

LAST ISLAND

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

High school sophomore (VILLARUBIA, 5'4", 110 lbs, shy, anxious) struggles with poster board tripod. STEVEN 6'1", 200 lbs, cocky wrestler) steals and mockingly dons glasses. KENNY (6'0", 180 lbs) intervenes.

STEVEN (BULLY)

What have ya got here, little fellow? Is it a science project, nerd boy? You sissy boys and girls are gonna get excited in physics today!

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST IN YOUTH)

Come on, Billy! Please, please, I need my glasses to see. My mama will be upset if they get broken!

STEVEN (BULLY)

Ohh, whadda we gonna do now, Professor Peabody? Are weee gonna start crying like a widdle baby?

KENNY pulls STEVEN away. Removes, returns glasses.

KENNY (FRIEND)

Sorry Villy. I'm afraid there's a lot of idiots in the world. Good luck on your presentation.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST IN YOUTH)

Thanks, Kenny for being nice to me.

KENNY swats STEVEN'S head as they walk away.

KENNY (FRIEND)

What the hell's wrong with you, Aster? That kid's got 40 IQ points on you, idiot. He also happens to be a nice guy. He lives down the street, so will ya leave him the hell alone?

STEVEN (BULLY)

Why don't you join the physics and chess clubs if you like him and his little friends so much?

KENNY (FRIEND)

Cause I'm not smart enough, numbnuts! We'll be drinking beer and telling wrestling stories at 40. He'll be doing stuff that matters.

STEVEN laughs stupidly.

STEVEN (BULLY)
But we'll be having a lot more fun!

KENNY (FRIEND)
Ya think so, huh? Duhh . . .

HUMBLE DISSOLVE:

2 EXT. DALLAS DEALEY PLAZA (GRASSY KNOLL) - DAY

Two men (dark suits & sunglasses) stand and whisper in shadows off grassy knoll. Body language suggests familiarity. MONTANARI (short-haired, middle-aged, dark-skinned, two-day beard) listens. DRONER (bellicose & overbearing) rails.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
Did you meet your friend from Beijing?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
Yes, when I flew through Hong Kong on business.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
It's already November. Are you sure he's capable?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
Once Tianjin comes in, all things will be possible.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
It'll be out of our hands once the transfer occurs.

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
The new Asian business contracts are fine, but what else from your end? Seems like I deserve more.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
How about the satisfaction of fixing a problem? That's what patriots do, right?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
You once mentioned Transportation?

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
Absolutely, Mr. Secretary! Baked into the cake.

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
OK. Let's wait and see what happens in Rome.
Why did you pick this spot to meet?

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
Let's just say the Plaza feels like an old friend.

HUMBLE DISSOLVE:

3 INT. FBI HEADQUARTERS (WASHINGTON) - DAY

YOUNGBLOOD in office converses with MOORE by phone.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
I understand David, five million profiles, huh?

MOORE (FBI SCIENCE DIRECTOR) - V.O.
CODIS is flourishing, and Powers led the effort.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Her psych and CS degrees suited her well. I
go back to New Orleans with Powers and Whit.

MOORE (FBI SCIENCE DIRECTOR) - V.O.
They cracked that serial killer case, right?

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
After the task force dropped my BAU team.

MOORE (FBI SCIENCE DIRECTOR) - V.O.
You worked with them in that Alaska cult case
too? He was also a serial killer, right?

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Director Larsien took a big chance trusting
their instincts in that cult psychiatrist case.

MOORE (FBI SCIENCE DIRECTOR) - V.O.
Well, she's been a great acquisition at Quantico.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
They've made quite an impression at Langley as
well. Franco King has been asking about both of
them. Their credentials are ideally positioned.
Powers is actually whom I'm calling you about.

MOORE (FBI SCIENCE DIRECTOR) - V.O.
This must be where our conversation turns sour?

4 INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS (SPECIAL ACTIVITIES) - DAY

GLAZER leads morning briefing. KELLER, CAPONE, GLAZER,
GAYLEE, POLTOVSKY, DERENTA, POWERS, & WHIT in attendance.

GLAZER (CIA ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Two months ago, November 9th, the Greece National
Intelligence Service began tracking Russian spys

trying to plant misinformation about Greek mischief in the Trans-Balkan Pipeline.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
The EYP planted a bartender at the Hills Athens Rooftop Restaurant near the Acropolis. She heard a suspicious conversation between two men.

MONTAGE: 4A INT. HILL ATHENS ROOFTOP BAR - NIGHT

a) YANG & MONTANARI at bar; b) EYP BARTENDER AGENT (24, female, attractive, cute, seductive) serves men drinks; c) BARTENDER talks nonchalantly to WAITER.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES) - V.O.
The EYP agent is only 24 years old. She speaks five languages and is a real looker.

GLAZER (ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)- V.O.
The men whispered in English that an event in Late October would "rock the American election".

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
The Asian man required an "exploratory committee" and 10 million in donations to show seriousness of intent. Confirmation was needed within three weeks.

MONTAGE: 4B EXT. APOSTOLU PAVLOU - NIGHT

a) YANG exits restaurant to street; b) car pulls up quickly; c) enters and departs; d) BARTENDER AGENT exits restaurant as cab moves off into distance.

GLAZER (CIA ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)- V.O.
The EYP agent focused on these two men. She Even observed the Asian guy leave in a cab.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
She referred to him as the "man from the east" and his dining partner as the "man from the west". The bill was paid in cash.

GLAZER (CIA ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
The "man from the west" reappeared an hour Later for a rendezvous with a woman waiting at the bar. The agent surmised she was a hooker.

MONTAGE: 4C INT. HILL ATHENS ROOFTOP BAR - NIGHT

a) MONTANARI sits next to attractive WOMAN; b) EYP BARTENDER AGENT brings drinks; c) MONTANARI smiles and gestures glibly to HOOKER in conversation.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)-V.O.
That conversation involved flirtation and self-aggrandizement. Obviously trying to impress her.

MONTAGE: 4D EXT. APOSTOLU PAVLOU - NIGHT

a) MONTANARI & WOMAN exits restaurant; b) hail cab and enter (MONTANARI looks around in all directions); c) EYP AGENT exits bar as cab move off into distance.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)-V.O.
The couple left in a cab with a photo snapped through the window. The driver was identified by EYP, and his drop-off point was an apartment complex south of town. Both suspects were lost.

Image (short-haired, dark-skinned, middle-aged with two-day beard stubble) projected on screen.

GLAZER (CIA ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
EYP summarized as follows: 1) the man from the West had dual U.S. and Italian citizenship; 2) worked in high government; 3) asserted The election would end like none other; 4)insisted no "socialist liberal" candidate would "be allowed" to be elected; and 5) knew his dining partner well.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Executive Director Elisa Capone in our Asian analytic group took the allusions seriously.

GLAZER (CIA ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
EYP's efforts to follow these men were significant. This was way out of their lane of responsibility.

MATHEWS (CIA OFFICER)
Did phone contacts originate from either man?

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Capone's team tracked international calls within 30 minutes and a mile of the restaurant. It was a shot in the dark, but a number of calls were linked to phones with Asian registries.

GLAZER (CIA ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
One man, Asher Yange, pinged a tower next to the restaurant within minutes of departure. The call went to Chao Fu Chen in Tianjin. A background search came up empty until a check of customs records.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Yange's name was misspelled. Asher Yang was booked on a flight from Athens to Rome on December 18th. He's a Chinese diplomat, and Chao fu Chen's a Beijing billionaire.

Images of Asher Yang (prim & proper) & Chao Fu Chen (flashy thousand-dollar suit) flashed on screen.

GLAZER (CIA ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Chao Fu Chen is viewed at home and abroad as a amiable entrepreneur and public benefactor.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Elisa asked our Italian counterparts at AISE to assign a detail on Yang upon his arrival in Rome.

MONTAGE OF: a) YANG pumping gas outside ruins; b) YANG casually walking through ruins; c) AISE agent follows behind; c) YANG ducks into House of Golden Cupids; d) AISE agent ducks into back entrance and freezes; e) YANG and MONTANARI stand in silhouette whispering;

GLAZER (ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)-V.O.
The next morning his limo was tracked for two hours as it drove south on E45 past Naples to a petrol station outside Pompeii. An AISE agent intuited his destination was the ruins and rushed ahead.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)-V.O.
That was fortuitous. YANG entered the ruins seemingly oblivious to the prospect of being followed. After 30 minutes he was observed ducking into the House of Golden Cupids.

GLAZER (ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)- V.O.
The agent entered the tablinum and heard whispers in English from a man with an Asian accent who was ready to "move ahead" with "transfer specifics". The location would be posted online in mid-June.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Where'd the men go after the exchange?

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
They fled the house and Yang left the ruins.

GLAZER (CIA ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)

He walked alone down Plinio Street and slipped into Ristorante turistico. An agent entered later, but a waiter said the man left through the back exit.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
OK everyone. Let's shift our attention to four other summaries of other more proximal concerns.

5 INT. HOME LIVING ROOM (TRIANGLE, VIRGINIA)- NIGHT

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) & POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
sit close on couch discussing investigation. Romance clear.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
McCain looks unstoppable.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I thought Hillary was too, but she's in a dogfight.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Can't believe she's blowing a 20-point lead.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
New Hampshire and Nevada stabilized her position, but South Carolina last night keeps him in the race.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Putin has contempt for her, but that Chinese billionaire sounds more concerned about Obama.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
How about the third-party candidates? Huge field.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
None will make the grown-ups debate stage.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
The Burnt Affiliates Television Network still Gives them publicity. BAT loves the outliers.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Who runs that thing?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Rudolph Burnt. German television mogul. They profit by blurring news and entertainment.

6 INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS (SPECIAL ACTIVITIES) - DAY

KELLER chairs briefing (CAPONE, GLAZER, WHIT, POWERS,

GAYLEE, POLTOVSKY, & DERENTA). Calendar reads April 14th.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Foreign election conspiracies remain as concerns.

POLTOVSKY (CIA RUSSIAN EUROPEAN)
Putin's directives are generalized. He's flooding social media platforms with disinformation.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Elisa Capone joins us from the Asian analytic to summarize concerns about Chinese mischief.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
Chao Fu Chen's a rare metals billionaire magnate who's cornered the market on dysprosium, terbium, niobium, lithium, cobalt, tantalum, and others.

DERENTA
What's the function of those metals?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
They're essential for smartphones, telescopic lenses, computer screens, electric cars, wind turbines, and electronics. 80% of U.S. imports come from China. EU reliance is at 98%.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
What does your unit know about Mr. Chen?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
His raison d'être is protection of financial interests. His biggest concern is Obama. Unlike the Russians, Chen sees the senator as the frontrunner.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Here's a Tianjin interview after Obama announced.

English narration. Interview dated February of 2007.

INTERVIEWER - V.O.
You've asserted that Barack Obama from the United States would oppose Chinese rare metal interests. Surely a Black man could not win their presidency?

CHEN (CHINESE BILLIONAIRE) - V.O.
It's foolish to underestimate this man. He's a charismatic orator whose ascendance is inevitable.

Interview is stopped.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
Chen's limitless resources are focused on Obama.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Chen's conniving with Yang to sabotage the senator.
So what do we know about the Chinese diplomat?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
Yang's an undistinguished party diplomat who
Flies to embassies all over the world working
for either Chao Fu Chen or the Chinese Ministry.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
How does MSS lean in the election? Does the
government itself have strategic interests?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
Chen and party interests converge. The billionaire
would not speak publicly without approval. The plot
sounds operational with talk of follow-up meetings.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
This doesn't sound like a social media campaign.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
That's why your unit is in the lead. The details
remain a mystery. Yang's booked on a China
Airlines flight from Beijing to Rome on May 5th.

GLAZER (CIA ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
So we have men meeting in Greece and Italy to
discuss plans to disrupt our presidential election.
The plot is well-funded, and the objective appears
to be sabotage of the Democratic nominee.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Are the conspirators waiting for a signal to
proceed? Yang mentioned conditions, right?

GLAZER (CIA ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Something about the need to show seriousness of
intent. That's the job of the man from the west.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
So Yang flies back to Rome in two weeks. What then?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
AISE will monitor his movements upon arrival.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)

OK everyone. This brings us up to date.

Briefing attendees disperse leaving KELLER & CAPONE.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
I don't like this situation, Elisa.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
That's why I've been blowing the whistle.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Sounds like you're content waiting on AISE?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
They do seem to understand the seriousness of
The situation. They know the geographic terrain.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
The Italians might be simpatico, but this isn't
their priority concern. I'm thinking maybe it's
best to move ahead of the curve at the outset.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
What do you have in mind?

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
I'd prefer first-hand intel. I'm sending a SOG team
to conduct independent surveillance of Chen.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
Who'd you have in mind?

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Adam Derenta and Justin McDaniel will lead. Let's
send Whit and Powers too. They're new, but I'd like
their perspectives if Yang is encountered.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
Backgrounds in psychology and computer science?

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Yep, Franco personally recruited them to counter
election concerns. Best get their feet wet.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
His batting average is legendary. Half the room
actually! They completed The Farm in record time.

KELLER sees WHIT & POWERS with other officers.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Dr. Whit, Dr. Powers. Can I have a word with you?

POWERS nods as KELLER moves toward office. WHIT shrugs.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
What did we do now?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Can't be in trouble yet. We just arrived.

8 INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS (SPY TECHNOLOGY) - DAY

PENNE waits for arrival. Lab wall to wall with specialty surveillance devices. Small slanted sign over desk reads "Gizmo Czar". WHIT & POWERS enter nervously.

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Drs. Powers and Whit, I'm Quartermaster Rene Penne. Director Keller tells me you're heading to Italy?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We'll be following men from a distance.

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Let's rely on standard audio monitoring with innovations for distant recordings.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
What's standard for recording close encounters?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Highly sensitive dual shoe receivers embedded in the heels. These have been customized for your shoe sizes. Don't wear them when navigating airport security. They'd trigger a security alert.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
So they receive and transmit audio signals?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Yes, to your left ear. Shoe microphones are fine at 20 to 30 feet. Fourier analysis in noise can decompose sound wave into differential functions.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
So we'll need to assure relatively close contact?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Close proximity is, of course, optimal. Otherwise,
let me offer a separate state-of-the-art receiver.

PENNE retrieves a large-brim cartwheel hiking hat
sitting atop a mannequin. POWERS looks amused.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
A fashion statement for Italian onlookers?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
No, no. That's a value-added benefit. This hat
is the most advanced parabolic antenna ever
devised. The metallic substructure is disguised.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
So it's a giant antenna?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Exactly, and with a little training, you'll
Learn how slight head tilts can focus the embedded
microphone on targets as far away as sixty yards.

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Tilt your head backwards away from your target.
Listening behind you helps disguise your intent.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Can I test it?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Sure. Let's go out into the courtyard.

PENNE ushers outside. Officers mull in distance. POWERS
tilts head toward officers in distance.

OFFICER 1 (V.O.)
Bhutan now officially a democracy.

OFFICER 2 (V.O.)
First general election ever.

OFFICER 1 (V.O.)
We're you involved in that one?

OFFICER 2 (V.O.)
Nope, but Franco's crew was all over it.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Sounds like Bhutan has its first President.

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Is that all Officers Kent and Wilson had to say?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Well . . . something about Franco being happy.

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
I see. Looks like I'll have to talk to those boys.

Return inside. PENNE lifts 2' by 2' padded angular device from under workbench. It looks like movie camera.

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
It's an electro-optical sensor-equipped telescope. We refer to it a laser microphone. It shoots a laser beam at stationary objects from a long distance.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
How does it work?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
The laser wave function vibrates to air movements around the target. Minute light variations can be captured in the return signal that's converted to sound waves using interferometry software.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
What's the maximum distance?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Effective up to 1,000 feet It can even detect sounds through closed windows. Glass vibrations can detect room conversation. All that's needed is a line of sight and a vibrating object close to the target.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Like wine glasses?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Half-empty ones would be optimal. Many objects can work. Potted plants, wall pictures, table decorations, even light bulbs.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
These are great! Anything else?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
These common objects are bugged with listening devices that don't require power or electronics.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
No power supply? How's that possible?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
An extremely thin resonating capacitive membrane cavity bounces back radio waves received in a small embedded antenna. It needs to be activated or illuminated from radio wave transmissions.

PENNE hands over miniature paperweight, bronze gargoyle, 3D globe, metal flask, and volcanic rock.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
This sounds like genius! The purple rock looks like a good luck charm. Who came up with this idea?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
It has legendary roots. A carved wooden replica of the U.S. Great Seal was gifted to our ambassador by Soviet schoolchildren in 1946.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
You're kidding! The Russians!

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Displayed in his residence for seven years until detected and notoriously coined "The Thing" in intelligence circles. We've evolved them over time.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
How do we communicate with Langley from the field?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
New 4G cell phone technology modified with state-of-the-art encryption capabilities.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
What about field communications?

PENNE pulls out caramel-colored earbuds.

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
These fit millimeters above your eardrums. Virtually undetectable, but spotty at 1,000 feet.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Where are the mics?

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
This button fits at the back of your head. All you

need to do is talk. It'll translate the vibrations.

9 INT. FIUMICINO-LEONARDO DA VINCI AIRPORT - DAY

WHIT & POWERS colorful tourist garb, enthusiastic demeanor, looking around in wonder) exit gate.

Officer DERENTA (short pants, Chicago Bears T-shirt, headphones) exits from a different gate.

Officer MCDANIEL (black shirt/pants, Roman collar, neck cross, priest disguise) exits different gate.

10 INT. VILLA GRAZIOLI (ROME HOTEL) - DAY

Drone shows location. WHIT & POWERS in hotel room.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Chinese Embassy 400 feet as the crow flies!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Adam's at the Hilton on Viale Liegi. Justin's at
Ada Home on Montevideo. Yang's routes covered.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Let's go rent mopeds for mobility.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Derenta's gonna track him from the airport.

11 INT. FIUMICINO-LEONARDO DA VINCI AIRPORT - DAY

MCDANIEL reads newspaper at luggage carousel. YANG ambles to conveyor. Retrieves suitcase, heads to limo.

MONTAGE 11A EXT. CHINESE EMBASSY - DAY

Drone footage of: a) DERENTA leaving parking garage five cars behind limo; b) Embassy; c) POWERS riding moped past embassy on Bruxelles; d) WHIT riding moped past embassy; e) limo arrival at gate on Bruxelles; f) gate opens, limo enters, gate closes; f) POWERS & DERENTA pass gate in opposite directions.

12 INT. VILLA GRAZIOLI (ROME HOTEL) - DAY

WHIT & POWERS in room. Clock reads 1000 hours.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
All day yesterday. No action. I'm exhausted.

Encrypted text comes in.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Here we go. Limo's on the move. Let's hit it!

13 EXT. ROME STREETS & HIGHWAYS - DAY

MONTAGE OF a) DERENTA on moped behind limo on A90; b) MCDANIEL on moped behind limo on SS2; c) POWERS takes lead as limo turns on small roadway (Strada M; d) limo arrives (Olgiata Golf Club). DERENTA stops next to POWERS; e) YANG enter club (disarming smile).

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Looks like recreation. We could try to get in, but it's a private club. Probably too risky.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Let's wait him out.

14 INT. VILLA GRAZIOLI (ROME HOTEL) - DAY

POWERS & WHIT back in hotel room.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Three hours and a round of golf.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Asher Yang, man of leisure, and all on the Chinese dime. This deployment could be a bust.

CUT TO:

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Almost 1800 hours. What's up with this guy?

Text comes in.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
He's on the move. Adam's tracking him north on Grazioli. Says to go around and meet on Lima.

15 EXT. AL CEPPPO (RESTAURANT) - NIGHT

DERENTA, & MCDANIEL across street in cluttered building construction site. WHIT & POWERS arrive.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We got lucky with this cover. Looks safe enough with all these tarps outside this building.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
He's in the restaurant across the street?

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Yep, Al Ceppo. I tracked him right around the block. Just a quarter mile from the embassy.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Let me don my priest garb and get over there.
I'll sit at the bar as close as possible.

MCDANIELS pulls cassock and collar from moped.

MONTAGE OF: a) MCDANIEL donning cassock and collar; b) MCDANIEL in restaurant with b) MAITRE D' shaking head; c) MCDANIELS looks at watch (plaintiff look); d) MAITRE D' points to seats below mirror; e) MCDANIELS assumes seat; f) team reassembled at construction site.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
He's just meeting his mistress of the night.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Al Ceppo looks like a big bust.

16 EXT. VIA BRUXELLES - DAY

POWERS rides moped south on Bruxelles toward embassy.
YANG spotted walking north. Radio communications.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Headed to Villa Ada, Parioli District. The park.

DRONE MONTAGE OF a) Yang walking at corner of Bruxelles & Polonia; b) crosses street up Polonia; c) reaches Largo Bangladesh circle; d) WHIT pulls around circle; e) YANG heads into park; f) MCDANIEL (priest cassock & collar) seen standing at fence admiring Shaheed Minar of Rome as YANG walked past.

CUT TO:

DERENTA sits on park bench eating an apple.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Long walk. Not a care in world. Heading back.

MONTAGE OF: a) POWERS on Bruxelles Street; b) WHIT in park; c) MCDANIELS in Bangladesh circle.

17 INT. VILLA GRAZIOLI (HOTEL LOBBY) - DAY

MCDANIEL moped on Bruxelles. WHIT at hotel desk.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Directions today to the Curia of Pompey?

CLERK 1
Yes Madam. Julius Caesar assassination site?

CLERK 1 fumbles with map. WHIT glances outside as YANG
walks right by window. Tries to act casual.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
The general area will do sir.

CLERK 1
Let me just draw a path for you to take.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
No need. I see the map Thank you so much!

Grabs map and giggles. Walks briskly out front door. Within
moments POWERS exits lobby in pursuit.

18 INT. VIALE DI VILLA GRAZIOLI (STREET LEVEL) - DAY

POWERS alerts team via audio feed.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
On the move by foot. Turned right on Salaria.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Following a block behind.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
We'll be ahead of him on bike. Adam, get to
Giovanni Pacini. I'll position at Pinciana.

MONTAGE OF: a) YANG walks on Giovanni Pacini as
DERENTA passes; b) YANG walks on Pinciana as MCDANIEL
passes; c) YANG enters store on Porta Pinciana; d) YANG
(scans nervously) enters store on del Tritone.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Almost two miles. Maybe headed to Devi Fountain.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Where are you Mandy? I'll pick you up and we'll
beat him there!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Corner of Tritone and Traforo.

19 EXT. TREVI FOUNTAIN - DAY

ADAM & POWERS pull up at corner of Lavatore and Vincenzo.
 Fountain teeming with tourists.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
 He turned left on Poli. Headed your way.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Head over there to the southwest corner. I'll blend
 into the crowd and snap photos from a distance.

POWERS moves into position. YANG ambles down Polipast
 fountain toward her. Glances at fountain, bumps POWERS.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)
 Mi perdoni Signora.

POWERS nods, steps aside. YANG walks ten feet behind. Assumes
 corner table seat at L'Antico Forno market where GIORGIO
 (clean-shaven, middle-aged, wire-rimmed glasses, tan Armani
 suit) awaits him. Camera catches POWERS (parabolic antenna
 hat) at corner of screen admiring fountain. English.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
 Ciao Giorgio. Good to see you again after last year
 in Vienna. How's my friend Luca doing at Telologic?

GIORGIO (TELOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
 He's fine Asher. I'm not comfortable meeting
 This way. I know what you're looking for and don't
 appreciate your attempt to get me involved.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
 Come now Giorgio. There's no need to be impolite.
 We've done lots of business together in the past,
 and there's no need to disrupt our friendship.

GIORGIO (TELOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
 This is a different kind of business Asher.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
 No Signor. I'm afraid it's all the same. It would
 be such a shame if Luca ever learned about Vienna
 or Lisbon, or those other dealings. We, of course,
 would never disclose confidential information, but
 things do sometimes have a way of getting out.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
Look, I hear your threat, but this is a bridge too far. You're gonna have to go elsewhere for this commodity. It's just too big.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V. O.
Doctor, you're already in our operation whether you like it or not. The question is whether you want to collect or pass on the finder's fee?

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
Finders fee, huh? That's sounds so proper Asher.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V. O.
A million euros could buy you and your lovely wife a nice retirement. All we're asking is for you to go to Belarus and meet Nicolo.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
That simple, huh?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V. O.
Yesss, that simple. He knows where one of the six can be found, correct? He'd never deal with us directly. Only trusted intermediaries. That's you Giorgio. Just ask him for a price. That's all.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
What do I tell him happens after that?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V. O.
We'll provide a vessel for private and secure transit to the spot. It'll be like a two week vacation for him. He can even take his family.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
How would he know where to go?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V. O.
Once an agreement is reached, you'll provide coordinates for the drop. Surely you can Complete this little transaction, right? Just two brief face-to-face meetings in Belarus.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
Direct contact is the big ticket item.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V. O.
Just a talk between friends. No harm in that.

Just meeting here today by this nice fountain. Nicolo trusts you Giorgio. You can both profit from this little job. Just have him name the price.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
OK Asher, you conveyed your message. I don't know what you're up to, and I never want to find out. Give me a week or so, and I'll see what I can do.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V. O.
Excellent Giorgio! Let's meet again in Venice on May 25th. Same place as last year. Let's say 8:00 p m. I'll reserve a table. Just us omnivori!

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
I guess that'll work. The secrecy is probably best.

YANG rises. Hands cash to waiter. Rushes away on foot.

20 INT. VILLA GRAZIOLI (ROME HOTEL) - DAY

POWERS, WHIT, DERENTA, & MCDANIEL in hotel room with bottles of wine. Festive atmosphere. Clock reads 2200.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Yang's hiding a meeting with a scientist working for a guy named Luca at a company called Telologic.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
That's gold!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Giorgio must hold a doctorate. A million euros to get an accomplice named Nicolo in Belarus to secure and deliver one of six unspecified rare objects.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Yang's extorting this fellow.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Whatever they're chasing must be worth a lot of money. There has to be a reason for this secrecy.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Is Yang working for the government, Chen, or both? Is this plot even related to our election?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Maybe he's looking for a rare paintings or jewels?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Art or jewels? Sounds like maybe a weapon to me!

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We have to identify their rendezvous point in Venice before May 25th. It must be a restaurant.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Giorgio's running off to Belarus in the next two weeks to propose a price tag.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Sergei Poltovsky in our Russian and European Division needs to track down these new players.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Surely they can find a guy named Dr. Giorgio working for Luca at Telologic somewhere in Italy?

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I'll tell Keller we're off to Venice. It's critical to intercept him before he registers at his hotel. He'll otherwise become a needle in a haystack.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I guess we could otherwise check all the hotels.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
There's over 800 hotels in Venice Robbie. You and Mandy monitor Yang here in Rome until he departs.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Adam and I will wait for notification regarding his method of travel. Watch him like a hawk. He could leave days in advance.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I'll book rooms at the Hotel Flora Venezia.

21 INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS (SPECIAL ACTIVITIES) - DAY

KELLER leads Science & Technology Directorate morning briefing. GLAZER, CAPONE, FINKS, & FRANCO in attendance.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
We seem to be heading into deep waters on the Chinese election plot.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)

Yang rendezvoused last night with a fellow named Giorgio. Sounds like a scientist who works for a guy named Luca at a company called Telologic.

POLTOVSKY (CIA RUSSIAN EUROPEAN)
That's plenty to go on. Give us a day.

GLAZER (CIA ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
The deal involves 2 million euros. That's not chump change, even for the Chinese government.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
There's an accomplice named Nicolo in Belarus who's the contact for delivery of the unspecified object. Yang says there are only 6 in existence.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Sounds unsettling. Whadda you make of it, Sergei?

POLTOVSKY (CIA RUSSIAN EUROPEAN)
Give us a day, sir. Rather not speculate.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
My team's heading to Venice. The conspirators are scheduled to meet again in two weeks.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
Sure you have enough eyes and ears on these guys?

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
They've delivered so far. It's their ball.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
How about AISE? What have they delivered?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
They've informed us our subject has been performing routine diplomatic activities. Nothing to see here.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
It was smart to send your guys, Nora. We would have otherwise been out of business.

22 EXT. VIA BRUXELLES - DAY

MONTAGE OF (distant shots): a) YANG enters Ristorante La Campana; b) YANG plays Tennis Club Parioli; c) YANG enters National Roman Museum; d) YANG at Piperno Restaurant; d) YANG ascends Spanish Steps; e) YANG enters Museo Leonardo

da Vinci; f) WHIT parked on Villa Grazioli 40 yards from embassy; g) POWERS parked on Bruxelles in sight of embassy.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I'm not moving. This is his usual exit.

CUT TO:

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I'm stationary too, but we're really exposed.
They've got cameras all around the embassy.

CUT TO:

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Move occasionally, but this is too important.
It's worth the risk. Can't let him slip through.

DISSOLVE TO:

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
1400 hours, and I still haven't eaten.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
I grabbed an Italian sausage at the corner.

CUT TO:

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Guess I'm going on a diet.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Your diet would do me a lot more good!

Embassy gate opens. WHIT drives away on moped.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Game on Mandy! He just passed in that black limo!
He must be headed to the airport!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Are you sure it was him?!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
This has to be it. I'm in pursuit heading south
on Regina Margherita!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Could be the airport or rail. If they turn east
on Bari he's heading to the terminal.

CUT TO:

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Looks like the terminal! I'll follow to confirm.
Get packed and meet me at the terminal. Text the
guys he's heading their way!

23 INT. HOTEL FLORA - DAY

WHIT knocks and enters. DERENTA & MCDANIEL despondent.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We watched him leave the dock without us. By the
time we got into the city, he was nowhere in sight.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We'll have to canvas tourist sites tomorrow.
Yang loves them, and he's here three days early.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Mandy can take St. Mark's Square and the
Basilica. Robbie can hit the Guggenheim Museum
and Rialto Bridge. Check out the gondolas too.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Let's rendezvous at Algiubagìò Restaurant at 1800.

MONTAGE OF: a) WHIT at the Guggenheim Museum; b) DERENTA
at Vivaldi Church; c) MCDANIEL at Doge's Palace; d) POWERS
at St. Mark's Square; e) DERENTA at the Teatro La Fenice;
f) WHIT at the Rialto Bridge.

24 INT. ALGIUBAGIO RESTAURANT - DAY

WHIT, POWERS, DERENTA, & MCDANIEL at restaurant.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I can't believe it. Less than 24 hours away, and
we have no idea where they're gonna rendezvous.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We don't even know if the meeting point is a
restaurant, an attraction, or maybe just a lounge.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
This whole chapter is damn depressing. So close.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
It's an island. There must be a way to find him.

WHIT deep in thought.

CUT TO:

Dessert finished, minimal conversation. WAITER brings bill. Derenta picks it up. WAITER begins to leave.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Signor, how many restaurants are there in Venice?

WAITER
About 1,900 all total madam.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I wonder, are you aware of a local restaurant with a dish named omnivore or omnivori on the menu?

WAITER
No madam, that sounds odd. What does that name mean?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Both plant and animal diet. We heard somebody talking about a place where 'omnivori' is on the menu. Well thanks anyway . . .

WAITER begins to leave. Pauses and turns.

WAITER
I wonder madam, perhaps you mean Riviera Ristorante. I've seen that phrase, per omnivori, in an advertisement. You know, they have a broad menu.

POWERS, DERENTA & MCDANIEL all perk up.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Yes, signor. That may be it. Where might we find Riviera Ristorante?

WAITER
Fondamenta Zattere al Ponte Longo. On the water.

25 INT. RIVIERA RISTORANTE - DAY

MCDANIEL, and WHIT & POWERS read menus inside. DERENTA seated outside. Clock reads 1205. MCDANIEL & DERENTA slip listening devices under tables. WHIT at register.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Would it be possible to reserve a table both
Insider and outside for 8:00 p.m. tonight?

WAITER

I'm afraid not Madam. We're completely booked.
I might be able to get them in at 5:00 if you like?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

No, that won't be necessary. Thank you.

26 EXT. ANTONIO VIVALDI MONUMENT - DAY

DERENTA, MCDANIEL, WHIT & POWERS on water's edge.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

This could be slipping away from us. We don't
know if this is the place, and our devices are
hit and miss if the restaurant is loud.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Langley can often salvage garbled audio.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

The outside tables are our biggest concern.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

POWERS can take position with her parabolic hat
antenna at the ice cream shop next to the tables.
She should be able to capture the conversation.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

WHIT can also walk past a couple times on the
boardwalk. That could pick up audio remnants.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

We're gonna need more than remnants on this one.

DERENTA stares across canal. Points at large building.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Look at the Hilton, about 1,000 feet. Good
vantage point for the outside tables.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

You're thinking the laser receiver?

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

It's a long throw. Might be over the limit, but
it would be great to have a last resort.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
But what are our chances of registering an
Outside room with an open window tonight?

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Guess it's worth a check. Let's go over there now.

27 INT. HILTON HOTEL - DAY

MCDANIEL (priest cassock & collar) at check-in desk.

CLERK
Can I help you Padre? Do you have a reservation?

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I'm afraid not young man. The Vatican dispatched
me to Venice on short notice. My trip is of the
highest priority. I'm sure the Holy Father would
greatly appreciate any accommodation you provide.

CLERK
One moment Padre.

CLERK walks into back room. Returns with serious MANAGER.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Any luck?

MANAGER
I'm sorry Padre. We couldn't even book the Holy
Father himself tonight. My regrets. Would you
Like us to call around for alternative lodging?

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
No my son. That will not be necessary. Thank you.

28 EXT. ANTONIO VIVALDI MONUMENT - DAY

DERENTA, MCDANIEL, WHIT & POWERS on water's edge.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Even your charm was no match for full occupancy.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I hate losing the additional option.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Sounds crazy, but maybe Franco could help us. We
only need the room a few hours. Why not text him?

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
There's only 4 hours left. What could he possibly
do from 4,400 miles? He's no travel agent, you know.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
You have to admit he's something of a magician.
He knows Italy. Might be worth a try?

29 EXT. RIVIERA RISTORANTE - NIGHT

POWERS sits at ice cream stand. Speaks into audio feed.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
In position at the monument?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Waiting stand by. I'll make three passes past
the front tables if notified they're outside.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Wonder if the guys are in position at the Hilton?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
They just got the text from Langley telling them
the coast was clear at the Hilton. Fifth floor
canal window. They gotta be out in three hours.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Thought the Holy Father couldn't even book tonight?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
It wasn't the Holy Father. It was Franco King.

Boat pulls into dock slip left of POWERS. Captain
misjudges approach, reverses, wave mist over patrons.
Water drips from hat brim. Waiters and patrons yell.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Hat just got drenched by a boat . It's not
Picking up signals. I've lost my feed.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
The lead inside sound good. Not too crowded yet.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)- V.O.
We just got in position guys. Looks like a good
projection angle if needed. Clean shot.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
No sign of them? Damn, it's already 8:00 p.m.

YANG (jovial) & GIORGIO (somber) emerge together from Calle de la Massena alley beside restaurant.

MAITRE D'

Good evening, Signors. Minister Yang, we have reserved this outside corner table as requested.

POWERS whispers into vest microphone.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Show time guys. Outside. I'm sidelined.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)- V.O.

Just get back to hotel when they leave. Won't know what we have until after processing later tonight.

DISSOLVE TO:

POWERS still seated at ice cream parlor.

WAITER

Would you like another Honey Pistachio? You've been through three Signora, but I bring more?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

No thank you sir. I'll take a check.

POWERS looks over at YANG and GEORGIO as they rise to leave. Suddenly her hat received comes in loud and clear.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.

Until we meet again Georgio! Until we meet again!

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.

For the last time Asher. For one final time.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.

Of course, of course. As agreed.

30 INT. HILTON HOTEL - NIGHT

Half-empty water glass viewed through circular crosshairs of laser microphone telescopic (animation shows rapid imperceptible vibrations around rim). YANG (jovial) & GIORGIO (somber) in view as they leave table. MCDANIEL places laser microphone on bed and closes 5th floor window.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

What a night!

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Let's get this conversation processed before
 we take a victory lap. The feed seemed crisp.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 The manager will be here to throw us out any minute.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 He was a lot friendlier this second time around.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Seems like he's found religion, huh?

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 The Lord works in mysterious ways my son.

31 INT. HOTEL FLORA - NIGHT

WHIT & POWERS wait. POWERS glances at watch.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Almost midnight and no sign of the guys.

DERENTA & MCDANIEL enter adjoining room with bluster.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 That damned laser worked from 900 feet!

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 We ran the processor before they kicked
 us out. Good read of the entire conversation.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 What did they say?! What did they agree to?!

DERENTA plays back the audio.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
 Were you able to meet our friend in Belarus?

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
 Yeah. He loosened up after hearing the money
 was assured by the Chinese government.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
 I never said anything about the Chinese government!

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
 Well you are a diplomat of the Chinese Communist
 Party? It's involvement was implied Asher.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.

I work for the party, but not everything I do involves them. Your miscommunication must be corrected next time you speak to Nicolo. Tell him I'm operating on behalf of unidentified interests.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER)- V.O.

He doesn't care where the money comes from if it's reliable. He took a chance meeting me. If you fumble this, he'll be enraged. You do understand why I don't want a man like Nicolo angry with me?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.

I am a man of my word. If we strike a deal, my contact will follow through with the money. So now tell me. Did Nicolo assure you he could obtain the commodity in question? If so, when and what cost?

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER)- V.O.

So you really want to move ahead on this? You can run back to China, but I have everything to lose in Italy. Assure me it won't get traced back to me?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.

You've watched too many spy movies Giorgio. Just confirm the property will be in Nicolo's possession, and we'll meet one last time to deliver the transfer directions and your finder's fee. His remainder comes at the drop. We never speak again.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER)- V.O.

I don't know Asher. This is all too risky.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.

Giorgio! How could anyone possibly know about our relationship. You only have a small part in this operation. Do you see any spies in Venice listening tonight? Of course not! We're Just two old friends eating wild sea bass and oysters on the waterfront. You worry too much.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER)- V.O.

Well, OK, maybe you're right.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.

Of course I'm right. Now tell me. What's the figure, and what does my client get for that price?

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER)- V.O.

€10,000,000 euros, and it'll be in his possession

in a week. It'll come in at one point six.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.
That price and size are both fine. Inform Nicolo that the first half will be given to you on June 14th. I'll provide the rendezvous point by 1100 hours that morning. Be prepared to drive a Hundred miles to meet me that afternoon.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER)- V.O.
How will you inform me of the spot? I don't want you calling my office. It could be traced.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.
Don't concern yourself with my logistics. Just be sure to be at work at that time. You'll know it's me. Tell your boss you're not feeling well.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER)- V.O.
OK, but make sure I know where I'm going. I need time to get to the meeting spot. Take traffic into consideration. I don't see why you don't just drop by my house? Is this intrigue really necessary?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.
This is safer for me. It'll be a familiar location.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER)- V.O.
When we meet you'll give me €6,000,000 euros to initiate the transfer? That's €1,000,000 for my fee, and €5,000,000 to meet Nicolo's first half?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.
That's correct. The transfer spot and method will be sealed in an envelope with the cash.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER)- V.O.
You make everything sound so simple.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.
You've done well, young man, but hear me well. Are you sure you understand the implications if Nicolo happened to welch on his end of the deal?

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER)- V.O.
Yes, I understand the contract is binding.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.
Yes! Binding is the perfect word. We are now bound together. You're worried about disappointing

Nicolo? Well Giorgio, it's more important to worry about disappointing my client. Do you understand?

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER)- V.O.
Yes, but can I ask one last question?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.
Sure son. We're old friends. Go right ahead.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER)- V.O.
If we continue and complete this deal, will you stand by your commitment to never contact me again?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)- V.O.
Of course I'll comply with your request. Until we meet again Giorgio! Until we meet again!

DERENTA shuts off tape.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Yang's up to his eyeballs in a conspiracy to buy and transport an object worth ten million euros.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We're still not sure this involves the election.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
The 1.6 metric could refer to many things. A bomb is plausible, but that number doesn't ring a bell.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Maybe some kind of advanced technology. Like a computer or software package? Maybe something to do with hacking or blackmailing a high level person.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Like a presidential candidate?

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Exactly. Imagine the power of a foreign Government if it has dirt on a leading candidate.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We need to get this transcript to Langley tonight. June 13th is less than three weeks away.

32 EXT/INT. HASTY STREET (SAN DIEGO) - DAY

MONTANARI pulls in drive behind a 25-foot Winnebago and 2005 Chevrolet Impala. Exits, walks to door. Harry CHERD (52,

tanned, short-haired, 6'2", 180 lbs, sunglasses) opens door.
Dark living room. Men sit alone.

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
Nice place you have here Harry. Indiscreet.

CHERD (ASSASSIN)
It suits my needs.

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
You retired from the military, right?

CHERD (ASSASSIN)
Long ago. Army major, specialization in
munitions and explosives. Moved to private work
in L.A. Bookmaking, narcotics, prostitution,
auto theft. Police impersonation was a specialty.

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
Went legit here in San Diego, huh?

CHERD (ASSASSIN)
Yep. Still part-time at the bank.

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
Bank security?

CHERD (ASSASSIN)
Yeah, nobody's robbing my bank.

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
I would think not. We sure go far back Harry.

CHERD (ASSASSIN)
Guess we can blame Bruce. He's still in Texarkana?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
Oh no, now in Dallas.

CHERD (ASSASSIN)
Guess that's a good place for him to land, given
his history and all. Now tell me about the Cubans.

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
Former refugees, now naturalized. Elian Garcia,
Nestor Rivero, and Julio Castillo. Virgil says
they've been reliable. Not too bright either.

CHERD (ASSASSIN)
Sounds like I'll get to know them well third

week of July. Last Island is still the play?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
That should still work.

CHERD (ASSASSIN)
\$3,000,000 in cash for me?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
Oh yeah. Says he's always liked you Harry. Sees it as a bargain.

CHERD (ASSASSIN)
And the one-way first-class ticket from JFK airport to Finland in late October. I want you to book that.

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
Consider it done.

CHERD (ASSASSIN)
OK then. Now you tell me every single thing you know about those Cuban boys. I don't want any damned surprises this time around.

33 INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS (SPECIAL ACTIVITIES) - DAY

GAYLEE leads briefing with expanded attendance (KELLER, FRANCO, GLAZER, CAPONE, LETO, FINKS, POLTOVSKY, & FINKS).

GAYLEE (CIA Science & Technology)
As you've all been made aware, Nora's SOG team deployment to Italy has been paying off. Sergei's team has been looking at Dr. Giorgio Grako.

POLTOVSKY (CIA RUSSIAN EUROPEAN)
Grako is a 45-year old engineer at Telologic Electronics in Rome. The owner, Luca Scavo, has been cleared as a suspect. The operative named Nicolo remains unidentified.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
AISE's monitoring of Asher Yang was unproductive. The diplomat was not tracked to either Devi Fountain or Venice.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Overreliance on our Italian counterparts would have been a major error. Well played Nora.

Light applause around table. KELLER shows no reaction.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
We're focused on the €10,000,000 object and the 1.6 metric in one of its attributes.

POLTOVSKY (CIA RUSSIAN EUROPEAN)
Only six in existence. We're considering bombs, computers, malware, blackmail content, hostage abductees, black market commodities, and others.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
My unit will deploy SOG officers to surveil Yang and Grako on the morning of June 13th. Special activities officers Mike Whitman and Mark Meador have been added to the Rome detail.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
A request has been made for AISE to tap the Phone lines at the engineer's office. We'll monitor postal and service deliveries that day.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
The targets will be trailed by high speed cycles.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
This is tricky Nora. We don't have jurisdictional authority, so neither man should be approached directly. Yang has diplomatic immunity which limits intervention for even Italian authorities.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
It's imperative our team keeps Grako in their sights. He's the key player until the ball is passed to his operative in Belarus.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
Yang flew to Hong Kong on May 20th. We believe he met with our man from the west. He's critical if the Belarus connection is consummated.

34 EXT. TELEOLOGIC ELECTRONICS - DAY

MCDANIEL, POWERS, & WHIT lay low in a park across the street from Telologic Electronics. High-speed cycles parked aside. POWERS looks at building behind bushes.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Giorgio has to park down the street. It's a big day for him. He'll show soon. Sergei said he drives a blue Subaru Legacy.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Wait a minute. We've got something. There he is!
 He just parked down the street. Let's disperse!

CUT TO:

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 1100 hours. Getting uncomfortable. No egress.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Text from Adam. Yang laying low on his end. AISE
 says no suspicious communications. Already 11:12.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Heads up. He's walking fast out of the building!
 I'll get ahead of him on Aventino.

35 EXT. ITALIAN HIGHWAY PURSUIT - DAY

DRONE MONTAGE OF: a) POWERS cranks bike; b) GRAKO east on
 Aventino past Colosseum; c) GRAKO heads out of city on
 Casilina Highway; d) POWERS weaves in and out traffic 60
 yards back; e) GRAKO merges onto Highway A1; f) GRAKO
 merges onto E45.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Have him in sight! Headed south out of the city!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
 Closing about a quarter mile behind you Mandy!

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
 Yang eluded us at embassy! We're trying to
 Catch up with you guys. Ten miles back!

DISSOLVE TO:

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 I'VE LOST HIM! COULDA TURNED ANYWHERE! 80 MILES!

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
 WE'RE CLOSING IN ON NAPLES. MUST BE NAPLES!

POWERS slows down. WHIT pulls up beside.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Let's calm down and work the problem. Justin,
 still from AISE? Maybe call them again.

MCDANIEL pulls off highway, stops, pulls cell phone.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
We're approaching 5 miles back.

WHITMAN (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
They've gotta be meeting in Naples.

MEADOR (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
It should be someplace familiar to him, right?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Right. That's what Yang told him in Venice.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
AISE came up empty. No phone traffic within the
20 minute window before Giorgio left.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
How about earlier? Can you go back and look for
earlier calls. We'll wait.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Give me a minute. I'll call back.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Dead in the water. Yang and Grako slipped us.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Let's find Giorgio before he leaves for Belarus.

MEADOR (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Yang probably no longer matters at this point.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Nothing new Robbie. No calls or deliveries at
Teleologic. A few faxes, just invoices.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
FAXes and invoices you say?

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Yeah, invoices, and a junk tourist advertisement.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Describe the FAX advertisement Justin!

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
It's from a Mount Vesuvius tour guide. Cover
photo shows a trail around the volcano rim.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

What time exactly did it come in?

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Let's see uh, 1100 hours, 1100 hours exactly.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Where did intelligence say Giorgio grew up?

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Torre Del Greco, south of Naples.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
WHERE DOES THE ROAD UP TO MOUNT VESUVIUS BEGIN?

WHITMAN (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
TORRE DEL GRECO!! STAY ON E45! 30 MILES! TURN
EAST ON ENRICO DE NICOLA! THEY INTERSECT!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
WE'LL TAKE THE VOLCANO RIM! STAY AT THE BOTTOM!

36 EXT. MOUNT VESUVIUS TRAIL - DAY

DRONE MONTAGE OF: a) WHIT & POWERS pass Enrico De Nicola; b) begin ascent up winding two lane road; c) mid-ascent cycles begin to smoke; d) arrive in a crawl at entrance; e) park bikes; f) POWERS pours water on engine (lots of smoke).

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We gotta get up there! My parabolic hat receiver!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Too windy up here! It's not functional!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
OK, let's hurry to see if we can intersect them.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
How high is it?

WHIT & POWERS rush through gate. Begin hiking up steep mile ascent to volcano rim. Huffing and puffing upon arrival at the souvenir store along rim. Yang and Grako nowhere in sight. They stand at rail whispering.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Where are they? I don't see them! It's a bust!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Thought for sure this was the place.

WHIT sharply nudges POWERS. Nods past edge of souvenir shop to YANG talking quietly to GRAKO.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Stay put. I'm moving in.

WHIT edges closer to conspirators. Looks with tourist fascination into caldera. Shoe receiver hones in.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
You're not worried about being spotted by your handlers back home?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
Not today, but at times they do feel like mother hens. They're gonna be the death of me.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
You have an odd sense of humor Asher.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
Take the backpack. Give me the key to your Subaru. The rental vehicle's down Gran Cono trail. You'll intersect Matrone Road. Turn left and you'll be at Piazzale di Quota before you know it.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
I know this side of the mountain well.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
My American friend was gracious enough to provide the car parked right next to the fence. You can drive it to Belarus. My friend in Tianjin generated the documents in the glove compartment.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
What documents?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
Passport, car title, driver's license, insurance verifications. They also match your license plate for border crossings.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
You're gonna land me in a foreign jail, aren't you?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
Nooo, my contact's pretty good at this. You'll like your new identity. It'll amuse you.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
Nothing about this is amusing. Your Chinese
associate better be good or you'll lose your cash.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
Remember it's not illegal to possess money. It's
the failure to declare that's an infraction. I've
got diplomatic immunity, but authorities would put
you under a microscope. Let's avoid that rudeness.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
So where's the money and transfer directions?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
The €5,000,000 is embedded in €500 notes in the
door panels. The money weighs 10 kg. Just pry the
interior apart in Belarus. It's important you
transfer it to the backpack in the spare tire
compartment. Do you understand?

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
How about Nicolo's transfer directions?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
Assure me that you understand the importance of the
backpack transfer?

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
I've got it. I assume the money fits the backpack.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
Perfectly. Nicolo's instructions are sealed in
an envelope in the backpack. We don't want you to
be aware of the transfer details. Do not open it!

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
So where are you gonna leave my car?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.
The Hertz airport parking lot. Leave your transfer
car anywhere you like. The plate and VIN numbers
are untraceable. It'll pose a mystery to the cops.

GIORGIO (TEOLOGIC ENGINEER) - V.O.
Let me make sure I have this right. Nicolo has to
return the lost luggage on July 9th at the specified
location. You said to tell him one mile in, right?

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT) - V.O.

Exactly. If he misses the transfer, the deal is off. Tell him it'll be a seamless swap. The goods for the matching backpack and remaining payment. Get moving, and don't sleep until Poland.

POWERS heads down mountain to entrance gate. WHIT moves deftly to trinket counter at volcano. YANG walks slowly behind her. GRAKO huffs down trail. WHIT waits until YANG out of sight. Tries to contact ADAM.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Adam? Adam? Can you hear me?

37 EXT. MOUNT VESCUVIUS ENTRANCE - DAY

POWERS stands casually at entrance. Watches YANG moving slowly down steep trail. POWERS smiles as he approaches.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Steep slope! My husband's catching his breath on the bus. You're in great shape! Must exercise a lot? Wish my Ralph took better care of himself.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)
Ha! Mighty kind of you to say, Signora. I wish my wife coulda seen me hiking up that steep hill. The volcano was no match! Truly spectacular up there!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Look at the cheap prices on these souvenirs I bought! They're practically giving away these volcanic rocks. Here! Take one of my glassy feldspar quartz lava rocks.

Crystalized rock interior sparkles as YANG gazes on.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)
Oh, no. I couldn't.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Nah, really, take it. I bought a dozen of these trinkets for €10! I don't know how they make any money. Guess they just walk over to the rock pile. The laugh's on us! So beautiful, you can have it.

YANG (CHINESE DIPLOMAT)
Well thank you madam. I'll treasure it! You and your husband have a fine day.

YANG puts rock in pocket. Walks to blue Subaru Legacy.

POWERS smiles as he walks away. WHIT approaches from distance.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Why are you so pleased? We lost Giorgio and missed half the conversation at the rim. All we got was the July 9th transfer date. No location.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Remember the embedded objects Penne gave us?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Sure. A paper weight, bronze gargoyle, miniature 3D globe, and metal flask, right?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
You forgot one item partner. A volcanic rock.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Oh yeah, a volcanic rock. It's back at the hotel?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Nope. It's in Asher Yang's side pocket. I gave it to him as a souvenir!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
WHAT? You must be kidding?!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Remember 'The Thing' planted by the Soviets on our ambassador in the 1940s. No power supply or active electronic components. Passive cavity resonators that can be illuminated by a low radio frequency.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
How far away can the signal be detected?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Penne said maybe as far as several thousand feet.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
How far is Hotel Villa Grazioli from the embassy?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
About 500 feet.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Why the heck did you bring that rock? You had no idea we were headed to the top of a volcano!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

You don't remember my reaction when Penne gave it?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
You said it was beautiful enough to keep?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I said it looked like a beautiful good luck charm!

38 INT. CHINESE EMBASSY (GUEST ROOM) - DAY

YANG enters bedroom. Tosses wallet from right pocket to desk next to computer. Removes volcanic rock from left pocket. Inspects shiny object. Nods appreciation. Places rock on table next to keyboard. Flops on bed. Flips on television.

39 INT. VILLA GRAZIOLI (ROME HOTEL) - DAY

WHIT, POWERS, DERENTA, MCDANIEL, WHITMAN, & MEADOR debrief.
Hotel room clock reads 5:00 pm.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We lost Giorgio on the far side of the mountain.
He escaped in the rental car with the money.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We thought the blue Subaru was Giorgio and followed YANG all the way to Leonardo da Vinci Airport.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Giorgio must be headed to Belarus.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
1,300 miles with 4 international border crossings.
Surely we can intercept him along the way?

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Not easy, we know nothing about the car, and he's got false identification. Many boarder crossings, and assistance might not be immediate or complete given bureaucratic obstacles. Sergei's working INTERPOL, but Giorgio likely halfway there.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Our best bet might be the rock POWERS gave Yang.
Guess it's time to find out if those things work.

DERENTA assembles long retractable antenna.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
This doesn't look advanced at all.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Oh, but it is. Small antenna and membrane cavity
that resonates with room sound waves. They'll
bounce back to us when our radio waves
illuminate the device membrane.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
They don't screen signals transmitted out of
their own embassy?

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
They're on guard for more energetic electromagnetic
pulses. These frequencies could go undetected.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Good reason to not overuse it. The return signals
can actually get picked up by ham radio operators
sampling that wavelength. That's how we stumbled on
the Soviets in 1951. It took 7 years.

MCDANIEL flips on radio wave transmitter.

WHITMAN (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Listen! Must be Asher Yang's voice! Loud and clear
from 400 feet away. This was too easy!

YANG speaks on phone. Shower and Italian television network
heard in background. Officers whoop it up!

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
He's speaking Chinese to his wife and kids.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Wonder how long he retains the rock?

MEADOR (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Sloppy spycraft to bring a foreign object into
The compound. He'll eventually think about it.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Let's check in every hour or so. Be sure to
record every signal we receive.

DISSOLVE TO:

Hotel room clock reads 11:20 pm. Officers spaced around
room looking at cell phones. WHIT trips recorder.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Hey guys, listen! He's turning on his computer.

Within moments, aggressive computer keystrokes.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
The rock must be right next to his keyboard!

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
He must be online. I'll text Langley to see if
SIGINT at NSA can backtrack email or cyber signals
leaving our general sector at this precise time.

Typing stops. Sound of laptop closing.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Sounds like he's done.

MEADOR (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Let's see what they develop back home.

DISSOLVE TO:

Officers sleeping around room. Clock reads 7:00 am. WHIT
sits with head on hand drinking coffee. Text comes in.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
SIGINT update. One source of interest from Rome
northeast quadrant at specified time. Encrypted
message posted on Reddit South Florida tourism
site. A string of 90 characters. Alphabet soup.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Capone says current encryption's near impossible
to decipher. It's tantamount to cracking every
word using a different solution.

WHITMAN (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
It can be broken, but the process could take weeks,
months, or even years. We can't even be sure Yang
was the one who posted it.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Asher told the man from the east to expect online
verification about the transfer specifics around
mid-June. It's June 13th!

MEADOR (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Strange coincidence if it's not him.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Poltovsky's coming up empty on Grako. International
assistance has been limited. Langley speculates he

made it to Poland and is resting for final leg.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
It's June 17th. The transfer's three weeks away.

40 INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS (SPECIAL ACTIVITIES) - DAY

GAYLEE leads briefing with expanded attendance (KELLER, FRANCO, GLAZER, CAPONE, LETO, FINKS, POLTOVSKY, & FINKS).

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
So Giorgio Grako's lost in Belarus with Asher Yang cooling his heels in Rome. Some middle guy named Nicolo is transporting an object worth €10,000,000 to some unknown place, and Langley thinks it has something to do with our upcoming election. Ladies and gentlemen, this is a lot of known unknowns.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
The terrorists are still unaware we're on their tail, and AISE has Grako's home and work covered.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Let's smoke him out. Tell them to avoid direct contact with Grako's family and work associates.

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
He's our only lead if we miss the July 9th transfer.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
We could light up Yang and our Chinese ambassador.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
That's our hole card. We'd need Homeland Security and White House in the loop.

41 INT. VILLA GRAZIOLI (ROME HOTEL) - DAY

POWERS watches international television. WHIT sits in solitude (headphones) looking outside at atrium.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I've been watching July 4th clips back home. Election's down to Obama and McCain.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Who coulda predicted that? Obama's no novelty.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
There's also that slew of third-party pretenders

intent to muck up the process. If one got traction it could tilt the election one way or another.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Who's running third party?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Looks like Nader, Barr, and McKinney. The others resemble performance art. Radio mogul Jack Victari is makes nightly bombastic BAT appearances.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
What's his shtick?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
A sinister Cuban-Russian cabal has infiltrated the country with cyber and biological weapons. His threat scenarios are grifting a steady flow of campaign contributions.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
He should be out of the race by Labor Day.

DISSOLVE TO:

POWERS awakens to coffee and pastries offered by WHIT.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
To what do I owe this occasion?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I got an early start this morning. Let me run some crazy ideas by you before mentioning them to Adam and Justin. Maybe they're best kept unshared.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Fire away. I like your crazy ideas.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
This one's pretty far out there. Should we not assume the Technical Readiness engineers in our Science & Technology unit can do amazing things?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Absolutely, they sure can. Whadda ya have in mind?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
You know, I've been thinking. Our signal from Yang's room was pretty strong. The sound quality was quite crisp. We know he was typing at the time

the encrypted message was posted on that south Florida tourism site. Correct?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Sure. We heard him type it, but you know what Langley said. It could take forever to crack that message, even if it happens to be relevant.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

I'm thinking that something you said may not be completely accurate. You said that Yang was probably typing an encrypted message, right?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Yep, end-to-end encryption, or E2EE for short.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

So correct me if I've wrong, but wasn't he typing a message into a software package that encrypted it before sending it off?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Uh, uh, well yeah, that's probably right. He'd type what he wanted encrypted. The software would transform the letters in his computer before sending it out into the ether.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

That's what I'm suspecting. So his keystrokes themselves were not encrypted? He typed the message without changes at the outset?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Well that's probably right. How could that help us?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Science & Technology engineers are pretty smart. Wouldn't you imagine the sound of keystrokes may differ slightly from one another? You know, the most common letters get typed more and leave different impressions on the underlying surface.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

ROBBIE!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Maybe each stroke sounds slightly different over time coming off the keyboard?

POWERS pulls out cell phone. Dials.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Justin? Listen up. Robbie has an idea worth exploration with Langley.

42 INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS (BUNKER COMMAND CENTER) - DAY

WHITMER calls briefing into session (FINKS, GAYLEE, KELLER, FRANCO, GLAZER, CAPONE, YOUNGBLOOD, LETO, FINKS, POLTOVSKY, DERENTA, MCDANIEL, WHITMAN, PENNE, VILLARUBIA & MEADOR). WHIT & POWERS exchange frozen smiles.

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)
We're pleased to have our team back from Rome. Secretary Doveland from Homeland Security will join us shortly. Director Gaylee can debrief us on Science & Technology overnight developments.

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
Certainly Director. Our unit has been analyzing the audio tape generated from Rome. The strategy relies on slight sound variations from Yang's keyboard.

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)
Dr. Whit's suggestion. Any success?

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
Perhaps. This technology converts subtle sound deviations from keystrokes into letters. It's hampered by unfamiliarity with Yang's typing style and keyboard. These are not optimal circumstances.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Optimal circumstances?

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
When we have audio outputs over time from the same typist and keyboard. Even then, accuracy estimates were never higher than 85%.

PENNE (CIA SPY TECHNOLOGY)
Many things alter keystroke sounds like key closeness to mounting points, material used to manufacture and stabilize the keyboard, and others. We're lucky Yang has an old mount without O-rings, switch lubing, or other maintenance.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Does he use an English keyboard to communicate?

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)

Looks like a Wubi that can be used for either English or Chinese character production. We believe his message was intended for his American partners.

GRESHAM enters. GAYLEE pauses in response to entrance.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
Please continue, Bella. I appreciate the invite.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
So what level of confidence can we claim?

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
We processed the brief audio clip through a 100,000 iterative simulations and then made qualitative adjustments to best estimate keystroke and letter matches. Model accuracies range 20% to 70%.

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)
What does your team think he typed?

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
It's pretty cryptic Director.

Lights dim. Solution projected. Whispered ripples around room. Map of Canary Islands projected on wall screen.

lost luggage return July 9
rodeos canary
Granite Nimbus Meridian
begin 1000 masgtran 1 mile
18 kg 1.6 KT arrow

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Pretty unusual message. What does it mean?

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
The transfer date of July 9th now seems likely, and the combined reference to canary and rodeos in this message leads our analytic team to predict the rendezvous point will be the Canary Islands.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Yang must have discussed a range of initial options with his American co-conspirator. This post must set the time and place in stone.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
The Canaries are 60 miles off the Moroccan coast.

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
We suspect Nicolo will arrive from Belarus at Los Rodeos Airport on Tenerife. The Nimbus reference may pertain to a backpack holding 18 kg. The euros would weigh a similar amount, and my analytic team suspects an identical backpack swap.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Have we investigated the Reddit tourism site owner?

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
The webmaster checked out. Yang wouldn't have posted a message to a site owned by a conspirator. She's only interested in generating hits.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
The recipient must monitor the site. We capture every message posted on the internet. This site has no history of anomalies. Anyone could post there.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
What do our experts think the 1000 masgtran and mile reference means? Maybe time and distance?

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
That was our guess. The assault team will be monitoring incoming roads from a mile out.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
What could masgtran mean? Does it sound like directions germane to the airport itself?

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
We've been thinking it's related to a mass transit portal at the airport.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Wouldn't Nicolo have to go through security and customs with the cargo? Air travel sounds risky.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
Airport officials screens private arrivals, but typically without disembarkation.

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
Nicolo could also have a co-conspirator working at the airport. The best inference is that he'll arrive at the Los Rodeos Airport in three days.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Can local officials provide backup in Tenerife?

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
Tenerife has the 49th Light Infantry Brigade ready to assist. They'll apprehend Nicolo upon arrival.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
They're aware munitions may be involved. Other plot details were withheld.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
What's the urgency once Nicolo's in sight? Don't we want to apprehend his co-conspirators as well?

GAYLEE slows cadence, raises voice.

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
Capone's analytic team now believes the arrow in this note may pertain to one of six briefcase tactical nuclear bombs that went missing from Belarus after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Five seconds of dead silence in room. Stunned glances.

LETO (CIA WEAPONS ANALYSIS)
Our Weapons Intelligence, Nonproliferation & Arms Control Center has searched decades for six apocryphal "missing arrows". We're now speculating that Lennon may have access to one of them.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Is their conclusion based on the 1.6 KT reference?

LETO (CIA WEAPONS ANALYSIS)
Yes Dr. Whit. After hours of analysis and debate, we believe the commodity in question is a 1.6 kiloton atomic bomb. The weight and size would be consistent with the backpack dimensions.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
How much damage could a device like that cause?

LETO (CIA WEAPONS ANALYSIS)
Let me introduce our top nuclear physicist. Dr. James Villarubia completed his MIT dissertation on nuclear bomb construction. He's studied the development and deployment of every nuclear device in the world arsenal. James, please enlighten us.

VILLARUBIA (34, 5'6", 150 lbs, thick glasses) fidgets, slight voice quiver with loss of breath.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

The Agency focused great attention on the Soviet nuclear arsenal before the fall of the empire. That technology was antiquated and decentralized with monied interests threatening weapon security.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Dr. Villarubia, is this device really a nuclear bomb in the conventional sense of the word?

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

Oh yes sir. Make no mistake about that. Smaller than the 12 and 18 kiloton bombs dropped on Japan, but this broken arrow equals 1,600 tons of TNT.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

1,600 tons of dynamite?!

LETO (CIA WEAPONS ANALYSIS)

Not exactly dynamite. A little less powerful, but more stable. The ground detonation would leave a crater 50 feet deep and over 400 feet across. The mushroom cloud would extend a mile in the air.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

The fireball radius would level everything for more than a hundred yards. Heavy blast damage over a mile away. Half the survivors within 3,000 feet could die from radiation exposure.

LETO (CIA WEAPONS ANALYSIS)

They might prefer to detonate it as a dirty bomb with radioactivity spread over a larger area of a major city. Less flashy but equally destructive.

GLAZER (CIA ASST SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)

If we miss the transfer, the bomb is likely in transit to the mainland. The quickest and safest transport method would be air cargo. We'll alert airports on all the smaller Canary islands too.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)

I'm deploying my Rome contingent to Tenerife overnight on a military transport. They'll join 40 agents including a paramilitary cohort. The airport and island will be saturated with radioactivity detection equipment by morning.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Couldn't the bomb be transported by ship?

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
 Consideration was given to a nautical transfer, but the distance seems impractical for an active plot.

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)
 The American coast is 3,800 miles away with a voyage that would require ten days. Hurricane season has begun in the Atlantic. Shipping would have been fraught with risk and potential delays.

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
 The most likely scenario is a private jet. Our best window of opportunity to end this plot is Tenerife in three days.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
 Does their a Chinese government plot at play?

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)
 Mr. Secretary, our best estimate is that Asher Yang is operating independent of the Chinese government. The suspect said as much. He presently looks like an operative of billionaire Chao Fu Chen.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
 The President has to be brought into this loop.

43 EXT. NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN - DAY

Sparkling new 80-foot yacht with no name on stern gracefully soars across open waters. Nicolo LENNON at wheel looking down at his family (WIFE, TEEN SON, TEEN DAUGHTER) and neighbors (HUSBAND & WIFE) who sun on deck.

44 INT. LOS RODEOS AIRPORT (TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS) - DAY

WHIT, POWERS, MCDANIEL, DERENTA, MEADOR, and WHITMAN enter airport through unattended gate.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 What time you got, Justin?

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 8000 hours. I can see Tenerife infantry and Airport police are already mobilized.

A dozen cops walk lazily around 12-gate terminal.
 DERENTA nods out window at single airport runway.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Para guys beat us in last night.

Ununiformed American contingent wander around two
hangers with devices that look like grass trimmers.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Radioactivity detectors?

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Yep, gamma scintillation detectors. Sensitive
within the radius of a football field.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Let's get over to the tower. Administrators set up
a command center cordoned away below air traffic.

45 INT. LOS RODEOS AIRPORT (COMMAND CENTER) - DAY

WHIT, POWERS, MCDANIEL, DERENTA, MEADOR, WHITMAN, and
Tenerife infantry look outside windows at runway,
terminal, and hanger at far end. COMMANDER points ahead.

TENERIFE COMMANDER
Arriving planes go to these 12 gates. Cargo and
military park on the far end or head to that main
hanger. 180 flights and 10,000 passengers today.

DERENTA (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
That's more traffic than we expected.

TENERIFE COMMANDER
We're up to eight airlines since the crash in 1977.

Phone rings. COMMANDER answers.

TENERIFE COMMANDER
Yes, got it. 1423 hours. Bulgaria. Petrov.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Potential lead?

TENERIFE COMMANDER
Private jet landing in an hour from Bulgaria.
Passenger manifest includes four unregistered
passengers and a pilot named Nick Petrov.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
NICK Petrov? He's the pilot? Let me contact
Langley and get back to you Justin.

46 EXT. LOS RODEOS AIRPORT (TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS) - DAY

Small (10 seat) business jet landing. Tenerife infantry (10 troops) wait for aircraft to taxi to hanger.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
This must be it. Langley agrees?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Nora said the guy's named Nicolò Petrov. He's
A former military officer from Minsk.

PARAMILITARY OFFICER approaches the team.

PASCH (PARAMILITARY OFFICER)
No signs of radiation Officer McDaniel.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Are you sure? None?

PASCH (PARAMILITARY OFFICER)
None. Lead shielding could reduce detectability.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Wouldn't you still pick up trace amounts?

PASCH (PARAMILITARY OFFICER)
I would expect so if it harbors a nuclear device.

Jet taxis to hangar. MCDANIEL commands officers.

MCDANIEL (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Take them down!

Officers charge aircraft.

DISSOLVE TO:

Five unsettled European stunned businessmen sit in chairs around hanger periphery. Pilot (PETROV) outraged.

PETROV (PILOT)
Canary authorities are going to hear from our consulate later today! These are distinguished businessmen from France and Germany!

Seats on hanger floor dissembled. Luggage strewn about.

TENERIFE COMMANDER
We are sorry, Mr. Petrov. Intelligence suggested your craft was involved in smuggling.

PETROV (PILOT)
SMUGGLING! What the hell are you talking about!

TENERIFE COMMANDER
We'll do our best, sir, to compensate you for any damage done to your aircraft or other property.

47 INT. LOS RODEOS AIRPORT (TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS) - DAY

WHIT & POWERS sit dejected in ticket area. Spanish militia walk through atrium. Clock reads 9:00 a.m.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We're busted Robbie.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Nora wants us back by morning. Guess we now Shift to action against Grako and Yang.

POWERS & WHIT look away distracted. Camera closes on LENNON, WIFE, TEEN SON & DAUGHTER at ticket counter.

48 INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS (BUNKER COMMAND CENTER) - DAY

WHITMER leads CIA briefing (GRESHAM, FINKS, GAYLEE, KELLER, FRANCO, GLAZER, CAPONE, YOUNGBLOOD, LETO, FINKS, POLTOVSKY, DERENTA, MCDANIEL, WHITMAN, PENNE, VILLARUBIA, LARSIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, SLOTA, & LEAT). WHIT & POWERS look exhausted.

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)
I'm briefing the President and Homeland Security Secretary later today. I'm looking for consensus.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
We lost the bomb somewhere in the North Atlantic. We need to shift focus to Grako and Yang. Sergei?

POLTOVSKY (CIA RUSSIAN EUROPEAN)
At 800 hours Giorgio Grako was arrested after his return from Belarus with a satchel containing €1,000,000. Authorities have withheld details about his arrest from the press. He offered a confession.

GAYLEE (Science & Technology Director)
Grako says he met Nicolo Lennon, a Soviet engineering professor and KGB operative, at a Munich conference in 1992. He was approached again a year later with a money-making proposition to steal trade secrets from Telologic Electronics which researches titanium-antimony alloys.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)

Asher Yang was the financial source, and Grako delivered the classified material to him in Lisbon and Vienna. Grako said that Lennon only works through trusted intermediaries. His Chinese connections have always been indirect.

POLTOVSKY (CIA RUSSIAN EUROPEAN)

The owner of Telologic, Luca Scavo, launched an internal investigation after discovering a security breach. Grako was never caught.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)

Grako said Lennon later confided he was a point man in KGB efforts to recover nukes from the satellite republics. Grako rued that gossip slip in a London social encounter with Yang years later. By then Lennon had left the KGB and was hiding in Belarus.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)

What did Grako say about the drop?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)

The location was not disclosed. Directions were sealed in an envelope with the money.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Dr. Villarubia, is it really possible for some guy to get hold of an atomic bomb and carry it across the world in a common backpack?

VILLARUBIA (halting, soft, wide-eyed, uninspiring).

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

Mr. Secretary, the Soviets had these devices. The threat's real, not theoretical.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Please speak up Doctor. It's hard to hear you.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

At least a few of these are thought to remain twenty years after the fall of the Soviet empire. It would be risky to assume that this one is inoperative.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Could it just explode on its own in transit?

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

Maintenance would be critical. The fissionable

material, probably plutonium-239, would remain viable, but batteries, electronics, and bag security devices would become unstable in a decade in the high radiation environment. A failure could occur, but the bomb is probably not armed and wouldn't fully detonate.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
So you believe this device actually exists?

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
Yes sir. There's no grounds for assuming otherwise.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
And you'll know what to do if we find it?

VILLARUBIA pauses, fidgets, looks down.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
I'll do the best I can sir if its found.

GRESHAM glances at WHITMER & FRANCO with uneasiness.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
So Executive Director Capone, it's my understanding the Agency knows the location of Nicolo Lennon?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
That's correct Franco. He owns an auto parts shop in Minsk. We don't think he's aware Grako was taken into custody upon his return to Rome.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
So he's now in custody, right?

POLTOVSKY (CIA RUSSIAN EUROPEAN)
The State Security Committee of the Republic of Belarus is closely aligned with Vladimir Putin. Lennon would be extradited to Russia and executed if identified. Even if Lennon coughed up actionable intelligence, it would never see the light of day.

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)
It's mid-July, and we believe an atomic bomb is in transit or positioned on U.S. soil. The only lead we have is Nicolo Lennon in Minsk. It's my intention to notify the President of an urgent need to interrogate Lennon without Belarusian oversight.

Room falls silent. Unspoken exchanges. All eyes turn to KELLER

& FRANCO at end of conference table.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Director Whitmer, we're all aware the agency has ways of transacting this sort of objective. All we need from you and the President is a green light.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
A Special Ops Group is waiting in anticipation of deployment. They'd need four days to execute. Can a presidential finding be secured by morning Issac?

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)
Maybe. The heads of the senate and house select committees will also require briefings.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
The Hughes-Ryan 1991 amendment rears it's head yet again. Let's hope it doesn't derail us from what needs to be done.

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)
We've still got time to follow proper protocol Franco. Small price to pay for checks and balances.

49 EXT. COFFEE SHOP (MINSK, BELARUS) - DAY

LENNON (smiling, laughing) leaves coffee shop. Camera catches shop sign across street (Lennon Automotive Parts). Black Cadillac (tinted windshield) shrieks to halt. Three armed men (guns drawn) leap out, hood LENNON, drag into vehicle, speed off.

DISSOLVE TO:

50 INT. CIA HEADQUARTERS (BUNKER COMMAND CENTER) - DAY

CIA briefing (WHITMER, GAYLEE, KELLER, GLAZER, CAPONE, YOUNGBLOOD, LETO, FINKS, POLTOVSKY, DERENTA, MCDANIEL, WHITMAN, PENNE, VILLARUBIA, LARSIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, SLOTA, LEAT, PASCH, WHIT, & POWERS). Calendar reads August 1st.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
I've asked SOG Officers Paul Hickley and Tim Pasch to debrief us on their Belarus operation.

HICKLEY (CIA CLANDESTINE OPPS)
Thank you Director. This ten-day special operation generated some intelligence. Nicolo Lennon is a

hardened operative who resisted overtures. Our protocol becomes more persuasive over time.

PASCH (PARAMILITARY OFFICER)

We gave Lennon the choice of staying with us or transfer to the Russians. He wasn't keen on either option but became talkative when placed in a car headed to Minsk police.

Lights dimmed. Belarusian videotaped excerpts (English translation and closed captions).

LENNON (ROGUE KGB AGENT) - V.O.

I was given €5,000,000 by Giorgio Grako on June 17th and directed to transport the device to the Canary Islands. It was a plutonium warhead with six-inch detonators. The battery was kept separate in the backpack for arming before use.

HICKLEY (PARAMILITARY OFFICER) - V.O.

Where'd you acquire the bomb?

LENNON (ROGUE KGB AGENT) - V.O.

Surgei Oppler, on the outskirts of Minsk. He lives next to the shooting range on the north side of town. He assured me the device was stable and maintained. It was ready for arming and deployment.

PASCH (PARAMILITARY OFFICER) - V.O.

How'd you come to know Asher Yang?

LENNON (ROGUE KGB AGENT) - V.O.

Never met the guy. An engineer friend, Jin Yap, from Moscow State University knew him well. He mentioned to Yang in 1992 that I did private work. He told him I had a contact in Rome conducting titanium-antimony alloy research. Next thing I know, Jin's offering me big money to entice Grako to play spy. It was a one-and-done contract.

HICKLEY (PARAMILITARY OFFICER) - V.O.

But then your friend Giorgio approached you last year with a business deal proffered by Yang.

LENNON (ROGUE KGB AGENT) - V.O.

That's right. Turned out to be too good to be true.

PASCH (PARAMILITARY OFFICER) - V.O.

What was the transport method?

LENNON (ROGUE KGB AGENT) - V.O.

Jin musta told Yang I had boating experience. It was Yang's idea for me to transport a yacht from Klaipeda in Lithuania to the Canaries with a fuel stop in Brest. He encouraged me to bring my family and even neighbors as crew. Took us nine days.

PASCH (PARAMILITARY OFFICER) - V.O.

So what, you just showed up someplace in Klaipeda and the boat was waiting?

LENNON (ROGUE KGB AGENT) - V.O.

I picked up the yacht at Kalendach Boat Dealership in Klaipeda on July 1st. The salesman said a wire transfer was received from an undisclosed source.

HICKLEY (PARAMILITARY OFFICER) - V.O.

What did the boat look like?

LENNON (ROGUE KGB AGENT) - V.O.

An 80-footer. Brand new. A thing of beauty. It carries 13,000 liters of diesel with a range of 1,600 nautical miles. Maximum speed of 26 knots.

HICKLEY (PARAMILITARY OFFICER) - V.O.

What's the boat's name?

LENNON (ROGUE KGB AGENT) - V.O.

It didn't have no name. The dealer left spray paint and a stencil in the storage bin.

PASCH (PARAMILITARY OFFICER) - V.O.

No problems encountered during the voyage?

LENNON (ROGUE KGB AGENT) - V.O.

Nope. We pulled into Santa Cruz de Tenerife on the northeast coast on July 7th. I refueled and left my wife and kids in the city for a return two nights later. My neighbors were told to tour the island and fly back whenever they wanted.

PASCH (PARAMILITARY OFFICER) - V.O.

So what happened to the boat, Nicolo?

LENNON (ROGUE KGB AGENT) - V.O.

I anchored on the west side of the island by the entrance of a hiking trail into the Masca Gorge. It runs 8 kilometers up into the mountains.

PASCH (PARAMILITARY OFFICER) - V.O.

What were you looking for?

LENNON (ROGUE KGB AGENT) - V.O.
My contact carried an identical backpack. He must have arrived with his crew days earlier. I figure they had eyes on the ground to assure I was alone.

HICKLEY (PARAMILITARY OFFICER) - V.O.
Your contact was met coming down the mountain?

LENNON (ROGUE KGB AGENT) - V.O.
About a mile outside Barranco de Masca a dark-skinned shirtless Hispanic guy with a scraggly beard and straw hat came walking. We traded backpacks. He told me to continue to the end of the trail through some woods. A cab was waiting on TF-436 to take me 40 mile to Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

Lights raise.

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)
We now know the transfer occurred on July 9th and probably made it to the mainland ten days later.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Where's Asher Yang, Giorgio Grako, Nicolo Lennon, and Surgei Oppler now?

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Grako's in custody in Rome. Lennon and Oppler are with Paul's team on the Isle of Man.

LETO (CIA WEAPONS ANALYSIS)
It's good the President acted on Oppler as well. He could have access to other missing arrows.

HICKLEY (CIA CLANDESTINE OPPS)
He claimed it's the only one in his possession.

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)
The President declined our request to apprehend Asher Yang. He does have diplomatic immunity.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
Disappointing since he's the conspiracy leader.

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)
We'll file a complaint with the People's Republic, and we could go to the United Nations if necessary.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
I'm afraid the bomb slipped through our hands at CIA. The FBI now needs to find and disarm it.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Director Finks, can you describe efforts to track the wire transfer that paid for that vessel? Wasn't extensive Atlantic maritime surveillance conducted after the failed July 9th sting on the airport?

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
We intercepted and boarded a dozen cargo ships on their way from the Canaries to the eastern seaboard over that two week period. No radioactivity alerts. A private yacht could have gone undetected.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
The quickest transatlantic route went through Bermuda, but Bertha was barreling through in July.

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
The St. Lucia southern path may have been viable.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Where did the boat money wire transfer come from?

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
A bank in Tianjin. We assume the account was controlled by Chao Fu Chen. It's probably dissolved by now. The money trail appears to be long and winding. It's been hard to unravel.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
It's already August. Any ideas around this table?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Wouldn't a new boat require registration? How could he have left the Kalendach dealership without one?

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
Lennon was allowed to depart without registering the boat. He had a month to register, but the fine would be of no consequence in this circumstance.

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
How about insurance? Would he have crossed the Atlantic without protection?

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
Remember the risks these guys were already taking.

It would have been delayed as well.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
A dozen 80-foot yachts recently entered the registry, but none look suspicious.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Don't yachts have to go through some sort of immigration or customs entry procedure?

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Yes, at their regional Customs and Border station. Entry document reviews were unproductive.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We're looking for an 80-foot yacht with 16,000 liters of diesel and a range of 1,900 nautical miles. We even know what the captain looks like. Wouldn't he need a gas station before the mainland?

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
Yes, almost certainly Dr. Whit. I'd put my money on St. Lucia or Bermuda. Early stops at Cape Verde or even the Azores were also possible. They left on July 9th or 10th with a maximum speed of 26 knots.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Sounds like St. Lucia or Bermuda, right?

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
Relatively small islands. Maybe 15 to 25 miles across. Maybe a dozen potential fueling stations. The southern route to St. Lucia is most popular, but there's other islands like Barbados, Grenada, and Martinique to consider as well.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
So you predict they landed on Bermuda or a Caribbean island before heading into the mainland?

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
St. Lucia and Bermuda would be good initial targets. Without sailing ability, they would have come into port on fumes given the size of that tank.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
The dealership said they were on pure engine power.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
Then I'd put my money on St. Lucia. It would have

taken a bit longer, but the risk of cyclonic activity would have been far less.

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
Drs. Whit and Powers will leave on a military transport for St. Lucia in three hours. We need our own officers at those refueling stations.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We're headed to the Caribbean in three hours?

KELLER (CIA SPECIAL ACTIVITIES)
If your canvass fails on St. Lucia, fly to Bermuda.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
The Bureau will search ports and docks along the eastern seaboard with radioactivity detectors. The Coast Guard will also be put on alert.

51 EXT. ST LUCIA (PORT DOCKS) - DAY

MONTAGE OF: a) transport jet landing at Hewanorra International; b) dock managers shake heads at Rodney Bay; c) Port Castries; d) Marigot Bay; e) Vieux Fort; and f) Soufriere. WHIT & POWERS debrief on dock.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Whole day wasted! Not even a nibble.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
It's 1,300 miles to Bermuda in the morning.

52 INT. ROSEWOOD BERMUDA HOTEL (BERMUDA) - DAY

MONTAGE OF: a) transport jet landing at Wade International; b) dock managers shake heads at Bailey's Wharf; c) Oil Docks; d) Ordnance Island; e) Royal Naval Dockyard; f) Penno's Wharf; g) Marginal Wharf. WHIT & POWERS finish breakfast remains. Clock reads 8:00 am.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
It was a good idea to leave the sketch at all those docks. Maybe somebody will recognize the guy.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
That first guy at Bailey's Wharf was kinda nasty. Said it was none of our business.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
He didn't buy us as reporters. Secretive guy.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) answers cell phone.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Hello? Yes, that's right. Saw it huh? Same guy?
Yeah, that's right, \$1,000, but we need more than
an impression son. We're leaving in 90 minutes.
That's right. Rosewood. OK. You'd better hurry.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) hangs up.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Doesn't sound promising, huh?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Naw, just some island kid looking for a quick score.
Musta talked to somebody at one of the docks. Said
he lived a couple miles away close to Bailey's Bay.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
\$1,000 must sound like a fortune to an island kid.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We're not coughing up a dime without corroboration.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Let's get our bags and wait outside.

53 EXT. ROSEWOOD BERMUDA HOTEL (BERMUDA) - DAY

WHIT & POWERS stand outside hotel waiting for visitor.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Looks like a no-show.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
No look, there he comes.

PABLO (14, short, thin, tan, disarming smile) huffs up.

PABLO
Hello, madams! My name Pablo! I live north end and
help tourists snorkel at golden mermaid statue.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Hello Pablo. What have you got for us today?

PABLO
I seen him. He talk to me while fueling boat.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

How do you know he's the guy we're looking for?

PABLO

Oh madams, that be him. Looks just like him. He got real mad at me for standing too close to boat. Pointed at red flag raised during fueling.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

So what did his boat look like?

PABLO

Nice and shiny, 70-feet long. The captain walked over after I moved away. Said sorry for being mean. Got friendly while waiting for fuel.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

So what did you talk about while waiting?

PABLO

He was proud of his boat. Said it was brand new. He's gonna charter it. That's what he said.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Do you remember the name of the boat?

PABLO

Will you give me money if I tell you?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

You have to give us the right name or the deal's off. We can't promise the full amount.

PABLO

OK. It's easy. That boat didn't have no name.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

That's good, Pablo, very good. Can you give us the name and location of the dock?

PABLO

Sure! Bailey's Wharf, over there in that direction.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

He didn't say his name or where he was headed?

PABLO

I think he say Florida. After he go to some place to get some whiskey. He ask me if I ever drink whiskey! I told him my pawpaw once gave me some.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
So this picture is what he looked like?

PABLO
That's exactly what he looked like, ma'am.

WHIT smiled and pulled out ten hundred dollar bills. PABLO's eyes grow wide. Boy becomes emotional.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Give us your name and contact information Pablo.

PABLO
Thank you, madams!! My family be very happy! My mom makes this much money all year. She be happy.

PABLO dances off headed home. WHIT looks at POWERS.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Better call Nora and tell her we'll need a later flight. We've got work to do at Bailey's Wharf.

54 INT. BAILY'S WHARF OFFICE - DAY

Gruff LANCER (52, full head of grey hair, goatee, imposing) addresses WHIT & POWERS.

LANCER
You two get outta here. It's none of your damned business who fuels up on my wharf.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Even for \$1,000?

LANCER
Why would reporters pay so much for my proprietary records. You two don't add up. I'm not playing.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
You know, word on the street is the guy paid cash.

LANCER
How could anyone know that? Why would you care?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I've heard service providers don't always report cash to tax authorities. I assume you probably followed proper procedure though.

LANCER

So you're HMRC agents? You've got nothing on me!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

No. We're not with the British HMRC.

LANCER

So you troublemakers are threatening to tell them I neglected to report a cash payment? A shakedown?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Listen, your tax obligation is the furthest thing from our minds. We don't even know your name. Here's a \$1,000 to show our good faith. Just give us a straight answer and we'll leave.

MANAGER confused. Shrugs, pockets cash.

LANCER

OK, I'm Robert Lancer. Whadda ya wanna know?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Other than cash for the fuel, did he leave Record of a credit card or other identification?

LANCER

No. Nothing else. Just payment.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Do you know the guy? Has he been here before?

LANCER

Nope. Total stranger. I hope he returns next trip.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

So how much did he pay? We're estimating around 8K.

LANCER

It was \$7,253 for the fuel. That's good money.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Didn't he need to phone ahead to order that much fuel? Aren't you obligated to complete a standard form on these yacht fuel transactions?

LANCER

Ah yeah. We do all of that. Some guy called to tell us Mr. Tibbs was coming in on July 19th. The caller didn't leave a name but said he was from the states.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

So you were given a heads-up that a guy named Tibbs was coming to town looking for fuel?

LANCER

Sounded like he wanted to get here sooner, but the hurricane hit us five days before arrival. The storm had just cleared the region.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Tibbs? No first name?

LANCER

Nope. That was the name he used on our Bunkering form. He said to call him Mr. Tibbs, and then he laughed like it was some sort of joke.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Did the boat have a name?

LANCER

No name or flag. Thought it was a little strange hitting the high seas without either, but he said the boat was a brand new purchase.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

How about his crew? He did have a crew, didn't he?

LANCER

I saw a few men. They looked Latino, spoke Spanish.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Three of them, right? Three Hispanic men who coulda been Cuban or Cuban-American?

LANCER

Yeah, that's right. They came up during refueling. Coulda been a dozen guys below deck for all I know.

55 INT. HOME LIVING ROOM (TRIANGLE, VIRGINIA) - DAY

WHIT on computer. POWERS enters. Clock reads 1:15 a.m.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Are you still up? Come to bed.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

No, no, come see, come see. We've been assuming Florida was the play, but what if they detoured into the Gulf of Mexico?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Sounds like a long shot. Guess it's worth a look.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Remember this island as a child. Last Island.
It's just off the Louisiana coast.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
A hurricane razed and split the island, right?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
It was called Isle Dernière by French descendants.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Look at it here. 200 fatalities, mid-1800s. It
had hotels and casinos until the hurricane split it
apart into these four smaller islands.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
They're still uninhabited after all the years,
and guess what the middle one's called?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Oh! I see. Right there on the map. Whiskey Island!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
An uninhabited island on the Louisiana coast. Sure
sounds like a perfect landing spot for our bad boys.

56 INT. FBI HEADQUARTERS (WASHINGTON, D.C.) - DAY

LARSIEN chairs session (YOUNGBLOOD, FINKS, GAYLEE,
KELLER, FRANCO, GRESHAM, GLAZER, CAPONE, WHITMER,
FINKS, POLTOVSKY, SLOTA, LEAT, VILLARUBIA, WHIT & POWERS).

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Evidence points to a Florida boater named Tibbs who
came ashore with the bomb around July 23rd. His drop
site may be close to some sort of bar or alcohol
distributor. He's assisted three Hispanic men.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
What are our hypotheses regarding the liquor
Vendor or distributor? Is that a real clue?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Conventional wisdom has been directing us to the
southeast Florida coast. The Florida coast is
overpopulated, but what about isolated islands?

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)

Where did you have in mind?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
How about Gulf Coast barrier islands?

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
Any location stick out?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Perhaps. There's a chain of four small islands that were razed and separated by a hurricane in the mid-1800s. The chain is referred to as Last Island.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
What would be the connection with our case?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
The unpopulated middle one is Whiskey Island.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
Whiskey Island? Well, that's interesting. What did Tibbs tell the Bermuda boy about his destination?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
He said Tibbs was headed to Florida only after he went to a place to get some whiskey.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Pretty obscure reference.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
This Tibbs guy sounds like he might like word play. His reference to whiskey sounds like a destination more than an alcohol craving. That boat had booze.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Let's send Whit and Powers down there tomorrow.

57 EXT. WILDLIFE & FISHERIES BOAT - DAY

GAME WARDEN drives boat (bumpy gulf waters, loud engine, wash) with WHIT, POWERS, LEAT, SLOTA, MACON & REGENT.

MACON (NEW ORLEANS POLICE)
Timbalier Island, over there. Still a mess after Edouard passed through last week.

GAME WARDEN
Still trying to bolster these island coasts. We're in Lake Peltro. Last Island up a few miles.

CUT TO:

Four land masses approach in the distance.

MACON (NEW ORLEANS POLICE)

There they are. Wine, Trinity, Whiskey and Raccoon Island in succession from east to west.

REGENT (NEW ORLEANS POLICE)

All that's left of Last Island.

GAME WARDEN

We're in Whiskey Pass. It'll take us around the gulf side. You can see that fishermen and heavy machine operators still frequent Whiskey Island.

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)

Can you circumnavigate the island, Warden?
Let's stop and chat with anybody we see.

MONTAGE OF: Fishermen shake heads in succession at three beaches east to west. Drone shot closes in on six officers who meet three fishermen (LUCIEN, BOUDREAUX & JEAN) on shore beside an anchored 30-foot trawler.

MACON (NEW ORLEANS POLICE)

Hello fellas. I'm Jack Macon, and these are my partners from the New Orleans Police Department. What are you guys up to today?

LUCIAN (FISHERMAN 1)

We visit from Cocodrie pretty much every weekend. The fishing's good around the islands.

BOUDREAUX (FISHERMAN 2)

We come ashore and explore. Storms turn things up on the beach. We're lookin for stuff from the 1800s.

REGENT (NEW ORLEANS POLICE)

Did you make it out a week or two before the storm?

JEAN (FISHERMAN 3)

Oh yeah, we're pretty routine.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Hey guys, did you by any chance happen to notice an 80-foot yacht close to any of these islands?

BOUDREAUX (FISHERMAN 2)

Oh yeah, we seen it. Pulled up right ova dere by da reef. Da captain was meetin up with a smaller boat.

LUCIAN (FISHERMAN 1)
Dey was right next to one another. Dat woulda been Friday, July 25th. Right guys?

JEAN (FISHERMAN 3)
Sure, that was Boudreaux's birthday.

LUCIAN (FISHERMAN 1)
Ya turned 40, right, Boudreaux?

BOUDREAUX (FISHERMAN 2)
Yeah, yeah, 40.

JEAN (FISHERMAN 3)
All down hill from here, Boudreaux.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Did you catch the name of the two boats?

MONTAGE OF: a) anchored yacht (*Whiskey a Go Go* on stern) sits aside unnamed 30-foot boat; b) HERNANDEZ (Cuban, dark-skinned, shirtless, scraggly beard, straw hat) walks down pilot deck smirking; c) CHERD (52, tanned, short-haired, 6'2", 180 lbs, sunglasses) comes up from below deck (lights cigarette, stares at intruders); d) GARCIA (CUBAN 1) exits cabin and gestures (salutes) CHERD in side boat; RIVERO (CUBAN 2) comes on deck (stares at fishmen).

LUCIAN (FISHERMAN 1) - V.O.
We seen the big one. It was called *Whiskey a Go Go*. Saw it right dere on da stern.

JEAN (FISHERMAN 3) - V.O.
I don't thinks da little one had one posted.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Are you SURE guys? The name of that big boat is pretty important to us.

LUCIAN (FISHERMAN 1) - V. O.
Oh yeah, we noticed the boat. A little unusual seeing somethin fancy like dat around Whiskey Island. Kinda funny it had the same name.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
Did you see the captains or crews?

BOUDREAUX (FISHERMAN 2) - V.O

A guy came out on the deck of the small boat to smoke a cigarette. I waved at him from about twenty yards away. He just stared at me. Not very friendly.

LUCIAN (FISHERMAN 1) - V.O.

The hell with him. We don't act that way down here. Live and let live I guess.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Do you remember what he looked like?

JEAN (FISHERMAN 3)

Sure. Tanned, short-haired, about 6'2", maybe 180 pounds, sunglasses.

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)

How about the yacht captain? Did you see him?

LUCIAN (FISHERMAN 1)

Yep, he stepped out too. Big smile. Looked Mexican. Dark-skinned, shirtless, ugly ass beard, straw hat. None of dos guys said anything.

BOUDREAUX (FISHERMAN 2)

He seemed to be in a better mood den da other guy.

LEAT (FBI ORGANIZED CRIME)

Did you see anyone else?

LUCIAN (FISHERMAN 1)

A couple of Mexican guys jumped from the big boat to a little one about 30 foot long.

BOUDREAUX (FISHERMAN 2)

I saw a somebody moving in the window below deck. That's about it. At least four guys on da two boats.

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)

Did you see any cargo exchanged?

BOUDREAUX (FISHERMAN 2)

Nah, dose boats sat dere for an hour or so, and then we left. Maybe dey were waitin for us ta go?

POWERS flips through her cellphone.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

The second unnamed boat was around 30 feet long? Let me show you some boats to see if you can

recognize the make of that vessel?

FISHERMEN flip through images. Look at each other.

LUCIAN (FISHERMAN 1)
Rampage Express?

BOUDREAUX (FISHERMAN 2)
Yeah, that sounds right to me. Looks just like it.

JEAN (FISHERMAN 3)
Yep, dat's it.

58 EXT. WILDLIFE & FISHERIES BOAT - DAY

GAME WARDEN, WHIT, POWERS , LEAT, SLOTA, MACON & REGENT
back on boat sharing smiles and high fives.

LEAT (FBI ORGANIZED CRIME)
We got it! *Whiskey a Go Go!*

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
And even an exact date! Friday, July 25th.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
The smaller boat had to return to the coast.
He either owned or rented that boat.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Let's get over to Cocodrie, Dulac, Chauvin,
Montegut, and Houma. Somebody saw these guys.

MONTAGE OF: WHIT & POWERS at docks in a) Cocodrie;
b) Dulac; c) Chauvin; & d) Montegut as boaters shake
heads no. Drone shot rises away from Louisiana coastline.

59 INT. FBI HEADQUARTERS (WASHINGTON, D.C.) - DAY

LARSIEN chairs session (YOUNGBLOOD, FINKS, GAYLEE,
KELLER, FRANCO, GRESHAM, GLAZER, CAPONE, WHITMER,
FINKS, POLTOVSKY, & VILLARUBIA). SLOTA, LEAT, WHIT
& POWERS enter late. Playful applause erupts.

LEAT (FBI ORGANIZED CRIME)
OK everyone, this score belongs to Whit and Powers.

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
The long-shot kids.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

So we now know for sure when and where the bomb came ashore. Time to find the *Whiskey a Go Go*!

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)

Thousands of vessels operating in Florida alone. It's still a needle in a haystack.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

How about an FBI all-points bulletin?

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

They still don't know we're on to them. The bomb is not on the vessel, and the owner might not even know the current location or final destination.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

They could see the alert and go deeper underground.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

The suspect returned from a transatlantic voyage in a new boat. Isn't maintenance is a really big deal?

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)

Maintenance routines never end. Thrusters, batteries, hydraulics, electrical units, anodes, air conditioning, water maintenance, plumbing, fuel lines, propellers, engine belts, stern gear, spark plugs, the autopilot. The hull needs waxing and underwater clearance of barnacle growth.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

A canvass of marinas and slips would be broad. Too many docks, and too little time. What if we visit companies that provide special services for yachts?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Franco mentioned hull barnacle clearance. I assume that means divers for large vessels? It's worth touching base with guys who offer that as well?

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)

Barnacles grow fast in warm Atlantic waters. Owners of large vessels are not clearing them alone.

DISSOLVE TO:

60 INT. THE BARNACLE COP (BISCAYNE BAY SHORE) - DAY

WILLIAMS (yawns, flashes badge) at PROPRIETOR. Calendar behind desk reads August 15th.

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)
Good morning sir. I'm FBI Special Agent Lenny Williams. We're conducting a routine canvas Of boat maintenance businesses.

PROPRIETOR
Routine canvas? What's that all about?

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)
We're wondering if you provided recent services on an 80-foot yacht named *Whiskey a Go Go*?

PROPRIETOR
Well, let's see. We service a lot of large vessels.

Types on keyboard.

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)
The owner just returned from an Atlantic crossing.

PROPRIETOR
Yes, here it is. He said the boat was new. Purchased in Europe but not yet registered.

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)
Where was the boat docked?

PROPRIETOR
South Miami on Coral Bay. Ten miles from here. This guy Virgil owns a popular bar over there called Pigs Bay. The boat slip's a block away.

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)
Do you have a last name?

PROPRIETOR
Virgil Hernandez. Kind of a funny first name for a Cuban. You know, like the movie, Virgil Tibbs.

WILLIAMS raises eyebrows.

61 EXT. PIGS BAY BAR & GRILL (SOUTH FLORIDA) - DAY

FBI special agents (SLOTA, LEAT, WILLIAMS, WHIT, POWERS, and ten others) assemble outside bar.

LEAT (FBI ORGANIZED CRIME)
Just received this picture from Quantico. Virgil Hernandez. Dead ringer for Lennon's description!

Agents burst into grill (long bar, dance floor, gaming machines, television screens, ten tables with patrons).

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
FBI! Everyone stay calm! This bar has to be cleared!
Please be prepared to show identification.

HERNANDEZ (stunned) rushes from adjoining office.

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER)
What the hell is going on here?!

LEAT (FBI ORGANIZED CRIME)
Mr. Hernandez, we're with the FBI. We need to close the Pigs Bay and bring you to the station.

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER)
What did I do? Are you arresting me?

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
Yes sir. You're under arrest. You have a right
To an attorney before our interrogation.

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER)
I'm a naturalized American. I run a legitimate
business! I have nothing to hide!

62 INT. FBI HEADQUARTERS (WASHINGTON, D.C.) - DAY

LARSIEN chairs session (YOUNGBLOOD, FINKS, GAYLEE, LEAT, KELLER, FRANCO, GRESHAM, GLAZER, CAPONE, WHITMER, MOORE, FINKS, POLTOVSKY, VILLARUBIA, SLOTA, WHIT & POWERS).

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
D.A. Stafford Wright from Miami informed Hernandez and his attorney of evidence of bomb smuggling.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
Wright made it clear Hernandez would face the death penalty. Cooperation was needed to save his life.
We still got lies. Play the interrogation Johnny.

Videotaped interrogation involving WRIGHT, WILLIAMS, HERNANDEZ, and defense attorney (BRINE).

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER) - V.O.
I possess the title for Whiskey a Go Go. It was a clean and clear transfer. I never met the man who paid for the boat. The contract specified that I fly to the Canary Islands and transport the vessel.

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT) - V.O.
And deliver the bomb, right?

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER) - V.O.
I don't know nothing about no bomb! It was just a backpack. I thought it held drugs or jewels or something. I wouldn't get involved with a bomb!

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT) - V.O.
The boat's worth over \$1,000,000 Virgil. Why would a guy pay you that much money just to transport a backpack? Surely you looked in the backpack?

BRINE (DEFENSE ATTORNEY) - V.O.
Virgil you don't need to say anything about your motives or travels. You're under no obligation.

HERNANDEZ waves off DEFENSE ATTORNEY.

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER) - V.O.
I didn't! The guy showed up at my bar a month ago. He claimed there was a way to know if the backpack was opened. It would void the contract!

WRIGHT (MIAMI DISTRICT ATTORNEY) - V.O.
So what did the guy look like?

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER) - V.O.
I didn't see him long. He was White with black hair. Maybe 50 years old with a mustache cowboy hat.

WRIGHT (MIAMI DISTRICT ATTORNEY) - V.O.
And on the basis of his pitch you flew halfway across the world to navigate an unfamiliar boat across the Atlantic in hurricane season?

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER) - V. O.
He gave me \$5,000 in cash for airfare. Told me to recruit three crew members. Those guys worked for me now and then at the bar. It sounded like fun.

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT) - V.O.
Which guys? What are their names?

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER) - V.O.
Perez, Lopez, and Diaz. They're Cuban-Americans like me. They ran off after we got home.

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT) - V.O.
From Whiskey Island?

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER) - V.O.
Whiskey Island? No idea where that is?

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT) - V.O.
You know it's an island off the Louisiana coast.

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER) - V.O.
Louisiana coast? We never went into the Gulf.

WRIGHT (MIAMI DISTRICT ATTORNEY) - V.O.
Mr. Hernandez, we have three eyewitnesses that have fingered you on that island on Friday, July 25th.

BRINE (DEFENSE ATTORNEY) - V.O.
Virgil, I'm telling you to say nothing more.

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER) - V.O.
They got it wrong Luis. It can't be the *Whiskey a Go Go*. We were still crossing the Atlantic.

WRIGHT (MIAMI DISTRICT ATTORNEY) - V.O.
LISTEN HERNANDEZ! This is serious business, and your partners are about to throw you under the bus!

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER) - V.O.
The American or Cuban government is trying to frame me for political purposes! They're framing me!

WRIGHT (MIAMI DISTRICT ATTORNEY) - V.O.
So why did the Secret Service interview you in 1992 about claims you made to others that President Clinton was about to be assassinated?

HERNANDEZ (CUBAN LEADER) - V.O.
That misunderstanding got cleared up. It a free country. I was just expressing my opinion that the country would be better off without socialist communist liberal politicians.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY - V.O.
That's quite enough Virgil! That matter was litigated two decades ago. No charges. No arrest. Just a warning about rhetoric. This is all we have for you today. We'll take it up in court.

Videotape stopped.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
That guy's up to his eyeballs in trouble.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

The crew's names are Elian Garcia, Nestor Rivero, and Julio Castillo. All Cuban refugees.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Co-workers said they never returned from the trip. Hernandez was alone when he pulled into dock.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

What do we know about Virgil Hernandez?

MOORE (FBI SCIENCE ASST DIRECTOR)

His history includes immigration from Cuba in the 1990s with marriage to an American woman named Sasha who was killed in a car accident in 2001. His late wife's maiden name was Montanari.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Wait a minute! A man named Montanari was on Elisa Capone's list of 200 phone calls placed from the Greek restaurant within 30 minutes of Yang's rendezvous in Rome on December 26th last year!

MOORE (FBI SCIENCE ASST DIRECTOR)

Good memory Robbie. I contacted Elisa at Langley, and she confirmed that the man's full name is Vincent Montanari. He owns a modest travel agency in Long Beach. Sasha Hernandez was his late sister. Take a look at his business photo.

MONTANARI image projected on screen (short-haired, dark-skinned, middle-aged man, two-day beard stubble).

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

Folks, that's a dead ringer for our mystery man from the west. Anything more, David?

MOORE (FBI SCIENCE ASST DIRECTOR)

Montanari exhibits anti-Castro leanings and was a militant in the 1961 Bay of Pigs debacle. His brother-in-law owns the Pig's Bay Bar & Grill.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)

What about financial ties?

MOORE (FBI SCIENCE ASST DIRECTOR)

His assets are estimated at a million dollars, But his international travels reflect an even higher standard of living. There appears to be a matrix of undisclosed business revenue streams.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
What does his passport tell us?

MOORE (FBI SCIENCE ASST DIRECTOR)
Within the past few years he traveled to Italy, Greece, England, France, Saudi Arabia, Japan, and yes, Beijing. He would have had ample opportunity to befriend Asher Yang somewhere along the way.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
So we have our man from the west who expresses animus toward liberal politicians. His brother-in-law was even investigated as a Clinton threat in 1992. Yang and Chen seem focused on Barack Obama. Let's get a court order to surveil him.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Williams needs to confront Hernandez with the real names of his crew and brother-in-law. Maybe that'll jog his memory.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
Anything else on this bar bust?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Forensic analyses have begun on three computers. One was accessible to his staff for gaming during dead time. The hard drives were recently scrubbed.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Sounds suspicious. Are they dead ends?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I also found a compact disc of Call of Duty 4. A worker used the moniker "expatriada". We're going to conduct regular online searches for that name.

63 INT. HILTON HOTEL (ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA) - DAY

WHIT & POWERS watch television over breakfast.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
It's a relief to leave Denver with Obama's acceptance speech behind us.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Exhilarating and terrifying event at the same time.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Sarah Palin nomination is interesting.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Seems like a Hail Mary to me. She's a risky choice.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
It sure gives the campaign some buzz. I read an amusing story about Boze Dagon clumsily pressing the Senator to select Jack Victari for his ticket.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Jack Victari?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
You know, the 3rd party candidate. Dagon's his campaign manager. Imagine the presumptuousness of that overture. They sound like buffoons. Palin's pick the next day put that guy in his place.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We'll see how she does tomorrow night in prime time. Expectancies are low. That's gotta be in her favor.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
This campaign event will be less stressful. The terrorists want John McCain to win.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Agency and Bureau intelligence confirms Chao Fu Chen's focus on Obama and his U.S. rare metals production initiative.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Maybe the terrorist discontinue their plot against him if McCain begins to surge in the polls?

64 INT. OVAL OFFICE (WHITE HOUSE) - DAY

PRESIDENT BUSH sits in his center chair between the two couches. GRESHAM seated on couch. CHINESE AMBASSADOR (Jiam Luo) ushered in. Greets President.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR
Mr. President, it's such an honor to meet you. I've only been to the Oval Office once in my eight year tenure. I must say your invitation concerns me.

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
Mr. Ambassador, I believe you've met Homeland Security Secretary Gresham?

CHINESE AMBASSADOR

Yes sir. Secretary Gresham and I have met.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
I regret that this isn't a social call, Jiam.

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
Sit, Ambassador. We have a lot to talk about.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR
I understand. How might the Chinese government
be of assistance to the United States of America?

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
Mr. Ambassador, the secretary and I want to make
your government aware of a plot directed at our
country by diplomat Asher Yang from Beijing. He's
leading a conspiracy to assassinate presidential
candidate Barack Obama. The evidence implicating
him and Chao Fu Chen from Tianjin is compelling.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR
MR. PRESIDENT, I don't know what to say. The
People's Republic of China would NEVER be involved
in a terrorist attack against your country. Sir, it
would not be in our interests to do so.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
Jiam, the evidence is irrefutable.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR
I speak for President Jintao in expressing my
disappointment that you might implicate us. I ask,
Uh, uh, demand, sir, that your secretary provide
the evidence for these accusations.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
Our sources must remain classified, but your
intelligence officers will be able to establish
their veracity through interrogations of the
Chinese principals disclosed today.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR
With all due respect Mr. Secretary, you owe us a
more complete explanation for this insult.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
Mentions of Giorgio Grako from Rome and Nicolo
Lennon from Belarus might inspire candor.

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)

Mr. Ambassador, the threat we are disclosing today appears imminent. While we respect President Jintao's wise and measured leadership style, his government *should* be aware of actions perpetrated by its agents. We believe he will do the right thing and assist us in ending this crisis.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR

My government will do everything possible to help.

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)

I would expect so. Otherwise, your country will Be held responsible for the actions of these men.

CHINESE AMBASSADOR

Responsible sir? We're not aware of Yang's actions.

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)

Please inform President Jintao that I am prepared to launch commensurate retaliation against Taizhou and Beijing in the event of an attack. Your Ministry of State Security can estimate the magnitude of these retaliatory responses. They'll understand.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Please help us Jiam repair this unfortunate strain in diplomatic relations between our two great countries. Time is of the essence.

65 INT. HOME LIVING ROOM (TRIANGLE, VIRGINIA) - NIGHT

WHIT (headset) focuses on computer screen watching C-SPAN third party debate (MCKINNEY, BALDWIN, NADER, & VICTARI) hosted by Senator Teddy Gile. Clock reads 11:00 pm. Desk calendar reads September 10th, 2008.

BALDWIN (CONSTITUTION PARTY) - V.O.

Senator Gile, none of this really matters if we retain this antiquated electoral college system.

MCKINNEY (GREEN PARTY) - V. O.

We're a constitutional republic, not a democracy. This preserves the interests of rural America.

GILE (SENATOR) - V.O.

We've belabored this topic. Let's shift to our focus to national security.

VICTARI (5'10", 284 lbs, angry, animated, loud, boisterous) moves abruptly from lectern to center stage.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
 Obama and McCain fiddle while Washington burns!
 I'm the only candidate strong enough to protect
 this country from the threats we face!

GILE (SENATOR) - V.O.
 Mr. Victari, this is violation of debate rules.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
 Debate rules! What the hell are you talking about.
 Will debate rules matter after we're hit by cyber,
 chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons from the
 Russians or Cubans?! This debate is a bunch of crap!

GILE (SENATOR) - V.O.
 Please reassume the podium Mr. Victari.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
 Let me finish! Let me finish!

Audience cheers. VICTARI tone dark and foreboding.

BALDWIN (CONSTITUTION PARTY) - V.O.
 Let him speak his piece Senator. I'm sure many
 Americans would like to hear his evidence for
 these wild claims. If lacking, Mr. Victari's
 unfit for office. Let the voters decide.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
 The Russians possess thousands of weapons of mass
 destruction. Many have been passed to the Cubans!
 They'll make 9/11 look like a warmup drill unless
 immediate action is taken.

GILE (SENATOR) - V.O.
 We understand your dark view of our future.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
 President Jack H. Victari will force the Russians
 and Cubans to dismantle their nuclear bombs! I'm
 the only candidate with whom they'll negotiate.

GILE (SENATOR) - V.O.
 We understand that you're echoing the sentiments of
 President Reagan when he met with Gorbachev and
 proposed world disarmament. Peace through strength
 is a principle with which we've all long agreed.

VICTARI raises up on toes, waves arms wildly.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
 You're not listening. Did I say anything about
 American disarmament?!

GILE (SENATOR) - V.O.
 Well sir, why would Russia or any other nation give
 up its nuclear stockpiles without reciprocation?

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
 They'll have no other choice after hearing about
 the Victari initiative.

GILE (SENATOR) - V.O.
 Victari initiative?

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
 It's a secret plan that can't be disclosed until
 after the election. The voters must decide whether
 to trust Jack H. Victari or my weak opponents. The
 time has come to stop this madness!

GILE (SENATOR) - V.O.
 Mr. Victari . . .

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
 Go ahead, call me an alarmist! Say my vision is
 unreal! Then look around the globe and smell the
 coffee! We're on the precipice of destruction!

GILE (SENATOR) - V.O.
 Those are bold pronouncements Jack. The electorate
 will have to decide. Ladies and gentlemen, we're
 out of time for this first independent debate.

WHIT removes headphones, shakes head, blows air. Walks into
 living room to greet POWERS.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Ya get a chance to watch the C-SPAN debate tonight?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Oh yeah, that was . . . different! I always saw the
 third party crowd as benign and harmless, but those
 debates can sure summon the wackadoodles.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Out in full bloom tonight! Can you believe that guy
 Victari? At least nobody will take him seriously.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Nasty fellow, but he put nails in his political aspirations tonight. Was he proposing a game of chicken with the Russians over nuclear weapons?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Yeah, I believe so. I've listened to him before on his radio network. He's not a serious contender, but I doubt he'll go quietly in the night.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Victari doesn't even believe what he was saying. It's all performance art. The joke's on us!

66 INT. FBI STAFF OFFICE (WASHINGTON, D.C.) - DAY

POWERS & WHIT confer over coffee. CAPONE enters office.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)

I wanted to update you on recent intelligence regarding Montanari's travel last year.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

What has the agency found?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)

Airline records confirm that Long Beach travel agent Vincent Montanari was in Athens, Greece on December 26th of 2007. He was in Rome on January 3rd, and he was even in Hong Kong on May 20th.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Wow! Those are outstanding insights!

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)

We also know one other thing that might prove significant somewhere down the line. He flew to San Diego after meeting with Yang in Hong Kong. Are you following someone who lives in San Diego?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

No, not yet. We'll have to keep that link in mind.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)

One things certain ladies. The man from the west has been found. The Attorney General was notified.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

So his arrest is imminent?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)

The FBI prefers another week of surveillance. There's more. Bob Regent in New Orleans found the transfer boat from Whiskey Island.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
What! That's huge news, right?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
Yes and no. Regent received a tip that led to a camp and boat house on Falgout Canal 25 miles away.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Was the owner apprehended?!

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
He rented his camp with a wink and nod for ten grand to a man fitting our description who showed up weeks in advance at his place driving a Chevrolet Impala.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Let me guess. The renter used an alias?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
No identification was left. Benoit was so happy with the windfall he agreed to leave keys to both the camp and his boat on July 21st. The owner avoided questions. He assumed it was a drug-smuggling deal.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Did his boat have a name?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
It did. *Maybellene*. Hidden by a net over the stern.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Benoit said the car was a Chevrolet Impala?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
He only saw it when the man left his porch. He wasn't positive, but that's what he thought.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
And he never saw him again? A money transfer and he left his property unmonitored?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)
Regent said Benoit's story checked out. The owner didn't want to be seen near his property given its likely criminal use.

67 INT. HOME LIVING ROOM (TRIANGLE, VIRGINIA) - NIGHT

WHIT & POWERS on adjacent home computers.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Dual motives may be at play. Chen's the money man with the connections. His American co-conspirators may have their own reasons to harm Senator Obama.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Hernandez got a yacht out of the deal, but the Montanari link is a little more curious.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Maybe Montanari slipped into a money-making deal that he thought could benefit his brother-in-law.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

There's got to be more to it than that.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

The political ideology angle? They're both Cuban refugees with reasons to oppose the Castros.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

You've got to be pretty angry to go this far. Maybe we're missing some other players that would put the west end of this puzzle into better perspective?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

The McCain campaign is the only interest likely to benefit from an attack on Obama.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Come on, Senator McCain would never be complicit in a plot to assassinate his rival!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

No, no, of course not. Not the candidate himself, but maybe an unhinged staffer who went rogue?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

This plot begins even before his staffers were fully engaged. McCain's attention was on Hillary.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

How about Hillary Clinton's campaign?!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

I'm ahead of you. Checked out both campaign

staffs. Their all cleaner than a whistle.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
So political motives are off the table?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
At least for the viable candidates. A guy like Jack Victari might have aroused suspicion.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
But what would any candidate get from attacking Obama and ceding the election to McCain?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
What about Victari's odd warnings about weapons of mass destruction? He's been anticipating some sort of coordinated Russian-Cuban attack.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
The bomb was secured by a former KGB agent and transferred by Cubans. Is this coincidental?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
David Moore conducted a search at Quantico. Victari's 52 years old. Born and raised in L.A. by an advertisement executive and homemaker mother.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Where'd his money come from?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
He purchased a chain of radio stations in the 1980s and consolidated his stations in 1990 into Nobody's Fool Broadcasting. NFB now has over 500 affiliates.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Any connection to Burnt Affiliates Television?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
BAT was created by German television mogul Rudolph Burnt who was a libertarian. Viewers find guys like Victari appealing. It's a symbiotic relationship.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
What about his personal life?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
He reportedly drinks heavily and flies into rages.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Does he have a family?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

He's maintained an on-again, off-again relationship with a younger girlfriend named Selina Griffen. She refuses to talk about him, and there are rumors he uses her to disguise sexual secrets.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

There's still nothing there that would make sense as a motive for political assassination. He was even humiliated earlier by Senator McCain.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Well he's been a shady guy since youth. Linked to a Chinatown bookmaking, narcotics, and prostitution ring in 1988. Victari eluded prosecution.

68 INT. FBI HEADQUARTERS (WASHINGTON, D.C.) - DAY

LARSIEN chairs session (YOUNGBLOOD, FINKS, GAYLEE, KELLER, FRANCO, GRESHAM, GLAZER, CAPONE, WHITMER, MOORE, FINKS, POLTOVSKY, VILLARUBIA, SLOTA, LEAT, WHIT & POWERS).

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)

Attorney General Doveland secured FISA court authorization for surveillance of Montanari.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

FISA court?

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

A secret court of 11 judges appointed by the Chief Justice to authorize intelligence gathering. FISA authorization is required for American targets.

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)

Montanari was in Long Beach until 5:00 a.m. Saturday morning when he left for the airport. He bought an overnight round-trip ticket to Dallas.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Did we loose him there?

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)

No sir. Special Agent Hal Horton in Dallas was able to follow him to the Holiday Inn on Houston Street. He was attending a real estate conference.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)

That's close to Dealey Plaza, right?

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
Correct. The Texas School Book Depository can be seen from the Houston Street Plaza.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
Why fly 1,200 miles for a one day conference?

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
Horton's an especially astute young agent sir. He maintained visual contact into the evening when a woman arrived at his room.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
So the trip was just an alibi for a dalliance?

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
It does look like an affair. She stayed all night.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
A dead end, right?

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
For her perhaps, but Horton also watched the suspect walk to the Ferris Plaza fountain 300 feet away to meet a contact during his lunch break.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Unfortunately, we don't know what they discussed.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
So what did that trip give us?

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
Hazy photographs and a video. Montanari slithered away to the parking lot behind the grassy knoll.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
The grassy knoll, huh? An assassination motif.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Well, OK. Let's see the guy he met.

Lights dim. Photo set next to grainy video of MONTANARI & DRONER talk under a tree. POWERS & WHIT show surprise.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
That's Bruce Droner! He's a political hack from Texarkana. We were warned about him years ago.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 No tactic's beneath him. Push polls, tabloid stories, hookers to candidate hotel rooms with photographers in wait. Things like that.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 His bread and butter has always been fabricated allusions to the sexual peccadillos of opponents.

Screen shows sketchy image of recent DRONER (tall, thin, thick mustache, balding, beady-eyed, signature red felt bow tie) newspaper photo. Laughter ripples at image.

LEAT (FBI ORGANIZED CRIME)
 His image fits your profile.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Attorney General Doveland knows all about Droner. He dealt with him as D.A. and Governor in Louisiana.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
 Excellent Whit and Powers. You've found us another co-conspirator right out of central casting.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Droner should be surveilled in Dallas immediately.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
 I'll secure authorization. We need everything we can find on that guy's actions and intents.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Could Mandy and I be deployed to Dallas in the morning? Droner could be the lynchpin of the plot.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
 I'll call the regional director this afternoon.

69 INT. HOME LIVING ROOM (TRIANGLE, VIRGINIA) - NIGHT

WHIT & POWERS sit beside Chinese food remains and near empty wine bottles. Computer screens open aside.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 Can you believe Bruce Droner's back in our lives?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
 He was never our concern. Remember, he turned out to be uninvolved in our 80s serial extortion case.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

The man still smells like rotten fish. Now he's connected to Montanari, Hernandez, and our foreign conspirators. Perfect company for this character.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

A political motive could surely animate him. Assassination wouldn't even be off the table.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

I wonder which candidate he's supporting. His services usually go to the highest bidder.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Respectable candidates stay a mile away.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Victari's messaging is restricted to his campaign site and public appearances. He's mocked Obama's reliance on social media as childish and unmanly.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

OK, what does his policy statements look like?

WHIT pulls up VICTARI website with frowned brows.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

He doesn't post any real policy statements. Just complaints about government writ large. Wait a second, here's a recent document referred to as a policy statement on national security!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

What does it say?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Not very detailed. Just about how tough-minded he is. Wait a minute, Mandy. Look at this! The second half is about rare mineral policy!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

You're kidding! Rare minerals! Victari?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

It's a withering critique of Senator Obama's plan to join a European and Japanese World Trade lawsuit over Chinese export restrictions.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

So he's opposing efforts to correct the competitive

imbalance? Pro-China and anti-Obama? Really?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

He says our myriad restrictions on mining causes the imbalance. Chinese "free enterprise" is none of our business. Complaints about unethical practices constitute whining and weakness.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

So no plan to catch up. Just complaints about Obama?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Right. He's mocking his talk of asteroid mining, rare mineral stockpiles, and formal supply chains with international trade rules.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

That could be written by Chao Fu Chen. China may have found a bargain-price Manchurian candidate.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Victari's already rich. Why would he risk it all for a few more dollars? That doesn't make sense.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Maybe his animus toward Obama runs that deep?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

He'd be facing the electric chair if caught. It would have been ridiculously reckless.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

There's a lot of smoke coming from that campaign.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Why would he game for a 3rd-place consolation prize?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Maybe he detonates the bomb out in a cornfield and it catapults him to frontrunner status? His prescient warnings could look Churchillian.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Chen wouldn't be satisfied with lip service from a fringe candidate. He wants Senator Obama out of the picture, and early conversations between Yang and Montanari indicated as much.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

So why would Montanari need guys like Droner or

Victari to achieve Yang and Chen's objective? He could have just relied on his brother-in-law.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Maybe we're overthinking this thing. Montanari's rendezvous with Droner could be unrelated to our case. It could be a different gift or dirty trick.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

We'll be looking a lot closer at Droner this week, and let's still keep Victari in mind as well.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

I wonder when Victari announced his candidacy?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Good question! Our man from the west suggested the conspiracy was hatched between meetings in Athens and Rome. That's November 9th and December 18th.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Here it is! December 15th. A Sunday morning news program. He announced an exploratory committee funded by ten million dollars of his own money!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Good grief. We need to talk with Johnny Youngblood.

70 INT. FBI REGIONAL OFFICE (DALLAS, TEXAS) - NIGHT

WHIT & POWERS with HORTON in Dallas regional command center. Live camera feed of house. Audio feed crackles episodically (routine voices of field agents).

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)

Droner hasn't left Dallas in months. Always was a jet-setter with hands on everything.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

So why's he grounded? Medical or family issues?

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)

He looks healthy to me. Every move is calculated.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Exactly. His barista, bartender, butcher, and barber can now testify he's been minding his business at home all fall. That's perfect cover.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Normative phone contacts and conversations?

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)
So far. Lazy neighborhood on Centre Street. A
quarter mile from Oswald's theater on Jefferson.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Oswald's theater? Where the police caught him?

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)
Yep, that's it. Texas Theatre.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Why am I not surprised he likes being close.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We need to throw this guy a curveball.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I like the sound of that. What did you have in mind?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Hal. That bar we visited last night on Jefferson.
You said it's a favorite Droner haunt?

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)
Looks like it. Patsies. We followed him there twice
this week at happy hour. A block from his home.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Did you notice the old corner phone booth. It's
still operational. I checked it before we left.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
How could that phone booth be of value to us?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
What would you do if you had an urgent need to place
a phone call but feared your phones were bugged?

71 INT. DRONER HOME (DALLAS, TEXAS) - NIGHT

DRONER and WIFE watch BAT evening news. Cell phone rings.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
Hello? Hello? HELLO?!

WIFE
Another dead line? I get those calls all the time.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
I don't like late-night butt dialing. People should pay attention to what the hell they're doing.

WIFE
It's just a wrong number Bruce.

DRONER checks phone. Shakes head in annoyance.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
Nope. Someone who was told not to call me at home.

WIFE
Just call him back. He means no harm.

DRONER sits in frustration. Bolts out of chair.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
Well there goes a perfectly peaceful night. I'll be back in 20 minutes. Gotta go to Patsies.

WIFE
Patsies! At this hour?

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
I'll be right back.

72 INT. FBI REGIONAL OFFICE (DALLAS, TEXAS) - NIGHT

WHIT & POWERS sit with Dallas FBI Special Agent (HORTON) in surveillance command center.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Somebody's dialing. Ten to one we know who it is!

Ringling phone on speaker.

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)
Quiet guys. Let's listen.

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.
Hello? Hello? Who's this? Speak, or I'm hanging up!

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER) - V.O.
Boze. It's me. Why the hell are you calling me at home? You know better than that!

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.
I didn't call you! What the hell are you doing calling me? It's still spring cleaning. Get off the

line if you don't want both of us to get pinched.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER) - V.O.
Don't worry about it. No way this line's bugged, and you're running a presidential campaign. They'd never cross that Rubicon.

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.
You don't think so, huh? This is sloppy, Bruce.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER) - V.O.
A call came from your phone less than an hour ago!

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.
Well it wasn't me.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER) - V.O.
You musta butt dialed me or something? Please tell me my number isn't in your phone memory, right?

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.
Of course not. Look, I don't know what happened, but return to protocol. This call never happened.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER) - V.O.
OK. Then tell Big Fish everything's under control. The last tango's in sight despite the hurricane.

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.
You've had too much to drink. Get some sleep. I have no idea what you're talking about. Just do me a favor. Stay the hell away from my candidate.

Dial tone ends call.

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)
Who the heck is this new contact?! How'd ya know he'd bite on that dead call?!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We've been working a hunch with Johnny.

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)
Who's the guy anyway?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
At this stage, just a prospective co-conspirator.

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)
How'd you pull off the butt dial?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
No butt dial. It was David Moore back at Quantico.

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)
Aren't you guys concerned about entrapment?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Signed off at the highest levels. The Bureau's more concerned about prevention than prosecution.

73 INT. HOMELAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS (WASHINGTON) - DAY

GRESHAM chairs session (DOVELAND, PORTMAN, LARSIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, FINKS, GAYLEE, KELLER, FRANCO, GRESHAM, GLAZER, CAPONE, WHITMER, MOORE, LETO, FINKS, POLTOVSKY, VILLARUBIA, SLOTA, LEAT, WILLIAMS, WHIT & POWERS).

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
We're pleased to have the Attorney General and Secret Service director with us today. I see Powers and Whit are back. Let's review where we stand.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
Suspects include Vincent Montanari from Long Beach, Virgil Hernandez from Miami, and transport crew members Nestor Rivero, Elian Garcia, and Harry Cherd. Political operative Bruce Droner from Dallas is a new person of interest.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Droner raises special concerns. New leads suggest he's been in contact with both Montanari and Boze Dagon who manages the campaign of Jack Victari.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Victari? Are you accusing a presidential candidate of plotting to assassinate a rival?! May I remind everyone that he's a Secret Service protectee.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Droner met Montanari in Dallas. Last night he phoned Dagon and asked him to tell "Big Fish" the "last tango" was in sight despite the hurricane.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We believe Mr. Victari warrants surveillance. He may know the target and location of this plot.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Director Larsien, with all due respect, that move

Would have fantastic implications. Who knows why Droner called Victari's political advisor?

WHITMER (CIA DIRECTOR)

We should consider benign explanations. It's not clear Dagon knew what Droner was talking about. He even warned him to stay away from his candidate. Droner's a creature of the political underbelly. He could be linked to many ugly characters.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

Droner and Victari have a long relationship. Why so keen to keep it hidden? Whit and Powers also established a confluence of interests between the candidate and Chao Fu Chen.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Jack Victari's recently shown a curious interest in rare minerals. He seems to be running interference for Chen by attacking Senator Obama's initiatives.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Victari also announced his candidacy between the Athens and Rome meetings. He pledged a ten million dollars of his own money to support the campaign.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

That's a lot of smoke in Dallas and Long Beach.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)

My unit is still charged with protecting this candidate. What are we supposed to do now?

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

This remains deep background information Jerry. We thought you should be in the loop. We recognize it's a complicated angle for the service.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)

I'll have to lie if suspicions are aroused and we'll next be asked to disclose communications with the candidate. Subpoenas could follow. These intrusions violate the trust we instill in our protectees. I'll be forced to resign if we proceed.

POWERS & WHIT look down, swallow hard in embarrassment.
LARSIEEN (penetrating eye contact) leans toward Portman.

LARSIEEN (FBI DIRECTOR)

We understand the inconvenience inflicted on the

Secret Service by the potential criminality of a presidential candidate. Your job is to protect, not spy, on your charges. I get that.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Right, so let's lower the tenor of this discussion.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
Just to be clear, MY job is to find a goddamned 1.6 kiloton nuclear bomb that has been deployed against Senator Obama! Do you understand Mr. Director?

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Remember that my agents would be the target of that bomb too if it was deployed!

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
It would be unfortunate to violate the privacy of an innocent political candidate polling at 5%. That violation would be regrettable, but you know what would be worse? Finding out in a month that he was involved in a treasonous assassination plot!

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
Gentlemen, none of us want the topic of negligence mentioned at the top of our obituaries. Let's just keep our eyes on the ball. We're all one team here.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Did the FISA court authorize these surveillance tactics? That phone call sounds like entrapment. I just want to go on record saying so.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
Your objection has been duly noted.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
If innocent, what's the origin of Victari's mineral policy? And what did Bruce Droner's mean about the last tango being in sight? Or his mention of the hurricane that delayed the bomb's delivery?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Why would Droner be so triggered by a call from a presidential campaign? He lives for such contacts. Why was Dagon skittish as well?

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)
How about this course of action? Boze Dagon is not himself a candidate. What if we try to expand

the FISA warrant to him alone? We could then go for expansion if Victari is further implicated.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
A measured approach could work. The election is more than five weeks away. How about that approach Jerry? We can't have you resigning.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
How about Montanari? He's still under watch, right?

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
Yes, with an arrest warrant near.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Could someone explain Jack Victari's motive in this murder plot? Why would a man of his wealth and status take such a risk? Ideology? Vengeance? Racism? His only personal beef is with McCain.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
An assassination might give him cachet for a future presidential run. He could maybe become a 2012 frontrunner if he predicted a terrorist attack.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
That's wild speculation. Why would Chen and Montanari need him and Droner in the first place? They would complicate things. This is half-baked.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We don't know Victari's motives, but maybe it's time to consider if the plot originated with him and Droner, rather than Chen and Yang.

Room silence. WHITMER & FINKS raise eyebrows. LARSIEN & YOUNGBLOOD smirk. FRANCO nods.

74 INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (JUDGE'S CHAMBER) - DAY

DOVELAND & GRESHAM meet with Judge Alonzo PEAL.

PEAL (FEDERAL JUDGE)
Gentlemen, you've established probable cause of a conspiracy involving U.S. actors. You're asserting that alternative methods of inquiry against Mr. Dagon would delay intelligence gathering and elevate risks posed to the country?

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)

That's correct, Judge.

PEAL (FEDERAL JUDGE)

Fine Mr. Attorney General. Here's my concerns. Your evidence of Mr. Dagon's involvement is circumstantial. You're asking this court to suspend his 4th fourth amendment protections on the basis of an entrapped phone call. Your evidence implicates Bruce Droner, not Boze Dagon.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

We're asking for some latitude, Judge, given the seriousness of the situation.

PEAL (FEDERAL JUDGE)

I understand that Frank, but the campaign manager's office is only 100 feet from Victari's NFB suite. Dagon's office is the candidate's property. You're standing on shaky constitutional grounds gentlemen.

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)

The office is technically owned by NFB which has minority owners. The Justice Department is asking the court's indulgence given the unusual magnitude and urgency of the threat.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

The FBI has demonstrated that Mr. Dagon and Droner know each other well. The tenor of their conversation suggested Mr. Victari's involvement in covert activity presumably related to our plot.

PEAL (FEDERAL JUDGE)

Presumably, huh? Mr. Attorney General, you now raise an even greater concern for this court. It seems clear that Justice is primarily interested in presidential candidate Jack Victari.

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)

We're interested in the activities of both men.

PEAL (FEDERAL JUDGE)

In fact, Mr. Dagon may not even be aware of the criminal activity you've inferred between Mr. Droner and the candidate. Probable cause for Victari is lacking, and it sounds like you hope to entrap him in talk with Dagon down the hall.

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)

Our focus is investigatory, not prosecutorial.

PEAL (FEDERAL JUDGE)

Now Attorney General, you know better than that. There's no distinction in the constitution. Your phone call from Dangon to Droner was entrapment. It extended beyond the initial court order. You do recall the fruit of the poisonous tree, right?

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)

Deputy Director Youngblood approved the call in an effort to get Droner talking about the election. He knew they were old friends.

PEAL (FEDERAL JUDGE)

So you're asking the FISA court to believe that the FBI could have selected anyone from Droner's world?

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)

Well no Judge. We don't wish suggest that. Dangon was linked to a campaign implicated from an investigation. It was not our intent to entrap him.

PEAL (FEDERAL JUDGE)

Very well. Let's just leave it at that for now.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

May we ask your honor to consider the possibility that Dangon is involved without his candidate's awareness? Political operatives sometimes go rogue.

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)

We're asking for a week to assess Mr. Dangon. We may generate intercepts that exculpate Mr. Victari without a FISA extension. No harm, no foul?

PEAL (FEDERAL JUDGE)

Mr. Victari has no need to prove his innocence. It's presumed by this court. You've instead established that Mr. Dangon had "no idea" what Droner was talking about. He even wished him to "stay away" from the candidate. That's verbatim from your own surveillance transcript, gentlemen.

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)

Actually Judge, a different interpretation might be that Dangon feared the conversation was recorded.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Remember Nixon's ad lib disclaimer that paying hush money "would be wrong". He was planting exculpatory evidence. We think Dangon did the same.

PEAL (FEDERAL JUDGE)
OK, OK gentlemen. Given the circumstances, I'll authorize monitoring of Dagon for one week only.

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)
Thank you sir.

PEAL (FEDERAL JUDGE)
I'm ordering transcript redactions of all names and identities who are not implicated. This order applies explicitly to conversations regarding the political calculus of the Victari campaign.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
We understand. That was never our intention.

75 INT. FBI REGIONAL OFFICE (BEL AIR, CA) - NIGHT

WHIT & POWERS listen to incoming surveillance with ADLER.
Clock reads 2:00 pm.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Victari's made it back to Bel Air after Oxford.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
That was some crazy ranting he did there.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
The BAT audience eat it up. It was a relief seeing him there. His attendance made it safer for us.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We may not be so lucky in Nashville next week.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Surveillance authorization for Dagon may be done then too. We're running on fumes here at NFB.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Conversations thus far suggests his staff is in the dark. They assume Victari's headed for defeat.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
They're confused as to why he's buoyant. His finance manager was even directed to rent the Beverly Hills Hotel ballroom for election night.

ADLER (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)
A wall-penetrating microphone was planted in the bottom corner of the picture window. Just walked

right up in the middle of the night. No security.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Victari insulated himself. No one seem to know.

ADLER (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)
How about the girlfriend, Selina Griffen?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I doubt it. He surely wouldn't trust her either.

DISSOLVE TO:

Clock reads 5:45 pm. Team transfixed to audio feed.

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.
Interesting VP debate in Saint Louis this week.

SLEMAN (CAMPAIGN PR) - V.O.
I thought Palin did a pretty good job against Biden.

GOLDMAN (CAMPAIGN COUNSEL) - V.O.
I'd prefer McCain since we're not gonna win.

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.
Better keep your thoughts to yourself, Micky. Just remember that McCain insulted us to our faces.

GOLDMAN (CAMPAIGN COUNSEL) - V.O.
McCain's still better than Obama, Tim.

SLEMAN (CAMPAIGN PR) - V.O.
You're gonna be fine when this whole thing is over, but we're gonna get blamed for sure.

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.
We tried to warn him about the rhetoric. The media has been laughing at him for months.

SLEMAN (CAMPAIGN PR) - V.O.
Surprised it hasn't gotten more under his skin.

BOYLER & WERKLEY can be heard wandering in.

WERKLEY (CAMPAIGN FINANCE) - V.O.
It'll be great to return to legitimate NFB business. This diversion earned publicity, but our expenses will never be recouped despite dark money.

GOLDMAN (CAMPAIGN COUNSEL) - V.O.

Have you guys ever heard of campaign finance laws?

WERKLEY (CAMPAIGN FINANCE) - V.O.
We're getting paid. That's all I care about.

VICTARI enters room loudly.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
What's all you care about Werkley? You guys talking
behind my back again?

GOLDMAN (CAMPAIGN COUNSEL) - V.O.
We're just talking about the campaign Jack.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
Get up Dagon. Go sit on the couch.

Sound of Victari's feet pounded up on desk one at a time.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
It's almost showtime, boys.

SLEMAN (CAMPAIGN PR) - V.O.
I don't know boss, inside numbers have us behind.
The public hasn't reacted so good to your threats
against the Russians. Some say it's reckless.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
You pay too much attention to your little polls
Sleman! You have no political instincts!

SLEMAN (CAMPAIGN PR) - V.O.
We don't know how to respond to questions about
your secret plan to force countries to disarm.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
You don't need to respond. It's not your job to
respond. A "secret" plan is no longer secret once
you start blabbing about it.

GOLDMAN (CAMPAIGN COUNSEL) - V.O.
I get it! Now you're free to come up with whatever
plan you want once elected. Brilliant everybody!

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
Exactly Goldman, but you're wrong about one thing.
I do have a secret plan. Our adversaries will have
no choice but concessions.

GOLDMAN (CAMPAIGN COUNSEL) - V.O.

What leverage would you be able to wield?

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
They'll learn behind closed doors there's room
for only one superpower in my administration.
My catchphrase will be "one or none". They'll
have two months to announce gradual dismantlement.

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.
Two months??

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
A nuclear detonation will otherwise occur on their
soil every Sunday at noon. They'll be warned that
any counterattack would be met with full assault.

GOLDMAN (CAMPAIGN COUNSEL) - V.O.
Good Lord.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
Reagan had the same madman advantage.

VICTARI laughs maniacally. Momentary room silence.

GOLDMAN (CAMPAIGN COUNSEL) - V.O.
With all due respect sir, such threats could prompt
first strike mobilizations from our adversaries?

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
Nobody's gonna hit the United States Goldman.
THAT would be insane since they'd know I'd
retaliate with every nuclear warhead we've got!

GOLDMAN (CAMPAIGN COUNSEL) - V.O.
But no country is gonna roll over to extortion.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
Of course they will. We've grossly underleveraged
the threat we pose. It would be irresponsible for
world leader to resist my demands.

SLEMAN (CAMPAIGN PR) - V.O.
Remember guys that the boss says there's no need
to discuss his secret plan. It's classified.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
Don't get your palms sweaty Sleman. Threats are
the opening salvo. Carrots come through back
channels. All I want is small reductions over time.
It's confidence building diplomacy with benefits.

GOLDMAN (CAMPAIGN COUNSEL) - V.O.
You really believe adversaries would make even small reductions in response to threats or bribes?

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
I'm not bribing anyone. That's the beauty Goldman. They're gonna bribe me! Why the hell would I care about the number of bombs the Russian or Cubans or Chinese possess? That's their business.

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.
A reverse bait and switch! Sounds ominous at first, but then they see it's a game with mutual benefits.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
I need a show of respect. My voters will praise gradual disarmament. Smart leaders will know to come calling when the price is right.

SLEMAN (CAMPAIGN PR) - V.O.
It's all moot if we don't overcome this 35 point deficit in the next three weeks.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
You guys just worry about keeping my name in the BAT news. Ignore Sleman's analytics. Emphasize my talking points. A lot can happen in October.

Audio ends. POWERS, WHIT & WILLIAMS stunned.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Sleman referred to Victari as Big Fish! The same reference Droner used with Dangon!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
A lot can happen in October!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
The voters have a right to hear his chilling secret plan. That guy's unfit for office.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We're only authorized to memorialize intercepts directly relate to the plot. Victari's geopolitical strategizing has to be redacted.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Here we go again. The bad guys always benefit from the laws they're intent on breaking?

76 INT. HOMELAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS (WASHINGTON) - DAY

GRESHAM chairs session (DOVELAND, PORTMAN, BAYER, LARSIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, FINKS, GAYLEE, KELLER, FRANCO, GRESHAM, GLAZER, CAPONE, WHITMER, MOORE, LETO, FINKS, POLTOVSKY, VILLARUBIA, SLOTA, LEAT, WILLIAMS, WHIT & POWERS).

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

There have been remarkable overnight developments in international arenas. Director Capone?

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)

Sources in China report that Asher Yang and Chao Fu Chen have been arrested, prosecuted, and executed for undisclosed crimes against the state.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Chinese Ambassador Jian Luo has informed the White House that his government is unaware of nefarious activities directed toward the United States.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)

Nondential denials. Yang and Chen mustn't have coughed up actionable details. They're hoping the American conspirators get busted on our end.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

That sounds right, Franco. Their warning to us was to focus on domestic politics. He warned of retaliation if blamed for American violence.

CAPONE (CIA ASIAN PACIFIC)

It's a cryptic effort to close the chapter. Execute two high-ranking officials and deny involvement.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)

Old school cold war dialogue. Time to move on after assurance that whatever didn't happen won't happen again. Nothing to see here. Candor is dangerous geopolitical stagecraft.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Deputy Director Finks, where do we stand?

FINKS (CIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

Grako remains in Italian custody. The Belarusian operatives are still visiting our agency boys.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

Hernandez remains unhelpful. Other than a physical

description, the transfer boater remains a mystery.

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)

The Bureau's still looking for information about the Cubans. Their trail was lost at Last Island.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

It's my understanding Mr. Director that the FBI is ready to reinforce a hypothesis floated last week?

Attendees fidget. Tension in air.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)

A recent theory poses heightened concern about the two remaining presidential debates. Nashville's in two days. Hofstra's a week later.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

We've been assuming that the debates were the least likely venue for an attack on Obama.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)

Bruce Droner is a political operator who capitalizes on turmoil and confusion. Dr. Whit?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

He's driven by a familiar trait cluster of Machiavellianism, narcissism, psychopathy, and sadism. Many analysts believe the dark tetrad poses the greatest threat to civilized society today.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Our investigation may be missing one of two motives for this plot. The Eastern conspirators appeared animated by financial interests, but Droner is a political animal who lusts for power. This plot may have been initiated in Dallas, not Beijing.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Droner may have found a way to merge Eastern business interests with ideological and power mandates from the West. Who stands to benefit from an attack, and is he a Droner compatriot?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Victari got his bomb, and Chen and Yang secured the protection of American conspirators. The politician wins power. The businessmen preserve their wealth.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

Montanari may have been recruited by Droner to find a contact who possessed a nuclear device. It would have been a psychopathic marriage made in hell.

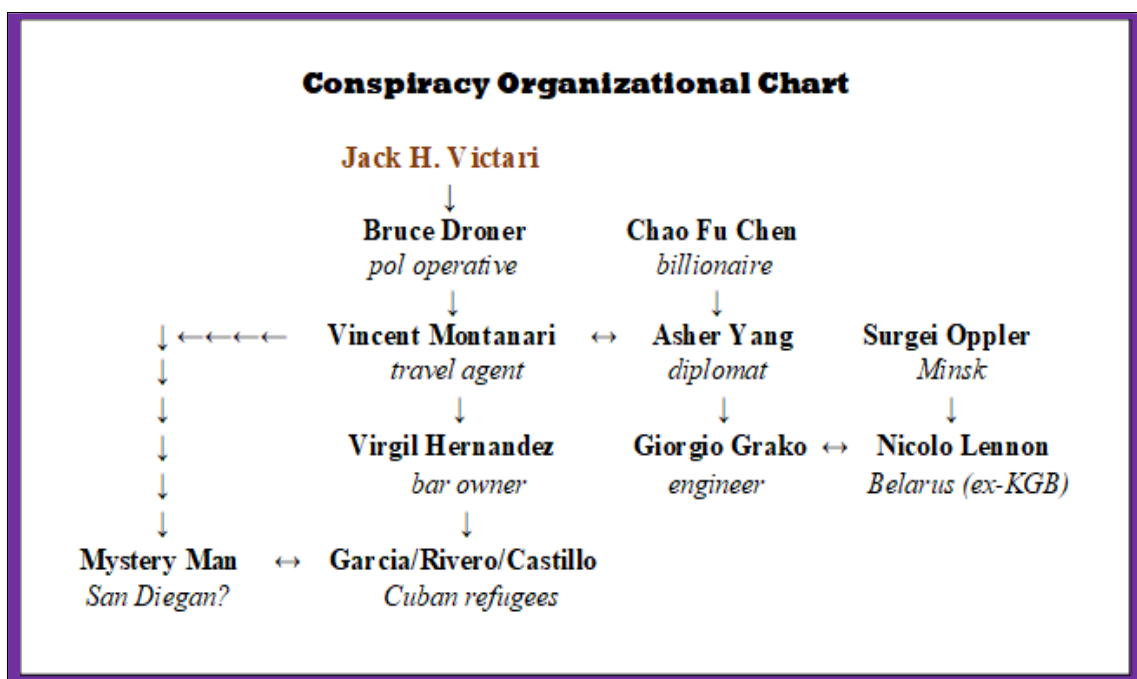
SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)

Asher could have leveraged his relationship with Grako to secure the bomb from ex-KGB officers Nicolo Lennon and Surgei Oppler in Eastern Europe.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

We posit the lead assassin is a mystery man from San Diego. He took possession of the bomb and crew at Last Island. The players are all cutouts with knowledge limited to their personal roles.

WHIT clicks on conspiracy schematic. Audible gasps in room.



POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Hernandez was recruited by Montanari and only met Lennon and the mystery man while transferring the bomb at Tenerife and Whiskey Island.

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)

Are you still speculating Victari was motivated by future presidential aspirations? Sure seems like a lot of risk for purposes of electing John McCain.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

No sir. We now believe that Victari's October surprise is the assassination of *both* candidates

within the next ten days in Nashville or Hempstead.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

The detonation would occur on national television with breadcrumbs leading back to Russia and Cuba. Victari would redirect attention from China.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Does Chao Fu Chen's animus extend to both men?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

We believe his target is Senator Obama. It's the American conspirators that concern us.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Are Montanari and Hernandez motivated by ideology?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Both money and ideology. They were well paid but see Obama as a communist threat. The plot Droner described to Montanari was against the Senator. He's probably unaware of Victari's involvement, and Hernandez may have not known his cargo was a nuke.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Droner and Victari wouldn't benefit from the assassination of a single candidate. They'd need both of them out of the way for immediate gain.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

For what end?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

To win the presidency. Victari would crow as the only candidate who warned about the threat. It might catapult him to the top of the polls.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

So your theory posits that the risk of an attack is actually highest when the candidates are together?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Yes sir. Nashville or Hofstra on the 7th and 15th.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Droner made specific reference to the last tango.

BAYER (NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR)

Am I to inform the President that we're now facing

the threat of losing *both* major party candidates in a nuclear detonation weeks before the election?

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)
Nashville needs to be postponed!

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
The public would panic, and Victari would be the beneficiary. A precipitous move could play right onto his hands without even using the bomb.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
We need the bomb in our sights before we move. The element of surprise remains on our side. Oxford looks like a minimal risk. Victari will be there.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
He's been protesting his exclusion from the debate. The broadcasting booths will be outside the Ford Center. We should be fine for in three days.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
The Curb Event Center at Belmont University will be covered with neutron and gamma counters.

LETO (CIA WEAPONS ANALYSIS)
Radiation detectors are not foolproof. It doesn't sound like the device is lead protected, and it helps the assassins don't see us coming.

FRANCO (DIRECTOR CIA CLANDESTINE)
Range is an issue, right Nickle?

LETO (CIA WEAPONS ANALYSIS)
Range is always an issue in nuclear detection sir. It's my estimate we'd pick up trace readings from at least 200 feet. We've got a dozen detectors and drones around the city.

BAYER (NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR)
Have the candidates been notified of the risk?

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Campaigns are informed daily of dozens of threats. We try to keep them focused on imminent risks.

BAYER (NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR)
Senator Obama could still be a unitary target, right? Can you assure the President he's getting maximum protection at all campaign stops? We could

be wrong about the debate threat.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)

Of course he is. Debate prep tomorrow in Asheville, radio appearance and press gaggle at Grove Park before supper at 12 Bones Smokehouse. Then on to Nashville with a post-debate reception at Al Gore's house in Belle Meade. Indiana Fairgrounds the next morning with Thursday rallies in four cities.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

We're in uncharted waters, and everyone needs to speak clearly about their views. A detonation could occur on the campaign trail, in downtown Chicago, or an open field in North Dakota. The President could receive a ransom for billions of dollars.

DOVELAND (ATTORNEY GENERAL)

The time's come to petition the FISA court to expand its authorization to include Jack Victari.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Montanari will be arrested in the morning. Droner will be brought in for interrogation as well. They may or may not be aware of the Hernandez raid.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)

The arrest and detention of Montanari and Droner may draw attention. We need a public statement.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Who's going to interrogate the two principles?

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

I'm deploying Whit overnight to Dallas. Powers and Williams will head to Long Beach.

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE OF a) WHIT on late night military air transport plane; b) POWERS on late night military air transport plane; c) FBI drags MONTANARI out of home with wife and two young children crying; d) FBI converse with DRONER (smiles, shrugs assent) on front door step; e) drone image of Dallas FBI office; f) drone image of Long Beach FBI office.

77 INT. MONTANARI HOME (LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA) - DAY

POWERS & WILLIAMS interview MONTANARI and defense attorney (LAMM) in mirrored examination room.

LAMM (DEFENSE ATTORNEY)

You dragged my client out of his home in the front of his wife and children. This is outrageous!

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)

If he answers a few questions about his campaign contributions we may be able to return home.

LAMM (DEFENSE ATTORNEY)

Specify the charges or we're leaving.

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)

Let's hear 'em out, Robert. I have nothing to hide.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Well Mr. Montanari, you made donations to the campaign of Senator John McCain, correct?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)

No officer, that is incorrect.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

How about Senator Obama?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)

For sure not Obama. I wouldn't vote for him if my life depended on it.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Really? Why not? You're not a Democrat?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)

Of course not, I'm a businessman. Obama's a radical left wing communist Muslim.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

How about Jack Victari? Have you donated to him?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)

Uh, uh, no. I don't give money to politicians.

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)

Well do you know Mr. Victari?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)

Uh, uh, sure, I know him, but why are you asking me about him. He's just a third party candidate.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

How about Bruce Droner? Have you ever heard of him?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)

Bruce Droner? A name from the past. I guess I knew him. We worked together on a Texas campaign long ago. I booked his travel arrangements.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

So when was the last time you spoke to Bruce Droner?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)

It's been decades. I have no association with him, or Jack Victari, or John McCain. You guys missed the mark on your little narrative.

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)

How about this narrative Monty? Do you know a man from Miami named Virgil Hernandez?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)

Well uh, of course. He's my brother-in-law. What's Virgil got to do with today?

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)

Are you aware that he's been arrested?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)

Arrested?! What for? When did that happen?

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)

What do you think were the charges?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)

No idea! Last I heard he was crossing the Atlantic.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Were you in Athens, Greece on December 26th of 2007?

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)

What?! What are you talking about?! I've never set foot in Greece. What makes you think I was there?

LAMM (DEFENSE ATTORNEY)

Just be quiet, Monty. We need to confer.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

How about Rome on January 3rd?

MONTANARI (stone silent) stares at POWERS.

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)

Hong Kong on May 20th?

MONTANARI (stone silent) stares at WILLIAMS.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Why'd you stop in San Diego after leaving Hong Kong?

LAMM (DEFENSE ATTORNEY)
That's it folks. We're done here!

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)
I'm afraid your client is under arrest for
conspiring to assassinate Senator Barack Obama.

LAMM (DEFENSE ATTORNEY)
What?!

MONTANARI (CONSPIRATOR)
I don't know nothing about an assassination plot!
Bruce Droner asked to meet in Dallas last year. I
found it odd he kept asking questions about my
brother-in-law. He had some kind of business deal
involving a Chinese partner. That's all I know!

LAMM (DEFENSE ATTORNEY)
Shut up, Monty! This interview is over!

78 INT. FBI REGIONAL OFFICE (DALLAS, TEXAS) - DAY

WHIT & HORTON interview DRONER (cool as cucumber, beams
at attention) and QUINN (attorney, \$1,000 suit).

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
Why so serious, Agent Whit? You look unfamiliar to
me. Are you from the Dallas force like Agent Horton?

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)
Mr. Quinn beat us to the station. Impressive, sir.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
They work fast in Weatherford's office.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Generated lots of business for him over the years?

DRONER smiles, laughs, nods toward QUINN.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
Yes ma'am, I guess I have. Somebody's gotta buy
Weatherford these suits.

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)

Let's get around to our questions so you can leave.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)

No! No need to hurry, Agent Horton. All the time in the world. You know my respect for the agency.

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)

Yes sir. Do you know a man by the name of Virgil Hernandez from Miami?

DRONER squinches face in thought.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)

Hernandez . . . Hernandez? No, I don't think that name rings a bell.

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)

Arrested last week on a murder conspiracy charge?

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)

Poor guy. Better get himself a good attorney. I'm afraid that Mr. Quinn is not available.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

How about a man named Vincent Montanari?

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)

Monty? Sure, I know Monty? Met him in Dallas a couple weeks back. He's an old friend. Fine fellow.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

So what was the point of that rendezvous?

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)

He was in town for the night and had other plans.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Are you aware he was arrested this morning?

DRONER pauses very briefly to collect thoughts.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)

Arrested? Monty? Why was Monty arrested? That man's never been in trouble before in his life.

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)

Same charges as his brother-in-law Hernandez.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)

Such a shame. I'll have to give him a call of

support. I'm sure you guys are ready to convict him by association, but I'm sure he's innocent.

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)

We heard he's ready to throw you under the bus.

DRONER smirks.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)

So your flipping game has begun? Best not count on me as one of your dance partners.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

You understand how we might view your rendezvous with Montanari as really suspicious?

QUINN (DEFENSE ATTORNEY)

Time to go Bruce. This is a fishing expedition.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)

That's OK. I like these two agents. They think they're on to something. It's exciting.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

The purpose of the meeting in Ferris Plaza?

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)

Oh, Ferris Plaza? Did you get good pictures? I prefer my right side. It's always better.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Mr. Droner? Are you going to cooperate?

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)

OK, you got me Agent Whit. I now must confess. I'm not the boy scout people think I am. Frankly, Monty isn't either. You see, he was in Dallas looking for love. I happen to know a working girl who suited him well. I trust you've met her too.

HORTON (FBI DALLAS AGENT)

We were able to track her down Robbie. Looks like an extended one night performance.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)

I would never do such a thing to Mrs. Droner. I'm a man of ethics, but I never judge a man for his sexual peccadillos. They can come in handy in my business. Tell Monty I said hello when you meet.

QUINN (DEFENSE ATTORNEY)

Are we done here?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
When did you last speak to Boze Dagon Bruce?

DRONER sighs with clear annoyance. Stares at WHIT.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
I see. I get the picture. OK, let's play. I know Boze Dagon from way back. We were friends at one time, and I haven't spoken to him in 20 years.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
20 years? Really? Are you sure?

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
Yes I'm pretty sure. Are you claiming otherwise? If so, I'd like to see your evidence.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
You know what Dagon's been up to in recent years?

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
Sure. He's managing Jack Victari's campaign.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
So you know Victari?

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
Yes. I was friends with him long ago in Los Angeles. What would these two guys have to do with a semi-retired political consultant in Dallas?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Actually sir, we're trying to figure that out.

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
Well again, I'd appreciate you avoiding the error of convicting a guy by association. Yes I know those two men, but we have no business together. To be honest, I'm not even gonna vote for Jack.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Really? So who is your candidate this cycle?

DRONER (CAMPAIGN FIXER)
I'm voting for Obama. His story is just too good. An inspiration to our minority communities. That man deserves a term in office.

79 INT. CURB EVENT CENTER (NASHVILLE, TENN) - NIGHT

GRESHAM, YOUNGBLOOD, WILLIAMS, SLOTA, VILLARUBIA, LEAT, WHIT & POWERS huddle behind stage scanning monitoring screens. Ambient stadium sound (500+ attendees) testify to charged atmosphere.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
So Droner clammed up, and Montanari got shaky?

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Monty was shaken by news of the Hernandez arrest and our awareness of his travel activities.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Droner lives for these moments. He'd rather go to prison for life than rat on a superior.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
Can you agents reassure me again that tonight's just a dress rehearsal? Victari's in the building?

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT)
We've got him leaving the hotel. He'll be planted right outside the building on TV and radio feeds.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
We've got cameras scanning this event center, up and down Belmont and Bernard Avenues, throughout campus, and even the surrounding neighborhoods.

MONTAGE OF: a) crowds assembling; b) advance protective details at back entrance; c) Victari leaves hotel; d) Obama enters back entrance; e) McCain enters back entrance; e) helicopter running back of building; f) Victari (plaid suit, lavender shirt, bright green tie) exits limo with fanfare (boos peppered with cheers).

POWERS & WHIT watch VICTARI'S diatribe (animated expressions, flailing arm gestures) on national TV.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
He sure looks comfortable. Having the time of his life. No sense of distraction or urgency to leave.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Not tonight. Let's still keep our eyes open.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
The last tango's next week. We can relax tonight.

80 INT. FBI HEADQUARTERS (WASHINGTON, D.C.) - DAY

LARSIEN brainstorms with YOUNGBLOOD, SLOTA, LEAT, WILLIAMS, WHIT & POWERS.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)

The FISA court denied the Attorney General's petition to surveil the presidential candidate. Dagon surveillance was extended.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

Wait'll you all hear Victari on this latest feed. Most of it will have to be redacted.

YOUNGBLOOD plays audio.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.

I got more attention from the Oxford and Nashville debates than the so-called leading candidates.

DAGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.

Those losers are now headed to Long Island for the final debate. We'll be on C-SPAN in New York.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.

I'll be kicking ass center stage when their debate begins. I'll bet the press starts checking into our debate before their little tango ends.

DAGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.

You're bringing us all to New York, right? Sleman, Goldman, and Werkley too?

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.

Everybody but Selina. My voters seem to love her. Not sure why. Dumb as a rock and a pain in the ass.

DAGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.

The men kinda drool over her sir.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.

And the women fantasize about being my girlfriend. I gave her permission to represent me at Hofstra.

DAGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER) - V.O.

I'm sure the cameras will find her.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.

They'll get their money's worth. After Wednesday night, we'll need to batten down the hatches.

Tape stopped.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Victari's absence from the final debate alarms me.

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
Doesn't Griffen's attendance rule out an attack?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Could you guys think of any better cover than the death of his girlfriend in the blast?

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
Are you guys that cynical about this candidate?

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Yes Albert, we are. I agree that Griffen's deployment to Hofstra is a five-alarm fire.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
It's a bridge too far for me. I'll feel safer with her in attendance. An open-field explosion could achieve similar objectives at minimized risk.

81 INT. BAYVILLE CAMP GROUNDS (LONG ISLAND, N.Y.) - DAY

CHERD (SIG Sauer M17 handgun at hip) sits with Cubans GARCIA, RIVERO & CASTILLO in 25-foot Winnebago camper.

RIVERO (CUBAN 2)
What's the mission? When are you gonna tell us?

CHERD (ASSASSIN)
OK. Fair enough. We're here to put a scare into some communist politicians who are meeting about an hour away. This is Long Island. You know, New York?

RIVERO (CUBAN 2)
What kind of scare? So it is a bomb in the backpack?

CHERD (ASSASSIN)
Yes it is. Virgil didn't tell you that much?

GARCIA (CUBAN 1)
Virgil said it would all be explained. We didn't know it would be this long.

CASTILLO (CUBAN 3)
How big of bang could you get outta something that small? Besides, why'd we have to go half-way around

the world to get it?

CHERD (ASSASSIN)

It's special dynamite called estallido estallido. Can't find it in the states. It blows up four times in a row and makes an awful smell and noise.

CASTILLO (CUBAN 3)

Bang bang? That's weird. Where'd it come from?

CHERD (ASSASSIN)

Libya, through the Canary Islands. It's from Muammar Gaddafi's black market. It'll scare the crap out of these communist sympathizers.

RIVERO (CUBAN 2)

So when and how do we do this?

CHERD (ASSASSIN)

We'll drive to Hempstead and drop Garcia and Castillo away from the bomb site for interference.

RIVERO (CUBAN 2)

So then what?

CHERD (ASSASSIN)

I have a special place set up for the bomb. You'll be in a container that will make it even louder.

RIVERO (CUBAN 2)

Don't you wanna be the one who sets it off?

CHERD (ASSASSIN)

You can do it fine. I'll show you. I've gotta make sure everyone gets transported properly. I'll be waiting after you set the 10 minute timer.

RIVERO (CUBAN 2)

And we really get \$200,000 after the job? Promise?

CHERD (ASSASSIN)

Trust me, it's worth it to my partners. I've gotta go pick up the car and retrieve the money. I'll be back tonight. Stay here in this Winnebago. You'll be back in Miami in a few days with cash to burn.

82 EXT. BAYVILLE CAMP GROUNDS (LONG ISLAND, N.Y.) - DAY

Family (MOM, DAD, JIMMY, BILLY) sits around fire pit in adjacent slip as CHERD walks away.

JIMMY
We're bored with no internet.

MOM
Dad and I picked up something for you at lunch.

DAD
It's called a mobile hotspot.

JIMMY
Oh boy! That's great Dad! We've got the internet!

MOM
Help them set up a password Dad.

DAD
Not necessary dear. We're leaving in the morning.

RIVERO listens casually to exchange in camper next door.

83 INT. DAVID MACK COMPLEX (HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY) - DAY

Drone closes on Mack complex (intense music). LARSIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, LEAT, SLOTA, WHIT & POWERS are backstage.

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
Thoroughfares are inactive this early in the day.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I'm heading to Dome Road for a final check.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Those back areas concern us.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Where's Villarubia? I don't see him.

LEAT (FBI ORGANIZED CRIME)
I think he's back at the Marriott Johnny.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Dammit. Tell that savant he doesn't leave my sight until morning! He doesn't go to the bathroom without checking with me.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
Bomb squad from Mitchel Air Force Base lined up?

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
On call all night. They can deploy in minutes.

DRONE MONTAGE OF: a) agents crawl through seats at debate center; b) agents on lifts examining light fixtures; c) agents dismantle concession stand; d) WHIT walks along Dome Road; e) POWERS walks on Hofstra Northern Blvd; f) SLOTA walks in parking lot; LARSIEN in rugby field talking to agents at helicopter. Ominous, anticipatory music.

DISSOLVE TO:

84 INT. MARRIOTT HOTEL (VILLARUBIA'S ROOM) - DAY

VILLARUBIA (6'0", 150 lbs, wire-rimmed glasses, wide-eyed, blinking, jittery) on phone with WIFE.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

I'm fine, dear. No need to worry. It's gonna take another week or so. I'll be home soon . . . no, no, I can't leave. I'm on 24/7 call . . . yes dear, it's an important. Yes, classified. I love you too. Tell the kids daddy loves them. I'll be home soon.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER) enters room.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Talking to your wife, James?

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

Yeah, don't know where I'd be without her.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Feels different from your lab at Langley, huh?

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

Applied physics was never my thing.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

This looks like center field. Applied as it gets.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

Yeah, and I'm the kid who could never catch a ball.

85 INT. MARRIOTT HOTEL (HOTEL ROOM) - DAY

POWERS on phone wide-eyed as WHIT enters.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Expatriada? OK, OK, no need to apologize. Thanks!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER) hangs up.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Expatriada?!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
David traced the user to an internet hotspot on
Long Island 14 miles away!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We'll let's go get him!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
There was a lag in oversight. The trailer park's
been crashed. Manager said it was a guy in a
Winnebago using phony ID and plates.

86 INT. MARRIOTT COMMAND CENTER (HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.) - DAY

POWERS & WHIT in animated conversation with LARSIEN,
YOUNGBLOOD, BAYER, PORTMAN, GRESHAM & VILLARUBIA.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
I put out an all-points bulletin. They may have
gotten sloppy and left the plate in place.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
The debate needs to be postponed!

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
We have time to decide. Let's get to the arena.

87 INT. DAVID MACK COMPLEX (HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY) - DAY

DRONE MONTAGE OF (50 extras, ominous music): a) FBI
agents roam baseball field; b) FBI agents roam field
hockey stadium; c) FBI agents roam Bill Edwards Field;
d) agents mull around helicopter in adjoining field.

GRESHAM, LARSIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, LEAT, SLOTA, WHIT,
POWERS, PORTMAN, DOVELAND, BAYER, & VILLARUBIA huddle
behind stage. Clock reads 2:00 pm

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
No sightings yet?

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Nothing yet, Mr. Secretary. It's still early.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
We don't move on this group until we see the
Meridian backpack. Let's assume the bomb hasn't

been transferred to a different casing.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
This debate can't go on!

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
Stay in your lane Portman!

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
It'll be too late to evacuate if the bomb is found! Everyone within a mile could be killed.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
This is Secretary Gresham's call!

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
The Secret Service has no higher authority in a crisis. We're here to protect candidate lives!

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
Larsien, Youngblood, Portman! Closed session next door! Mr. Bayer, hook up the President immediately!

88 INT. EVENT CENTER BACK ROOM (HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY) - DAY

GRESHAM, LARSIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, PORTMAN & DOVELAND stand at podium below conference screen. Shouting ensues.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
It's too early for postponement!

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
The reason could be disguised if the announcement was made early. No one would be put in harm's way.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
It wouldn't hold long. Alarm would spread quickly.

BAYER enters. Screen flickers. BUSH (calm, presidential, in control) in situation room.

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
Hello everyone. Joel tells me tensions are high in Hempstead. Everyone, settle down now.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
Thank you Mr. President. Has National Security Advisor Bayer informed you of our putative suspect 13 miles away?

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
Sounds compelling but still could be a coincidence.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
The trailer park manager's description matches.

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
Am I correct Selina Griffen will be in attendance?

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
We believe that to be the case Mr. President.

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
So are we ready to turn the country on its head
based on these inconsistent indicators?

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
We're not reassured by her attendance, sir.

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
I see. Well even if they are on the move, you assume
the bomb is not yet in proximity of the arena?

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Mr. President, the candidates deserve immediate
notification to make their own threat assessments.

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
Hard to argue with that Jerry, but why not start
by just tightening their arrivals. We're gonna need
some breathing room here.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
They'll want a reason for the change in protocol.

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
Just say the need for additional precautions arose.
A postponement decision doesn't have to come this
early. These guys could soon be behind bars.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
The hotel is still within the danger zone sir.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
We understand that Jerry, but consider the
implications of breathlessly informing the Senators
a nuclear bomb may be planted under their feet?

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
They wouldn't be able to think straight. Panic

would ensue, especially if we cancel the debate.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
They would benefit without even using the thing.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
Mr. President, you're the only one here who's been on this stage. Would you have expected details about such a threat the hour before the biggest debate in your political career?

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
Candidates rely on their campaign managers for every decision. Gentlemen, why not inform David and Steve at the hotel before departure? Let them decide about notification and postponement?

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
With all due respect, Mr. President, wouldn't we be passing the buck?

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
I'd refer to it as normalizing the unknown threat profile. There's still ambiguity, Jerry. I'm comfortable letting the campaigns decide. We're all free to speak our minds if asked by the managers.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Well I'll recommend postponing the event, sir.

BUSH (PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES)
They may not agree Jerry. In lieu of imminent risk, presidential candidates don't like to be intimidated or told what to do.

89 INT. DAVID MACK COMPLEX (HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY) - DAY

DRONE MONTAGE OF CHECKPOINTS (50 FBI extras in cuts):

- a) Hofstra and Hofstra Northern; b) Hofstra and Oak,
- Oak and Circle; c) Oak and Longman; d) the Unispan;
- e) Dome Road walk overpass.

MONTAGE OF SPECIAL AGENTS (with radioactivity detectors):

- a) Hempstead Bethpage; b) Earle Ovington;
- c) Quentin Roosevelt. Music conveys sense of threat.

GRESHAM, LARSIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, LEAT, SLOTA, WHIT, POWERS
(CIA COVERT OFFICER), PORTMAN, DOVELAND, BAYER, &
VILLARUBIA huddle behind stage. Clock reads 6:30 pm.
GRESHAM shrugs at LARSIEN.

90 INT. MARRIOTT COMMAND CENTER (HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.) - NIGHT

PORTMAN stands with PLOUFFE & SCHMIDT.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Secretary Gresham and I apologize for this late notification, but you need to be aware that Homeland has detected a terrorist transfer of a suitcase nuclear bomb from Eastern Europe.

SCHMIDT (MCCAIN CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
What the hell, Jerry?!

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
The date and site of the attack remain uncertain, but we're concerned about the arena tonight.

PLOUFFE (OBAMA CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
Why is that, Jerry?!

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Quantico isolated an internet link last night that could place a suspect on Long Island. The park manager saw a guy who fits our general description.

PLOUFFE (OBAMA CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
What does security look like around the venue?

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
It's the highest security we've ever implemented. We'll have a running helicopter just outside the debate stage if evacuation is needed.

SCHMIDT (MCCAIN CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
You can't just throw something like this at us an hour before a national debate!

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
All levels of the intelligence community, including the President, have been involved Steve. The terrorists are unaware the plot's been uncovered.

PLOUFFE (OBAMA CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
What now? Has the debate been postponed?

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
The decision's been deferred to you. The level of threat is difficult to firmly establish.

SCHMIDT (MCCAIN CAMPAIGN MANAGER)

If we cancel the bastards sliver away, right?

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
That's been our calculation, Steve.

SCHMIDT (MCCAIN CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
So you've been chasing a broken arrow for months?!

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
The investigation began in Greece late last year.
I wasn't brought into the loop until recently. They
assumed arrests would come much earlier.

SCHMIDT (MCCAIN CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
Were they waiting for a MUSHROOM CLOUD before
bringing us into the loop?!

PLOUFFE (OBAMA CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
Steve's right, Jerry! What the hell do we do now?
Throw our guys off their game before the debate?

SCHMIDT (MCCAIN CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
Or pull the plug and set the nation on fire?!

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Listen guys, they think an apprehension may be
imminent. I'd personally postpone the debate, but
this has turned into a threat tolerance decision.

SCHMIDT (MCCAIN CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
Who are these guys anyway? Is this an act of war?

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Homeland Security is still not certain.

PLOUFFE (OBAMA CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
How close do these guys have to get to take us out?

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Maybe 1,000 feet. Everything would be leveled
within 300 feet. Radiation deaths a half mile away.

PLOUFFE (OBAMA CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
Wouldn't we be responsible for all the deaths?

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
That's a complicated question. The public
is exposed everyday to credible candidate threats.
Who's ethically responsible if they drive into
Manhattan and detonate the thing as an alternative?

91 INT. DAVID MACK COMPLEX (HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY) - NIGHT

DRONE MONTAGE: a) FBI agents surround building; b) agents stand by running helicopter; c) WHIT walks by Hofstra Dome; d) POWERS at northeast corner; e) audience of hundreds enter; f) PORTMAN heads out hotel with OBAMA & MCCAIN; g) YOUNGBLOOD, LARSIEN, & GRESHAM watch C-SPAN debate. Clock at 8:40 pm.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE) - V.O.
These Cuban-Russian threats are not going away!
The Cubans began infiltrating us in the 1960s!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I've got an open line with Hardin embedded at
Columbia. Says it looks routine thus far.

Background music halts. Lights dim. Dramatic moment
as command center monitors focuses on SCHIEFFER.

SCHIEFFER (DEBATE MODERATOR)
Good evening and welcome to the third and last
presidential debate of 2008. I'm Bob Schieffer
of CBS News. The rules tonight are simple.

DISSOLVE TO:

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER) looks at watch (10:05 pm).

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Can you read me George? How are things at Columbia?

HARDIN (FBI SPECIAL AGENT) - V.O.
He passed on the chance to crow at the
reporter's gaggle! Headed instead to watch end
of your debate. Ignoring everyone, he's transfixed!

DRONE MONTAGE OF: a) agents around building; b) agents
at running helicopter; c) WHIT walks toward parking lot
across Dome Road; d) PORTMAN (comfortable posture)
watches candidates, nods at VILLARUBIA.

PORTMAN (DIRECTOR SECRET SERVICE)
Almost over. We're looking all clear.

VILLARUBIA fidgets. POWERS jumps with a startle.
Radioactivity alert light illuminates on monitor.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Heads up Johnny! Red alert! Intersection of
Quentin Roosevelt and Charles Lindbergh!

Radio call from unspecified AGENT.

AGENT (UNSPECIFIED)

Looks like a false alarm. We just passed radiologic equipment at the medical facility. That must be it.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

Agents within 200 feet collapse on that facility and clear the warning. Now!

POWERS transfixed on video feed of Quentin Roosevelt Blvd and a slow-moving city police car.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

ANOMALY JOHNNY! HEADS UP WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)!

LARSIEN, YOUNGBLOOD & GRESHAM startled. POWERS magnifies visual of police car slowing to crawl on shoulder. Two men with backpacks jump out and scale perimeter fence. Car (lightning bolt sticker on back window) speeds away.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Unidentified cop who's a Chargers fan!

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)

Must be from San Diego!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Driving a converted Chevrolet Impala!

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

TWO SUSPECTS WITH BACKPACKS IN COLONIAL SQUARE
HEADED TOWARD HOFSTRA BOULEVARD!

Background sound of MCCAIN closing statement. Two men break from each other on monitor. One jumps short wall and runs toward hockey stadium. Other turns west on Hofstra, heads toward parking lot. Agents converge.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Stop that police car!

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

Police imposter in a converted Chevrolet Impala headed north on Earle Ovington Blvd!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

ROBBIE! WHAT'S HAPPENING? DO YOU SEE EM?!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.

TWO! TWO MEN . . . THEY'RE RUNNING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS! THE DRIVER HEADED AWAY FROM THE ARENA!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
ARE THEY HISPANIC? IS THERE A THIRD GUY MANDY? THERE SHOULD BE A THIRD GUY?!

DRONE shot of WHIT running full speed east on Hofstra Northern Blvd. Police scanner blares through.

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT) - V.O.
Williams at Earle Ovington and the baseball field! Rammed suspect. He disembarked! Two shots fired by suspect! Return fire! Suspect down and in custody!

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
What's he look like? Is he Cuban?

WILLIAMS (FBI SPECIAL AGENT) - V.O.
Over 6 foot. 50 years old. In panic attack! Screaming to take him in. Sounds scared to death!

DRONE shot of WHIT stopping dead in tracks. Turns and runs in opposite direction toward Dome Road.

AGENT (UNSPECIFIED) - V.O.
Two men apprehended. Hispanic. Empty backpacks.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
MANDY! WE'RE MISSING THE REAL BOMBER!

Television feed depicts start of final statements.

SCHIEFFER (DEBATE MODERATOR)
Gentlemen, we have come to the close. By coin toss, Senator McCain goes first.

POWERS rewinds and replays videotape of passenger drop. Third replay shows lone biker peddling on path past passenger drop. Suspect with backpack pulls off bike path and disappears 400 feet before Earle Ovington.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
HOW HIGH'S THE FENCE AT THE END OF DOME ROAD?

AGENT (UNSPECIFIED) - V.O.
Maybe six feet. There's woods right on other side.

COP in police cruiser crackles into feed.

COP (UNSPECIFIED) - V.O.
Approaching intersection . . . bike lying on side.

DRONE shot of WHIT on dead run to end of Dome Road.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) - V.O.
IN PURSUIT! END OF DOME ROAD! GET JAMES HERE NOW!!

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
WHERE'S VILLARUBIA?!

All eyes turn to VILLARUBIA (wide eyed, alarmed, unsteady)
who stands alone in corner.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
I'M HERE! RIGHT HERE, SIR!

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
LET'S GOO!

YOUNGBLOOD, SLOTA, LEAT & POWERS accost VILLARUBIA (canvas
tool case at hip) and drag toward arena exit.

92 INT. CARGO CONTAINER (DOME ROAD) - NIGHT

WHIT runs reckless abandon, plunges into wooded area end
of Dome Road (dumpsters, construction equipment). Slows run,
listens. Slight clanging of metal from old rusty 20' by 5'
closed cargo container. Approaches, flings open door. Light
pours in. WHIT trains Glock at wide-eyed RIVERO
(flashlight, hunched over backpack).

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
FBI!!! BACK AWAY FROM THE BOMB! NOOOOWWW!!!

RIVERO (arrogant, menacing smirk) laughs.

RIVERO (CUBAN 2)
What's ya gonna do with that big gun, fea perra?
You don't scare me, girly. We betta get outta here
before this backpack goes bang bang!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
DID YOU START A TIMER ON THAT BOMB!

RIVERO (CUBAN 2)
Ya got 7 minutes to get outta here!

RIVERO charges from five feet. Falls dramatically with echo
of deafening shot to chest. WHIT shouts.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
IN A CONTAINER AT END OF DOME ROAD. SIX MINUTES ON
TIMER JAMES! I REPEAT, SIX MINUTES!!

93 INT. DAVID MACK COMPLEX (HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY) - NIGHT

GRESHAM & LARSIEN listen with looks of alarm.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
WE'VE GOTTA EVACUATE!

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
IT'S TOO LATE! IT WON'T MATTER! ONLY 5 MINUTES!

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
THE HELICOPTER! WE NEED TO GET THEM IN THE AIR!

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
IT'S TOO LATE. THE BURST WOULD KNOCK 'EM OUTTA THE
SKY! VILLARUBIA SHOULD BE AT THE BOMB SITE!

94 EXT/INT. CARGO CONTAINER (DOME ROAD) - NIGHT

WHIT outside compartment. POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
arrives with VILLARUBIA (stumbling, breathless,
terrified). Departing spectators begin to mull. WHIT
opens container door, pushes physicist in. YOUNGBLOOD,
LEAT, SLOTA, & POWERS rush to follow. WHIT blocks entry.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
STAY OUT! GIVE HIM SPACE!! GUARD THE ENTRANCE!

WHIT closes door (cacophony outside). VILLARUBIA
(hyperventilating, trembling) grabs spotlight, hands
to WHIT. Kneels for inspection. Bomb is dark and dirty.
Timer at 5:42. Physicist mutters in desperation.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
IT'S DIFFERENT! IT'S UNFAMILIAR! I . . . I . . .
may not be able to do this!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
ARE YOU SURE?! Catch your breath and look again!

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
IT DOESN'T MATCH INTELLIGENCE REPORTS!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
JAMES! You've trained your whole life for this!
FOCUS! It's just you and the bomb. You've got

this. TAKE IT DOWN!

POWERS heard shouting commands outside container. WHIT backs away with shaky spotlight on bomb. Menacing wires and canisters protrude. VILLARUBIA leans on blood-laden man at side. VILLARUBIA (tremendous concentration) stares at ticking (4:12) bomb. Shakes head in dismay.

DISSOLVE TO:

95 INT. PROFESSOR'S OFFICE (QUIET) - NIGHT

FLASHBACK TO VILLARUBIA (20 years old) who listens respectfully to tutorial from KEEN (70, white hair, frail, grandfatherly, professorial, soft-spoken).

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
It's finally coming to me Professor. I'm almost ready for the nuclear fission exam.

KEEN (MIT PROFESSOR)
Just remember James, the Soviets were less sophisticated than suggested. These portable bombs are designed as simple linear implosion devices.

KEEN points to textbook photo of suitcase nuke.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
They actually made em this small?

KEEN (MIT PROFESSOR)
A 5-pound maximum density plutonium-239 vessel with five-inch detonators in both side panels. So reckless. They made them because they knew how.

96 INT. CARGO CONTAINER (CHAOS) - NIGHT

VILLARUBIA looks down at similar image. Mutters aloud.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
OK, OK, there it is professor . . . battery's brand new . . . container untouched . . . armed and operative.

97 INT. PROFESSOR'S OFFICE (QUIET) - NIGHT

FLASHBACK TO VILLARUBIA & KEEN in quiet university lab.

KEEN (MIT PROFESSOR)
The Penza-19 prototype mimics our American RA-115 compact device.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
Oh, I see. They're similar, aren't they?

KEEN (MIT PROFESSOR)
Always remember the Soviets often booby-trap their suitcase nukes with a lightning-explosive device.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
It sets off the reaction before the timer?

KEEN (MIT PROFESSOR)
No, not the full reaction, but enough to destroy the cache and everyone in immediate proximity.

98 INT. CARGO CONTAINER (CHAOS) - NIGHT

VILLARUBIA focuses intensely on bomb. Mutters aloud.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
Penza-19 prototype. Saw images at MIT.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
That's good, James. Good. You know what to do.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
Gotta watch top panel and handle. Can't be lifted.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Two minutes . . .

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
I'll blow the trap at 30 seconds.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Blow it?

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
Deactivate it . . .

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Oh, that would be great!

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
The arena will be saved. We won't survive.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER) gulps, turns pale, pauses.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
I'm scared, James. Please just DEFUSE it!

99 INT. PROFESSOR'S OFFICE (QUIET) - NIGHT

FLASHBACK TO VILLARUBIA & KEEN.

KEEN (MIT PROFESSOR)

You'd first disengage the battery from these feeds. See these wires leading from the battery to the detonators. They fuel the detonating source.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

That would stop the timer?

KEEN (MIT PROFESSOR)

It should, theoretically, if the energy source is deactivated. Remember the plutonium core needs detachment from the detonators too. That's tricky.

100 INT. CARGO CONTAINER (CHAOS) - NIGHT

VILLARUBIA pulls out a 3.5-volt pocket torch battery. He attaches two 12-inch wires with sharp probes at each end. Looks at WHIT and cringes. Completes contact points on both poles of the battery. VILLARUBIA listens eyes squinted. Loud commotion outside container.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

I can't hear clicking! I need silence to know if the battery's disengaged. I NEED QUIET!

WHIT pulls back, cracks door. Loudest possible voice.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

MANDY! HE NEEDS QUIET!! QUIET EVERYONE!!!

Command volleyed outside around container. Periphery falls silent. VILLARUBIA tries again as clock reaches 1:86. Loud click now heard.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

The battery bypass! We've got it! Hand me those small pliers Dr. Whit.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

WHAT?!

VILLARUBIA nods to case on RIVERO'S bloody waist. Reaches in to turn screw. Wire pops off. Same action on right side. Timer stops at :43. WHIT exhales.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

ARE WE SAFE! DID YOU DO IT?!

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
NO! NOT YET! NOT YET. Need to dislodge detonators.

VILLARUBIA reaches in and retracts detonator from casing and backpack. He stands looking at detached detonator.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
IS THAT IT?!

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
Plutonium core can no longer fully detonate, but an explosion and radioactivity leakage still possible.

VILLARUBIA moves detonator to far side of container. He reaches back into the casing and removes detonator on opposite side. Looks wide-eyed at plutonium-239 vessel.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
ALL CLEAR?!!

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
The fissionable mass remains unmolested in the protected vessel. Get the Mitchel bomb squad in here to remove this warhead and detonators.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
BOMB SQUAD POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)!

VILLARUBIA collapses to floor with back resting against RIVERO'S bloody side. Places head in hands with tremors. WHIT opens container door and officers rush in. POWERS embraces WHIT as they exit. Lights flashing. Chaos.

DISSOLVE TO:

101 INT. DAVID MACK COMPLEX (HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY) - NIGHT

LARSIEN approaches microphone at reporter gaggle.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
Reports the last hour are accurate. Several men broke security and scaled a wall near the center. Two suspects are in custody with the driver shot.

REPORTER (ASSOCIATED PRESS)
We have reports of a death at the end of Dome Road?

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
A fourth man resisted and was shot and killed on Dome Road. We're still investigating motives for the intrusion. The candidates were never in danger.

102 EXT. CARGO CONTAINER (DOME ROAD) - NIGHT

POWERS & WHIT watch commotion around cargo container.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Are you OK? That was a close call!

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
James stopped the clock at 43 seconds! It was hard to see anything in that container. All those years of study and sacrifice kept us all alive!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
You had to do it! Hesitation woulda been a disaster.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Let's hope internal affairs agrees.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Let's grab James and get the hell outta here.

RIVERO'S body wheeled out. VILLARUBIA sits alone on curb looking off into space. Only WHIT & POWERS recognize him. Rush over, usher him into waiting police car.

103 INT. MARRIOTT COMMAND CENTER (HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.) - NIGHT

VILLARUBIA enters hotel and walks off to his room. WHIT & POWERS enter command center to sounds of applause. YOUNGBLOOD embraces WHIT and POWERS. High fives.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
We got 'em! You guys did it again!

SLOTA, LEAT & WILLIAMS rush over with bottle of bourbon.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
James gets the credit. Our steely-eyed fission man.

LARSIEN (FBI DIRECTOR)
Where the hell did he go?

104 INT. MARRIOTT HOTEL (VILLARUBIA'S ROOM) - DAY

VILLARUBIA on phone. WHIT & POWERS enter room.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)
Yes dear, I didn't catch much of it. Yes . . . yes, we did have an incident but everything's under control. I should be home soon. I have to go. I

love you so much, dear. I'll fill you in later.

VILLARUBIA hangs up. Looks meekly at WHIT & POWERS.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

You could give her more information than that!

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

I think the night's still classified. Thanks for helping me in the container Dr. Whit. I almost lost my nerve. I'm afraid I cut that pretty close.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

JAMES! Please call us Robbie and Mandy! You saved the country from calamity! You're a national hero!

POWERS pours shots of bourbon. VILLARUBIA waves hand.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

I've never been much of a drinker.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Trust me on this one, James. You are tonight!

VILLARUBIA cringes. Takes shot. Smiles in relief.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Ah, ah, I think I might need another.

VILLARUBIA, WHIT & POWERS embrace with tears of relief. People moving loudly in hall past open door. GRESHAM suddenly enters with security officers in tow.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Oh, here to you are! What are ya doing in your room!

VILLARUBIA rises immediately.

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST)

Secretary Gresham!

Hotel phone rings. GRESHAM rushes over to answer.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)

Yes sir . . . yes sir . . . that's correct.
Villarubia, Whit and Powers. Yes sir, he's here.

GRESHAM extends phone to VILLARUBIA.

Dr. Villarubia, it's the President of the United States. He wants to speak with you sir.

105 INT. GRESHAM MARRIOTT HOTEL SUITE (HEMPSTEAD) - NIGHT

GRESHAM receives debriefing (LARSIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, SLOTA, LEAT, WHIT & POWERS). Clock reads midnight.

GRESHAM (SEC, HOMELAND SECURITY)
That was a hell of a job tonight! Jerry said the senators were effusive in their praise.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
The lead assassin was Harry Cherd from San Diego. Retired army. Met Victari early in his career.

SLOTA (FBI COUNTERTERRORISM)
Moore at Quantico found 20 seconds of 1988 news footage of Cherd holding the door for Victari after a Chinatown raid. Montanari links will come soon.

LEAT (FBI ORGANIZED CRIME)
The deceased terrorist was Nestor Rivero. The M.E. preliminary assessment is self-defense.

106 INT. VICTARI PERSONAL JET (HEMPSTEAD TO L.A.) - NIGHT

VICTARI drinking heavily and fuming to passengers (DANGON, SLEMAN, GOLDMAN, BOYLER, WERKLEY, SELINA).

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
Tonight's a disaster. Nobody's got my back. I'm running this campaign alone!

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
What's so bad about it, boss. You did great at the debate, and the others looked like losers.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
We're not gonna get much bump outta tonight!

SELINA (GIRLFRIEND)
You never know. You did great at Columbia.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW! You were busy being the beauty queen. The viewers tuned in to see ME, not YOU!

SELINA (GIRLFRIEND)
You can't talk to me like that you puffed up elephant! You bastard! I'm your best PR!

Passengers cringe, look down. VICTARI lunges at SELINA.

107 INT. DANGON'S NFB OFFICE (BEL AIR, CA) - DAY

DANGON at his desk with GOLDMAN, SLEMAN, BOYLER & WERKLEY on couches. VICTARI enters. Clock reads 9:45 am.

SLEMAN (CAMPAIGN PR)
Good news, we're up to 10% in the national polls.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
That's not good enough, Sleman.

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
Rumors are coming in about a failed assassination attempt at the Hofstra debate last night!

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
It's the Cubans, right?

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
Jack's right Micky! It was some kind of bomb threat against the senators! This could be the break we need, Jack!

DANGON phone rings again. Leaves office quickly.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
Just as predicted! I didn't see it last night!

SLEMAN (CAMPAIGN PR)
The public will see you were right all along!

BOYLER (CAMPAIGN OPERATIONS)
You'll be a hero, boss! Swept into office!

DANGON (ashen, breathless) returns.

DANGON (CAMPAIGN MANAGER)
Our source in Garner's office says the FBI bugged our campaign! They're accusing us of having something to do with this bomb plot!

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
What the hell did those sons a bitches do?! Tell security I want everyone at NFB investigated!

GOLDMAN (CAMPAIGN COUNSEL)
We need to mobilize all our allies on the hill!

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
I'm the only guy who warned them! This isn't fair!

GOLDMAN (CAMPAIGN COUNSEL)
We need to lay low until we see what the FBI has!

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
LAY LOW!! What the fuck kind of attorney are you?
I'm gonna sue the shit out of the FBI! SLEMAN!

SLEMAN (CAMPAIGN PR)
I'm here, sir. Whadda you need?

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
We need to identify anyone involved IN ANY WAY with
this frame up. That includes the FBI and CIA. I
want to know EVERYTHING about those people!

108 INT. CNN NEWS (NEW YORK, N.Y.) - NIGHT

CNN newscaster Barry REYNOLDS breaks national news.

REYNOLDS (NEWSCASTER)
It's noon on the east coast with breaking news
that Senators Obama and McCain narrowly escaped
assassination during closing statements at last
night's debate. We have a report from Hempstead.

HAGERTY (CNN REPORTER) - V.O.
Barry, the reports we're receiving take your
breath away. Credible sources indicate that
Homeland Security derailed a fabulous terrorist
plot to detonate a 1.6-kiloton Soviet-era
briefcase nuclear bomb in a cargo container 500
feet from the stage.

REYNOLDS (NEWSCASTER)
A nuclear device, Maris?! Has that been verified?

HAGERTY (CNN REPORTER) - V.O.
Multiple sources have confirmed. The plot was
reportedly unraveled and foiled in the last hour
through the exceptional interagency cooperation.

REYNOLDS (NEWSCASTER)
So the bomb was disarmed during the debate?!

HAGERTY (CNN REPORTER) - V.O.
That's correct Barry. Inside sources confirm that
the night's hero was Dr. James R. Villarubia, a

CIA physicist, who defused the bomb with less than a minute remaining. Sources say Villarubia is one of the world's leading experts on Soviet weaponry. Our local affiliate captured his return home to Alexandria moments ago.

VILLARUBIA approaches front door (flashing cameras, reporters in pursuit). KENNY greets him and forces gaggle back. WIFE (alarmed) opens door with STEVIE (10) and JODY (8) trembling at her side.

WIFE - V. O.

JAMES, come in! We've been so worried!

KENNY - V.O.

Go inside, Villy. I've got this.

KENNY (large, strong, imposing, hands firmly on waist) walls off reporters. Video closes on WIFE'S face.

WIFE - V.O.

OH JAMES, what did you do? Are you in trouble?

VILLARUBIA (CIA PHYSICIST) - V.O.

I don't think so, dear.

109 INT. VICTARI'S NFB CONFERENCE ROOM (BEL AIR, CA) - DAY

VICTARI stands at podium with staffers (DANGON, SLEMAN, GOLDMAN, BOYLER, WERKLEY, SELINA) facing reporters.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)

Everyone knows it was Jack Victari who warned about the fiasco last night. How was his prescience rewarded? I now know the FBI bugged my campaign and alleges I tried to assassinate my respected rivals!

O'MILEY (NEWTOWN NEWS)

Mr. Victari, Sandy O'Miley, Newtown News. Wouldn't the FBI need probable cause and a court order?

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)

Apparently not. The Senators are my friends, and us patriotic Americans are relieved they are safe.

O'MILEY (NEWTOWN NEWS)

Newtown News is unaware of those accusations, sir.

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)

Selina was in attendance. How could I be involved?

Camera on SELINA (uneasy, stares straight ahead).

VIABLE (INDEPENDENT NEWS NETWORK)
Mr. Victari, Paul Viable, Independent News Network.
Sir, how do you plan to defend yourself?

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
My private investigators uncovered evidence that
will rock the FBI and CIA. It involves confidential
sources, but suffice to say, lesbian agents are
trying to ruin my good name.

VIABLE (INDEPENDENT NEWS NETWORK)
Excuse me sir? Lesbian FBI agents?!

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
People are saying these lovers infiltrated the FBI
to frame Jack Victari. I'm told these women have
quite the imagination regarding fictitious stories.
It'll all come out at the hearings.

VIABLE (INDEPENDENT NEWS NETWORK)
What do you mean sir by imagination?

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
I'm not at liberty to say given my respect for most
members of our intelligence community. Nothing more
at this time. You'll have to do your own research.

MANGOLD (UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL)
Mr. Victari, Beth Mangold from UPI. Final question?

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
Yes, go ahead. I have a campaign to run.

MANGOLD (UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL)
I was at Hofstra last night. I recognized two FBI
agents known as former novelists. Are you accusing
Mandy Powers and Robbie Whit of framing you?

VICTARI (3RD PARTY CANDIDATE)
Good try Beth. The story is up to you. I can't do
your homework. That's all I have today.

110 EXT. GRANT PARK (CHICAGO, ILLINOIS) - NIGHT

Clip of OBAMA election night victory speech.

111 INT. FBI HEADQUARTERS (WASHINGTON) - DAY

YOUNGBLOOD converses with WHIT & POWERS.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
At least Victari faded in the final week. He
Was up to 30% after the assassination attempt.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Who would have predicted a tabloid story about
him once patronizing gay bars in Chinatown?

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
His base wasn't impressed by the grainy photo in
the blond wig leaving the Moby Dick that night.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Even Selina couldn't help him. The "everyone
knows I'm a real man" defense fell flat.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
I want to debrief you before the Hofstra
Commission next week. The hearings are gonna
get rocky. Let me fill you in on some details.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
We don't expect a receptive Washington audience.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Cherd drove from Dulac in a camper and recovered
his parked car from Long Island. He sold his San
Diego home and planned to fly to Finland with
three mill left in a locker at JFK.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
How'd the camper go missing in Dulac?

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
It was hidden behind the camp. Cherd ditched it
before the assault in the Sarnoff Pine Reserve.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
Did Cherd confess?

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
The surviving Cubans rolled on Hernandez who
turned on Montanari. Cherd also threw Montanari
under the bus. He didn't know about Victari.

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)
So Montanari took the fall? What about Droner?

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
Montanari cracked like an egg and blamed it all

on Droner who put on quite a show in court. He preened through 82 fifth amendment assertions.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Sounds like our boy. He'd prefer death over the stigma of being called a rat.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

That's the funny part. Droner cradled his reputation but was also rumored to be the source of the photo that sunk Victari in the polls!

POWERS (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

Why protect Victari, and then sink him? He offered the only chance for a pardon.

YOUNGBLOOD (FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR)

It was all about the satisfaction of a covert reprisal against Victari who was walking free. Doveland declined to prosecute given the circumstantial nature of the evidence.

112 INT. JUDICIARY COMMITTEE (UNITED STATES SENATE)- DAY

Packed, prime time, Senate hearing (lights, cameras, flashing lights) chaired by Senator ANTERN (frowning, smirking angrily). Calendar reads March, 2009.

ANTERN (FLORIDA SENATOR)

Missuz Powers and Whit, let me begin with a basic question befuddlin my constitents. Why da ya two ladies hate poor ole Jack Victari so much? Is id cause he's rich and smart? Or is it because he's a man? I hear you're not so fond of strong men.

WHIT (CIA COVERT OFFICER)

No sir, we do not hate Mr. Victari. We risked our lives in Hempstead and would appreciate the benefit of a doubt regarding our character and motivations.

ANTERN (FLORIDA SENATOR)

That's not what you gave Jack Victari, DOCTOR! You decided from da start he was plotting to assassinate two presidential candidates, a thousand audience members, and even his own girlfriend! DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT CHARACTER AND VALUES!

MANDY

That's not an honest or accurate summary Senator!

ANTERN (FLORIDA SENATOR)

Oh yes it is, Missy! We know who you are! Where does Jack Victari go to get his reputation back?! Who should he see bout that, DOCTORS?!

ROBBIE

I'm not sure Senator, but we assume he'll somehow survive those indignities.

ANTERN (FLORIDA SENATOR)

Well I'm not so sure about that madam. Now Missuz Whit, why did you shoot Nestor Rivero? Did you hate him too? People are saying he died holding info about the FBI's involvement in this mess.

ROBBIE

I was the first agent on the scene. He was standing next to the ticking nuclear bomb. Dr. Villarubia had minutes to defuse the bomb. Mr. Rivero charged me and had to be neutralized. I never met Mr. Rivero and harbored no hatred toward him.

ANTERN (FLORIDA SENATOR)

Really? Harbored no hatred, huh? Who says that? Well I've heard from more experienced officers who believe the suspect woulda ceased and desisted if you had a stronger presence. So again, my question, didn't you really want to shoot him from the outset?

ROBBIE

No, I certainly did not! It was essential in the defense of myself and the nation.

ANTERN (FLORIDA SENATOR)

Well let me just say that Rivero took a lot of things to his grave we'd like to know. He had a family too ya know. It's just mighty convenient for you that he's no longer around, now isn't it?

DISSOLVE TO:

113 EXT. FISHING YACHT (CARIBBEAN SEA)- DAY

VICTARI vacationing on yacht with young adult guests.

DISSOLVE TO:

114 INT. HOME LIVING ROOM (TRIANGLE, VIRGINIA)- NIGHT

POWERS opens mail, passes to WHIT. Visible to camera: "DIE BITCHES DIE! YOUR TIME IS NEAR!"

DISSOLVE TO:

115 INT. WHITE HOUSE (WASHINGTON, D.C.)- DAY

OBAMA (smiling) places Medal of Honor around neck of
VILLARUBIA (somber) with family (weeping) & KENNY (beaming)
at side.

FADE OUT