over his shoulder. As he walks away, he turns back.

Every male bear in the Blue Ridge  
will be here by morning.

INT. ROOM ONE NIGHT

CALHOUN

This is Ply.

Kelly moves to her father.

PLY

Championship game a classic.

Kelly ties to smile.

CALHOUN

No paint.

PLY

Improvement. Not so angry --  
thinking a little -- questioning.  
Hitting her with --

(CONTINUED)

KELLY

Him.

PLY

-- him -- with spiritual stuff.  
Friend of yours handling the soft  
part -- touching -- love.

Calhoun takes Kelly's hand as they walk down the hall to the mirror. She squeezes his hand when Isa moves into view.

ISA

Who is god?

ELIZA

Creator.

ISA

Of what?

ELIZA

All things -- you can ask his help  
anytime.

ISA

Imaginary creature in the sky

ELIZA

Can pray -- ask forgiveness.

ISA

For what?

ELIZA

Sins -- things you're sorry you  
did.

PLY

Right and wrong -- you can decide  
for yourself.

ELIZA

We pray in church -- talk to God.

She holds up a Bible.

You can read it -- decide for  
yourself. You went to church after  
your Mummy died -- remember?

ISA

Have no mother.

(CONTINUED)

ELIZA

Yes you do -- sister and father  
too.

ISA

Like god -- imaginary.

ELIZA

You were Jesus in the play -- baby  
Jesus.

ISA

Jesus?

ELIZA

Son of God -- came to save us.

ISA

Fairy tale.

ELIZA

Christmas play -- wrapped in a red  
towel.

She laughs.

Forty-two years -- you the only  
white Jesus that showed up here--  
six years old too.

Isa looks puzzled.

First time Jesus was ever twins --  
you and Kelly.

Isa's face is blank.

ELIZA

Your Mommy loved you -- used to  
sing to you.

Eliza turns on the record player and sings.

ELIZA

-- in an English country garden.

She hums until the record finishes.

I love you Isa.

She puts her arms around Isa

Your daddy does too -- your sister.

Isa stares ahead.



INT. ROOM THREE LATER

Isa leafs through the Bible. Ply enters.

PLY  
They love you -- your father and  
sister.

ISA  
What father -- sister?

He waves them in. Kelly kisses her father and enters the room. She puts her arms around Isa. Tears run down her cheeks.

KELLY  
I'm Kelly -- your twin sister. This  
is my father -- your father.

Contempt fills Isa's face.  
I love you. We --

Isa springs from her chair.

ISA  
Am I to believe this hoax?

KELLY  
Look -- your Teddy Bear.

Isa swats the bear from her hands. She picks it up.  
Theodore -- you called him Dore.

Isa swings a roundhouse right that glances off Kelly's chin. Calhoun jerks Isa by the shirt and draws back his fist. Kelly grabs his hand. Blood trickles down her face. Isa withdraws like a scolded dog. Kelly follows and pulls Isa into her arms. Isa sobs.

ISA  
Leave me alone -- coach is family.

Kelly places Dore in Isa's hands.  
Leave me alone.

Ply nods at Calhoun.

CALHOUN  
Your Mother died -- Paige. You  
cried at her funeral -- her  
tombstone.

Isa stares ahead.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN (cont'd)

Flowers -- Baby's Breath. You put them on her grave every day for a week -- Kelly too -- on the fresh dirt.

Isa pushes Kelly away and sits on the mattress.

KELLY

She used to rock us -- sing us to sleep. We baked a lamb cake every Easter -- coconut for wool.

Isa brings her knees to her chest. Ply hands Kelly the blankets.

Your Mickie Mouse blanket.

Isa knocks it to the floor.

I had one too -- Minnie Mouse. We smelled them in the dark -- to see whose was whose.

ISA

Leave me alone --

Ply hands Isa a cup of water. She drinks on the mattress.

PLY

We love you Isa. Your dad loves you -- Kelly loves you.

Isa stares ahead. Kelly places the Mickey blanket in Isa's hands. She pulls it to her nose with both hands.

INT. GYMNASIUM DAY

Calhoun runs team drills.

SMITTY

Tweezer Dick's in the hall. Better talk to him.

Ronson scratches his crotch as Calhoun arrives.

RONSON

Two days in the mountains Calhoun -- waiting for bears.

CALHOUN

You're delirious.

(CONTINUED)

RONSON

The Germans think the Russians did it -- the Russians move ten thousand troops to East Germany. We finally got it -- the record.

He rubs his crotch.

The star's your son -- she's a guy.

CALHOUN

Popping your own pills?

RONSON

a political godsend -- we'll crucify the bastards. I want her now -- girl -- guy -- whatever the fuck she is.

Calhoun's fist explodes into Ronson's nose. He gets in two good ones before the blow to the back of his neck sends him face first to the floor. Agents jerk his hands behind his back. Blood pours from Ronson's nose.

You're done -- through. Your kid's a fucking girl -- how do you like that?

INT. OFFICE DAY

Calhoun empties his last drawer. Ham enters.

CALHOUN

Bringing back Talisman.

HAM

Heard.

CALHOUN

Putting Kenny under a microscope -- it'll destroy him.

HAM

Should have used honey --

Calhoun smiles.

CALHOUN

When can I see him?

HAM

Too hot now. POW's finally arrived. One's not too good -- talking to your son. Might help each other.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

Rahn?

HAM

We got him.

INT. ROOM THREE DAY

Ply hands Isa a sandwich and a Coke. He sits beside her on the mattress.

PLY

Want you to meet someone -- show  
you how governments treat people.

Isa passes down the hall, taking in everything along the way. Corporal Winston R. Walton, six-three, one hundred twenty-eight pounds sits in a chair staring ahead in his boxers. Isa focuses on his protruding ribs, his skull like face. She sits in front of the POW.

CONGO

This is how communists treat their  
people.

Isa stares at the lifeless form.  
Gained five pounds already.

Isa touches the Corporal's cheek and eyelids. She stares into his blank eyes.

ISA

Should not happen.

CONGO

They got his mind -- and his body.

ISA

How could they do this -- what  
right do they have?

Isa pours a cup of water and lifts it to the Corporal's mouth. Water runs down his chin.  
I am bad too -- ashamed.

Tears run down her cheek.

CONGO

You're good -- we love you.

INT. MOUNTAIN CABIN DAY

Rahn opens a bottle and fills a plastic cup. He stares out the cabin window at the Shenandoah Valley below. He turns to his captor.

RAHN

Why should I believe you?

CAPTOR

You'd be dead already.

RAHN

Ronson lies about my Aida.

CAPTOR

Milking you for everything you know.

RAHN

How do you know she's dead?

His captor rubs his short cropped hair and removes a Coroner's Report from his bag.

How do I know it's real.

CAPTOR

Give you my word -- all I can do.

Rahn reads.

RAHN

Aida Rahn - shot during escape.  
July 4, 1979.

He looks at his captor.

Ironic -- your Independence Day.

CAPTOR

I want to change things.

RAHN

The ultimate athletic machine?

CAPTOR

No -- by finding a cure for cancer.

INT. RAHN'S CABIN 2:00 AM

A guide leads them to Rahn's cabin above Luray. He opens the door and lights a kerosene lamp. Rahn stirs and sits up in bed.

RAHN

Ah -- the coach-- lost your job.  
Why should I help?

CALHOUN

They took your daughter -- they  
took my son. The pain is the same.

RAHN

Ah -- the sympathy angle.

CALHOUN

Want you to meet somebody.

Kelly enters.

Kelly -- this is Mr. Rahn. We're  
talking about her twin brother.

EXT. CABIN DAWN

Traces of pink emerge from the mountain crevices. Calhoun looks out the window.

RAHN

Beautiful young woman -- strong  
willed -- reminds me of Aida.

He flops in his chair.

Should have gone back for them.

CALHOUN

You'd be dead.

RAHN

Is this not death?

CALHOUN

You can still help mankind.

RAHN

Tired -- must sleep. Information  
you need in envelopes.

Calhoun scans the two packages. "East German Drug Program".  
"US Drug Program."

Will give cancer information to my liberator.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN  
Will you testify?

RAHN  
Will do what's right.

Calhoun opens the screen door and looks back. Rahn lays on his back, staring at the ceiling.

EXT. GENERAL STORE DAY

Isa steps down from the rickety porch and feels the sun for the first time since her arrival. They cross the road and Eliza unlatches a flimsy gate. They walk across red clay barnyard to a weathered barn. A rusty barrel hoop hangs ten feet up. A worn basketball lays on the ground. A black and white puppy bounds towards Isa, it's tail back and forth like a windshield wiper. It hops up to greet her. She kicks it, sending it to its back. It yelps and gallops away with its tail between it's legs. A young boy and girl watch. The boy walks to the puppy, his eyes locked on Isa's. He carries it to his sister. She strokes the pup. It licks her face.

ELIZA  
Fred and Freda -- twins --six years  
old.

Liza picks up the ball and shoots. It misses and rebounds o her. She tosses it to Isa. It bounces off her chest. Isa sits, leans against the barn, and watches the kids. Eliza joins her. She takes a wooden whistle from her pocket.

Remember this -- sounds like a  
train.

She toots the whistle. The pup's ears perk straight up. Liza walks across the yard and hands the whistle to the boy. As she walks back the whistle blasts. They laugh. Isa stares.

INT. BAR NIGHT

Calhoun lifts his third beer as Barclay Carter, Smithson, and another suit arrive.

CALHOUN  
Told you to come alone.

AGENT WALKER  
Kidnapping's a Federal offense Mr.  
Calhoun.

CALHOUN  
So is sticking kids with needles.  
Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

AGENT WALKER

Where is Rahn?

Calhoun ignores him.

CALHOUN

Packaged and ready to go.  
International Olympic Committee --  
Senate Ethics Committee --  
newspapers -- television --

SMITHSON

Your word against ours.

CALHOUN

Documented -- from the day you  
scooped him across the Wall. Names,  
places, contacts, safe houses,  
hookers, guards, co-workers.  
Drugs, subjects, dosages,  
frequencies --

AGENT WALKER

You're dealing with top priority  
information --

SMITHSON

He's a drunk Calhoun.

CALHOUN

With a photographic memory.

SMITHSON

Rahn's on our side.

CALHOUN

He knows about Aida.

Smithson and Walker exchange glances.

You bastards gave him hope -- only  
thing he had left. He's going to  
testify.

Calhoun raises his beer.

To you -- trying to sleep in hell.

He slides out of the booth.

Two days to get rid of Talisman.  
Want my team back.

He starts to the bar and turns around.

Rahn -- try the Holiday Inn.



EXT. CAFETERIA DAY

GALLAGHER

Ronson covered his ass. Released the E.G. drug information to the IOC. Total smear -- Dysfunctional alcoholic -- Nazi Experimenter -- drunken Pervert -- you name it.

CALHOUN

The East Germans?

GALLAGHER

Denying everything. Say we can test any of their athletes -- if they administer the test. Ronson took them up on it -- testing Isa.

Color drains from Calhoun's face.  
Told them you got her.

EXT. BARNYARD DAY

The Private lifts the loop and opens the gate for Isa. They walk towards the barn hoop. The pup sprints towards her. She reaches down and scrubs him behind his ears. His tail flashes. She picks up a stick and throws it. He catches it in the air. She flips the ball to the Private.

ISA

Horse -- I'll shoot left handed.

EXT. HINKLE TREE MORNING

Calhoun and Kelly sit in the fork of the tree.

KELLY

Scared Dad.

CALHOUN

Family Trait.

Calhoun hangs from a branch and drops to the ground. A pickup sprays across the creek and stops. Ply's door opens and Zeke bounds to his chest.

PLY

Done all we can -- yours now. Back at 1:00.

He opens the passenger door. Isa gets out. Ply disappears down the road. Calhoun and Isa stand five yards apart. Kelly drops from the tree. Zeke's jumps up on her. She pats his head and makes her way to her father's side. They hug Isa.

(CONTINUED)

ISA  
The coach and the competitor.

KELLY  
Father and Sister.

Isa avoids eye contact.

ISA  
Enemy to family.

She gently pushes Kelly away and leans on the tree.  
Difficult.

EXT. HINKLE TREE LATER

Isa sits in the tree. She studies the photos. She looks at the initials.

KELLY  
You carved yours -- we were seven.  
Cut your finger -- blood all over  
your pants.

Isa runs her fingers across the letters.

ISA

K.C.

KELLY  
Kenny -- Calhoun.

ISA  
Kenny.

KELLY  
Short for Kendrick.

ISA  
Kendrick.

EXT. FISHING ROCK HINKLE TREE DAY

Isa sits on the rock watching Zeke chase Kelly into the water, his legs churning like a paddle wheeler. Kelly floats on her back.

KELLY  
Water's colder than a witch's tit  
-- we laughed so hard.

Calhoun holds a bamboo pole.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

Caught your first fish here -- Rock  
Bass.

The bobber jerks. He holds up the fish.  
Same as yours.

He removes the hook and tosses the fish back into the water.  
Captured -- now it's free.

EXT. HINKLE TREE. DAY

CALHOUN

Gave it to your Mother on her  
birthday.

He removes a green scarf from his sack and hands it to Isa.  
She gathers it to her nose. Her eyes close.  
White Shoulders -- your Mom's  
favorite.

She climbs and sits in the fork of the tree.

KELLY

Dad got stuck right there.

She is frustrated. She points to the creek and raises her  
voice.

Wasting our time.

She wades into the ford. She sobs.  
You were right Dad -- should have  
left him alone.

Calhoun motions Isa down.

CALHOUN

The water was too deep -- the car  
sank.

KELLY

We pushed.

CALHOUN

You were covered in mud.

Kelly sobs and walks to the bank.  
We're your family.

She scoops a hand full of mud from the creek edge. She runs  
at Isa and hurls it with all her might.  
Damn you -- damn --

(CONTINUED)

Isa wades into the creek and rinses her face. She digs her hands in the mud and walks back to Kelly. She thrusts the mud into Kelly's face and smears it. Kelly wipes the mud from her eyes. Tears stream down Isa's face. Ten seconds. Twenty seconds.

ISA

Colder than a witch's tit.

KELLY

Yeah -- colder than a witch's tit.

INT. ROCKFISH LIBRARY STACKS DAY

Calhoun sits opposite Barclay Carter.

BARCLAY CARTER

You're sure he'll test XY?

Calhoun nods.

They'll run home with their tails  
between their legs.

CALHOUN

My doctor oversees the test.

BARCLAY CARTER

Anybody you want. We'll say it's  
drugs -- nothing about chromosomes.

Calhoun is quiet.

We're trying to stop WW III here  
Calhoun.

INT. JEFFERSON MEDICAL CLINIC DAY

Harv and Isa pass through an empty lobby down a hall to a conference room. A grey suit opens the door. Calhoun greets Isa with a hug and motions her to the examining chair. She fidgets. A woman startles her in German.

MATRON

Hello Isa -- we miss you at the  
Sports Academy.

Isa looks away.

Dr. Braun will do the test.

DR. BRAUN

You're our little traitor.

(CONTINUED)

RONSON

None of that -- here to test her.

Isa squirms.

You know Dr. Asnar, Olympic Testing Administration -- and our friend Calhoun -- who made all this possible.

CALHOUN

Where's the Olympic doctor?

Ronson ignores him.

RONSON

Dr. Braun will take the swath. Dr. Asnar will observe the sample under the microscope.

Asnar opens a bag of cotton balls and hands one to Braun. He approaches Isa. Sweat drips from his double chin. He roughly jams his left index finger and thumb into her mouth and pries her cheeks apart.

DR. BRAUN

Wider.

He bends to look. His right hand reaches inside her left cheek, and roughly swipes the cotton from back to front. He examines the smear. Dr. Asnar hands him a slide. The German aggressively rubs the smear onto the slide and hands it to the Spaniard.

DR. ASNAR

Satisfactory gentlemen?

All eyes watch Asnar as he places the slide under the microscope.

Calhoun and Harv grab Isa and hustle her through a chamber door, down a back hall, to the side door. They race across a road to Harv's car and peel out. Harv picks up the Gray Ford in the mirror. Three minutes later he pulls into GAS Clean Car Wash, hands the attendant a ten, and hits the track perfectly. The attendant attaches the chains. Spray obliterates the car as it enters. Three minutes later it exits the monsoon. Harv pulls onto the street. Smithson follows. Harv pulls into the Doctor's Parking Lot and shows his badge. Smithson slows to a halt.

A mile away, a car wash worker carries a bucket of soapy water to the back fence and disappears through the gate.

INT. HARV'S OFFICE DAY

SECRETARY

Do you have an appointment --

Smithson brushes the secretary aside, followed by three suits.

SMITHSON

You stupid son of a bitch Calhoun.

CALHOUN

Flattery will --

SMITHSON

XX -- she tested XX -- she's not  
your son.

Two agents yank Calhoun's hands behind his back. The cuffs click into place.

INT. WAYNE COUNTY HOSPITAL DAY

Harv steps off an elevator and knocks on a door. A female doctor opens the door. Isa sits opposite.

HARV

Owe you Mary.

ISA

Where's my father?

HARV

Detained right now.

Isa brings her knees to her chest and rocks.

ISA

Want to see Kelly.

HARV

Soon -- back in a minute.

Harv and the doctor enter an adjoining room.

FEMALE DOCTOR

Narrow pelvis -- no ovaries --  
penile inversion. Some kind of  
tissue patch in his mouth. Tests XX  
-- don't know how they did it --  
everywhere else XY.

They return to Isa.

(CONTINUED)

HARV

No more tests. The nurse will take  
you to your ride.

Isa rises. Harv wraps her in his arms.  
Things will get better.

ISA

Cannot get worse.

EXT. RAHN'S CABIN DAY

Harv passes the dead maple on the way up to the cabin. Rahn  
rocks on the porch. He speaks in German.

RAHN

Heavy sky Dr. Stinson. About to  
erupt.

HARV

Dr. Rahn. I'm here --

RAHN

Thought Calhoun would be the one.

HARV

In jail for kidnapping Isa.

Rahn stops rocking.

Tell me about the patch.

RAHN

I clone tissue in mouth -- use as a  
medium for cancer growth.

HARV

How do you keep it from spreading?

RAHN

Mouthwash -- five times a day.  
Drugs and identifier cells.

Rahn discusses his research.

HARV

They used your procedure on Isa.

RAHN

Am ashamed.

(CONTINUED)

HARV  
If she doesn't use the mouthwash?

RAHN  
Invade -- rapid tumor growth.

HARV  
How long?

RAHN  
Fifteen days.

Harv pauses.

HARV  
Calhoun needs your help -- I need  
your help. Show me how to fight  
cancer.

Rahn looks down the mountain as the low lying clouds open  
up. He enters the cabin and returns with a box and hands it  
to Harv.

RAHN  
Research --

HARV  
Chromosome information?

RAHN  
Everything -- my insurance policy.

The screen door bangs against the jamb, until there is only  
the sound of the mountain rain.

INT. ALBEMARLE COUNTY JAIL DAY

Harv sits opposite Calhoun, separated by a wire mesh.

HARV  
Irreversible -- physically and  
mentally.

CALHOUN  
Mentally?

HARV  
She's a girl now.

Calhoun shakes his head.



CALHOUN  
Twin girls.

He looks at the ceiling.

HARV  
Rahn gave me everything. Cancer --  
American program -- tests -- his  
insurance policy.

CALHOUN  
Ronson know?

HARV  
This afternoon. One thing -- Rahn  
uses a mouthwash to keep the cloned  
tissue from invading the host.

CALHOUN  
Kenny?

HARV  
Not since you picked him up.

CALHOUN  
How long?

HARV  
Times up.

INT. DONUT DELITE DAY

RONSON  
Your medical career -- down the  
sewer.

HARV  
Isa's a male.

RONSON  
You saw the test.

HARV  
They used a patch.

Harv explains, then hands Ronson a manila envelope. "East German Performance Program". Ronson opens it.

RONSON  
An outline -- no specifics.

(CONTINUED)

HARV

You get the rest when you release  
Calhoun.

RONSON

Can get a search warrant --

HARV

I'm a Doctor Ronson -- twice.  
You're a self-serving mid range  
bureaucrat. Don't threaten me.

Ronson glares.

I've got the complete U.S. Olympic  
Program -- doses -- frequencies --  
names. Ready to go.

Ronson fidgets.

Use the German program to keep them  
from withdrawing. Nothing about Isa  
-- she's a girl to you.

Ronson shrugs his head to his neck.

Meet me at the jail in an hour.

EXT. DETENTION CENTER DAY

Harv and Calhoun leave in the back of a cab.

HARV

Defection hearing's tomorrow at  
9:00 AM.

CALHOUN

Remove the patch yet?

HARV

If we wait --

CALHOUN

Your son Harv --

HARV

No brainer.

EXT. RAHN'S CABIN DUSK

Calhoun swings the car door shut, and follows the path to  
the clearing. Something is different in the branch of the  
dead maple. He sprints.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

God -- no.

He hugs Rahn's suspended legs and explodes upward to lift pressure off the German's neck. His clammy skin hits him like a hammer. He lets go, looks up at the silhouette, the knotted noose, and the gently swinging body. Smithson arrives out of breath.

SMITHSON

Son of a bitch.

INT. IMMIGRATION HEARING 9:00 AM

Harv leads Isa down the hall. Calhoun follows. Bodies appear behind them as they reach the Judge's Chamber. Ronson looks at Isa's swollen right cheek. He yanks her through the door. Bodies pin Calhoun against the door. Five minutes later Ronson comes out.

RONSON

You stupid asshole -- you removed  
the patch. Had them totally  
humiliated -- the whole world would  
--

INT. OLYMPIC INFORMATION CENTER DAY

Ronson and Smithson approach the press room.

RONSON

Finally got the bastards.

Harv steps in front of Ronson.

RONSON

It's Mr. Five Degree Man -- who  
destroyed the most explosive  
political evidence of all time.  
Come to watch my inferior intellect  
set communism back fifty years --  
show how they turn men into women  
to compete with us?

HARV

Said you'd leave Isa out of it.

RONSON

Our lottery win -- are you kidding?

HARV

Before you go --

He holds up a photocopy.

(CONTINUED)

RONSON

That shit from Rahn -- useless  
Stinson.

HARV

Shannon Brooks -- Breast Stroker --  
Positive.

RONSON

Bullshit -- who tested her?

HARV

Me.

RONSON.

Sure you did.

HARV

Eight for eight Ronson -- eight  
positive.

RONSON

Out of your league Stinson.

HARV

Except the Women's Basketball team  
-- positive.

Ronson walks away.

Rahn showed me how to test it.

Ronson turns.

Insurance policy -- said you'd  
double cross him.

RONSON

IOC can't detect it.

HARV

350 American kids -- Olympic dreams  
down the tubes -- California to  
Maine.

RONSON

Full of shit.

HARV

American kids -- heroes --  
disqualified -- one by one --  
humiliated -- test after test.

(CONTINUED)

RONSON

No tests for our stuff.

HARV

Are you naive enough to think you  
can match wits with Rahn?

Ronson stares at Harv.

Minor tweaks to the testing  
equipment.

RONSON

I help our athletes.

HARV

Devastated athletes -- kids who had  
no idea you you were shooting them  
up.

RONSON

Can't do that Stinson.

HARV

Thanks for the press conference.

RONSON

Can't do that to your Country.

HARV

Not to my Country -- for my  
Country.

INT. OLYMPIC INFORMATION CENTER

Ronson avoids the cameras, wires, and microphones. He steps  
into the lights. He glances at Harv Stinson holding his  
report in his hand.

RONSON

On behalf of the U.S. Olympic  
Committee -- thanks for coming.

He looks hard at Harv.

We have decided to -- uh --  
reinstate Coach Calhoun -- to his  
position as U.S. Olympic Women's  
Basketball Coach.

Hands shoot up. He twitches and points to one of the hands.  
Mr. Yashimoto.

(CONTINUED)

YASHIMOTO

Where is the announcement to shock  
the World?

Color drains from Ronson's face.

Well this coaching change --

INT. OLYMPIC DORMITORY NIGHT

Calhoun pauses in front of #522 and listens to the laughter.  
He knocks. Janine opens the door.

JANINE

Welcome back Coach.

She hugs him. Before his eyes clear, he is surrounded.  
Gallagher hands him a Dr. Pepper and his clipboard.

CALHOUN

I'm rehired.

The cheer sends chills down his spine.  
Come here and put your hands  
together. From now on --

There is a knock on the door.

BELLHOP

Six boxes of Dreamcicles.

GALLAGHER

Bring 'em in.

The girls tear open the boxes like Christmas presents.

CALHOUN

We have a lot of work --

Smitty steps in wearing a Bellhop hat.

SMITTY.

Your dreams are answered -- I'm  
back.

INT. ALUMNI HALL PRACTICE DAY

Calhoun interrupts Coach Johnson.

CALHOUN

Move you asses -- run.

He paces at center as the ball bounces off Mary's hand out  
of bounds.

(CONTINUED)

CALHOUN

Where's the intensity?

He paces like a caged cougar.

Where's your pride? Don't want to  
play -- we'll run.

His team stands at the baseline, hands on their knees.  
Players straggle off the floor.

GALLAGHER

Can't run 'em like that -- not at  
this time of the year.

CALHOUN

Away two weeks -- program's gone  
all to hell.

He storms across the floor into the tunnel.

INT. ALUMNI HALL YUGOSLAVIA GAME DAY

Gallagher flinches each time Calhoun yells from the bench.  
Calhoun calls time out.

CALHOUN

Wake up -- what are you --

KELLY

We're up 28.

CALHOUN

I'll handle the timeouts.

KELLY

It's Yugoslavia.

CALHOUN

I'm the coach.

KELLY

Then coach - stop yelling at us.

CALHOUN

Tanya in for Kelly.

Kelly walks to the end of the bench. She wraps a towel over  
her face.

Full court trap.

INT. TRAINING ROOM DAY

CALHOUN

Here early?

Smitty opens a new box of tape and turns.

SMITTY

You're wound tighter than a fucking golf ball. Keep doing what you're doing -- we're going down in flames. Should have stuck with Talisman.

CALHOUN

Not listening --

SMITTY

You better listen -- you should be shot for benching Kelly.

CALHOUN

I'm the Coach.

SMITTY

You're an out of control bitcher and complainer.

Calhoun's face turns red.

All the hype and ceremonies -- noisy dorms. No one's getting any sleep. And what are you doing -- grinding the shit out of them.

CALHOUN

We have to beat the Russians.

SMITTY

Why? Say it. Why?

CALHOUN

So we can beat the Germans.

SMITTY

Why?

CALHOUN

The bastards stole my son.

SMITTY

They stole Kelly's brother too.



INT. ALUMNI HALL DAY

Calhoun turns the practice over to Gallagher for the match ups. He follows Ham outside.

HAM  
How'd the hearing go?

CALHOUN  
Isa did well -- Kenny.

HAM  
The Germans?

CALHOUN  
Didn't show. Is she coming to the game?

HAM  
Helping the POW's. Coming in tomorrow -- three extra -- seven in all.

CALHOUN  
Fantastic Ham -- congratulations.

Ham stares at Calhoun.

HAM  
People worried about you.

INT. ALUMNI HALL OLYMPIC SEMI-FINAL DAY

Calhoun paces during the ceremonies.

CALHOUN  
Waited all my life for this game  
Larry -- it's not the one.

The ref signals the timer and the captains. The Russians control the tip. He's up like a pogo stick.  
Get up Maupin -- get up.

The lob entry barely clears the defender's hand. The Russian pivots and scores. Calhoun skyrockets.  
Weak side too slow -- Mary -- that's you.

Gallagher grabs his shirt and pulls him down.  
Time out -- time out.

He meets his team halfway to the bench.  
Calm down -- playing scared -- up tight.

Kelly listens as his words echo off the rafters.

INT. LOCKER ROOM HALF TIME

CALHOUN

Understand something -- it's our way of life against theirs. We play by the rules -- they cheat.

He paces. The crowd roar vibrates the room. He draws back his clipboard. Arborite and cinder block fragments ricochet everywhere.

This isn't a game -- it's a fucking war.

INT. ALUMNI HALL SECOND HALF

Kelly's face is expressionless as she hits her third jumper in a row. The Russians call timeout. Calhoun screams as they come to the bench.

KELLY

Coach us.

CALHOUN

Down three -- 30 seconds -- fake rotation to steal. Lay back Leann -- pick off the diagonal pass. If we have to foul --

GALLAGHER

Maripov first-- anybody -- except Larinov.

The press works. Leann tips a pass and Tanya scoops it like a grounder.

CALHOUN

Box and One. Time out -- time out.

He meets Kelly.

Playing you man?

KELLY

Larinov.

CALHOUN

Box and one -- 24 seconds left -- down three. 2-3 baseline offense. Kelly screen right block -- Janine run the baseline.

(CONTINUED)

Calhoun watches Janine's perfect release. The noise drowns out the pop of the cords. NINETEEN. EIGHTEEN. The Russians frantically try to inbound the ball. The big girl is open at the foul line. Tanya and Janine grab her at the same time.

REFEREE

Twenty-two white -- hold.

The murmur turns to a roar as the Russian steps to the line. Five hundred mini Stars and Stripes vibrate the end zone. It's short and Leann snatches the rebound above the rim.

KELLY

Time out.

His team gathers.

CALHOUN

Okay -- down one -- same play to Janine.

Kelly steps in front of her dad.

KELLY

I want it.

He looks in her eyes.

Same set up. Tanya -- good fake to Janine -- swing it opposite. If she misses --

KELLY

Just get me the ball.

When the ball goes up, he knows it's in.

INT. LOCKER ROOM DAY

The room is silent.

CALHOUN

One more. We've got to --

Kelly throws her bag over her shoulder and dashes out the door.

-- do a better job on the boards.

Coach Gallagher will fill you in.

She leaves the building and sits on a concrete wall. Two young girls walk by with their parents.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNGER GIRL

It's Kelly mom.

OLDER GIRL

Will you sign our program.

YOUNGER GIRL

Can we get a picture?

Kelly wipes her eyes and signs the program. She places her arms around them, and tries to smile as their father snaps a photo. They leave. Calhoun approaches.

CALHOUN

Made their day.

She takes a breath and blows into her cheeks.

KELLY

We prayed to get you back -- we  
prayed for the wrong thing.

She lowers her head, then looks up.

Screaming -- yelling -- belittling  
-- no teaching -- no coaching. All  
you do is make us feel like shit.

She walks away and turns back.

Want my old coach back -- want my  
dad back.

EXT. CALHOUN'S HOUSE NIGHT

He opens the door and Zeke springs to his chest. His tail whirls.

CALHOUN

Missed you too. Yes I did.

Calhoun drops to the rug and rubs his belly.

How come you never rub my belly?

He picks up his bottle and heads to the kitchen. Zeke nips his heels. He fills his glass.

Want to go outside?

Zeke shifts into overdrive. Calhoun walks to the back door. He sees the mess on the floor.

Bad dog -- bad dog.

Calhoun grabs him by the collar and yanks his nose to the mess. He smacks Zeke on the haunch. He scurries under the dining table and watches the cleanup. Calhoun reaches for his dog.

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You couldn't help it.

Zeke drags himself to the other side of the table. Calhoun sits on the floor. His chest heaves. He opens his eyes when Zeke licks the tears from his chin.

INT. TEAM ROOM DAY

Calhoun takes a deep breath at the door. His team and coaches are seated. He sits on the desk in the front.

CALHOUN

I let it get out of perspective --

Complete silence.

-- let it become personal.

His eyes gloss over.

There's something -- eating me up  
-- my son Kenny --

He loses it. Kelly stands in the back of the room.

KELLY

Everyone knows Coach.

He steps into her open arms. Her team follows.

INT. ALUMNI HALL OLYMPIC FINAL DAY

The building pulses. He makes eye contact with his players.

CALHOUN

Game faces Larry.

Nervous laughter.

Kids on the playground -- bragging  
rights. No flags -- no Countries.  
It's only a game --

KELLY

Believe that coach?

He smiles.

CALHOUN

Lets' have fun.

The team huddles. The coaches leave.

KELLY

This is it. We --

(CONTINUED)

JANINE

I got it. Let's do it for Kelly --  
for her brother -- let's do it for  
her Dad.

Janine wipes Kelly's eyes with her fingers, and wraps her arms around her. The team follows.

INT. ALUMNI HALL OLYMPIC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME DAY.

The photographers make hay with the POW's in the fourteenth row behind the bench. Calhoun zeroes in on the four empty aisle seats. 14:59. 14:58. 14:57. The referees make their way to the floor.

GALLAGHER

Kwiatkowski -- asshole.

CALHOUN

At least we got the Canadian.

He glances up, 6:00, 5:59. Ham leads Eliza and Isa down the aisle, followed by Harv. The East German Anthem begins. Calhoun looks at Isa. She stares straight ahead, her body rigid. Applause follows. He swallows as the band plays the Star Spangled Banner. The crowd erupts. Isa is frozen in her seat.

CALHOUN

Here we go ladies. All been said.  
One -- two -- three -- U.S.A.

The game is physical. The East Germans dominate the boards. The Americans score off the press. Calhoun's shirt is soaked as the ball bounces on the end line.

CANADIAN

White.

CALHOUN

Two Seconds -- I Pop -- I Pop.

Kelly looks at the bench.

KELLY

Dogs - Dogs.

CALHOUN

What --

Three players huddle on the foul line. Janine lines up alone fifteen feet to the right. The Canadian hands Kelly the ball on the baseline. Three Americans drop to the floor, howling

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like coons on a scent. The Germans stare. Tanya inbounds to Janine for an easy fifteen footer at the buzzer. Calhoun heads to the scorer's table. The Canadian puts on his jacket.

CALHOUN  
Kwiatkowski's killing us Neil --  
not calling anything.

CANADIAN  
Calling mine Coach.

CALHOUN  
Gotta call his too Neil. Too good a  
ref to let him decide the game.

CALHOUN  
Do my best coach.

INT. LOCKER ROOM HALF TIME

Gallagher is speaking. Calhoun arrives.

GALLAGHER  
Down six -- three trips.

CALHOUN  
No rules under the basket this half  
-- box out. Get your rear ends into  
their knees -- ankles -- anything  
you can hit. If they come over the  
top -- duck. They can check out the  
floor with their noses.

GALLAGHER  
They're throwing long against the  
press.

CALHOUN  
Match up man -- no double in the  
forecourt. Stop the ball --  
overplay. When they get it over  
half -- double the guards --  
collapse on the post. Make them  
shoot outside. Let's get our press  
going. No rules -- do what you have  
to.

He looks around the room.  
I want to thank --

(CONTINUED)

KELLY

Tell us after we win.

He stares at his daughter.

CALHOUN

Did you have to run Dogs?

Laughter fills the room.

INT. OLYMPIC FINAL SECOND HALF

The German center takes three steps and crashes into Tanya's back with both knees, sending her face first to the court, scoring the rebound. Calhoun chases Kwiatkowski down the sideline.

CALHOUN

What is she -- a crash test dummy?

KWAITKOWSKI

Technical foul -- call dummy.

Gallagher grabs Calhoun by the collar and drags him to the bench. The physical play continues. He writhes as Leann skies to block the center's shot in the key. The big girl cuts out Leann's legs with her hip, flipping her head first to the floor. Calhoun hops up waiting for Kwiatkowski's call. He looks at the Canadian. Neil crosses his arms, pointing at the German.

CANADIAN

Intentional foul -- thirty-four.

KWIATKOWSKI

No foul.

He waves his arms. The Canadian brushes through his arms and walks to the scorer's table. Kwiatkowski follows.

CANADIAN

Intentional Foul two shots and the ball.

Kwiatkowski argues.

I made the call.

Smitty shouts at Kwiatkowski.

SMITTY

Broke her arm you creep.

Kwiatkowski turns to the Canadian.

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KWIATKOWSKI

What is creep?

Neil stares with contempt.

CANADIAN

Person in charge.

INT. CHAMPIONSHIP GAME 28 SECONDS LEFT

64-60 E. Germans. 28 seconds. A shot goes up, Tanya locates the big girl accelerating for the rebound. She bends forward. The German's 240 pounds go over her back like Niagara Falls. The floor shakes when she hits. Kwiatkowski races in pointing at Tanya.

KWIATKOWSKI

Intentional foul -- twenty-one.

Gallagher grabs Calhoun as he explodes to his feet.

GALLAGHER

Need you.

Kwiatkowski jogs to the scorer's table.

KWIATKOWSKI

Intentional foul -- out of game.  
Calhoun breaks free. Neil stops him  
on his way to the Russian.

CANADIAN

Got it.

He goes to the table.

Got a charging foul on #34 Blue. No  
intentional foul -- holding her  
position -- double foul. No  
disqualification -- jump ball.

The German trainers attend Elend. She is still. Calhoun summons his team.

CALHOUN

22 seconds -- down four. Lot of  
time. If they get the tip -- 2-1-2  
Kelly in the middle. Force her down  
the sideline -- double -- overplay  
ball side. When they skip it  
diagonal -- yours Janine.

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GALLAGHER  
The big girl's out.

Tanya shrugs her shoulders.

CALHOUN  
If we don't pick it off --

GALLAGHER  
Foul #32 or #45

The Germans win the tip. As the ball crosses mid court the defense rotates. Janine picks the pass like a cornerback, and hits Kelly on the run. She drives to the block, jump stops, and fakes. Her defender bites. Kelly scoops the ball under her arms as she comes down. Nash's whistle sounds as the ball hits the board and drops in.

NASH  
Count it. #32 on the arm.

Kelly is automatic. 64-63. TWELVE -- ELEVEN. Calhoun helps Kelly stop the ball on the sideline. He jumps with Maupin as she gets a piece of the diagonal pass. Janine chases it down and races to mid court in front of the bench. Kelly beats him to the timeout.

CALHOUN  
Six seconds -- down one. They'll stay in their zone. Reverse wheel -- Kelly opposite baseline. Leann -- good pick on Lengren. Janine to Tanya -- good pass to Kelly. Can't get it to her -- drive. Everybody rebound.

GALLAGHER  
One timeout left. What --

He turns to the commotion behind the bench.

ISA  
I must talk to the coach.

SMITHSON  
Get her out of here.

He jerks Isa by her shirt. Calhoun draws back his fist but an olive blur beats him to it. Congo shatters Smithson's forearm. Ply's medals bounce from his uniform as he arrives. Ham steps in front of the security reinforcements. Kelly shelters Isa.

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HAM

Back off there -- let my men in here.

The guards look at each other for direction as the POW's surround the bench.

CANADIAN

Get them back on the bench coach.

Calhoun nods and turns to Isa.

ISA

Man to Man -- drop to key to stop Desperation. Two players guard Kelly. No one will guard the inbounder.

Calhoun looks at Gallagher.

GALLAGHER

No Ken.

ISA

Desperation always -- we practice.

GALLAGHER

The films -- they stay in a zone.

He looks at Isa, then Kelly. Neil blows his whistle.

CANADIAN

Let's go white.

CALHOUN

Reverse Wheel.

The team returns to the floor. Kelly remains in her seat. Their eyes lock.

KELLY

If we're not going to believe him -- what was it all for?

Calhoun looks at Isa. Kelly takes her position on the opposite baseline. Neil raises his hand and prepares to hand Janine the ball.

CALHOUN

Time out -- time out.

(CONTINUED)

CANADIAN

Time out white.

GALLAGHER

You can't Ken -- she froze during  
the anthem.

CALHOUN

I know.

He turns to Isa.

Double Kelly - drop to stop the  
backdoor -- no one guards the  
inbounder?

She nods. He diagrams as he talks.

Desperation set. Kelly -- backdoor  
-- take both of them. Tanya bluff  
the pick -- back to ball. Leann  
clear opposite. Janine to Tanya --  
quick return to Janine. Stop where  
you're comfortable -- boards.

KELLY

Hit it Janine.

They grasp hands. Their teammates follow.

GALLAGHER

Better be right Ken.

CALHOUN

If I'm not -- nothing matters.

The Canadian raises his right hand and hands Janine the  
ball. Her fake sets the defense in motion. Tanya is free as  
she cuts back to the ball. The ref's hand drops as she  
receives the pass. She returns it to Janine as she cuts to  
the basket. FOUR. She dribbles once and stops for the ten  
footer, avoiding a defender's desperate lunge. THREE.  
Silence. TWO. The ball peaks, drops, and spins off the top  
of the backboard square. ONE. It passes softly through the  
net. The bench erupts. Calhoun glances back at Isa. Ham  
jerks him off his feet.

HAM

Did it Calhoun -- did it.

CALHOUN

We --

Ham drops him in front of Eliza. They hit each other like  
magnets.

(MORE)

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CALHOUN (cont'd)  
She did it mom.

Kelly leaps into her father's arms. It's too noisy to hear, but he knows what she says.

KELLY  
Thank you Dad.

INT. OLYMPIC MEDAL PRESENTATION DAY

As they place the gold medal around Calhoun's neck, Kelly places her hand in his. Her grip tightens as they hand him his bouquet. He glances at the flowers.

CALHOUN  
Baby's Breath.

He raises the bouquet to the crowd, and lowers it as the Star Spangled Banner begins. He mouths the words and watches his daughter.

A reporter grabs Kelly as she leaves the podium.

REPORTER 3  
Kelly -- how does it feel --

KELLY  
Dedicating this medal to the POW's -- recently reunited with American soil -- for you guys up there. Due to --

REPORTER 3  
What happened behind your bench --

KELLY  
-- the diligence of Master Sergeant Hamilton Brown -- and the others. These men were rescued from concentration camps in the jungles of Cambodia.

REPORTER 3  
What about Isa Jakobie --

KELLY  
Imprisoned for ten years -- did not exist according to the U.S. State Department --

(CONTINUED)

REPORTER 3

But what --

KELLY

-- and the President of the United States.

She lofts her medal.  
To real heroes.

She pushes through to mob and jogs across the floor. The reporter chases until his cord runs out. She scales the steps two at a time to the fourteenth row. She hugs Ham and Eliza as she passes, then stops in front of Isa Jakobie. She embraces Isa in her seat. She removes her medal and slips the multicolored ribbon over Isa's head. Isa kneads the medal with her fingers. Her lips tremble.

ISA

Thank you.

Isa kisses Kelly's left cheek, and her right. She stands and makes her way past the POW's to the end of the row and stops in front of Corporal Winston R. Walton. She rests her hand on the arm of his wheel chair, kisses his left cheek, then his right. He stares ahead. Isa removes the gold medal from her neck and places it over Corporal Walton's head.

Kelly leans against her father. Calhoun removes his medal and places it around her neck. She clears her eyes with the back of her hand and leans her face against his.

CALHOUN

And now it begins Kel -- now it begins.