PLAY

screenplay by

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EXT. LOS ANGELES - ESTABLISHING

Picturesque rose-colored dawn. A Sky Nine news chopper streaks over the Hollywood sign headed for the city of L.A.

INT. RAY'S APARTMENT - CUBICLE - DAWN

Violet florescent lights illuminate video game accessories. 3D enhanced bifocals. M-16 machine gun. Steering wheel.

A custom built recliner encased in steel bars resembles a fighter pilot’s cockpit.

A disheveled man in his 30’s, RAYMOND BURNS, takes a seat. He straps himself into the chairs harness. Presses a button.

An enormous flat screen television reflects a digital city. Raymond Burns is about to escape into another world...

EXT. ROAD - DAWN

A white cargo van pulls curb side. Lights dim.

INT. CARGO VAN - DAWN

Six masked ASSASSINS in black army fatigues lock and load automatic weapons -- All business.

INT. BURN'S HOME- MASTER BEDROOM - DAWN

A beautiful woman, ANGELA BURNS, lies asleep on a king sized canopy-bed. Transparent curtains from the open balcony rustle in the wind. The door knob turns slowly...

GIRLS BEDROOM

Little JASMINE BURNS, 6, and her older sister KAYA, 10, sleep face to face.

Suddenly, black gloves are placed over their mouths...

MIKE’S BEDROOM

MICHAEL BURNS, 14, curled up on his bed in a fetal position. A pillow is placed over his face. A muffled Scream.

EXT. SKYLINE - SUNRISE

The sun slowly creeps over the indigo horizon.
INT. RAY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - SUNRISE

Ray’s in REM sleep, his eyeballs move rapidly under the lids. Alarm clock BLARES.

His body jerks awake with one swift motion. Now upright, pebbled with sweat, he looks around. Climbs out of bed.

SERIES OF IMAGES

Ray in front of the bathroom mirror applying deodorant to his arm pits several times on both sides.

Ray fastens buttons on his green military suit.

Ray flicks a light switch on and off.

Ray shuts his apartment door repeatedly.

Ray counts steps under his breath on his way to his beat up Chevy Caprice.

INT. PETCO SUPERMARKET - OFFICE - DAY

Ray sits in front of a bookish STORE MANAGER twiddling his thumbs nervously as the manager skims over his resume.

Without hesitation Ray slams his latex covered hand over a fly on the manager’s desk. The Manager’s not impressed.

INT. SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

A hot sticky office. Ray waits for his number to be called amongst a large crowd of disgruntled senior citizens.

SOCIAL WORKER (O.S.)
Fifty seven.

AT THE WINDOW - MINUTES LATER

The gaudy SOCIAL WORKER, an Alabama girl with big hair and horn rimmed glasses, punches Ray’s info into a computer.

SOCIAL WORKER
Shows here the check was sent to your address on the third.

RAY
Yes, but I haven't received it.

SOCIAL WORKER
You check with the post office.
She pops her chewing gum, looking burdened. Ray’s annoyed.

RAY
I did.

SOCIAL WORKER
I'm afraid there's nothing more we can do about that sir. Now I would suggest that you-

RAY
Can you issue me a replacement?

SOCIAL WORKER
We've sent you a replacement the last two months sir.

RAY
Mam I’m late on my rent. I need my check.

SOCIAL WORKER
Sir.

RAY
I’m asking you calmly for my check. And I’d appreciate your cooperation in dealing with this matter. Now, my check.

SOCIAL WORKER
Sir there is nothing more I can do for you at this time. If you would like to speak to my supervisor I-

RAY
I need my damn check bitch!

A SECURITY GUARD strolls over.

SECURITY GUARD
Is there a problem here?

EXT. GROCERY STORE - PARKING LOT - LATER

Ray counts steps to his car. A rusted Coupe de Ville sputters into the parking space in front of him.

A feeble old MAN steps out of the Coupe as a Sky Nine news chopper streaks above.

Suddenly, as if struck by some other worldly force, Ray looks at the old man in a TRANCE.
He runs full speed toward the man, tackles him. Mounts. Cocks his fist. The man looks up at Ray, dazed.

RAY
Name and rank officer?

OLD MAN
What?

Ray grabs the man by the neck.

RAY
We just lost five men. We got sheets all over this place. Now what's it gonna be?

OLD MAN
It’s okay son. You’re home now.

The old man points to a couple horrified SHOPPERS watching the assault unfold.

A WOMAN on her cell phone gives a detailed police report of Ray’s physic. Ray snaps back into reality, stares down at the old man with remorseful eyes.

OLD MAN
Fourth battalion, ninth infantry regiment in Nam. Still don’t sleep a lick.

Ray lets go of his neck.

OLD MAN
Don’t worry. I won’t press charges.

INT. DIZZY'S ARCADE - NIGHT

Ray feverishly plays an arcade game. A pimple faced TEENAGER addresses his gawky friends.

TEENAGE BOY
He's been playing for ten hours straight.

Ray's cell phone RINGS. He ignores it.

TEENAGE BOY
You gonna get that?

RAY
Stick your hand in my pocket.
TEENAGE BOY
What are you queer?

RAY
Just do it.

The teenager reaches into Ray's pants pocket. Pulls out his cell phone.

RAY
What's it say?

TEENAGE BOY
ID blocked.

RAY
Take over for me.

The teenager grabs the controllers. Ray steps away from the crowd, cell phone to his ear.

RAY
Hello.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
(Middle Eastern Accent)
Good evening Raymond. We're going to play a game.

RAY
Who is this?

GAMEKEEPER
You can call me the Gamekeeper. I see you like video games.

Ray searches the arcade.

RAY
What is this, some type of sick joke?

GAMEKEEPER
This is no joke Guinea Pig, this is your life.

Ray hangs up. Phone rings again, he picks up.

GAMEKEEPER
Do you know who I'm staring at?

RAY
Yeah, my nutsack.
GAMEKEEPER
You have a sense of humor, good. Your going to need it. I'm staring at your ex wife Angela, and your three children.

RAY
Okay who is this?

GAMEKEEPER
Listen carefully, your family's life depends on what you do from this moment on....

EXT. HIKING TRAIL/WEEDS - DAY

President of Activision gaming, HERMAN COBB, jogs by himself on a desolate dusty trail.

Ray crouches in the weeds at the top of the hill. His latex gloves clutch the grip of a Walther P99 pistol.

Herman jogs past, breathing heavily. Ray Steps out on to the trail. Raises the Walther, BANG. Herman slumps to the floor.

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - LATER

Detective HARRY SMITS, 50's, a man’s man, examines the dead body. His fingers move back hair follicles.

HARRY
Name?

KAREEM JAFFAR, a middle eastern playboy in his 30’s glances at his notepad.

KAREEM
Herman Cobb. Wife, no kids, president of Activision. Has a house in Bel Air. Media's all over it.

HARRY
High profile.

Harry stands.

HARRY
Right up your alley.
INT. COBB HOME - DAY

Herman’s wife, SALLY COBB, cries her eyes out on a couch in front of Kareem. She's focused on the TV.

NEWS REPORTER
Authorities are confirming it's the body of fifty-two year old Herman Cobb. Cobb was CEO of the video game company Activision-

Kareem shuts off the TV.

KAREEM
Did he have any enemies. Anyone who'd want to hurt him?

SALLY
Herman wouldn't hurt a fly.

Harry enters.

HARRY
Found this in his coat pocket.

Harry hands Sally a small piece of paper.

HARRY
Who's Tamika?

SALLY
His secretary.

INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT- INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

TAMIKA REYES, well endowed and sexy, seductively smokes a cigarette in front of Harry and Kareem.

TAMIKA
We would meet once a week. Hotel off Sunset. I gave him what he wanted, got something extra in my check.

HARRY
Company funds?

TAMIKA
He called it gratuity.

HARRY
How long?
TAMIKA
About three months.

HARRY
Why'd it end?

TAMIKA
IRS started snooping. Audits or something.

Kareem slides a file across the desk.

HARRY
Funny how white collar crimes work. Former prostitute gets a job at a prestigious law firm. Limited experience. Two months later her boss is found dead in a public pool

TAMIKA
If you want a lead detectives you should be concentrating on Burns.

HARRY
Burns?

TAMIKA
Raymond Burns. He was fired a month ago. Used to come in wearing latex gloves on his hands, mumbling about germs. Scared the shit out of half the people in the office.

KAREEM
What about you?

TAMIKA
I ain’t scared of nobody Aladdin. Can I go now?

INT. BURN'S HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Framed pictures line a dresser. Ray picks up a photo of his three children smiling happily.

A tear trickles down his cheek.

INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT - DAY

A line of cops sit behind a counter busily answering phones and taking the day’s complaints.
Ray's eyes flicker toward the Middle Eastern OFFICER motioning him forward.

OFFICER
Next.

Ray weighs the pros and cons. He turns, heads for the exit.

INT. LIBRARY - LATER

Ray sits in front of a computer. Police web site on the monitor. A young ARABIC GIRL takes a seat next to him.

ARABIC GIRL
Hi.

Ray stands, walks out of the room.

INT. RAY'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

Ray splashes water on his face. He moves to the toilet to regurgitate his thoughts.

LIVING ROOM - LATER

Ray’s doing crunches. He glances at the game booth sectioned off in the corner of the room by yellow caution tape.

It’s calling him. He moves to the booth, enters...

INT. ABANDONED FACTORY - DAY

A dark room. Match is lit. Cigarette lifted to a masked face. Smoke escapes lips then dissolves into thin air.

A figure, the GAMEKEEPER, sits in the middle of a dilapidated room. Cell phone to his ear.

GAMEKEEPER
Well done Guinea Pig. You killed the cat. How does it feel?

RAY (V.O.)
Stop this. Stop it now.

GAMEKEEPER
You know the rules.

RAY (V.O.)
Release my family.

The Gamekeeper moves towards Angela and her children now withered and beaten on a grimy floor.
Two ASSASSINS stand in the room with AK-47's.

ASSASSIN 1
(Arabic)
Ever been with a black woman?

ASSASSIN 2
(Arabic)
No. But I've seen porno. Big butt smash down, number two.

They laugh. The Gamekeeper approaches. Removes the tape from Jasmine's mouth. The phone placed next to her ear.

GAMEKEEPER
Say hi to daddy.

JASMINE
Daddy?

INT. RAY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ray steps out of the booth. Crumbles to the couch.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Complete the missions and you will see them again yes.

RAY
What do you want?

GAMEKEEPER
Seven Eleven two blocks around the corner.

INT. SEVEN ELEVEN - DAY

Two middle eastern CLERKS argue behind the counter. One of them, obviously frustrated, dips into a stock room.

Ray glances at the remaining clerk. Strolls down the aisle.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
There is a man operating under the name Hassaan Adams. His real name is Abu Hejal.

Ray moves toward the sodas, pulls down a can. He notices Abu's eyes fixed on him as he heads toward the counter.
GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
...He is a traitor to the cause. In exchange for secrets, FBI placed him in witness protection. He is related to wolves and foxes. Exterminate him.

CLERK
That's it.

RAY
Yes.

Abu rings him up. Ray steals a glance at his name tag which says "HASSAAN".

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
He works double shift on Tuesdays. Empties the trash at midnight. The gun will be placed in a brown bag underneath the dumpster. Complete the mission and your daughters will live. And remember, Guinea Pig, we are watching you.

INT. RAY'S BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Harry knocks on Ray’s door. Ray opens.

HARRY
Raymond Burns.

RAY
Yes.

HARRY
Detective Harry Smits.

Flashes his badge.

HARRY
My partner, Detective Jaffar. We need you to come down to the station. Got a couple questions to ask you.

Ray gives Kareem the hairy eyeball.

RAY
What's this about?

KAREEM
A case we're investigating.
RAY
Am I a suspect?

HARRY
Not yet.

INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Ray, restless, sits in front of Kareem and Harry. Kareem eyes the latex gloves. He smirks.

KAREEM
Doing prostate checks?

RAY
Does he have to be here?

Harry nods Kareem out. Ray waits for the door to shut, then leans across the desk.

RAY
He might be one of them.

HARRY
Excuse me?

RAY
A terrorist.

The two play eye chess.

HARRY
What are you talking about?

RAY
I was stationed in Fallujah. I’ve seen our men open up on ambulances, women, babies. Not because they were callous. They didn’t know who to trust. The suits in Washington took that from them. You take away a man’s trust, it’s easier for him to convince himself he’s doing the right thing.

HARRY
You can trust me Ray.

Ray notices the small camera mounted to the ceiling in the corner of the room.

RAY
Can they hear us?
HARRY
Yes. Standard procedure. Something you want to tell me?

Ray goes over it in his head.

RAY
I didn't murder Herman Cobb. Now if you're not charging me, I'd like to go home.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Harry and Kareem sit in front of police captain THOMAS FORD.

THOMAS
Forty eight hours gentlemen. No gun, no witnesses, no case.

HARRY
I'd like another shot at Burns.

THOMAS
Anything solid?

HARRY
He's got a motive.

THOMAS
Being racist and crazy is normal in this town.

Thomas moves to his coat stand, wiggles into his jacket.

THOMAS
Have something by five tomorrow.

EXT. KCAL9 TV STATION - PARKING LOT - DAY

News reporter STEVE TASKER heads to his black BMW. Ray approaches from behind.

RAY
Mr. Tasker.

Tasker turns. Gives him a once over.

RAY
Raymond Burns.

TASKER
Can I help you?
RAY
My name is Raymond Burns. I know
this is going to sound crazy. But
just hear me out-

TASKER
Listen, I'm late for an appointment-

RAY
My family's been kidnapped by
terrorists. This guy, calls himself
the Gamekeeper, he's been forcing
me to do crazy things.

Tasker checks his Rolex. Ray's unkempt appearance doesn't help the situation.

TASKER
Call the police.

RAY
I can't.

TASKER
Why not?

RAY
They're involved.

TASKER
Sure buddy.

Tasker unlocks the car door.

RAY
Herman Cobb.

This grabs Tasker's attention.

TASKER
What about him?

RAY
He was...I swear to God I'm telling
the truth. They've got my wife and
kids.

Tasker hops in the BMW. Backs up nearly running Ray over. Ray notices his bumper sticker "JESUS FORGIVES".
INT. FAITH CATHOLIC CHURCH - BOOTH - NIGHT

Ray cloaked in darkness. Small door slides open. A trickle of light leaks across his face.

RAY
I'm in trouble.

VOICE (O.S.)
What kind?

RAY
I murdered someone.

Silence.

VOICE
Repent.

RAY
I can't.

VOICE
Why not?

RAY
No choice.

VOICE
Life is full of choices. Some harder than others.

RAY
You don't understand.

VOICE
Tell me?

RAY
They took my family. I have to kill to keep them alive.

VOICE
They?

RAY
The terrorists.

VOICE
Did you go to the police?
RAY
I tried. I can't trust anyone at this point.

VOICE
Where there's a will there's a way.

Ray thinks.

RAY
Help me father. Tell me what to do.

VOICE
Only one thing you can do. Kill the dog Raymond.

Ray shudders. The window shuts.

CHURCH HALL
Ray steps out slowly. Tugs on the door handle to the adjacent booth. It's locked. He pulls at it furiously.

RAY
Come out. Come out you coward!

An old couple in the bleachers stares at Ray as if he’s lost his mind.

RAY
He's in there. There's a terrorist in there.

OLD MAN
He’s crazy. Call the police.

The Old Woman takes out her cell phone. Begins to punch numbers. Ray's out the front doors like a bat out of hell.

INT. CROWN VICTORIA - NIGHT
Harry and Kareem watch Ray speak with a JANITOR.

HARRY
He still has access to the building.

KAREEM
I say we crash the party.

HARRY
No. He's paranoid enough. Just sit tight.
EXT. ACTIVISION BUILDING - NIGHT

Ray flashes a badge, follows the janitor inside.

INT. ACTIVISION BUILDING - NIGHT

The janitor unlocks an office door.

JANITOR

Cinco.

RAY

Okay.

Ray steps inside.

OFFICE

Ray sits in front of a computer. On the monitor the cursor moves to Internet explorer.

Types in: Federal Bureau of Investigations. FBI website pops up on the screen.

The cursor moves to "Contact". An e-mail screen.

Ray types: "My name is Raymond Burns. My family's being held hostage by terrorists.

JANITOR (O.S.)

One minute my friend.

RAY

Almost done.


The arrow moves to send. Click. An error message appears.

RAY

No.

Cell phone RINGS. Ray stares at it. Puts it to his ear.

RAY

Hello.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)

Maybe you have forgotten the rules
Raymond. I am your ally, the police are your enemy.

(MORE)
GAMEKEEPER (V.O.) (cont'd)
It is your family’s best interest
that you remember this. Am I making
myself clear?

Ray drops the phone.

JANITOR (O.S.)
Time to go my friend.

INT. CROWN VITORIA - NIGHT
Kareem focused on Ray as he heads to his car counting steps.

KAREEM
What's he doing?

HARRY
Counting steps.

HARRY
Why?

HARRY
That's what you do when you're
nuts.

INT. DIZZY'S ARCADE - NIGHT
Rows of game machines. Ray stands in front of a boxing game,
covered in sweat. He pushes the controllers extra hard.

A young boy, LEONARD SKIZZO, 8, wide eyed and full of gusto
approaches. He tugs on Ray’s overcoat.

LEONARD
Can I play?

RAY
No.

LEONARD
Use your jab.

The opposing character delivers a knock out blow. Ray's out
cold. Leonard smiles at the loss.

LEONARD
Best of three.

RAY
Not in the mood.
EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT - LATER

Ray moves with a purpose, careful not to step on the cracks in between the sidewalk. Leonard catches up.

    LEONARD
    I know you.

    RAY
    No you don't.

    LEONARD
    You were in Gamepro magazine.

    RAY
    What do you want?

    LEONARD
    A pass to the E convention.

    RAY
    Can't help you.

    LEONARD
    Why not?

    RAY
    I got fired. Anything else?

    LEONARD
    What's with the gloves.

Ray stops.

    RAY
    I'm gonna kill someone. Maybe you.

INT. CROWN VITORIA - NIGHT

Kareem passes gas while enjoying a turkey sandwich. Harry roles down the window.

    KAREEM
    Looks like chester the molester found a new friend.

    HARRY
    Could you do me a favor?

    KAREEM
    What?
HARRY
Next time we grab dinner, don't eat.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT
Ray picks up his pace. The kid right next to him.

RAY
You Arabic?

LEONARD
Italian.

RAY
Thank God.

LEONARD
You racist?

RAY
Yeah. I hate Arabs, cops, and little Italian boys with no life of their own.

LEONARD
You know what I hate?

RAY
Don't care.

LEONARD
OCD.

RAY
What?

LEONARD
Obsessive compulsive disorder. My mom had it, that's why I live with my dad.

Their eyes lock.

RAY
I don't have that.

LEONARD
Yes you do. That's why you wear those. Germs right?

Ray stops again.
LEONARD
You'd be counting steps if I wasn't talking to you.

RAY
Do you have a home?

LEONARD
I live across the hall from you.

INT. RAY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ray and Leonard mash controllers in front of the TV. Leonard looks over at the booth.

LEONARD
What's in there?

RAY
Why you want to know. You a terrorist?

LEONARD
Yeah I'm a terrorist. And you probably like chicken.

Phone RINGS.

LEONARD
Got a bathroom?

Ray stares at the phone.

LEONARD
Earth to psycho. Bathroom?

RAY
Round the corner to the right.

Leonard disappears.

RAY
Don't touch anything.

Ray's eyes dart back to the phone. He picks up.

RAY
Hello.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Kill the dog Raymond.
RAY
Now's not a good time.

GAMEKEEPER
Should I leave a message?

RAY
I have company.

BATHROOM
The bathrooms spotless. Leonard scans, opens the cabinet. Everything in the cabinet faces the same direction.

He notices three prescription pill bottles on the bottom shelf. The labels read: LUVOX, ANAFRANIL, MIRAPEX.

LEONARD
Nutcase.

Leonard moves to the toilet. Relieves himself.

LIVING ROOM
Ray can hear the sound of urine splashing against the water.

RAY
Let's make a deal.

GAMEKEEPER
No deals.

RAY
I kill the dog in exchange for my family.

GAMEKEEPER
You're in no position to negotiate. Midnight. The dog lives, your daughters die.

Click. Leonard walks into the room.

LEONARD
Nice bathroom.

RAY
You have to go.

Ray ushers Leonard out.

LEONARD
But we haven't finished-
RAY
Bad enough you're in my apartment. People might start thinking things.

LEONARD
Like what?

RAY
Like my name’s Pee Wee you're my play toy for the evening.

They stand in the doorway.

LEONARD
I'm in Three A if you want to get your game on.

RAY
Yeah, thanks.

Ray begins to shut the door.

LEONARD
What's your gamer tag?

RAY
Sanity.

LEONARD
What does that mean?

RAY
It's the state of being sane.

The door slams in Leonard's face, twice.

INT. RAY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT - LATER

Ray paces back and forth in his room. Eyes focused on the alarm clock. Decision time.

INT. CROWN VITORIA - NIGHT


HARRY
Hey. Our man's on the move.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

Ray counts his steps as he briskly scoots past the front entrance of the 7-11.
THROUGH THE GLASS WINDOW
Abu’s at the counter reading a magazine.

SIDEWALK
Ray dips into the alley.

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT
Ray pushes the dumpster away from the wall. A small brown bag lies on the floor. He grabs it, opens. Pulls out a Smith and Wesson .45 ACP.

Harry and Kareem hidden behind rusty metal trash cans watch from the high rise above the lot.

KAREEM
What the hell is he up to?

HARRY
Can't see. Dumpsters in the way.

The back door swings open. Abu with two trash bags in his hands heads for the dumpster.

ALLEY
Ray steps around the corner. Checks his watch. Takes out the .45. Cell phone rings. Ray fumbles the gun, drops it.

RAY
Shit.

PARKING LOT
Abu hears the clamor. Moves in Ray's direction cautiously.

ALLEY
Ray places the phone to his ear.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Get rid of the gun. Pigs are watching.

Ray looks around. He sticks the gun back in the bag just as Abu appears around the corner.

ABU
Hey you. What are you doing? You go, get out of here.
Ray lifts the bag slowly, points the .45 at Abu. Abu freezes. He tries to say something, but nothing comes out.

Ray grimaces, closes his eyes. Abu dips around the corner. Ray FIRES, opens his eyes, Abu's gone.

HIGH RISE

The cops take off, guns drawn.

ALLEY

Ray notices the cops running down the sloped high rise.

RAY

Hell with this.

Ray bolts for the street.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Ray sprints down the sidewalk like a world class track star. The cops appear behind him. The chase is on.

Ray zips past two transexual PROSTITUTES. Cuts across the street. Cars HONK. Traffic skids to a stop.

Harry races past the prostitutes. Kareem crashes into them. One of the prostitutes falls to the ground, loses her wig. The cops continue across the street.

A garbage truck backs out of a small alley obstructing Ray's path. Bus on the left, Tai restaurant to the right.

The cops gaining ground. Ray runs through the open door.

INT. TAI RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Ray weaves his way past tables. A server drops a tray full of food as he races by.

The cops hot on his trail. People look on, appalled.

KITCHEN

A cook pushes a hanger full of skinned chickens. Ray barrels through like an all-pro running back.

Ray makes his way to the back door. Pulls on the handle, locked. He rushes up a stairway.

The cops splatter face first into the hanger. Chickens all over the floor.
They shake themselves off. Head up the stairs.

INT. VIP ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

A half-naked woman lies on a colorful bed of palm leaves. An Asian man plucks sushi off her breast.

He turns to his WIFE, smiling with anticipation.

Ray bursts through the paper wall. The lady SCREAMS as Ray hurdles the couple.

RAY
Sorry.

Another door in sight. Ray pushes, this one's open. The cops rush through.

ASIAN WOMAN
This is where you take me for anniversary. I want a divorce.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Ray moves down the stairwell into the alley. A BUM paces.

BUM
Spare some change.

Ray tosses the bum the bag as he rushes past. The back door bangs open. The cops rush down the stairs, race past the bum.

Ray ducks around the corner. BOOM. A Bag lady hits him with her shopping cart. He squirms on the ground in pain.

The cops catch up, panting hard.

HARRY
Give it up Ray...Game over.

INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT- ROOM - LATER

Kareem watches Harry and Ray on a small monitor.

INTERROGATION ROOM

HARRY
...What I don't understand is why you would be looking behind a dumpster at midnight?
RAY
I told you, I thought I lost my watch.

HARRY
In a dark alley. Right. And the gun shot?

RAY
Is it legal for you guys to follow me? Isn't that a violation of my rights?

HARRY
Not when you're the lead suspect in a homicide. You better give me something relevant or I'll book your ass on evasion.

RAY
Do that and I'll sue.

HARRY
On what terms?

RAY
Discrimination.

Harry smirks.

HARRY
Okay Burns. Let's cut the shit. What are you hiding?

RAY
I'm not talking without a lawyer.

EXT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Harry watches Ray walk down the hall counting steps as Kareem approaches from behind.

KAREEM
The guys obviously sick. We just need the evidence to prove he’s killer.

HARRY
Since when does having OCD classify you as a killer?
KAREEM
You serious. Terrorist kidnapped his family. Give me a break. He's a racist nutcase. Probably thinks I'm a member of Al Qaeda.

HARRY
Are you?

KAREEM
Funny.

EXT. RAY'S BUILDING - ROOFTOP- NIGHT

Ray teeters on the rooftop ledge. A sixty foot drop below. Just as he’s about to fall to his death his cell phone RINGS.

RAY
Yeah.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
You failed Guinea Pig.

RAY
Wasn't my fault.

GAMEKEEPER
A shame your daughters won't live to see the light of day.

Two SHOTS blare over the phone. Ray crumbles to the ground. The life sucked out of him.

GAMEKEEPER
Just kidding.

RAY
You son of a bitch. I swear to god I'm going to kill you.

GAMEKEEPER
We'll take care of the dog later. The garter snakes are next.

Ray moves back to the ledge.

RAY
Tell me why you're doing this. Tell me now or...I'll kill myself.

GAMEKEEPER
Next time jump.
A HELICOPTER streaks above.

Like clock work, Ray stares up at it, snaps into a TRANCE. He glances at the windows of the building across the drop.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

A heavy set man, the WATCHER, stands next to a window in a darkly lit apartment. Binoculars focused on Ray.

INT. ABANDONED FACTORY - NIGHT

The Gamekeeper stands in front of Angela, phone to his ear. Their eyes glued on each other.

GAMEKEEPER
That's the least of your concerns. Listen carefully. Tomorrow morning a van will pick you up. Eight am sharp. You will be driven downtown. Many American lives are at stake. Do your job and your family will live. Fail again, and their bodies will be on the six o clock news.

EXT. LOS ANGELES SKYLINE - NEXT DAY

A police helicopter buzzes over the city.

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - DAY


Large banners line sidewalks which say E Convention.

INT. LOS ANGELES CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Video game booths at every nook and cranny. The flow of traffic similar to that of ants on a wall.

Gamers dressed as their favorite virtual heroes. Live shows with huge flat at screens project animations.

A sexy HOSTESS maneuvers through the crowd with a platter full of energy drinks.

The hostess ducks behind a kiosk to relieve the corns on her crusty feet. Sets the platter on top of a game console box.

One box follows another creating a chain of boxes...
INSIDE BOX

A wiry maze dips and turns. One strand, thicker than the others, weaves its way through clumps of fiber optic metal.

The wire descends into a small black box. On the top of the box two LED lights on red switch to green.

INT. CARGO VAN - ALLEY - DAY

Ray's nervous hands clutch a large remote control. His eyes focused on a lonely RED BUTTON.

The tip of an automatic weapon placed against his temple.

A GUNMEN stares at Ray, like a shark before a kill. Ray Lifts his hand, it hovers over the button for a bit as he shakes...

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - SECONDS LATER

A huge BOOM. Glass windows shatter. Smoke. Screams. Madness. Patrons on the street scramble for cover...

* It's 911 all over again.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY - LATER

FBI. CIA. DEA. Military soldiers swarm the building like an army of bees. News crews at the edges of the perimeter.

Helicopters patrol the air. Harry scans the surroundings. Slips past the police barricade.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

Harry wanders slowly, takes it all in. Everything's black. Ashy. Looks like he's in Beirut. Something catches his eye.

A burnt to shit doll, half the face missing.

Harry picks up the doll. Rage takes hold of him as he glances up at the large gaping hole in the roof.

INT. RAY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ray flips channels on the TV.

TASKER
Authorities are calling it the worst attack since nine eleven...

Another channel, another reporter.
FEMALE REPORTER

...At the Los Angeles Convention Center.

CNN. MSNBC. FOX NEWS. Ray shuts off the TV. A large butcher knife lies on the coffee table. He picks it up, places it under his neck.

A KNOCK at the door. Ray doesn't move. The knocking continues. He drops the knife, moves to the door.

INT./EXT. DOOR/HALLWAY

Ray watches Leonard through the peep hole.

RAY
What do you want?

LEONARD
Can you believe it? I could of been there.


RAY
What happened to your eye?

LEONARD
Spider bite. Who would do something like that. All those people.

RAY
Shoes.

Leonard kicks off his sneakers as he opens the refrigerator. Items in the fridge perfectly aligned in GROUPS OF THREE.

Leonard removes a carton of juice, grabs a glass.

LEONARD
It's crazy. They raised the threat level to red. Whole city's on high alert.

Leonard moves to the couch. Ray watches impatiently. Leonard rests the glass on the table as he turns on the TV.

RAY
No.

LEONARD
What?
RAY
The glass.

Ray tosses Leonard a coaster. Leonard notices the butcher knife. He shoots Ray a curious look.

LEONARD
Jesus. Get a grip man.

RAY
You can't stay I'm busy.

LEONARD
Yeah, right. You got no job, no family-

Leonard catches himself.

LEONARD
Sorry.

LEONARD
Time to go.

Ray picks Leonard up by the arm and leads him to the door.

LEONARD
What is it with you anyway?

RAY
What do you mean?

LEONARD
You a terrorist?

RAY
Do I look like a terrorist.

LEONARD
I don't know. What does a terrorist look like?

RAY
Good question.

The door slams shut in Leonard's face, twice.

INT. RAY'S APARTMENT - CUBICLE - DAY

Ray stares at the flat screen with 3D goggles on his face. Cell phone to his ear. He lifts the M-16 controller to the TV. Unloads a series of shots.
RAY
Fuck Allah and fuck you.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Civil Raymond. Let's be civil.

RAY
Civil. You call what you're doing civil.

GAMEKEEPER
I didn't do anything. You did.

RAY
Yeah. Well I swear to Allah I'm going to kill you. I'm going to find you and kill you. Do you hear me.

GAMEKEEPER
How can you kill what doesn't exist?

RAY
You're real, I'm talking to right asshole!

Ray slings the phone against the wall.

INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT - OFFICE - DAY

Harry and Kareem sit in front of Thomas.

THOMAS
I just got off the phone with the secretary of defense. The governor has his cigar shoved ten inches up my ass. Now unless you've got something solid, get out on the street and arrest a real criminal.

HARRY
He does two years in Iraq and gets discharged due to a medical disability. A year later his son drowns in the backyard. Now he's walking around wearing gloves and inviting little boys into his house for tea parties.
THOMAS
I don't give a shit if he's got every disability known to man and fondling half the kids on his block. The point is you got nothin'.

KAREEM
He said his family's been kidnapped by terrorists. He thinks I'm one of them.

THOMAS
Are you?

KAREEM
Funny. You guys share jokes.

Thomas thinks.

THOMAS
Alright look, no leaks to the media. No ties to the Cobb murder. Now get out of here and get the warrant.

EXT. BURN'S HOME - DAY
Harry and Kareem at the front door. Kareem knocks.

KAREEM
Do I look like a terrorist?

HARRY
Yeah. Dial the number.

INT. BURN'S HOME - DAY
The phone next to a small white answering machine. It kicks in after several rings.

ANGELA'S VOICE
Hi, you've reached the Burns home. We're on vacation for the holidays and won't be back for several weeks. Please leave a message at the beep.

BEEP.

EXT. BURN'S HOME - DAY
Kareem probes his crotch. Harry stares at him, disgusted.
KAREEM
Answering machine. Says she took
the kids on vacation.

HARRY
Alright.

SWAT moves in with the battering ram.

KAREEM
Man, I got an itch.

HARRY
Preparation H. Works wonders.

INT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL - DAY

A pudgy RN leads Ray to his room down a long corridor. Ray
carries a towel and linens. They move past a CRAZY PATIENT
being restrained by several ORDERLIES.

PATIENT
They're after me. Get off, they're
coming to get me.

RN
Here's your room.

The RN sticks the key in the door.

RN
You'll be staying with Howard. He's
a bit of a religious nut. Good
luck.

The RN leaves as Ray enters.

ROOM

HOWARD BRIMLEY, excessively thin and angular, with long
mangled hair is doing a serious Tai Chi.

HOWARD
I knew you would come. My name is
Peter, I will follow you into
darkness.

RAY
Excuse me?

Howard stops. Bows.
HOWARD
No need to pretend, I know who you are.

RAY
Who am I?

HOWARD
You're the Messiah. Jesus of Nazareth.

INT. BURN'S HOME - DAY

ATF and SWAT comb over Angela's home. Harry moves up the stairs towards the master bedroom.

MASTER BEDROOM

Harry takes down a family photo off the wall. Brushes his hand gently over the picture.

INT. PINO'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Steve Tasker having lunch with members of his news team.

TASKER
...CEO of one of the game companies gets murdered. Raymond Burns was fired. Next day someone blows up a game convention.

CAMERA MAN
Makes sense if you connect the dots.

TASKER
He said his family was kidnapped by terrorists. Then he said Herman Cobb.

MAKEUP ARTIST
It doesn't make any sense. Why would they target a video game convention? Why not the White House? Something with more significance...What about the wife?

TASKER
Nowhere to be found. So I say we-

Tasker's interrupted by a fleet of squad cars flying by the window. SWAT van, sirens BLARING.
TASKER
Hey, hey...

INT. RAY'S APARTMENT – DAY

The door CRASHES open from the force of the battering ram. SWAT moves in, automatic weapons pointed in every direction.

SWAT MEMBER opens Ray's game cubicle. Sticks his firearm through, steps inside.

STEEL CUBICLE

The SWAT member flips the switch, black lights come to life.

SWAT MEMBER
Might want to take a look at this.

Harry enters. Scans, notices a note tacked above the flat screen.

Reads: "LIFE IS LIKE A VIDEO GAME. NONE OF THIS IS REAL."

BEDROOM

Kareem and two ATF agents scan Ray's bedroom. Kareem opens the closet. Ray's military suit hangs in the center, it's eerie looking.

Five pairs of black steel toe combat boots are neatly stacked together on the floor.

ATF AGENT (O.S.)
Clear.

Harry walks in.

HARRY
Found these in the bathroom.

Harry hands Kareem the pill bottles.

KAREEM
It’s only a matter of time before this nut starts hacking up half the city.

HARRY
Luvox can also be used in treating premature ejaculation problems as well as insomnia.
KAREEM
Yeah well tell that to the media
after victim number six. Let’s get
out of here, this place gives me
the creeps.

Kareem walks out.

HARRY
Pussy.

EXT. RAY'S BUILDING - DAY

Harry and Kareem are met by Tasker's news team.

TASKER
Detective Smits could you tell us
why you raided Raymond Burns
apartment?

HARRY
Get a real job Steve.

Harry moves past them.

TASKER
Is it true terrorists have
kidnapped his family?

HARRY
Now where did you hear that?

TASKER
He told me.

INT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL - ROOM - NIGHT

Ray lies in bed counting the small white stucco dots on the
ceiling. Howard, full of bloody scratch marks, is doing
jumping jacks naked.

HOWARD
All those pictures of you on tv are
totally distorted. I knew you were
black all along.

RAY
Could you please put some clothes
on.
HOWARD
How did you get down from that cross. That's what I can't figure out.

RAY
I flew.

Howard stops, puts his hands on his hips.

HOWARD
You can fly too?

An RN opens the door.

RN
Shit. Code ten. We got a code ten in here!

More nurses enter. Tackle Howard to the ground as he screams in pain.

HOWARD
Jesus. Jesus help me! Punish them, for they know not what they do!

The RN's stand Howard upright. Place a gown over him. Howard's pushed towards the door.

RN
Put him in iso.

HOWARD
I'll wait for you Jesus of Nazareth. I know you'll protect me.

Howard's out the door.

RN
You okay?

RAY
I'm fine.

The RN heads out. Ray takes a minute to enjoy his new found solitude. He notices a manila ENVELOPE on the corner table.

He stands, moves toward the table. Begins to pick up the envelope, then stops. This wasn’t here a minute ago.

He walks to the door. Opens. Scans.
HALL

Two male RN’s joke loudly down the hall. A SECURITY OFFICER smooth talks a female STAFFER behind the check-in counter.

Ray steps back into the room, shuts the door. He stares at the envelope. His face full of doubt, as if it’s filled with some sort of cryptic message that could ruin in his life.

EXT. SKY - SOMEWHERE IN IRAQ - FLASHBACK

The WHIR of helicopter blades. A 40 MI-17 helicopter circles the city below.

EXT. BUILDING - DAY

Ray posted against the wall with an MP 5 submachine gun. He’s a mess. He glances up at the chopper.

INT. BUILDING - DAY

A SOLDIER moves around the room, M-16 in his hands. He notices a DOLL on a small table. Begins to pick it up.

EXT. BUILDING - DAY

Ray glances around the corner.

RAY
Don't touch that!

BOOM.

INT. COUNTY MEDICAL - NIGHT

Ray studies the envelope. He picks it up, opens.

Reads: "You can run but you can't hide. Kill the dog Guinea Pig. Or youngest cub dies tonight."

Ray steps back from the table, drops the envelope. He sits on the edge of the bed. Thinking. Tick...tick...

INT. ABU'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

A NAKED WOMAN mounted on top of Abu. They go at it hard.

Ray steps out of the shadows, .45 in his hand. Abu notices, pushes the woman off him.

She looks back and sees Ray with the gun raised. She SCREAMS.
ABU
Oh my god. Oh god, what are you doing?

RAY
Please. I don't want to hurt you.

ABU
Who are you? What are you doing this for? You want money. I get money for you.

Abu reaches for his wallet on the night stand.

RAY
Stop.

Abu freezes.

RAY
Are you Abu Hejal?

ABU
Me. No, no my name is Hasaan. Hasaan Adams. I show you-

RAY
You work at the 7-11. The one on twenty third street.

ABU
Yes. But please, you are mistaken. I-

RAY
Shhh. It's not real. None of this is real.

ABU
What?

RAY
You see, life is like a video game. If I shoot you, you won't really die.

WOMAN
(Arabic)
He's crazy.

RAY
Once it's over. God will press reset and you'll come back to life.
Ray clicks the safety on and off trying hard to believe his own words.

ABU
Mister. Please....

BANG. Abu's head falls back against the headrest. The woman screams again. BANG. She slumps, motionless. Ray paces back and forth nervously.

INT. SMIT'S HOME - NIGHT

Harry and his wife CATHERINE sit at opposite ends of the dinner table eating in silence.

CATHERINE
I'm taking pottery classes.

HARRY
When you start that?

CATHERINE
Six months ago.

Harry cuts into his dry chicken breast.

CATHERINE
I want another baby.

Catherine knocks back a full glass of wine.

HARRY
Now hun, we've been over this.

CATHERINE
While you're out saving the world, our marriage is falling apart. You haven't been to one of Jason's games. Not one.

HARRY
Last case. After this, I'm all yours.

CATHERINE
You just don't get it do you. A marriage isn't like some sports star's contract. You don't sign on the dotted line and get bonuses when you score a touchdown or hit the game winning shot. You-

Harry's cell phone RINGS. He stares at the caller ID.
HARRY
Just give me one second.

Catherine storms away from the table.

INT. ABU'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

A police PHOTOGRAPHER snaps a picture of the couple's lifeless bodies. Harry peels back the bed sheets.

HARRY
You recognize this guy?

KAREEM
Sure, all Arabs know each other.

HARRY
It's the clerk from the 7-11.

Kareem takes a closer look.

KAREEM
Bingo. Victim's two and three. Just curious, how many bodies does it take to be classified as a serial killer?

INT. CHEVY CAPRICE - ROLLING - NIGHT

Ray on the phone.

RAY
You know what this is doing to me? I'm all messed up in the head.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Funny you say that. Tomorrow I've arranged for you to see a vet.

RAY
Vet?

GAMEKEEPER
Doctor Evelyn Chow.

RAY
You kidnap my family. Force me to kill innocent people. And now you want me to see a psychiatrist.
GAMEKEEPER
It's all part of the game Guinea Pig.

RAY
Game, what game? What the hell is wrong you!

Click.

INT. FAITH CATHOLIC CHURCH - NIGHT
Ray opens the door to the confession booth. A PREACHER looks up at him with a stunned expression on his face.

PREACHER
Can I help you, son?

CHURCH HALL - LATER
A grandiose altar decorated with hundreds of beautiful votive candles. Ray’s on his knees in prayer.

Harry strolls up behind him.

HARRY
Think he hears you?

Ray turns.

HARRY
Faith's a funny thing. Kind of like a lover that comes and goes.

RAY
What do you want detective?

HARRY
Obsessive compulsive disorder. Recurrent and persistent thoughts that cause marked anxiety or distress. That's what the luvox is for right?

RAY
You don't know me.

HARRY
The person eventually thinks things are happening that are not really happening.
RAY
You don't know anything.

HARRY
Maybe you're right. So why don't you tell me?

A scholarly MAN takes his place in the back row. Ray notices, speaks softly.

RAY
I already told you. I didn't kill anyone.

Harry kneels next to him.

HARRY
I arrested a guy once, he was an ordained minister. Burnt his whole family. Wife. Two kids. Even the dog. When we brought him in for questioning you know what he said?

RAY
What?

HARRY
The voice in my head made me do it. What is that inner voice telling you, Ray?

INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT - INTERROGATION - NIGHT

Ray and his PUBLIC DEFENDER sit in front of Harry and Kareem.

KAREEM
That's three murders in three days.

HARRY
Not to mention an act of terrorism that killed hundreds.

Ray and the cops battle with their eyes.

HARRY
Seen your wife and kids lately Ray?

PUBLIC DEFENDER
You don't have one single piece of solid evidence.
HARRY
What we have are three dead bodies, and a guy running around accusing people of being terrorists.

PUBLIC DEFENDER
My client's delusional. I have the medical records to prove it.

The PD slaps a file on the desk.

KAREEM
He evaded police.

PUBLIC DEFENDER
He ran because he was scared. He's scared of a lot of things.

PD focuses on Kareem.

PUBLIC DEFENDER
Including a cop looking for a promotion in a high profile murder case.

KAREEM
That's not what this is about.

PUBLIC DEFENDER
I know your father. Worked with him on the Jones case. He's an arrogant prick just like you. Let's go.

The Public Defender and Ray head for the door. The PD turns back to the cops as Ray walks out.

PUBLIC DEFENDER
(To Kareem)
I wonder if internal affairs knows about your escapades with high profile prostitutes.

KAREEM
Tell your hubby I said hi.

Ray and PD walk out. Harry shoots Kareem an annoyed look.

KAREEM
What?

HARRY
No wonder you got an itch.
INT. UCLA - OFFICE - DAY

Ray sits in front of doctor EVELYN CHOW. She’s attractive in a naughty secretary sort of way.

Ray pushes his eyeglasses up on his face as he begins to heave. Evelyn hands him a small cup of water.

EVELYN
What are you afraid of Raymond?

RAY
Needles.

EVELYN
I meant why are you afraid of the voice in your head?

Ray gulps down the water.

RAY
Horrible things.

EVELYN
The voice is telling you to do horrible things?

RAY
Yes.

EVELYN
Like what?

RAY
Murders.

EVELYN
Have you acted on these impulses?

Ray fidgets.

RAY
No. I could never do something like that.

EVELYN
Sometimes the circumstances of a person's life cause them to act irrational. Maybe even violently. Do you think your divorce is causing these feelings?
RAY
In a way, yes.

EXT. HILLSIDE - DAY - LATER
Ray looks through a pair of binoculars. Evelyn feeds her bull
dog in the back yard. Ray lifts his cell phone to his ear.

RAY
I can't do this.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Then your family will die.

RAY
I'm going to the police. I'll tell
them everything.

GAMEKEEPER
Maybe you've forgotten we don't
exist. We are a figment of your
imagination. You pulled the
trigger. So it is you who will
spend the rest of your life in
jail.

RAY
They're not animals. They're
people.

GAMEKEEPER
The definition of an animal is that
which is lower than human in the
natural order. That is what I think
of Americans.

RAY
You know what a killjoy is?

GAMEKEEPER
Enlighten me.

RAY
A killjoy is one that spoils the
pleasure of others. That's what I'm
going to do to you. Spoil your
pleasure.

GAMEKEEPER
I'm looking forward to it.

RAY
Go fuck yourself.
GAMEKEEPER
  I'd rather fuck your wife.

EXT. EVELYN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Ray drops over a large brick wall.

He places a ski mask over his face as he hustles towards the glass doors on the patio entrance.

Suddenly, a muscular bull dog rears its ugly head from a small dog house.

It *growls*, eyes on Ray. Ray's stuck between the door and the dog. The bull dog rushes him.

Ray scrambles for the glass doors. The dog leaps in the air, splatters face first against the glass.

INT. EVELYN'S HOUSE - DAY

Another low *growl*. Ray turns.

A small Pomeranian itches for a fight.

BATHROOM

Evelyn under the shower. She shuts off the water.

INT. EVELYN'S HOUSE - DAY

Evelyn moves through the house in a bath robe blotting her wet hair with a towel.

She stops when she notices mud tracks on the custom tiles.

  EVELYN
  Tiny?

She cautiously moves toward a closet. Pulls out a long metal golf club.

  EVELYN
  Here girl.

BIG BEN CLOCK

Ray watches Evelyn from inside the clock. Tiny cradled in his arms with her mouth held shut.

Evelyn inches towards the mobile phone on a small desk.
LIVING ROOM

Ray steps out of the clock. Evelyn screams.

RAY
Evelyn it's me.

He removes the ski mask.

RAY
It's me Ray.

EVELYN
Raymond? What are you doing in my house?

RAY
I know the way it looks. You have to listen. Just trust me.

EVELYN
No. No, I'm calling the police.

Evelyn reaches for the phone. Ray takes out his .45 Colt.

He fumbles the gun out of his hands, picks it up and aims it at Evelyn. She's frozen with fear.

RAY
Don't make this harder than it has to be.

EVELYN
Oh my god.

RAY
I need you to be calm. I don't want to hurt you.

EVELYN
Why, why are you doing this?

RAY
I was sent here to kill you. This guy, calls himself the Gamekeeper's got my family.

EVELYN
What does that have to do with me?
RAY
He wouldn't tell me. All I know is he wants you dead, and if I don't deliver he's going to kill my wife.

Evelyn eyes the phone.

EVELYN
I don't want to die.

RAY
You won't.

EVELYN
I don't understand.

RAY
I want you to leave. Go somewhere, out of state. When you get someplace safe you call the FBI. Give them my name. Tell them my family's been kidnapped by terrorists and a member of the LAPD may be involved.

EVELYN
Ray I-

RAY
Tell them I was the one that blew up the Convention Center.

EVELYN
What?

RAY
I didn't have a choice.

EVELYN
Jesus.

RAY
Get dressed. I'll take you to the bus station.

INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT - HOMICIDE - DAY
Thomas tosses an envelope on Harry's desk.

HARRY
What's this?
THOMAS
Restraining order.

HARRY
From who?

THOMAS
Guess.

Harry opens. Flips through to back page.

CLAIMANT-RAYMOND BURNS. DEFENDANT-HARRY SMITS.

INT. CHEVY CAPRICE - DAY

Ray and Evelyn hop in the car. Like a skilled magician the Watcher pops up in the back seat with lightning quickness.

A syringe injects into Evelyn's neck. The Watcher's Jericho .9mm placed against the back of Ray's head.

WATCHER
You have gun?

Ray, panicked, hands over his .45.

WATCHER
Drive, nice and slow.

EXT. STREET - TRAFFIC LIGHT - DAY

The traffic signal changes from green to red. Ray's Chevy creeps to a stop behind an SUV.

A police patrol car pulls into the adjacent lane. The OFFICER in the passenger seat glances over.

INT. CHEVY CAPRICE - DAY

WATCHER
No funny business.

They wait for the light. Ray notices the sticker on the bumper of the SUV.

TWO CARTOON CHARACTERS: ONE STRANGETHE OTHER. THE CAPTION SAYS "HELP".

The red and blue lights on the patrol car FLASH. Ray tenses up, ready for action. The officers take off down the street.
INT. RAY'S APARTMENT - DAY

A loud KNOCK on the door. It's repeated several times. The door is pushed open. Leonard stands in the hallway with a video game in his hand.

    LEONARD
    Ray?

Leonard steps inside, looks around.

    LEONARD
    Hey Ray. I got Grand Theft Auto four. The explicit version.

Leonard pushes open the bedroom door.

    LEONARD
    It's got sex in it. Prostitutes, car chases, all the good stuff.
    Ray?

Leonard eyes the cubicle. He moves towards it, steps inside.

STEEL CUBICLE

Leonard flips a switch on the wall. The room comes to life. He scans, this is a gamers paradise.

    LEONARD
    Holy shit.

He picks up 3D goggles. Straps himself into the chair. Presses a button on the chair pad.

Leonard escapes into another world...

INT. ABANDONED FACTORY - NIGHT

Ray and Evelyn are chained, blindfolded, to a thick metal rail. Rain drops from the leaky roof drip down on to them.

The Gamekeeper and three armed gunmen enter in ski masks.

    GAMEKEEPER
    Good evening Guinea Pig. Nice to finally meet you.

The Gamekeeper removes Ray's blindfold.

    GAMEKEEPER
    How are you feeling?
Ray struggles to his feet. Anger in his eyes.

GAMEKEEPER
Ah, angry. You should be. You have probably thought of a thousand ways to kill me yes.

RAY
More than you know.

GAMEKEEPER
Tell me something. How valuable is Angela's life to you?

RAY
Touch one hair on her head and I'll slit your throat.

The Gamekeeper nods to one of the gunmen. He turns on a small television.

ON THE MONITOR

Angela sits on the floor of a tiny room blindfolded. Feet and hands tied together with a chain.

RAY
Angie?

GAMEKEEPER
Your wife stuck with you through your illness. But when you cheated she had enough, yes?

RAY
She told you that?

GAMEKEEPER
I know many things.

The Gamekeeper places the tip of his uzi to Ray's temple.

GAMEKEEPER
Let's not get too emotional. Time for you to complete the mission.

A gunmen places an uzi in Ray's hand.

GAMEKEEPER
You will kill the vet. Or my associate will shed Angela's blood.
RAY
Don't do this.

GAMEKEEPER
You will fire on my count. Kill the vet, or we kill your wife. On five. One...

RAY
No.

GAMEKEEPER
You are a killer. Two.

RAY
Please.

GAMEKEEPER
You have killed many. Three.

RAY
I can't. I can't.

GAMEKEEPER
Kill the vet Raymond. Four.

RAY
No! Your not real. None of this is happening right now.

Ray closes his eyes.

GAMEKEEPER
On the screen Raymond.

Ray opens his eyes.

ON THE SCREEN

The Gunmen with an automatic weapon placed against Angela's head. She’s in distress.

EVELYN
Don't.

RAY
I'm sorry.

Ray FIRES multiple rounds into Evelyn. Angela lets out a piercing **scream**.

ANGELA
Raymond!
The Gamekeeper injects a syringe into Ray's neck.

OVER BLACK.

RAY (V.O.)
It's not real. None of this is real.

INT. AA MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

A small cramped room full of AA members. Ray amongst them in the same street clothes he had on at the warehouse.

RAY
My name is Raymond, and I'm an addict.

MEMBERS
Hi Ray.

RAY
I um...

Ray's lost in his thoughts.

LEAD COUNSELOR (O.S)
We're all addicts here Ray. No secrets.

RAY
Um...I've been addicted to video games for a while now. They kind, they kind of allow me to escape to another world.

INT. RAY'S APARTMENT - STEEL CUBICLE - NIGHT

Ray's playing NBA LIVE on his flat screen. His cell phone RINGS. He pauses the game. Stares at his phone.

His eyes wander over to the sign tacked above his flat screen. LIFE IS LIKE A VIDEO GAME, NONE OF THIS IS REAL.

ON THE SCREEN

Caller ID blocked.

Ray's latex fingers tap the screen, picks up.

RAY
Yeah...
No answer. He hangs up. The Gamekeeper's distorted voice BLARES through speakers in the room.

Ray looks around, he’s losing it.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Flip your channel setting to video.

RAY
How are you talking through my speakers?

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
I'm not. I'm in your head Ray. Now open your chair pad.

He does.

RAY
This is bullshit.

ON THE SCREEN

IT'S SHOWTIME. TWO TICKETS TO THE LAKE SHOW. ENJOY WATCHING KOBE AND THE LAKERS TAKE ON KING JAMES.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Thought I would reward you for your hard work and dedication.

RAY
I want you out of my head. Get out of my head!

Ray pounds his fist against the side of his head.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Look on top of your flat screen. You'll find two tickets. Thought you could bring a friend.

Ray stands, walks over to the flat screen. Feels his way on top. Pulls down two Laker tickets.

RAY
You're sick.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
No Raymond. I'm afraid you're the sick one.
INT. SMIT'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Harry with a bowl of chips and beer in front of the TV dressed in his Kobe Jersey.

ON THE TV...Shots of the Laker crowd at Staples.

Harry spots Ray sitting with Leonard.

INT. STAPLES CENTER - NIGHT

Ray and Leonard sit amongst the crowd. Leonard stuffs his face with candy.

    LEONARD
    Kobe speaks Italian.

    RAY
    I know.

    LEONARD
    Think he's better than Michael?

    RAY
    Good question.

They watch the game. Leonard looks at Ray checking his cell phone. His legs twitch nervously.

    LEONARD
    Why are you always checking that thing?

Ray's cell phone rings. He puts it to his ear slowly, staring at Leonard.

    RAY
    Yeah.

    WATCHER (V.O.)
    You're being watched.

Ray scans the crowd.

    RAY
    Tell me something I don't know.

    WATCHER
    Undercover agents. Walk to the bathroom. I distract them.

Ray hangs up.
RAY
I'm gonna head to the bathroom.
Stay here.

Ray moves up the stairs, drink in his hand. Past the under
cover AGENT at the edge of the aisle.

AGENT
(Into jacket)
He's moving.

INT. ARENA - CONCESSION STAND - NIGHT

Harry munches on a bag of popcorn at the concession counter.

HARRY
Let's do this nice and quiet. Try
not to cause a scene.

INT. ARENA - NIGHT

The agent follows Ray up the stairs. Ray moves through the
arena gates, past another AGENT dressed as a security guard.

Ray bounces down the steps counting under his breath. Picks
up his pace as the agents tail him.

Ray heads for the restroom. Kareem mops the floor in a
janitors outfit. Baseball cap covers his face.

KAREEM
He's headed for the restrooms.

HARRY (V.O.)
Don't let him out of your sight.

Ray takes his place in a long line. His eyes dart in every
direction. He freezes, stares up at the big screen.

ON THE MONITOR

Previews of a video game. A helicopter BUZZES over a
holographic jungle.

RAY'S STUCK IN HIS TRANCE.

ON THE MONITOR

Screen blacks out. Unexpectedly, a face covered by a ski mask
appears. The face motions as if it's watching Ray.

The face removes the ski mask, it's Ray's wife ANGELA.
ARENA

The agents move forward, closing in. All of a sudden A beefy TUFF GUY bumps into Ray. Soda spills all over the tuff guy.

TUFF GUY
What the fuck is your problem?

RAY
Hey man, I'm sorry.

The Watcher stands behind them.

WATCHER
What you talking? You bump him.

TUFF GUY
I bump him. Why don't you learn english asshole.

WATCHER
Fuck you buddy.

TUFF GUY
What?

WATCHER
Go fuck yourself.

The Tuff Guy balls his fists. The Watcher pulls out a .357 magnum. People in the line scramble for cover.

Kareem tries to look past all the madness. He can't get a clear view of what's going on. The crowd disperses.

KAREEM
Nutcase just pulled out a gun.

The Watcher and Ray blend into the crowd.

AGENT 1
Where is he?

KAREEM
I can't see anything. There's people all over the place.

Harry runs toward the action. Removes his .22 Ruger. A WOMAN in the crowd notices.
WOMAN
He's got a gun!

HARRY
So much for quietly.

Pandemonium. Harry scans the crowd, spots Ray bolting for the stadium doors.

HARRY
(Into walkie)
He's headed for the parking lot.

INT. STAPLE'S CENTER - PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Ray and the Watcher push aside a FAN, taking his Chevy Impala decked out in Laker colors. Ray takes the drivers side.

The cops pile into a series of Crown Victorias. The Impala slams into a Mercedes. Ray keeps driving. The Impala rams the ticket gate. Five Crown Victorias in hot pursuit.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

The Impala weaves through traffic. Through a red light, a four way intersection. One car crashes into another like bumper cars. The Crown Victorias still giving chase.

Three cop cars make it through the intersection, two blind sided by oncoming traffic.

The Impala speeds up the highway ramp.

EXT. FOUR LANE HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Four big rigs run side by side. The Impala cuts across the lane directly in front of them.

The trucks BLAST air horns. The Crown Victorias enter the highway. Caught behind the big rigs.

INT. CROWN VITORIA - ROLLING - NIGHT

Kareem drives with Harry in the passenger seat.

HARRY
You're losing him, you're losing him.

KAREEM
Can't get around these damn trucks.
HARRY
(Into walkie)
Air one, this is Detective Smits. We're in pursuit of a suspect in a yellow Chevy Impala heading east bound on the 405. I need air support.

INT. AIR ONE CHOPPER - NIGHT

HELICOPTER PILOT
This is Air One. I'm heading over now.

HIGHWAY
The Impala jumps from lane to lane, clips cars along the way.

BIG RIG
The TRUCK DRIVER looks in his side mirror. Notices the red cop lights flashing.
The Trucker moves to the side to allow the cops to pass.

CHEVY
Ray glances through the front window, spots Air One heading straight for them.

WATCHER
They sending in chopper. Veer off.

RAY
I got this.

WATCHER
You don't tell me, I'm professional.

The Watcher grabs the steering wheel as the two men struggle.
The Impala swerves, clips the side of a Dodge Charger.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

The Charger SPINS out of control. Two of the Crown Victorias SLAM into it. The last remaining Victoria skids to a halt avoiding the collision. Cars behind skid, pile up.

Through the window, Kareem sees the four big rigs baring down on them. As the they are about to deliver a death blow, the trucks screech to a stop, inches from the passenger door.
The Impala peels off an exit ramp.

EXT. LA RIVER UNDERPASS - MINUTES LATER

The Impala sits in the dry LA river, under a bridge.

IMPALA

WATCHER
I told you. I'm professional.

INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT - INTERROGATION - NIGHT


LEONARD
You can't interrogate me. I'm only eight.

KAREEM
We're not interrogating you. We just want-

LEONARD
He doesn't like cops, Arabs, and Italians. Can I go home now?

COMPUTER ROOM

Harry and Kareem hover over a geeky COMPUTER TECH. The Tech scrolls over a video machine.

HARRY
We need to find out who pulled out that gun. Keep going.

KAREEM
You kidding me. He did.

HARRY
If he pulled it then how'd he get it past security.

TECHIE
Problem is it's a rotating camera. We see him standing in line.

ON THE MONITOR

The screen shrinks into a close up of Ray's face. He's staring up at something.
Camera pans away to the rest room entrance. Back to where Ray was standing right after people started scrambling.

TECHIE
Then we've got a bunch of people running from an unseen gunmen.

HARRY
Rewind it.

ON THE MONITOR...Tape back tracks to Ray frozen stiff. Harry looks at it, thinks.

KAREEM
What's he staring at?

HARRY
The big screen. Something on it had his attention.

KAREEM
Yeah, his delusions.

INT. IMPALA - MOTEL PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The Watcher hands Ray a wad of cash.

WATCHER
Money for motel. I pick you up in the morning. Tomorrow you kill the rat.

INT. MOTEL - OFFICE - NIGHT

The European NIGHT MANAGER watches Michael Douglas in, "FALLING DOWN" on TV. Ray enters, the Night Manager notices the latex gloves.

NIGHT MANAGER
What you need?

RAY
I'd like a room, please.

NIGHT MANAGER
Ninety nine.

Ray forks over the cash. The Night Manager pulls a key.

NIGHT MANAGER
You in three A. No drug or prostitute.

(MORE)
NIGHT MANAGER (cont’d)
I have experience with weirdos like you. You make trouble, I get Sheila.

RAY
Sheila?

The Night Manager ducks behind the counter. Pulls out a long sleek double barrel shotgun.

NIGHT MANAGER
Sheila.

INT. MOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT
Ray stands in the middle of a mangy room with black walls and dirty sheets. He moves toward a small coffee table, picks up the remote, turns on the TV.

ON THE TV
THOMAS holds a press conference in front of NEWS REPORTERS.

THOMAS
...We believe Mister Burns to be armed and dangerous. Questions?

The reporters slam Thomas with questions.

MOTEL ROOM
Ray's cell phone RINGS. He stares at it, picks up.

RAY
Hello.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
You've become quite the celebrity.

RAY
Thanks to you.

GAMEKEEPER
There is a warehouse at 1475 Strathern. You will see a man by the name of Bob. Ask mister Bob to make you a face.

RAY
I don't have a car.
GAMEKEEPER
My associate is waiting outside for you.

Click. A loud KNOCK at the door. Ray moves towards the curtains. The Night Manager stands at the door.

Ray begins to open, hesitates.

RAY
Yes.

NIGHT MANAGER (O.S.)
You forgot to sign paper work.

RAY
What are you talking about?

NIGHT MANAGER
For check in.

RAY
Can I do it in the morning? I'm not feeling well.

NIGHT MANAGER
No paper work. No stay.

RAY
Okay. Just give me a minute.

He looks around. Darts into the bathroom.

BATHROOM
Ray pushes open the small window above the toilet several times before climbing through.

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT
Ray drops out the window. He quickly moves to the side of the Motel, peers around the corner.

He notices the Night Manager with "SHEILA" in his hands.

Headlights from the Watcher's SUV FLASH across the street. Ray dashes across the parking lot.

The Night Manager notices, unloads two SHOTS. Ray runs in a zig zag motion, bullets WHIZZ by his head.
NIGHT MANAGER
You fucking terrorist. Try to stay at my motel.

The Night Manager reloads, in a drunken crazed rage.

NIGHT MANAGER
I kill you myself.

Ray jumps in the passengers seat of the SUV just as a bullet BLOWS out the rear window.

The bullet hits the Watcher in the shoulder.

Ray sees he's in pain. He hops out and pushes the Watcher into the passenger seat. He takes the wheel as a bullet blows out the front windshield.

RAY
Where to?

WATCHER
Just drive. I tell you.

The SUV speeds off down the street.

INT. BOB'S HOUSE OF WAX - NIGHT - LATER

MR. BOB, an over the hill rocker covered in tats, works on Ray in the middle of creepy wax figures.

Bob applies the finishing touches to Ray's face. Rotates the chair so that Ray faces the mirror.

Ray's WHITE, BALD, CLEAN SHAVEN. He looks like the video game character “THE HITMAN”.

BOB
How's that?

The Watcher enters with a sling around his shoulder.

WATCHER
You look like new person.

BOB
You have something for me?

Ray hands Bob some cash.

WATCHER
Good. Here is fake ID. Thank Bob for this.
The Watcher hands Ray his fake license. Ray stares at it for a beat. He looks around, scratches his head.

RAY
Where am I sleeping?

BOB
You can stay here.

RAY
Here.

Bob's cell phone rings. He picks up.

BOB
(Into cell phone)
Yeah...okay...


The Watcher pulls out his .357 Magnum.

WATCHER
Yes here. You have problem with that?

RAY
No. What about him?

BOB
(Into cell phone)
Hang on a second.

Bob shoots Ray a don't fuck with me look.

BOB
What about me?

WATCHER
(To Bob in Russian)
This faggot asks too many questions.

The Watcher lights a cigarette.

WATCHER
He's friend of mine. Russian. Did favor for my family long time ago. I trust him like brother.

Mr. Bob leaves. Ray plops on a small worn down love seat.
WATCHER
That is mine. You sleep on the floor. In the morning I take you to the college. Then you kill rat.

Ray moves to the dirty floor.

RAY
Who is this rat you keep talking about?

WATCHER
My boss will tell you in the morning.

INT. UCLA - AUDITORIUM - DAY

The auditorium’s filled with college students. White Ray takes a seat. Professor NEFRIM BALI, a dapper man in his 50’s, stands at the podium.

BALI
Welcome to politics of the middle east. My name is Professor Nefrim Bali...

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
The rat, Nefrim Bali. In the mid nineties the good doctor funded various terrorist organizations through money laundering and illegal arms dealing. These groups did not see eye to eye with our practices. In two thousand three the FBI arrested him. Due to his political connections he was released on bail.

RAY (V.O.)
Why is he on the list?

GAMEKEEPER
He later cooperated with authorities. He implicated my brother in plans to blow up a college campus.

RAY
Wait a second. Your brother? That's what this is about?
EXT. STREET CORNER - NIGHT

Ray stands on the corner outside of the WET WELL BAR. He nervously looks back at the Watcher sitting in a black ESCALADE. The Watcher nods.

Ray pushes his spectacles up on his face, steps inside.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
No more questions Guinea Pig. You will follow the rat to his favorite bar.

INT. WET WELL BAR - NIGHT - LATER

Bali is seated at the bar. Ray eats peanuts in the corner of the room.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
He prefers the company of men. You will make yourself available to him yes. Or I will slit your wife's throat ear to ear.

Bali glances quickly at a lonely PATRON on the other end of the bar. The two men flirt with their eyes.

The man moves toward Bali, before he can sit Ray takes the seat next to Bali.

RAY
What you drinking?

BALI
Bourbon.

RAY
(To bartender)
Two shots of Bourbon.

BALI
Nefrim Bali.

RAY
Ted.

Bali extends his hand. Ray takes it.

BALI
Just Ted?

RAY
Ted White.
The BARTENDER places drinks in front of them. The men toast. Drink. Ray glances up at the TV.

ON THE TV...Steve Tasker broadcasts behind his news desk.

White Ray stares at a DRIVERS LICENSE PHOTO of Black Ray in the corner of the screen.

RAY
Whole thing's crazy. You think he did it?

BALI
Wouldn't surprise me.

RAY
Why's that?

Bali lights a cigar. Ray takes out a handkerchief and wipes the brim of his empty shot glass.

BALI
Such acts are usually done by a single person. It's easy to point the finger at organizations like Al Qaeda and Hamas. The truth is it's probably some nut whose life has gone to shit.

INT. BALI'S HOME - LATER

Nefrim sits in front of a baby grand piano. He's playing Beethoven’s "Moonlight Sonata". Ray stands next to him.

He slowly reaches for his waist, then stops.

RAY
This is beautiful Nefrim. Where is your bathroom?

BALI
What?

RAY
Your bathroom.

BALI
Round the corner to the right.
BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ray heaves in front of the bathroom mirror. A Beretta 93R in his hand. He stares at himself, disgusted at what he’s become. A stone cold killer. He splashes water on his face.

RAY
Ted. My name is Ted. Ted White.

INT. BALI'S HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bali undresses in front of the window.

RAY (O.S.)
Nefrim?

BALI
I'm in the bedroom.

Ray enters, Bali's back is toward him. He lifts the Beretta.

RAY
What are you doing?

BALI
I thought we could-

Bali turns. Shocked.

BALI
What...what is this?

RAY
You thought I was going to sleep with you?

BALI
Maybe it was inappropriate. I didn't realize you had a gun.

RAY
I'm not gay.

BALI
I don't understand. I thought-

Ray fumbles with the safety.

RAY
You thought wrong.

INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT - HALLWAY - DAY

Harry and Thomas walk together.

    HARRY
    ...What if he's telling the truth.
    That means we've got terrorist
cells operating right under our
nose.

Thomas stops.

    THOMAS
    The city's on lockdown Harry. It's
an election year and I'm pushing
fifty. This guy's a ghost, and your
going on hunches.

    HARRY
    I need more time.

    THOMAS
    It's the FBI's problem now.

INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT - HOMICIDE - DAY

Harry is seated behind his desk staring at Ray's photo on the
computer as Kareem approaches.

    KAREEM
    Angela's friend said they divorced
due to Ray's infidelity.

    HARRY
    So he cheats on her with a woman at
his job. Two months later he comes
home and finds her in bed with some
guy.

    KAREEM
    Guess who he cheated with?

    HARRY
    Who?

    KAREEM
    Tamika Reyes.

INT. TAMIKA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Tamika Reyes sits in front of Harry. She's dressed scantily,
in a bath robe that exposes her bra and panties.
TAMIKA
Who I choose to fuck is none of your business.

HARRY
We're talking about a mass murderer.

TAMIKA
And?

HARRY
Maybe he'll come after you next.

Tamika sparks a cigarette.

TAMIKA
There was no money involved.

HARRY
He was a married man with three kids.

TAMIKA
What does that have to do with me. I ain't killed nobody.

HARRY
You talked to his wife, right?

TAMIKA
We had lunch together. She said she didn't have any animosity towards me. She seemed nervous. You know he beat her once.

HARRY
She say why?

TAMIKA
She pawned his playstation. Said it was affecting his job. He would call in to work sick just so he could stay home and play video games all day.

Harry's cell phone rings.

HARRY
Excuse me.
EXT. VENICE BEACH - PIER - DAY

Ray stares at a group of surfers in the water. Cell phone to his ear. The Watcher stands next to him.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
You're a professional.

RAY
Just tell me who's next asshole.

GAMEKEEPER
This one's special.

RAY
Why's that?

GAMEKEEPER
We'll call him the cub. You know his father. Detective Smits.

RAY
No kids.

GAMEKEEPER
His son has a game tonight. Kill the cub and your son will live yes. Fail, you know the rest.

RAY
What kind of sick people are you?

Ray turns to the Watcher, he's gone.

INT. BALI'S HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

Harry examines the wound in Bali's head.

HARRY
Single shot. No sign of a struggle.

KAREEM
Neighbor says she saw him walk in with a bald white male. Bout six one.

HARRY
Oh, now that helps.
KAREEM
Hangs out at a fruit bar called the Wet Well in the valley. He ran numbers for the Russians in the eighties. Gave them a shit load of guns.

HARRY
And?

KAREEM
Then he switched sides. It's our man Harry.

HARRY
We're off the case.

Harry storms out of the room.

KAREEM
Where you going?

HARRY
My kid's basketball game.

INT. HOLLYWOOD HIGH - GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

JASON SMITS knocks down a jump shot. The crowd goes wild. Harry is seated in the stands with Catherine.

White Ray behind them in a baseball cap and glasses.

HARRY
That a boy, Jason.

Ray leans over Harry's shoulder.

RAY
That your son?

HARRY
Yeah.

RAY
He's good.

Harry glances back quickly.

HARRY
Thanks.
EXT. GYMNASIUM - PARKING LOT - NIGHT
Two CHEERLEADERS walk together in the parking lot giggling.

CHEERLEADER 1
...I don't even think he likes me.

She stops looking at the empty parking space.

CHEERLEADER 1
Hey, where's my car!

INT. PIZZA PARLOR - NIGHT
Ray sits in the corner of the pizza parlor keeping a watchful eye on Jason and his friends.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT
Jason's Ford Mustang races along a dark road. Ray not far behind in the Cheerleader's VOLKSWAGON BEETLE.

MUSTANG
The Beetle races past the driver's side, turns up ahead.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT
Jason's Mustang turns. He SLAMS on the brakes. Ray stands in the middle of the road. Jason has no choice but to stop. Ray approaches the window doing his best Caucasian impersonation.

RAY
Hey bud. Didn't mean to scare ya but my car ran out of gas. Think you could give me a ride to the gas station?

Jason hesitates. Ray's a bit nutty looking.

JASON
Umm...sure, hop in.

INT. FORD MUSTANG- ROLLING - NIGHT
Jason drives with Ray in the passenger seat. Ray glances at the emblems on Jason's jacket.

RAY
You go to Hollywood high?

JASON
Oh the jacket, yeah.
RAY
My son goes there.

JASON
Really. What's his name?

RAY
Michael.

JASON
I know a Michael. Michael Burns, he's black though.

RAY
Oh.

JASON
His dad's the guy the cops are looking for.

RAY
The terrorist?

JASON
Yeah my dad interrogated him, he's a cop. I should give him a call. They were expecting me home over an hour ago.

Jason reaches into his pocket. Pulls out his cell phone.

RAY
No need, they're probably sleeping anyway.

JASON
Yeah well my dad's a little paranoid.

RAY
Aren't we all.

Ray's staring right at him. Something isn't right and Jason knows it.

JASON
You know what, I'm sorry I'm gonna have to drop you--

Ray reaches into his pants pocket. Pulls out a bottle of ETHER and a handkerchief.

He dumps the contents of the bottle into the handkerchief.
JASON
What are you doing?

RAY
I want you to know this wasn't by choice.

Ray places the handkerchief over Jason's mouth. Jason struggles for air, his foot steps on the gas.

The car races for a bit, Ray's hand on the steering wheel. Jason's eyes shut slowly. The car creeps to a stop.

Ray's cell phone RINGS.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Have you completed the mission?

RAY
Change of plans. I've got a cop's son. I pull some strings, get them to give you whatever it is you need to make this thing end.

GAMEKEEPER
I've got an uzi to Michael's head. Would you like me to pull the trigger?

RAY
What the hell do you want from me!

Ray slams his fist on the dashboard.

GAMEKEEPER
If this were about money I could have robbed a bank. Bring me the kid.

RAY
I won't sacrifice his life.

GAMEKEEPER
So you're willing to risk your son's?

RAY
Without me none of this is possible. Meet me in the park on Slausen in an hour. Bring my son.
EXT. SLAUSEN PARK - NIGHT

Ray counts his steps in front of the Mustang. Jason knocked out in the passenger seat.

The Watcher's Toyota Camry pulls into the parking lot. As the Watcher steps out Ray trains his .45 on him.

RAY
Where's Michael?

WATCHER
I take you to get him.

RAY
Wasn't part of the deal.

WATCHER
Change of plans.

RAY
Bring me my son.

The Watcher slowly places his hand in his coat pocket. Pulls out a pack of cigarettes. Lights up. Ray fingers the trigger.

WATCHER
Take it easy Raymond. I can assure you, you will get your son. No more trouble.

RAY
I'll shoot you in the head right now.

WATCHER
You do that, then your family is as good as dead.

RAY
Take me to them.

WATCHER
I can't.

Ray approaches the Watcher slowly. Places the tip of the gun to the Watcher's head.

WATCHER
This no good for you. You better lower gun. Beside, what choice you have?
RAY
Shut up and get in the car. I'll drive.

EXT. STREET - LATER

The MUSTANG pulls to the side of the road followed by a police patrol car.

MUSTANG

The Watcher reaches for his gun on the side of the passenger seat. Ray has his .45 aimed at the Watcher.

RAY
(Whispering)
What are you crazy?

WATCHER
He's running plate.

RAY
Put that away. I'll deal with it.

Both men slip their guns under the seat.

STREET

The OFFICER steps out, strolls up the car.

OFFICER
License and registration.

Ray reaches for his wallet as the Officer bounces the flashlight around the interior.

OFFICER
Any weapons in the vehicle sir?

RAY
No.

The Officer notices Jason knocked out in the back seat.

OFFICER
Plate is registered to a Jason Smit's.

RAY
That's my son.

Ray hands him the fake license. The cop stares at it, assess the situation.
OFFICER
Ted White?

RAY
Divorced. Took her last name.

OFFICER
I'm going to need you to step out of the vehicle for me sir. Arms out to your sides.

RAY
What's this about officer?

OFFICER
Just step out for me.

Ray steps out. The Officer pats him down. A voice CRACKLES over his APB unit.

VOICE (V.O.)
Got a 320 at the corner of Slausen and Porter. Suspects in route, heading east bound. Officers need assistance.

OFFICER
This is Briggs. Copy that, I'm on my way.

The Officer flashes his light in the car on the Watcher.

OFFICER
Slow down your speed.

RAY
Thank you officer.

INT. MUSTANG - ROLLING - NIGHT

Ray behind the wheel. The Watcher pulls a syringe out of his pocket.

WATCHER
I have to drug you.

RAY
Over my dead body.

Ray sticks his .45 in the Watcher's waistline.

RAY
How does it feel?
WATCHER
You're making big mistake.

RAY
I'm a professional.

INT. MUSTANG - FACTORY PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The Watcher points through the front windshield.

Two small video cameras are mounted to the sides of the factory rooftop.

WATCHER
My boss know we're here. I take you to police station now, they leave.

RAY
Yeah but I got you.

WATCHER
I kill a lot of people in my lifetime. Never been caught. You take me to station, I tell them who you are. Then you and your family are fucked.

Ray pounds his fist on the dashboard.

RAY
Damnit.

WATCHER
I thought you were professional.

RAY
Alright. Alright let's go.

WATCHER
Where?

RAY
Inside.

INT. ABANDONED FACTORY - NIGHT

The factory is dark and musty. Rats race back and forth on the ratty floor between rusty metal drums.

Ray follows the Watcher up a flight of stairs with Jason slung over his shoulder. They stop in front of a door.
RAY
Hold it. What's in there?

WATCHER
Your family.

RAY
Walk in front of me. Nice and slow.

Ray jams his .45 in to the Watcher's back.

The Watcher opens the door.

INT. ABANDONED FACTORY - MACHINERY ROOM - NIGHT

Ray and the Watcher move past old rotted out machinery. Ray pulls a flashlight out of his pocket.

They turn a corner to find the Gamekeeper seated in the middle of the room with Michael at a small table.

Mike's strapped to a chair, tape over his mouth. He's scared out of his mind.

GAMEKEEPER
Not a smart move Guinea Pig.

Ray turns his .45 on the Gamekeeper. He rests Jason on the floor. Paces back and forth.

RAY
I got what you wanted, now give me my son.

GAMEKEEPER
Do you think his father cares as much about his boys life as you do yours?

RAY
I got a bullet with your name on it.

GAMEKEEPER
I doubt that.

A bright light flashes above them.

Ray looks up to the catwalk and sees Angela and his daughters surrounded by six HENCHMEN.
GAMEKEEPER
Did you really think you could just walk in here and save the day like some super hero?

RAY
Whatever it takes.

The Gamekeeper holds up a small metal object.

GAMEKEEPER
This is a detonator. You are familiar yes. Strapped to the bottom of Michael's chair is a bomb. Kill the cop's kid or we all die.

RAY
I'm no martyr.

GAMEKEEPER
Then death it is.

RAY
Okay. Okay, hold on. I'll do it.

GAMEKEEPER
What?

RAY
I said I'll do it.

Ray drops his .45 on the floor. The watcher spins toward him, injects a syringe into Ray's neck.

FADE TO BLACK.

RAY (V.O.)
It’s not real. None of this is real. God will press reset, and they'll all come back to life.

INT. ABANDONED FACTORY - OFFICE - LATER

Ray opens his eyes slowly. He's secured by a thick metal chain to a wooden crate.

Jason stands in front of him, feet and hands bound together. A paper bag over his face.

GAMEKEEPER (O.S.)
Remember this.
The Gamekeeper places an uzi in Ray's hand.

GAMEKEEPER
It is difficult to be a father now a days. To teach your son right from wrong. But you made a choice, on three. One...

Urine leaks from under Jason’s pants onto his sneakers.

GAMEKEEPER
Two...

Ray tries to aim the gun at himself. The Gamekeeper gently guides his hand back to Jason.

A tear rolls slowly down Ray's face.

RAY
It's not real. It's not real.

GAMEKEEPER (O.S.)
Yes it is. You're one of us now Raymond. Three.

INT. ABANDONED FACTORY - MACHINERY ROOM - LATER

FBI agents cover the perimeter. Harry moves past the yellow crime scene tape. Kareem stops him.

KAREEM
The call came in an hour ago. Harry, I'm sorry.

HARRY
What are you talking about?

KAREEM
I can't let you go in there.

HARRY
I've seen more than my fair share of dead bodies.

KAREEM
This one's different.

Kareem hugs him.

KAREEM
I'm sorry buddy. He's gone.
HARRY
Who's gone? Is it a cop?

KAREEM
It's Jason. He's gone Harry-

Harry breaks free. Two ATF agents try to restrain him.

KAREEM
Let him go.

Harry turns the corner. Blood spackled over the wall. Harry runs toward his son.

He bends down, cradles Jason’s head in his arms as he cries.

INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT - OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Thomas watches Harry rest his gun and badge on his desk.

THOMAS
Have a seat.

Harry plops down, totally dejected. Thomas leans back in his chair, trying to be careful with his words.

THOMAS
You and Burns have history?

HARRY
This isn't about me and him. It's about the people who are making him do this.

THOMAS
He's doing this Harry.

HARRY
What if he's not. The guy never had a criminal record. Graduated top of his class at Howard. People who knew him say-

THOMAS
Listen Harry I'm sorry for your loss. But-

HARRY
Fuck off.

Harry stands. Slams the door shut on his way out.
THOMAS
Never liked you anyway.

EXT. PARK - DAY - ONE WEEK LATER

BAGPIPES. A casket is lowered into the ground. Harry stands next to Catherine and Kareem.

A line of uniformed CADETS FIRE their rifles. Catherine wheezes. Harry hugs her tight.

She takes refuge in his arms, then pushes him away as she pummels him with her fists.

EXT. SMIT'S HOME - BACKYARD - DAY - LATER

Catherine rocks on a swing set. Harry joins her. Catherine gets up and walks inside.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Harry and Kareem seated at the bar knocking back shots.

HARRY
She wants a divorce.

KAREEM
Sorry to hear that.

HARRY
Should have retired years ago.

KAREEM
You were doing your job.

Harry downs a shot. Kareem guzzles his beer. Harry pulls a pack of cigarette's out of his pocket, lights up.

KAREEM
Didn't know you smoked.

HARRY
Just started.

KAREEM
This about him or you?

HARRY
I should be asking you that.

KAREEM
I believe in justice. You pull the trigger, you do the time.
HARRY
That simple huh. What if terrorists had your wife and kids. What would you do?

Kareem thinks.

KAREEM
Depends.

HARRY
On what?

KAREEM
On what my wife looks like.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT
Ray sits behind the wheel watching Kareem stumble out of his car into his house.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Two more victims.

RAY
Who?

GAMEKEEPER
Detectives Jaffar and Smits.

RAY
Then?

GAMEKEEPER
Then you get your family back.

INT. KAREEM'S HOUSE - NIGHT
Ray moves through the house with a ski mask on his face. A .357 Magnum in his hands.

He can hear the sound of water running in the bathroom.

The bathroom door is open, STEAM escapes the empty shower. Ray feels a .22 placed against his temple.

KAREEM (O.S.)
Drop it. Nice and slow.

Ray drops his gun on the floor. Skillfully, he punches Kareem between the legs. The .22 flies out of Kareem's hands.

Ray tackles Kareem, punches him in the face.
Kareem digs his fingers into Ray's eyes. Ray lunges for the gun, Kareem trips him. Ray surges forward, picks up his .357 just as Kareem picks up his .22.

Ray gets off first, Kareem dives into the bathroom as the bullets tear into the bedroom door.

Ray dashes through the front door.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Kareem flies out the front door as Ray's Jeep speeds down the street. Kareem lets off a round, but it's too late.

INT. MOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Ray watches TV in bed, ice pack to his eye. The dirty bed sheets curled up in the corner of the room.

He's on his cell phone.

RAY
I can't do this.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
You going soft on me Guinea Pig?

RAY
I think it's time you tell me what this is all about. I've earned it.

INT. UCLA - AUDITORIUM - 6 YEARS EARLIER

The Gamekeeper's BROTHER, a handsome kid in his 20's, sits in the audience. NEFRIM BALI stands at the podium.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
I told you of my brother's plans.

INT. UCLA HALL - DORM ROOM - DAY

The brother plays a video game.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
What I did not tell you is that he was an addict. Video games took control of his life. He was consumed with them.

INT. UCLA - EVELYN'S OFFICE - DAY

The brother sits in front of EVELYN. She hands him a prescription slip.
GAMEKEEPER V (V.O.)
He began sessions with the vet. She
gave him medications that only made
him more sick.

INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT - HALLWAY - DAY

The brother eyes a .40 caliber glock in an OFFICER’S holster.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
He was arrested for stealing a
police car. When they brought him
in for questioning he lost it.

The Gamekeeper's brother lunges at the officer. Grabs the
gun, shoots the officer in the head.

The brother runs down the hallway.

Kareem jumps in front of him, gun raised. The brother gets
off first. The bullet tears into Kareem's shoulder.

The brother pushes on. As he turns the corner to the front
entrance, Harry appears behind him. The brother whirls, Harry
unloads a SHOT. The boy drops to the ground.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
He died on the way to the hospital.

INT. MOTEL - ROOM - NIGHT

Ray stares at his mug shot on the TV.

RAY
What about Cobb and Abu?

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Compulsive video gaming has the
ability to destroy lives. I blame
Cobb’s company for my brothers
illness. As for Abu, he cracked
under FBI investigation. So did
Bali.

RAY
So you wanted revenge. And you
needed a Guinea Pig.

GAMEKEEPER
Yes. You take one of ours, we take
hundreds of yours. We will have
revenge on all of you worthless
American filth.
INT. W. HOLLYWOOD PRECINCT - OFFICE - DAY

Harry stands in front of Thomas.

THOMAS
Go home. You're not in the right state of mind.

HARRY
My son's dead. My wife wants a divorce. And my partner was nearly killed last night. What state of mind would you be in captain?

INT. RAY'S BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Harry knocks on Leonard's door. A grimy man in a dirty wife beater, PATRICK SKIZZO, opens.

PATRICK
Help you?

HARRY
Detective Smits, L.A.-

PATRICK
I know who you are. My son's not available.

KAREEM
It's regarding a case sir. It's extremely important that we speak with him.

PATRICK
I don't want him involved.

LEONARD (O.S.)
Is that the cop's dad?

PATRICK
Go back to your room.

Patrick steps into the hallway.

PATRICK
I want you to stay away from my son.

KAREEM
(To Harry)
We could always take him in on battery.
HARRY
Sounds good to me.

PATRICK
Hold on a sec I'll get him.

Patrick dips back into the apartment. Leonard opens the door. Kareem notices the bruise on the side of Leonard's face.

KAREEM
What happened to you bud?

PATRICK (O.S.)
He got into a fight at school.

HARRY
You know why we're here.

LEONARD
I already told you, I don't know where he is.

Kareem stoops to his level.

KAREEM
Listen Leonard, Ray's done some bad things. Hurt a lot of people. All we want to do is talk to him.

LEONARD
You want to arrest him and charge him with murder. I watch CSI.

HARRY
Could you at least tell us where he would hang out?

LEONARD
Did he really kill your son?

Harry tries not to lose his cool.

HARRY
Yes.

LEONARD
The arcade up the street. That's all I know.

INT. DIZZY'S ARCADE - DAY

Harry and Kareem scan the arcade filled with teenage kids.
KAREEM
We got a better chance of finding Bin Laden.

HARRY
It's a start.

Ray looks up from a machine. Harry's questioning the kids in the aisle. Ray heads for the bathroom.

RESTROOM

Ray dips into one of the bathroom stalls, it's filthy. Harry takes the stall next to him.

HARRY’S STALL

Harry drops his pants, sits on the toilet.

RAY’S STALL

Ray tries to calm his nerves, but the mess around him is agitating. OCD takes over, both men exit.

BATHROOM

They wash their hands in the sink simultaneously. Harry glances in the mirror, not recognizing White Ray.

They shut off the water at the same time. Ray begins to turn the water on again, then stops himself.

Both reach for the paper towel.

RAY
Sorry.

HARRY
No go head.

Ray dries his hands.

HARRY
Do I know you?

RAY
I don't think so.

Ray heads for the door as Harry rips off a paper towel.
ARCADE

Ray's halfway to the front doors. Harry runs out of the bathroom. He looks around, spots Ray.

HARRY
Ray Burns!


EXT. STREET - DAY
Ray sprints for the Camry. The cops give chase, but Ray's too far ahead. They double back to the Crown Victoria.

INT. VICTORIA - DAY
Kareem's behind the wheel of the Crown Victoria.
Harry's on the APB.

EXT. STREET - DAY
Two street cops hop in a squad car.
Red and blue lights flash.

AIR
Chopper hits a hard left.

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY
Ray's Toyota speeds through rush hour traffic, turns off an exit ramp.

EXT. ROAD - DAY
Construction crew blocks the road ahead. The Camry swerves on to the sidewalk, back to the road. Cuts across oncoming traffic. A small army of squad cars join the chase.

Ray turns the wrong way down a one way street. Cars part like the Red Sea. He CRASHES through the barricade.

EXT. PARK - DAY
Mud and dirt fly as the Camry veers through a soccer game.

Squad cars follow. A couple sits on a blanket having a Sunday picnic. The Man pushes his companion out of the way as Ray's Camry races through.
EXT. STREET - DAY

Ray cuts hard. He weaves through traffic like a Formula One driver, runs a series of red lights.

CHOPPER

The PILOT spots the Toyota pulling into a covered structure.

    PILOT
    He's in the Ikea garage.

INT. IKEA PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Ray races up the stairs of a covered tunnel. Squad cars peel inside. Cops swarm the parking structure.

INT. IKEA - CAFETERIA - DAY

Ray watches the SWAT unit pile out of an armored vehicle from the cafeteria window.

INT. IKEA - STORE FLOOR - DAY

Harry and Kareem move through the crowd.

HALLWAY

Harry opens the door to a marked manager's office.

LOCKER ROOM

Ray approaches a young SALES ASSOCIATE.

    RAY
    Where do we get our uniforms?

    SALES ASSOCIATE
    Storage room down the hall. You new?

    RAY
    Yeah.

    SALES ASSOCIATE
    Chris.

Ray's out the door.

INT. IKEA - MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Harry, Kareem, SWAT commander RICHARD ROUNDTREE and the STORE MANAGER view store security monitors.
ROUNDTREE
We need to evacuate as quickly as possible. We don't want him taking hostages, or worse.

STORE FLOOR

Various departments in Ikea. People shopping.

STORE MANAGER
(Over the speaker)
Your attention please. This is not a drill. Please head for the ground floor exits. Leave your shopping carts and purchases and exit immediately.

INT. IKEA - STORE FLOOR - DAY

Ray dressed in an Ikea sweater and baseball cap, follows people surging towards the exits.

EXT. COMMAND POST - DAY

A section of the parking lot has been transformed into a command post. A feed from security cameras wired into a police van's monitors.

INT. IKEA - DAY

Ray breaks from the crowd. Slips through a side door.

EXT. IKEA PARKING LOT - DAY

Tasker and his camera crew among a crowd of local REPORTERS. News choppers circle over head.

TASKER
...Police aren't releasing details. All we know is they're evacuating the entire store...

INT. IKEA - DUCT SYSTEM - DAY

Ray pulls himself up into the duct. Peels the white skin off his face. Cell phone rings.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
Maybe you should give up.

RAY
Two more targets. Then you release my family.
GAMEKEEPER
How you planning to get out of this one?

RAY
I'll figure it out. Just keep your end of the bargain.

Ray inches his way along the duct.

KITCHEN - MINUTES LATER

Ray lowers himself into the empty kitchen. He moves to the double doors. Ducks behind the door as a SWAT officer enters. Ray drops him with the but of his .22.

INT. IKEA - TOOL ROOM - DAY

Harry stares up into the duct.

DUCT SYSTEM

Harry crawls into the duct, picks up Ray's wig.

INT. IKEA - CAFETERIA - DAY

Ray dressed in SWAT gear moves past a group of officers. He keeps his head down, closes his eyes, counts steps.

INT. IKEA - KITCHEN - DAY

Harry drops into the kitchen. Hears a MUFFLED cry.

INT. IKEA - FREEZER - DAY

Harry removes a screwdriver used to lock the doors. He opens, the SWAT shivers like a human icicle.

INT. IKEA - SHOW ROOM - DAY

Floor is cleared. SWAT. ROBOTS. K-9 UNIT.

EXT. COMMAND POST - DAY

Kareem looks over a blueprint of the store. Ray steps outside, spots Kareem.

IKEA

Harry surveys the SWAT officers at the stores perimeter.

HARRY
Take off your masks.
SWAT MEMBER
   Why?

HARRY
   Just do it.

They unmask.

EXT. COMMAND POST - DAY

Ray approaches Kareem.

RAY
   (To Kareem)
   Your partner wants you to follow me.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Kareem walks with Ray behind him.

RAY
   Up ahead.

KAREEM
   Why didn't he just call me?

Ray lifts his automatic, jams it into Kareem's back.

RAY
   Let's go to your car. Nice and easy.

INT. ABANDONED FACTORY - NIGHT

Kareem sits on top of a wooden crate hands tied behind his back blindfolded. Ray paces, agitated.

KAREEM
   We'll get you a plea bargain.

RAY
   Your partner's son is dead, and I pulled the trigger.

KAREEM
   You're sick Ray, you need help.

RAY
   The facts are simple. I kill you they live. I don't they die.
INT. POLICE STATION - HOMICIDE - NIGHT

Harry. Thomas. FBI Agents.

    THOMAS
    They've got jurisdiction now.

    HARRY
    They don't know him like I do.

Harry answers his cell.

    HARRY
    Smits.

RAY (V.O.)
Meet me at 4747 Wilshire lane.
Midnight.

Harry scribbles info on a notepad.

RAY (V.O.)
I'll be on the roof. Come alone.

CLICK.

INT. WAREHOUSE - ANOTHER PART OF TOWN - NIGHT

A squeaky door CREAKS open. Angela and the Burns kids huddled together. Two GUNMEN approach, hand them *Happy Meals*.

The Gamekeeper stands in the doorway on his phone.

    GAMEKEEPER
    Very clever Guinea Pig.

RAY (V.O.)
I told you, I'm a professional.

    GAMEKEEPER
    So what's your next move?

EXT. ROOF ACROSS FROM FACTORY - NIGHT

Two SWAT SNIPERS move into position.

    ROUNDTREE (V.O.)
    Mango and Nectar are positioned on the roof. The TRT unit will respond on my orders.
EXT. ABANDONED FACTORY - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Ray watches Harry's car pull into the parking lot. Ray's poking his gun in the back of Kareem's neck.

    KAREEM
    Think about your family. Your wife and kids.

    RAY
    I am.

    KAREEM
    Don't you want to live to see them grow up?

EXT. BUILDING - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

In MANGO's scope...A clear view of Ray and Kareem. NECTAR is positioned on the other side of the roof.

INT. ABANDONED FACTORY - NIGHT

Harry makes his way up a long flight of stairs. He stops in front of the rooftop door.

FACTORY FLOOR

SWAT GROUP huddles together.

INT. VAN - NIGHT

FBI Agents sit in front of tape recorders and tracking devices. FBI LEAD files his nails.

    FBI LEAD
    Negative. Too dangerous.

    HARRY (V.O.)
    He spots my wire this thing's over.

Disconnected.

    FBI LEAD
    Smits...shit!

EXT. ABANDONED FACTORY - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Ray stands near the rooftop ledge with a firm grip around Kareem's neck. Ray's .22 pointed at Kareem's temple.

Harry steps out on to the roof.
RAY
Right there's good.

HARRY
(Hands Raised)
I'm unarmed.

RAY
Take off your clothes.

Harry strips to his T-shirt and BVD's.

HARRY
How's it going to end, Ray?

RAY
Only one way to go.

HARRY
I take you in. Do your time.

RAY
I'm a gamer, not a criminal.

HARRY
Come again?

RAY
We live in a virtual world
detective. Game consoles, cell
phones, dvd's. There's a difference
between reality and perception.

HARRY
My son is dead, Ray. And he's not
coming back. That's reality.

Ray grimaces.

RAY
It's not real. None of this is
real.

SERIES OF IMAGES

RAY SITS IN THE CUBICLE, VIRTUAL GOGGLES ON HIS HEAD STARING
AT THE FLAT SCREEN.

RAY IN THE VAN BY HIMSELF, PRESSES THE BUTTON, CONVENTION
CENTER EXPLODES.
COP FLASHES HIS LIGHT AROUND THE INTERIOR OF THE CAR. THE PASSENGER SEAT WHERE THE WATCHER WAS SEATED IS EMPTY. JASON KNOCKED OUT IN THE BACK.

RAY DRIVES FROM THE STAPLE'S CENTER, THE WATCHER IN THE PASSENGER SEAT VANISHES. RAY'S TALKING TO HIMSELF.

RAY TALKS TO MR. BOB IN WAX WAREHOUSE, THE WATCHER IS NOT THERE.

RAY INJECTS A SYRINGE INTO EVELYN'S NECK IN THE CAR.

RAY LIFTS THE UZI TO JASON. THE GAMEKEEPER VANISHES.

HARRY
You're real, I'm real. It's all real Ray.

RAY
(Crying)
No it's not. God's gonna press reset, they'll all come back to life.

HARRY
Reset. This isn't a video game. You killed those people.

RAY
No! No I didn't, the terrorist's are real I swear to God.

Ray dials Kareem's cell phone. Puts it to his ear.

RAY
I can prove it.

EXT. ABANDONED FACTORY - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

A news van pulls into the parking lot. Tasker and his team hop out. Tasker spots Ray. His cell phone rings.

TASKER
I see you Ray.

Tasker raises another cell phone to his ear.

TASKER
You getting this?
INT. SKY NINE NEWS HELICOPTER - NIGHT

CAMERA MAN
Got it.

INT. VAN - NIGHT

FBI LEAD
What the hell is going on?

MANGO
Looks like a news crew sir.

FBI LEAD
God damn police scanners. Get em out a there.

VARIABLES BARS
People in bars across the country watch the action unfold.

SMIT’S HOME
Catherine sits in the living room, watches the news on TV.

STREET
Leonard in front of an electronics store stares at a cluster of monitors.

EXT. ABANDONED FACTORY - ROOFTOP - NIGHT
Harry eyes the chopper overhead.

HARRY
Whole country's watching Ray. I'm on your side.

RAY
There are no sides. There's just you, me, and your partner.

HARRY
Okay, hear me out...let's say these terrorists are real. What's it gonna take for me to get you back to the station.

RAY
He's gonna call. He's somewhere watching this right now. You have to believe me.
HARRY
I really want to Ray.

TENSION.
Both men ready to pull the trigger. Ray's cell phone RINGS. He picks up, puts to his ear.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
You never cease to amaze me, Guinea Pig.

Ray looks around nervously.

RAY
The pig dies, you release my family.

GAMEKEEPER
Kill them both.

RAY
I will sacrifice my life for my family's. I'm the pig.

GAMEKEEPER
So you are a martyr.

RAY
The pig dies you release my family, say yes.

GAMEKEEPER
I told you-

RAY
Say it! Say it you son of a bitch, say yes!

HARRY
Calm down, Ray.

Harry inches toward Ray as he backs on to the ledge.

GAMEKEEPER
Yes. But there's something I should tell you.

INT. BURN'S HOME - FLASHBACK - TWO YEARS EARLIER

Ray walks slowly up the stairs to his bedroom. He loosens his tie, then stops.
He can hear the **SOUND OF PEOPLE HAVING SEX**. He continues.

GAMEKEEPER (V.O.)
The day you came home from work and caught your wife in bed with another man...

Ray pushes open the door. Angela is mounted on top of a boyish looking Middle Eastern man...It’s the GAMEKEEPER.

She turns and stares back at Ray with a shocked expression on her face. Ray drops his briefcase on the floor.

GAMEKEEPER
That man was me, Raymond. I met her at a Starbucks. I met her, and then I fucked her.

Ray turns, heads for the staircase.

EXT. ABANDONED FACTORY - ROOFTOP - NIGHT
Ray looks sick. It’s worst than he could have imagined.

RAY
You're lying.

GAMEKEEPER
There's a reason you were chosen. The time you spent in Iraq. Your illness, your addiction. You were the perfect target.

Ray's losing it.

RAY
Stop...just stop.

GAMEKEEPER
Better you than me Guinea Pig.

RAY
Go to hell!

GAMEKEEPER
Not only did I enjoy her. She bears my child. That's why she divorced you. She couldn't face what she had done.

RAY
No. No!
The phone drops slowly out of Ray's hand.

    HARRY
    Come on Ray, let's go to the station. We'll get this guy for you.

    RAY
    Tell my wife I love her.

Ray pushes Kareem away from him.

ROOFTOP

Mango aims his rifle.

    MANGO
    I've got the shot.

WAREHOUSE

Roundtree lifts his walkie.

    ROUNDTREE
    Take it.

EXT. ABANDONED FACTORY - ROOFTOP

    HARRY
    Take it easy Ray, take it easy.

As Ray is about to pull the trigger, a sniper's bullet blows his gun into pieces.

Harry lunges forward, but he's a split second too late. Ray FALLS BACKWARDS off the roof.

As Ray free falls

    RAY (V.O.)
    My name is Raymond Burns. I'm just an ordinary guy, caught in a bad situation.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NEXT DAY

Federal Agents escort Angela and her children from the building. Harry walks over to Angela, embraces her.

    RAY (V.O.)
    Funny the hand that life deals you sometimes.

(MORE)
RAY (V.O.)(cont'd)
My father used to say, God's got a funny sense of humor. Not so sure about that.

EXT. PARK - DAY
Ray's casket being lowered into the ground. Harry and Kareem stand with Ray's family.

RAY
If there's one thing I know it's this.

INT. LAX AIRPORT - CUSTOMS - DAY
The Gamekeeper, wearing dark sunglasses, stands in line. He holds a TRAVEL GUIDE with the words JAPAN on the front.

EXT. SMIT'S HOME - BACKYARD - DAY
Harry, Catherine, Angela, and Kareem sit on a wooden bench eating together. Ray's kids rock on a swing set.

FADE TO BLACK.

RAY (V.O.)
Life is like a video game.
Everybody has to die sometime.

THE END