

For the Greater Good

Fade in:

Jeff Stone, mid 30s, a CIA black-ops specialist returns home to his apartment from an assignment. He is exhausted after trekking through the Bolivian jungle for ten days before finding and taking care of a drug lord.

Int: Jeff slumps down in an armchair. His phone pings. It is a messengerom from LEO MARTENS his boss. It says Call me. Jeff glances at his watch, then calls the familiar number.

LEO MARTENS

How did it go down South.

JEFF

It went just fine boss

LEO MARTENS

I gather you did not bring back any empties.

JEFF

Not this time. The consignment was damaged beyond repair.

MARTENS TAKES THIS TO MEAN THAT THE DRUG LORD THEY HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR WAS NO LONGER A PROBLEM.

LEO MARTENS

Good work. Now, listen Jeff, I'm afraid I have some bad news for you

Jeff looks startled, Leo had called him by his first name

LEO MARTENS (CONT'D)

It's about your brother Mark

JEFF

Give it to me straight

LEO MARTENS

All we know that he has dropped off our radar after he flew to Yemen

JEFF

Did he arrive there.

LEO MARTENS

Yes. He should have gone to our safe house, but never arrived.

JEFF

So, do we have any idea what happened to him. Although

LEO MARTENS

No. Although not everyone's happy with the present guy in charge, the majority are ready to kowtow

JEFF

Not much choice I guess

LEO MARTENS

You guest right. Unfortunately, Mark may have got into trouble as soon as he stepped off the plane.

JEFF

Given that, am I clear to fly to Yemen.

LEO MARTENS

Of course. I was wondering why it took you so long to ask. You are booked on a Delta flight this afternoon. Call me with the ID you will be using.

JEFF

Sure thing boss

Jeff closes his phone and goes to his safe room. Inside, a variety of weapons are hung on a wall. From a cupboard, he opens a drawer and picks an English passport, then calls and gives Leo the details.

INT. NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Jeff collects his ticket and travel pass from an assistant at the Delta check-in desk. While waiting for his flight, he contemplates on what may have happened to Mark.

INT. DAY- ONBOARD HIS PLANE

Jeff eats his meal, then sleeps

After he arrives in Aden, a short time later he boards a flight to Sanna.

EXT. DAY- OUTSIDE THE AIRPORT

Jeff climbs into a taxi and goes to the safe house

EXT. DAY-OUTSIDE THE SAFE HOUSE

Jeff knocks on the door that is opened by a middle aged man. It is Hussein, the husband of a man and wife team.

HUSSEIN  
Come in Jeff. I am sorry to hear  
about your brother

Jeff follows Hussein who leads him to a bedroom.

INT. DAY- A SHORT TIME LATER IN JEFFS ROOM.

Hussein hands Jeff a Glock and a box of amunition.

HUSSEIN  
If you want anything, please ask.

JEFF  
Thanks, but for now, I want to grab  
some shuteye. Then I'll start to  
look for my brother.

Jeff's sleep is disturbed by a female voice calling his  
name. He opens the door to find Sophia, Hussein's wife.

SOPHIA  
Jeff, Hussein needs you downstairs,  
he has some news for you.

Jeff glances at his watch, he has only had three hours sleep.  
He then follows Sophia

INT.-EVENING- ROOM AT BACK OF THE HOUSE

Hussein is huddled over a small transistor radio.

JEFF  
What's happened. Sophia says you  
have some news about my brother

HUSSEIN  
The news is sketchy, but a report  
says an American prisoner has  
committed suicide at the local  
prison.

JEFF  
Anything else

HUSSEIN  
No, except word on the street was  
he was picked up for questioning  
and taken to the prison

JEFF  
Do you have any contacts in the  
prison who could give us more  
reliable information.

Hussein thinks for a moment, then nods

HUSSEIN  
Yes, I'll try and contact him

INT. DAY- INSIDE JEFFS ROOM.

Jeff is loading the glock, when someone taps on the door and Hussein enters.

HUSSEIN  
My contact confirms it was an American who was arrested at the airport. Also, the news about his hanging himself is stii going around

JEFF  
That's nonsense, my brother would never comit suicide.

HUSSEIN  
One more thing, the cells in the prison each hold around forty men. It would be impossible to find a quiet place to hang oneself.

JEFF  
So, the story is fabricated, at least in part.

HUSSEIN  
Yes, but we can't be 100% sure that the man arrested was your brother.

JEFF  
True, but how many other Americans landed here yesterday. Not many, and most likey none

There is a tap on the door and Sophia enters

SOPHIA  
Jeff, a message from Leo. He says phone him on a secure line.

She takes Hussein's arm and leads him from the room.

SOPHIA (CONT'D)  
We will leave you in peace

Once they have gone, from a secret compartment in his briefcase, Jeff takes out a saterlite phone and calls Leo.

LEO MARTENS  
What's the latest.

JEFF

I guess you have heard the rumors  
about Mark

LEO MARTENS

Yes, after being incarcerated in  
Sanna'a Central Prison, he  
supposedly hung himself. That's  
bulsh..t. Something else is going  
on and we need to find out what.

JEFF

Look, the only way I can think of  
to get more information, is for me  
to visit the prison as Mark's  
brother and ask to see him.

LEO MARTENS

That's risky, in fact suicidal

JEFF

Yes, but at least I could find out  
what has happened to Mark.

LEO MARTENS

Look there may be another way. I  
have a deep cover agent in Sanan'a.  
I'll arrange for you to meet him,  
one hour from now.

Leo goes on to tell Jeff the location of a cafe.

LEO MARTENS (CONT'D)

He'll be using the name Peter, and  
will have today's issue of the  
Washington Post.

JEFF

I'm guessing he has good contacts  
if he has today's Post.

LEO MARTENS

You're right, he has me.

INT. LATER-INSIDE THE SAFE HOUSE.

Jeff informs Hussein that he needs some local money.

HUSSEIN

No problem. I'll exchange some of  
your dollars to Yemeni Rials.

EXT. DAY-IN THE CITY

Jeff dressed in faded jeans and an old blue T-shirt, notices  
numerous well built houses as he walks along

INT DAY. INSIDE A CAFE

Jeff enters the cafe and sees Peter sat at a table with the Post newspaper laid out. He glances at Peter and motions for him to join him.

JEFF

Peter

PETER

Yes

He leans forward and talk quietly

PETER (CONT'D)

I've approaced all my contact. The rumour that your brother hung himself is exactly what happens when a prisoner dies during interagation by the secret police.

Peter shrugs

PETER (CONT'D)

Therefore, I'm sorry to say that your brother is dead.

JEFF

So, what can we do.

PETER

Unfortunately, not a lot. I have a few ideas, but first we need a drink to fortify us.

Peter goes and speaks to a bearded man behind the counter. He pours out two small glasses of a hot beverage. Peter brings to their table and Jeff takes a sip.

JEFF

This is excellent, but I thought alcoho; was banned in Yemen.

PETER

It is, except in Aden and here in Sann'a. I thought we'd take advantage of the relaxed situation.

JEFF

Cheers, just what the doctor ordered.

PETER

Yes, but I'm sorry about your brother. I've just come from the embassy, but with the situation in Yemen, they can't tell me anything.

JEFF

I know it won't be easy, but can't we contact someone in authority to find out what happened to Mark.

PETER

I understand how you feel, but a foreigner is nothing for them to be bothered about. The guy in charge, Talal Zaid, is only interested in taking control of the country.

Peter pauses to sip his coffee then continues.

PETER (CONT'D)

There have been several attempts to assassinate Zaid, but all failed.

Jeff shakes his head and Peter puts a hand on his arm

PETER (CONT'D)

This is nothing new Jeff. It's hard to believe that Yemen was once the most advanced region in Arabia.

JEFF

Yeah, well that tells its own story. Religion in all shapes and forms has got a lot to answer for.

PETER

I can understand your bitterness Jeff. However, the troubles in the country are more specific. Some of the militaries had planned a coup, but they were betrayed and many people arrested.

Peter shrugs

PETER (CONT'D)

Despite this some brave people have come together in groups to protest against him. However, Zaid thinks he is invincible.

As Peter is talking, Jeff notices the bearded man keep glancing over at them. He tells Peter of his concern.

PETER

Probably nothing to worry about. I expect he heard me mention Zaid's name.



JEFF

So you seem to have a good handle of things here. You have contacts in the American Embassy and with Leo Martens. I guess that makes you a company man.

Peter says nothing

JEFF (CONT'D)

Okay, I know you are not supposed to admit it. CIA or whatever, you have something else in mind.

PETER finishes his coffee and goes to the counter. He orders two more drinks then brings them back to the table.

PETER (CONT)

I knew that it wouldn't take you long to figure that out. You see, we think it's time for something to happen and rein in the country.

JEFF

When you say we, you mean...

PETER

Yes, the US government

JEFF

Are you implying they have given the green light for a regime change.

PETER

Well, yes and no. Anyway Leo Martens spotted an opportunity. So with your assistance, he is ready to set things in motion.

JEFF

ME. How could I possibly be involved in a regime change.

PETER

You have skills and as you are unknown to the secret police, ideally placed. Apart from your brother, Zaid is responsible for thousands of deaths.

JEFF

Let's get this straight. Because this murdering bastard is responsible for Marks death, you want me to help bring down Zaid

Although talking quietly, the bearded man stares in their direction. Peter notices and throws some coins on the table.

PETER  
Perhasps we should be careful and  
leave.

Jeff follows Peter out of the cafe and on to the street

EXT. DAY-IN THE CITY

As they walk, Jeff points at some large houses.

JEFF (CONT)  
I'm surprisedat the size and  
quality

PETER  
Yes wealthy Yemenis own them. Like  
everywhere else in the world, there  
are rich and poor

Peter touches Jeffs arm.

PETER (CONT'D)  
Back to business, Before we discuss  
things further, I 'd like you to  
meet a friend of mine.

EXT. EVENING - SALEH MOSQUE

Jeff looks up at the incredible sight in front of him. The mosque looks magnificent. A voice says, you should see it at night.

Peter turns towards theapproaching figure.

PETER (CONT)  
Ah, there you are. Jeff, let me  
introduce you to my friend Asraf. I  
think you should hear what he says.

Jeff shakes hands with Asraf, who looked in his mid forties.

ASRAF  
Before your brothers death, we were  
due to meet. He thought he knew  
someone who could help my country.

JEFF  
And why did my brother approach you

ASRAF  
Time is runing out for Yemen. Zaid  
is creating strong liks with Iran.

JEFF

Yes, but in the short run, at least, would that not increase stababilty in the country.

ASRAF

Maybe, but in the long run could prove dangerous for both Yemen an the world.

Jeff looks puzzled.

ASRAF (CONT'D)

As you know, Iran has nuclear capabilities.Plus they are not known as friends of the west

Jeff looks from Asraf to Peter and back again

Okay, I can see things could get worse, but I don't see how I can help. Its something the State Department will have to sort out.

PETER

They have been trying without success.. Look, I know you have a good idea of what we have in mind.

Jeff glances from one man to the other

JEFF (CONT)

Yes, but we are talking about a presidential assasination.

PETER

Yes, for the greater good.

Asraf glances around to make sure no one is listening to their conversation.

ASRAF

You remember I said your brother thought he knew someone who could help. Well that person is you.

Jeff takes a deep breath as he ponders on what he has heard.

JEFF

So, it seems that I've been earmarked for this enterprise.

PETER

Well, let's face it Jeff, you are no stranger to polital assasination.

JEFF

Okay, but we will have to leave a big gap between us and the US government. Given this, on my return to our safe house, I'll make some excuse and leave.

Jeff turns to Asraf.

JEFF.

Can you obtain a list of places Zaid is going to make speeches.

ASRAF

That shouldn't be impossible, but Zaid is liable to change plans at the drop of a hat.

JEFF.

Understood, but it will come in handy. Right, I'm off, I'll be in touch.

Jeff turns to Peter

Jeff (cont)

Would you please drive me back to our field office.

INT.-EVENING - IN THE SAFE HOUSE

Jeff finds Sophia cooking dinner and accepts her offer of a meal.

JEFF

Where is Hussein

SOPHIA

He is out taking care of some unconnected business.

After his meal, Jeff goes to his room

INT. THE NEXT DAY INSIDE THE SAFE HOUSE.

Hussein has not returned

JEFF

When will he return.

SOPHIA

There is no need for you to worry

JEFF

I'm going away for a while. I have some contacts to see up in the Aden region.

JEFF POSES AS A TOURIST. HE HIRES A CAR AND DRIVES TO AL MUKALLA WHERE HE CHECKS INTO A SMALL HOTEL.

While waiting for Asraf to contact him, wearing a disguise, Jeff visits a few cafe and listens to the locals talking. He buys several pay-as-you-go phones and calls Asraf. Once done, he removes the chip and drops it into a drain

INT. THE NEXT DAY - INSIDE A COFFEE BAR

With briefcase in hand, Jeff goes into the toilet. He changes into his disguise, puts his clothing and briefcase into a plastic carrier bag, then leaves.

Ext-Day Sanna'a -bright sunshine

Jeff drives around looking at the places Asraf said Zaid would be visiting. Some places he decides are worth a second look. He later returns to his hotel room in Al Mukalla.

EXT. SANNA'A- DAY-BRIGHT SUNSHINE

Jeff returns to Sanna'a. Once he has changed into his disguise, he goes to an internet cafe.

INT.-DAY-INSIDE INTERNAT CAFE

JEFF SEARCHES ONLINE FOR A LOCK-UP-GARAGE TO RENT

EXT. DAY- AT LOCK UP GARAGE

Jeff is pleased to find it has electricity, a workbench, and more importantly, an up and over door. He rents the garage. Jeff then goes to look at a pickup he had seen for sale.

EXT. SANNA'A- DAY- AFTERNOON

Jeff buys the truck. He drives it to his rented garage and leaves it locked up inside.

INT. DAY - INSIDE THE BAB AL-YEMEN MARKET

With Jeff wearing his disguise, he buys some bits and pieces that he takes to his garage.

INT DAY -INSIDE A HOBBY EMPORIUM

Jeff buys a toy drone. The assistant hands it to him.

JEFF (CONT)

This will make a great present for  
my sons graduation.

INT. DAY- INSIDE JEFFS LOCK UP GARAGE

Jef drives the truck inside. He closes the garage door and then standing in the back of the tuck, he fixes some wire hangers to the ceiling. He then hangs the drone above the garage door. When open, no one can see the drone.

INT. DAY. INSIDE THE HOBBLY EMPORIUM.

The proprietors eyes lifgt up when Jeff purchases two more drones. One is bigger than the other.

JEFF

I decided to arrange something  
special, a drone race.

Jeff leaves and returns to his garage, where he hangs the two drones next to the first one.

INT. DAY- INSIDE AN ELECTRONIC SHOP.

Jeff buys a second hand video recorder, and various bits and pieces. Apart from an electronics specialist, Jeff is well versed in miniture weapon systems.

EXT. DAY, JEFF GOES OUT TO LOOK FOR SOME OTHER ITEMS. HE VISITS A SUPPLIER WHO SELLS HIM FOUR SMALL LASER DESIGNATORS.

INT. DAY-NIGHT - INSIDE JEFFS LOCK UP GARAGE

For the next week, Jeff manufactures a few extras for the two smaller drones. With this done, he starts work on the video camera. This he turns into a control unit for the three drones.

INT.DAY. INSDE JEEFS GARAGE.

Jeff drives the pickup outside, then returns inside the garage and locks the door.He fixed one LD, laser designator in one corner of the garage and switches it on. Using his converted contro; unit, he test one of the smaller drones. To his delight, it shows that once airbourne, the drone would pick up the LD signal

EXT. DAY- OUTSIDE THE GARAGE

Jeff drives the pickup inside, goes outside and padlocks the door.

EXT. DAY-IN THE CITY

Wearing his disguise, Jeff goes to a restaurant where he eats a local dish. He then slips into the toilet, changes back into his normal clothing and returns to Al Makulla

INT. EVENING - INSIDE JEFFS HOTEL ROOM.

Jeff unfolds a map of the city and highlights the routes to the railway and coach stations.

INT. DAY - IN THE CITY- INSIDE A SHOP SELLING BANNERS

Wearing his disguise, Jeff explains what he wants

SHOP ASSISTANT

It will be ready in two day.

JEFF

That will be good.

EXT. SANNA'A- DAY-BRIGHT SUNSHINE

Jeff looks for a place to fix one of his L.Ds He spots a building with a rooftop restaurant.

JEFF GOES UPM SITS DOWN AND A WAITRESS TAKES HIS ORDER.

Jeff notices in window boxes are some decorative lights. He could fix an LD inside one, so talks with the manager.

JEFF (CONT)

The lights in your window boxes are just what I've been looking for.

The manager gives him the suppliers details. Jeff thanks her, then leaves the restaurant.

EXT DAY- SANNA;A STREETS

A FURTHER SEARCH REVEALS ANOTHER SUITABLE BUILDING WHERE CONSTRUCTION WORKS HAD STOPPED. JEFF ENTERS AND PICKS UP A DISGARDED HARD HAT.

Jeff puts on the hat and makes his way up to the roof. His eyes light when he fibds several satelite dishes. He could replace the LNB with one of his LDs.

INT.-DAY - THE BANNER SHOP

Jeff collects his banner and returns to his garage  
inside JEFFS LOCK UP GARAGE

Jeff fit the banner to the larger drone, along with a spool with a long nylon line. He tries it out using his control unit, and is pleased to find it worked as expected.

EXT DAY- SANNA;A STREETS

While driving around, checking out a few other locations, Jeff curses.

JEFF  
Damn and blast

Works had restarted on the building he had chosen to place a LD. The driver in the car behind lasts his horn as he jams on the brakes to avoid running into the back of Jeffs pickup.

DRIVER OF THE CAR

Shakes his fist and curses as he passes Jeff

While dring around, Jeff finds another suitable building. This one has a for sale sign, and a guard sitting outside. Jeff parks and speaks to the man in fluent Arabic.

JEFF  
I'm going to look around

Jeff goes up to the roof and like the previos building has some satelite dishes fixed there. He goes back down, thanks the gaurd and drives away to check some other places.

EXT. THE NEXT DAY- NEAR AL SABA'TEEN PARK

Jeff spots a multi story carpark, where from the fith floor, he can see a stage set up for Zaid's speech. He notices a securty light fixed to the front railing facing the park. He can buy a simular light,fix an LD inside, along with an on-off switch.



INT. DAY AFTERNOON-DECORATIVE LIGHT SUPPLIER

Jeff, wearing his disguise buys two light fittings, then from an electrical shop and buys two emergency light fittings. He takes them to his garade and fits an LD inside one of each light fitting.

INT. NEXT MORNING- PARKING GARAGE

Jeff checks there is no one around, then quickly fixes the light lighting to the barrier rail. Using his cellphone, he points the designator at the target area.

EXT. LATER THAT DAY-IN THE CITY

Jeff drives around looking for a spot to hide the two smaller drones. He later finds a perfect place, in a derilect house where people have dumped all sorts of things in the garden. Jeff goes in and up a rickity staircase to the roof. It is just what he had been looking for.

Jeff nods in satisfaction, then leaves the site.

INT. DAY- INSID JEFFS HOTEL ROOM IN MALLACA

Using a large scale map, Jeff plots details of the drones hiding place to where they will pick up the LDs signals.

EXT. SANNA'A- DAY-TWO DAYS LATER

Jeff buys some old furniture. He carefully loads it in his pickup around the two drones, and drives to the derlict house. With no one there, he carries in the old furniture, then under a blanket, takes the drones up to the roof.

INT. DAY- INSIDE THE DERILICT HOUSE

Jeff places the drones where they can take off without problem. On his way down the stairs, he breaks a section of the stairs to make them unsafe for people to use.

EXT. SANNA'A- DAY-BRIGHT SUNSHINE

As Jeff drives away, he realizes he is being followed. He finds a quiet place, jams on his brakes, goes to the car behind and yells at the driver.

JEFF (CONT)

Why are you following me

DRIVER OF THE CAR  
I mean you no harm. It's your truck.

JEFF  
It's mine, I have the papers to prove it.

DRIVER OF THE CAR  
Yes, I'm sure it is. As you can see my car is very old. If you want to sell your truck, I will buy it.

Jeff relaxes as he thought it might have been the secret police.

JEFF (CONT)  
I need it now, but give me your phone number in case I decide to sell it.

DRIVER OF THE CAR  
Driver gives Jeff his cell phone number.

DRIVER OF THE CAR (CONT'D)  
Thanks

EXT. SANNA'A- DAY-BRIGHT SUNSHINE

It is the day of the presidents speech. Jeff wearing his disguise drives his truck with the large drone under a blanket. Finding a quiet street, he uncovers the drone and switches it on. Jeff walks away with a backpack containing a modified decorative light. He carries his camcorder in his hand.

EXT. DAY. INSIDE MULTI STORY CARPARK

Jeff switches on the LD inside the emergency light fitting.

INT. DAY, UP IN THE COFFEE BAR

Jeff orders a coffee, then goes to the toilet. He drops an incendiary device into the waste bin, then returns to his seat

INT. DAY- TOILET- COFFEE BAR

Device bursts into flames causing the customers to panic. Jeff takes light fitting from bag, puts it among the others in the flower boxes and using his cell phone, sets the LD. Jeff then leaves.

EXT. DAY OF PRESIDENT ZAID SPEECH

Jeff joins the crowd waiting for Zaid to appear

EXT. DAY- ZAID APPEARS ON STAGE.

When the crowds cheer and shout, Jeff presses a button on the cam corder and the large drone rises from his pickup.

EXT. DAY- DRONE APPEARS IN THE SKY.

Crowds are wary of it, then cheer and point up at it.

EXT. DAY - BANNER UNROLLS BEHIND DRONE TO REVEAL MESSAGE

When the crowds cheer on reading We Love Our President, Jeff operates the control unit and releases the other two drones.

EXT. DAY- PRESIDENT STARTS HIS SPEECH

He stands relaxed enjoying the happy atmosphere.

EXT. DAY A GUARD SEES ONE OF THE APPROACHING DRONES AND OPENS FIRE.

Crowds cheer when it is hit and spirals downwards, then cry out when small objects appear heading towards the stage.

EXT. DAY. ROCKETS LAND ON TARGET AND ZAID FALLS TO THE FLOOR.

Crowds cry out and hope he will rise, but he is dead. Second drone releases its rockets that land on target.

EXT. DAY- STAGE BURSTS INTO FLAMES

More guards are hit while trying to help Zaid. While the crowds scream as they rush to get away, Jeff presses another button on his control unit

EXT. DAY- JEFFS TRUCK BLOWS UP

Jeff joins the crowds and slips into an alleyway to change out of his disguise. Jeff drops the control unit fitted with an incendiary device and his disguise, into a rubbish bin

EXT. DAY- JEFF JOINS THE CROWDS RUNNING AWAY

He uses his phone to set off an explosion that destroys his garage.

INT. EVENING- INSIDE A RESTAURANT

Jeff orders a double Jack Daniels, raises his glass and murmurs.

JEFF

Well Mr President, that was for my brother and all Yemenies who want peace in their lives. May you rot in hell.

EXT. EVENING - LATER OUT ON THE STREET

Police are stopping and questioning people. Jeff is stopped by a policeman. He asks to see Jeffs ID that he shows him.

JEFF.

What's happened.

THE POLICEMAN

Someone has assassinated the president.

Jeff looks horrified

JEFF.

I hope you find who did this terrible thing.

Policeman looks at Jeff, then waves him on

INT. DAY- INSIDE JEFFS HOTEL ROOM

Jeff calls Peter

JEFF

I've just heard that someone assassinated the president.

PETER

Yes, what a terrible thing to happen. It seems a pickup truck and a garage were destroyed in two seperate locations. Anyway, we will meet up and talk later.

EXT. DAY. DURING THE NEXT WEEK- THE OLD CITY

Jeff, posing as a member of UNESCO, checks out and visits varios historical buildings.

INT. INSIDE THE AIRPORT

Jeff checks in and waits for his flight back to America

INT. DAY- ONBOARD HIS PLANE

Jeff raises his glass. To all the good people in Yemen.

INT. DAY - MARRIOTT HOTEL- NEW YORK

INT. DAY- INSIDE JEFFS HOTEL ROOM

Jeff

I hope there is nothing else Leo  
need me for. I need a rest.