

Red Sunset

By

Wade Cox

1021 Homestead Drive
Salem, VA 24153
540-818-5807
Wade_cox@usa.com

FADE IN:

SUPERIMPOSE: ORLANDO, FLORIDA

EXT. OILY DRAGON -- NIGHT

The Oily Dragon is a reggae club that looks out of place.

MAGGIE JOHNSON (white, 40s, power suit, bitch on wheels) waits outside the club for an unseen companion.

She checks her watch several times, then sees something off in the distance that spooks her, so she hurriedly leaves.

INT. BLUES CLUB -- NIGHT

Lee (male, 40-ish, medium build) is seen partying it up with other locals at the club while a live band plays in the background. Intersperse with credits.

He goes up to the bar where MARCIE (female, punk-looking) is bartending.

LEE

Hey, Marcie. Can I get another rum and Coke?

MARCIE

Sure thing, Lee. Gimmie a sec.

Marcie returns with his drink.

LEE

These guys are pretty good. What's their name again?

MARCIE

Damian Knight and the All-Stars. Yeah, hard to believe they're just the opening act. The headliner hits at 10.

INT. LEE'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

Lee wakes in bed and moans, hungover. A half-empty bottle of rum is by his bed.

LEE (V.O.)

The detective business sounded a lot better in the brochure. I haven't had a real case in a month.

Lee gets out of bed, naked, and goes into the bathroom and shuts the door. The shower turns on.

LEE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I suppose I should go by the office. I haven't been there in a while. You never know. It might be my lucky day.

Lee emerges from the bathroom, dressed in linen pants and a button-up shirt and Panama hat.

Goes to garage, where he starts his car and pulls out the garage door, shutting it on his way.

As soon as he's outside, he sparks up a cigarette.

EXT. TRAIN STATION -- DAY

ROACH (35, black Mr. Clean) buys a ticket at the counter, but we can't hear where he's going.

Also sees something that spooks him, so he quickly boards the train and leaves. He has an overnight bag and a laptop case with him.

INT. DETECTIVE OFFICE -- DAY

Lee opens the door, and seated in the waiting room is Maggie, still wearing last night's business suit and looking tired.

Lee notices her but ignores her for the moment.

He pushes the button on the coffeemaker and points the pack toward her.

LEE

Cigarette?

MAGGIE

No thank you, Mr. Gibson. I quit.

LEE

Ok, obviously you're not here to rob me, or you would have done it before I got here, so who are you and what are you doing here?

MAGGIE

First of all, Mr. Gibson, I know my way around a cheap brass lock - especially one that cheap, and secondly, I'm here on business. You are looking for more work, yes?

LEE (V.O.)

I decided to skip the painfully dull process of inquiring how and why she'd broken into my office. We'd worry about that later.

LEE

Yes, I'm looking for more work. If you'll come with me.

Lee leads Maggie into the main office and takes a seat.

Maggie sits in the client chair.

LEE (CONT'D)

Now, first, I'll need something to call you.

MAGGIE

My name is Maggie Johnson. Please, call me Maggie.

LEE

Pleased to meet you, Maggie. Please, call me Lee. How can I help you?

MAGGIE

I need you to find somebody.

INT. TOWNHOUSE -- DAY

Superimpose: TAMPA, FLORIDA

Roach approaches the front door, pulls out a key and walks in, setting his bags in the floor. He collapses on the couch.

He goes right to sleep.

EXT. HEALTH CLUB -- DAY

A black Lincoln pulls into the parking lot. VITALI and ALEK get out and go into the club. Alek is carrying a briefcase.

INT. HEALTH CLUB -- DAY

The 2 Russian gangsters go in the club and straight back to the locker room.

Inside, there are 2 people seated at a table (SUPPLIER #1 and SUPPLIER #2). The 4 men shake hands and the drug deal begins. All dialogue in this scene will be in Russian and subtitled.

In the employee break room, the four sit.

VITALI

You're early.

SUPPLIER #1

So are you. Shall we get down to business, then?

VITALI

Yes.

SUPPLIER #1

I'll show you mine if you show me yours.

Vitali snaps his fingers and Alek produces the briefcase, which he opens revealing that it is full of US currency.

Supplier #2 unzips the duffel bag on his shoulder, revealing kilo bricks of white powder.

SUPPLIER #1 (CONT'D)

Very good. I think we can do business now.

VITALI

(to Alek)

Give him the money.

Alek trades the briefcase full of cash for the duffel bag of drugs that Supplier #2 carries.

SUPPLIER #1

(in English)

I don't need to count this, right?

VITALI

After all the times we've done business before, don't you trust me?

SUPPLIER #1

Of course, I do. I was just joking.

VITALI

Anyway, now that our business is done, we party. You'll like the girls here. They're all prime beef.

The men exit into the health club and are approached by 4 women. Each picks a man and throws her arms around him.

INT. DETECTIVE OFFICE -- DAY

Maggie lays out who she needs found.

LEE

Who do you need me to find, and why?

MAGGIE

Like I said, my friend is a hacker, but I don't know much about him. In any case, if you're looking for details, I'm afraid I won't be much help.

Maggie looks at her shoes and picks invisible lint off her skirt as she starts talking.

LEE (V.O.)

I learned to read people pretty well. She knew more than she was telling. How much more, I wasn't sure. Ok, well, let's start with what you do know. What do I call this hacker friend of yours?

MAGGIE

He goes by the handle 'Roach'. He's a black fellow, bald. Large frame. He works out.

LEE

Great. So that narrows him down to about 2 million people. What else do you know?

Maggie starts to get misty right there in the chair.

MAGGIE

Most of my communication with him was over email. He did mention having a sister. I can have my emails packaged and send them over to you if you'd like.

LEE

I would like. Now, as much as I need the work, why come to me? Why not just file a missing persons report with the police?

MAGGIE

As I told you, I don't know that much about him, and that would be something for next of kin to do, wouldn't you think?

LEE

Of course. Do you know anything about his past dealings?

MAGGIE

He did mention that he had some business at a club called the Oily Dragon.

The coffeemaker in the front office beeps.

LEE

Maggie, I was just about to make myself a cup of coffee. Can I get you one?

Lee grabs a box of tissues from his desk drawer and sets them on the corner of the desk.

MAGGIE

Yes, thank you.

LEE

How do you take it?

MAGGIE

Black, with lots of sugar.

LEE

I'll be right back.

Lee exits.

Maggie grabs tissues, cries in them, and leaves them balled up on the corner of his desk.

INT. DRUG LAB - DAY - NIGHT

A DISTRIBUTOR sits in watch over the drug packagers.

The Russian gangsters deliver their product to their packaging house.

Low tables are spread around the room. Asians sit at the tables wearing latex gloves and surgical masks to avoid ingesting the product.

The Russian gangsters unzip the duffel bag and lay out the bricks of white powder (heroin).

DISTRIBUTOR

How are you guys today?

VITALI

We're good, my friend. How are you?

DISTRIBUTOR

Well enough, I suppose. Every day above ground is a good day.

VITALI

Yes, that's what they say.

INT. DETECTIVE OFFICE - DAY

LEE

Here you go. Black with lots of sugar.

Lee sets the coffee cup down in front of Maggie and pulls out a trash can. Maggie sweeps the used tissues into it.

LEE (CONT'D)

Now, I think we should discuss my fee.

MAGGIE

I'm prepared to offer you \$200 a day, plus expenses. I'll start you off with a down payment of \$2000. If you find him tomorrow, you can keep the whole thing.

Maggie finishes her coffee and rises to leave.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Well, if there's nothing else, I'll leave you to your work. Thank you for the coffee. I'll send those messages when I get back to the office.

Maggie exits.

Lee drums on his desk.

LEE (V.O.)

She must want this guy pretty badly. She almost doubled my asking price. Time to treat myself to some lunch.

INT. PASSENGER VAN - DAY

Alek is driving, Vitali is in the passenger seat. Unless otherwise noted, all dialogue in this scene will be spoken in Russian and subtitled.

ALEK

Anyway, I was watching this show last night about restaurants and health inspections. Did you know that the health department allows a certain amount of rat shit in an American hot dog that they consider an 'acceptable amount?'

VITALI

That's horrible. I can't believe what these people will eat.

Just then, Vitali's cell phone rings, and he pulls it from his jacket pocket.

VITALI (CONT'D)

Hello?

DMITRI (V.O.)

The new shipment is in. You will get it, yes?

VITALI

We're on our way to the port now. We're almost there.

VITALI (CONT'D)

(to Alek)

Hurry up. The girls are getting there now.

DMITRI (V.O.)

Very good. I knew I could count on you. Call me back once you have dropped them at the location.

VITALI

Yes, my friend.

Vitali hangs up.

ALEK

We're coming to the port now.

VITALI

Good. Drive to the dock and we'll get them right off the container ship.

ALEK

We're here.

Parks the car.

The container gets set on the ground.

Vitali and Alek get out and get to the container just as a teamster opens it up.

ALEK (CONT'D)

(into the container, in English, mocking tone)

Come out, come out, wherever you are.

Six women come out of the container, squinting in the fading sunlight.

Everyone files into the van.

INT. TOWNHOUSE - DAY

In the fading light of late afternoon, Roach gets off the couch and dives into his laptop bag.

He sets up his computer and boots it up.

While it is booting up, he grabs a bottle of juice out of the refrigerator.

Roach goes back to the computer and hits a few keys. It beeps and whirs and comes to life.

He sits and opens up a chat window in an effort to reach MEG (female).

Connection established...

ROACH

I'm here.

MEG

Glad you're safe. Were you followed?

ROACH

No.

MEG

What do you need?

ROACH

I need to get out of the country for a while. Can you hook me up with a passport?

Roach stares blankly at the screen for a long minute waiting for a reply.

MEG

Tomorrow, 12pm. Charles J. Fending Public Library, meeting room C, 3rd floor. I'll take the picture off your Facebook profile. Bring \$400 in cash. Don't be late.

User has ended the chat session and disconnected.

INT. FURNITURE STORE - DAY

Lee walks in looking for his friend DAX (black, muscular, 20's). The store is nearly abandoned.

LEE

Dax?!

DAX (O.S.)

Back here!

Lee follows the sound toward the back of the store.

DAX (CONT'D)

Gumshoe! You're looking good. No black eyes or broken noses from looking through keyholes you shouldn't.

LEE

Thanks, Dax. Listen, I got a new case today, and I need some info. You got a minute?

DAX

For you, buddy, I've got two. Have a seat.

They sit on a display living room set, Dax on the couch, Lee in a chair.

LEE

So, how have things been going?

DAX

To tell you the truth, kinda rough. Business didn't pick up from the snowbirds like we thought it would, and if we don't get busy soon, we may all be out of a job. So, what's this case you mentioned?

LEE

It's just a skip trace to locate someone. Word 'round the campfire is that he had some business the other night at the Oily Dragon that he didn't show up for. Know anything about the place?

DAX

Yeah, that spot on Ventura, right?

LEE

I would assume so. That's the only one I know of.

DAX

I've been there once or twice. Decent place, but a little out there. Not your typical low-rent reggae bar, either. Lots of smugglers and wannabe pirates go there. A bunch of 'off the books' stuff goes on there. You know what I mean?

LEE

Sure do. I staked out the place one time, but never been in.

DAX

You should do alright. I don't think it's too rough a place.

INT. MAGGIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Maggie opens the door and walks in.

The place is trashed, like it has been ransacked for something.

MAGGIE

Oh, my God!

Her cat jumps through the mess to find her.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Oscar, baby. Did they hurt you?
Look at this place. They tore
everything apart looking for their
records, but they won't find them.
Not where I put them.

She goes to the bedroom, and on the dresser, she sees a picture face down. It is a picture of her and Roach.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Oh, Roach, baby, I hope you're
safe. I miss you so much.

Her house phone rings.

Maggie digs through the stuff piled on her bed and finds it and answers.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Hello?...Hello, who is this?

ALEK (O.S.)

How do you like your new decorator?

MAGGIE

Listen, you bastard, I told you I
can't give you what I don't have,
now fuck off, or I'll call a cop.

ALEK (O.S.)

You wouldn't do that to us, now,
would you Maggie? Not with all we
have on you.

MAGGIE

You think you have something on me,
you Russian prick? Well, I've got
something on you, too. Now, I think
it's time to call a truce, unless
you all want to go to jail
together.

ALEK (O.S.)

We know you have the information we're looking for. No way a stupid bitch like you erased it all. Now, just bring it to us, and we'll play nice, but if you don't, things are going to get messy. We'll be in touch.

Alek hangs up.

INT. OILY DRAGON - NIGHT

The club is on 2 levels. Upstairs is a seating area, and downstairs is the stage.

Lee goes down into the crowd.

At the bar, he quickly gets waited on.

BARTENDER

What can I get you?

LEE

A rum and coke and some information.

BARTENDER

What kind of information?

LEE

Ever hear of a guy that calls himself Roach?

BARTENDER

Can't say as I have. Here's your drink. That'll be \$5.

Lee pays the man and leaves with his drink.

On the dance floor, he asks a patron.

PATRON

Excuse me.

LEE

Sorry. Ever hear of a guy named Roach?

PATRON

No, I haven't, but I think there's a guy upstairs who can help you. His name's Merlin.

(MORE)

PATRON (CONT'D)

You'll recognize him. He's sitting with a couple of bodyguards, and wears a silver jacket.

LEE

Thanks.

Lee climbs the stairs as the band hits the stage.

Upstairs, he spies Merlin sitting with a handler on each side.

BODYGUARD 1 stops Lee with a hand on his shoulder.

LEE (CONT'D)

I'd like to speak with Merlin. I have some business to discuss.

MERLIN

Let him come.

(Lee slides into the booth)

Well, well. Come to play with the big boys, have you? I've been watching you work the crowd. You've come to me about a job?

LEE

Yeah, sort of. I'm looking for a hacker. He goes by the name 'Roach.'

MERLIN

Well, first things first. We haven't been properly introduced. As you have surmised by now, I am the one they call Merlin. And what do they call you?

LEE

Gumshoe, sometimes, but I prefer Lee. It's my given name.

MERLIN

Excellent, Lee. Now that that business is out of the way, I'm afraid I can't help you. See, I do know this Roach of whom you speak, but he's had to make rather hasty travel arrangements, and he didn't seem to leave a forwarding address.

LEE

Well, anything you can tell me would help. See, I'm a P.I., and I've been hired to find him.

MERLIN

Well, he's bald, he's black, and he has an large build. He did mention having a sister named Lori that lives in Winter Park. Perhaps you could try finding her, yes?

LEE

I'll try that, thank you.

MERLIN

Well, Lee, it's been a pleasure chatting with you, but I'm afraid I do have other business to attend to.

LEE

I guess that's my cue. Thank you for your help, Merlin.

MERLIN

No bother. Feel free to call on me again if I can be of service. I certainly wish you luck in finding Roach.

Lee exits.

EXT. CITY STREET 1 - NIGHT

Vitali and Alek are delivering some heroin to their street dealers.

DEALER #1

Thanks, V. I was just about out.

VITALI

Good. Now you have more. You have some money for me, yes?

DEALER #1

Got it right here.

Dealer #1 hands Vitali a wad of cash.

Alek is stopped on another street corner.

DEALER #2

Alek! How's it hanging, bro?

ALEK

It's hanging between my knees,
bitch.

DEALER #2

That's good to hear. You've got
some wares for me?

ALEK

Yes, I do. You have money for me?

DEALER #2

You know there's nobody I'd rather
give my 10 points to than you. Got
it right here, brother.

Alek exchanges a duffel bag for cash.

ALEK

Thanks.
(in Russian)
Goodbye, my friend.

DEALER #2

Yo, Alek, check this out...
(in Russian)
Goodnight, my brother.

ALEK

(in English)
Very good. You've been practicing.

INT. SIMMONS BANK - DAY

Maggie sits at her desk, banging away on the computer.

Her email program dings, alerting her to a new message.

She opens up the email, and in the body is a new picture of
Maggie standing in her living room surveying the damage.

The pic was taken last night.

She covers her mouth, shocked, then drops her head in her
hands.

Once she raises her head, she realizes that the picture was
taken by a remote camera, and she thinks she knows right
where it is, in her ceiling fan.

She resolves to take it out when she gets home.

Suddenly, her phone rings, giving her a start.

MAGGIE

Good morning, this is Maggie Johnson.

ALEK (O.S.)

I told you we would be in touch.

Maggie lowers her head below her cubicle and speaks in hushed tones.

MAGGIE

Listen, I told you I can't give you what I don't have, now why can't you just leave me alone?

ALEK (O.S.)

And we told you, we weren't going to let this go. Now, you say you don't have the information we seek, but you know where it is, yes?

MAGGIE

Ok, ok. I gave it to someone. I saved it all on a thumb drive and gave it to a friend to put in a safe place. Now, I don't know where that safe place is, so don't ask.

ALEK (O.S.)

Who is this friend?

MAGGIE

He's a computer hacker.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

He was recommended to me through a mutual friend. He goes by the name LoJack. You're going to have to settle for that, because it's all I know, I swear to you.

ALEK (O.S.)

You'd better start praying we can find this hacker friend of yours, and fast, or we'll be coming back to you. Da svidanya.

Alek hangs up.

Maggie gets up and grabs her empty coffee cup.

INT. DETECTIVE OFFICE - DAY

Lee gets up off the couch, wearing last night's clothes.

He stumbles to his desk and moves the mouse to disable the screensaver.

In his email are the chats between Maggie and Roach.

LEE (V.O.)

From the looks of these emails, it seems Roach swiped some kind of information from the bank's computers. Probably under contract from Maggie.

Lee lights up a cigarette.

LEE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It seems that Roach's sister's name is Lorelei. That's an unusual name. Shouldn't be too hard to find.

Lee minimizes the window and brings up a detective website.

He logs in, and clicks on the people finder app.

Puts in that she's black, her first name is Lorelei.

LEE

I think Merlin said something about her living in Winter Park.

After searching for a moment, a hit pops up.

Lorelei Ivy

12612 Evergreen Terrace, Apt 4

Winter Park, FL

Lee scratches that address down on a notepad, then tears the paper off and leaves it alone on the desk.

LEE (CONT'D)

Well, if I'm going to pay her a visit, I suppose a shower is in order.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Roach arrives for his meeting. He walks into meeting room C, where MEG (30s, blonde, attractive but business-like) sits.

MEG
You're Roach?

ROACH
Yes, I am. Are you Meg?

MEG
That's me. Listen, Roach, I'm a busy woman, so let's just cut to the chase, shall we? You have something for me, yes?

ROACH
I do. And I believe you have something for me as well?

MEG
Here it is.

She hands the passport over to him.

He hands her the \$400.

Roach opens and scrutinizes the passport. It meets with his approval.

ROACH
Thank you. This looks great.

MEG
I don't want to know what you did or where you're going. It's not my business, so I'll just thank you for your business and be on my way.

They shake hands.

ROACH
It was nice to meet you, Meg. How do I get in touch with you if I should need your services again?

MEG
Just message our mutual friend. He knows how to get in touch with me. Have a good day.

Meg exits.

Roach closes the passport and slaps it on his hand, smiling.

INT. DETECTIVE OFFICE - DAY

Lee exits his office bathroom clean-shaven and dressed in clean clothes.

During the voiceover, he's gathering his things to leave.

LEE (V.O.)

According to the information I have on her, Miss Lorelei Ivy works Rasmussen Financial Services, and most of their corporate drones in the office go home at 5. That's when, seemingly, everybody else in the world gets off work, so I'll meet her at her place about 6. That only leaves me about 2 hours to get to the other side of Orlando, and it's rush hour. I'd better leave now.

EXT. CITY STREET 2 - DAY

Maggie is walking out in the sunshine when her cell phone rings.

MAGGIE

Hello?

ROACH

Maggie? It's Roach.

MAGGIE

Oh, Roach! I'm so glad to hear your voice. Are you ok?

ROACH

I'm fine. I just wanted to check on you and let you know I won't be around for a while.

MAGGIE

I'm doing as well as can be expected, under the circumstances. Roach, I miss you so much, but it's good that you're not around. Those Russians are after me, and they'll soon be after you. I hope you plan to leave soon.

ROACH

I'm at the airport now. It's better that you don't know where I'm going, but I'll call you when I can.

MAGGIE

I think my phone might be tapped, so I hope you're not talking to me on your phone.

ROACH

Don't worry, it's a burner. I'll call you when I can. I love you.

MAGGIE

I love you, too.

Call disconnects.

INT. AIRPORT IN TAMPA, FL - DAY

Roach approaches the counter and hands the FLIGHT ATTENDANT his ticket and passport. Everything is ok, so he passes through with no problem.

As always, he's carrying his overnight bag and his laptop case.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Ticket, please.

ROACH

Here you go.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Everything looks good. Have a good flight, Dr. Burke.

ROACH

Thank you.

Roach walks down the gangway.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Lee walks down the hall to Lorelei's door and rings the doorbell.

There is no answer.

Down the hall, coming toward him is LORI IVY (light-skinned black girl, early 30s).

She carries an armload of grocery bags.

Lee approaches her, and she smiles flirtatiously.

LEE

Maybe you can help me. I'm looking for somebody named Lorelei Ivy who supposedly lives in this apartment.

LORI

Well, I'm Lorelei Ivy, and I live in that apartment. What can I do for you, Mister....?

LEE

Gibson. Lee Gibson. Please call me Lee. A friend of you brother's mentioned that you might be able to help me, and I was wondering...

LORI

What do you want with my brother?

LEE

As you might know, he's missing, and a friend of his hired me to find him. I was hoping you could help me, that's all.

LORI

Ok, I guess I can do that. Come on in, won't you?

They walk to

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lori carries the grocery bags to the kitchen and sets them on the counter.

LORI

Just a minute, Mr. Gibson. I'll be right with you.

LEE

That'll be fine. And please, call me Lee.

LORI

Ok, I'm back. You said you had some information about my brother?

LEE

Yes, well sort of. I'm a private investigator, and I've been hired to find him.

LORI

I wish I could help you, but I probably don't know any more than you do.

LEE

Well, you probably can help me. Do you have a recent picture of him?

LORI

Yes, I do. It's by my bed. I'll get it in a sec.

LEE

What can you tell me about him?

LORI

Well, he's not a vegetarian, but doesn't eat a lot of red meat, he's kind to everybody, has a good sense of humor, and really knows his programming. None of that will help you, but it's what I can tell you about him.

LEE

I don't suppose he ever talked about his business?

LORI

No, he was worried about me. He always said that the less I knew about it, the better. Excuse me.

Lori goes to her bedroom to get the picture.

She brings it back to Lee.

In the pic, he looks like a Caribbean Mr. Clean, complete with gold hoop earrings and a Hawaiian shirt. He is hugging Lori in front of a palm tree.

LEE

How come he's so much darker than you?

LORI

We have the same father, but 2 different mothers. His mother was black, but she died in a car accident. I was born a few years later, to a white mother.

Lori pulls the picture out of Lee's hands.

LORI (CONT'D)

You've got to find my brother.

She hugs him, then leans up and kisses him.

EXT. RUSSIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Vitali and Alek walk from their car to the restaurant.

INT. RUSSIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

They pass by the Maitre' d with only a cursory nod, and go upstairs, into the office.

INT. RUSSIAN RESTAURANT OFFICE - NIGHT

Unless otherwise noted, all dialogue for this scene will be spoken in Russian and subtitled in English.

This is a nicely-appointed office area with a couch and a table, in addition to the desk.

The boss, SERGEI (40-ish), is sitting behind the desk. IVAN is sitting on the arm of the couch, and DMITRI is sitting in the chair.

SERGEI

So, we need to get those girls working as soon as possible.

DMITRI

Right now, they're ready. They've already been pumped full of our Slam, and they are coming down.

IVAN

They are ready.

SERGEI

Where do we stand on the first shipment of Slam for the dealers?

IVAN

It is being transferred from Mexico now. Should be here in a day or two.

SERGEI

I don't want to move on it until we get our records back from that bitch that betrayed us. She stole enough information to sink us if it gets into the hands of the DEA.

Vitali and Alek enter.

SERGEI (CONT'D)

Gentlemen, we were just talking about that stolen information. I have a special project for you. As of now, Ivan will handle all your business deals. I want you two to concentrate on finding that bitch and getting back those records from her. That is your only job now.

VITALI

Yes, boss. We're on it. She had a hacker steal the information for her. We think he's got the records on a thumb drive on him somewhere.

ALEK

We already found out that she lied about the hacker's name and location. We are tracking him down now.

SERGEI

Good. I want those records back in 48 hours, or we will all be sunk. We don't want the DEA meeting our shipment at the same time we do. Come back with them, or don't come back.

ALEK

Yes, boss.

VITALI

Yes, boss.

Alek and Vitali exit.

DMITRI

Don't worry, boss, our friend in the DEA office will make sure any investigation goes nowhere.

EXT. AIRPORT IN BELIZE CITY, BELIZE - NIGHT

Roach has taken out his earrings and has a fake goatee plastered on his face.

He waits at the cab stand for a ride.

A taxi pulls up, and he gets in.

INT. CAB 1 - NIGHT

CAB DRIVER sits in the front.

CAB DRIVER

How are you tonight?

ROACH

Good. I need you to take me to 1406 Walker Street in Belize City.

CAB DRIVER

No problem, mister....

ROACH

Doctor. David Burke. Nice to meet you.

CAB DRIVER

Nice to meet you, Dr. Burke. Are you staying with us long?

ROACH

I'm with Doctors Without Borders. I'll be here for a little while treating the indigenous population.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY

Lori's alarm clock goes off, and she reaches an arm across Lee's chest to shut it off.

LORI

Been awake long?

LEE

Nah, just this minute. I haven't been up this early for a while. Of course, I haven't really had a reason to be.

They kiss.

LORI

Well, I am used to getting up this early, and I have to again. Got to get ready for work.

Lori throws a shirt around her and slides out of bed.

She leans down and kisses Lee before she goes.

LORI (CONT'D)

By the way, I don't regret last night at all. I think we both needed it. You were wonderful.

LEE

I don't know what to say. Uh, thanks?

Lori grabs some clothes out of the dresser and walks into the bathroom. Over her shoulder, she says...

LORI

Help yourself to some juice or something. I'll be ready in a bit.

Lee gets out of bed and puts his pants on.

He walks down the hall into

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - DAY

Lee makes breakfast.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT BATHROOM - DAY

Lori is in the shower, letting the water hit her in the face.

LORI (V.O.)

What the hell have I done? I just jumped into bed with a random stranger because he said he's looking for my brother. Oh, Lori, that was stupid.

(MORE)

LORI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Girl, you've got to end this now
before you get yourself hurt again.
Maybe he'll never call
again...yeah, that would be good.
But, he is kinda cute.

EXT. CITY STREET #3 - DAY

Maggie is walking to work, when Alek grabs her and drags her into an alley. This goes unnoticed.

MAGGIE
No, stop! What do you want? You
want money, is that it?

ALEK
No, I don't want your money, you
stupid, undisciplined bitch.

Maggie now stands fully up and realizes that it is Alek, and not a random mugger.

She hits him with her purse.

MAGGIE
You asshole! You scared the hell
out of me. What the hell do you
want?

ALEK
We want your hacker friend. We know
you lied to us about this 'Lojack'
name. Your hacker is called Roach,
and there's a little something
between you, yes? So, if we can't
find him, maybe you'll talk to us.

MAGGIE
Look, I don't know how you know
what you think you know, but yes,
his name is Roach. That's all I've
ever known him as. He's gone. I
don't know where, and I told him I
don't want to know.

ALEK
We did some looking around on our
own, and he's in Tampa.

ALEK (CONT'D)

Not so far away. We'll have him today, but you could save us some trouble. Tell us where the information is.

MAGGIE

I don't have it. He does. Now piss off, or I'll call a cop.

Maggie smacks Alek on the shoulder and starts to walk away.

Alek calls out to her...

ALEK

No, you won't. We can bury you just as deep as you can bury us.

Maggie disappears around the corner.

INT. BELIZE HOUSE - DAY

The laptop is set up on the kitchen table. Roach walks from the refrigerator, carrying orange juice.

He sits at the table and opens the chat window.

MEG

You're late again.

ROACH

I'm here now.

MEG

Is the information secure?

ROACH

Of course.

MEG

You're in danger every moment you have that...and so are the people close to you. I told you to get rid of that drive.

ROACH

And I will, just as soon as I can link up with the DEA agent I was supposed to meet Friday night. I can't trust anybody else.

MEG

You can trust me, Dr. Burke.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - DAY

Lori is walking down the hall toward the kitchen, dressed for work.

Lee gets out juice and sits it on the table.

LORI

Hi there, handsome.

(kiss)

You cook, too? I might just have to keep you around.

LEE

You might want to taste it before making that determination. For a cook, I'm one hell of a detective.

Lori sits and takes a bite.

LEE (CONT'D)

So, what's the verdict?

LORI

Well, it's not the worst omelet I've ever had. Could use some doctoring, but we can work on that.

LEE

Thank you for not telling me it was terrible. I don't know if my fragile ego could have taken that blow.

LORI

Remember, I was with you last night. I think your ego is anything but fragile.

LEE

Anyway, about your brother...did he have any places he liked to visit or something that can help me find him?

LORI

We used to go to the Gulf shore when we were kids. It was always so much calmer than the Atlantic. If I were you, I would start by looking in Tampa. I'm betting he lit out for there.

LEE
Thanks, I will.

LORI
Well, thanks for breakfast, but
I've got to go finish getting ready
for work, so we'll leave in a few
minutes.

EXT. CITY STREET 4 - DAY

Alek walks out of the alley and down the street and gets into
the passenger side of a parked car.

INT. VITALI'S CAR - DAY

The following dialogue will be in Russian and subtitled in
English.

VITALI
What did you find out from the
bitch?

ALEK
Nothing more from her. She is
either covering up for her friend,
or she really doesn't know.

VITALI
It's a good thing that we tapped
her cell phone. I got some
information from a friend of ours
at the phone company. It seems that
a call that she got yesterday
afternoon came to her from a cell
phone in Clearwater, Florida.

ALEK
Where the hell is that?

VITALI
Just across the bay from Tampa. We
can be there in about an hour or a
little more. Are you ready to go
now?

ALEK
Yes. Let's go.

INT. DETECTIVE OFFICE - DAY

Lee calls Maggie with a progress report.

Two rings...

MAGGIE

Hello?

LEE

Maggie? It's Lee Gibson.

MAGGIE

Yes, Mr. Gibson. Are you close to finding my friend?

LEE

That's what I wanted to talk to you about. I thought maybe we could meet, and I could give you a progress report in person.

MAGGIE

I think that would be lovely. Is lunch today too soon?

LEE

No, that will be fine.

MAGGIE

Do you know that food court in the mall off Colonial?

LEE

Yes, I know it. Why don't you give me 2 hours, and I'll be there.

MAGGIE

Lovely. See you then.

Lee hangs up and lays down on his couch.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Several soldiers and their families are there. It is an Army picnic.

The Lieutenant is dividing up people for a volleyball game.

Lee is with his fiancée JULIET (29, blonde).

They are sitting at the picnic table talking.

6 BANSHEES (enemy gang members) armed with AK-47s storm over the hill.

LT.

Oh, shit! Saddle up, people!

US SOLDIERS grab pistols from their waistbands and start firing at the Banshees.

The Banshees are killing everybody, armed or no.

Lee kills one of the Banshees, who squeezes the trigger as he dies.

The bullet finds Juliet, who dies in Lee's arms.

Lee pistol-whips that banshee to death.

END FLASHBACK

Lee wakes up, gasping for air, and drenched in sweat.

He looks at his watch, and goes to his bathroom to splash some water on his face.

INT. VITALI'S CAR - DAY

The car sits in a parking lot in Orlando. Vitali and Alek are talking.

All dialogue will be in Russian.

VITALI

Change of plans. We're not going to Tampa yet. We picked up a call on the bitch's cell phone. She is going to meet someone named Lee at the mall food court for lunch. We should get there.

ALEK

Let's go.

INT. BELIZE INTERNET CAFE - DAY

Roach passes by MONITOR and asks to use the phone.

MONITOR

Can I help you?

ROACH

Good afternoon. I'd like to use the phone, please.

MONITOR

Long distance?

ROACH

Yes, it's in the US.

MONITOR

You can use that phone against the wall.

Roach is probing the DEA field office to see if Detective KAREN Wimmer is available.

An OPERATOR picks up on the 3rd ring.

OPERATOR

Drug Enforcement Agency, Orlando field office. How may I direct your call?

ROACH

Detective Karen Wimmer, please.

OPERATOR

Thank you, please hold.

....

Karen Wimmer's voicemail picks up.

VOICEMAIL

You have reached the desk of Detective Karen Wimmer. I'm either away from my desk or on another call. Please leave a message at the tone, with a phone number where you can be reached, and I will return your call as soon as possible.

Roach watches the clock the whole time he's leaving the message, in case the call is traced.

ROACH

Detective Wimmer, this is your friend Roach speaking. I'm sorry we missed our meeting the other night. I'm hip-deep in the Russians after me. I hope we can try again. I still have the information you're after.

(MORE)

ROACH (CONT'D)
I can't risk coming in right now,
but I'll call you back as soon as I
can.

Roach disconnects the call with his free hand, then hangs up.

INT. ORLANDO MALL - DAY

Maggie meets Lee for lunch.

Alek and Vitali are sitting at a hidden table so they can see, but can't be seen.

VITALI
(in Russian)
Activate the recorder on her phone.
I want to hear what they're saying.

ALEK
(in Russian)
Yes, boss.

At another table...

Maggie is seated, and rises to shake Lee's hand when he enters.

LEE
Good afternoon, Maggie.

MAGGIE
Good afternoon, Lee. So, what have
you found on Roach?

LEE
A good bit, actually. I'm tracking
him down, but it's going to involve
me getting out of town for a while.

MAGGIE
I take it you're about to hit me up
for more money, then?

LEE
You take it correctly. I'm going to
have to go to Clearwater for a few
days. But, something's been
bothering me. You said that you
barely knew this Roach. I'm not
entirely sure that was truthful.

MAGGIE

I do know him a little bit, but if you're insinuating that I had something to do with his disappearance, I certainly did not.

LEE

No, that's not what I'm saying at all. You just could have mentioned that before, that's all. It might have helped me locate him faster.

MAGGIE

You seem to be doing alright by yourself.

LEE

Look, do you want him found or don't you?

As she says her next line, she pulls out a pen and writes on a wayward napkin.

MAGGIE

Of course I want him found. There are some things I just can't talk about right now, that's all.

She slides the napkin over to Lee, who reads it immediately.

ECU on napkin:

There are people watching me. I have reason to believe that they've tapped my phone, too. Let's talk later at your office. It is safe there.

Lee scrawls on the back of the napkin: When? And slides it over to her.

Maggie writes back: NOW.

LEE

I'm going to go to the bathroom, then we can go.

As Lee stands up, he looks around at the faces in the food court. He sees Vitali and Alek, but thinks nothing of it, b/c he's never seen them before.

INT. DEA FIELD OFFICE - DAY

Karen Wimmer gets back to her desk and sees the voicemail light blinking on her phone. She listens.

Mike Bakker (40s, slender, thinks he's God's gift, herein know as the MOLE) walks up to her desk as she's listening and tries to make small talk.

MOLE

So, that was an interesting talk
the boss gave this morning.

Karen holds up a finger, as she's still listening.

Beat. She finishes listening to the voicemail, electing to keep it.

KAREN

Yes, it was. He was just blowing
smoke. He's not really that pissed
about the raid. Besides, we got
some good leads out of those guys,
so it'll all work out.

The MOLE walks behind Karen's chair and starts to rub her shoulders.

MOLE

So, about dinner tonight, wanna go?

Karen shrugs her shoulders to get him to remove his hands.

KAREN

Look, I told you I'm not
interested. Now, we have to work
together, so I don't want to have
to get rude with you, but can't you
just take no for an answer?

MOLE

Ooh, little miss firecracker. You
know, things are going to work out
a lot better for you if you let me
in.

He walks away.

KAREN

(talking to herself)

Yeah, I know what you want to get
into. Trust me, it ain't happening,
cowboy.

INT. DETECTIVE OFFICE - DAY

Lee and Maggie sit and talk. Maggie has left her purse, with her phone in it, next to the coffeemaker.

Lee turns the coffeemaker on and they go to his inner office.

LEE

Have a seat, Maggie.

MAGGIE

Thank you, Lee. Do you think I might have a cigarette?

LEE

I thought you'd quit?

MAGGIE

This is going to be quite a story. You may want one, too.

LEE

(sets his open pack on the edge of the desk.)

Help yourself.

MAGGIE

Ok, here it is. I used to have a drug problem. It's called DMT, I'm sure you've heard of it.

LEE

I have. But honestly, I'm surprised. You seem to have it so together.

MAGGIE

I didn't always. As you know, DMT is really expensive, and not easy to get. I couldn't support my habit. The people I was buying from found out that I worked for Simmons Bank, and they blackmailed me into covering their tracks for them and burying financial records.

LEE

Who were these people, your suppliers?

MAGGIE

The Russian Mob.

Lee is shocked.

LEE

So, you laundered money for them?

MAGGIE

Yes. I just didn't care what I was doing, as long as I kept getting my fix.

LEE

You keep talking about this in the past tense. What changed?

MAGGIE

I bottomed out. I woke up one morning in a back alley. I'd been beaten up and robbed, but I didn't remember any of it. When I went back to work, I told them I'd been hit by a drunk driver.

The coffeemaker beeps. It is ready.

Lee gets up to make coffee for both of them.

LEE

Hold on. I'll get the coffee. Black, lots of sugar, right?

MAGGIE

Yes. Good memory.

LEE

(over his shoulder)
Keep talking. I'm listening.

MAGGIE

Well, I cleaned myself up after that. I quit doing DMT. I decided to make a clean break with my past, and that included the Russians. Roach had done some work for a friend of mine, so he came highly recommended. Roach and I became involved. We were going to rip off financial records and secured communications and turn them over to the DEA. What I told you about meeting at the Oily Dragon Friday night was true. We were going to meet with an undercover DEA officer and give her the information there. The Russians were onto us, so he got spooked and disappeared.

LEE

Well, that is quite a story, and I'm onto Roach's trail, so you will be out of this mess sooner than later. Look, I really need to get going if I'm going to track him.

MAGGIE

Thank you for the coffee, and the talk. It felt good.

INT. RASMUSSEN FINANCIAL - DAY

Lori calls Lee on her cell phone, from work.

LEE

Hello?

LORI

Lee, it's Lori. Sorry to bother you at work, but I just wanted to call and tell you that I really enjoyed last night. Is it ok that I call?

LEE

Yes, it's more than OK. I'm just buying some cigarettes. I'm going to go to Clearwater and try to find your brother there, so I may be there a few days.

LORI

Ok, great. I'll miss you while you're gone, but maybe we can see each other again when you get back.

LEE

I'd like that. I'd like that very much. I'll call you when I find out something, ok? Now that I've got your number.

Lee hangs up.

LEE (V.O.)

Lori had given me a name earlier. The name that Roach used to set up his secondary crash pad in Clearwater. She said he told her just in case she needed to meet him while he was there. I got back to the office and searched on that name I Clearwater.

(MORE)

LEE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I had a hit in 30 seconds under the
name Jonas Bell. Now I was ready to
go to Tampa.

INT. VITALI'S CAR - NIGHT

Vitali and Alek are still on their way to Clearwater, almost there.

Alek is driving, Vitali riding shotgun.

This dialogue will be in Russian, subtitled in English, unless otherwise noted.

During their trip, they get a call from the MOLE, which will be in English.

VITALI
I found out, from out friend at the
phone company, that the call we
intercepted to the bitch's phone
was made from a cell phone in
Clearwater, Florida that is
registered to a Jonas Bell, and we
have his address.

ALEK
Good, we can find him easy, then.

VITALI
Drive to this address.

Vitali hands Alek a piece of paper.

ALEK
That's only about 15 minutes away
from here.

Vitali's cell phone rings. This call will be totally in English.

VITALI
Yes?

MOLE
It is your friend at the DEA.

VITALI
What news do you have for me?

MOLE
I tapped several of the phone lines
here.

(MORE)

MOLE (CONT'D)

Your missing person called a detective name Karen Wimmer. I don't know where he is yet, but I'm on his scent. He'll call back, and then we'll nail him.

VITALI

Thank you. Let me know when you've got something.

Vitali hangs up.

Switch back to being in Russian.

ALEK

We are here.

VITALI

Good. Pull in here.

Alek parks the car.

They walk to the townhouse and pick their way in in the dying light.

INT. MAGGIE'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

The apartment is mostly cleaned up.

Maggie is taking her cell phone apart.

There is a half-empty cup of coffee on the table with her.

MAGGIE

Ok, so this thing's got to be bugged somehow. Otherwise, they wouldn't know everything that I know.

She pries the back off the phone and finds the bug, crushing it beneath her foot on the tile floor.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Gotcha, you little bastard.

She replaces the cover, and right then, her phone rings.

Maggie jumps at the ringing phone, then looks at the caller id.

INT. INTERNET CAFE - NIGHT

Roach goes in to use the phone again.

ROACH
 (to Monitor)
 I'm just going to use the phone
 again.

MONITOR
 Ok. you know where it is.

Roach calls the DEA.

Ring...

Ring...

OPERATOR
 Drug Enforcement Agency, Orlando
 field office. How may I direct your
 call?

ROACH
 Detective Karen Wimmer, please.

OPERATOR
 Hold, please.

KAREN
 Karen Wimmer. How can I help you?

ROACH
 Detective Wimmer, it's your friend
 from Friday night.

KAREN
 How are you? I'm sorry we couldn't
 get together Friday. I understand
 you've got some troubles?

ROACH
 Yeah, I'm being hunted, but so far,
 I'm one step ahead of them.

KAREN
 Where are you? We can come and get
 you.

ROACH
 Not that I don't trust you, but I
 don't trust phones.

(MORE)

ROACH (CONT'D)

This is not exactly a secure line,
so somebody could be listening in.
Give me an email address, and I'll
email you.

KAREN

Ok, I guess I can do that. I'll
give you my personal address. It is
karen.Wimmer.DEA@gmail.Com.

ROACH

Fine. I can remember that. I'll
email you something soon.

Elsewhere in the DEA office...

INT. DEA FIELD OFFICE - NIGHT

Mole is listening in on the conversation. This scene is at
his desk, and the recording is being played over his phone.

KAREN

Will it be tonight?

ROACH

Yes.

KAREN

Good. I'm going straight home, so
I'll get it then.

Roach hangs up.

MOLE

Thank you, Karen. Now all I have to
do is break into your email, and
we'll find him.

Mole brings up Gmail on his computer and tries to log into
Karen's email.

He runs a hacking program to find out Karen's password.

INT. CLEARWATER TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Lee gets to the townhouse address he was given and after
knocking to be sure nobody is home.

He picks the lock and enters.

The place is a wreck. The Russians ransacked it, but they are
nowhere to be found.

LEE

Ok, my friend. Lets see if I can find anything in this mess.

Finds nothing downstairs, and goes up into the bedroom.

There is a picture on the wall that seems crooked, and when Lee tries to straighten it, it moves.

Lee pulls it, and there is a wall safe behind the picture.

Lee breaks into the safe.

Inside, he finds a ticket stub for Belize City, Belize under the name Dr. David Burke.

LEE (CONT'D)

So, that must be the name he's using now. I've got you now, Mr. Clean.

He folds the ticket stub and places it in his pocket.

INT. VITALI'S CAR - NIGHT

Vitali and Alek are almost back to Orlando.

Vitali gets another phone call.

VITALI

Hello?

MOLE

I found out some more information for you. Our friend made contact again. He's going to email Karen in the DEA. I've already hacked into her email, and I can read it without her knowing that I've been there. All we have to do now is wait until he makes contact again.

VITALI

That's good, but you know you don't have to call me every hour with an update. Wait until you have something to report. Call me back when he makes contact.

Vitali hangs up.

ALEK
(in Russian)
What news did he have for us?

VITALI
(in Russian)
Nothing important. Let's go pay a
visit to this DEA Agent of his. Her
name is Karen Wimmer. I'll look her
up while you drive us into town.

Alek pulls off the interstate.

VITALI (CONT'D)
I found her. She's on Alcove Way.
2339.

INT. AIRPORT IN TAMPA, FL - NIGHT

Lee places a call to Lori before he goes.

LORI
Hello, Lee. How are you?

LEE
I'm good. Listen, I'm on your
brother's trail, and it seems he
left the country for a while, so
I'm getting ready to follow him. I
won't be back for a few days.

LORI
So, the townhouse in Clearwater had
nothing to offer?

LEE
Not really. Nothing except a mess.
The Russians got there first and
ransacked the place.

LORI
Oh, I hope they weren't there when
you got there.

LEE
No, they were long gone.

LORI
I'll miss you while you're gone.
Too bad. I was looking forward to
our date.

LEE
 Oh, it's still going to happen,
 it'll just be a few days longer
 before it does.

LORI
 I look forward to it. See you soon.

LEE
 Bye, babe. See you soon.

Lee hangs up.

LEE (V.O.)
 I've got to call Maggie now and hit
 her up for more money. I'm going to
 have to go to Belize. Let's see how
 serious she is about this guy.

INT. KAREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Karen gets in from work. When she gets in the door, she
 throws her keys in a bowl at the door and kicks off her
 shoes.

She goes to the kitchen and grabs a bottle of wine and a
 glass.

From there, she goes to the couch.

The doorbell rings.

KAREN
 Oh, shit. Who could it be at this
 time of night?

She looks through the peephole and sees Vitali standing there
 in a suit jacket.

She opens the door a crack and speaks.

KAREN (CONT'D)
 Yes?

VITALI
 Hello. I am from your office. We
 need to have a talk, may I come in?

KAREN
 Show me a badge.

He reaches in his suit jacket like he's going to pull out a badge, then barrels right through the door, breaking the chain loose.

Karen swings at him to punch him. He blocks it and punches her in the mouth.

She kicks him in the knee and tries to put some space between herself and Vitali by running to the living room.

She draws her 38 snub revolver, but he knocks it out of her hands.

It lands behind the couch on the Living Room floor.

They fight. Karen puts up a good fight, but Vitali gets the upper hand.

She is on the floor, backing away from him.

VITALI

Now, I didn't come here to fight you. In fact, I'm here to make you a generous offer. We know you've been in meg with a certain hacker that we are looking for. All you need to do is lead us to him, and we will compensate you generously.

KAREN

No deal.

She kicks him again and they wrestle. He is unbuckling, preparing to rape her, but she's kicking and screaming.

She manages to reach the bottle of wine, and breaks it over Vitali's head.

While he's dazed, she finds her gun under the couch and reaches it.

She grabs it and turns to point it at Vitali, but he is nowhere to be found.

KAREN (CONT'D)

You asshole, that was my favorite wine.

INT. BELIZE HOUSE - NIGHT

Roach is banging out an email to Karen.

ECU on email. It reads:

Detective Wimmer:

This is the only way I can think to get to you personally without the phone. You said you thought that there might be a mole inside your agency.

I was supposed to give you information on Friday night about the Russian Mafia's involvement in trading a new designer drug called Slam.

I had to ghost myself from Orlando for a while because they are on my trail. I am currently hiding out in Belize under the name Dr. David Burke.

Let me know when the best time to reach you is.

Roach

Roach closes his laptop and gets up.

INT. AIRPORT IN TAMPA, FL - DAY

In the morning, Lee is at the counter trying to buy a ticket for Belize.

LEE

Good morning. I'd like a ticket to go to Belize City, Belize, please.

AGENT

Alright. Leaving when?

LEE

On the next flight.

Agent bangs away on the keyboard.

AGENT

That'll be \$985.40 please.

Lee passes her his debit card.

AGENT (CONT'D)

Thank you. Are you checking any luggage with us today?

LEE

Just this one.
 (hands over his duffel
 bag)
 Is that going to be extra?

AGENT

On international flights, you get one checked bag free. There's only 1 flight to Belize today, and it leaves at 11:40am, so you've got about 3 hours to kill. There is a lounge across from the newsstand.

LEE (V.O.)

Thank you. Thankfully, they speak English in Belize, and they use the US Dollar for currency, so getting around won't be a problem. Now to go to the bar and kill 3 hours.

INT. DEA FIELD OFFICE - DAY

The Mole calls Vitali to report on the email.

He thinks he's in a safe place at work, where he won't be disturbed, but will almost get caught by Karen.

Ring...

VITALI

Da?

MOLE

This is your friend again.

VITALI

What the hell do you want?

MOLE

Is that any way to greet a friend whose putting his ass on the line to do you a favor?

VITALI

Thank you for the favor. What do you want?

MOLE

You told me to call when I had something to report. I got to Karen's email and hacked in. It wasn't as easy as it sounds.

VITALI

Yeah, yeah. I paid a visit to the bitch last night. She's a feisty one. Anyway, you got her email, and what?

MOLE

Well, I do now. The hacker you're looking for is in Belize City, Belize. That's in Central America, bordering on Mexico. Yeah, I had to look that up, too. Anyway, he's hiding under the name Dr. David Burke. I thought you should know.

VITALI

Good job, my friend.

MOLE

Yeah, now that I've given you something, it...

Karen interrupts.

KAREN

Who are you talking to out here in the stairwell?

MOLE

(into phone)

Yes, thank you. That's right, one dozen pink roses. \$34.95 plus tax, yes. That will be fine. Just put it on my tab. Thanks.

Mole hangs up the phone, hurriedly.

MOLE (CONT'D)

Hi, Karen. I was just ordering some flowers for my mother. Her birthday is coming up.

KAREN

You know, Mike, we've worked together for 7 years, and you've never ordered flowers for your mother from a stairwell.

MOLE

No, honestly I usually take care of it when I'm not working, but I forgot to do it before I came to work.

KAREN
Somehow, I just don't believe you.

Karen turns and walks away.

MOLE
(yells to her as she's
walking)
What, no kiss?

Mole texts Vitali: I think Karen is onto me.

There is no reply.

EXT. DOCKS, TAMPA - DAY

Ivan and Dmitri are at the docks with a van, to meet the shipment of Slam (designer drug).

They are driving a moving van with nothing in it.

DMITRI
Good, you have our merchandise for us?

DOCK WORKER
It is in that container coming down now. I'll personally use a forklift and load it into your van. Please open your back doors.

Ivan goes to open the doors.

When the container is down, the dock worker pops the lock and climbs on a forklift to load it into the van.

The operation goes smoothly.

When the dock worker gets off the forklift, he goes over to Ivan for payment.

Ivan reaches in his pocket and hands the dock worker a roll of bills.

IVAN
Here you go. Thank you.

Dmitri and Ivan climb in the van and drive away.

INT. SIMMONS BANK - DAY

Roach calls Maggie to check on her.

Ring...

MAGGIE

Hello?

ROACH

Maggie? It's Roach.

MAGGIE

Oh, baby, how are you?

ROACH

I'm doing pretty good. This is a beautiful country.

MAGGIE

Well, you don't have to worry about my phone being tapped anymore. I found the bug and crushed it. I also had a camera implanted in my ceiling fan, but I got that, too.

ROACH

That's good to know. You know, sometime, we should take a trip to Belize. You'd like it here.

MAGGIE

Yeah, we'll have to do that, but you need to figure out a way to get back here to me, first. I miss you so much.

ROACH

I know, sweets, I miss you, too, but I should be home soon. I've been in touch with the DEA, and they are coming here to get me, I think.

MAGGIE

I hope so. The Russians are pressuring me to find you. I've run out of things to tell them.

ROACH

Just tell them you don't know shit, and once they're convinced of that, they should leave you alone.

MAGGIE

I've been telling them that, but they're still not convinced.

ROACH

Well, I don't know what to tell you. Just keep trying. Anyway, I've got to run. I love you.

MAGGIE

Oh, Roach, I love you, too. Get back here soon.

Roach hangs up.

INT. CAB 2 - DAY

Lee is riding to the internet café when they turn down a street and witness a gang-related turf war.

Lee closes his eyes to shut it out, but it is too late.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

Lee rides in a troop transport vehicle with other soldiers, suited up for battle.

A pack of dynamite sticks, thrown under the transport, explodes.

Bullets pierce the damaged hull and ricochet around.

Two of them strike Lee's body armor.

The transport stops, and they pile out into a building the direction the fire is coming from.

Inside the building, a BANSHEE grabs Lee to use him as a hostage.

The 2nd through the door blows off the top of his head.

Firefight between the SOLDIERS (6) and the remaining Banshees (3), who all get killed.

Lee tries to pick up a laptop and take it with him, but it is booby trapped.

A small explosion damages his right hand.

Lee closes his eyes to shut out the pain.

END FLASHBACK

When he opens them again, the cab is pulling up to the Internet Café.

CAB DRIVER 2

Are you alright? You were moaning back there.

LEE

Just some bad memories that don't want to stay down. I'll be ok, thanks.

CAB DRIVER 2

Well, I hope you can get them to stay put. Anyway, we're here.

INT. RUSSIAN RESTAURANT OFFICE - DAY

Sergei is at his usual post, behind his desk. Ivan and Dmitri walk in.

Unless otherwise noted, the following scene will be in Russian and subtitled in English.

DMITRI

We have good news for you, boss. Our first shipment of Slam has arrived. It is at the warehouse now, waiting for our courier to take it to the lab to chop it up.

SERGEI

That is good news. We still haven't heard back from Alek and Vitali yet, so that bitch must still be out there. She can fuck us good if we don't catch up with her soon.

IVAN

I'll call Vitali right now.

Phone conversation takes place in Russian and is subtitled.

RING...

VITALI

Da?

IVAN

Boss wants to know what you've found out.

VITALI

Tell him the missing hacker is in Belize, and so are we. We are looking him up now, and he will be in our hands soon enough. He will talk, then.

IVAN

Again, that's good news.

VITALI

What else happened?

IVAN

Our first shipment of Slam arrived today. We're about to go cut it so we can sell it.

VITALI

Excellent. I'll let you know when we have him.

Vitali hangs up.

IVAN

(to Sergei)

Boss, get ready to be happy.

INT. DEA FIELD OFFICE - DAY

Karen is at the Mole's desk.

KAREN (V.O.)

I don't trust that bastard Mike. Call it female intuition or whatever, but something about him is dirty.

Mole's desk looks like he's built a surveillance station right there.

He has a locked door that Karen picks open.

Inside, she finds that he has a digital recorder and a PDA hooked to it.

When she disables the screensaver on the PDA, it says "Connection re-established" on the screen.

Karen swipes the screen and notices a few Mp4 files labeled with her office phone number and the date and time, along with a few from a number she doesn't recognize.

She pushes on one and listens. It is her short conversation with Roach, where she gives out her personal email address.

She stops the playback rests the PDA in her lap.

Mole walks up and stands at the cubicle.

MOLE

What the hell are you doing?

KAREN

You're going to jail, Mike.

MOLE

You think so? What do you think you have there?

KAREN

Enough to put you away for a long time. I knew you weren't ordering flowers for your mother. I did a little checking, and your mother's birthday isn't for 2 months. That's when I knew something was wrong.

MOLE

You act like you've never heard of illegal search and seizure. You're in my private things. You didn't have probable cause to search me.

KAREN

That's where your wrong. Every keystroke on your computer is logged by the office, including setting up an illegal wiretap.

Mole leaves the cubicle and walks quickly toward the exit.

Karen gets out of her seat and tackles him.

They fight, but she's kicking his ass.

He wriggles his way free and starts running down the aisle.

KAREN (CONT'D)

(pointing her gun at his back.)

Freeze!

Mole draws his sidearm and takes a shot at Karen, missing her.

Screams ring out in the office.

Just so she won't take a shot at him, he grabs a HOSTAGE as a human shield.

HOSTAGE

What the hell are you doing, Mike?

MOLE

Shut up, bitch! You're coming with me.

(to everyone else)

Now, I'm walking out of here, and nobody try to stop me, or this bitch gets 2 in the head.

Several other AGENTS draw their guns and point at him.

MOLE (CONT'D)

You did this, Karen. You did it all yourself. If this bitch dies, you're going to have her blood on your hands.

Hostage elbows Mole and breaks away from his grasp.

Mole fires a shot in Karen's direction.

Mole is riddled with bullets by the other Agents.

INT. INTERNET CAFE - DAY

Lee sits at a computer, banging away on a detective site.

LEE (V.O.)

P.I. sites are great for finding people in the states. They're reasonably complete in most first-world countries, too. I didn't know how complete they'd be here. This was my first trip to Belize.

After searching for Dr. David Burke in Belize City, he comes up with a hit.

ECU on screen showing name and address of a recent renter of a house.

LEE

Terrific!

Other patrons look at him as he's talking to himself.
Lee writes down the address and logs off the computer.
Lee calls Maggie on his way out.

RING...

MAGGIE

Hello, Lee. What news do you have for me?

LEE

Hi, Maggie. I wanted to let you know that I made it to Belize ok, and that I have an address on Roach. I'm going to meet him now.

MAGGIE

That's great! I want you to bring him back to me.

LEE

Far be it for me to argue with somebody whose paying my bills, but don't you think he's hiding for a good reason? Didn't you just want him found?

MAGGIE

No, I wanted him found and brought back to us.

LEE

I don't really think that's up to me. He's a big boy, he can make that decision all by himself.

MAGGIE

That's true, he can, but it's up to you to convince him that's the right move.

Lee sighs.

LEE

I'll do what I can.

INT. LIBRARY 2 - DAY

Alek and Vitali are at the computers and trying to look up Roach.

This scene takes place in English.

VITALI

Did you find anything yet?

ALEK

Almost there. I've located a traveler from Orlando, Florida who arrived yesterday. Bringing up his passport photo now.

The passport photo comes up on screen.

ALEK (CONT'D)

That's him. Dr. David Burke, 1406 Walker Street, Belize City.

VITALI

Good. Let's get out of here and go pay him a visit.

EXT. BELIZE HOUSE - DAY

In the late afternoon, Lee pulls up to Walker Street in a cab and gets out.

Lee goes up and knocks on the door.

Roach opens the door a crack.

ROACH

Can I help you?

LEE

I'm looking for Dr. David Burke.

ROACH

I'm Dr. Burke. How can I help you?

LEE

Look, there's no point in me playing games. Your sister Lori wanted me to find you.

ROACH

I don't have a sister.

LEE

Yes, you do, Roach. She looks more like her mother, but you look more like your father.

(MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

Lori has long brown hair and blue eyes, and a tattoo of a crescent moon on her left hip.

ROACH

I'm not even going to ask how you know about the tattoo. Please come in.

Lee and Roach sit in the living room.

LEE (V.O.)

I laid it all out for him...what I knew about Maggie, the Russians, Lori, Merlin, the townhouse in Clearwater, the wall safe, the whole ball of wax. He took the news surprisingly well.

ROACH

Well, I really do need to get back to them, but I can't go with this hanging over my head. If you can somehow get me out of this mess, I'll gladly go back with you. I miss my family.

LEE

What can I do to help?

Roach gets a phone call.

ROACH

(to Lee)

Excuse me.

(into phone)

Hello?

KAREN

Roach, it's Karen Wimmer. We've been trading emails back and forth.

ROACH

How did you get this number?

KAREN

I have my ways. But if I can find you, so can others.

ROACH

What can you do for me, Karen? I hope you don't mind that I call you Karen.

KAREN

No, no. I don't mind at all, Rufus.

ROACH

Nobody's called me that in years.

KAREN

Well, I would have made this call earlier, but we've had some problems here at the office. I can meet you somewhere - anywhere, really.

ROACH

Ok, come to Belize and meet me. When will you be here?

KAREN

I can be there tomorrow. Where do you want to meet?

ROACH

Meet me at the base of the Baron Bliss lighthouse at 3pm tomorrow. I'll give you the information then. If you know all about me, then you must know what I look like, yes?

KAREN

I've seen pictures. I know what you look like.

Lee breaks into the conversation.

LEE

I'm going with you.

ROACH

There will be a white man traveling with me. He will be wearing a linen suit and a white Panama hat. He's going to be my guardian angel.

KAREN

What's his name?

ROACH

Lee Gibson.

KAREN

Fine, I'll meet you and Lee tomorrow. Goodbye for now.

Roach hangs up.

ROACH

If you know why I'm here, then you must know why I'm hiding.

LEE

I do. Maggie told me everything.

ROACH

How is Maggie holding up?

LEE

She's doing as well as can be expected, but she's understandably scared. The Russians have got her spooked.

ROACH

Yeah, they do that. Listen, if you're serious about going with me tomorrow, then you should probably bring along some firepower. You should see if Merlin knows anybody down here. Meanwhile, I've got to get the data from where I've got it stashed, so I'll take care of that tonight. That's my homework.

Lee gets up to leave.

LEE

I'll pick you up here at 1 tomorrow. Until then.

Lee exits.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Maggie walks down the hall, looking for Lori's apartment.

Lori comes out of a neighbor's apartment.

LORI

(to unseen neighbor)
And don't worry about the bowl, you can just give it back to me whenever.

Neighbor shuts door.

MAGGIE

Lori?

LORI

Yes, that's me. Can I help you?

MAGGIE

I'm so glad I finally found you. My name is Maggie Johnson. I'm a friend of your brother's.

Lori makes for her apartment door, but Maggie blocks her way.

LORI

What do you want with Roach?

MAGGIE

I want him to come back to me - to us. Now, I don't mean you any harm, I just miss him and wanted to know more about his family. He's pretty tight-lipped about you.

Lori relaxes a little.

LORI

Yeah, that's him. He's never talked about you, though, Maggie. Come on, let's talk inside.

They go to...

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MAGGIE

We were trying to keep our relationship secret. As I'm sure you know, no matter how enlightened people pretend to be, there's still a stigma about interracial relationships.

LORI

Yeah, I'm afraid I'm about to be it's latest victim, too.

MAGGIE

You're involved with somebody? That's great. But you look like you could weather the storm ok.

LORI

Yes, I am light-skinned, but somehow, I don't think that will help much.

MAGGIE

Well, I miss your brother, so that's why I hired a detective to find him.

LORI

You hired Lee?

MAGGIE

Lee Gibson? Yes. I didn't realize you were acquainted.

LORI

We met a few days ago. I supplied him with a picture.

MAGGIE

Is he the interracial relationship you were talking about?

LORI

Yes. We got close. We promised to see each other after this mess is all over. I don't know where he is now, just that he's close to finding my brother.

MAGGIE

They're in Belize. Your brother is running because of something I got him involved in, and believe me, I feel bad about it.

LORI (V.O.)

We talked for the next few hours. Maggie came clean with me about her drug use and the aftermath. I must say that when she left, I felt like I had a new friend.

INT. DRUG LAB - NIGHT

Ivan and Sergei are watching over the process, while the Asians cut up the product.

The Asians are wearing their latex gloves and surgical masks to avoid ingesting the Slam.

DISTRIBUTOR

We're almost done cutting the whole shipment.

SERGEI

Good. We want to get it to our dealers before the night is over.

DISTRIBUTOR

It will be ready. I'd say another hour or so.

IVAN

That's good. We will wait.

INT. LEE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lee wakes up suddenly. He's drenched in sweat and panting.

He walks to the bathroom, splashes water on his face and looks in the mirror a long time.

LEE

Oh, God. Does it ever stop?

Lee grabs the bottle of melatonin from the medicine cabinet, takes a few pills, and turns off the light.

LEE (CONT'D)

Goodnight, cruel world.

EXT. BELIZE HOUSE - NIGHT

Alek and Vitali break into the house, looking for Roach.

INT. BELIZE HOUSE - NIGHT

Vitali and Alek find Roach. Their breaking in woke him up.

VITALI

You stole from us. We don't like that. Give us back the information, and we'll leave quietly.

ROACH

You're too late. I gave it to the DEA. All you Russian bastards are going down for this.

ALEK

I think you're lying to us. If you gave it to them, then why are you still hiding down here?

Roach tries to run, but they block his exit.

A fight ensues.

Roach tries to hold his own for a bit, but the Russians beat him up pretty bad, and drag him out of the house unconscious.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Karen is on her way down to Belize to meet with Roach.

KAREN (V.O.)
Hard to believe that I'll be in
Belize in less time than it takes
to fly to California.

KAREN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
After I get there, I should have
time to grab lunch before my
meeting with Roach.

INT. BELIZE RESTAURANT - DAY

Lee is sitting at a table by himself, eating a late breakfast.

He is reading a newspaper while he eats.

INT. RENTED VAN - DAY

Vitali is driving, while Alek is in the back of the moving van, sitting on a toolbox.

Roach is on his knees, with his hands tied behind his back and a black bag over his head.

ALEK
So, you wouldn't give us what we
were after, now we've got to play
this game with you, yes?

Roach moans, but can't speak because under the hood, his mouth is duct taped.

ALEK (CONT'D)
What's the matter? Can't you talk
with tape on your mouth? Don't
worry, we'll take it off soon
enough.

VITALI
(in Russian)
We've just crossed into Mexico. We
will be at the warehouse soon.

ALEK
(to Roach)
How do you like that? We'll beat
the shit out of you soon.

EXT. BARON BLISS LIGHTHOUSE - DAY

Karen walks around the lighthouse looking for anyone matching
Roach's description.

She checks her watch, and it's 3:12.

Unknowingly, she stands next to Lee.

KAREN
(out loud, to self)
Come on, Roach, where are you?

LEE
Excuse me, you're waiting for
Roach, too?

KAREN
Yeah, I was wondering where he is.
Are you Lee Gibson?

LEE
Yes, I am. I was supposed to meet
him at his place 2 hours ago. I
hope those goons didn't get to him.

KAREN
Come on, let's take a walk.

Karen and Lee walk away, arm in arm, like a couple.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Roach was supposed to make an
exchange with me.

LEE
I know. He was going to give you
some information on the Slam trade
and the Russian Mafia operating in
Orlando.

KAREN
How did you know?

LEE

I was at his place last night when you called. That's when we set this whole thing up. He has the information on a thumb drive that he's got stashed somewhere. He wouldn't tell me where. What, exactly, were you going to do for him?

KAREN

Squash the bank's internal investigation into a break-in at their offices.

LEE

Well, it's obvious that Roach isn't showing up. Did you bring the cavalry with you?

KAREN

No, this is just me. I flew down here on my own steam.

LEE

I think we're going to find him easier working together, don't you?

KAREN

I think you're right, but we don't really know what even happened to him.

LEE

I'm betting the Russians got to him before he had a chance to come today. It's as good a place as any to start, isn't it?

KAREN

I suppose. We need to get to an Internet-connected computer and search for any Russian holdings in the area.

LEE

Come on. I know a place.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Maggie walks down the hall and comes to Lori's door.

She knocks and Lori answers.

MAGGIE
Good afternoon, Lori.

They hug their hellos.

LORI
Hello, Maggie. Come on in, won't
you?

They move to...

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - DAY

MAGGIE
Sorry to bother you again, but I'm
worried about your brother, and I
figured it would help to be with
somebody who understood.

LORI
That's ok. I totally understand.
You want a drink?

MAGGIE
You got any coffee?

LORI
I don't drink it often enough to
keep it in the house. How about
some juice?

MAGGIE
Ok.

Lori gets Maggie the juice.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Oh, I got an email from Roach when
I opened it up this morning. He
must have sent it last night. It
was cryptic, but he told me this is
almost over, and he'll be home
soon.

LORI
Good.

MAGGIE
He's making some kind of deal
today, but I don't know exactly
what. Maybe he got in touch with
that woman we were supposed to hand
the information off to last week.

LORI
That would be nice.

INT. MEXICO WAREHOUSE - DAY

Roach is tied to a chair with the hood removed and the tape still on his mouth.

Vitali and Alek are taking turns punching him.

Alek tears off the tape.

ALEK
You ready to talk now?

Roach spits blood in his face.

ROACH
Yeah. Go to hell.

He earns more punches for this.

Vitali grabs a knife and slashes Roach's left palm.

Roach howls in pain.

VITALI
How about now?

Very labored breathing and speech.

ROACH
Ok, ok.

ALEK
Finally. Speak, doggie.

ROACH
Go north. North Pole - ask for
Santa.

Vitali hits Roach in the mouth for this, knocking him unconscious.

INT. INTERNET CAFE - DAY

As afternoon wanes, Lee is working the keyboard of the computer, and Karen is standing behind him.

Lee is looking up flights out of Belize, finding nothing.

KAREN

Well, that's getting us nowhere.
Let's try a different search. Look
up Russian holdings in the area.

LEE

Ok. Here goes.

Lee keys the new search data.

A hit pops up on screen.

KAREN

There, that one. Pravda Industries.
Pravda is Russian for truth. But it
looks like it's in Mexico.

LEE

According to this, that lease
expired 6 months ago.

KAREN

Yeah, but it's the first thing
we've had to go on, and we've been
here all afternoon.

LEE

Might as well check it out.
Shouldn't be difficult to get into
Mexico from here. Looks like a
straight shot driving.

KAREN

I'd say 2, maybe 3 hours, tops.

Lee writes the address on a piece of scrap paper and gets up.

LEE

Let's get out of here.

As they walk by the Monitor, Karen throws him a \$20.

They go outside to....

INT. KAREN'S RENTAL CAR - NIGHT

Lee and Karen continue their conversation.

KAREN

So, we've got an address to check
out. It might be easier if we check
it out during the daylight.

LEE

Whatever the Russians planned to do with Roach, I'm sure they've done it by now. If he can just hang on for another day, he'll be good.

KAREN

But we don't want to waste anymore time than that.

LEE

You're right. Extra time is a luxury we don't have. I'm going to call a friend and get us some extra muscle down here.

KAREN

Do you trust this friend of yours?

LEE

Yes, I do. He wouldn't screw me, and there's no way he's working for the Russians.

INT. RUSSIAN RESTAURANT OFFICE - NIGHT

Sergei is handling some business.

Dmitri and Ivan are there.

Unless otherwise specified, the following scene will be spoken in Russian and subtitled in English.

SERGEI

That's good. Where do we stand on the credit card skimming?

IVAN

We have 12 skimmers in the city, and 8 of them are returning significant profits, the other 4 have not been used since we installed them.

SERGEI

Then, we've got to encourage people to use them. What about our Slam trade?

DMITRI

Things look good. We're making plenty of profit on our investment, and no sign of the police or the DEA.

DMITRI (CONT'D)

If Vitali and Alek haven't gotten the data back from that hacker, they've at least gotten him to not use it.

SERGEI

That's not good enough. I don't want it used EVER! Get Alek on the phone now. I want to know where they've gotten with their hacker.

DMITRI

Yes, boss. I'll call him now.

Dmitri calls Alek.

RING...

ALEK

Yes?

DMITRI

Alek, it's Dmitri. Boss wants a progress report.

ALEK

We've got the good doctor now, and we're interrogating him about the files. I would say we'll have them soon.

DMITRI

Is he talking now?

ALEK

No, he's unconscious right now.

DMITRI

Well, wake him up. Boss wants this finished as soon as possible.

Dmitri hangs up.

Alek puts away his phone and rubs his hands with some smelling salts, which he runs under Roach's nose.

ALEK
 (in English)
 Wakey, wakey.

Roach snorts to life.

INT. HOTEL ROOM #1 - NIGHT

Lee sits on his bed and texts Merlin.

MSG: I'm hot on the trail of our friend. Things may get hot in Mexico. Got any friends with tools in Belize?

Lee throws his phone down on the bed.

He goes out on the balcony for a cigarette and lights up.

INT. HOTEL ROOM #2 - NIGHT

Karen calls into work for Monday. An OPERATOR answers the phone.

RING...

OPERATOR
 DEA Field office, Orlando. Melinda speaking. How may I direct your call?

KAREN
 Melinda, it's Karen Wimmer. Is Doug still in his office?

OPERATOR
 No, he went home about 2 hours ago. Can I do something for you, Karen?

KAREN
 Well, I'm just calling to say that I'm going to have to take a personal day on Monday. I can't get away from here yet.

OPERATOR
 Oh, you slipped away with your mystery man for a little hanky panky?

KAREN
 No, he doesn't know I'm here.

OPERATOR

Don't tell me you're on a romantic
getaway without him.

KAREN

No, this is....something else.

OPERATOR

Alright. If you're sure
everything's ok, I'll patch you
through to Doug's voicemail.

KAREN

Thanks, Melinda.

INT. HOTEL ROOM #1 - NIGHT

Lee has finished his cigarette and comes back in.

He picks up his phone and sees that Merlin returned his text.

Merlin's Text: I do know a fellow in Belize City who
specializes in the kind of hardware you will need. I'll text
you his phone number.

INT. AIRPORT IN BELIZE CITY, BELIZE - DAY

Dax is riding down the escalator to the baggage area.

At the bottom, he is met by Lee and Karen.

LEE

Welcome to Belize, Dax. Got a bag?

DAX

No, just this carry-on.

While they talk, they walk to Karen's car.

KAREN

Thank you for coming on such short
notice.

LEE

Oh, yeah. Dax, Karen. Karen, Dax.
And thanks, Dax.

DAX

No problem. The furniture store let
me go the other day, so I had time.

LEE

Sorry to hear about the job, but I'm glad you've got some time, 'cause we've got to hit the ground running, here. We've got a hacker to run down in Mexico, and we could use the extra muscle.

They have made it to Karen's car.

INT. KAREN'S RENTAL CAR - DAY

LEE

You two chat, I've got a phone call I have to make.

Dax and Karen chatter away in the background while Lee calls.

MOCO (Mexican, 40s) is an arms dealer that is Merlin's contact.

RING...

MOCO

Hello?

LEE

I heard you paint houses.

MOCO

Not anymore, but I still have the equipment.

LEE

My name is Lee Gibson. We have a mutual friend. I was passed your number by a hacker in Orlando, Florida who goes by the name Merlin.

MOCO

How is Merlin?

LEE

His usual self. In control of everything around him. Anyway, I'm having a little problem down here in Belize, and I was hoping to secure your services.

MOCO

Why don't you come by in about an hour? I'll text you the address.

LEE

Great. See you then.

Lee hangs up.

INT. MEXICO WAREHOUSE - DAY

Vitali and Alek are discussing Roach's fate.

VITALI

I say we just leave him here all alone. He'll be ready to talk soon enough.

ALEK

I like it. Let's find a small room to drag him to.

VITALI

Agreed.

Vitali and Alek disappear into the warehouse.

ROACH (V.O.)

What the hell are you doing? Do you really care if they sell their drugs? Somebody else will if they don't.

Roach passes out again.

Vitali and Alek re-enter.

They unchain him from his chair and drag his limp body to a small room and throw it in. Very dark.

ALEK

You know, the detective is looking for him, and he's probably close. I think we should get some more firepower in here.

Vitali considers a moment.

EXT. CITY PARK - DAY

Lori is worried about her brother.

She paces around the park, looking at her phone.

LORI

Come on. You should have gotten it to them by now. Why haven't you called?

She walks a little more.

LORI (CONT'D)

Maggie's worried about you to. Call, dammit!

EXT. MOCO'S HACIENDA - DAY

MOCO (Latino, 40ish, mustache) answers the doorbell. Standing there are Lee, Karen, and Dax.

MOCO

Yes, can I help you?

LEE

Moco, we spoke on the phone. I'm Merlin's friend Lee.

MOCO

Please, come in.

INT. MOCO'S HACIENDA - DAY

KAREN

Thanks for seeing us on short notice like this. We've got a little rescue mission to plan, and time is kinda of the essence.

MOCO

No worries.

DAX

I've never heard the name Moco before. What does it mean?

Moco leads the 3 of them to the basement steps.

MOCO

Well, as you can probably tell, I'm Mexican. I used to pick my nose as a kid, so Moco is Spanish slang for booger.

KAREN

Lovely.
 (turning to Dax)
 You had to ask.

Down the steps into the basement, which has been turned into a makeshift gun room.

MOCO

Bienvenidos a mi casa. See anything you like?

Karen, Dax, and Lee split up and go to separate racks.

LEE

Yeah, just a few things. We're on kind of a limited budget, and we'll be wanting to sell these back to you after the raid, so what kind of deal can you make for 3 grand?

MOCO

We'll find you something.

The 3 look around for a moment.

They look at the collection of pistols for a minute, but don't see anything they want.

The 3 split up and go to the rifles.

Each picks out a weapon.

They reconvene back at Moco's desk.

MOCO (CONT'D)

Ok, let's just say you're going to take these for a while and you'll bring them back to me tomorrow, yes?

LEE

Right, tomorrow.

KAREN

Yeah, tomorrow.

MOCO

Ok, I'll tell you what...you take these guns, give me the \$3000, and tomorrow when you bring them back, I'll give you \$2500 back. The rest I keep for myself. Fair enough?

LEE

Works for me. Now, we'll need ammo
for each of them, too.

MOCO

Don't worry, I'll throw that in.
And I'll get you a big black duffel
bag to carry them in.

The group leaves with their guns in the bag. Two M-4s and for
Dax an MP-5. Each weapon has a silencer attached.

INT. MEXICO WAREHOUSE -- AFTERNOON

Vitali and Alek have managed to wrangle 3 guns for hire
(CARTEL 1, CARTEL 2, and CARTEL 3). Each is wearing
camouflage, and a boonie hat, and armed with an AK-47.

VITALI

Thank you for coming on short
notice like this. We're trying to
get information out of our hostage,
but for the time being, we think
there's probably a plan in place to
rescue him. We need you three to
stand guard, one outside and two
inside to keep the rescue party
out.

The Cartel stands there stone-faced.

ALEK

Do you even speak English?

CARTEL 1

I do.

CARTEL 2

I do.

(pointing toward Cartel 3)
He doesn't.

ALEK

Well, then, tell him what we just
said.

CARTEL 2

(in Spanish, to Cartel 3)
They have a hostage that they are
trying to get information from.
People are probably coming to
rescue him, so that's why we're
here.

(MORE)

CARTEL 2 (CONT'D)

All we have to do is shoot at intruders. Two of us inside and the other one outside.

Cartel 3 decides to guard the outside.

EXT. CITY STREET #2 - DAY

Dmitri and Ivan pull up in a Mercedes, get out, and are walking down the street and toward a high-class restaurant.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - DAY

Dmitri and Ivan walk in and just look at the Maitre 'd, who greets them and then goes to get the manager.

DMITRI

Good afternoon...Paul, right?

MAITRE 'D

Yes, Paul. Good afternoon. Who are you?

DMITRI

I am Dmitri. Alek is otherwise occupied. I'm here for the money.

MAITRE 'D

(lowers his voice)

We have this week's cut for you. Let me just go get the manager. I'll be right back. Please, have a seat.

IVAN

Hurry up. I want to be out of here before the dinner crowd gets here.

Dmitri and Ivan stand.

Exit maitre'd.

Manager comes out of the back with a manila envelope stuffed with cash.

MANAGER

Hello, boys. I think this is what you're looking for. \$4500. It's all there.

DMITRI

Thank you. We'll be in touch.

Dmitri and Ivan turn and leave.

Dmitri starts to get in the car, Ivan continues down the sidewalk.

DMITRI (CONT'D)
(in Russian)
Where are you going?

IVAN
(in Russian)
There's a wedding dress shop down
the street that we need to collect
from. It won't take long.

INT. KAREN'S RENTAL CAR - DAY

In the dying light of late afternoon, Lee and Dax are in the car with her. The 3 are on their way to the warehouse where Roach is being held.

LEE
That was an easy border crossing.
Good thing they didn't want to
check the trunk.

DAX
Yeah, good thing.

KAREN
We're coming up on the GPS
coordinates of the warehouse. We
need to find a place to lay low and
hit them from.

LEE
According to this, we're only 2 km
away.

DAX
Look. There's an abandoned
building. Pull behind it. We can
use that as our base.

Karen does as instructed.

Lee gets the bag from the trunk and they go in.

KAREN
We'll wait until dark to hit them.
I'm going to go out there and do
some recon before our raid.

LEE

No, I'll go.

KAREN

I'm perfectly capable of doing this myself. I'm not your average delicate little flower of a woman. I can handle this.

LEE

Sorry. It's been bred into my culture. I guess old habits die hard. Just stay off the road. You don't need to get spotted with that gun before we get our job done.

KAREN

I know.

INT. LORI'S APARTMENT LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lori is on her couch, talking to Maggie on the phone.

LORI

Hello, Maggie.

MAGGIE

Hi, Lori. Any word from your brother yet?

LORI

No, not yet. I haven't heard from Lee, either. I guess they haven't found him yet. Something must be wrong.

MAGGIE

Yeah, I know. Lee said he'd found out where Roach was being held when I talked to him last. He was in Belize.

LORI

Yeah, you told me. I've got to go to bed in a few hours. Got to work tomorrow. I sure hope I hear something before then. I'm so worried about both of them.

MAGGIE

Yeah, me too. Do you want to come over?

LORI

No, like I said, I've got to turn in early. Maybe tomorrow we can have dinner or something.

MAGGIE

Ok, that sounds good.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

It's just as well, I've got to work tomorrow, too. Alright, well, I'll let you go, then. Let me know if you hear something.

LORI

You, too. Bye, Maggie.

INT. MEXICO WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Vitali and Alek drag Roach out of the hole and interrogate him some more.

VITALI

(in Russian)

Go get our friend. Maybe he will talk now.

ALEK

(in Russian)

I'll be right back.

Alek disappears.

Elsewhere in warehouse...

Alek opens a door in a darkened room.

ALEK (CONT'D)

(in English)

Wake up, my friend.

Roach moans in the dark.

Alek pulls out the chair and begins to push it toward the main part of the warehouse.

ROACH

Stop! Please just stop. I've had enough.

ALEK

(in English)

You are ready to talk now, yes?

ROACH

I'll say whatever you want me to say.

Back in the front room...

VITALI

(in English)

You look rough.

ROACH

I feel it, too. I'm ready to talk.

VITALI

Good. We can stop wasting time. Where is the information you have stolen from us?

EXT. MEXICO WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Perched on a hill, hidden in deep undergrowth, Karen looks toward the warehouse through binoculars, M-4 slung on her back.

KAREN

Ok, just 1 guard outside, and I see 2 inside, but there may be more.

Looking through the window...

KAREN (CONT'D)

And there's our hostage. He looks pretty beat up, but he's still alive. Oh, look...he's with that prick that tried to rape me. I'm going to put a bullet in that bald-ass head of yours, you son of a bitch.

INT. ABANDONED GAS STATION - NIGHT

Dax and Lee are discussing their options, and drinking the sodas they bought along the way, out of the cooler that they brought with them.

DAX

Well, we're close enough to the warehouse that if she'd been shot, we would have heard it. I'm sure she'll be back soon.

LEE

Yeah, it is. I'm getting worried about her. If she's not back by the time we finish this drink, I'm going to look for her. By the way, why were you so eager to come down here when I asked you?

DAX

Reasons. Maybe I'll tell you about it one day. For now, let's just say I know how to handle myself and leave it at that.

LEE

Fair enough. Anyway, thanks. I sure could use your help, since there's only 3 of us on this little field trip.

DAX

No worries, amigo.

Lee has finished his soda and grabs his M-4.

LEE

Ok, I'm done with my drink, and she's not back yet, so I said I'd go look for her.

DAX

You're not going anywhere without me.

LEE

I appreciate that.

Just then, Karen comes through the door, somewhat wet, but not soaked.

KAREN

Hi, boys...miss me?

DAX

As a matter of fact, we did. Lee here was just leaving to look for you, and I was going to come with him. So, what did you find out?

INT. DRUG LAB - NIGHT

The Distributor is overseeing his Asians packing the drugs and talking to the ARMED GUARD (40s, white, wife beater, armed with a riot shotgun).

DISTRIBUTOR

I know. The hurricanes have been horrible this year. Especially since we haven't had a real hurricane in years.

ARMED GUARD

How long do you think it's going to take Puerto Rico to get back to normal?

DISTRIBUTOR

Well, I would say a year, but with our President in the way, probably 2.

Just then, there is a knock on the door.

Armed guard racks his shotgun.

ARMED GUARD

I'll see who it is.

It is a police Lieutenant at the door.

Armed guard peer's through the slide in the door.

POLICE LT.

Relax, Charlie, it's just me.

ARMED GUARD

Oh, good. I thought it was a raid for a minute, but they don't knock.

POLICE LT.

Well, they knock once.

ARMED GUARD

Funny. Anyway, I'm guessing you're here for this week's cut.

POLICE LT.

You got it. Oh, hi, Mark.

DISTRIBUTOR

How are you doing tonight, Gerry?

POLICE LT.

Things have been worse. It's a quiet night.

DISTRIBUTOR

Well, that's because it's not a full moon.

Distributor opens up the safe and gets out a wad of cash.

DISTRIBUTOR (CONT'D)

Here you go. I threw you a little extra because we have a new product out on the streets.

Police Lt. takes the cash.

POLICE LT.

Thanks. You got anything else for me?

DISTRIBUTOR

Yeah, actually I do. There's a street gang that's trying to muscle in on our territory. They're home base is on the corner of East Colonial and Dean.

POLICE LT.

I'll check it out.

ARMED GUARD

See you next week, Gerry.

POLICE LT.

I guess that's my cue. See you guys next week. Same bat time, same bat channel.

DISTRIBUTOR

Yeah.

Police Lt. leaves without another word.

Distributor makes a call.

INT. RUSSIAN RESTAURANT OFFICE - NIGHT

The top of the Russian crew is counting their money from this week's take.

The dialog will be in Russian.

DMITRI

Here's this week's cut from the street dealers.

Dmitri hand's Sergei a fat envelop.

IVAN

And here's this week's cut from the restaurants.

SERGEI

Thank you. I just got off the phone with our distributor. The police came by for this week's cut, so we're out that money, but it's money well spent.

INT. MEXICO WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

ROACH

I've got it stashed. It's in the house I have down here in the hollowed out leg of the coffee table.

VITALI

(in Russian)

We need to go get it before somebody else gets there first. Go get the van and get ready to move. We will leave at midnight.

Alek exits. Vitali stays with Roach.

ALEK

(in Russian)

Yes, boss. But what if he's lying to us?

VITALI

(in Russian)

We'll have to take that chance. We can't afford not to, but perhaps we take him with us, yes?

ALEK

(In Russian)

I think that would be best.

VITALI

(in English)

How do you like that. You're going on a little field trip.

ROACH

No, please. I've had enough.

INT. ABANDONED GAS STATION - NIGHT

Karen is filling the boys in on what she found out.

KAREN

I suggest we move soon. I got the impression that they're going to leave before sunrise.

DAX

I don't see why we don't leave now.

LEE

No time like the present.

KAREN

I'm game. Let's go.

INT. DEA FIELD OFFICE - NIGHT

The DEA agents in the immediate affected area are all discussing the records of the investigation into the mole's illegal activities.

Among them is Detective DOUG FABIAN (50-ish, lead detective, black).

DOUG

The shit sheet just came back on Michael Bakker. We inventoried his desk and checked his personal cell phone records. He had 2 illegal wiretaps and hacking software on his personal computer. We found that he'd broken into Karen Wimmer's personal email. He must have used a burner phone to call his contacts, whoever they were. The DA's not going to file charges against any of us, as the police have ruled it a clean shoot.

DEA AGENT #1

Should there be anymore fallout from his hobby?

DOUG

I wouldn't think so. I believe we nipped this one in the bud.

DEA AGENT #2

Do we know anything about who he was working for?

DOUG

Forensics found his burner phone. It had a bullet hole in it, so we can't pull anything off it, but the phone company is checking records for us. They haven't gotten back to us yet. Anyway, it's late, so thanks for putting in the extra time for this prick, but we can all go home and sleep the sleep of the angels, knowing that we nailed a dirty agent.

EXT. MEXICO WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

KAREN

I suppose this is a bad time to tell you guys that I've never killed anything bigger than a rabbit.

LEE

You're right, Karen. This is a bad time to tell us that. Alright, since I'm the one who was in the Army, and I've planned this kind of raid before, I guess I'm up. I see one sentry outside, and I can see bodies through the windows, but can't tell what's going on inside. I'll drop the guard outside, and you two take up flanking positions and enter from the sides. Karen, didn't you say there's a door on each side of the building?

KAREN

Yeah, I did.

LEE

Dax? You ever killed anything bigger than a rabbit?

DAX

I plead the fifth.

LEE

Fair enough.

LEE (CONT'D)

Everybody synchronize your watches. I've got 10:37 right now. I'll give you 5 minutes to get in position, then I drop the sentry and we go in shooting. You all remember what our hostage looks like?

DAX

Yes.

KAREN

Yes.

LEE

Good. Make sure you don't shoot him. And Karen, remember...they're just paper targets. They have to be, because the reality is just too creepy to think about.

The group breaks up. Karen goes one way and Dax goes another, leaving Lee all alone.

Lee lies prone and looks through his scope and finds the guard outside.

Just about the time he locates Cartel 3 in the scope, he starts shaking uncontrollably and passes out next to the gun.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. ARMY BASE OFFICE - DAY

At sunrise, Lee is standing before a COLONEL (male, late 40s, big and buff) in his office on base.

The office is sparsely decorated, but has 2 flagpoles, one with the American flag and one with an Army banner.

Both men are dressed in fatigues, Lee is standing at parade rest, the Colonel is seated at his desk.

COLONEL

You've served us well, and I can't tell you how sorry I am about your fiancée, but....

LEE

Thank you, sir.

Colonel starts to say something to Lee for interrupting him, but thinks twice about it.

COLONEL

As I was saying, Juliet's death notwithstanding, I've read the medics' assessment of your injuries, and we have no choice but to medically discharge you. I'm sorry, I know you were in for the duration, but plans are going to have to change. I'm afraid this is the end of your time with the U.S. Army. Good luck to you, Sergeant.

Lee salutes, and the Colonel returns the salute.

LEE

Thank you, Colonel.

COLONEL

Dismissed.

INT. ARMY BASE HOUSING - DAY

Lee is packing his rucksack.

Boxes are lined up on his living room floor.

Suddenly, David Dawes appears in his bedroom.

DAVID

Hey, buddy, so what did the Colonel say?

LEE

I'm to be medically discharged. I have to leave tomorrow morning.

DAVID

That sucks. Sorry, brother. It's not going to be the same without you.

LEE

Yeah.

DAVID

Who am I kidding, I'll be out of here in 6 months, too. I'm not re-upping.

LEE

Really? I never figured you for a civilian.

DAVID

I've had enough of this Army life. I'm going to take my GI Bill and go to college and move back to Mississippi. I miss it.

EXT. ARMY BASE PARADE GROUNDS - DAY

The Colonel is up on a platform, speaking into a podium mic.

Half a dozen soldiers join Lee, standing at full attention, in their Class A uniforms. It is a mix of men and women.

COLONEL

And so, in conclusion, Thank you, ladies and gentlemen for your service to this great country. You have all served with honor and distinction, and the US Army has been proud to have you. Godspeed to all of you. Dismissed.

Colonel salutes the soldiers, and the soldiers return the salute.

END FLASHBACK

EXT. MEXICO WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Lee is lying on the ground with his M-4 next to him.

He is drenched in sweat and shaking.

LEE

Come on, you can do this. Just get up. People are counting on you.

After lying there for a second longer, Lee rolls over, grabs his rifle, pops up in a kneeling position, looks through the scope and puts 2 in the heart of Cartel 3.

Elsewhere, Dax kicks in the door on the side.

There is no door on Karen's side, but a window. She opens it and slings her M-4, and begins to crawl through the window.

INT. MEXICO WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Cartel 2 walks around, heading toward the sound of the door being kicked in.

He raises his rifle, but is shot by Dax before he recognizes what's going on.

VITALI
(in Russian)
What was that?

Alek draws his pistol.

ALEK
(in Russian)
I don't know, but I'll go find out.

Karen rolls through the window and falls down onto a table under the window, and then onto the floor.

Alek blindly fires 2 rounds.

Cartel 1 rounds the corner with his AK-47 drawn and pointed at some crates.

CARTEL 1
Where are you, pendejo?

Alek rounds the corner and sees Cartel 1 standing there. He silently points for him to go one way, while he goes the other.

Roach looks like a beaten man. His head is down and he's drooling blood and spit onto his already bloody shirt.

Vitali forces Roach's head up.

VITALI
I think your friends are trying to
save you, yes?

No response from Roach.

VITALI (CONT'D)
Well, they won't get that chance.

Vitali lets go of Roach's head, takes one step back and draws his pistol.

He points it at Roach's chest.

VITALI (CONT'D)
(in Russian)
Good night, bitch. You're more
trouble than you're worth.

Roach suddenly comes alive. He round kicks the gun out of Vitali's hand, then kicks again, right across the temple, knocking him out.

Roach has finally managed to free a splinter from the wooden chair and begins to pick his handcuffs with it.

Eventually, he picks the lock open and rubs his sore wrists, then picks up Vitali's pistol.

He holds the gun on Vitali and thinks of shooting him, but his hand shakes uncontrollably, and he can't bring himself to do it, so he runs off toward the noise.

Karen moves around the warehouse and, finding Cartel 2, but not surprising him, engages in a gunfight.

As Cartel 2 is trying to move, Karen shoots him.

She stands up to go over to his body and kick the gun free when Alek appears around the corner and levels his gun at her head.

Roach rises up and strikes Alek in the back of the neck with the butt of his gun.

KAREN
Thank you. You must be Roach.

ROACH
I am. And you must be...hell, I don't know who you are, but you've been shooting at the Russians, so you can't be all bad.

KAREN
I'm Karen. I'm that contact at the DEA that you've been trying to connect with. I suppose we nailed them all, so I need to get my hands on the evidence you've got.

ROACH
I'll be glad to get that to you, but first, I'd like to go to the hospital.

KAREN

Yeah, you don't look so good, so I think we can arrange that. I'll need to make a few phone calls, anyway, to get everything straightened out with my DEA friends.

MONTAGE BEGINS

Roach being treated at the hospital.

Karen on the phone.

Lee is on the computer, with Dax next to him.

Roach retrieving the thumb drive with evidence on it from his hiding place in Belize.

A DEA plane arrives in Mexico and takes charge of Alek and Vitali.

Lee, Karen, and Dax are at Moco's, selling back the guns that they bought for the raid.

Karen, Dax, Lee, and Roach are all on a plane home to Florida.

MONTAGE ENDS

EXT. AIRPORT IN ORLANDO, FL - DAY

Lee calls Lori as soon as he's back on US soil.

LEE

Hello, Lori?

LORI

Oh my God! Hi, Lee! I'm so glad to hear your voice. How are you? Did you bring my brother home with you?

LEE

Yes, I'm back in Florida, and yes, your brother is with me. We've got quite a story to tell you.

LEE (V.O.)

We talked for another half an hour,
and I told her that we were going
to throw a little impromptu party
for Roach at the Oily Dragon
tonight. I'm really hoping she
shows up.

INT. OILY DRAGON - NIGHT

Lee is at the party with Roach, Maggie, Lori, Dax, and Merlin.

They are sitting and toasting to Roach when Karen walks in, unsure of where the gang is and feeling somewhat uncomfortable in this setting.

LEE

Karen! So glad you made it.

Lee stands up and side hugs Karen, who returns the hug.

LEE (CONT'D)

Most of the people here you already know, but those that you don't are Lori, Maggie, and Merlin. Have a seat. Join us.

Karen takes a seat and orders a drink.

Lee and Lori are kissing now and then, but Roach and Maggie are practically making out at the table.

Merlin just sits there quietly, reveling in what he has created.

Lee's cell phone vibrates, indicating that he has a message.

LEE (CONT'D)

Well, as fun as this is, I'm going to have to go shake hands with the man. I'll be back in a few.

Lee kisses Lori on the cheek, excuses himself, and walks to the bathroom.

3 Rastas are in there smoking a blunt and passing it back and forth..

Lee pulls out his phone and hits the key for the voicemail.

What is on the recording is indiscernible to the audience.

Lee immediately calls back the number.

PHONE CALL

DAVID

Hello?

LEE

David Dawes?

DAVID

Yes?

LEE

This is Lee Gibson. I was just thinking about you the other day. Sorry but the message you left was garbled. How are you?

DAVID

I wish I could say I was great. I've been ok.

LEE

Well, what's going on?

DAVID

I had a car accident last year, and I'm in a wheelchair now. But that's the least of my problems. I understand you are a detective now?

LEE

That's right. I specialize in locating missing people. I mean, I do other work, too, but normally, I find bail jumpers, deadbeat parents, and stuff like that.

DAVID

Well, listen. I hate to cut short the tearful reunion, but I'm in trouble and I need your help.

FADE OUT