

THE DEVIL'S RISE
By: Juan De Biase

PILOT EPISODE 1

IRAQ after the occupation is a mess. The rules of engagement have changed provoking a religious rift out of control.

SCOTT BLAINE, late twenty's, explosives expert turned contractor, has grown roots in Baghdad running away from a personal misfortune that haunts him. He's found running guns to Kurd rebels covertly for the CIA is good business, but with a binding gridlock he wants to untie. He's done well with his team of hard-core cronies, all professionals in their specialized fields and each one willing to follow Scott to the gates of hell if need be to get whatever job done.

Contracted by WAYNE PARKER, a rogue CIA operator, controlling a weapons swap aimed to destabilize political foes in the middle east, finds Scott useful to carry out his schemes. Playing a double-edged game, Scott wants a way out of his shackled agreement to go on his own, something Parker will not allow. He wants his own independent pipeline to smuggle arms to the Kurds for CHIEF AHMED, his friend and top boss for the Pershmerka rebels fighting the Turks and Iraqi regulars, but Parker opposes.

Indurated in his feelings and not being able to come out of a tragic memory slag in which his girl was killed in a drunk-driving accident he irresponsibly caused, Scott decides to purge his guilt and go into harm's way.

Trapped in Baghdad, after the termination of hostilities, with the fire still smoldering, Scott decides it's time to slope off the

shackles and go on his own. He's learned the trade and has the team, will and logistics to make it happen, but Parker won't let him go. In the middle of the grapple, Scott finds a way to play a double standard, setting up a night joint he dubs THE DEVIL'S HUT, available only to his customers as a private club. As covert to shield his clandestine business, safely avoiding the Muslim ban on alcohol, he manages to court government officials to look the other way and allow his hot joint to prosper.

After clashing with Parker's resistance to release him from his contract, their relations freeze to a breaking point. Scott knows that without Parker's blessing, he won't go anywhere, unsettling a relation they both need. Time later, the ice melted, Scott receives an unexpected visit from Parker, accompanied by an Iraqi couple in hot water with a serious problem. They are in bad need for a way out of the country to avoid being assassinated by Muslim radicals dissenting from their faith.

ISSA FAROUK, an ex Sunni Baath Party member, from the left overs by Saddam, is being persecuted as consequence of the power struggle for political control of the country. He's desperately looking for a way out of the bloody Shia-Sunni rift that's taking the country apart. The politician is in urgent need, along with his wife RAISHA, swan neck beauty to cross the Turkish border without falling into Kurd hands, a service Scott can safely provide to settle his thaw with Parker. In return, Scott secures the opportunity to have Parker green-light his next move of RPG's with the Kurds, under his terms.

But something rises unexpectedly complicating the agreement. Scott is wooed by Raisha, the politician wife's, sparking a love tryst not in the script, with complexities affecting the arrangement due to get done.

THE DEVIL'S HUT is the place to be every night for Americans and foreigners looking for a breath of home-sick air. Scott's place is the joint to go for a late night drinking-chat, if you don't care being blown up to pieces any night by terrorists killing westerners in the name of Allah. Scott has learned to cope perils with a strategical shield of his own; to play safe by instinct and survive by sheer luck. After settling the terms with the politician, a tactical problem hatches up. Parker concedes only if Scott doesn't step out of line and with one compromising condition: He wants quid pro quo in return for his abetment. He's in bad need to infiltrate and gather information on a bigger threat scale, ISIS. A prowling terrorist organization being held responsible for deadly bombings in the US and European soil.

Scott begins his pry by sending SALIM, his alter-ego Iraqi brother, trolling for any source of information he finds useful to feed Parker the Intel he needs to debunk the radical Muslims. Carefully creeping through the Muslim community, alleys and worshiper's shrines, Salim snoops and finds information returning with a cutting-edge scoop. Farouk is the man Parker needs to collect enough intelligence from to infiltrate and destroy the terrorist movement. He's not what he represents to be. He's head of a Jihadist Isis-led organization with a mission to bomb and terrorize infidels in or out of Baghdad.

Raisha keenly charms Scott without her husband knowing, convinced she can hook him to fulfill the arrangement, her way. A liaison with the dire consequence of a time bomb begins ticking. Farouk discovers his wife's rounds of infidelity, shattering his dignity to pieces. He takes his humiliation quietly, but furtively conspires a scheme with help from a radical cleric heading a mosque to avenge his honor. Under Sharia law, she must be stoned

to death as punishment for her unpardonable sin. While the uncanny plot is being hatched by Farouk and the holy man, Scott's affair with Raisha grows hotter and closer, unaware of Farouk's avenging plan to take him down.

Scott's grapple with Parker for a safe passage to take Farouk out of his way gets edgy. He urges Parker to go along with his simple plan: Take him to the border where the Turks will arrest him and hand him over to the CIA for extradition, so forth, mission accomplished. Parker, not convinced, will not take part unless he calls the shots to nail Farouk with enough evidence confessed, after a dip in the bucket. Back in his compound, vetting through intelligence files, he comes upon archives disclosing classified facts revealing Farouk's real identity. He is a radical Muslim from Yemen, with a deadly message of hate and death to America and all western infidels who have violated the sacred soil of Islam.

THE DEVIL'S HUT is raided with a surprised onslaught. Terrorists riddle the place with indiscriminate gunfire, leaving innocent victims killed and wounded. Scott takes the assault very personal and decides to go after the terrorists with a hell-driven rage. Backed up by his squad, thirsty for revenge, Scott finds and storms their lair taking down everyone, except one preserved to make him confess who's after the raid. After a vicious torture, Farouk and the cleric in the mosque are revealed as the perpetrators the raid. Debunked, Farouk panics and decides to flee for the border. Scott thinking Raisha is in great risk, storms into Farouk's place looking for her just in time to save her. Farouk scrams running for the border.

Scott and Parker chase after him trailing him all the way to the Turkish border where Scott's Kurds have spotted him. The Kurds raid the check point too late. Failing to stop Farouk from

crossing, they bitch their luck, Parker needs him alive, but Scott wants his skin. Frustrated to have bagged the fugitive by a split chance, they ride back to the city.

The Devil's Hut is blown up one early Christian Sunday, taking Mike, one of Scott's closest teammates along. Defying the intimidation with the devil aroused in his blood, he targets the Mosque where the conspiracy against him took place and chooses a Friday Muslim evening prayer to quench his revenge. Scott retaliates unscrupulously directing a drone loaded with explosives towards the mosque. Incidentally before the blast, a Muslim father and his son split leaving the boy -with a distinctive birthmark on his face- beholding for the outcome of the slaughter he's about to witness. The random slaying kills almost every innocent morning prayer inside the mosque. The young boy watches helpless as the carnage stuns bystanders in an outrage of confusion and despair, finding his father is among the dead, with consequences left to unfold.

Aware of the dire consequences to expect, Scott decides to leave Baghdad taking Raisha along with him. On his way out, leaving nothing to look back for, he is intercepted by military patrol vehicles. To his fortune, finds Parker and a crooked Iraqi top brass "fixed" to save his skin, before being found by Iraqi authorities and surely executed for his crime.

Back in US soil, a call from Parker with a new life-threatening contract sends him riding again. Bound for boiling Yemen, with Raisha now working for Parker as a translator and waiting for him, finds the challenge irresistible.

The chase continues.