

1 INT. KIEV APARTMENT - NIGHT**1**

We're in a large closet. JACK KIEFER, an athletic American in his late thirties wearing a headset, is wedged into a corner, staring at a television screen.

The television shows a surveillance view of the living room that lies outside the confines of the closet. The TV image is in black and white. JACK shifts, trying like hell to get comfortable but he's been there a while

ON THE SCREEN

A bare bulb shines down on the contents of a shabby hotel room. Directly under the bulb a man, GENNADY KASIMOV, sits in a straight backed wooden chair in his blood-stained T- shirt. There are a couple of THUGS and a stray HOOKER in the room behind him. A legend: KIEV.

KASIMOV is sobbing. Uncontrollably. A MAN enters the room, ANATOLY, an imperious Russian in his forties, a Russian godfather. The THUGS and HOOKERS are ushered out.

ANATOLY looks down at KASIMOV piteously and urges him to go and sit by him in a chair he picks up for him. KASIMOV does as he is bid, looking gratefully up at ANATOLY. They speak in Russian which is subtitled.

ANATOLY

Kasimov, Kasimov, good that you called us.

KASIMOV

(sobbing)

I don't remember what happened! We were at the bar, drinking, laughing -- having fun.

ANATOLY gets up out of the chair and goes to a bed across the room. A WOMAN lies half under the sheets. She's lying in an unnatural position on the bed, and the sheets are smeared with blood. She's dead. ANATOLY lifts her eyelid.

KASIMOV

I don't even know how I got here. I swear, Anatoly, I never touched her! I didn't lay a finger on her.

ANATOLY moves away from the WOMAN.

ANATOLY
Kasimov. Don't flounder.

IN THE CLOSET

JACK, impatient, checks his watch.

JACK
Jesus, she's been under too long.
Come on, come on!

ON THE SCREEN

KASIMOV
You're the only one who can help me.

Desperately he tugs at ANATOLY'S jacket. But ANATOLY hits his hand away and smacks him around the head.

IN THE CLOSET

JACK reacts.

ON THE SCREEN

ANATOLY bends close to KASIMOV.

ANATOLY
C'mon, c'mon, tell the
truth...c'mon.

KASIMOV
They'll kill me.

ANATOLY paces up the room, away from KASIMOV.

ANATOLY
You asked for my help. You asked for
my help...come on...

KASIMOV
You're right, of course.

IN THE CLOSET

JACK leans forward.

JACK
The name pal...give us the name.

ON THE SCREEN

KASIMOV

The contact in Minsk..the contact in
Minsk..works in a travel agency.

IN THE CLOSET

JACK

Come on!

ON THE SCREEN

ANATOLY

Come on!

KASIMOV

His name is.....Dimitri Miediev.

ANATOLY

Dimitri Miediev...Dimitri Miediev...

IN THE CLOSET

JACK

Got him.

ON THE SCREEN

Back on screen, ANATOLY places a hand on KASIMOV'S shoulder
as if he had just anointed him.

IN THE CLOSET

In the closet, JACK types the name into a computer and cross
checks -- "MIEDIEV" comes up, then "posting/American
consulate/Kiev."

JACK turns and nods to a WHOREHOUSE WAITRESS in costume in
the closet next to him, dressed in traditional Russian tunic
and virtually no bottom. She quickly leaves.

2 INT. SHABBY ROOM - NIGHT

2

We enter the room for the first time as the WAITRESS does.
She's carrying a tray with a bottle of vodka and two shot
glasses.

ANATOLY

Now, we drink.

He pours them out and hands one to KASIMOV.

ANATOLY

To friends.

KASIMOV
Yes, Anatoly, yes.

JACK
Cheers.

He drinks. He blinks. Something felt funny about that. Dizzied, KASIMOV swoons and passes out on the floor. ANATOLY moves to the closet door and opens it.

IN THE CLOSET

ANATOLY reaches up to his face --

--and tears away a mask of flesh. He's no middle aged Russian mobster, he's ETHAN HUNT, an American in his early thirties. He gestures to KASIMOV contemptuously. JACK hands ETHAN a hypodermic kit and he goes quickly back into the room.

ETHAN
(in English now)
Get rid of this scum.

Immediately, there is activity, and PEOPLE everywhere. TWO OTHERS come into the room and carry KASIMOV out.

ETHAN goes quickly to the body of the dead woman. He checks the pulse in her neck, shines a penlight in her eye. He strips the adrenalin kit and jabs the long needle into the dead woman's thigh. He checks her pulse again, checking a stopwatch. In about ten seconds, the woman's eyes open.

CLAIRE is her name, a French woman of thirty or so. She half rolls over, GROANS, and wipes some of the blood from her mouth.

CLAIRE
Did we get it?

ETHAN
We got it. On your feet.

CLAIRE
I want to sleep. Can I sleep here.

ETHAN
Walk, just walk. Start walking.

CLAIRE
I'm walking.

ETHAN
Talking's good, walking's better.

CLAIRE
Sleeping's better.

Meanwhile, MEN in overalls take apart the room. The ceiling lifts right off the walls, and the walls themselves start to come down, revealing the "hotel room" to be an elaborate set in the middle of an empty warehouse.

JACK comes into the room from the closet. He hands CLAIRE her jewelry, including a watch and a wedding ring. ETHAN stops what he's doing, noticing. She looks up at him questioningly.

CLAIRE
Are you all right Ethan. What's wrong with you?

ETHAN
If you're gonna do this again Claire, It's not gonna be on my watch.

CLAIRE
Oh yeah?

JACK comes into the room from the closet. He hands CLAIRE her jewelry, including a watch and a wedding ring. ETHAN stops what he's doing, noticing. She looks up at him, questioningly.

JACK
Claire.

ETHAN
Jack.

She almost unconsciously slips the wedding ring onto her finger. ETHAN notices. He turns and SHOUTS to the room at large.

ETHAN
IS THERE ANY PARTICULAR REASON WE'RE NOT

OUT OF HERE YET?!

JACK
Just waiting for you, tubs.

He walks across the room and out the door. CLAIRE, worried, clutches her hands together, glancing down at her wedding ring.

We move in on it --

CUT TO:

3 INT. JET - DAY

3

-- and come out on another wedding ring, this one on a MAN's finger. One of several he's drumming on an arm rest in the plush first class cabin of a commercial airliner. He shoves some money into his wallet, and as he does so we catch a fleeting glimpse of a photograph of CLAIRE.

The pilot's voice makes an announcement.

VOICE (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, we have leveled off at our cruising altitude of thirty-eight thousand feet-and we should be arriving in Prague right on schedule.

A FLIGHT ATTENDANT makes her way between the seats, passing out menus.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Would you like to watch a movie Mr Rosen?

A passenger takes one. The ATTENDANT continues on.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

(CONT'D)

Would you like to watch a movie Mr Phelps?

The MAN with the wedding ring looks up. JIM PHELPS is in his mid-forties, good-looking, intense. He's a tired man, and not just now, it's a profound fatigue. He looks up at the ATTENDANT and smiles warmly.

PHELPS

No, I prefer the theatre.

A look crosses the FLIGHT ATTENDANT'S face; her tone becomes stilted.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Would you consider the cinema of the Ukraine?

PHELPS

Perhaps you'd choose one for me.

The ATTENDANT turns and walks away. PHELPS sits back, shakes a cigarette out of a pack, and taps it nervously on the

armrest.

AT THE FRONT OF THE CABIN.

The FLIGHT ATTENDANT opens a case loaded with video 8 cassettes of feature films. She opens a panel in the top of the case and withdraws a tape hidden back there.

BACK AT PHELPS'

SEAT

The ATTENDANT returns with the tape and hands it to PHELPS. He takes it without a word and she moves on.

PHELPS reaches down and turns a lever on the support between his seat and the empty one beside him. He flips up a small movie screen and angles it toward himself, away from the other passengers. He puts on a headset, opens a door in the armrest, and puts the tape in.

He presses play.

ON THE TAPE,

the image of a man comes on. EUGENE KITTRIDGE is fortyish, but seems permanently stuck in the Nixon era -- horn rimmed glasses, short short haircut, rather be caught dead than tieless. But if he catches your eye, he will never, ever look away. He's seated at a desk, looking into the camera.

KITTRIDGE

(on the tape)

Good morning, Mr. Phelps. The man you're about to see is Aleksander Golitsyn --

The screen winks and shows an image of GOLITSYN, a burly man in his forties. The image is herky-jerky videotape, presumably taken from a concealed camera as GOLITSYN walks down a foreign street.

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)

-- a former KGB Line X officer now working the international black market selling intelligence.

This morning, we learned that Golitsyn has stolen one half of a CIA NOC list, the list of our non-official cover agents working in Eastern Europe.

The screen shows an image of what such a list might look like, code names and other information scrolling by on a computer screen at high speed.

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)

For security reasons, the NOC list is divided into two encoded halves. Golitsyn already has the cryptonym portion, which contains agent code names and targeting areas. This portion is useless unless combined with the second half -- the true name list that is kept in the CIA station in our Embassy in Prague.

The Embassy itself comes on screen, a beautiful old building at the base of the Charles Bridge, which spans the Vltava River.

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)

We believe Golitsyn plans to steal the true name list at an Embassy function tomorrow night. Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to obtain photographic proof of the theft, apprehend those involved, and return the stolen list. I don't have to stress the importance of this matter, Jim. We're keeping it internally black. Because of its urgency, I've already sent to Prague a team selected from your usual group.

Still photographs come on screen, some of which we're already seen -- JACK KIEFER, CLAIRE and ETHAN.

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)

Ethan Hunt will of course be your point man, as usual. He's in Kiev; we're getting word to him now.

4 INT. JET - DAY

4

PHELPS sits back in his seat, closes his eyes, and rubs his tired brow. KITTRIDGE himself comes back on the tape.

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)

As always, should you or any member of your IM force be caught or killed, the Secretary will disavow all knowledge of your actions. This tape will self-destruct in five seconds. Good luck, Jim!

PHELPS inhales deeply --

-- the tape in the armrest starts to smolder, sending up a plume of wispy smoke --

-- and PHELPS exhales, concealing the plume in a cloud of cigarette smoke.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. PRAGUE SAFE HOUSE - DAY

5

SARAH and HANNA, a German woman in her mid-thirties enter. Another legend:

PRAGUE

6 INT. SAFE HOUSE - PRAGUE - DAY

6

The IMF team's safe house is a sparsely furnished Prague apartment with a panoramic view of the city.

The IMF team is scattered around the room. Sketches, pads, overfilled ashtrays and equipment are strewn everywhere. JACK and SARAH seated next to each other - JACK demonstrating the VISCO glasses to her. CLAIRE is seated opposite JACK at the computer. JIM and ETHAN are in the kitchen. HANNAH taking a roll of black-out curtain through the room.

JACK

Look to your right, then back to me. There's a camera built right into the bridge. Whatever you see it sees and transmits it back here. Can you hear me?

SARAH

Of course I can hear you.

JACK

No, in your...ear piece. You have a lovely smile (eyes). Can you hear me now?

SARAH

Loud and clear.

JACK

What's going on?

SARAH

I don't know.

JACK

Why don't you take a look?

SARAH
Jack...that's spying.

JACK
That's what we do isn't it?

SARAH
Jack you're so wicked.

JACK
Too wicked to have a drink later?

SARAH
I think I might just take that look.

ETHAN and JIM PHELPS are in a heated conversation.

ETHAN
Yeah, well, Jim, fact is I've got more than ninety days leave coming.

PHELPS
A hundred and sixty-seven, I think it is. Take it all, if you want. After this one.

ETHAN
I thought I'd take some now.

PHELPS
(quietly, to Ethan)
What the hell's made you decide to take your leave at the worst possible time? Claire's in a weird mood too.

ETHAN
Oh? What's the problem?

PHELPS
I don't know, I had to go to Chicago again. You were in Kiev. You tell me.

ETHAN
Tell you what?

PHELPS
When you started noticing your short term memory loss. What the problem was you and Claire had in Kiev?

ETHAN
What problem?

PHELPS
(laughs)
Ah, God, forget it. What are we
talking burnout here?

ETHAN
I guess.

PHELPS
Ethan, you can't burn out.

ETHAN
Why not?

PHELPS
Because I can't afford it. And
because you'd burn up before you'd
burn out.

CLAIRE, who is at the computer behind them, somehow seems to
be the reference point in the following exchange:

ETHAN
How was Chicago?

PHELPS
Wonderful. Ran into a convention of
auto dealers at the Drake Hotel. You
hear the one about the astronaut who
comes back from the first manned
flight to Mars after two years? His
wife's got a year old kid. So he
says "All right. Who was it? My
friend Harry?" She says no. "Oh, it
was my friend Sammy." She says it
wasn't Sammy.

"Oh, I suppose it was my friend Lou." "No, what's the matter,
don't you think I have any friends of my own?!"

PHELPS laughs. ETHAN doesn't. The back of CLAIRE'S head is in
his line of sight.

PHELPS
Boy, you really are grim. Come here,
take a look.

He leads ETHAN to the window, which overlooks the city.

ETHAN's POV of Embassy.

8 INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

8

ETHAN nods.

PHELPS

Beyond Charles Bridge there is our Embassy. See it? Tomorrow night, if anything goes wrong, this guy will steal the names of our agents in every country all over Eastern Europe. Up for grabs to the highest bidders -- third world terrorists, arms dealers, drug lords -- any and everybody who'd love to get rid of long term coverts like us, and some very dear friends among them. If they're exposed, they'll be executed. Come over here. Take a look at this.

CLAIRE, who is working at a computer, has pulled up a quicktime video image in a box on her screen. In it, an old edition of the McLaughlin Report, the PBS news show, is playing.

ETHAN is distracted by it.

INSERT - TELEVISION

SENATOR WALTZER, a bearded, bespectacled man in his forties, is holding forth:

SENATOR WALTZER

I'll go you one further. I say the CIA and all its shadow organizations have become irrelevant at best and unconstitutional at worst. It's time we throw a little light on the whole concept of the Pentagon's "black budget." These covert agency subgroups have confidential funding, they report to no one -- who are these people?! We were living in a democracy the last time I checked.

BACK TO SCENE

ETHAN looks back at JIM.

ETHAN

You're going to use Walter?

PHELPS

He's our guy.

ETHAN

Isn't he chairing the Armed Services hearing?

PHELPS

Not this week. This week he's flyfishing at the Oughterard Slough in County Kildare, with one of our best Irish guides.

ETHAN

He won't be back in a hurry?

PHELPS

No, not in a hurry. What do you think? You think the plot'll work?

ETHAN

Sure. If the main character does.

PHELPS

If you were me, Ethan, who would you trust to make him believable?

JACK comes breezing in with a piece of bubble gum.

JACK

Sorry, am I interrupting?

ETHAN

Always.

JACK shows the gum to ETHAN.

JACK

Stick of gum. If you come up against a lock you can't pick --

Half the gum is red, the other half is green.

JACK

Red light. Green light. Mash them together, asta lasagna. Don't get any on you -- you have five seconds.

He offers the gum to ETHAN.

PHELPS

Are you gonna take it?

CLAIRE glances up from the computer and catches ETHAN's eye. PHELPS may have caught the glance, but is focused on ETHAN.

ETHAN
(relenting)
Give me the God damn gum.

JACK
Just don't chew it.

PHELPS
Thank you.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. AMERICAN EMBASSY - NIGHT 9

The American Embassy glitters beside the Vltava River. Party at the Embassy tonight.

10 INT. AN ELEVATOR SHAFT - NIGHT 10

JACK, wearing black coveralls and slightly odd-looking eyeglasses (they're called Visco glasses), enters an elevator shaft through a small door at the base of the wall. He looks up the shaft, shining a flashlight until he finds what he's looking for --

-- a gray metal box, protruding from the wall one floor up.

11 INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT 11

PHELPS is at a table in the safe house apartment, watching the bank of monitors HANNAH wired together earlier. The monitors are alive now, showing various views of the inside of the Embassy, where the party is going on, and one view of the elevator shaft.

PHELPS wearing an IMF headset and speaks into the mouthpiece.

PHELPS
Ethan. Jack's inside. Window's open
by twenty-three hundred.

12 INT. EMBASSY - NIGHT 12

Inside the Embassy, the party is a formal, tuxedoed affair that's in full swing on the second floor.

SENATOR WALTZER, the man who was on TV, walks up a grand staircase, headed in. An AMERICAN DIPLOMAT in a tuxedo hurries up to him.

DIPLOMAT

How do you do, Senator, I'm Rand Housman, the Ambassador's aide. If I could just steer you through the reception line here

--

The DIPLOMAT pilots the SENATOR by one arm, guiding him to a reception line at the base of the stairs to the party.

DIPLOMAT

Allow me to introduce Jaroslav Reid, the director of the National Gallery -- Petr Brandl, the mayor of Prague --

SARAH, a very attractive young American dressed in an elegant gown, steps out of the reception line and shakes hands with WALTZER.

SARAH

I bet you don't remember me, do you, Senator?

SENATOR WALTZER

Of course I do. How are you, Miss Norman?

He leans in and kisses her on the cheek, and as he does so SARAH whispers something in his ear.

SARAH

He's in pocket. Under the archway behind me.

Her tone, her words -- we realize she's on the team.

The SENATOR pulls a pair of Visco glasses from his pocket (and if we didn't know the SENATOR was ETHAN before, this confirms it), puts them on, and looks up, over her shoulder.

UNDER AN ARCHWAY NEAR THE ENTRANCE,

ALEKSANDER GOLITSYN, the Ukrainian, has just come in from outside.

13 INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT 13

PHELPS sees the SENATOR's point of view of GOLITSYN, through the glasses, broadcast back to PHELPS' monitor. He speaks into his microphone.

PHELPS

Sarah, mark the package and go to two.

14 INT. EMBASSY PARTY - NIGHT 14

SARAH still has the SENATOR's attention.

SARAH

Your advance team mentioned you'd want a tour of the facility, so I've gone ahead and set that up for you -

SENATOR WALTZER

Terrific. Let's get going.
(to the Diplomat)
Will you excuse us?

He slips an arm around SARAH and they walk off, not into the party, but the other way, toward a staircase that leads further into the Embassy.

DIPLOMAT

Uh, sir?

15 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - NIGHT 15

JACK climbs up the elevator shaft, towards the gray metal box. He just begins to remove the cover when he hears a noise from above. He looks up and sees the elevator above him descending.

JACK quickly pulls himself flush against the wall. The elevator comes down adjacent to him and stops, pinning him to the wall.

JACK

Great. Come on.

16 INT. EMBASSY PARTY - NIGHT 16

As the SENATOR and SARAH pass behind the entering GOLITSYN, SARAH pulls a small bottle of perfume from her purse. But as she sprays, she points it slightly to the left, missing

herself and hitting the back of GOLITSYN'S head. He never notices. They move on and down the flight of stairs.

17 INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT**17**

JIM PHELPS monitors the Visco views of the party. He looks to the fourth monitor and checks a view of the party, a jumpy one, as someone hurrying up stairs.

PHELPS

Hannah. He's marked. Lets go.

18 INT. EMBASSY PARTY - NIGHT**18**

On a flight of stairs, HANNAH, dressed for the party and slightly out of breath, hurries up the stairs.

HANNAH

En route.

She also has a pair of Visco glasses, which she trains on the party below. She pushes a micro switch on the side of her glasses, activating an electronic filter, which tints the lenses.

PHELPS (O/S)

Hannah, pull the shade (or - Hannah go to night vision).

HANNAH'S VISCO POV

the party looks the same, but one head in the crowd stands out. That head is GOLITSYN'S, his hair a fluorescent green where SARAH sprayed it.

19 INT. THE DENIED AREA/ELEVATOR BANK - NIGHT**19**

The SENATOR (let's just call him ETHAN) and SARAH come down the stairs and pass a sign that says "Denied Area -- Political Attaches Only." ETHAN checks his watch. 23:00.

He nods to SARAH, they round a corner, and come to an elevator at the end of the corridor. A sign in front of it says "Out of Order." They head for it anyway.

A MARINE GUARD appears from behind a side door, catching them by surprise.

JACK

Governor's in position. We have the elevator.

GUARD

Excuse me, can I help you?

SARAH

-- which leads directly to the Denied Area, the only limited access area in the whole facility.

SARAH flashes an ID at the GUARD and keeps talking.

SARAH

As you can see. this area has both a Marine guard and video surveillance, and is strictly monitored at all times.

She walks up to the thumbprint analyzer on the elevator bank and slides her thumb inside. The panel lights up and flashes a message -- "ACCESS DENIED." SARAH and ETHAN trade a look.

SARAH

(covering)

Senator, don't you have a young man on your staff named JACK?

She tries the thumb again, Still no soap.

ETHAN

Jack? I believe we did have a young man named Jack. Not a reliable man, as I recall. Constantly late or behind in his work.

Now the GUARD, noticing that Sarah's not being allowed access, comes closer to them.

GUARD

Excuse me, let me see that ID again!

20 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - NIGHT

20

JACK is still pinned to the wall by the elevator, listening to their conversation.

PHELPS (O.S.)

Jack's pinned down Sarah. Should be a second. Keep dancing.

ETHAN (O.S.)

(with the Senator's southern accent)

We were forced to tie him to my best stallion and drag him around the

barn a few times.

Finally, the elevator moves down a floor and JACK is freed.

JACK
Relax your crack, Foghorn, I'm
workin' on it.

He quickly opens the gray metal box, revealing a maze of circuitry. He patches in his computer, climbs on top of the elevator, and hits the keyboard, beginning to download.

THE LAPTOP
there's a split-screen of SARAH's
thumbprint and the ID picture. JACK
downloads her file into the security
computer.

21 INT. THE DENIED AREA - ELEVATOR BANK - NIGHT 21

Ignoring the GUARD, SARAH turns and slides her thumb into the thumbprint analyzer once more. The panel glows, this time the message flashes --

IDENTITY CONFIRMED
-- and the elevator doors slide open
briskly.

The GUARD, surprised, now catches sight of the SENATOR.

GUARD
Oh. Sorry, sir.

He snaps a salute. ETHAN and SARAH get into the elevator and the doors close behind them.

22 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - NIGHT 22

JACK looks down at the elevator below. Through a grating, he can see them inside.

JACK
The drink (date) with Sarah is
definitely off.

23 INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT 23

PHELPS moves from JACK's view of the elevator car to HANNAH's view of the party on his video monitors.

PHELPS

(a touch of impatience)
Hannah -- I'm blind again. Hannah.

24 INT. EMBASSY PARTY - NIGHT 24

HANNAH, stationed on the second floor of the Embassy, moves to get a better view of the party. She reacquires GOLITSYN's glowing head.

HANNAH
He's heading to the denied area.

25 INT. EMBASSY WORK ROOM - NIGHT 25

This work room is filled with combination lock filing cabinets and various computer terminals. ETHAN hands SARAH his Visco glasses and she crosses the room, placing them upside down on top of a filing cabinet.

ETHAN straps on a Visco wrist monitor and tunes it in, switching several times.

ETHAN
(to Sarah)
Higher. Higher.

SARAH
Higher.

ETHAN
Right, right. Good.

SARAH adjusts the glasses.

THROUGH THE GLASSES,

the view of the main computer terminal is upside down, but clear. Anyone sitting there will be recorded.

26 INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT 26

On PHELPS' monitor, we see ETHAN, via his Visco glasses on the filing cabinet, standing next to the computer. PHELPS barks out a warning.

PHELPS
Get moving, Ethan. He's rolling to you.

27 INT. EMBASSY WORK ROOM - NIGHT 27

ETHAN pushes the elevator button but the elevator is already moving up.

ETHAN
Jack we're in position.

28 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - WORK ROOM - NIGHT

28

In a split view, we see both sides of the elevator wall simultaneously -- on one side, JACK is lying on top of the rising elevator, on the other side, ETHAN and SARAH are waiting for it to arrive.

ETHAN
Jack. Jack.

JACK
I didn't touch it.

The elevator stops, the doors open --

-- and GOLITSYN gets on. GOLITSYN descends in the elevator with JACK on top and ETHAN and SARAH waiting down below!

29 INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

29

PHELPS sees JACK's point of view of the elevator, with GOLITSYN inside.

PHELPS
(tension rising)
He's in the box, Ethan, he's in the box!

30 INT. EMBASSY WORK ROOM - NIGHT

30

ETHAN and SARAH are waiting in front of the elevator, the one GOLITSYN is about to step off of! ETHAN looks around, for a place to hide.

ETHAN
OK. Taking Golitsyn's exit. Jack, open the doors.

SARAH
What about my coat? I'll freeze.

JACK (O.S.)
I don't have it.

31 INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT 31

PHELPS whips over to a laptop and starts typing.

PHELPS

Opening the doors. Go under.

He jabs ENTER on his keyboard.

32 INT. EMBASSY WORK ROOM - NIGHT 32

The elevator doors WHISK open, revealing the empty shaft beyond. ETHAN and SARAH jump into the shaft.

33 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - NIGHT 33

ETHAN and SARAH jump down into the five foot empty space below the work room floor. Above them, the elevator continues its descent, with them hiding below. The elevator drops to just over their heads and stops.

34 INT. EMBASSY WORK ROOM - NIGHT 34

GOLITSYN steps off the elevator, crosses the room and slides a 3.5 computer disk into the computer in the work room. Through the Visco glasses, we can clearly see him at work, downloading the vital information.

35 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - BELOW ELEVATOR - NIGHT 35

Waiting below the elevator, ETHAN takes off his jacket, starting to reverse it. He checks his Visco wrist monitor as GOLITSYN perpetrates the theft. He smiles and speaks into a microphone.

ETHAN

He's got it. Saved your ass again
Jack.

JACK (O.S.)

Give me a break, Pops.

SARAH

Such a nice ass.

JACK (O.S.)

And a lonely ass.

ETHAN

Sarah's reconsidering. Claire,
transport in five minutes.

CLAIRE (O.S.)

Roger that.

36 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - BELOW ELEVATOR - NIGHT 36

Back inside, ETHAN strips off his mask and wearing his now reversed jacket, he and SARAH exit the small door at the base of the elevator shaft.

37 EXT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - ABOVE ELEVATOR - NIGHT 37

JACK rapidly disconnects his equipment. But as he pulls the final electrical clip from the elevator's wiring, it flashes and SPARKS.

38 EXT. EMBASSY - NIGHT 38

ETHAN and SARAH exit an Embassy service area by the waterfront and blend into the Embassy crowd, as an amorous couple.

ETHAN

In position. Jack open the door, let
the package roll.

JACK (O.S.)

Roger that. Opening doors now.

ETHAN

Stairway, you're wrapped, go to
transport.

ETHAN'S voice comes over HANNAH'S earpiece.

HANNAH

En route.

HANNAH breaks off and goes up the stairs.

39 INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT 39

The button marked "ROOF" lights up, seemingly all by itself.

40 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - ABOVE ELEVATOR - NIGHT 40

The car engages with a sharp jolt --

JACK

Hey.

--and starts to rise. JACK looks down, into the elevator car, through the grate. There's no one in it.

41 INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT 41

On one of his monitors, PHELPS sees the elevator moving in the shaft.

PHELPS

Jack, what are you doing?!

42 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - ABOVE ELEVATOR - NIGHT 42

JACK

I'm not doing anything! (I don't have it either).

43 INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT 43

PHELPS is typing at his keyboard and jamming the enter button but gets no response.

PHELPS

I don't have it -- I don't have control!

44 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - ABOVE ELEVATOR - NIGHT 44

JACK'S face pales. He looks up, above him, at the approaching ceiling.

JACK

Uh -- then I have a problem.

45 INT. EMBASSY WORK ROOM - NIGHT 45

GOLITSYN pulls out the now-programmed disk from the computer, slips it in his jacket pocket and heads for the door.

46 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - ABOVE ELEVATOR - NIGHT 46

JACK looks up through his Visco glasses at the approaching roof, covered with spikes.

47 EXT. EMBASSY - NIGHT**47**

Through the monitor, ETHAN sees JACK'S P.O.V. of the roof of the building approaching. Fast.

ETHAN

Cut the power. Cut the power Jack.
Do you hear me.

48 INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - ABOVE ELEVATOR - NIGHT**48**

On top of the elevator, JACK has ripped open the control panel again and is frantically trying to adjust wires to get the thing to stop.

He swears, his fingers fumble, he works faster and faster. He looks up. The roof of the building is nearly upon him.

ETHAN (O.S.)

Come on, Jack, come on.

JACK looks up again, he cringes, he covers his head with his hands, he SCREAMS --

--and he's crushed to death against the roof.

49 EXT. EMBASSY - NIGHT**49**

ETHAN is staring at the static on the monitor that once was JACK'S signal.

ETHAN

Jack. Jack.

He closes his eyes, knowing what that means.

50 INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT**50**

PHELPS also sees the static.

PHELPS

Man down. Stay where you are. I'm on my way.

He gets up and races out of the apartment.

51 INT. EMBASSY WORK ROOM - NIGHT**51**

GOLITSYN, who now has the disk, jabs again and again at the elevator button but it won't even light up. He studies the

elevator doors and jumps into the shaft, just as ETHAN and SARAH did moments before.

He hits the floor of the elevator shaft and exits the small door at the shaft's base.

52 EXT. PRAGUE SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT 52

PHELPS hurries towards the bridge.

PHELPS
En route.

53 EXT. CHARLES BRIDGE - NIGHT 53

PHELPS dashes onto the Charles Bridge and heads across the river, toward the Embassy. He throws a look back, over his shoulder. Paranoia's setting in.

54 EXT. EMBASSY - AS SEEN FROM CHARLES BRIDGE - NIGHT 54

Outside the Embassy, GOLITSYN escapes, pushing through the service area door and racing past a DRUNKEN COUPLE who are in the midst of a lover's quarrel, in Russian.

Pan past the embankment and onto the bridge where PHELPS is still racing to meet ETHAN. But he stops suddenly, as if hearing something and looks behind him, at the deepening gloom.

55 EXT. EMBASSY - NIGHT 55

ETHAN and SARAH hear PHELP'S voice over the monitor.

SARAH
The package is in the open.

ETHAN
Jim. Jim. He's in the open.

PHELPS (O.S.)
I've got a shadow.

ETHAN
Can you lose him?

PHELPS (O.S.)
No. Abort.

Over ETHAN's shoulder, SARAH sees GOLITSYN getting away. Fog starts to roll over the river towards the bridge.

SARAH
Ethan. He's out of pocket.

ETHAN
(to Phelps)
Jim we can't.

PHELPS (O.S.)
Abort. That's an order.

ETHAN
Negative, Golitsyn's on the move.

56 INT. GETAWAY CAR - NIGHT 56

Seated in the getaway car, CLAIRE listens to JIM and ETHAN argue.

PHELPS (O.S.)
No, damn it, no, I said ABORT!

57 EXT. EMBASSY - NIGHT 57

Outside the Embassy, SARAH and ETHAN argue.

ETHAN
Sarah eye on the package. Jim, I'm coming to you.

SARAH
Jim gave an abort, we should walk away.

ETHAN
No, we're going to recover the disk, understand?! Now move!

ETHAN takes off for the bridge, leaving SARAH to shadow GOLITSYN.

58 EXT. PARKING AREA - NIGHT 58

HANNAH hurries toward the getaway vehicle.

59 EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT 59

ETHAN moves to the bridge stairs.

PHELPS (O.S.)
Where are you?

ETHAN
About two hundred yards from the
bridge.

PHELPS (O.S.)
They're covering this frequency,
Ethan. Cut all radio communications.
Repeat. Cut all radio
communications.

ETHAN continues to run toward the stairs to the bridge. Past
CLAIRE who sits in the getaway car. He looks on his monitor
and again sees PHELPS' POV. Only ominous silence. Phelps is
looking back over his shoulder. The bridge is deserted.

60 EXT. EMBANKMENT - NIGHT 60

SARAH follows GOLITSYN as he hurries toward the shore, where
a cobblestone promenade runs along the river. He disappears
into the fog at the edge of the river.

61 EXT. STAIRS TO BRIDGE - NIGHT 61

ETHAN checks his monitor again.

THE MONITOR
PHELPS' point of view changes
radically as his head swivels on the
darkened bridge. He whirls again,
looking over his shoulder and this
time the barrel of a gun is visible,
pointing at him and before PHELPS
has a chance to react a GUNSHOT
CRACKLES over the monitor.

The point of view goes crazy for a moment, then over and down
to a bloody hole in his own chest.

His head rocks again, then goes over the side of the bridge
and makes the long, hard fall into the river below.

62 EXT. STAIRS TO BRIDGE - NIGHT 62

ETHAN's face goes white with shock.

ETHAN

JIM!

63 EXT. CHARLES BRIDGE - NIGHT 63

He races up the rest of the stairs to the bridge but there's no sign of PHELPS.

ETHAN runs to the railing and looks down into the river but sees only dark, choppy waters below, now becoming obscured in the gathering fog.

He turns and looks to the embankment. He can faintly see GOLITSYN, hurrying along the promenade. ETHAN gives chase.

64 EXT. PARKING AREA - NIGHT 64

ETHAN runs towards the getaway car, reaching a vantage point on the top of the stairs, he can see CLAIRE'S outline, visible in the driver's seat. But as he descends the stairs

--

--the car explodes and bursts into flames.

The force of the blast knocks ETHAN back.

ETHAN

CLAIRE!

He watches the burning car in stunned silence for a moment, a stunned CROWD starts to gather.

Remembering SARAH, he rushes down the stairs towards the embankment.

65 EXT. EMBANKMENT - NIGHT 65

SARAH comes out of the fog near the riverbank and sees GOLITSYN again, slowing down. A MAN comes out of the fog and seems to ask GOLITSYN for a light.

SARAH draws closer. Behind her, the DRUNKEN COUPLE seems to be hanging with her for some reason.

66 EXT. STAIRS FROM BRIDGE - NIGHT 66

ETHAN continues towards the embankment.

67 EXT. EMBANKMENT - NIGHT 67

SARAH is almost to GOLITSYN. Suddenly, the MAN in front of GOLITSYN pulls him towards him. Sensing something wrong, SARAH quickens her pace. The MAN is now hunched over GOLITSYN, facing away from SARAH, going through GOLITSYN's pockets.

The figure finds what it's looking for -- the disk -- and takes it. SARAH comes closer --

-- and the figure whirls. It brings a knife up sharply, plunges it into her chest and slinks away out of sight.

ANGLE

ETHAN races around the corner onto the embankment. He bursts out of the fog, just in time to see SARAH fall to her knees, over GOLITSYN's body. ETHAN sees the knife in her chest and

GASPS.

He pulls the knife out of SARAH, who is close to death. He looks at it -- it is a black Teflon knife with a serrated edge.

BEHIND ETHAN

The DRUNKEN COUPLE seem drunk no more. In fact, they're watching ETHAN. Through the fog and night, they see him leaning over SARAH, holding the knife in his hands.

AT THE BODIES

SARAH goes still. ETHAN lays her down, turns the other body over and sees that it is GOLITSYN. He quickly begins rummaging through his pockets.

ETHAN hear police sirens and sees...

ANGLE

A Prague police boat, SIREN wailing, arrives at the dock in front of the Embassy. The DRUNKEN MAN and WOMAN stop suddenly.

As THREE POLICE leap off the boat and race toward the explosion, ETHAN leaps over the gate and races up the alley and out of sight.

ETHAN unscrews the mouthpiece of a payphone receiver. He's holding a flat piece of metal with six prongs on it, a modernist cockroach. He CLICKS the cockroach into the guts of the phone's wiring, piercing it with its little prongs.

He screws the mouthpiece back on, holds the phone's tongue down for a second, releases it and listens. He has a dial tone. Now he punches in a fourteen digit number he knows by heart.

After a moment, a FLAT VOICE comes on the other side.

FLAT VOICE (O.S.)
Satcom seven.

ETHAN
Central Europe. Unsecured.

FLAT VOICE (O.S.)
Designator?

ETHAN
Bravo Echo one one.

FLAT VOICE (O.S.)
Switching.

There is a long pause and then familiar voice comes on the line.

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)
This is Kittridge.

ETHAN
Go secure.

Pause. A funny series of CLICKS comes over the line.

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)
Go ahead.

ETHAN
They're dead.

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)
Who's dead?

ETHAN
My team. Claire, Jack, even Jim --
Hannah, maybe, I -- don't know

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)
Are you damaged?

ETHAN

They knew we were coming. Golitsyn's dead too. The disk is gone.

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)

Are you intact?

ETHAN

Do you read me? The list is in the open!

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)

Let's just bring you in safely, and then we'll worry about that, okay? Were you followed?

ETHAN closes his eyes. KITTRIDGE'S voice is strong and reassuring and he needs that right now.

ETHAN

I don't think so.

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)

Don't think, be sure. Are you clean?

ETHAN

Yes.

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)

Location green. One hour. I'll be there myself.

ETHAN

You're in Prague?

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)

Heard a lot about you, Hunt. Don't disappoint me.

ETHAN

No sir.

KITTRIDGE (O.S.)

One hour.

He hangs up. ETHAN does the same. He stares at the phone for a moment, thinking. He checks his watch.

69 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

69

ETHAN steps out of the phone booth and starts down the street. Every face seems to be starring at him now, every

sound is menacing. He pulls his coat in tight, shoves his hands in his pockets and walks among the crowd.

70 EXT. OLD TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

70

ETHAN makes his way past the old town clock, a towering, gothic structure and into a plaza, surrounded mostly by residential buildings.

ETHAN'S POV

Straight across from him is a glass enclosed restaurant built on the portico of an old palace.

Brilliantly lit up from inside, the restaurant positively shimmers, every table visible from everywhere in the plaza.

71 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

71

ETHAN'S POV

ETHAN walks in the glass front doors, right next to an enormous fish tank, part of the restaurant's exterior wall. He scans the clientele carefully -- maybe a dozen PATRONS are scattered around.

EUGENE KITTRIDGE is seated at a table in the middle. He and ETHAN make eye contact. ETHAN walks to the table, a couple of quick, seemingly cursory glances around the room as he goes. KITTRIDGE has been working on a pretty good-sized lobster. He rises to greet ETHAN and they sit.

KITTRIDGE

I can't tell you how sorry I am. I know how much Jim, in particular, meant to you, Ethan. Personally as well as professionally.

ETHAN

Yeah.

He spots a stack of documents on the table.

ETHAN picks them up. There's a Canadian picture bearing ETHAN photo and the name Phillipe Doucette, credit cards, driver's license, etc.

KITTRIDGE

Passport, visas - you know the drill. We'll work the exfiltration thru Canada, debrief you at Langley. Throw the Prague police a bone, you

know toss them a few suspects.
Follow me?

ETHAN
Yeah. I follow you.

KITTRIDGE
We've lost enough agents for one
night.

ETHAN
You mean I've lost enough agents for
one night.

KITTRIDGE seems to be at the point of saying one thing, then,
carefully:

KITTRIDGE
You seem hell bent on blaming
yourself, Ethan.

ETHAN
Who else is left?

KITTRIDGE
Yes. I see your point.

ETHAN
Why was there another team?

KITTRIDGE
What?

ETHAN
Of IMF agents. At the Embassy.
Tonight.

KITTRIDGE
I don't quite follow you.

ETHAN
Let's see if you can follow me
around this room.
(eyes moving around the
room)
The drunk Russians on the embankment
at 7 and 8 o'clock...The couple
waltzing around me at the Embassy at
9 and 11. The waiter behind Hannah
at the top of the staircase -
Bowtie, 12 o'clock. The other IMF
team. You're worried about me. Why?

KITTRIDGE

(a tight little smile)
You're right. Maybe this'll save
some time.

The figures around the room have grown restless. KITTRIDGE tries to indicate that it's okay. He pulls some papers out of his jacket.

KITTRIDGE
For a little over two years now
we've been spotting serious blowback
in IMF operations. We have a
penetration. The other day we
decoded a message on the Internet
from a Czech we know as "Max."

ETHAN
The arms dealer.

KITTRIDGE
That's right. Max, it seems, has two
unique gifts -- a capacity for
anonymity and for corrupting
susceptible agents. This time he's
gotten to someone on the inside -
he's put himself in a position to
buy our NOC list. An operation he
referred to as "Job 314". The job he
thought Golitsyn was doing tonight.

ETHAN
But the list Golitsyn stole was a
decoy.

KITTRIDGE
Correct the actual list is safe at
Langley. "Golitsyn" was a lightning
rod, one of ours.

ETHAN
This whole operation was a molehunt.

KITTRIDGE
Yes, the mole's deep inside. And --
like you said. You survived.

ETHAN stares at him levelly.

KITTRIDGE
I want to show you something, Ethan.

He now shoves the papers across the table. They're xeroxed copies of a Wisconsin bank account in the name of DONALD and MARGARET ETHAN HUNT. It shows a balance of \$127,000.

KITTRIDGE

Since your father's death, your family's farm has been in sub-chapter S and now, suddenly, they're flush with over a hundred and twenty grand in the bank. Dad's illness was supposed to have wiped out the bank account -- dying slowly in America after all, can be a very expensive proposition Ethan. So, why don't we go quietly out of here onto the plane...

ETHAN

How about if we just go quietly into the bathroom and I wash your mouth out with soap - you pathetic button down bureaucratic asshole.

KITTRIDGE

Ethan, I can understand you're very upset.

ETHAN

Kittridge, you've never seen me very upset.

ETHAN takes something from his jacket pocket. While KITTRIDGE talks, ETHAN unwraps whatever is in his hand.

KITTRIDGE

All right, enough is enough Hunt. You've bribed, cajoled, killed - and relied on intimate loyalties to get away with it. You're determined to shake hands with the devil and I'm going to make sure you do it in hell.

We see what ETHAN holds in his hand -- it's the piece of bubble gum, half red, half green. He squeezes the gum, mashing the two sides together.

ETHAN lashes out, swatting KITTRIDGE'S glass of wine off the table in one quick motion. As he does, he hurls the piece of gum.

Diners look up, startled at the sound of the breaking wine glass. KITTRIDGE follows the trajectory of the glass --

-- and sees the piece of gum, stuck to the tank. His eyes widen. KA BOOM!

The tiny piece of plastique explodes, SHATTERING the fish tank. A hundred gallons of water flow over the MAN and WOMAN, knocking them to the ground.

At the same time, ETHAN bolts for the door.

72 EXT. OLD TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT 72

ETHAN races out of the restaurant and takes off, into the deserted square.

73 EXT. SAFE HOUSE - ENTRYWAY - NIGHT 73

Silence. ETHAN enters the darkened entry.

74 INT. SAFE HOUSE STAIRWELL - NIGHT 74

ETHAN glances up at the stairwell. Naked light bulbs illuminate the way up. He slips off his jacket and shirt, then puts his jacket back on.

75 INT. SAFE HOUSE STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT 75

ETHAN unscrews a bulb. He crushes the bulb in his shirt and scatters the glass fragments on the steps. He climbs to the next bulb.

76 INT. SAFE HOUSE - DOORWAY - NIGHT 76

At the now-darkened door to the apartment, there's the soft sound of another bulb being POPPED in cloth, glass fragments dropping and ETHAN'S at the door.

77 INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT 77

In the darkened safe house, ETHAN goes to a vase with flowers, picks it up and unscrews the bottom, retrieving a Sig Sauer automatic. He moves through the rooms, checking them as he goes.

78 INT. SAFE HOUSE BATHROOM - NIGHT 78

ETHAN checks the shower, then goes to his shaving kit, pulling out a shaving cream can and a hairspray can. He unscrews the bottoms, retrieving cash in various denominations from various countries and a couple of passports.

As he pockets them, he catches sight of himself in the mirror. He's a mess. He splashes water on his face.

79 INT. SAFE HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT 79

ETHAN greedily tears the cap off a bottle of mineral water and proceeds to guzzle it as if he was dying of thirst.

80 INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT 80

He comes back into the living room. Still drinking, he notices flickering lights on the other side of the room, the static from the four monitors PHELPS was watching. One by one, he switches them off.

THE LAPTOP

JACK had been using lies closed at his abandoned desk. ETHAN wakes it up.

The computer emits a DIAL TONE, then STATIC as it hits its connection. It prompts ETHAN along:

SELECT USENET GROUP

ETHAN TYPES IN

job 314

ETHAN

Job. Job 3:14. March fourteen. Job 31 March.

The computer replies:

SEARCHING STRING NOT FOUND

ETHAN tries again:

max.com

The answer:

SEARCH STRING NOT FOUND

He tries a few more, quickly -- "job," "jobs," "joblist.com," but nothing comes up. He tries something else -- "scroll usenet groups."

The computer scrolls names of bulletin boards at a dizzying speed, by the hundreds. That's not going anywhere.

ETHAN pauses, slaking his bottomless thirst and trying to figure out what permutation of "job 314" he should add to the others on his computer screen. He MUMBLES.

ETHAN
Job three fourteen. Job --
(a realization, the
Biblical pronunciation)
It's Job!

He rummages around on the desk, checks the bookshelf and finds a Gideon Bible. He turns to Job 3:14 and reads the Bible passage "Kings and Counsellors..."

He thinks for another moment, then punches back into the Internet and under the command "Select Usenet Group" he types:

BIBLE
The computer replies:

126 ENTRIES FOUND, SPECIFY GROUP 126

ETHAN:

BOOK OF JOB

The computer presents a multi-colored screen of religious icons and artwork with an accompanying message:

WELCOME TO THE BOOK OF JOB DISCUSSION

GROUP. WHICH CHAPTER AND VERSE DO

YOU WISH TO POST YOUR ENTRY UNDER?

ETHAN types his answer "Job 3:14" and the screen presents a "stickie" for him to write his message on. He does:

ETHAN
Max -- Goods tainted. Consider
extremely hazardous. DO NOT USE.
Fate will be that of kings and
counsellors who built for themselves
palaces now lying in ruins. Must
meet to discuss a.s.a.p.

ANGLE
A rhythmic CRUNCHING sound and from the darkness on the other side of the room, PHELPS staggers toward him, wet and muddy, his middle a hopelessly bloody mess. He looks

like he's dying on his feet. ETHAN freezes, appalled.

PHELPS
Ethan, what are you doing?

ETHAN tries to speak but nothing will come out.

PHELPS
I needed you, Ethan. I needed you on the bridge, and -- you weren't there. Ethan? Ethan?

ETHAN reaches out to grab PHELPS but can't seem to touch him. PHELPS suddenly vanishes into thin air, ETHAN awakens from the dream and finds himself leaping to his feet, gun cocked and pointed at --

ANGLE
It's CLAIRE.

ETHAN
What are you doing here?!

CLAIRE freezes, her hands half-raised.

CLAIRE
(carefully)
Ethan -- Ethan, it's okay. It's Claire. Ethan what's wrong with you?

ETHAN
Don't move.

Her right hand has moved a fraction. She freezes again.

ETHAN
You were in the car!

CLAIRE
I wasn't. I heard that Jim was in trouble on the radio. He said someone was...

ETHAN
Shut up! I saw you. You were in the car.

CLAIRE
No, I got out of the car and I ran to the bridge.

ETHAN

Don't give me that! I was on the bridge.

CLAIRE
What happened to Jim?

ETHAN
There was nobody on the bridge.

CLAIRE
What happened to Jim?

Ethan grabs her wrists, shouting.

ETHAN
Dead. Dead. Dead! Wake up, Claire!
Jim's dead, they're dead. They're
all dead!

ETHAN releases her wrists.

CLAIRE
(mumbling)
They're dead. Jim's dead.

ETHAN
Take off your coat.

CLAIRE
What?

ETHAN
Take off your God damn coat!

He grabs a sleeve and literally tears the coat off her, half-spinning her around. The coat hits the floor like a dead body. CLAIRE'S instinctive move is to cover her chest.

CLAIRE begins to shiver. ETHAN circles her, runs his hand cursorily across her body. It accentuates CLAIRE'S shivering.

ETHAN
Where were you?

CLAIRE
I walked away. He said abort. He was gone so I walked away.

ETHAN
That was four hours ago! Who sent you? Did they send you here?

CLAIRE
(slowly)

Who is "they?"

ETHAN

Did they send you...Did they send you?

CLAIRE

Who is they, who is they?

ETHAN grabs her by the wrists.

ETHAN

Who sent you?! Who sent you?

CLAIRE

(screaming)

No one sent me!

We're supposed to be back here at four o'clock, four o'clock, if we abort, we don't return here until four o'clock, 0-four hundred, four am, four o'clock --!

She sags. A moment. Then the clock begins to chime -- BONG, BONG, BONG, BONG. In the wake of the bells' reverb, ETHAN releases his grip on her wrists.

81 INT. SAFE HOUSE - LATER THE SAME NIGHT

81

ETHAN sits in front of the computer, staring blankly at it, still waiting for a response. CLAIRE sitting on the end of the bed. Dawn approaches, it's very, very quiet.

CLAIRE

Why haven't they brought us in yet?

ETHAN

I've been disavowed. They think I killed Jim and everyone else. Somehow a hundred thousand dollars found its way into my parents' bank account. Kittridge assumes I'm a mole they've been tracing and I've been in the employ of an arms dealer, Max, for the last two years, to get him our NOC list.

A long moment while she stares at ETHAN's back.

CLAIRE

What are you going to do?

ETHAN

I'm going to get it for him. Whoever the mole is, I think goes by the name of Job, at least part of the time. I can't find him, but if he knows I have the NOC list, he'll find me.

CLAIRE

Ethan, you're not making sense. Let me go in and talk to Kittridge. I'm going to tell him you had nothing to do...

ETHAN

Claire, Claire, Claire, if you're not dead, he's going to assume you're with me.

The computer blinks and makes a noise - ETHAN goes to it.

THE COMPUTER SCREEN

Blinking -- "MESSAGE WAITING." ETHAN hurries over and clicks on the message box. The screen blinks and the message shows up:

JOB - CORNER OF NEKAZANKA AND PRJKOPY ONE P.M.

BUY A PACKET OF DUNHILL

AND ASK THE MAN SITTING ON THE BUS

STOP BENCH FOR A MATCH

CLAIRE looks to ETHAN.

CLAIRE

The message is for Job.

ETHAN

I'm going to answer it.

82 EXT. STREET BY BANK/FLORENC BUS STOP - DAY

82

ETHAN arrives at the bus stop outside the Savoy Arcade. A MAN in a black wind-breaker sits on the bench, his back to

ETHAN.

ETHAN

Excuse me, could I trouble you for a match?

Without turning, the MAN offers up a box of matches. As ETHAN takes them, TWO MEN from behind take him by either arm and escort him into a car which has just pulled up.

83 INT. CAR - DAY**83**

ETHAN slides into the back seat, between the TWO MEN. MATTHIAS, the man on the left, holds up a black hood. He extends it to ETHAN, who doesn't take it.

MATTHIAS

Would you remove your hat please?

ETHAN

Why?

MATTHIAS

You wish to meet Max? This is the price of admission.

Reluctantly, Ethan pulls the hood over his head and the car takes off.

84 INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - DAY**84**

The black hood still on his head, ETHAN has trouble sitting upright. He's before a desk, in an apartment somewhere in the city -- it's impossible to tell where, as the blinds are drawn. The place is roomy and lavishly furnished -- expensive Oriental rugs, well-chosen objects of art.

Somewhere down the block, a dog BARKS, steadily, every few seconds. In the hallway outside the apartment door, someone is VACUUMING. MATTHIAS and the OTHER MAN are nearby.

ETHAN

I thought I was going to see Max.

MATTHIAS

You misunderstood. No one sees Max.

ETHAN

Then what am I doing here?

MATTHIAS

Allowing Max to see you and hear what you've got to say.

ETHAN

I don't communicate very well through a shroud.

MATTHIAS

If Max doesn't like what you have to say, you'll be wearing that shroud indefinitely.

ETHAN

I'm willing to take the chance.

MATTHIAS

Very well.

MAX'S figure into frame. MATTHIAS removes ETHAN's hood. When it comes off ETHAN finds himself looking up at a tall woman of indeterminate age. She's handsome to the point of severity.

MAX

Who are you and what are you doing here?

ETHAN

I need one hundred thousand dollars.

MAX

Really? And you thought if you simply showed up I might give it to you?

ETHAN

Why not? You gave Job a hundred and twenty five thousand.

MAX

The penny drops. You are not Job. Yes, Job is not given to quoting Scripture in his communications. And there was its tone -- aggressive but playful. Job is not playful. So you're something of a paradox.

ETHAN

That depends.

MAX

On what?

ETHAN

Whether you like a paradox. I want a hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

MAX

It's quite out of the question.

ETHAN

The disk Job sold you is worthless.
It's bait, part of an internal
molehunt.

MAX

And how might you know that? Are you
another Company man?

ETHAN

Like Job?

MAX

Ah, but, we're asking about you.

ETHAN

I'm NOC. Was. Now disavowed.

MAX

Why, may I ask?

ETHAN

That's the question I want to ask
Job.

MAX

I don't know Job any more than he
knows me.

ETHAN

Even so, I'm sure you could arrange
an introduction.

MAX

Why should I?

ETHAN

Because I can deliver the actual NOC
list. The one you have is not only
worthless, it's certain to be
equipped with a homing device to
pinpoint your exact location.

MAX

It's easy to say the disk is
worthless when you say I can't look
at the information and see if it's
worthless. Not a tenable position,
sir.

ETHAN

Okay, boot it up and in anywhere
from thirty seconds to ten minutes
you're gonna have Virginia farm boys
hopping around you like jackrabbits.

MAX

(Pause.)

Mm - Hmm...

ETHAN

Tell you what. How good's the RF scanner you used in the car?

MAX

Very good.

ETHAN

Okay, use it. But I suggest pack up first.

ANGLE

MATTHIAS boots up. There's a little musical noise and the screen brightens. The computer WHIRS and CLICKS and a complex list of names, addresses, phone numbers and other personal information scrolls by. But Matthias is watching the digital read-out on the RF scanner.

MATTHIAS

Twenty-six, twenty-seven. So far so good.

MAX

That's not so good for you, my friend.

On the scanner, the digital read-out is now in the thirties.

MATTHIAS

Thirty-two and change.

MAX

(to Ethan)

Doesn't mean it's a signal. Could just be the hard drive heating up.

She looks from the scanner to ETHAN as if she's trying to make up her mind about something.

MATTHIAS

Forty-four. Forty-five.

ETHAN

I'd say you've got about two minutes.

MAX still doubts it. The OTHER MAN goes to the windows --

--nothing happens. He opens the French doors that lead out onto a balcony.

85 EXT. MAX'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - DAY 85

The OTHER MAN comes out on the balcony. Nothing out here but a beautiful day. He walks to the railing and looks down at the street.

Down below, the dog that's still barking is tied to a street sign. WOOF. WOOF. WOOF. Abruptly, it stops.

86 INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - DAY 86

Back inside:

MATTHIAS
Fifty-seven. Fifty-nine.

87 EXT. MAX'S APARTMENT 87

A pollution control van and a taxi arrive amidst other street activity. KITTRIDGE and the FEMALE CZECH AGENT exit the taxi as BARNES and TWO OTHER UNDERCOVER MALE IMF agents leave the van.

88 INT. MAX'S BUILDING - LOBBY - DAY 88

Led by KITTRIDGE, the FIVE IMF AGENTS wearing Kevlar-lined trenchcoats creep through the lobby of the building and hit the stairs. They climb them silently.

89 INT. MAX'S BUILDING HALLWAY - DAY 89

A CLEANING WOMAN is vacuuming the hall carpeting when the AGENTS come up the stairs, guns drawn. Her jaw drops and she turns off the vacuum cleaner.

FEMALE IMF
(in czech)
Switch it on. Keep cleaning.

KITTRIDGE looks at her sharply and gestures. She turns the vacuum back on. They reach the door of a certain apartment and --

90 INT. APARTMENT - DAY 90

-- KICK through it. The AGENTS swarm into MAX'S apartment, guns waving in all directions. KITTRIDGE sweeps in between them and takes command of the place --

--but there's nobody here. TWO AGENTS race into the bedroom, and just as quickly out again.

91 EXT. POWDER TOWER - TOP SHOT - DAY 91

MAX, ETHAN, MATTHIAS and the OTHER MAN move quickly across the bridge that connects Max's apartment to the tower.

92 EXT. MAX'S APARTMENT BALCONY - DAY 92

KITTRIDGE kicks open the door to the balcony, comes outside, and looks around. Nobody in sight.

KITTRIDGE

GOD D-

93 INT. MAX'S CAR - ETHAN AND MAX - DAY 93

MAX

Oh dear, Gunther will never let me use one of his apartments again.

(turns to Ethan)

Phew, sorry I doubted you, dear boy. You're a good sport. Do accept the compliment.

ETHAN

Thanks, Max. Or is it Maxine?

94 INT. CAR - MOVING - DAY 94

MAX

I don't have to tell you what a comfort anonymity can be in my profession -- like a warm blanket.

(abruptly)

My deal with Job was subject to a successful boot scan. Obviously it didn't pass muster. Deal's off.

ETHAN

What was your deal with Job?

MAX

Six million dollars. I'll give you the same. But I want the complete

list now, not just Eastern Europe. I won't do this piecemeal, it's too dangerous. I want the entire list, the true name of every non-official cover agent throughout the world.

ETHAN

Ten million. Ten million in negotiable U.S. Treasury certificates, in bearer form, coupons attached. And one more thing -- your personal assurance that Job will be at the exchange.

MAX

Done. Bring it to me in London. I want it by the end of the week.

ETHAN

How will you make sure Job will be there?

MAX

How will you make sure I'll have the list in three days? It's been a delight. Now where can I drop you dear boy?

ETHAN

I'm not being dropped anywhere without my money.

MAX manages to laugh without coughing. Then, with an admonishing forefinger:

MAX

I'm going to have to front you personally. Don't lose that money without losing your life.

ETHAN

I wouldn't dream of it.

MAX settles back and regards ETHAN. A theatrical sigh. She fancies this guy.

CUT TO:

95 INT. MAX'S APARTMENT - DAY

95

KITTRIDGE waits on the balcony for his AGENTS to complete their search. HARRY BARNES, a middle-aged, gray suited, somewhat gray-faced bureaucrat, comes to join Kittridge.

KITTRIDGE

The man's gone black, Barnes. He's under until he decides to surface.

BARNES

Look we can use someone from the Embassy and we can get the local authorities involved. Close off his transportation.

KITTRIDGE

What can we do, Barnes? Put a guy at the airport? How many identities do you think Hunt has? How many times has he slipped past custom, in how many countries? These guys are trained to be ghosts. We taught them how to do it, for Christ's sake!

BARNES

So what do you suggest?

KITTRIDGE

Let's not waste time chasing him. Make him come to us. Everybody's got pressure points. Find out something that's important to him personally and you squeeze.

CUT TO:

96 INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

96

ETHAN enters the living room. CLAIRE walks out of the bedroom holding a gun.

ETHAN reaches into his jacket and holds up a hefty wad of currency.

CLAIRE

Max made a deal with you?

ETHAN

I deliver the NOC list, Max delivers Job.

CLAIRE

We've got seventy-five rounds for your Glock 9, but only twenty for the Sig Sauer, one pair of Visco glasses with monitor, plenty of passports. You said it yourself -- if I'm not dead, I'm with you.

ETHAN

You're sure about this?

CLAIRE

Jim was my husband. I want to know who killed him. (ALT) I want to get the son of a bitch who did this.

ETHAN

We need help, and we don't have time. They have to be local.

CLAIRE

What kind of help?

97 INT. SAFE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - DAY

97

The KY57 crypto phone, a black box with an ordinary phone receiver in the top, THUNKS down on the table.

ETHAN plugs the phone cable from his laptop into the back. The green display on top of the KY57 dials a number and makes a computer connection.

On the computer, the screen says:

I.M.F. PERSONNEL DATABASE

ENTER PASSWORD NOW

ETHAN types a password and the screen asks him for the CATEGORY?

He types in a single word.

DISAVOWED

DISSOLVE TO:

98 INT. TRAIN - STATEROOM - NIGHT

98

The word "disavowed" dissolves slowly over the stateroom of a high speed train, where the newly assembled IM force has gathered around a table -- KRIEGER, a dangerous-looking Frenchman of forty or so, LUTHER STICKELL, a muscular, soft-spoken American in his mid-thirties. ETHAN, and CLAIRE. LUTHER regards the others warily.

ETHAN

Simple game. Four players.
(points to Krieger)

Exfil opens the pocket --
 (and to Luther)
-- cyber ops lifts the wallet.

 KRIEGER
Bank?

 ETHAN
IMF mainframe.

 KRIEGER
 (after a moment)
Where exactly is it?

 ETHAN
In Langley.

 LUTHER
In Langley? The one in Virginia,
Langley?

 KRIEGER
Inside CIA headquarters at Langley.

ETHAN nods. KRIEGER turns to CLAIRE.

 KRIEGER
Is he serious?

 CLAIRE
Always.

 KRIEGER
If we're going to Virginia, why
don't we drop by Fort Knox? I can
fly a helicopter right in through
the lobby and set it down inside the
vault and it will be a hell of a lot
easier than breaking into the God
damn CIA.

 LUTHER
What are we downloading?

 ETHAN
Information.

 LUTHER
What kind?

 ETHAN
Profitable.

 CLAIRE

Payment on delivery.

LUTHER

I don't know. This I don't know.

ETHAN

This doesn't sound like the Luther Stickell I've heard of. What'd they used to call you? The Net Ranger? Phineas Phreak? The only man alive who actually hacked NATO Ghostcom.

LUTHER

There was never any physical evidence that I had anything to do with that.. that..
(correcting himself)
With that exceptional piece of work.

ETHAN

You don't know what you're missing. This is the Mt. Everest of hacks.

LUTHER

You're all kidding yourselves. Even with top of the line crypto. Cray access. STU 3's --

CLAIRE

Krieger can get it.
(to Krieger)
Right?

KRIEGER

May take a little time.

ETHAN

May take a little time. That's not what Claire tells me about you.

LUTHER

Thinking Machine laptops, I'm talking about the 686 prototypes -- with the artificial intelligence Risk chip --

ETHAN looks at KRIEGER.

KRIEGER

Twenty-four hours.

ETHAN looks back at LUTHER. LUTHER thinks.

LUTHER

And I get to keep the equipment when we're done.

ETHAN

Luther, I guess you're all out of excuses.

LUTHER

I can't just hack my way inside. There's no modem access to the mainframe, it's in a stand-alone. I'd have to be physically at the terminal.

ETHAN

Luther, relax, it's worse than you think. The terminal's in black vault lock-down.

99 INT. CIA CORRIDOR - GUARD STATION - DAY

99

While ETHAN talks, we see what he's referring to:

A CIA ANALYST carrying a glass of iced tea and several file folders walks down a long corridor in the headquarters building. He comes to an impressive guard station and rests his chin on a strange-looking optometric device.

ETHAN (V.O.)

They missed nothing in that room. Even the vents have laser nets over them.

Apparently the device approves and the ANALYST is buzzed into a "RESTRICTED" area of the building.

100 INT. CIA COMPUTER ANTEROOM - DAY

100

The ANALYST reaches a curtained area. He shoves the curtain aside and comes to a large, vaulted door. He slides a card-key into a slot, leaves it there and slides a second card-key into the slot beneath it.

ETHAN (V.O.)

Inside, there are three countermeasure systems that can only be deactivated by authorized entry. Which we won't have.

A panel next to the ANALYST says "INTRUSION COUNTERMEASURES OFF." The ANALYST next spins a three digit combination code, CHUNKS the door open and steps into --

101 INT. CIA COMPUTER ROOM - DAY**101**

-- the secured terminal room. It's not large but it's impressive. A single terminal is bolted into the middle of the floor and the glass and tile walls of the room overlook computer storage towers.

ETHAN (V.O.)

The first system is sound-sensitive, anything above a whisper sets it off. The second system is on the floor and pressure-sensitive --

The ANALYST closes the vault door behind him and walks across the room. As he walks, the floor tiles light up under his feet, turning off again when he lifts the weight from them.

ETHAN (V.O.)

--and the third detects any increase in temperature. Even the body heat of an unauthorized person in the room will trigger it.

A thermometer on the wall shows the temperature is 72 degrees. The ANALYST sets his glass down, boots up the computer, and starts entering data from the file folders.

ETHAN (V.O.)

All three systems are state of the art.

The ANALYST turns and takes a sip of his iced tea. A drop of condensation runs down the glass and hits the floor. When it makes contact, the floor panel lights up.

102 INT. TRAIN STATEROOM - NIGHT**102**

The other team members gathered around the table look at ETHAN skeptically.

LUTHER

And you really think we can do this.

103 INT. TRAIN CORRIDOR - NIGHT**103**

The middle of the night and the train is dark. The team members come out of the stateroom to go to bed -- KRIEGER heads in one direction, ETHAN and CLAIRE in the other.

ETHAN stops. His attention is drawn to the car ahead. There is a window in the door to the car and he looks through it.

104 INT. BUSINESS CAR - NIGHT)**104**

Ethan sees the business car, a plush space for busy executives to get some work done on the train. There are laptops, cellular phones, desks that fold out in front of spacious seats.

A FEMALE EXECUTIVE, forty or so, is seated at one of the desks, typing away into her laptop.

105 INT. TRAIN - CORRIDOR - NIGHT**105**

ETHAN knocks on the compartment door.

ETHAN
May I come in?

CLAIRE
(wary but interested)
Sure...

106 INT. TRAIN - CLAIRE'S COMPARTMENT - NIGHT**106**

ETHAN and CLAIRE enter, ETHAN closing the compartment door. He pulls an envelope from his jacket and holds it out to her. She takes it, waits.

ETHAN
It's cash. And a second passport. If anything goes wrong when we're inside, if you sense even the slightest deviation don't look over your shoulder, you walk away - you hear me? Just walk away.

CLAIRE
You don't think we're going to make it.

ETHAN
I didn't say that.

CLAIRE
You didn't have to.....

ETHAN
I just need you to be safe.

CLAIRE
What about you?

ETHAN

What about me - Jim called an abort
- I didn't comply. I lost the team.
I just need you to be safe.

CLAIRE's coolness causes ETHAN to hesitate just enough to take it in.

CLAIRE
I wish I'd never laid eyes on you..

And they're suddenly, violently in each others arms, kissing and half-falling onto the converted bed. She suddenly resists. He senses it and pulls away.

ETHAN
Sorry.

He rises and goes to the door. He's got his hand on the knob when CLAIRE wraps her arms around him from behind, turns him to her and kisses him, deeply. This time they sink slowly to the bed.

CUT TO:

107 EXT. CIA LANGLEY - DAY

107

Seen from the air, CIA headquarters is a sprawling complex, two huge buildings surrounded by acres of parking lots hacked out of a thick forest.

LANGLEY

108 INT. COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - DAY

108

KITTRIDGE, BARNES, and their STAFF are hard at work, photographs and biographical data of ETHAN on various computer and television screens around the room. KITTRIDGE leans back in his chair, staring at the ceiling.

BARNES
What I want to know is how Hunt accessed the disavowed file, even after we cut off his authorization code.

AGENT LOWDEN/AGENT

MAREK
He may have used Phelps' code. They were friends, and Phelps, was still valid for twenty-four hours.

BARNES

If that's the case, we need to implement a system to immediately deactivate an agent's code immediately...

KITTRIDGE brings his chair legs down on the floor with a BANG.

KITTRIDGE

I can't believe what I'm listening to. Hunt just kicked us in the ass, you guys are standing here trying to figure out what kind of shoes he had on! I don't care how he did it, I want to know why he did it! Is he recruiting? For what purpose?

From somewhere in the building, an ALARM sounds, not too loud in here.

AGENT PAT/AGENT

LOWDEN

Survival.

The alarm get louder as it goes off in another part of the building.

KITTRIDGE

Too short sighted. This guy's proactive, he initiates. The question is what does he want now and where does he need to get it and Barnes what the hell is that noise?!

An AGENT is just coming in from the hallway.

AGENT

Fire alarm, Gene.

KITTRIDGE

Oh, for -- do we have to evacuate?

BARNES

That's S.O.P..

KITTRIDGE

S.O.P..

CUT TO:

SIRENS BLARING, three fire trucks race past an inconspicuous gray van parked on the shoulder of a two lane highway.

110 INT. CIA LANGLEY LOBBY - DAY**110**

Three FIREMEN stomp into the main lobby of the CIA headquarters building. ETHAN and KRIEGER are among them, in firemen's jumpsuits, carrying packs of equipment.

ETHAN takes a breath as they cross to the GUARD's desk. He looks up, above him.

Etched into the top of one wall are the words "AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

They reach the GUARD. ETHAN, who wears Visco glasses, elbows to the front of the group and takes charge.

ETHAN
(to the Guard)
We picked up alarms in sectors
three, seven, and twelve.

The GUARD checks a screen in front of him.

GUARD RICHARD
Yeah. That's what I've got too.

The FIREMEN look at each other. Who is this guy? But he seems to know what he's talking about, so --

ETHAN
(to the Guard)
What sector's the air conditioning?

GUARD RANDALL
Uh -- twenty-one, but there's no
alarm in sector twenty-one.

ETHAN
I gotta go in there and shut it
down!

GUARD RANDALL
Nobody goes into any sector where
the alarm didn't go off.

ETHAN
Do you want to blow the fire through
the whole building?

GUARD RICHARD
(reciting policy)

Nobody goes into any sector where
the alarm did not go off --

111 EXT. CIA LANGLEY - PARKING AREA - DAY 111

One fire truck is parked slightly behind the others in the parking area of the headquarters building. Second truck roars past. LUTHER watches it go.

112 INT. FIRE TRUCK - DAY 112

LUTHER is in the belly of the fire truck with a ton of equipment -- three laptops, a bundle of phone cable, a mini-dish antenna, a cellular phone, several thick phone company manuals with names like "COSMOS" and "SWITCHED ACCESS SERVICE."

One laptop serves as a Visco monitor, showing a video image in which LUTHER watches ETHAN'S point of view of the stubborn GUARD, who's finishing his sentence.

GUARD
(on screen)
--and it did not go off in twenty-one!

LUTHER turns to a screen on another computer and searches through a complex facilities menu.

LUTHER
(mouths)
Twenty-one, twenty-one --

He finds what he's looking for and double clicks on it. A red box on his screen lights up --

113 INT. CIA LANGLEY - LOBBY - DAY 113

-- and the same red box lights up on the GUARD'S screen. From in the distance, a new ALARM begins to wail.

GUARD RANDALL
Wait! Hold it - it's on. Let's go.

ETHAN
Let's move!

ETHAN turns and looks at one of the FIREMEN behind them -- it's CLAIRE. CLAIRE and KRIEGER follow ETHAN/GUARD to corridor.

114 INT. CIA STORAGE ROOM - DAY**114**

CLAIRE quickly slips out of her fireman's jumpsuit, revealing a business suit underneath. She clips an ID tag to her breast pocket.

She pulls a piece of paper from her pocket, a computer printout of a man's ID photo. She stares at the face, studying it.

115 INT. CIA CAFETERIA - DAY**115**

CLAIRE, carrying a cup of coffee and a muffin, looks for a spot among the tables in the cafeteria of the headquarters building.

She sees a MAN sitting alone, reading a newspaper. It's the man whose picture she looked at in the storage room. She sits next to him.

He looks up and gives her an acknowledging half smile, then goes back to his paper.

He turns to pick up the paper and in the moment he is facing the other way, CLAIRE pulls out a small vial resembling a perfume sampler. She dumps the clear liquid contents into his coffee. He turns back and hands her part of the paper. CLAIRE smiles.

COFFEE MAN drinks up. CLAIRE stares at his shoulder strangely. He notices.

She reaches out and flicks something off his shoulder blade.

He smiles. But she hasn't flicked something off his shoulder blade, she's flicked something onto it -- a little piece of shiny gray metallic tape. CLAIRE leaves the table. COFFEE MAN drinks up and leaves the table.

116 INT. FIRE TRUCK - DAY**116**

LUTHER stares at another one of his laptops, this one with a blueprint of the inside of the building. A cursor begins to flash in one of the rooms. LUTHER smiles.

LUTHER

Hi there.

117 INT. CIA CORRIDOR/GUARD STATION - DAY**117**

A GUARD carrying an MP5, a handheld machine gun, leads ETHAN and KRIEGER to a heavy metal door marked SERVICE.

GUARD
Air conditioning's through here!

They turn a corner, walking directly past --
-- COFFEE MAN, who's coming the other way. We stay with
COFFEE MAN.

118 INT. CIA LANGLEY - CORRIDORS - DAY

118

COFFEE MAN comes out of the cafeteria, walks down the corridor. he goes to the restricted access door, taps the control panel.

CIA ANALYST
William Donloe.

COFFEE MAN (ANALYST) walks past a GUARD desk and peers into an optometric scanner and we suddenly remember where we've seen COFFEE MAN before. He's the TECHNICIAN who works at the secured computer terminal.

119 INT. CIA - SERVICE AREA - DAY

119

ETHAN and KRIEGER in the service area - preparing. ETHAN putting the mask in a bag.

The GUARD returns.

GUARD
Where's the other guy?

The GUARD moves towards ETHAN, who kicks back at him, pushing him back to KRIEGER, who zaps the GUARD on the back of the neck. He twitches and slumps to the ground, unconscious. KRIEGER quickly grabs him around the neck.

ETHAN turns. Holding the GUARD'S head with one hand, KRIEGER pulls a stiletto from the sheath in the back of his belt with the other. He jabs it toward the base of the GUARD'S skull -

-- but ETHAN is on him in a flash. He grabs KRIEGER's knife arm shoving it up against the wall. Staring into KRIEGER'S face in warning.

ETHAN
Zero body count.

KRIEGER
(a threat)
We'll see.

ETHAN
Time up.

ETHAN releases him and walks away.

120 INT. VERTICAL DUCT - DAY

120

The Guard is tied up, lying on the floor of the Service Area Room. ETHAN and KRIEGER are below the open vent into the duct system.

The first climb is straight up. KRIEGER cups his hands under ETHAN'S foot and lifts him up into the duct as he starts to climb.

121 INT. DUCT - DAY

121

ETHAN and KRIEGER crawl quickly through the ducts, moving horizontally now. They reach a juncture and turn right.

ETHAN
- 2 - 3 - Toast, toast. Luther, I'm
going in. Don't disappoint
me...Krieger, from here on in,
absolute silence.

122 INT. DUCT - DAY

122

ETHAN and KRIEGER reach a ventilator shaft in the duct. A laser net protects the ventilator, red shafts of light crisscrossing every which way. ETHAN looks down, through the net.

He can see the computer room below and the top of the TECHNICIAN'S head.

123 INT. DUCT - DAY

123

In the duct, ETHAN signals to KRIEGER, making a triangle of his hands. KRIEGER wriggles forward and hands him a multi-sided, pyramid shaped glass object.

ETHAN raises the pyramid and intercepts a portion of one of the laser net's beams. The pyramid glows and we realise what it is -- a prism.

The laser beam now captive in the prism, ETHAN carefully moves it out of the centre of the ventilator shaft and directs it toward another prism, clearing a path through the shaft.

124 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY**124**

Up in the ceiling above it, one of the screws starts to move in the ventilator shaft, unscrewing. When it appears ready to drop out, a thin strip of metal snakes out from between the bars of the shaft and edges up next to the screw.

The screw drops out of its hole but it doesn't drop to the floor, it zips over and clings to the side of the metal strip with a gentle CLICK, as to a magnet.

The screw is pulled up, through the shaft. Now the whole shaft moves, down, into the room, held by a hand.

It turns sideways and is pulled up, into the duct.

A rubber tube snakes down, through the hole, coming to a stop near the thermostat, which says it's seventy-two degrees. A gentle WHOOSH is audible as frosty air blows through the tube, cooling the room.

125 INT. CIA COMPUTER ROOM - DAY**125**

The TECHNICIAN defaults the security systems outside the terminal room.

126 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY**126**

It is eerily still in the locked-down computer room we saw earlier. No-one is there, there's not a sound but for the gentle HUM of the computer as it waits to be put to use.

Now ETHAN's head descends slowly into the room, his hair falling in front of him.

At first it seems he's just poking his head in for a look, but he keeps coming and coming -- first his head, then shoulders, then waist, then knees, and finally we see his ankles and understand.

He is lowered to stop in front of the thermometer and temperature read out on the computer. Suddenly ETHAN is lifted back up quickly to hang at ceiling height above the computer as the ANALYST enters the room.

127 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 127

The TECHNICIAN crosses to the computer and sits down, a stack of work to his right.

128 INT. CIA COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 128

The TECHNICIAN is working away at the computer. He pauses and wipes some sweat from his forehead.

129 INT. CIA COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 129

With a strange look on his face, the TECHNICIAN looks up. It's almost as if he senses ETHAN above him but instead --

TECHNICIAN

Oh, God.

-- he vomits.

He reaches for the garbage can and upchucks again. Puzzled, sick and feeling another wave coming on, he drags himself to his feet, hauls himself across the room and leaves.

130 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ANTEROOM - DAY 130

Even sick, the TECHNICIAN still thinks to re-activate the alarm systems with a card-key. They HUM back to life efficiently, a light flashing:

INTRUSION COUNTERMEASURES ON

131 INT. CIA COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 131

ETHAN descends again, slowly but steadily, until he is at the same height as the computer terminal to hang horizontally in front of the computer.

A heavy velcro strap binds his ankles together, secured by a rope that leads up into the ventilator shaft and through the set of pulleys.

132 INT. DUCT - DAY 132

KRIEGER holds the rope, his jaw clenched, sweat breaking out on his forehead.

133 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 133

Unfortunately, he's three feet away from it. He stretches his arms but can't reach.

He blinks, unable to believe this. He curls himself into a situp and looks up, into the shaft.

134 INT. DUCT - DAY 134

KRIEGER sees the predicament.

135 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 135

ETHAN gestures to him, pointing to the floor. Slowly, KRIEGER drops him another few feet. Now ETHAN's lower than the terminal and still three feet away from it.

He closes his eyes, summoning his strength and does another situp, bringing himself up right in front of the terminal.

136 INT. FIRE TRUCK - DAY 136

In the fire truck, LUTHER, who is watching on the Visco monitor, turns his head upside down to get a look at what ETHAN sees.

He cups his hands around the microphone of his headset and begins to whisper. We hear only the moist, airy sound of his breath, not the words.

LUTHER

Type this password: AW96B6. Return.
Go to the files menu, find the NOC list file. Open "NOC List." Put your diskette in. Double click on the NOC list.

137 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 137

ETHAN's ear receiver WHISPERS ever-so-slightly. He reaches out, to the upside down keyboard, cranes his head to see it and starts typing, softly.

The computer HUMS, activated. ETHAN unbuttons his pocket, withdraws a 3.5 disk and slides it gently into the floppy drive.

The computer accepts it with a soft WHIR. ETHAN winces, even that soft sound is deafening in these circumstances.

But no alarms go off.

138 INT. FIRE TRUCK - DAY**138**

LUTHER cranes his head again to see the computer terminal through ETHAN's trembling viewpoint. He WHISPERS more commands.

LUTHER

Ok, good! It's scrolling. OK, now we're going to download. Edit menu. Select "copy to disc". You're downloading. When it's all green it's done.

139 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY**139**

ETHAN types in the contends, presses enter and the screen displays a comforting message:

DOWNLOADING

140 INT. FIRE TRUCK - DAY**140**

LUTHER'S eyes widen as he gets his first look, on the Visco monitor, of the specific information they're downloading. The NOC list.

LUTHER

Holy mother of God.

141 INT. DUCT - DAY**141**

KRIEGER shakes with the strain of holding the rope. His eyes suddenly widen as he sees something next to him.

It's a rat. KRIEGER stares. The rat stares back. Neither moves. Puzzled by KRIEGER'S lack of response, the rat crawls forward, inquisitive.

KRIEGER's eyes water, his nose twitches. He's about to sneeze.

142 INT. FIRE TRUCK - DAY**142**

LUTHER pulls himself together and WHISPERS another command into the microphone.

LUTHER

You've done it. Eject it.

143 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY**143**

The 3.5 disk is ejected from the floppy drive. ETHAN pockets it and signals to be raised.

Slowly, his body starts to move up. As it does, a bead of sweat rolls down his nose, balling at the tip.

ETHAN ignores it. But below him, he sees the floor tiles, four of them lit up under the wheels of the chair at the computer terminal.

His eyes widen as he realizes something --

--the drop of sweat falls --

--and he catches it with his right hand.

144 INT. CIA - MEN'S - DAY**144**

CIA ANALYST crosses corridor from restricted access door to bathroom.

A toilet FLUSHES, smashing the silence, and the TECHNICIAN staggers out of the bathroom. He goes to the sink and throws some water on his face. He's still unaware of the piece of shiny metallic tape stuck to his shoulder blade.

He walks out of the bathroom, crosses corridor to door.

145 INT. FIRE TRUCK - DAY**145**

On one of LUTHER'S laptops, the blinking cursor starts to move down a corridor. LUTHER speaks into his microphone.

LUTHER
He's rolling. Get moving!

146 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY**146**

ETHAN is near the ceiling, but KRIEGER isn't pulling any more. ETHAN looks up at him, wide-eyed and gestures to pull him up. KRIEGER shakes his head no.

ETHAN gestures -- "WHAT?!"

147 INT. FIRE TRUCK - DAY**147**

The cursor is halfway across the screen.

LUTHER
Get out of there -- get out of there
--

148 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 148

ETHAN still dangles. Holding the rope with one hand, KRIEGER holds out his other, demanding something. He wants the disk.

149 INT. CIA CORRIDOR - GUARD STATION - DAY 149

The TECHNICIAN makes his way back down the corridor, toward the computer room.

150 INT. FIRE TRUCK - DAY 150

The blinking cursor is near the edge of the screen and LUTHER is sweating.

LUTHER
He's at the vault - get moving! 1
yellow, 2 yellows...Toast!

151 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 151

ETHAN, still hanging upside down, has refused. KRIEGER demands again.

152 INT. CORRIDOR - GUARD STATION - DAY 152

The TECHNICIAN passes through the optometric scanner.

153 INT. FIRE TRUCK - DAY 153

LUTHER
You're not moving!

154 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 154

ETHAN is hoisted up.

155 INT. FIRE TRUCK - DAY 155

LUTHER
Phew! (to himself) NOC list.

156 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 156

ETHAN has the diskette in his mouth. KRIEGER leans down and takes it. He drops the knife.

KRIEGER

Merci.

ETHAN

We're not outta here yet.

157 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ANTEROOM - DAY 157

The TECHNICIAN deactivates the alarm systems, swings the door open and comes back into the room.

He turns to close the door behind him and in so doing just misses seeing ETHAN'S head as it is pulled back up into the ceiling.

CUT TO:

158 INT. DUCT - DAY 158

ETHAN throws smoke cannisters and he and KRIEGER crawl frantically back through the duct, the way they came.

159 INT. CIA LANGLEY - LOBBY - DAY 159

CLAIRE walks quickly past the GUARDS in the reception area and out of the building.

160 INT. CIA - COMPUTER ROOM - DAY 160

The TECHNICIAN enters the room and shuts the door. He sees the knife, picks it up, looks at it and then puts it down. He resumes his work at the computer but when he punches up his program, something prints out on his screen. Its header:

KEYSTROKE LOG -- FILE DOWNLOAD

9.58 AM

And it goes on. The TECHNICIAN'S eyes widen in disbelief. He spins back in his chair and reaches for the nearest telephone.

161 INT. CIA - COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - DAY 161

In the communications room, tempers are running a little high. KITTRIDGE is on his feet, berating his staff.

KITTRIDGE

Think, for Christ's sake, you guys are mired in detail, open your minds, it's gotta be staring us in the face! What does Ethan Hunt want?!

BARNES

Same thing he wanted in Prague! Same thing he's always wanted! The NOC list!

KITTRIDGE

Okay!

Now it's coming together in KITTRIDGE'S mind and a horrible thought occurs to him.

KITTRIDGE

And where is the list vulnerable?

There is nervous silence for a moment. Behind KITTRIDGE, on the other side of the room, the phone starts to ring.

An AGENT gets up to answer it as a creeping fear pervades the room.

KITTRIDGE

(joking)

Other than here.

Nervous laughter goes around the table. It fades. On the other side of the room, the AGENT who answered the phone turns, receiver in hand, face ashen.

He holds the phone out to KITTRIDGE, terrified, the bearer of extremely bad news.

They all turn slowly and look at him. He holds the phone out to KITTRIDGE, shaking slightly.

AGENT

It's for you.

KITTRIDGE

Kittridge, yup?

CUT TO:

It may be a HUMAN SCREAM or it may be a SIREN'S WAIL but it echoes over the forest as a lone fire truck ROARS away from the headquarters building, making its escape.

163 INT. FIRE TRUCK - MOVING - DAY**163**

LUTHER, KRIEGER, CLAIRE and ETHAN, the victorious team, are in the truck's cab. They exchange looks of massive relief. But no one speaks. LUTHER, in particular, looks heavily troubled by what they've just done.

ETHAN looks at CLAIRE, who is jammed into the seat next to him. She drops her head on his shoulder, exhausted.

KRIEGER, in the driver's seat literally and figuratively.

ETHAN just looks straight ahead and to CLAIRE.

CUT TO:

164 INT. COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - DAY**164**

The TECHNICIAN who discovered the theft of the list sits at one end of the now-empty conference table in the communications room. KITTRIDGE sits in a chair beside, staring gravely at him.

He gets up and walks to the door, where HARRY BARNES hovers. KITTRIDGE lowers his voice, it's barely audible.

KITTRIDGE

(to Barnes)

You and I know about this -- and that's where it stops. Understand? It never happened.

BARNES

What about him...?

He gestures to the TECHNICIAN, who watches them anxiously.

KITTRIDGE

I want him manning a radar tower in Alaska by the end of the day. Just mail him his clothes.

He leaves. Barnes turns to the TECHNICIAN, who looks up at him anxiously.

CUT TO:

165 EXT. LONDON - NIGHT**165**

Night. This street is a row of nondescript hotels, one after the other, with anonymous names like "Hotel Pomeroy," "Hotel Vincent," and "Hotel Berridge."

LONDON

166 INT. LONDON SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT**166**

This barely furnished flat is as nondescript as the row of buildings it's in. ETHAN hurriedly digs through an overnight bag until he finds what he's looking for -- the now-battered bible he's used to contact Max. He flips through the pages and crosses the room to his laptop, which is powered up and waiting on the tiny desk.

LUTHER, alone in a chair across the room. is seriously preoccupied. KRIEGER is sprawled-on a ratty sofa, hoisting a lager and watching CNN.

CLAIRE is at the window staring out, anxious.

KRIEGER glances over the back of the sofa at ETHAN.

KRIEGER

You contacting your buyer?
(no answer)
Ethan?

From the desk, ETHAN glances up. Then goes back to the computer. KRIEGER continues to glare over the sofa back.

KRIEGER

Ethan? Oh, 'scuse me Mr. Hunt?

ETHAN ignores him, working. His computer jams with static as it connects to a BBS. The screen blinks and displays the familiar Bible group service through which he's contacted Max. When it asks him which chapter and verse for the posting, ETHAN flicks through the Bible, looking for the next code. He begins to type.

MAX -- Now might be an excellent time to interpret Scripture face to face. Meet on TGV, noon tomorrow. Take seat 27. Bring our mutual friend Job.

KRIEGER suddenly appears over his shoulder and knocks bible out of Ethan's hands to the floor.

KRIEGER

You're not going to any meeting
without me.

ETHAN

My contact is extremely shy.

He goes back to the computer, his finger hovering over the "ENTER" button.

LUTHER and CLAIRE watch this growing conflict closely. ETHAN sighs and stands up. KRIEGER pulls out the blue disk he took from ETHAN in the computer room and waves it in front of him.

KRIEGER

I don't think you're in any position to give orders, do you? Not while I'm holding this.

CLAIRE

Krieger.

KRIEGER

Stay out of this.

OR

Lachez - moi

OR

T'agueue

ETHAN

Don't you mean this?

He reaches into his briefcase and pulls out an identical disk. He puts it back in his jacket pocket.

KRIEGER stares for a second.

KRIEGER

That's not it. That's not the list.

ETHAN

What's the matter, you don't know this trick?

He holds the jacket pocket wide open, for KRIEGER to look into. KRIEGER does. The pocket is empty.

ETHAN

(mock surprise)

Where did it go?! It's GONE!

ETHAN walks over to CLAIRE, reaches into the pocket of the trousers she's wearing and pulls out the disk.

ETHAN

But not too far!

He palms the disk in his right hand.

ETHAN

I know what you're thinking,
Krieger. You're thinking, back in
the computer room -- I was up here -
- he was down there -- . He was
carrying two discs.

While he talks, he rotates his hand, palm away from KRIEGER.
When he rotates it back, the disk is gone again. He holds up
his left hand. It's there now.

ETHAN

So hard to keep track of these
things.

ETHAN shows his hands -- now both are empty.

KRIEGER

(fuming)
Where is it?

ETHAN pats his pockets, pretending to be frantic.

ETHAN

I thought you had it! Do you
actually think I'd let you have the
NOC list?

KRIEGER just stares at him, shaken. CLAIRE laughs. KRIEGER
looks at her. He turns completely red. When he looks back at
ETHAN, ETHAN holds two disks -- one in each hand.

KRIEGER

Try any sleight-of-hand with my
money and I'll cut your throat.

He tosses his worthless disk into the trash can and storms
out, SLAMMING the door behind him. ETHAN picks up the Bible
and sees Drake Hotel.

CLAIRE

I'm so sorry. Krieger was my call.
I've never worked with him. I'm
sorry, Ethan.

ETHAN

We did what we had to do.

CLAIRE

I'm going to try and get some sleep.

She leaves, closing the door behind her, leaving ETHAN and LUTHER alone.

ANGLE

ETHAN waits a moment, then casually walks to the trash can, picks up the disk KRIEGER threw out and brushes it off carefully.

He replaces it, in the trash, with the blue disk from his jacket pocket.

LUTHER

Krieger did have the NOC list.

ETHAN

Now I want you to hold onto it.

LUTHER

What makes you trust me?

ETHAN

Because if you knew what you were getting into, you never would have done it.

LUTHER

I'm not letting this list get out in the open.

ETHAN

Exactly, that's your job. Tomorrow on the train, you can't let this list get out into the open. What's the range of this thing?

LUTHER

It's hard to tell. I'm gonna have to be close.

ETHAN

I'll get you close.

Claire opens the door.

CLAIRE

Ethan I need to talk to you.

ETHAN follows CLAIRE into her room where she shows him the television screen.

INSERT - SCREEN

On the screen, an anchor in the CNN news center.

ANCHOR

The unlikely setting...a farm in the heartland of America...the State of Wisconsin, where federal agents claim to have broken the brain trust behind an international drug ring. For a report we go live now to CNN correspondent (Joe Jones) in the state capitol, Madison. (Joe)...?

CNN reporter speaks to camera, on the steps of a courthouse.

REPORTER

Authorities have identified the couple as Margaret Ethan Hunt and Donald Hunt.

BACK TO SCENE

ETHAN looks. CLAIRE behind him.

INSERT - SCREEN

An OLDER COUPLE, mid-sixties, exit the doors and are led down the steps of the courthouse in shackles. The Reporter and other news crews race up to the door.

REPORTER

Here they are now.

Camera follows the couple downstairs. Police roughly pull them away from the news crews.

BACK TO SCENE

INSERT - SCREEN

REPORTER

They were apprehended this morning by the DEA in a major sting operation for the illegal manufacture of the drug methcathinone, known on the street as "cat".

BACK TO SCENE

ETHAN

INSERT - SCREEN

VOICE (O.S.)

Similar to methamphetamines, cat is seen by officials as one of the most powerful and dangerous drugs in the

world. Some thirty-four cat labs have been seized so far, but the recently widowed Mrs. Hunt and her brother-in-law are believed to be involved in a global drug distribution network.

A public official exits the building. The reporter and other news crews charge up to him.

REPORTER

Mr. Fairchild, agent Fairchild, a comment please.

The image on the television changes to an interview with a PUBLIC OFFICIAL who faces a bank of microphones.

PUBLIC OFFICIAL

I think it's sad, really. Farmers, unless they're a conglomerate, are always operating on a paper-thin margin. I'm afraid what we have here is a case of a naive and lonely widow with a lot of financial problems who chose to make money through illegal means.

REPORTER

That was John Fairchild, the DEA agent in charge of this investigation. Officials tell me that international law enforcement agents are expected to arrive here later today to question the Hunts. This is Joe Jones, CNN, Live in Madison, Wisconsin.

BACK TO SCENE

ETHAN

Kittridge...

CLAIRE

Bastard!

ETHAN switches TV off and paces away from it. His anger erupts and he kicks the old filing cabinets, then picks up a chair and throws it across the room so it smashes into the wall. CLAIRE tries to get hold of him, but he shakes her away.

ETHAN

Don't...don't touch me...

CAMERA SWING PANS between them.

CLAIRE

What are you going to do?

ETHAN

(turns to her and gestures
at TV)

He's expecting my call.

(strides to door)

I'm going to the station...

(o/s at door)

And I'm going to call him.

167 EXT. LONDON SAFE HOUSE - RAIN - NIGHT

167

ETHAN comes out from a side street by Liverpool Street Underground Station and crosses the road to the main station. CLAIRE watches him from the window.

168 INT. LONDON TERMINUS RAILWAY STATION - NIGHT

168

ETHAN hurries down escalator. CAMERA MOVES IN on him. He crosses to the TELEPHONE BOXES. He starts to dial a number.

CUT TO:

169 INT. CIA - COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - NIGHT

169

A light flashes and a phone BUZZES. KITTRIDGE in shirt and tie, picks up. BARNES and several other AGENTS are monitoring newscasts and engaged in various activities related to the Hunt case.

KITTRIDGE

(picking up)

Kittridge.

ETHAN (O.S.)

I see you've been out visiting the folks.

KITTRIDGE

(covers receiver)

It's Hunt.

What do you need for a pinpoint?

(TO ETHAN)

Been watching a little T.V., have you?

One of the technicians frantically scratches something on a piece of foolscap and waves it at KITTRIDGE: "80 SECONDS".

KITTRIDGE nods.

170 EXT. PHONE BOX - LONDON - NIGHT

170

ETHAN

Hauling Mom off to jail in shackles
was an especially nice touch.

171 INT. CIA - COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - NIGHT

171

At the console, the number 44 flashes on the TECHNICIAN'S screen.

TECHNICIAN

He's in England.

BARNES scratches England and 22 seconds on foolscap and waves it.

KITTRIDGE

(covering receiver)

Get MI5.

The TECHNICIAN opens another line on his console and begins patching through to Whitehall.

KITTRIDGE

Ethan, I want to reassure you that my first order of business after you come in is to get these ridiculous charges against your family dropped and eliminated completely from their files. Come in now, we can plea down the charges against you as well.

The wall clock is thirty seconds and counting down. The TECHNICIAN is frantically signalling KITTRIDGE to keep talking. KITTRIDGE is momentarily stuck. Fortunately:

ETHAN (O.S.)

Can I ask you something, Kittridge?

KITTRIDGE

Certainly Ethan.

172 INT. PHONE BOX - LONDON - NIGHT

172

ETHAN

If you're dealing with someone who's crushed, stabbed, shot and detonated five members of his own IMF team, how devastated do you think you're going to make him by marching Ma and Uncle Donald down to the county courthouse?

173 INT. CIA - COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - NIGHT

173

KITTRIDGE

I don't know, Ethan. Suppose you tell me?

Click. ETHAN has hung up. KITTRIDGE looks hopefully to the TECHNICIAN who says:

BARNES

Lost him. We needed three more seconds.

Surprisingly KITTRIDGE is not as upset as he is puzzled.

KITTRIDGE

He wanted us to know he was in London.

Clearly that's the question that KITTRIDGE is turning over in his mind and he doesn't have a simple answer to it.

CUT TO:

174 EXT. PHONE BOX - LONDON - NIGHT

174

Close Digital clock. It reads 23.59. Angle widens to show ETHAN looking at it with grim satisfaction. He opens the door of the phone booth and almost SMACKS right into --

--the pale, weary, ghostlike figure of a man standing just inches in front of him. Startled, ETHAN looks up, but what he sees shakes him to the core.

The man is JIM PHELPS.

ETHAN SHOUTS and almost falls back into the phone booth. PHELPS leans against the door of the booth and smiles weakly.

PHELPS

You're a hard man to catch up with.

PHELPS falls towards ETHAN. ETHAN tries to speak, but can't even form words.

175 INT - RAILWAY STATION CAFE - DAY

175

ETHAN and PHELPS opposite one another in a booth, PHELPS looking clammy and listing to one side. But the banter seems friendly and very quick - two friends and close colleagues able to follow one another's reasoning easily, finishing each other's sentences:

PHELPS

..the next day I managed to drag myself to the safe house, must've just missed you..anyway, I checked our aliases.

ETHAN

- and picked us up in the States -

PHELPS

- but you left before I could get there and I could check just so many places..

ETHAN

Yeah, smaller countries don't computerize customs records -

PHELPS

- so I watched Europe. Once you showed up in England..it was easy.

ETHAN

You knew I liked the rentals at Liverpool Street.

PHELPS

Hey, I showed 'em to you!

ETHAN

I remember..

PHELPS smiles warmly, has to steady himself to maintain an upright position. He opens a medicine bottle and takes the pain killers.

ETHAN

Jim, who do you think you're kidding? A doctor's gotta look at that. You can't sit up straight.

PHELPS

I can sit up straight. I just can't..sit up straight very well. It's not important! I saw who shot

me. Ethan, I saw the mole. It was
Kittridge.
(a fist into the table)
Kittridge!

PHELPS grips the sides of the table.

ETHAN
Kitteridge. Oh my god! Kittridge is
the mole?

PHELPS
Yeah.

ETHAN
How did Kittridge do it?..

176 EXT. CHARLES BRIDGE - FLASHBACK - NIGHT

176

A reprise of PHELPS'S narrative only now ETHAN'S telling it and camera is showing the events as ETHAN sees they actually happened.

ETHAN VO
- first he took care of Jack in the
elevator -

At the Embassy PHELPS sends the elevator to the top of the building, watching it go and crush Kiefer.

ETHAN VO
- he shot you on the bridge -

On the Charles bridge PHELPS using the Visco glasses aims the gun toward them, fires, cants the glasses and tosses them into the Vltava River.

ETHAN VO
- he must have had back up take out
Golitsyn and Sarah at the fence..

There on the embankment, in the night and fog, it is KRIEGER who takes out GOLITSYN and SARAH thru the fence..

ETHAN VO
How did he do Hannah?

Here it is CLAIRE with back to camera who presses the detonator and turns dreamily to face it, the explosion brilliant behind her...

ETHAN VO

No. No. He could've taken out Hannah himself.

PHELPS presses the remote detonator and the car blows..

177 INT. RAILWAY CAFE

177

ETHAN looking intently at him.

ETHAN
Why, Jim? Why?

Awkward moment.

PHELPS
..when you think about it, Ethan, it was inevitable..no more Cold War. No more secrets you keep from everyone but yourself, operations you answer to no one but yourself. Then one morning you wake up and find out the President of the United States is running the country - without your permission. The son-of-a-bitch! How dare he? You realize it's over, you're an obsolete piece of hardware not worth upgrading, you've got a lousy marriage and sixty-two grand a year. Kittridge, we'll go after that no good son-of-a-bitch, big time!

ETHAN
We don't have to, Jim. He'll come after us.

PHELPS
What's going to make him do that?

ETHAN
What he didn't get in Prague. The NOC list.

PHELPS
Jesus, Ethan. Good for you.

ETHAN
A meeting tomorrow on the TGV, enroute to Paris.

PHELPS
Tight security. No guns. Real plus.

ETHAN

If I supposedly deliver the NOC list to Max, Max has agreed to deliver Job to me. I'll have Claire and Luther Stickell with me on the train. Marcel Krieger will have helicopter transport waiting in Paris.

PHELPS looks away. Seems badly shaken.

ETHAN

Jim...?

PHELPS

I was sitting in a cafe waiting for you and suddenly there she was, standing in the rain just outside the safe house..alive and beautiful..and thinking I'm dead and gone. God knows what she's had to do forget about me to keep going and get the job done, I..

PHELPS breaks off abruptly. Apparently some inner struggle over this threatens to overwhelm him. Then, controlling it:

PHELPS

- no. She can't know about me. No one can. Not til this is over. There's too much at stake, Ethan.

ETHAN

You're probably right.

PHELPS

I usually am.

ETHAN

Once we leave the safehouse, get in there and crash. I'll call you from Paris.

PHELPS

You got it.

ETHAN

And get a doctor.

PHELPS

Good luck.

The door to CLAIRE'S room in the safe house opens, throwing a shaft of light over her form. ETHAN creeps in and closes the door behind him.

It is approximately one a.m. . CLAIRE is huddled in the corner. ETHAN enters and stands looking at her.

CLAIRE
What happened?

ETHAN
(walks towards her)
I sent the message to Max. We're on
for tomorrow.

CLAIRE
Okay...

ETHAN
(he steps towards her,
stops)
Is this the only way?

CLAIRE
Yes.....come here....viens pres
moi...

She draws him down by his hand to kiss her.

He kisses her again, more fully. She wraps an arm around him and he holds onto the kiss. The room appears to revolve around them.

CUT TO:

179 EXT. PRIVATE HELIPAD - DAY

179

Suddenly it's bright, broad daylight, so bright it hurts our eyes.

KITTRIDGE and BARNES step off a military helicopter, blinking at the sunlight and hurry down the steps.

TWO AGENTS immediately flank KITTRIDGE at the bottom and fall into step alongside, ready to brief him. One of them holds out a small package with "for Job" written on it.

KITTRIDGE looks at him. He rips it open. A note inside simply says:

TGV. LONDON TERMINUS

Noon.

KITTRIDGE looks at his watch. It's ten to twelve.

As he reads the note, something else falls out of the envelope and CLUNKS to the ground.

He bends over, picks it up, and looks at it. Cradled in his hand, we can't see what it is. But to him, it's very interesting.

He steps up his pace, headed for the car.

KITTRIDGE
(to the Agent)
How long to the London Terminus?

AGENT
Twenty, twenty-five minutes.

KITTRIDGE
You've got ten. Move!

180 INT. WATERLOO STATION PLATFORM - DAY

180

The sleek front power car, looking like the nose of an SST, gets its 25,000 volt charge from the overhead catenary.

The rear power car gets its jolt.

The TGV starts to move, pulling out of the station.

181 INT. BUSINESS CAR - MOVING - DAY

181

The business car is similar to the one ETHAN saw on the first train they look across Europe. It's crowded, maybe THIRTY MEN and WOMEN in suits, most of them already immersed in work on their laptops or talking on their cellular phones.

One such woman is MAX in her seat, number 27. MATTHIAS and the OTHER MAN, last seen dropping off ETHAN in Prague, sit across from her, her laptop is on the table next to her, in her briefcase.

MAX
How long until we reach the Chunnel?

MATTHIAS
Twenty minutes.

182 INT. REAR CAR - MOVING - DAY

182

A MAN puts a cellular phone and a radio/cassette machine on the bunk-bed. We only see his hands as he proceeds to take the parts of a pistol out of the cassette machine and assemble a wicked-looking pistol from the seemingly innocuous electrical parts inside.

183 INT. BUSINESS CAR - MOVING - DAY**183**

MAX is reading the Financial Times. MATTHIAS is looking out of the window. A cellular phone rings inside MAX's briefcase in front of MATTHIAS. MATTHIAS takes the phone out.

MATTHIAS

Yes...

(holds phone out for Max)

It's him.

MAX

(into phone)

This wasn't what we discussed.

ETHAN (O.S.)

(on phone)

My apologies Max. Couldn't be helped. There's a piece of black cloth under your seat. Tear it away and you'll find the disk.

MAX reaches down and does as instructed, finding the computer disk as promised. She hands it to Matthias who strips off the velcro covering and slots it into the drive next to the computer in the briefcase. He boots it up quickly and turns the briefcase containing the computer toward MAX for her to see.

One half of the screen, with the heading "CRYPTONYM AND OPERATIONAL SPECS" is already jammed with information. The blank second half of the screen acquires the title "TRUE NAME," and information starts filling itself in rapidly -- names, addresses, identities.

As the two sides match up, a legend flashes:

IDENTITY MATCH

MAX

(back into phone)

Ha, dear boy! I do hope this doesn't prelude a meeting in private.

ETHAN (O.S.)

It doesn't, dear girl. as long as you tell me where the money is.

MAX

The possibility alone is worth ten million. Baggage car, rack 3. Silver briefcase. Combination 314.

ETHAN (O.S.)

What about Job?

MAX

I wouldn't worry about him. Once you've got the money -- he'll find you.

184 INT. BUSINESS CAR - MOVING - ANOTHER ANGLE

184

LUTHER, three rows behind in another seat, is at work on a laptop of his own. A mobile Nokia phone is beside it - red light flashing.

185 INT. SECOND CLASS CAR - MOVING - ANOTHER ANGLE - DAY

185

KITTRIDGE and BARNES move through the second class car. They turn around and start working their way back again.

At the front, CLAIRE is getting desperate. A LARGE MAN passes through the door behind her.

The LARGE MAN continues back, nearing KITTRIDGE and BARNES, who are forced to step into empty seats on the side in order to make room for him to pass. As they move by him, their vision is momentarily blocked --

-- and CLAIRE gets up to follow.

She follows to the rear of the car and she passes through the door and out of the car, after KITTRIDGE and BARNES talk in doorway.

BARNES

Only four more cars.

KITTRIDGE

And if we don't find him - we'll search the whole train again.

BARNES

What's Hunt doing on the TGV?

KITTRIDGE

High speed train. No-one gets on. No- one gets off. High security. Good place for a pass off to Max.

BARNES
But why tell us?

KITTRIDGE
He's putting on a show, Barnes.

BARNES
What kind of show.

KITTRIDGE
I don't know.
(looks at his wrist
monitor)
It didn't say on the tickets.

KITTRIDGE and BARNES go off back through the next coach.
CLAIRE follows into the same doorway and stops to speak into
her wristwatch to ETHAN:

CLAIRE
Ethan...Kittridge is on the train.

ETHAN
Kittridge is Job. Max delivered. How
far is he from Luther?

CLAIRE
Two cars. Where are you?

ETHAN
You are my eyes. Stay with him.

She moves onto the next coach, going after KITTRIDGE and
BARNES.

186 INT. BUSINESS CAR - MOVING - MAX - DAY

186

On her computer screen in the business car, an ominous
message flashes.

LIST COMPLETE
MAX dials a number on her cellular
phone. She is calling Job.

MAX
(into phone)
He's in the baggage car.

PHELPS (O/S)
(assembling gun in
sleeping compartment)
I'll be there.

MAX hangs up and hands the phone to MATTHIAS who slots it into the briefcase next to the computer. He dials a number on the keyboard and pushes send. The computer emits a DIAL TONE. Her computer flashes a message.

MODEM DENIED

MAX
What's the problem.

MATTHIAS
Connection denied.

MAX
Try it again.

MATTHIAS
It's not working.

MAX
Is something wrong with the phone?
(Pause as he tries the
phone)
Well is something wrong with the
batteries?

MATTHIAS
I always check the batteries.

MAX
Run it through from the top.

187 INT. REAR CAR - SLEEPING COMPARTMENT - MOVING - DAY 187

The MAN assembling the gun CLICKS the last piece, the silencer, into place.

188 INT. CAR - NEXT TO MAX'S CAR - MOVING - DAY 188

KITTRIDGE and BARNES looking - stop in doorway.

BARNES
Nothing but civilians, Gene.

KITTRIDGE
This is bullshit - we don't even
know what Max looks like.

BARNES
Maybe we don't have to know what he
looks like. If he's got that list,

he's going to want to check it. We should be looking for laptops.

KITTRIDGE

Good idea.

189 INT. BUSINESS CAR - LUTHER - MOVING - DAY

189

LUTHER sees them coming. He smacks the laptop shut and positions his jamming phone on the table to point at Max's computer. He gets up, taking his computer with him, headed for the rear of the car. A WAITER sees the phone and goes after LUTHER with it.

WAITER

Excuse me, Sir, your telephone...

OTHER PASSENGERS' phones nearby go haywire. LUTHER looks to MAX. Exits car.

190 INT. BUSINESS CAR - MOVING - MAX - DAY

190

Her dial tone finally hits the static of a computer connection and the message on her screen changes:

TRANSFER IN PROGRESS

MATTHIAS

It's working.

MAX

Phew! We've got five minutes...

191 INT. BUSINESS CAR - MOVING - DAY

191

LUTHER shuts himself in the bathroom. The OTHER MAN follows him, tries the door and waits his moment. The OTHER MAN bangs against the door. LUTHER braces himself against the door.

192 INT. ANOTHER CAR - MOVING - DAY

192

CLAIRE walking through. She pauses to listen in her earpiece.

ETHAN (O/S)

I've got the money. Meet me in the baggage car.

She walks on.

193 INT. BUSINESS CAR - MOVING - DAY**193**

KITTRIDGE and BARNES are looking at the people in the Business Car behind MAX. CLAIRE passes them by heading for the last executive coach to get to Club and Baggage Car. She passes the OTHER MAN at the bathroom door. He follows her.

KITTRIDGE
Get this door open.

KITTRIDGE and BARNES have seen CLAIRE go through MAX'S Business Car and past the OTHER MAN at the bathroom door. They follow, but suspect the locked bathroom door and stop there to listen.

194 INT. LAST EXECUTIVE CAR - MOVING - DAY**194**

CLAIRE moves swiftly through the last car (after MAX'S car). up into the Club Car and opens the door leading to the BAGGAGE CAR. Goes in. The door slams shut.

KITTRIDGE
Hello, Luther. Where's Hunt?

LUTHER
Mr. Kittridge, the NOC list is being modemed off the train.

KITTRIDGE
Where?

195 INT. REAR CAR - MOVING - DAY**195**

CLAIRE enters a little breathless. Spotting PHELP'S profile in the darkened car.

CLAIRE
Ethan's right behind me. Listen to me Jim. Is it such a good idea to kill him? We take the money. Ethan takes the blame. No-one else has seen you alive. No-one will believe him.

ETHAN
Of course - I'm sorry to hear you say that Claire.

CLAIRE
Ethan?

PHELPS

Yes. Ethan Hunt, darling. Remember him?

Here PHELPS pulls out his assembled pistol.

CLAIRE
You knew about Jim?

PHELPS
Course he did. Just exactly when he knew is something of a question. Before or after I showed in London, mind telling me, Ethan?

ETHAN
Before London. But after you took the Bible out of the Drake Hotel in Chicago.

PHELPS
They stamped it, didn't they? Those damn Gideons.

PHELP'S watch alarm goes off.

PHELPS
Two minutes til Krieger shows. This'll have to be quicker than I'd like. Certainly quicker than you'd like.

CLAIRE
Ethan, if you knew about Jim?..Why..

PHELPS
Why the masquerade? Why take the risk? Well, Claire, you've asked the question and you are the answer.

ETHAN
I knew about Jim.

PHELPS
But, he didn't know about you. In all fairness, Ethan, Claire was never convinced her charms would work with you. But I was supremely confident - having tastes the goods. "Thou shall not covet thy Neighbour's wife", Ethan. Oh, Ethan is in love with you, Claire, make no mistake about it. And like all the world's lovers, he's tortured by the

same, one pathetic question - "does she feel the same way I do?"

JIM turns to CLAIRE.

PHELPS

Well Claire do you? Have you been exploiting his feelings or returning them?

CLAIRE

Jim - lets just get the money and get out of here.

CLAIRE goes to ETHAN.

CLAIRE

The money Ethan.

ETHAN hands her the money.

ETHAN

You've earned it.

CLAIRE goes to Jim with the money.

PHELPS

Count it.

CLAIRE starts to count.

ETHAN

Tell me something Claire, that night in Prague, was it you or Jim that blew up the car and scattered Hannah all over town?

PHELPS

Keep counting Claire.

CLAIRE

It was me. I did it.

CLAIRE hands PHELPS the money.

PHELPS

Satisfied?

CLAIRE

All ten million.

PHELPS

Fold it. Fold it tight.

ETHAN

Aren't you going to thank me Jim.
Ten million is better than six.

PHELPS

Don't flatter yourself - six was for
Eastern Europe. You made a lousy
deal - ten for the world? What is
that? But I needed you for the
transfer with Max. I got a little
extra change; and you got a little
extra too.

PHELP'S watch alarm goes off.

PHELPS

Sorry Ethan. Times up. Say goodbye.

ETHAN

You're wrong about one thing. I'm
not the only one who's seen you
alive.

ETHAN throws JIM the Visco glasses.

KITTRIDGE

Good morning, Mr Phelps.

PHELPS and CLAIRE are stunned.

PHELPS

You son of a bitch.

PHELPS points the gun at ETHAN.

CLAIRE

Don't Jim.

PHELPS

Now we don't have to eliminate him?
You like that, don't you Claire?
Don't you?

CLAIRE

Yes.

ETHAN

Jim, it's over.

PHELPS

Ethan - I've always taught you,
nothing can be more dangerous than
the truth. It can kill you.

PHELPS shoots CLAIRE. Struggle between PHELPS and ETHAN. The gun is lost. PHELPS beats ETHAN to the ground. His watch alarm beeps rapidly. He turns, goes up the stairs and...

ETHAN goes to CLAIRE.

ETHAN
Claire...Hey...

CLAIRE
This stuff is so sticky.

ETHAN
Claire.

CLAIRE
It's all right, Ethan..you'll bring me back...won't you...

ETHAN
I always have, Claire..

CLAIRE dies. ETHAN looks to ladder hatch and climbs ladder.

196 INT. REAR CAR - ENGINEER'S SECTION - DAY

196

PHELPS climbs up a ladder past an inert engineer slumped over the control panel -- an obvious earlier victim of PHELPS. PHELPS puts on a pair of clear goggles, reaches a trap door and climbs through it --

197 EXT. ROOF OF TRAIN - DAY

197

-- halfway out onto the roof of the train. He reaches into his jacket pocket and pulls out a suction cup with a handle on the end of it. He SMACKS the suction cup down on the roof and pulls himself the rest of the way out.

He pulls out a second suction cup and SMACKS it down on the smooth surface of the train.

Now for the tough part. Using the suction cups, PHELPS slowly pulls himself forward, a foot at a time, pulling and replanting the cups as he goes.

He drags himself over the length of the final car, to the back of the train, where the rear engine slants off sharply, a window for the ENGINEER.

Half kneeling on the roof, PHELPS pulls out the clip from his belt.

He looks up, scanning the sky behind the train. From out of the fog, a helicopter approaches.

PHELPS turns and looks ahead, in the direction the train is going. In the distance, he can see the chunnel approaching the tunnel under the English Channel. His eyes widen.

198 INT. HELICOPTER - DAY 198

KRIEGER is at the controls. He sees the approaching tunnel as well.

199 EXT. ROOF OF TRAIN - DAY 199

PHELPS crawls like hell to get into position. Looking up, he sees KRIEGER pointing frantically behind him. PHELPS turns.

ETHAN is climbing out the trap door.

A cable and hook swing down from the helicopter, almost touching the roof of the train. PHELPS crawls closer to it.

ETHAN, behind him, is in a far more precarious position. Without goggles or suction cups, he has to use his fingers to grab small holes on the roof.

He is flipped over by the wind, ending up facing the other way. Loses his grip and is blown backwards over the roof.

200 INT. HELICOPTER - DAY 200

KRIEGER sees the Chunnel entrance approaching. He gestures to PHELPS and tries to move the cable closer to him, passing over PHELPS and then back to him.

201 EXT. ROOF OF TRAIN - DAY 201

PHELPS grabs the cable and is about to hook the cable onto his belt, ETHAN slides into him and they both crash onto the roof.

ETHAN grabs the cable out of PHELPS hand and clips it onto the roof.

PHELPS and ETHAN struggle, but they are hurtling dangerously closer to the chunnel entrance.

They're now right on top of the chunnel entrance.

202 INT. HELICOPTER - DAY 202

KRIEGER sees the tunnel, only seconds away now. He paws at the controls, jerking back desperately on a certain lever.

203 EXT. ROOF OF TRAIN - DAY 203

PHELPS kicks ETHAN and he falls off the far side of the train. PHELPS falls off the near side and holding onto the strap manages to pull himself back on.

-- The train ZOOMS into the tunnel --

-- AND THE HELICOPTER ROARS RIGHT IN BEHIND IT!

204 INT. BUSINESS CAR/TUNNEL - MOVING - DAY 204

As the train roars into the tunnel, the business car goes nearly dark and the message on MAX'S computer screen changes one last time. This time it says:

CONNECTION TERMINATED.

TRANSFER LOST.

MAX'S face falls.

MAX

Damn!

205 INT. REAR CAR - ENGINEER'S SECTION - DAY 205

Another CONDUCTOR races into the power car, past his inert companion, and is shocked to see the copter right behind the train. He grabs a radio and SCREAMS into it.

CONDUCTOR

No, no, it's IN the tunnel!

VOICE (O.S.)

Stop the train!

CONDUCTOR

It'll crash into us! Accelerate, accelerate.

206 EXT. ROOF OF TRAIN - TUNNEL - DAY 206

For a moment, we see no one. No ETHAN. No PHELPS. Moving around to the other end of the car, we see where they've

gone.

They're dangling from either side of it.

PHELPS paws for one of the suction cups and pulls himself back onto the roof of the train. ETHAN reaches for the other cup.

The helicopter, fortunate that this tunnel is double track and barely wide enough to accomodate it, pursues, KRIEGER pushing it up to full speed again.

But it can't lift up high enough to go completely over the train.

207 EXT. ROOF OF TRAIN - TUNNEL - DAY

207

PHELPS, nearing the back, manoeuvres himself to the windshield of the rear power car, trying to grab the skid of KRIEGER'S copter.

He doesn't see what's headed toward him, coming from the other direction.

Another train.

At the last moment, PHELPS notices the reflection of the oncoming train in the windshield and swings back onto the roof of his train, barely avoiding getting creamed by it as it blows by.

The helicopter avoids the oncoming train too -- and PHELPS misses the skid.

KRIEGER tips the front of the copter, trying to decapitate ETHAN with the rotor. PHELPS jumps onto the skid, but the copter pitches so far forward the blade hits the top of the tunnel. SPARKS and chunks of cement fly.

KRIEGER levels the chopper quickly. ETHAN uses the moment to leap from the train onto the other helicopter skid.

PHELPS and ETHAN now hang on the skids, facing one another. Crouching on the skid, ETHAN digs in his pocket and pulls out --

-- a red and green piece of bubble gum.

PHELPS sees it and SCREAMS at KRIEGER, who scrambles frantically for his gun.

ETHAN

Red light, green light. Asta Lasagna
mother fucker.

ETHAN mashes the red into the green, slaps the gum onto the
copter's underbelly and turns away from it.

PHELPS kicks vainly at the gum, SCREAMING --

-- but the gum EXPLODES. The force of the blast rockets ETHAN
forward, he lands on the train's windshield.

The helicopter whirls and BASHES into the tunnel, veers
wildly, then pitches forward and down, smashing PHELPS under
the skid and EXPLODING in a giant fireball.

ETHAN, stuck on the windshield, can only watch as the
wreckage of the copter tumbles down the train towards him.

It stops just short of him, with its bent and broken rotor
blade barely missing his throat.

ETHAN lays his head against the windshield glass, utterly
drained.

208 INT. BUSINESS CAR/TUNNEL - MOVING - DAY

208

KITTRIDGE comes back into the business car and is joined by
BARNES. LUTHER, only slightly bruised, stands up next to them
and gestures to MAX and her laptop.

LUTHER

I think this is what you're looking
for.

MAX looks up, stunned. KITTRIDGE leans over and peers at her
screen. He just smiles and sits down next to her, content to
wait for her to speak.

When she finally does, she's almost charming.

MAX

My lawyers will have a field day
with this. Entrapment,
jurisdictional conflicts --

KITTRIDGE leans closer to her and lowers his voice, just as
friendly.

KITTRIDGE

Maybe we'll just keep the courts out
of this one.

MAX

I'm sure we can find something I have that you need.

KITTRIDGE

You know, I would love to try.

209 EXT. LONDON PUB - DAY

209

LUTHER sits on a high stool, his PowerBook next to him, while he sips a beer. A television screen is featuring follow-up coverage of yesterday's dramatic helicopter-train wreck in the chunnel. Aside from emphasizing that it was the work of a lone, crazed character in a helicopter who was killed in the crash, there are comments about how miraculous it was there were no other fatalities. There are intermittent sounds of aircraft taking off and landing, announcements of arrivals and departures. ETHAN into shot. He sits beside LUTHER.

LUTHER

Reach your folks?

(ETHAN nods)

How they feeling?

ETHAN

About what?

LUTHER

The official apology from the Justice Department, the VIP treatment, you know, the whole nine yards.

ETHAN

Well my Mother was a little confused about how the DEA could mistake her and Uncle Donald for a couple of dope smugglers in the Florida keys.

LUTHER picks up his beer.

LUTHER

(Laughs and with a British accent)

Cheers.

They drink.

ETHAN

Here's to you, Luther.

(clink glasses)

To being off the disavowed list.

LUTHER

Hey, I'm the flavour of the month!

ETHAN

You're more than that, Luther. They were mistaken about you and they're trying to show you they know it. They want you back in.

LUTHER

Sure. They want me back in so I won't break in! They still can't figure out how we did it.

ETHAN

You didn't tell 'em at the debriefing?

LUTHER

I figured I'd let 'em reinstate my back pay, give me a promotion, check out my office at Langley and then, maybe, talk about it.

ETHAN

(laughing)

It's all one big negotiation, isn't it?

LUTHER

Why don't you come back with me?

ETHAN

Just don't know why I'd be doing it.

LUTHER

You really liked Phelps, didn't you?

ETHAN

He was a good guy for a long, long time. Just - not long enough.

(looks up) Gotta catch my flight..(rising) So. How's it feel being a solid citizen again?

LUTHER

Oh man...I don't know. I'm gonna miss being disreputable.

ETHAN

Well, Luther - if it makes you feel any better I'll always think of you that way.

The two men understand one another and LUTHER will say no more. The two exchange slight gestures of farewell and in a moment ETHAN disappears from the bar, leaving a contemplative LUTHER looking after him.

210 INT. PLANE - NIGHT**210**

ETHAN HUNT slumps down in his seat, dosing. A FLIGHT ATTENDANT makes her way down the aisle, holding a case filled with movie cassettes. She stops before a lady passenger.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Would you like to watch a movie,
Miss Clarke?

She then stops before ETHAN.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Excuse me, Mr. Hunt. Would you like
to watch a movie.

ETHAN
No, thank you.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Would you consider the cinema of the
Caribbean?

ETHAN just stares at her. This couldn't be what it's sounding like.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Aruba, perhaps?

The camera moves into ETHAN's face. They found him. They want him back. He looks up at her and.....

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END