

CROATIA

by

Paul Rosenberg

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Paul Rosenberg
PO Box 81058
Chicago, IL 60681
p.rosenberg@cryptogroup.net

FADE IN:

EXT. FERRY LANDING AT CRES (KRESS), CROATIA - EARLY MORNING

CRES, CROATIA

The ferry is distant but headed toward the landing. People are seen hiding in the trees; they appear a bit battered. Their minds are fully engrossed in the present situation. They tentatively step out, scan for policemen or soldiers, gauge the ferry's arrival, look for other people, then move back into the trees.

CREDITS ROLL

ALEX (V.O.)

Have you ever tried to understand World War One? A Serbian Duke gets shot and the whole world goes nuts. It may have made sense to people at the time, but now it seems ridiculous. This was the same way. In a hundred years it'll sound crazy. The beginning was easy to understand, it was a triple Chernobyl. That reactor complex outside of Paris melted down. It was supposed to have been decommissioned, but they decided to keep it going, and two years later, as they ran a maintenance cycle, it went nuts; out of control, a full meltdown in Reactor One. A couple of guys died preventing full melts in Two and Three, but they may as well have saved themselves; the effect on France would have been the same.

Cut to images of nuclear facilities, Chernobyl, and the sick and dying of Chernobyl. (Not overly fast cuts - let attention settle on them for a few seconds.)

ALEX (V.O.)

(continuing)

Probably a hundred cell phone calls went out in the first minute, followed by the recipients grabbing a few items, throwing them into a car and driving like hell. Each of those people probably called five more within a few minutes, and twenty minutes after that the roadways of Paris were jammed. Then the trains filled-up. The first few got out well enough, but the following trains were overloaded in seconds. The conductors were beaten almost to death when they tried to keep people off. After that, the conductors and engineers refused to go to Paris.

We see NICOLAS holding the handles of an old wooden cart, but we can't see the contents of the cart clearly. NICOLAS is weeping gently and looks like he has been for a long time. He is disheveled. He is waiting in the trees, but is not anxious like the others, he is dazed and stares into the distance. He has only the most minimal thought as to what he must do in this situation. He is almost sleep-walking through it.

ALEX (V.O.)

(continuing)

Within two hours, every idle vehicle in Paris was hijacked by someone and headed out of town. Gasoline held out for half a day in the surrounding areas, but the station owners fled and the refill trucks wouldn't come, so that was it. A few people from the countryside drove to Paris to find their relatives... they were beaten or killed and their cars were stolen. The airplanes were a lot like the trains; they all left Paris as quickly as possible and none would return.

Images of panicked people (must pass for Paris) fleeing. We see traffic jams and overloaded trains. A train conductor lying on a concrete train platform, badly beaten.

ALEX (V.O.)

(continuing)

The thing that surprised most people was how quickly the rest of the country crumbled. The politicians and their friends abandoned them in a moment, in their helicopters and into their bunkers, and then started issuing orders... No one listened. The electrical system sputtered and died, and with it water, telephones and internet. The primary air, rail and trucking terminals were all at Paris, and they all emptied in a few hours. Everything in France was built from the center out, and all of it stopped when the center stopped.

The ferry approaches. We see now that its white sides are draped with dark green tarps (or painted, if that can be done cheaply by computer). It is still some distance off, but the activity level of the people in the trees rises. More of them are darting out to look at the ferry. We see men on the upper level of the ferry looking over the water with binoculars. They move as if they are agitated.

ALEX (V.O.)

(continuing)

The exodus was instant and enormous. Not only was France reduced nearly to a medieval state within days, but to remain meant to die of radiation poisoning. So, millions of people ran away at once. The military tried to calm things down, but they were vastly outnumbered by people trying to escape an invisible poison. The soldiers never had a chance. Their truck and gasoline supplies were gone in two days. A few hundred people were shot, but what did they have to lose? If they stayed, the radiation was going to kill them anyway. Waves of people headed to Germany, who closed their border in the name of national security. The English started turning back boats on the second day. The Germans called their troops to the borders and the English sent out their ships. So, with forbidding mountains separating France from Spain, the hungry and terrified masses headed to the Mediterranean. This was when it all went crazy on a large scale.

The ferry begins its landing and people begin coming out of the trees, nervously. The ferrymen leave the upper levels and prepare. The people move up to the tree line, preparing to move to the ferry as soon as it lands. They continue to scan the area. We see DAVID, for the first time, coming out of the trees and almost pushing up against an older lady in front of him. NICOLAS and his cart are just behind him and to the side. DAVID looks shaken.

ALEX (V.O.)

(continuing)

Crowded and desperate people don't behave well. In Nice they started killing each other. And as soon as a few Algerians died, it turned into a battle between the French and the Arabs. At least a hundred died daily, yet more people came, desperate to escape the disaster that was France. Every farm in the country was stripped bare by the second week. Few of the stores lasted three days. Boats pulled-up to within a hundred yards of French ports and people swam out to them - this stopped the dangerous rush to board, but they had to pay to get on, and a lot of them had nothing. So, they ripped down electric power lines and traded copper for passage. Boats going to and fro, however, brought news out - and the best stories and photos featured murdered Arabs. Soon enough, several Imams called Jihad and boats full of vengeful Muslims headed to France. The Mediterranean is not much of an obstacle to a modern boat, and there are a lot of Arabs along its south and west coasts.

The ferry lands and people quickly approach it, still scanning agitatedly for soldiers. The ferry operators secure the boat and put two large men in front of the entry. The people begin to line up, still scanning the distance.

ALEX (V.O.)

(continuing)

Germans, Italians and Spaniards sent military boats to stop the Arabs headed to France, but they had to sink several of them and fighting broke out in cities all over the world as a result. Bosnia and Serbia went at it again. Then the politicians did what control freaks always do - they locked everything down. Boat traffic in the Mediterranean stopped... all of it. A show was made of sinking European boats that violated the lockdown, so the world would know they weren't just attacking Arabs.

The crowd of about thirty people queues up. DAVID is near the front of the line. NICOLAS is toward the middle, pulling his cart. We can now see that there is a body in it, partly covered with a piece of fabric; a rucksack as well. NICOLAS remains in a daze. For the first time we see ALEX, coming out of the trees. He matches everyone else's speed of movement, but he is clearly in control and confident - the only person present who is. He fastens his attention on NICOLAS and gets in line next to him, not behind him as would be expected. He is silent as we see the ferry operators collecting money from people and allowing them onboard.

ALEX (V.O.)

(continuing)

The longer the lockdown went, the more people died and the more trade ground to a halt. After a few incidents with airplanes, air traffic was severely curtailed as well. In the span of two weeks, half of Europe was thrown back into the Middle Ages, and the rest of the world was beginning to follow.

David pays and boards the ferry, followed by the others, one by one. A few gas masks visible on the boat would be nice.

END CREDITS

NICOLAS (pulling his cart) and ALEX step up to the Ferrymen.

FERRYMAN #1

(Looks at the contents
of the cart - half
scowls, half recoils)

We don't want to carry bodies.

NICOLAS

(Still very distant)

It is my son; I must give him a
Christian burial.

ALEX

(Sees the Ferryman
pause, not knowing
what to do)

Here.

(Hands him a gold
coin)

We'll stay away from the others.

FERRYMAN #1

Go on.

ALEX and NICOLAS board. Others step up to pay and board.

EXT. ABOARD THE FERRY.

ALEX and NICOLAS are seated at the back of the ferry, as it is heading across the water. No others are nearby - they are hiding in the inner part of the ship. NICOLAS realizes through his fog that he should express gratitude. He turns and speaks in a monotone.

NICOLAS

Thank you.

ALEX

You're welcome. I once lost someone.

They return to their positions in silence. ALEX pulls a flask out of a jacket pocket and takes a quick swig. Then he slowly pulls a small photo out of his inside coat pocket, looks at it briefly and carefully replaces it. DAVID is walking around the deck, looking over the edges. He looks at the two men for a couple of seconds, then continues looking at the shoreline and over the edges, first on one side, then the other. ALEX watches.

ALEX

You'll jump over the edge that's opposite the shooter?

DAVID

(Surprised that ALEX knew his thoughts)

Yes. I should be safer with the boat between me and the bullets.

ALEX

(Looks intently at DAVID and smiles slightly)

And how come you're the only one checking it out?

DAVID

(Intrigued and pleased
to find someone with
knowledge, he
approaches)

I don't know.

(Extends his hand)

I'm David.

ALEX

(Extends his hand,
shakes, and motions
for DAVID to sit)

I'm Alex. Pleased to meet you.

DAVID sits and the men say nothing for a moment. DAVID scans the shoreline. Then NICOLAS stares intently at DAVID. Both DAVID and ALEX notice and watch.

NICOLAS

You are Sean's age.

(Motions to the body
in the cart, tears
still flowing slowly)

He was a wonderful boy. Everyone loved him. If you were ever feeling bad, he always found a way to make you feel better.

(starts to laugh)

One time, my wife and I were both in danger of losing our jobs and we were all worried. Sean started making up stories about how we'd live when we were poor. They were good stories. Most were funny, but others gave us hope. And he always did the same for his friends.

(Returning to his
tearful, sober daze)

He lived a good, happy life.

ALEX understands that NICOLAS is moving back to his half-conscious state. He shifts his body more into NICOLAS' field of view and speaks directly to him.

ALEX

And why must you give him a
Christian burial?

NICOLAS

(Momentarily increased
alertness, looks
directly at ALEX)

I promised my wife as she died.

(Slowly loses
alertness)

She said she could see her parents
next to her bed. She spoke with
them, and she told me what they
said about Sean...

As NICOLAS fades away, ALEX notices that DAVID looks very
sober, almost scared.

ALEX

This hits you, kid?

DAVID

Yeah, about the wife's dead
relatives.

(Turns to address ALEX
directly)

I was really sick when I was eight
and the same thing happened to me.

ALEX

Damn.

(pause)

So, does that have something to do
with an American kid being on the
Croatian coast during a war?

DAVID

(Smiles)

Yes, it does. Talking to your dead relatives does something to you. It's not something I think about all the time, but I need to figure out what that was. Anyway, I want nothing to do with religion, but I do hang out with some of the Christians at school. They were going on a sort of missionary trip over summer break and they invited me. We were in Marseilles when everything fell apart.

ALEX

And your friends?

DAVID

I don't know. We were separated.

The ferry turns to begin its landing. ALEX and DAVID stop talking and begin scanning the shoreline intently.

EXT. THE FERRY LANDING

The passengers exit the ferry. They tend to exit slowly, wanting to survey the area they are entering, but the ferrymen are in a hurry. The two large ferrymen stand in front.

FERRYMAN #2

Quickly! Quickly!

ALEX and DAVID walk off with NICOLAS. ALEX looks at David and slows. The passengers are dispersing.

ALEX

Stay with him for a minute.

ALEX takes the arm of FERRYMAN #1 to get his attention. The passengers continue to disappear.

ALEX

There is a church with a cemetery
near to this place?

FERRYMAN #1

Yes. Six kilometers on that road.
(points)

Rain begins to fall. ALEX scans the area and sees a tarp covering a woodpile nearby. We walks over and removes it. A man, carrying a shovel as a weapon appears, threatening. ALEX looks directly at him and pulls open his jacket to expose a pistol in a shoulder holster. He puts his hand on the pistol, but does not draw. The man stops. ALEX reaches into his pocket with the other hand, pulls out a gold coin and holds it between his fingers, so that only the man may see it. He tosses it to the man and they both nod at each other in satisfaction with the agreement. ALEX motions to the man that he wants food and flashes another coin in the same manner. The man non-verbally indicates that he does and runs into the house. DAVID comes and takes the tarp and begins covering both NICOLAS and the cart. The man reappears with a bag. He places it down and ALEX tosses the second coin. They nod to each other and the man leaves. ALEX takes some food from the bag and places it in his own. He walks to DAVID and hands some to him. He then wraps the bag tightly and places it in NICOLAS' cart. He pulls paper and pen from his bag and uses the edge of the cart to write upon. He folds the paper and puts it in a small plastic bag, then grabs NICOLAS' shoulders to get his attention.

ALEX

You see this?

(NICOLAS nods
slightly)

When you're done, you go here.

(then pushes the paper
deep into NICOLAS'
pocket.)

There is a church cemetery. On
that road.

(pointing)

Six kilometers.

NICOLAS trudges off with his cart, never saying another word. ALEX and DAVID walk up to the road.

ALEX

Where are you going, kid?

DAVID

Anywhere safe.

ALEX

Well, I know a place if you want to come with me.

DAVID

(Considering for a
fraction of a second)

Yes, I think I will.

EXT. THE ROAD AT THE LANDING - OBSERVING FROM A DISTANCE

They stand at the side of the road. A flat-bed truck approaches. ALEX looks carefully, then puts out his thumb and holds up another gold coin. The truck stops, he hands the driver the coin. ALEX and DAVID jump on the back of the truck, and it drives away.

EXT. AN EMPTY CROATIAN ROAD

NICOLAS is alone, pulling his tarp-covered cart through the rain. We can't tell if the water on his face is more tears or rain.

EXT. ON THE BACK OF THE TRUCK

DAVID and ALEX are sitting against the load as they drive toward Rijeka. They have relaxed, but we see DAVID making up his mind to pursue an inquiry.

DAVID

Okay, Alex, you've obviously done things like this before, and you're armed, and you talk like an American. What are you doing here?

ALEX

I was working in Dubrovnik.

DAVID

And?

ALEX

Look, kid, why do you want to know?

DAVID

Because you're my best option for surviving this mess and I'd like to know why.

ALEX

(Smile of acknowledgement)

Okay. I was working for French intelligence, getting information on Bosnians, Serbs and Russians. I'm a trained chef, so I worked at the top hotel and had access to everything. But with France dead, I had to get the hell out. I headed up the coast toward Rijeka.

DAVID

Which is where we're going now?

ALEX

Yes. It's a safe port, which gives us opportunities.

ALEX takes out some bread and cheese. He offers some to David, who accepts.

DAVID

And before you worked for the French?

ALEX

I retired from the CIA.

DAVID

(A semi-juvenile moment)

So, you know the big secrets?

ALEX

What you're asking about, kid, are the little secrets, like who shot a politician or who started a war. I know a few of those, but they really don't mean much. The big secrets, everyone knows.

DAVID

What are you talking about? If everyone knows something, it isn't a secret.

ALEX looks hard at the boy, to make one final estimation of his character.

ALEX

All right, David, I'll tell you exactly how that is and I'll tell you one of the big secrets... if you're sure you want me to.

DAVID

And why wouldn't I be?

ALEX

Because it will take away the comfortable shell of denial that you live in. These things remain secrets because people forbid themselves to face them. They're too painful.

David turns his face and stares into the distance in deep thought, turning to a firm resolve. He turns back to ALEX as a solid adult.

DAVID

Tell me.

ALEX

(Acknowledges the
young man's strength)

You, and your parents and your
friends and everyone you know are
sheep living in pens, and have
been for a hundred generations.
You build your own pens at the
commands of men whom you all know
to be liars, you give them your
money, you treat them as morally
superior and you go off die at
their word.

David sits silently, thoughtful and troubled.

ALEX

You see why it's a secret, kid?
Most people would rather die than
face that. They bury it deep and
defend it fiercely.

DAVID

There's no trick here? That's
really true?

ALEX

You know it's true. There's no
trick.

(slight pause)

That's the difference between
rulers and subjects. We accept the
truth and rule. They avoid it, and
serve.

DAVID goes silent, again in thought, resigned to pain. ALEX
breaks the spell and returns to the here and now.

ALEX

What kind of money do you have,
kid?

DAVID

(Jolted out of his
spell)

Um, I have some dollars and some
Euros.

ALEX

Okay, I have dollars and gold.
Let's get rid of your Euros first,
while they still have some value.
Then we both spend our dollars and
we save the gold for last. Deal?

(extends his hand to
shake)

DAVID

(shakes his hand)

Deal.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY, 3-4 STAR, BUT OLD AND WORN

DAVID sits in a comfortable chair, relaxed. He is washed
and in clean clothes. ALEX approaches, similarly cleaned-
up.

ALEX

Feels nice to be back in something
resembling civilization?

(sits, facing the
door)

DAVID

(smiles)

It does. They even have an
intermittent internet connection.
I was able to get a note to my
family.

ALEX

Good, save them pain.

GABRIELLE enters the front door, commanding a taxi driver
to follow her and bring her bags.

GABRIELLE

Bring them. Put them there.
[French]

She speaks French, which the driver does not understand, but he is able to understand her gestures. She walks to the front desk and hands the driver a 20 Euro note. He walks out. She rings the desk bell, impatiently irritated.

ALEX

Shit.

ALEX leans close to DAVID (and away from GABRIELLE), and looks toward the exit.

ALEX

I know this woman; I don't want
her to see me now.

(slight pause to
calculate)

As soon as I go, offer to help
with her bags. Find out everything
you can about why she's here.
She's connected at very high
levels.

(notices David's
concerned expression)

There's no danger to you, and the
more information we get, the more
likely we'll get through this
episode intact.

DAVID

No problem, I can do it.

ALEX slaps him on the thigh, as athletes do, and waits for her to speak to the DESK CLERK, who is an old man. As she does, he walks out quietly.

GABRIELLE

I need your best suite. [French]

The DESK CLERK does not understand.

GABRIELLE

Your best suite. [French]
(he still doesn't
understand)
You speak English?

DESK CLERK

Yes, ma'am.

GABRIELLE

(Disgusted)
I need your best suite. I will pay
Euros, in advance.

GABRIELLE counts out several 100-Euro notes and the DESK CLERK hurriedly finds her key and writes a receipt. DAVID stands, straightens himself, walks to the desk, and addresses GABRIELLE.

DAVID

Um, excuse me, but I don't think
they have a Bellman. I'm also a
guest here and I'd be glad to
help.

DESK CLERK

Thank you Mr. Marshall.

DESK CLERK

(hands her the keys)
At the end of the hallway.

GABRIELLE walks regally toward her suite and DAVID follows. They enter the suite.

GABRIELLE

You may place the bags over there.
(points)
You are an American, Marshall, a
long way from home.

(steps up and extends
her hand, as he is
bent over)

I am Gabrielle Rousseau, chief
correspondent for French national
television, special consultant to
the Ministry of Defense, and a
direct descendant of Jean-Jacques
Rousseau.

He shakes her hand and realizes that she desires status.

DAVID

Wow... a pleasure to meet you.

GABRIELLE

You may sit, Marshall, I'd like to
know my neighbor.

(he complies, she
remains standing)

You are stranded here?

DAVID

Yes.

GABRIELLE

Well, you do seem a pleasing young
man.

(she lets down her
hair, takes off a wrap
and slightly spreads
her legs)

I have a ship in the harbor, with
authorized transit to Tel Aviv to
deliver humanitarian supplies.
Perhaps if our friendship grows I
shall bring you along.

DAVID

That would be great. I...

The phone in her room rings. She answers.

GABRIELLE

Hallo?

(motions for him to
leave, puts hand over
receiver)

I shall find you later.

DAVID walks back into the lobby, where SOPHIE is standing
at the desk.

DESK CLERK

Ah, Mr. Marshall, this is Sophie
Moreau, Madame Rousseau's
assistant.

DAVID

Hi, I'm David Marshall.
(shakes her hand)
Your suite is at the end of the
hall.

SOPHIE

No, I'll wait here until Gabrielle
calls for me.

DAVID

Oh, okay. I hear you're headed to
Tel Aviv with humanitarian
supplies.

SOPHIE

That's what she tells me...

GABRIELLE comes down the hall.

GABRIELLE

Sophie! What are you doing?

SOPHIE

Only waiting.

GABRIELLE

Get to the suite and start
arranging my office materials.

SOPHIE glances to David, so as to say goodbye, and proceeds to the suite. GABRIELLE continues on to David, acting suggestively.

GABRIELLE

Are you able to set up a wireless terminal, Marshall?

DAVID

Umm, yes, I've done that a few times.

GABRIELLE

Good. An older man will be dropping one off in a few moments, if you get it working quickly, that would please me.

A uniformed man enters, carrying a cardboard box.

GABRIELLE

You are Drogovic?

(the man nods)

Good, give him the box.

(he hands it to DAVID)

Come with me.

Stops and turns to DAVID.

GABRIELLE

You met my assistant?

DAVID

Briefly.

GABRIELLE

Don't be a simple American, trying to befriend every creature on two legs.

(turns and walks away)

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY IN THE EVENING

ALEX walks in and finds DAVID testing a wireless repeater in a corner of the lobby.

ALEX

She's not around?

DAVID

They're in their suite. But they'll be here for several days.

ALEX

Huh, okay. And what are you doing?

DAVID

Installing a wireless node, but I'm done.

ALEX

(smiles smugly)

So, has she tried to seduce you yet?

DAVID

(shocked)

Kind of... and offered me a ride to Tel Aviv. How did you know?

ALEX

C'mon, let's get some dinner and I'll explain.

They walk back toward their rooms.

INT. THE HOTEL RESTAURANT/BAR

ALEX and DAVID are seated at a table, eating. Other diners are present.

ALEX

Did she say anything about their cargo, beyond Humanitarian Supplies?

DAVID

No, just that. Why?

ALEX

Only that I doubt it's true.

Waiter brings water.

DAVID

Alex, how do you know this woman
and why don't you want to see her?

ALEX

The not seeing her part wasn't
important, just avoiding
complications until I knew what
was involved. I wouldn't have
dinner here if I was still trying
to avoid her.

DAVID

Right.

ALEX

I knew her in Paris about ten
years ago. We used her to get
information on deals between the
French and the Arabs.

The finish their meals and the waiter removes their plates.

WAITER

Dessert, sir?

ALEX

I just want some Scotch. You want
something, kid?

DAVID

No thank you.

WAITER leaves.

DAVID

How did you know Gabrielle would
come on to me?

ALEX

That's her weakness. That's how we
used her.

(looks at David, who
is confused)
You don't know much about
intelligence, do you?

DAVID

Not much.

ALEX shakes his head a little and looks like he'd rather
avoid the subject.

DAVID

Educate me.

ALEX looks at him, considering whether he should. Then
resigns himself.

ALEX

All right. What the hell.
(looks up again, with
a serious and almost
angry expression)
But don't ever bring up James
Bond; it insults me.

DAVID

Okay, I won't.

ALEX

Good.

The waiter brings the Scotch.

ALEX

Leave the bottle. And a little
more water.
(takes a sip)

WAITER

Yes, sir.

ALEX

Intelligence is ugly. We find people's weaknesses and we take advantage of them. All day, every day.

(takes a big drink,
pours more, adds a
little water)

We got that woman because we she has a psychological need to dominate a young man; sexually and otherwise. We studied her. She's the mistress of the Minster of Defense. He's twenty years older than her and completely dominates her. So, in order to feel good, she finds much younger men and dominates them. It makes her feel balanced.

DAVID

So you found a young agent and put him in the right place at the right time?

Alex drinks.

ALEX

Yeah, but there was more to it than that. We had to get rid of the old boyfriend, then push up her feeling of being dominated. Once her stress level was sky-high, we put this guy - who just happened to have needs that she could fill - right in her path. She pounced on him and started ordering him around like a dog, in bed and out. We trained him, of course, in appearing needy. So, with the guy living in her house, we easily got taps on her phones, copies of records and so on. It worked beautifully until the French counter-intelligence guys figured it out. Our operative was arrested and she was kicked-out of the Defense Ministry.

DAVID

That's when she went into broadcasting?

ALEX

Sure was. He boyfriend made her grovel, then he got her the job.

DAVID

And what about your spy?

ALEX

I think they traded him for some French operative about a year later. Anyhow, that's how almost everything works, you get people to do stupid things and take advantage of them.

DAVID

And what if you need to use someone without obvious vulnerabilities?

ALEX

If we can, we move along to
someone else.

DAVID

And if you can't?

ALEX

Then it gets more serious.
(takes another drink)
One time we needed a highly-placed
banker to play money games. The
guy had no bad habits. But, he was
getting up in years, so we figured
he was starting to feel the usual
mid-life crap. We put one of our
girls in as a waitress, at the
restaurant where he ate lunch. She
looked a lot like his wife when
she was twenty. It took her one
week to get this guy nuts, talking
about feeling young again. So, we
slipped some Viagra into his
coffee and she asked him to help
carry a heavy bag up to her
apartment next door. The poor sap
never had a chance. We had photos,
film and sound. The guy almost had
a heart attack when we showed it
to him. He ran our transactions
for eighteen months.

DAVID

And what if he had said no?

ALEX

He wouldn't.
(pause)
But if he did, we'd send the
photos to his boss and get him
fired, then go to work on the new
guy.

(takes another swig,
is getting drunk)
It's all about controlling people,
kid. Making someone reveal things,
enter some commands into a
computer, place something
somewhere, and to keep your
enemies from doing the same.
Handlers don't even think about
the ends, they just work on the
means.

DAVID

So, if killing an innocent person
accomplishes their goal, they
don't care?

ALEX

Why should they? Look around you,
kid. These people are
placeholders. They follow the
person in front of them; they have
no direction except that of the
crowd. When one goes down, another
takes his place. They're nothing
but cells in a larger organism.

(has some water)

They're all going to die and be
replaced anyway; what's the
difference if we move the family's
grieving forward a few years?

DAVID

So, you would kill me if I didn't
help you?

ALEX

No, not you. You're an organism.

DAVID

And what about one of the cells
changing?

ALEX

What do you mean?

DAVID

You're right, most people do live like cells, but they're capable of turning into organisms, aren't they?

ALEX

Right, an adult seriously changing their life... and how often might that happen?

DAVID

I don't know, but shouldn't you consider it?

ALEX

I don't play crazy odds, kid.

(motions to the waiter
for the check)

But, that's enough, I need to sleep.

(gets up, starts
counting money)

I'll see you around lunch time.
(takes the bottle)

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY

DAVID is replacing the wireless terminal he installed the day before. SOPHIE walks into the lobby, very bored. She is twenty feet away from DAVID, but they are the only people present.

DAVID

You look bored. Nothing to do?

SOPHIE

Nothing but wait for Gabrielle to get back and tell me what to do.

DAVID

She doesn't seem to like you.

SOPHIE

No, but she does seem to like you.

DAVID

(slightly defensive,
stops working)

I didn't start that.

SOPHIE

(walking to him)

I know.

(pause)

She only uses your last name. What
shall I call you?

(extending her hand)

DAVID

I am David.

SOPHIE

I am Sophie. Sophia Moreau. Would
you like some help?

DAVID

Umm, not really, but I'd enjoy
your company.

SOPHIE smiles and sits on the arm of a chair next to him.
He goes back to work.

SOPHIE

Gabrielle doesn't really hate me,
you know. She just passes down the
abuse.

DAVID

I'm not sure I follow.

SOPHIE

The big politicians order her
around, then she orders me around
mercilessly... with the promise
that if I serve her well enough,
someday I'll get to treat people
like dirt.

DAVID

That's kind of sick.

SOPHIE

(excited)

I know! But that's the way they live. When they got me the job I thought it would be exciting, but it's just ugly. Though I'm not sure what it will be now that France is... whatever it is.

DAVID

Is your family okay?

SOPHIE

Yes. My father is an Ambassador, so my parents and brother weren't even there. Most of my relatives got out too. They're in Berlin.

DAVID

That's good... So, what's going to happen with France now?

SOPHIE

I don't know. Several northern towns have built walls and declared themselves independent city-states. Most other places are begging for international aid, and the southern coast is still at war. The radiation wasn't as bad as people thought, but who knows how many cases of cancer will appear in twenty years.

DAVID

And what about you?

SOPHIE

(troubled, looks at him, he stops working)

This has changed me.

DAVID

How?

SOPHIE gets up and paces. DAVID leans against the wall.

SOPHIE

Honestly, it woke me up. I was living the aristocratic French life. My father was an important man, I went to the best schools, they got me the perfect job, I was dating a boy of the upper class. But the whole thing fell apart in a moment. I don't want anyone to suffer, but now I don't really care if France ever comes back to what it was, and I don't think I want to be part of it.

(self-questioning
pause)

God, I'm speaking treason.

DAVID

If that's what you really think, you should say it.

SOPHIE

(waiving him off)

You're right, but I've wandered from my subject... I was never more than an obedient child. They never forced me to obey - they didn't have to. I was swept along by everyone else. I had a nicer path than the others, so I took it. But...

(looks at David as she articulates the concept with difficulty)

I was second to the path...

DAVID

Do you mean that you were merely a placeholder?

SOPHIE

Yes! That's what I mean! My place was a good one, but it had nothing to do with me - I was just a position. I want to be ME, not a placeholder, even of a very nice place.

DAVID

That's very good.

SOPHIE

Yes, but what scares the hell out of me is that without the fall of France, I might never have noticed.

DAVID pauses, not knowing what to say. After a beat, ALEX walks in, scans the lobby and sees DAVID and SOPHIE standing together. Another short beat and he approaches.

DAVID

Alex, this is Sophie Moreau, Gabrielle's assistant.

ALEX

My condolences.
(smiles)

SOPHIE

(laughs)
Thank you. You know her?

DAVID

They knew each other some years ago.

ALEX

Yes.

DAVID

I didn't know you had gone out.

ALEX

I spent some time at the harbor.

DAVID

And what did you learn?

ALEX

Um, no offense, Ms. Moreau, but I think David and I should discuss this separately.

SOPHIE

No offense.

DAVID

No, Alex, you can talk in front of her...

(turns to Sophie)

As long as you don't tell your boss.

SOPHIE

I don't tell her anything, and she never asks.

ALEX

Okay, it's no problem to me.

SOPHIE'S cell phone rings.

SOPHIE

(smiles)

Well, you will excuse me for a moment anyway.

SOPHIE walks to the other end of the lobby, listens and sits attentively.

ALEX

Okay, this is the port that everyone is leaving alone, which is very good.

DAVID

That's good, of course, but I don't understand.

ALEX

In every conflict, there's always one port that everyone leaves alone, so they can run arms and supplies through it. I figured it would be this one, but I wasn't sure till now. That's generally a good thing for us, but I didn't find anyone I could connect with, so we'll have to wait. Honestly, kid, maybe you should take the bitch's offer for Tel Aviv. A few days of being insulted and screwed are worth it. We might be here a while and the untouched port does change from time to time.

DAVID

I have no desire to be that woman's toy.

ALEX looks back and forth at DAVID and SOPHIE.

ALEX

She hooked you.

DAVID

No.

ALEX

Yes. It's hopeless, kid, you're hard-wired for it. Her too. Is she an interesting girl?

DAVID

As a matter of fact, yeah, she is. She has real thoughts in her head. She's not a drone.

ALEX

Well, that makes sense. A mundane girl wouldn't do much for you. But she hooked you.

SOPHIE finishes her call, stands, and heads back.

DAVID

We've been talking about anything
but romance, and I do not think
she's been trying to hook me.

SOPHIE approaches, though not in ALEX'S view.

ALEX

Kid, a woman *always* has a plan.
This girl - and she may be great -
decided that she was interested in
you before she ever showed up.

DAVID

I don't think so.

SOPHIE arrives. ALEX turns to see her, but is not
embarrassed. DAVID stares at her as well.

SOPHIE

No, he speaks the truth. Crudely,
but the truth.

(turns directly to
David)

I wasn't trying to *hook* you, but I
did have some interest. That is
true.

ALEX

(turns directly to
Sophie)

And I'm impressed.

GABRIELLE enters and sees the three. She sees ALEX and
marches toward them. She glances between ALEX and DAVID.

GABRIELLE

And this one, is he one of your
plants?

ALEX

If he were, I wouldn't be seen
with him. I met this kid a couple
of days ago.

GABRIELLE
(to Sophie)
And why are you here?

SOPHIE
I was waiting for you and we had a
conversation.

GABRIELLE
Go back to the suite and contact
the Minister in Zurich. Tell him
that we are proceeding well.

SOPHIE
(to Alex and David)
Good bye.

SOPHIE walks away.

GABRIELLE
I went out of my way for you,
Marshall. My Embassy in Tel Aviv
has you cleared for a flight to
New York; your parents have been
notified.

DAVID is stunned and speechless.

GABRIELLE
(continuing)
But I want you to stay far away
from the corruption of this man.

ALEX
You've got luck, kid.

GABRIELLE
(to David)
You should go to your room and
clean-up. We'll have dinner later.

GABRIELLE
(to Alex)
And whose lives have you been
toying with recently?

DAVID does not move, working through a mental sand-storm.

ALEX

It's just business. And, I've been working for your side.

GABRIELLE sees that DAVID has not moved.

GABRIELLE

Marshall, go clean up. I'll come get you later.

ALEX

Go, David. I've got nothing.

DAVID

(starting to emerge,
quietly)

No.

GABRIELLE

No?

ALEX

Kid...

GABRIELLE

You are even a bigger fool than I thought.

ALEX

Think, kid, people may be dying here soon.

GABRIELLE

And to smash your poor parents' hearts?

DAVID

(to Alex, quietly)

Do we still have our deal?

GABRIELLE

(continuing)

They're already going to New York!

DAVID
(normal volume)
Do we still have our deal?

ALEX
This isn't a good decision.

GABRIELLE
(angry)
A deal? With this son of a bitch?

DAVID
(finally clear, now
loud)
Lady, I need a son of a bitch
right now.

DAVID
(directly into Alex's
face, demanding)
Do we still have our deal?

ALEX
Yes.

DAVID
Then I'm finished here.
(turns to Gabrielle)
Now, I'll go to my room.

DAVID walks away.

FADE TO THE COLORS OF A WET, RAINY, DEEPLY OVERCAST DAY.

After a beat, the sharp entry of the song *Not Enough* by
Lacuna Coil.

EXT. FADE IN TO A CHURCH CEMETERY ON A RAINY DAY

NICOLAS is kneeling over mound of dirt on his son's fresh
grave. (Wide shot from a distance, and he weeps
throughout.) He pitches forward and lays his forehead and
hands on the grave. No sound, save the music. (Which will
require simple editing - the male voice sections are to be
removed.)

Cut to NICOLAS at the door of the church, handing the clergyman a piece of paper. (The grave remains visible in the wide shot.) The clergyman acknowledges and speaks (not audible). NICOLAS points to the cart and hands the clergyman some money. They both assent to the agreement and NICOLAS walks to the cart, puts his bags over his shoulders (one is a laptop), wraps himself in the tarp and walks toward the road. He turns as he passes the grave, as if to throw himself on it one more time. But he does not. Rather, he stares at it, takes a deep breath, whimpers visibly as he exhales, slowly takes another deep breath, closes his eyes, turns his whole body away, reopens them, begins toward the road, looks slightly downward and walks on.

FADE TO THE COLORS OF A RAINY, DEEPLY OVERCAST DAY. MUSIC FADES.

After a beat, fade back in to:

INT. DAVID'S ROOM, DAVID'S P.O.V.

Knocking on the door. We hear ALEX on the outside.

ALEX

Hey, kid, can I come in?

DAVID

(Waking up)

Yeah.

ALEX opens the door and leans in.

ALEX

Meet me in front in 15 minutes,
okay? I need some help.

DAVID

Okay.

ALEX shuts the door.

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL, OVERLOOKING THE HARBOR

ALEX has coffee and a bag waiting for DAVID on a waist-high wall, as well as a pair of binoculars. He has a cup of coffee in his own hand.

ALEX

(points)

I got you some breakfast.

DAVID

Thanks.

ALEX

Okay, here's our job. I'm going to meet someone near the port.

ALEX hands DAVID the binoculars.

ALEX

Put these around your neck and stand up here.

DAVID climbs up on the railing/wall. ALEX leans over the wall.

ALEX

See that path down there on the left? The one running up from the water.

DAVID

Yes.

ALEX

Okay, do you see the small building off to the left?

DAVID

I do.

ALEX

Good. That's your landmark. Put down the binoculars and look at me.

(David complies)

Now, turn back and acquire it again.

DAVID

Done.

ALEX

Okay, come on down.

David hops down and take a swig of coffee.

ALEX

I'm going to go down and stand behind that building. In exactly twenty minutes, a small fishing boat will sail up to the shore. When it does, you send me a text message.

(hands David a cell phone)

My number is programmed in. My phone's set on vibrate, so don't worry if I don't check it. It works. Now, this is important. If anyone approaches by land, you send me a message. Send "north," "south," or "east," then a second message describing the parties. Any questions?

DAVID

Nope, I've got it.

ALEX

Okay, this should only take half an hour. Scarf down your food and get yourself ready.

Cut to DAVID standing on the wall, watching with his binoculars. SOPHIE walks to him.

SOPHIE

What are you watching?

DAVID pulls the binoculars from his face for long enough to glance at SOPHIE and smile. Then back to watching.

DAVID

Good morning. I'm watching the harbor for Alex. It should only take another few minutes.

SOPHIE

I've been told that he's some sort of spy.

DAVID

Yeah, I think it's true.

SOPHIE

And you?

Pulls the binoculars away for a moment again.

DAVID

I was on summer break from college when this insanity started.

(goes back to watching)

Yesterday you said that without the fall of France, you might never have noticed being a placeholder. I had a glimpse of something more, but no clue what to do about it. I might never have broken out, had I not been forced into it.

(looks at her again)

And even now, I know I'll never go back to a drone's life, but I don't know what kind of life this is.

(back to watching)

SOPHIE

Then we are trapped in the process of becoming. We cannot go back and we have no idea where the road leads us.

DAVID

(waves to ALEX, releases the binoculars)

That's a very good way of saying it. Yes.

SOPHIE

Shouldn't you keep watching?

Looks over the edge without binoculars.

DAVID

No, he just waved me off, he'll be
back in a minute. Mission
accomplished.

She sits on the wall. He glances back at ALEX then joins
her, leaning back from time to time to follow his approach.

SOPHIE

Do you trust Alex?

DAVID

(laughs)

Well, he keeps his word, but he's
like a force of nature; he acts
without sympathy.

ALEX comes up the path. DAVID stands and hands him the
binoculars, then digs in his pocket for the cell phone.

ALEX

Nah, keep the phone. That way we
can stay in contact. Nothing to
report?

DAVID

Not a thing, and I scanned for
people on the hills too.

ALEX

Good job, thanks.

DAVID

You're welcome. Anything useful?

ALEX

Actually yes, for you.

DAVID

But not for you?

ALEX

No. I found a group that will be pleased to make a deal with you. I told them you were smart and that you wouldn't betray them. But I only work for government groups. If I went with an independent, the states would never hire me again.

DAVID

Who are these guys?

ALEX

Smugglers. One of the better groups.

A cab pulls up in front on the hotel. DAVID remains focused on the word "smugglers."

SOPHIE

Damn, it's Gabrielle. I was hoping she'd take longer.

DAVID

Wait. Alex, smugglers? What's to say they won't want to kill me?

ALEX

(laughs)

They're not what you think, kid. They're business guys
(glances to Sophie)
that your boss made into criminals. I'll set up a meeting; you can see for yourself. And they're your only ticket out of here right now.

SOPHIE

And how did Gabrielle make them criminals?

GABRIELLE gets out of the cab. She has a laptop bag on her shoulder.

GABRIELLE

Sophie! What are you doing with
them?

DAVID is angered that GABRIELLE speaks to SOPHIE this way.

DAVID

She was waiting for you. And Alex
was just starting to explain how
you had turned businessmen into
criminals.

GABRIELLE is insulted.

GABRIELLE

Come with me, Sophie.

SOPHIE follows GABRIELLE into the lobby.

DAVID turns to ALEX, who is amused.

DAVID

Geez, I'm sorry, Alex, I shouldn't
have pulled you into this. I got
pissed off.

ALEX

No problem, kid. Shall we go in so
you can protect her again?

ALEX puts his arm on DAVID's shoulder and they follow the
women into the lobby.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY

GABRIELLE is berating SOPHIE as they enter. ALEX walks to
the clerk, says something and heads back to DAVID and
GABRIELLE.

GABRIELLE

I don't care how bored you are...

(She stops when she
sees them.)

Take this and send a message to
the Minister that the cargo is due
tomorrow.

SOPHIE takes the laptop and walks away.

GABRIELLE

(to David)

And you think you will shame me
with the words of a killer?

DAVID

I don't care who says the words, I
care if they're true.

ALEX arrives. They have been speaking loudly and he
obviously heard the exchange.

ALEX

I've just ordered coffee for us
all. We can discuss this...
(to Gabrielle)
unless, of course, it's too much
for you.

GABRIELLE walks to a nearby set of chairs with a table.

GABRIELLE

I have nothing that demands my
time for the moment.

EXT. A CROATIAN ROAD

NICOLAS is trudging down the road, looking a bit less of a
zombie. He stops (a moment of recognition in his face) as
he approaches a road sign (mentioning Rijeka). He digs into
his pocket, opens the paper ALEX gave him at the ferry, and
reads it. He looks at the sign, then proceeds with a bit of
intent.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY

ALEX, DAVID and GABRIELLE are sitting and sipping coffee.

ALEX

Let's be honest, the purpose of
your work is to maintain the
perceived legitimacy of your
government.

GABRIELLE

My government *is* legitimate!

ALEX

I'm talking about the man on the street. Your job is to manage what he thinks of your government. Do you deny this?

GABRIELLE

Our people say we are legitimate.

ALEX

And if the people ever stop thinking so, their government crumbles.

DAVID

That's not really true, is it?

ALEX

Sure it is. They only have so many policemen. If any significant percentage stops obeying, the game ends. Deliveries would stop, people wouldn't show up, tax receipts would die... hell, look at the USSR, it crashed almost overnight. The bosses didn't get shot; the game just stopped working.

SOPHIE arrives. Speaks to GABRIELLE as she approaches.

SOPHIE

The Minister has been notified.

(looks at the table)

Ah, I see you ordered a coffee for me.

(she sits)

GABRIELLE

And this has *what* to do with me supposedly creating criminals?

ALEX

You're turning anyone who doesn't fully comply into a criminal.

GABRIELLE

What are you talking about? We have laws, people who break them are criminals.

ALEX

Yes, and those laws are made to order by you and your friends.

GABRIELLE

By the representatives of the people!

ALEX

Right. (sarcastically)

DAVID

Alex, why don't you explain what you mean.

ALEX

Fine. There are always a few people who don't want to get in line like the others. Every government has this. What you normally do is drive them to the edges. Let them run away from a tax debt and live quietly somewhere else. They know if they get flamboyant they'll get hurt badly, so they never make trouble again. There are people like this everywhere.

GABRIELLE

Such people are lawbreakers.

ALEX

Sure, but it's not the money that bothers you, it's that they don't believe in you.

(turns to David)

It's in everyone's interest to leave these guys alone. It's a safety valve. We let them escape and they make no more trouble.

SOPHIE

I have an uncle kind of like that.

ALEX

And he doesn't make any trouble, does he?

SOPHIE

No, he doesn't.

ALEX

But the "public opinions" crowd
(looking at Gabrielle)
have been turning their radar on these people. They're chasing them and driving them into crime.

SOPHIE

What do you mean by "radar"?

ALEX

Financial tracking, mostly. They're trying to shut down every tax haven, outlaw cash and go after every penny of tax. They're giving these guys no choice. If they can no longer exist as harmless non-conformists, they have nothing left but crime.

GABRIELLE

The law must be respected!

ALEX

You're a heretic hunter. You'd have done nicely in the Middle Ages.

GABRIELLE

(to David)

Do you have any idea of the work
this man does?

DAVID

I do.

GABRIELLE

He entraps, he blackmails, he
kills. Do you approve of that?

DAVID

I do not.

GABRIELLE

But you have attached yourself to
him. You are a self-condemning
hypocrite!

DAVID

He knows I don't approve, but he
has knowledge that I value and
speaks of it truthfully. Like I
told you yesterday, I need that.

The DESK CLERK approaches ALEX with a newspaper in his
hand.

DESK CLERK

Your newspaper has arrived sir.

ALEX

Thank you.

GABRIELLE

I need to check my email. You will
excuse me. Sophie, please come.

They rise and exit.

SOPHIE

Good bye for now.

DAVID

Good bye.

ALEX leafs through his paper. DAVID watches SOPHIE leave.
Then turns to ALEX.

DAVID

The non-conformists you were
talking about - they're my
smugglers, aren't they?

ALEX

Sure are. One of them used to be
an accountant. You want to meet
with them now?

DAVID

Yes.

ALEX

Okay, take down this number and
send them a text message. Tell
them you're the one Alex
recommended.

ALEX opens his phone, highlights a number and hands the
phone to DAVID. DAVID enters the number into his phone and
starts sending a text message. ALEX reads.

ALEX

Here ya go! Read this.
(offering DAVID the
newspaper)

DAVID

Gimme a minute, Alex.

ALEX

Well, it says that the EU and the
UN are putting massive pressure to
get the new French city-states to
pledge their allegiance to the
French government in exile.

DAVID hits send and pays full attention.

DAVID

Why?

ALEX

The same as always: Perceived legitimacy. The world is built around the idea of large sovereign states. City-states don't fit that mold and must therefore be brought back in or broken. It's dogma. Theirs must be the one and only true way.

DAVID's cell phone sounds for a text message.

ALEX

What do they say?

DAVID holds up the phone, which says, "Same place. One hour."

ALEX

You ready for this?

DAVID

I don't know... but I'm going.

ALEX

Okay, set your phone on vibrate. We'll switch roles and handle it the same as before.

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL, OVERLOOKING THE HARBOR

ALEX is standing by the wall where DAVID was earlier, but is being far less obvious. SOPHIE stands nearby.

SOPHIE

What are they doing now?

ALEX

The same as before, sitting and talking. And yes, it looks very friendly and safe. They're even laughing a bit.

SOPHIE

And these people will deal with him honestly?

ALEX

They always have... they're shaking hands... and here he comes.

SOPHIE

Thank god.

She looks carefully over the edge to see him walking up from the water.

SOPHIE

And this is a safe exit for him?

ALEX

Yes, it is. But I'm sorry, they won't be willing to take you.

SOPHIE

Yes, I know.

She pauses in thought, he sits on the ledge.

SOPHIE

You've been very good about answering David's questions, will you also answer mine?

ALEX

Okay. What's on your mind?

SOPHIE

Once someone has lost all faith in the state, how does that person live? Will they let them live? Is all they have the life of a smuggler?

ALEX

And you lost your faith at the dissolution of France?

SOPHIE

That completed it, but I've been working for Gabrielle five months; I've seen behind the curtain, and I don't like what I saw. The bosses are unkind, twisted, manipulative people. Some of them are plainly evil. From the outside everything appears noble, but the inside is completely corrupt.

ALEX

You've never told this to your boss, have you?

SOPHIE

No.

ALEX

Good. Make sure you don't. But I don't have an answer for you; there's one game in town, and they own it. If you don't play, they'll hunt you down and the crowds will cheer.

DAVID comes around the corner.

ALEX

So, it's going to work with these people?

DAVID

(smiles)

Yep, it is.

ALEX

(stands and heads toward the lobby)

Excellent. Come on, I'll buy you two some dinner.

They walk into the lobby.

INT. THE DINING ROOM

ALEX, DAVID and SOPHIE are seated at a table for four, eating and conversing.

DAVID

Well, the French and Arabs sure hate each other now.

ALEX

(incredulous look)

Not the bosses. They talk every day and they make billions of Euros for each other. In every conflict the top levels of intelligence talk to each other non-stop. They won't let their deals be ruined by a few deaths.

(he takes a bite)

Pass the salt?

(DAVID does)

Look, the French could have cooperated with the Brits and the Americans to fix all of their oil problems. The Arabs were utterly dependent on the West for technology. They had no choice. But De Gaulle had to be superior, so he made a separate deal. He got oil, gave refuge to radicals and his friends made money.

DAVID

So it worked?

ALEX

At first, but once you make a deal like that, you have to hate the people you screwed-over.

DAVID

The Brits and the Americans.

ALEX

And Israel. If De Gaulle had cooperated, there wouldn't have been many Arab problems. But, being unable to admit they were wrong, the French had to say that America and Israel had it coming. Then, the Americans and Brits left them out of their deals.

GABRIELLE walks up, confidently.

GABRIELLE

May I join you?

DAVID

(glances at the others)

All right.

(pulls out her chair)

The WAITER approaches.

WAITER

Something to drink, Madame?

GABRIELLE

A glass of Burgundy, and your beef salad please.

WAITER

Very good, Madame.

(walks away)

GABRIELLE

(to Alex)

I presume that you were again corrupting the minds of the young and poorly educated?

ALEX

I was answering their questions.

GABRIELLE

Yes, that's a very good strategy.
Find them in the midst of chaos
and offer to guide them. I wonder
how you plan to make use of them.

The WAITER is back with her wine.

GABRIELLE

Thank you... I did some checking
on you, Mr. Kipling, or Mr.
Kilmer, or whatever your real name
is. You've had quite a career.

ALEX

Waiter, another Scotch.

GABRIELLE

What you children missed in school
was that warriors should never
rule. You have been raised in a
world where the warriors - like
this man - have been kept under
control.

The waiter brings the bottle of Scotch and smiles at ALEX
as he delivers it. Gabrielle notices, takes a big drink of
wine.

GABRIELLE

You may bring my bottle as well.

WAITER

Certainly, Madame.

DAVID

How can you say that warriors are
under control? There were more
people killed in the last century
than in the history of mankind.

GABRIELLE

Only because there were more people and better weapons. The time with unrestrained warriors was the Middle Ages, before sovereign states brought them under control. Entire towns were burned on a whim and life was without value. Warriors were seldom held to account and simply took what they wanted, when they wanted. Thugs ruled.

The wine arrives and the WAITER pours for her. She takes a long drink. ALEX has already been drinking.

GABRIELLE

Do you think it was easy to bring the thugs into subjection? The Church worked long and hard at it, but still didn't succeed. It was not until we learned to bring the populace into unions that warriors were restrained. And now, you are listening to a man of the warrior class, trying to tell you how the world works.

She pauses to drink, refill her glass, and admire her work.

GABRIELLE

You talk of statistics, Mr. Marshall. Where have you received your education?

DAVID

At a State University.

GABRIELLE

I see, a provincial school of the people. And what have you studied?

DAVID

Engineering.

GABRIELLE

You have the education of a tradesman, Mr. Marshall. I'm sure you are suited to a fine career tending machines, but you have no preparation for larger matters. It is arrogant of you to intrude into such things. And to do so based on the word of a professional thug... you have been most foolish, Mr. Marshall. And you, Sophie, I can almost forgive you for the trauma to your homeland, but you insult your father by keeping company with these people.

DAVID

(to ALEX)

You're being strangely silent.

ALEX

Just letting her have her say.

GABRIELLE

Would you like to know about your professor, Mr. Marshall?

(David says nothing)

We know of at least ten people he has blackmailed and five he has murdered. We're not sure how many he has merely beaten or threatened. His business is to intimidate and force innocents. Do you deny this Mr. Kilmer?

ALEX

My name is simply Alex, and, no, I don't deny this. But I will add that I did all of it at the order of people in your class.

GABRIELLE

Oh, I rather doubt that.

ALEX

I may be screwed-up, but I do
speak the truth, outside of work.

GABRIELLE

And did you tell your wife the
truth, Alex? Did she know what you
were before she died?

ALEX

Sorry, lady, I'm not going to stay
here and let you poke at my sore
spots.

(to David and Sophie)

Good night.

He takes the bottle of Scotch and leaves. Gabrielle takes
another big drink of wine and refills her glass, enjoying
her victory. She continues to drink and becomes
increasingly drunk.

GABRIELLE

The people in your friend's
business have a saying, Mr.
Marshall: Unless you allow a man
to be the hero of the story, he
will not play. That is precisely
what he has done to the two of
you. You both found yourself in
the middle of a crisis, and he,
wanting you as assets, gave you
heroic roles. Do you really think
that uneducated children can
become heroes in this world?

DAVID

I wasn't looking for a role to
play, I was looking for the truth.

GABRIELLE

And you found what? A small piece
of the truth, as seen by a thug?

DAVID

I'll take any piece. And if his truth is so small, then what is the larger part?

GABRIELLE

As if you were in a position to understand it.

DAVID

Try me.

GABRIELLE

You cannot understand any person, Mr. Marshall, unless you know who he is arguing with. Your friend Alex is arguing with his superiors. I am arguing with history...

DAVID

And how do you argue with history?

GABRIELLE

As I said before, and which you apparently did not understand. The history of the world is thugs killing, raping and stealing. That was all, until the last few hundred years, when we learned to bring the populace into large, strong unions.

DAVID

(quietly)

And you do this how?

GABRIELLE

(clearly drunk)

We give them something to hide in.
Beneath the union, their fears and
insecurities are covered. You
Americans talk about
individuality, but if you were
ever separated from the special
status you feel as Americans,
you'd be lost. Inside the nation,
a man is given meaning.

DAVID

And people like Alex?

GABRIELLE

They are necessary, but the
populace needs authority of the
proper image. Men such as this
need to be hidden; they are unable
to present themselves properly.
Exposed, they would scare the
sheep away.

DAVID

Sheep?

GABRIELLE

Let us return to you, Mr.
Marshall. With whom are you
arguing?

DAVID

I don't think I'm arguing with
anyone.

GABRIELLE

(laughs)

But of course, you are Mr. Marshall. The danger lies in not knowing it. You are arguing against a cruel schoolteacher, an oppressive parent, or perhaps a bureaucrat. Mr. Marshall, these are not things to build a life around. I'm sure the two of you have complaints, but they are the narrow complaints of children. You waste your lives on them, rather than addressing the sweeping truths of history. Following such foolishness, the two of you are ready to join yourselves to roving bands of criminals and to shame your families! The foolishness of your youth has been manipulated and is set to ruin you!

In her last sentence, she spills her wine and realizes that her voice is raised. She maintains her expression, but pushes back from the table.

GABRIELLE

I shall pay your bill tonight, but I will extend myself no further. You must now decide how far your foolishness will go.

She walks away, leaving DAVID and SOPHIE confused and newly unsure of themselves.

SOPHIE

David, is she right? Do we really know what we are doing?

DAVID

I don't know... but if I shouldn't trust Alex's motives, I shouldn't trust hers either.

They rise slowly and head away.

SOPHIE

I am going to the market in the morning, would you like to come with?

DAVID

Yes, that sounds nice.

INT. THE FRONT DESK, 2:00AM

NICOLAS rings the call bell several times. The Desk Clerk appears.

NICOLAS

I need a room, please. I will pay cash.

The DESK CLERK examines NICOLAS' dirty, ragged clothing. NICOLAS notices.

NICOLAS

It has been a difficult, dangerous journey. I will look much better once I am rested and clean.

DESK CLERK

Yes, sir.

NICOLAS

I can have food delivered to my room tomorrow?

DESK CLERK

Yes, sir.

Camera pulls back, we see money and keys exchanged. NICOLAS walks down the hall toward his room.

EXT. A MARKET STREET IN RIJEKA, MORNING.

DAVID and SOPHIE are walking down the street, looking into store windows. A motorcycle with two men on it drives by and catches DAVID's attention. They notice and continue on.

SOPHIE

This jacket might be nice for traveling.

DAVID

Why?

SOPHIE

See all the pockets?

DAVID

Ah, yes.

SOPHIE

Plus, it looks water-resistant.

DAVID

Yeah, probably so.

SOPHIE

I'm going to look around this store for a bit.

DAVID

Okay...

(looks around)

I think I'll take a look at the guitar store.

SOPHIE

Do you play?

DAVID

Yes, since I was twelve.

SOPHIE

That's nice. Okay, we'll find each other after a bit.

DAVID

Good.

She walks into the store and he walks 30 meters or so to the guitar shop.

EXT. A CORNER 1-2 BLOCKS AWAY FROM THE STORES ON THE SAME STREET.

The two men on the motorcycle are watching the stores and waiting.

EXT. THE MARKET STREET IN RIJEKA.

SOPHIE comes out of the door with a bag in her hand. She stops in front of the window and looks again. As she begins to turn back toward the street, we hear the high-pitched motorcycle approaching rapidly. They squeal to a stop next to SOPHIE, who is startled and freezes in place. RIDER #1 jumps off and violently shoves SOPHIE into a brick wall between shops. She falls. At this moment, DAVID, alerted by the sound of the motorcycle, emerges from the shop. RIDER #1 begins kicking SOPHIE in the ribs. DAVID freezes for a second or two, then runs toward her.

DAVID

HEY! You bastard!

RIDER #2 turns the bike around, to head away from DAVID.

RIDER #1

You tell your boss. Next time you try to bring weapons to Palestinians, it will be death, not a warning!

RIDER #1 jumps on the bike, which squeals away ahead of DAVID's arrival. DAVID kneels next to SOPHIE, who is crying.

DAVID

I'm so sorry, Sophie. I shouldn't have left you alone.

SOPHIE

(shakes her head)

I would have insisted.

DAVID

(scans the area)

Can you walk?

SOPHIE

I think so. I think I have broken
ribs.

DAVID reaches tentatively, trying to find a way to pick her
up.

SOPHIE

Grab my waist and be gentle.

She pushes against the wall, carefully moves one foot
beneath her, and slowly rise to her feet.

SOPHIE

Stand on this side.

Guides him to her right side (which was not kicked) and
puts her arm around his shoulder. They hobble away.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY

DAVID guides her in. She is obviously in a lot of pain.

DESK CLERK

Oh my God. Mr. Marshall, what
happened?

DAVID

She was attacked. Please call a
doctor right away. She'll be in my
room.

DESK CLERK

Right away!

DESK CLERK, half-panicked, picks up his phone and dials.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM

SOPHIE is on his bed. He is covering her and trying to make
her comfortable.

DAVID

The doctor should be here soon.

SOPHIE

I think I'm okay. It's good to lie
down.

DAVID looks around and realizes that there is nothing
further to do. He pulls up a chair and sits close to her.

DAVID

Sophie, what did he say to you? I
didn't hear it very well.

SOPHIE

He said that next time I tried to
bring weapons to the Palestinians,
I'd be killed.

DAVID

What weapons? What was he talking
about?

SOPHIE

It has to be the shipment
Gabrielle and the Minister were
waiting for. It was supposed to be
delivered to the ship early this
morning. They never told me what
kind of shipment, but they were
very careful that there would be
no records. And it had to be
loaded here, not at a French,
German or Italian port.

DAVID

So Alex was right about deals
between the French and the Arabs.

SOPHIE

He's right, I've known of others.

DAVID

Then that bitch must have known
you could be in danger!

He stands up and paces in anger.

DAVID

Damn! She could have at least told you to be careful! She's working dirty deals and leaving you exposed... SHE'S the one who uses people as pawns!

Knock at the door. He quickly opens it. The doctor comes in. He speaks to DAVID as he walks to SOPHIE and sets down his bag.

DOCTOR

What are the nature of the injuries?

DAVID

She was thrown against a wall and kicked in the side three or four times.

DOCTOR

(to David)

Thank you. It would probably be best if you left us for a while.

DAVID

Okay.

(looks at Sophie)

I'll be very close.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY

DAVID is seated nearest to the hallway, looking worried and troubled. ALEX comes in the front door.

ALEX

Hey, Kid! I've been looking for you. What the hell happened?

He sits by DAVID and leans forward.

DAVID

Evidently that bitch was trying to bring a load of weapons to the Palestinians, and never bothered to warn Sophie. We were in town and a motorcycle with two guys pulled up while I was in another store. One of them jumped off a kicked the crap out of Sophie. He said that next time she tried to bring guns to Palestine, she'd be killed.

ALEX

They were Israelis. They were tracking ships in and out, and there was some kind of action in the harbor this morning. Is Sophie all right?

DAVID

She was beat up pretty bad, but I think she'll be okay; a doctor is taking care of her now.

ALEX

Good... Well, she got off easy.

DAVID

Easy!?

ALEX

Yeah, easy. This is wartime; they could have killed her.

DAVID

And why didn't they go after that bitch, Gabrielle? Why her innocent assistant?

ALEX

It's not personal, kid, they needed to stop weapons from being used against their country, and the only way to do it is with a credible threat. They need to kill or injure someone, and killing the Voice of France might create repercussions - killing an assistant won't. One family mourns, but that's all.

DAVID is stunned by his callousness.

DAVID

That's sick! This was an innocent girl!

ALEX

Just one among millions, kid, and they need to send their message somehow. She was in the right position to receive it.

The DOCTOR comes down the hall. DAVID rises to meet him.

DOCTOR

She has three cracked ribs. I have given her some pain medication and have wrapped them. She should rest for a few days and avoid excessive movement for a while. It will be months before she recovers fully.

DAVID

Thank you.

DAVID shakes the DOCTOR's hand and goes directly to his room, without saying goodbye to ALEX.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM

SOPHIE lies on the bed as before. She looks dazed. We can see the wrapping around her torso. DAVID enters, locks the door behind him, takes her hand and sits next to her.

DAVID

How are you feeling?

SOPHIE

Sleepy, and beaten.

DAVID

Okay, get some sleep now. We'll
get some food when you wake up.

(scans the room)

I'm going to lay on the floor and
rest myself. We're going to take
it easy for a couple of days.
Gabrielle and Alex can go to hell.

SOPHIE

Yes.

DAVID rises, takes some blankets from a drawer and lays
them on the floor. He lies down with a deeply serious look
on his face. FADE.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM, EVENING

SOPHIE remains asleep. DAVID is on the floor, but is now
stirring. He sits up with a look of discovery on his face.
He gets up and rifles through his bag for pen and paper,
sits and begins to write. SOPHIE now stirs. She opens her
eyes and sees him writing.

SOPHIE

Is everything okay, David?

He looks over at her and smiles, but does not move.

DAVID

Yes, it is. I just found the
answer to this. I need to write it
down.

SOPHIE

All right.

He gets up and goes through the drawers for a Gideon Society Bible. Finding one, he sits back down and continues writing. FADE

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY

ALEX and GABRIELLE are sitting across a table from each other with a laptop between them. ALEX types, then turns the machine for GABRIELLE to see. DAVID walks from his room, past the lobby, on his way to the restaurant. Seeing the two sitting and sharing a computer, he stops and stares.

DAVID

And what are the two of you doing?
(steps toward them)

ALEX

I got myself a job, kid.

DAVID

Doing what?

ALEX

Working for her boss; keeping track of this port and its players.

DAVID

I'm shocked, but I suppose it figures that the two of you would end up together.

GABRIELLE

And why might that be, Mr. Marshall?

DAVID

(fierce but not loud)
You can lose your attitude, bitch!
You left an innocent girl exposed to thugs.

ALEX

It's a job, kid; another comfortable position while I wait to retire or be killed.

DAVID

(to Gabrielle)

And I want you to know something. You don't believe it is possible to seek the truth, but that's what I do. I'm not arguing against anyone, I'm trying to understand what is real and right in the world, and I'm not afraid to say it.

GABRIELLE

And what if you are seeking truth, Marshall? What good will it do? The people aren't looking for a pure god, they want a god who will pay their bills. And they have such a god in the state. Who will want your rigorous, demanding deity?

ALEX

She's right about that, kid, they need us to make decisions for them. Why else would they elect obvious liars? They *beg* us to rule them. As long as we say we'll take care of them, they obey. They may complain but they'll never act against us. They're in too deep.

DAVID

Yes, that is a valid argument, except for one thing: You have created and defended this condition! What might people be without you keeping them as children?

GABRIELLE

You think this now - during one moment of your life when you were unexpectedly ripped from normalcy. You would not think so otherwise.

ALEX

These people are professionals, kid. If you ever know why you're doing something, they've failed. There's not a half of one percent that can face life directly. Try to understand this, David, people *liked* the Divine Right of Kings. Without something superior to hide in, their fear, their guilt, and their shame are exposed.

DAVID

No! The two of you are working to keep them in that state. I've been reading, thinking and praying, and now I understand that surrendering our minds to authorities and outside influences is a fundamental error... that once we get past the confusion, the right way to decide is built into us.

GABRIELLE

Now you will play mystic?

DAVID

No, now I understand the truth.

(to Alex)

You intimidate and punish men,

(to Gabrielle)

and you confuse and manipulate them. But both of you, and all your accomplices, work day and night to keep men from using their judgment; to keep them from acting according to their nature. Their condition may be precisely as you describe, but the cause of that condition is *you*. You live by abusing humanity's weaknesses.

GABRIELLE

Any formulation built upon self-judgment rips the world apart and plunges it into chaos and death!

DAVID

So you tell yourself, to justify yourself.

GABRIELLE

(stands, fierce)

No, you fool, it destroys the world.

DAVID

(smiles at her)

Or creates it anew.

DAVID turns and walks to the restaurant.

GABRIELLE

No! I will not permit this!

DAVID stops and turns to her, smiling.

DAVID

That this disturbs you so much is a very good sign.

He turns and walks on. FADE.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY, MORNING

NICOLAS sits off to the side, with an open laptop and a stack of papers next to him. He is typing and referring back and forth to the papers. DAVID walks through the lobby, sees him and stops in place. He has a short internal debate, then walks directly to the DESK CLERK.

DAVID

Excuse me, the man in the lobby,
I'm sure know him. What is his
name?

DESK CLERK

(checks the register)
He is Mr. Nicolas Devereaux.

DAVID

Thank you.

DAVID walks to him.

DAVID

Excuse me, my name is David. We
met on the ferry.

It takes NICOLAS a beat to bring back the memories. He stands and shakes his hand.

NICOLAS

Yes, I remember! Please, sit.
(they do)

DAVID

Your name is Nicolas?

NICOLAS

Yes... My memories of that day are
not very clear, but you and your
friend were kind to me. Thank you.

DAVID

You're welcome.

NICOLAS

Your friend, he made it here
safely as well?

DAVID

Yes, he did.

NICOLAS

Good, I shall have to thank him
also.

DAVID looks at NICOLAS' papers.

DAVID

If you don't mind me asking, what
is it that you are doing?

NICOLAS

Sean's friends are teaching me
cryptography.

DAVID

Nicolas, would you be willing to
teach cryptography to my friend
and I?

NICOLAS

Certainly, as best I can. The
friend is the same one?

DAVID

No, this one is a lady. Actually
she was injured yesterday, so it
will take me a few minutes to
gather her.

NICOLAS

Oh, I'm sorry. A few minutes
should be fine. I will be here.

DAVID

Wonderful, thanks.

DAVID goes off to get SOPHIE.

Cut to DAVID helping SOPHIE into a chair across from NICOLAS. DAVID speaks as he assists her.

DAVID

Nicolas, this is my friend Sophie.
Sophie, this is Nicolas, the man
that Alex and I met on the ferry.

SOPHIE

A pleasure. I am truly sorry about
your son.

NICOLAS

My pleasure as well... and thank
you.

DAVID sits with a protective posture toward SOPHIE.

DAVID

Nicolas, we were talking about
cryptography just this morning.
Does it really work as well as
they say?

NICOLAS

If used correctly, yes. The people
I'm learning from use it to keep
nearly every aspect of their lives
private. The exception, of course,
is the physical delivery of goods.
For that, you'd need some type of
smuggling operation.

DAVID and SOPHIE look hard at one another, and address each other:

DAVID

When the student is ready, the
teacher arrives?

SOPHIE

I was thinking the same thing!

NICOLAS

I'm afraid I don't understand.

DAVID

I'm sorry Nicolas, I'll explain
later.

DAVID's cell phone rings.

DAVID

Excuse me.

He walks to another part of the lobby and answers the cell.

SOPHIE

Nicolas, could I use your machine
for a few minutes? I should
contact my parents.

NICOLAS

Certainly.

(sets it on her lap)

Take your time.

NICOLAS sits back to relax, SOPHIE types, DAVID finishes
his call, gets up and returns.

SOPHIE

David, I just got what I think is
good news. My father will have a
plane pick me up.

DAVID

Wonderful! When?

SOPHIE

Two days.

DAVID

Good, then at least you'll be safe
while you recover.

(He takes her hand.)

And I will find you soon.

(beat)

But I have a meeting with our new
friends in half an hour.

(Turning to face NICOLAS)

Can I get both of you to help,
please?

(They both agree.)

DAVID

(Sits next to NICOLAS, smiles)
But first, I should tell you
what's happened since last I saw
you.

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL, OVERLOOKING THE HARBOR

SOPHIE sits with the laptop on the hotel side of the ledge
and NICOLAS on the harbor side, watching.

NICOLAS

They are writing and talking. All
looks good.

SOPHIE

Thank you. Nicolas, do you work in
the computer business?

NICOLAS

Oh, no. I worked twenty years for
France Telecom. I've only paid
attention to computers since my
wife died.

SOPHIE

Something to keep yourself busy?

NICOLAS

No, a promise I made to her.

SOPHIE

She wanted you to use computers?

NICOLAS

No, she wanted me to help Sean in
his work. I'll tell you the story,
if you'd like.

SOPHIE

Yes, I would like to hear that.

NICOLAS stands to look carefully at DAVID and the smugglers, then sits and continues.

NICOLAS

My wife died a little more than two years ago. She had cancer and was sick for a long time.

SOPHIE

I'm very sorry.

NICOLAS

Thank you. When she was ready to pass, she saw her parents next to her bed, both of whom were deceased. Then she told me to hurry and get Sean, that she only had a few minutes. I ran to get him and she waited for us. It was a very strange thing that happened next. She told Sean that her father was very proud of what he was doing and that it was very important that he continue in it. Neither she nor I had any idea what that meant. Then she told Sean that she loved him and asked him to go out. I sat with her another thirty minutes till the end.

NICOLAS and SOPHIE are both crying now.

SOPHIE

I'm sorry to cry.

NICOLAS

(touches her hand)

Don't be. After the funeral, I asked Sean what this all meant. He was deeply surprised about the entire thing. No one knew what he had been doing.

SOPHIE

What was it?

NICOLAS

He was spending a great deal of time with radical people on the internet. I certainly would have disapproved, had not the revelation of it been so miraculous.

SOPHIE

Why did they worry you?

NICOLAS

They used strange names and words, and they condemned institutions that I was raised to revere. But I realized that these people were deeply concerned with morality. They did strange things and had strange viewpoints, but at the core of it morality. So, I started helping Sean after work.

SOPHIE

And now you will continue it?

NICOLAS

I promised Sean that I would, and it is a far more noble life than the one I was living.

(pauses slightly)

Do you know the last thing he said to me? "Help my friends." And then he told me his most secret password. It was this phrase: "Grandfather Henri knew." There is something sacred about this, Sophie. My old life is dead and I will help Sean's friends at any cost.

NICOLAS leans forward to look carefully and waves.

NICOLAS

He is coming now. May I help you
inside?

SOPHIE

Yes, please.

He comes to her side of the ledge and helps her down and
into the hotel.

INT. THE RESTAURANT

NICOLAS and DAVID are sitting and finishing a meal. SOPHIE
approaches slowly. DAVID rises quickly, followed by
NICOLAS. DAVID helps her, NICOLAS pulls out a chair for
her.

DAVID

You shouldn't be walking around by
yourself.

SOPHIE

I'm okay. I took a pain pill and
slept just a little.

The WAITER comes.

WAITER

Would you like a menu, Madame?

SOPHIE

What soup do you have today?

WAITER

A very fine beef vegetable.

SOPHIE

A bowl of that would be nice,
please.

WAITER

Yes, Madame.

(leaves)

NICOLAS

Before you came, Sophie, David was telling me that his friends in the harbor would include me in their plans and could get the two of us to Italy. So, that means we'll all be in relative safety.

DAVID

The question is, what do we do then?

NICOLAS

I am certainly not going back to my old life, or anything like it. But I don't really know what I'll do.

DAVID

What about Sean's friends, Nicolas? How do these people live?

NICOLAS

Most have dual lives. They live the life that matters to them online, but in the mundane half of their lives, they have some sort of job.

SOPHIE

Well, that's not terrible, but also not satisfying.

DAVID

The smugglers have homes in small, out of the way places, and their work isn't as dangerous as you might think, but it has definite risks and a lot of time spent on the water.

SOPHIE

I don't love that either.

NICOLAS

I think we're going about this the wrong way.

DAVID

What do you mean?

NICOLAS

We're looking at it the way the world looks at it; seeing their patterns. What about if we looked at it from the viewpoint of an alien?

SOPHIE

As if we had just come down in a space ship?

NICOLAS

Yes. If we knew absolutely nothing about this planet, what would we do first?

DAVID

Get food and water.

SOPHIE

Yes, but food requires money.

NICOLAS

Shelter and medicine.

SOPHIE

And weapons.

They all pause for a second.

SOPHIE

It's a dangerous world. We would need to protect ourselves.

NICOLAS

She's right.

DAVID

(resigned)

Yeah, she is. Tomorrow I'll get us weapons. We'll owe these guys some money, but they'll get them for us.

NICOLAS

Good. It's the right thing to do. Expectations be damned.

DAVID

(raises his glass)

Expectations be damned.

The WAITER arrives with the soup.

SOPHIE

Thank you.

NICOLAS

If you go down, I'd like to go with and meet them.

DAVID

Good. They'd like to meet you too.

The WAITER returns.

WAITER

Would anyone like anything else?

They look at each other and shake their heads.

DAVID

Just the check please.

WAITER

Very well.

(leaves)

NICOLAS

So, David, your thoughts on how we actually live after this?

DAVID

It seems like we exist at the intersection of cryptography and smuggling.

NICOLAS

Sophie?

SOPHIE

We'll just have to start doing what David suggests as best we can and feel our way through it.

The WAITER arrives with the check. They stand and leave.
FADE.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM, NIGHT

SOPHIE is in bed, not entirely asleep. DAVID enters with a bag over his shoulder.

DAVID

Hi Sophie, it's me.

He locks the door behind him, pulls a chair next to the bed, sits, and sets the bag on the bed.

DAVID

How are you feeling?

SOPHIE

I think I over-did it today. Would you hand me a pain pill?

DAVID

Sure.

He opens the bottle and takes out a pill, while she carefully takes her glass of water from the table next to her bed.

DAVID

Here you go.

She swallows the pill and he takes the glass from her.

SOPHIE

So, did Nicolas like them?

DAVID

They got along very well. And, one of them may know your uncle.

SOPHIE

That's funny. And the bag?

DAVID opens the bag and pulls out a revolver and a semi-auto pistol.

DAVID

Our weapons. I got a revolver for you. It's the simplest thing; put the bullets in and squeeze the trigger.

He checks the weapon to be ultra-sure it's empty.

DAVID

Here, it's empty, you can look at it.

SOPHIE

No thank you. Tomorrow, maybe.

(pauses)

David, this makes sense, but it is contrary to my entire life. I have the impression that if we do things like this, we'll turn into awful, destructive people.

DAVID

I know. I've felt that way too. But it simply isn't true. We're comfortable with policemen having guns, aren't we?

SOPHIE

Yes.

DAVID

Well, I've known several of them,
and they are *not* a better class of
person. It's just conditioning,
although it does feel bad.

SOPHIE

I know you're right, but here's
what I feel...

(searches for the
right words)

that any individual taking
judgment upon her self is...
dangerous. That things like
weapons are overpowering and will
override our judgment. We'll turn
into monsters without knowing and
without being able to stop.

DAVID

And is that logical?

SOPHIE

Not at all, but it is very deep in
me.

DAVID

I understand.

SOPHIE

For the sake of argument, if that
were really true in some way... as
stupid as I know that is... what
would stop us from going too far?

DAVID

Well, us watching one another.
That and referring to fixed
standards... reading the best
books and comparing ourselves to
them.

SOPHIE

And you will watch me carefully?

DAVID

That I can promise.

He kisses her, gently.

DAVID

I won't let you ruin yourself.

(smiles)

Now, go to sleep. I'm going to sit
by the bathroom and read for a
bit.

He grabs a book, turns on the bathroom light, turns off the
main light, sits and reads. FADE.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY, MID-MORNING

NICOLAS and DAVID sit in the lobby, talking and typing on
the laptop.

DAVID

Is the crypto stuff hard?

NICOLAS

Not really. Once you decide that
you're going to do it no matter
what, it isn't that bad. I still
have a lot to learn, however.

ALEX comes from the hallway into the lobby. He sees DAVID
and walks to him. NICOLAS is facing him more than DAVID and
sees him first. NICOLAS stands. ALEX stops, as if
threatened.

NICOLAS

I am the man from the ferry. I've
wanted to thank you for your
kindness to me.

NICOLAS extends his hand, ALEX takes the last step and
shakes.

ALEX

You are welcome. I was pleased to help. But you will please excuse us for a moment, I need to speak to David.

Positions himself between DAVID and NICOLAS.

ALEX

This is important, kid. Come talk with me for a minute.

DAVID

All right.

ALEX walks to a place where he can see someone coming down the hall. He scans the area quickly.

ALEX

Listen, you have to know something. Gabrielle is serious, she wants you dead.

DAVID

Dead? Really dead?

ALEX

Yes, really dead. Pay attention now David, we don't have a lot of time. Things are moving.

DAVID pulls himself together.

DAVID

Go ahead.

ALEX

This bitch asked me to kill you. Now, I once told you that I wouldn't do that, because you're an organism, not a cell.

DAVID

Right.

AKEX continues to watch down the hall.

ALEX

That stands, but I didn't tell her. To keep my options open, I said, "You couldn't afford it." But then she said she'd get the money.

DAVID

Whoa.

ALEX

So she's serious. If I say no, she'll find someone else. You have a situation on your hands. Now, I'll make a trade with you. You do a favor for me and I'll do one for you.

DAVID

What's that?

ALEX

You watch for me one more time and I'll personally make sure your girlfriend get out of here safely. Deal?

DAVID

Deal.

(shakes his hand)

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL, OVERLOOKING THE HARBOR

DAVID has the binoculars and is watching ALEX near the harbor. He repeatedly looks back toward the lobby, waiting for someone to come out. NICOLAS appears.

NICOLAS

Sorry it took longer than I thought.

DAVID

Nicolas, we have a real problem on our hands. I need you to hack in to Gabrielle's computer.

NICOLAS

I'm sorry, David, but I'm not that good yet.

(pauses to think)

Can we get the admin password for the wireless terminal?

DAVID

Yes, I set it up myself. It's admin4350.

NICOLAS

Great. Give me a few minutes and I'll start logging all the traffic from the node. Am I looking for anything in particular?

DAVID

Anything to or from Gabrielle.

NICOLAS

I'm on it.

NICOLAS hurries back inside. DAVID watches ALEX, nervously.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY

NICOLAS is working on his laptop. DAVID enters purposefully and comes to NICOLAS.

DAVID

Okay, Alex will be back in a minute, can you make this run in the background? I don't want him to know everything.

NICOLAS

Yes, I can.

NICOLAS works quickly and with intent.

NICOLAS

Okay, clear.

DAVID

Has she been communicating with anyone?

NICOLAS

No, not yet, but I should be able to get into her mail as soon as she does; they're using some sort of webmail system with no protection.

DAVID

Excellent. Get everything you can, starting with the most recent.

NICOLAS

Sure.

ALEX enters.

ALEX

All was quiet?

DAVID

No action whatsoever, including all the hills within view.

ALEX

Hey, I can make this better if you let me use the machine for a few minutes, but you have to watch for Gabrielle.

DAVID

Deal.

NICOLAS quickly hands the laptop to ALEX. DAVID drops the binoculars and walks toward the spot where he and ALEX stood before.

ALEX types quickly. (Music here will be nice, and maybe some screen shots.) Then, ALEX stops and hands the machine back to NICOLAS. He stands up and waives DAVID over.

ALEX

I just sent a message to Sophie's father and the Defense Minister, telling them to send a plane right away. They have several at Treviso, that airport near Venice.

DAVID

And they'll do it?

ALEX

Yeah, they'll do it. I told them the Israelis were still looking around, and that they were monitoring internet traffic, so they might know the plans to bring her out tomorrow. I told them to get her out unexpectedly early. The father is a big man and very worried. They'll do it. They'll verify to my cell phone, but expect her to leave in a few hours. Get her ready.

DAVID

Thank you, I'll get it done.

ALEX

No problem. Okay, I'm going to find a good car to use. I'll be back. We'll use our friend
(pats Nicolas on the shoulder)
as the info-center.

DAVID

Good.

ALEX goes out. After he's clear of the door, DAVID turns to NICOLAS.

DAVID

Check the logs and verify that everything he said was true. I'm going to get started on Sophie. I won't be long... and try everything you know to get into Gabrielle's mail.

NICOLAS

Done.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM

SOPHIE is asleep. DAVID enters, turns on the light, and surveys the room. He then steps over to SOPHIE.

DAVID

Sophie, wake up, you have to leave.

SOPHIE

What?

DAVID

Listen to me. You will have to leave for the plane in an hour.

SOPHIE

That's for tomorrow.

DAVID

No, we pushed it forward to today.

SOPHIE starts to get up, with some difficulty. DAVID extends his forearm as if it were a pull-bar. She uses it to get up.

DAVID

Forget your stuff in Gabrielle's suite and just clean yourself up. Make sure you have your pills and fix your wrap. I'll be back in a few minutes, okay? Don't leave.

SOPHIE
(starts moving)

Okay.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY.

(This would be a good spot for a steady-cam, getting DAVID striding out of the room, down the hall and back to NICOLAS.)

DAVID walks to NICOLAS and sits, looking "normal."

DAVID
So, did Alex's chat sent match his description?

NICOLAS
Yes, almost word for word.

DAVID takes a deep breath, exhales hard and relaxes a bit.

DAVID
Thank god.

NICOLAS
Gabrielle is back at her machine, surfing the net.

DAVID
Where is she surfing?

NICOLAS
Only news sites so far.

DAVID's cell phone sounds for a text message. DAVID reads, takes a breath and shows it to NICOLAS (and the camera). It Reads: "Verified: We leave for the airport in one hour." DAVID starts texting back, then heading for the room.

DAVID
Note the time, Nicolas. One hour... and keep trying on Gabrielle, we have another major problem when we're done with this.

INT. DAVID'S ROOM

DAVID enters and hits send of his cell phone. (To send a text message back to ALEX.) SOPHIE is in the bathroom.

DAVID

Sophie?

SOPHIE

I'm in the bathroom, I guess you can come in.

INT. THE BATHROOM

SOPHIE is in her jeans from the day of the attack and a bra. She is trying to re-wrap herself. DAVID stops to stare at her for just a second (she looks good), then continues.

DAVID

Here, let me help you with that.
Tell me if it's too tight or loose.

As he wraps the tape, we see bruising.

SOPHIE

A little tighter is okay.

DAVID

You're sure?

SOPHIE

Yes, just a little.

DAVID is taping her diligently, but we see him stealing glances at her body.

DAVID

Once you're ready, go sit with Nicolas in the lobby.

(pauses for effect and
looks directly at her)
And make sure you have the pistol,
loaded and with the ammunition in
your bag. This is no time to be
squeamish.

SOPHIE

I will.

He goes back to taping.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY

DAVID comes to NICOLAS and sits again.

NICOLAS

She's into her mail and I have the
password.

DAVID

Excellent.

NICOLAS

I'm waiting for her to log out
before I go digging, otherwise she
might notice something, but I
already have several of her
messages. The Minister of Defense
is very angry and says that he
can't endure "another incident."
Does that make sense to you?

DAVID

Yes, it does. What else?

NICOLAS

That he's given orders to the
captain of the ship to leave
tomorrow morning, regardless of
anything.

DAVID

And you're saving copies of
everything?

NICOLAS

Yes, on this machine and on an encrypted server we use.

DAVID

Very good. Okay, I'm going to scan the route to the airport. Sophie will be out here in a few minutes.

NICOLAS

No problem.

DAVID takes the binoculars, rises and heads toward the door. Halfway, he stops.

DAVID

And Nicolas...

(waits for him to look)

Don't let Sophie see or hear anything that would upset her.

NICOLAS

Understood.

DAVID walks out.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY

NICOLAS is working on his laptop. SOPHIE enters the lobby slowly, carrying the bag. NICOLAS notices, gets up, takes the bag and helps her sit.

NICOLAS

Here, I'll take that. Sit slowly.

NICOLAS sits, digs in his laptop bag and pulls out a protein or granola bar. (Promo money for the shot?)

NICOLAS

Here, eat this, you need fuel.

She takes it, unwraps it and starts eating.

SOPHIE

Thank you... What are you doing?

NICOLAS

Trying to keep track of all the internet traffic through this hotel.

He flashes the screen at her, with traffic scrolling down it. She smiles.

SOPHIE

That's impressive.

NICOLAS

Well, David had the admin password, so it wasn't difficult.

SOPHIE

That's right, he set it up.

NICOLAS

I guess so.

SOPHIE

Where is David now?

NICOLAS

Checking the roads.

SOPHIE

Huh. Okay... And who is driving me to the airport?

NICOLAS

I think it will be Alex.

She looks a bit worried. He notices.

NICOLAS

No, it's okay. Remember, he's working for the French now. If he did anything to an Ambassador's daughter, he would be destroyed. Plus, we checked one of his stories against the traffic logs, and verified that he told us the truth.

SOPHIE

Okay.

NICOLAS

Don't tell him that we're monitoring traffic, okay?

SOPHIE

No, I won't tell him anything.

NICOLAS smiles.

NICOLAS

Best strategy.

SOPHIE looks at her watch and relaxes a bit. She feels for her bag, then settles into the chair a little further. Continues eating.

SOPHIE

You know, Nicolas, it's probably a good thing for us that you're older. You have better perspective.

He looks at the screen once more, then turns his eyes and his attention to SOPHIE.

NICOLAS

I'm sure that helps some, but not as much as you might think. I wasted a lot of my time. I worked a safe job, talked sports, took my vacations and obeyed my union boss... and no more. My wife and my son deserved better. I never read, I never did anything important - and I could have. But if they couldn't have my best while they lived, I will at least honor them with it now.

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL

An SUV with Croatia plates pulls up. DAVID comes up the driveway. ALEX steps out of the car. DAVID walks toward the car on the hotel side. (ALEX is on the far side of the vehicle, not the hotel side.)

ALEX

Is she ready?

DAVID looks through the door (or window).

DAVID

Yes she is. You're going straight there?

DAVID walks around the vehicle to ALEX.

ALEX

Absolutely. And I'll stay there until I see her board the plane and the plane leaves.

DAVID shakes his hand.

DAVID

I'm glad you keep your word.

ALEX

You're welcome.

NICOLAS leans out the door.

NICOLAS

Are you ready for her now?

DAVID

Yes, if you would help her out please.

ALEX

Do you want me to say anything about Gabrielle?

DAVID

No, I don't see any benefit coming from it, and it would make her nervous.

ALEX

Yeah, good call.

SOPHIE and NICOLAS come out the door.

ALEX

Let's be quick and get this done.

DAVID opens her door and gets her in. NICOLAS holds the bag until she's in, then hands it to her, then clasps her hand.

NICOLAS

A safe voyage.

NICOLAS quickly withdraws and DAVID steps up. ALEX has climbed into his seat and is closing the door.

SOPHIE

I've given all my contacts to Nicolas.

DAVID

I'll contact you as soon as we're safe in Italy. It will be soon.

They kiss.

SOPHIE

David, be careful.

He kisses her once more and pulls back.

DAVID

I will, and I will find you soon.

He closes the door. We see her mouth, "I love you" as ALEX pulls quickly away. NICOLAS goes back in to his machine and DAVID walks toward a viewing spot as unobtrusively as possible, watching intently.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY.

NICOLAS is tending to his machine. DAVID enters and sits.

DAVID

Can you do that from the restaurant?

NICOLAS

I can't pay much attention to it while eating, but the logs will continue to download.

DAVID

Then how about getting something to eat?

NICOLAS

I think that's a good idea.

They stand up. NICOLAS unplugs his power cord from the wall and puts his machine into his laptop bag.

INT. THE RESTAURANT.

DAVID and NICOLAS are at a table, the WAITER is taking the order.

DAVID

Your ham and cheese sandwich with fries. A Coke too.

NICOLAS

The same for me.

WAITER

Very well.

The WAITER leaves. DAVID is trying to breathe slowly.

DAVID

Okay, let's take this moment to
slow down.

The WAITER arrives with the Cokes.

NICOLAS

That was quick. Thank you.

The WAITER nods. They both take a sip of Coke.

DAVID

Now, slowly please, what else have
you learned from the logs?

NICOLAS

First of all, Gabrielle is in
trouble. Secondly, she is talking
to other news people about anti-
establishment feelings. She wants
to know if the others have heard
anything such murmurings.

DAVID

(still trying to speak
slowly)

Has she mentioned my name at all?

NICOLAS

No, nothing about you at all.

DAVID

Okay. What else?

NICOLAS

Not much.

DAVID

Okay. Good.

He sips more Coke.

INT. THE HOTEL LOBBY

NICOLAS is back to his laptop and DAVID looks half-asleep in a chair. ALEX walks in and DAVID stands.

ALEX

It's done. She's on the plane. It took off safely and headed west toward Treviso.

DAVID

Good.

ALEX

I have a meeting now.
(points to Gabrielle's room)
Will you be here in half an hour?

DAVID

We will.

ALEX

Good. We talk more then.

ALEX walks down the hall.

NICOLAS

David, you said we have more trouble. What is it?

DAVID is torn. He doesn't want to tell NICOLAS about GABRIELLE's plans to kill him, but NICOLAS is fully in this with him. He looks down and thinks for a few seconds.

DAVID

Nicolas, I need to handle this on my own, but you should know that Gabrielle offered Alex money to kill me.

NICOLAS

What!?

DAVID

Don't get upset. He didn't agree to it, but there could be another.

NICOLAS

What are you going to do?

DAVID

I don't know. While I was out checking the road I sent text messages back and forth to our new friends. They're up around Slovenia now and can't be back till around dawn tomorrow.

NICOLAS

Well, why don't you check out and move your things into my room. That way the clerk will tell anyone who asks that you've left.

DAVID

That's a good idea. I'll go do that now.

DAVID walks to the desk and rings the bell. From our long shot we cannot hear them, but we see them going through the motions.

ALEX comes down the hall, bypasses the desk and goes directly to NICOLAS.

ALEX

What's he doing?

NICOLAS

Checking out and telling the clerk he's leaving. We thought that might help if Gabrielle sends someone else after him.

ALEX

He told you about it... you should take that as a sign of respect. He didn't have to tell you.

NICOLAS
(thoughtfully)
I shall.

DAVID approaches.

ALEX
Come with me, kid, we need to
talk.

ALEX double-checks the hallway (visually) and heads out the door. David follows.

EXT. IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL, OPPOSITE SIDE AS THE OVERLOOK.
WOODED, SHADED.

ALEX leads his a few steps into a thick wood.

ALEX
This is your moment of truth, kid.

DAVID
What?

ALEX
You made a nice speech the other
night about the worth of your own
judgment and your determination to
follow it. Now we see if you
really meant it.

DAVID
Just tell me what's going on.

ALEX
(for the first time,
and instantly, fierce)
No! I know about this moment, I've
seen it before. This is where you
fail. You have your high and
glorious ethics, but when it comes
to actually doing the hard things,
you fail.

DAVID waits for him to continue.

ALEX

I saw my parents in this situation, and I saw my sister die because of it. That bitch is going to meet me at three o'clock in the morning, a hundred yards south of her ship, with forty thousand Euros. And if I don't take the job, she'll track you down and give it to someone else. You have only one choice and you're going to crumble just like my parents did. The moral ones always do. Now, go! Go find some way to *avoid* using your judgment!

Looks at his watch.

ALEX

You have almost ten hours left! You're a clever guy. Go find some loophole! I'll be there at three to see if you have the balls or not! And I won't hold my breath! The righteous ones always fail when it comes down to dirty work!

ALEX turns and storms off toward a bar across the road.

ALEX

Shit!

INT. NICOLAS' ROOM, NIGHT. (MUSIC)

Montage - DAVID sitting on the floor, back against wall, knees to his chest, hands on his head. Books and papers are nearby. He leans his head up/back against the wall. He lays his head forward on his knees. He is tortured. We see his 9mm pistol and a box of ammo, open.

CUT TO - DAVID on one knee next to NICOLAS, who is sleeping in the bed. He whispers.

DAVID

Nicolas, wake up. You need to wake
up now.

NICOLAS pulls himself up and sits. DAVID stands, NICOLAS
puts his legs over the edge, ready to stand.

DAVID

This is it. I'm going down there
now. In exactly one hour, come
down the hill to where we met the
boat before. Stay out of sight and
I will meet you there before dawn.

NICOLAS

Is there anything I can do?

DAVID

No...

(thinks)

Nicolas, what have the last few
days meant to you?

NICOLAS

David, I was never fully alive
until the last few days. I was
sleep-walking through life. But I
am alive now, doing things that
matter. It is my effort, and mine
alone, that makes those things
happen. This is what I was born
for. For the first time in my
life, I am.

DAVID

Thank you.

DAVID clasps NICOLAS' hand briefly, then turns and walks
quietly out. We see him tucking his pistol into his waist.

EXT. THE BASE OF THE HILLSIDE, NEAR THE WATER. DEEP NIGHT.

DAVID walks nervously toward the spot. A dark figure is suddenly seen to his left. He flinches and puts his hand on his pistol. ALEX steps into view. He is drunk, but holds it well.

ALEX

So, is the righteous man going to get his hands dirty? I don't think so.

DAVID

You're making too much noise.

ALEX

(quieter)

Oh, you think you're going to do this? Let me tell you, kid, your precious morality isn't up to the job. You have an aversion to killing - all normal people do - and your belief isn't strong enough to overcome it.

David looks at his cell phone clock. He points to the right.

DAVID

She'll be coming from over there, correct?

ALEX

Damn straight, as if you had the balls to do it. Remember one thing, kid - you don't believe a goddamn thing until you act on it!

DAVID pulls out his pistol, pulls the slide (sound), and walks into the woods. In the distance the figure of GABRIELLE is seen. DAVID jumps behind a tree to avoid being seen. She continues. As she passes nearest to DAVID (about twenty feet), she speaks in a normal tone.

GABRIELLE

All right, Kilmer, I have the money. We're out of sight from the ship. Let's get this done and I can leave.

CUT TO - ALEX stands, waiting. Nothing is happening.

CUT TO - DAVID stands in the same spot, mumbling silently to himself. Not moving.

CUT TO - ALEX stands waiting.

GABRIELLE

I will not wait. Are we doing this or not?

ALEX hangs his head and speaks flatly.

ALEX

I'm over here.

GABRIELLE begins to walk to ALEX.

DAVID (O.S.)

No!

DAVID jumps from behind the tree, runs three steps, stops, holds the pistol with all his strength, and fires. GABRIELLE is hit in the belly and falls. She moans, then gets up to stumble toward the ship. He shoots again, this time in her thigh. She falls and breathes with difficulty. DAVID walks to her.

GABRIELLE

So, you were full of hate, not righteousness.

DAVID just shakes his head.

ALEX (O.S.)

Look away, kid!

DAVID turns his head away from ALEX and GABRIELLE. We hear his gun fire.

ALEX appears from DAVID's left, only ten feet away.
GABRIELLE is stone dead from a shot to the head.

ALEX

Look at me, kid!

(David does)

You only shot her. I killed her.

ALEX kneels next to her and pulls her bag from her shoulder. He opens it and pulls out four packets of Euro bills. He hands two to DAVID.

DAVID

Your part.

(David accepts)

ALEX

Kneel down and breathe for a minute, and put your weapon away.

DAVID does, not only kneeling, but on his hands and knees.
ALEX goes through her pockets, removes the contents and puts it into her bag.

ALEX

Okay, get back up and help me drag the body.

They each grab a leg and pull the body over a little rise.
ALEX grabs a shovel that is there and digs where a hole has already been started.

ALEX

We have less than an hour to dig a nice deep hole. We'll take short shifts.

DAVID

Why did you do this?

ALEX

Why did I do what?

DAVID

Why have you helped me?

ALEX stops digging for a beat, then starts back.

ALEX

I was raised by devout parents. I truly believed that goodness triumphed. My parents were always doing good works. One of them was bringing hard cases to our house and trying to fix them. Even when I was small, I could see that this was trouble. When I was twelve, there was one in particular, Edward Corning. My parents could have kicked him out or had him arrested ten times, but they were scared of him, and they didn't do it. Their righteousness was only a cover for their weakness. That son of a bitch raped and killed my sister. From the rest of my life, I despised the weakness of the righteous.

ALEX

Here, you dig.

DAVID takes the shovel and digs.

ALEX

But through everything - and it was a lot worse than this bitch knew - I still had an eight year old boy inside me, who needed to see a morality that wasn't just good during a calm, but fierce in distress. I helped you in the slim hope that I might see it before I died.

DAVID

(pauses)

Alex, I don't want to disappoint you, but I just barely did this. I'm flying by the seat of my pants, only faintly aware of what the right thing is. I do not think I'm anything very special.

(back to digging)

ALEX

You wouldn't.

ALEX steps to the hole.

ALEX

Here, give me the shovel. I'll finish. Go up to your spot and wait for your friends.

DAVID takes a few steps, then turns to ALEX again.

ALEX

It's okay, kid, go. I'm sure your friend already has my email address. You can ask me a question from time to time if you like, just don't ask me to turn on my employers.

DAVID

Thank you.

ALEX

No, I got more out of this than you did. Go on.

DAVID walks away. ALEX digs.

Purify by *Lacuna Coil* plays.

EXT. BY THE WATER'S EDGE, DEEP NIGHT

DAVID and NICOLAS are sitting, leaning against a tree, silently. The smuggler's boat pulls up. They climb on and the boat pulls away. DAVID looks back.

EXT. BOAT ON THE WATER, PRE-DAWN

DAVID and NICOLAS are standing at the front looking over the water. One smuggler pilots the boat, the others sleep. The last man awake hands DAVID a pair of binoculars. DAVID puts them around his neck and the man lies down. He and NICOLAS are alone. They scan the waters.

DAVID

We made it. We really made it.

NICOLAS

David.

DAVID

Yes?

NICOLAS

When we get back to Europe, call me Sean.

DAVID looks at him, tilts his head and smiles. Then he turns stone serious.

DAVID

I shall.

DAVID and NICOLAS clasp hands in the old "soul" handshake, and put their foreheads together.

EXT. THE CHURCH CEMETARY

A workman finishes placing the headstone on Sean's grave. The CLERGYMAN examines it. It reads, "NICOLAS DEVEREAUX, R.I.P."

EXT. THE BOAT ON THE WATER, PRE-DAWN

The two stand, scanning the horizon.

ROLL END CREDITS.

THE END.