

EXFIL

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

Colonel Lance Reed, U.S. Army, mid-40s, clean shaven, wearing a tailored suit and a Rolex watch, is sitting in business class sipping a scotch on the rocks.

The aisle seat is empty. He has no wedding ring.

He is reading an article in "The Economist" about the role of China in cyber warfare and reviewing a Power Point presentation on a laptop.

The captain announces the beginning of the descent.

He checks his watch, stuffs the laptop and magazine into a soft-sided leather briefcase, and glances outside at the lights below.

An attractive flight attendant passes by and reaches for his drink.

COLONEL REED

I'll have another one of those.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

As the captain said, we'll be landing soon.

COLONEL REED

(leans closer)

Perhaps we can continue this discussion later over a drink?

The flight attendant grabs the drink, pauses with a cautious smile, gestures to his seat belt, and then moves on to the next passenger.

He buckles his belt, leans back, and closes his eyes.

INT. REAGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The airport is nearly empty. A janitor polishes the floor.

Colonel Reed turns on his Blackberry and descends the escalator to the luggage arrival. The heels of his polished black shoes click on the marble floor.

He scrolls through his e-mail and text messages as the suitcases arrive.

He grabs his suitcase, raises the handle, and heads for the exit. With the same attractive flight attendant in sight, he quickens his pace and strides up next to her.

He casually checks his watch and glances over as if surprised to see her.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

You were on the connecting flight
from Bangkok, right?

He nods, grabs a business card from his inside breast pocket, and hands it to her.

COLONEL REED

Why don't you give me a call when
you get checked in?

He gestures to a uniformed Army soldier holding a sign with his name and winks at her.

She holds the card with a cautious smile.

INT. CAR

The moon is hovering in the cloudless sky.

The black Chevy Suburban is driving along the Potomac River with the Washington Monument in the distance.

Colonel Reed checks his Blackberry and clicks away on the mini-keyboard. Sergeant takes the exit for Rosslyn and glances back.

SERGEANT

I hope you had a good flight, sir.
You must be happy to be back from
Bangkok.

Colonel Reed glances at the rear-view mirror to make eye contact with Sergeant.

SERGEANT

We're excited to have you at U.S.
Cyber Command, sir. Your last
operation was legendary -- really
cool stuff, sir.

They arrive at the hotel and stop at the entrance.

Sergeant hustles to open the door for Colonel Reed, removes the luggage from the trunk, and waits patiently as Colonel Reed finishes his call.

SERGEANT

As you requested, sir, I got you a room at this hotel and checked you in. I'll pick you up at 7:00 am for your meeting with the general.

Colonel Reed accepts the room key and the luggage and nods approvingly.

SERGEANT

Have a good night, sir.

The airline shuttle van arrives and stops. The flight crew exits the van and enters the hotel lobby. The attractive flight attendant glances at him and smiles.

SERGEANT

Hey, sir, I think that's the hot woman from the airport.

COLONEL REED

I'll be damned.

INT. HOTEL

Colonel Reed enters the room with a view and pours himself a scotch on the rocks. He removes his shoes, sits on a leather chair, and grabs the remote control.

He flips from one cable news channel the next, finally settling on a story about cyber warfare.

His Blackberry rings.

He looks at the caller ID photo -- a beautiful woman (ex-wife Beth) with their two handsome sons. He takes a deep breath and answers.

COLONEL REED

Hello.

He lowers the volume on the television and sips his drink.

COLONEL REED

The flight was fine. It's good to be back. How are the boys?

He smiles.

COLONEL REED

Tell them I said hello and that I love them. How have you been?

His face turns serious.

COLONEL REED
Thanks. I almost forgot. Turning
45 wasn't so painful after all.

He nods and finishes his drink.

COLONEL REED
Back to work tomorrow -- the new
Cyber Command. There's no word on
brigadier general promotions, but
things are looking good.

He walks to the bar and pours another drink, then groans and
rubs his head.

COLONEL REED
So much for happy birthday. As you
well know, I did not bring back a
young Thai wife.

He sips his drink.

COLONEL REED
Do we have to discuss this now?

He paces.

COLONEL REED
Good night.

He glances at the caller ID photo and sets the phone on the
kitchenette counter. He sits on a bar stool and removes a
photograph of his two boys from his soft-sided leather
briefcase.

With a sad smile, he focuses on his two boys.

He stands, loosens his tie, and removes his suit coat.

The Blackberry rings. He does not recognize the number.

COLONEL REED
Hello.

He smiles and checks his watch.

COLONEL REED
Yes, I had a good flight. I'm in
room 712. (laughs) I look forward
to seeing you as well.

He stuffs the photograph in his soft-sided leather briefcase.

INT. U.S. CYBER COMMAND, FT. MEADE, MD - MORNING

The black Chevy Suburban arrives at the main entrance.
Sergeant hustles to open the door.

SERGEANT

Here we are, sir.

Colonel Reed steps out of the vehicle in his Class A uniform,
removes his sunglasses, and enters the lobby.

An Air Force lieutenant colonel escorts him to the welcome
desk, to leave his BlackBerry, and then to the elevator.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

We have time to pass through the
watch floor before your meeting
with the general.

Colonel Reed nods and follows.

INT. WATCH FLOOR

The watch floor is buzzing with activity -- scores of airmen,
marines, sailors, and soldiers typing away at computers.
Massive television screens line the walls with maps, clocks,
and computer network diagrams.

The Air Force lieutenant colonel gestures to speak. Colonel
Reed smiles and breaks away to give a firm handshake to an
Army Brigadier General.

COLONEL REED

Good to see you, general.

Brigadier General gestures to his star.

BRIGADIER GENERAL

Welcome back. I hear you're due
for one of these soon.

Colonel Reed smiles.

COLONEL REED

We'll see. How did you get stuck
with this dead-end job?

BRIGADIER GENERAL

Didn't you hear? Cyber warfare is
the future. At least I'm not
pouring coffee. Hey, I heard about
your operation in Bangkok against
the Chinese. Good show.

COLONEL REED
News spreads fast.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Even good news. Hey, you don't
want to keep the general waiting.

They shake hands.

INT. OFFICE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, U.S. CYBER COMMAND

Colonel Reed enters the office to see Lieutenant General Lewis on the phone. The general gestures for him to sit.

Colonel Reed makes his way to the couch. A statue on the corner table catches his attention -- a man and his two sons being attacked by serpents.

He admires it, hypnotized.

Lieutenant General Lewis hangs up the phone and joins him.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
The Laocoon, my favorite statue.
Do you know the story?

Colonel Reed turns. They shake hands.

COLONEL REED
No, general.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Laocoon was a Trojan priest during the Trojan War. The gods sent serpents to kill him and his two sons, as the story goes, for acts of sexual impiety, but he is most famous for warning the Trojans about the famous wooden horse of the Greeks. Just like Cassandra, no one would listen, and the rest is history.

Lieutenant General Lewis gestures to the couch. They sit.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
As you know, the idea of a Trojan horse has a new level of significance here at Cyber Command. There's still debate about Laocoon's act of sexual impiety, but he had the virtue of trying to save his people from the Greeks.

COLONEL REED

That's a fascinating story,
general. I'm eager to hear about
my duties here at Cyber Command.

Lieutenant General Lewis stands, turns on a flat screen television with a remote control, and gestures for Colonel Reed to stand to see a photograph of a Chinese military officer.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS

Say hello to Senior Colonel Li from
the People's Liberation Army of
China. He was recently assigned to
Washington as the Army Attache.
Turns out he's one of China's most
lethal cyber spies.

COLONEL REED

The Chinese military officer we
just recruited in Bangkok spoke
highly of him.

Lieutenant General Lewis nods approvingly.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS

The operation in Bangkok was top
notch. Although, from what I hear,
the source still has not produced
any solid intelligence.

COLONEL REED

We're in the early stages.

The two sustain eye contact. Colonel Reed dutifully averts his eyes.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS

There's a big fight here in
Washington for control of the
Intelligence Community. The
Department of Defense budget is the
biggest and we have the most
people, by far, but the CIA still
wields the power overseas and the
FBI still wields the power here in
the homeland.

COLONEL REED

The CIA fought me for the Chinese
case in Bangkok, and now they're
convinced the case is bad. They're
always second-guessing our
operations.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
And we want this to change. We
need to knock CIA and FBI off their
high horses.

Lieutenant General Lewis walks behind his desk, opens a safe,
and points inside to a laptop computer.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
This computer contains the program
that will one day protect our
national cyber network. It's a
Pentagon program, not a CIA or an
FBI program. We're winning the
cyber battle here in Washington,
but we're losing the battle for
human intelligence -- espionage. I
need you to claim primacy on Senior
Colonel Li and show CIA and FBI how
good we really are.

COLONEL REED
Absolutely, general. I'm meeting
with CIA and FBI later today to
discuss the Bangkok case. I can
raise this case as well.

They shake hands and walk to the door.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
By the way, how are Beth and the
boys?

COLONEL REED
They're fine, general. Thank you
for asking.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Send my regards. I was sorry to
hear they returned from Bangkok
prior to the end of your tour. We
were hoping to have you and the
family over for dinner.

COLONEL REED
Yes, well, unfortunately our
marriage didn't work out.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Well then, best of luck with Senior
Colonel Li.

Lieutenant General Lewis opens the door.

INT. FBI HQS, COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION - AFTERNOON

A government conference room with an oval table and leather chairs. Two men are sipping coffee as they flip through piles of classified files.

FBI Special Agent Adam Nguyen, buff in his starched white shirt and tapered hair, and Brett Phelps, the CIA Chief of China Operations, more professorial with glasses, pause while looking at a photograph of a Chinese diplomat.

BRETT

What about this guy? Any indications he's disgruntled with his comrades in Beijing?

S/A NGUYEN

Most of them are. These guys can't figure out whether they're communists or capitalists.

They enjoy a laugh.

S/A NGUYEN

They also don't want to risk being sent home. One of our sources has floated the idea of consulting opportunities with this guy, but he's not biting. If we push too hard, he might report it and they'll work him against us as a double agent.

BRETT

Better let him go, then. His access was just OK. (Checks his watch.) I wonder what's taking Colonel Hot Shot so long.

S/A NGUYEN

I'm sure the Pentagon is still having a circle-jerk for his Chinese recruitment.

Colonel Reed approaches the glass door.

BRETT

It's a long shot, but let's make this work.

Colonel Reed opens the door. S/A Nguyen and Brett stand to shake hands. They sit.

S/A NGUYEN

Welcome back from Bangkok. We're intrigued about your operation. How did it go down?

COLONEL REED

It was a textbook recruitment, really. We found a weakness and turned the screws.

Brett taps his pen.

BRETT

In your experience, is "turning the screws" usually an effective technique? Time and time again, these things back-fire.

Colonel Reed nods knowingly with a steely glare.

COLONEL REED

We saw your response to our recruitment proposal. Your concerns about coercion were duly noted, but we made the call. He's a family man, and we had photographs of him with a prostitute. It's always best to find someone who's motivated to work for us, but the Chinese aren't exactly lining up to offer us free secrets. Hey, it worked.

S/A NGUYEN

By "work," you mean he said yes?

Colonel Reed nods. Brett is looking for more.

S/A NGUYEN

So we should anticipate some intelligence reports after the next meeting? We noticed he didn't provide anything of value during the recruitment meeting, which was concerning.

Colonel Reed rolls his eyes discreetly.

BRETT

And you're sure he's not a double agent? You're sure he didn't report the pitch?

COLONEL REED

Nothing is 100% in this business,
but the case officer worked for me.
He's good. He'll produce the
intelligence.

S/A NGUYEN

And if he doesn't?

COLONEL REED

He will.

BRETT

Roger that, colonel. We'll see how
things play out. We just normally
like to see more skin before we
drop trow.

Brett turns to Adam and taps a photograph of Senior Colonel
Li. S/A Nguyen nods and slides it to Colonel Reed.

S/A NGUYEN

As you may know, Senior Colonel Li
arrived recently. Needless to say,
this took us by surprise.

BRETT

The guy you recruited in Bangkok
worked for him. Senior Colonel Li
runs some of China's most
sophisticated cyber operations
around the world.

S/A NGUYEN

Our concern is that his arrival
suggests he's running a high-level
penetration of our government or is
planning a big operation.

COLONEL REED

We're claiming primacy on this one.

S/A Nguyen and Brett look at each other.

COLONEL REED

(to Brett)

He's a uniformed military officer.
The most natural, non-alerting
approach would come from us. Our
officers will be in regular contact
with him.

Brett points to himself and then gestures to Adam.

BRETT

Why are you looking at me? We're on FBI's turf. Adam here is running the show. Wow (he holds his heart), it still hurts me to say that. For our next assignment, we have to go overseas.

They enjoy a laugh. Colonel Reed turns to S/A Nguyen.

COLONEL REED

This guy will see a civilian coming a mile away. We plan to raise this with the Director of National Intelligence. We're confident he'll give us this target.

S/A Nguyen and Brett lean closer to confer. They speak briefly and nod to each other.

S/A NGUYEN

He's all yours.

Brett slides an invitation across the table.

COLONEL REED

That was easy.

Colonel Reed grabs the invitation and reads it.

BRETT

He should be there tonight.

S/A NGUYEN

We look forward to hearing about your first encounter. We've never gotten an intelligence officer in front of this guy.

S/A Nguyen turns to Brett. He nods. Colonel Reed stands, shakes their hands, and offers an informal salute.

BRETT

Are the women in Thailand really as hot as they say?

Colonel Reed winks and exits the room.

BRETT

That was easy.

Brett gestures to the pile of files and grabs his coffee.

INT. HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM, WASHINGTON, D.C. - EVENING

A Chinese Diplomatic Event.

A swank hotel conference room with about 500 well-dressed people mingling. Waiters with white gloves are carrying trays with wine, scotch, beer, and water.

Posters and artwork with red and gold themes welcome the attendees to the event. The day of China as a global power has arrived.

A security detail receives invitations from the line of guests and steers them to the welcome line, which includes the Chinese Ambassador and other Chinese diplomats, who shake hands and greet each invitee.

Traditional dancers perform on the stage with live music and drums. The wait staff finishes preparing the food lines and reveals the food.

Colonel Reed, wearing his dress blue uniform, presents his invitation, charms his way through the greeting line with a nonchalant nod for Senior Colonel Li, and accepts a scotch on the rocks from a passing waiter.

He scans the room to monitor the movements of Senior Colonel Li, then focuses his attention on the many attractive women, to include many beautiful Asian women.

To blend in, he moves toward a crowd of U.S. military officers. Some of them recognize him -- old friends -- with a hearty handshake.

ARMY OFFICER

Colonel Reed, it's great to have
you back. How was Bangkok?

Colonel Reed spots Senior Colonel Li at a good location near the food line.

ARMY OFFICER

Where are you working now? I heard
you and Beth are no longer--

Colonel Reed offers a firm handshake and sips his drink.

COLONEL REED

We'll catch up later.

Colonel Reed moves toward the food line, where Senior Colonel Li is talking to a foreign diplomat. He adjusts his angle of approach to make eye contact.

Colonel Reed feigns recognition and moves closer.

COLONEL REED
Senior Colonel Li. Welcome to the
United States. We're honored to
have you here.

Senior Colonel Li shakes hands with the foreign diplomat, who
nods and takes his leave.

Colonel Reed offers a business card and a hand shake. Senior
Colonel Li, thin with glasses, does not exude confidence.

COLONEL REED
My friends at the Pentagon told me
you arrived. Good to have you.
How was your trip?

Senior Colonel Li inspects the business card and looks at
Colonel Reed with a blank stare.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
Good trip. Thank you. I do not
have business card.

COLONEL REED
No problem. You're still getting
settled. Give me a call any time.
I can show you around town. Hey,
it looks like you need a drink.

Colonel Reed stops a passing waiter and gestures to the
selection of drinks. Senior Colonel Li selects a water.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
What kind of work do you do?

COLONEL REED
I recently returned from our
Embassy in Bangkok. Have you ever
been there?

SENIOR COLONEL LI
Yes, Bangkok. Very nice.

Another blank stare.

COLONEL REED
Now they have me working cyber
issues. You probably read that we
have a new Cyber Command. Many
people are calling it the wave of
the future. What do you think?

SENIOR COLONEL LI
Yes, cyber. Very important.

Another blank stare with a pause and then a hand shake.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
It was a pleasure to meet you.
Thank you for coming to our event.
I must speak with other guests.

They shake hands.

COLONEL REED
Like I said, give me a call any
time. I'll give you the complete
tour of the city. I know a great
place--

Senior Colonel Li bows politely.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
Yes, thank you.

Colonel Reed bites his lip and makes his way to the bar.

COLONEL REED
Scotch on the rocks, please.

He sips his drink and turns to watch the crowd. While eyeing
some attractive Asian women, he sees Senior Colonel Li
talking to some fellow Chinese diplomats, but in a jovial
manner, even laughing.

A stunning woman from Latin America with a red dress slides
up next to him and orders a scotch on the rocks.

ANA
See anything you like?

Colonel Reed turns and smiles with a deep stare.

COLONEL REED
As a matter of fact, yes.

ANA
The only fun thing about these
events is getting dressed up.

COLONEL REED
You do that quite well.

ANA
Otherwise, it's just a bunch of old
men looking for fun.

Colonel Reed laughs to himself as he sips his drink.

COLONEL REED
I'm flattered, but I'm not looking
for that kind of fun.

ANA
I'm not that kind of girl.

COLONEL REED
What kind of girl are you?

Ana sips her drink.

ANA
Tell you what. Once you finish
your business here, I'll be waiting
in the lobby.

COLONEL REED
Don't wait too long.

He raises his drink as she walks away. He locates Senior Colonel Li at the other side of the room.

He walks through the crowd, making a circuitous yet purposeful path to his target.

When he reaches the other side of the room, he sees Senior Colonel Li talking to a group of diplomats.

As he approaches, they sense his presence and politely stop talking. Senior Colonel Li turns.

COLONEL REED
Senior Colonel Li, I just wanted to
say good-bye and thank you for the
event.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
We should meet later this week.
Please call me at the Embassy.

Senior Colonel Li shakes his hand and returns to his discussion with the other diplomats.

Colonel Reed walks away with his smile and sips his drink, then goes to the lobby, where Ana is waiting.

ANA
That was fast.

COLONEL REED
I missed you.

INT. FBI HQS, COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION - MORNING

S/A Adam Nguyen and Brett Phelps are sitting in the conference room sipping coffee and reviewing an intelligence report. S/A Nguyen groans and sets it down.

S/A NGUYEN

Do you think this guy is for real?

BRETT

He might be, but I don't like the idea of recruiting a freelance hacker from Romania to go after the Chinese. Too risky.

S/A NGUYEN

I agree. For all we know, he's already working for the Chinese.

Colonel Reed, wearing a suit, enters and takes a seat.

COLONEL REED

Sorry I'm late.

BRETT

Greetings, Colonel. How is your new friend Senior Colonel Li?

Colonel Reed nods confidently.

COLONEL REED

Good.

S/A NGUYEN

How did it go? Did he seem willing to talk or meet again?

COLONEL REED

I've worked the Chinese target for many years, and most of them are weird or hard to read. (To S/A Nguyen) No offense.

S/A NGUYEN

None taken.

BRETT

My good friend Adam is from Vietnam, but he is weird in an oriental kind of way.

Brett and S/A Nguyen enjoy a laugh.

BRETT

By the way, when the did "oriental" become a derogatory word? All the so-called racially insensitive comments about Asians are things most people strive for -- being smart, good with computers, but I digress. (Turns to Colonel Reed.) What did Li say?

COLONEL REED

I welcomed him to Washington and offered to show him around. I gave him a business card.

Brett and S/A Nguyen are waiting for more.

COLONEL REED

I mentioned I recently returned from Bangkok and that I was working cyber issues.

BRETT

What did he say?

COLONEL REED

At first, he gave me a blank stare and excused himself, but he eventually told me to call him.

S/A NGUYEN

That's a good start.

Colonel Reed nods. Brett cocks his head curiously.

BRETT

Anything else interesting or out of the ordinary?

COLONEL REED

I was spoiled in Bangkok but, man, I forgot how beautiful the women are in Latin America.

S/A NGUYEN

Latin America?

COLONEL REED

I met this Latina bombshell last night at the party.

BRETT

Latinas are hot. Just stay away from the Venezuelans.

Colonel Reed looks at S/A Nguyen.

S/A NGUYEN

They added Venezuela to the no-frat list. Too many hot Venezuelan women asking for too many secrets. Off limits.

Brett taps a report.

BRETT

I don't know whether you saw but your boy in Bangkok had a meeting with the Chinese agent.

Colonel Reed looks hopeful.

COLONEL REED

How did it go?

S/A Nguyen shrugs and slides the report.

BRETT

The information tracks with what we're seeing from other sources, but given this guy's position, he should have more details.

S/A NGUYEN

Given the limited details, we can't rule out the possibility that this is feed material.

Colonel Reed glances at the report.

COLONEL REED

Fair enough, but you can't expect him to get the crown jewels on day one. Look, I got it: you're concerned he might be a double agent. We'll keep pushing him for information and, we hope, get to the point where we're confident he's crossed the line.

Brett taps his pen and looks at S/A Nguyen.

BRETT

Any concerns with the handling officer? Any personal problems or issues?

COLONEL REED

I don't follow.

S/A Nguyen clears his throat.

S/A NGUYEN
This recruitment was quick and
easy, perhaps too quick and easy,
which raises concerns.

Colonel Reed eyes both of them, then folds the report and
slides it into his inside breast pocket.

BRETT
(gestures to the report)
Don't forget to shred that.

S/A NGUYEN
We need to consider the possibility
that your officer is working for
the Chinese.

Colonel Reed stares in the distance.

COLONEL REED
Really? Wow. Noted.

Brett leans back in his chair.

BRETT
What's your plan with Senior
Colonel Li?

COLONEL REED
I'll give him a call.

S/A NGUYEN
You'll probably want to do
something non-alerting, such as a
local tourist site.

BRETT
A guy like this would not respond
well to anything too aggressive.

S/A NGUYEN
You don't want to scare him away.

COLONEL REED
I got it.

Colonel Reed stands.

COLONEL REED
If you boys don't have anything
else, I have work to do.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Colonel Reed, wearing the same suit, and Ana are seated for dinner in an opulent steak restaurant. Ana is wearing a stunning black dress.

COLONEL REED

Normally, a restaurant like this
precedes the sex.

She peruses the menu.

ANA

I don't like to spend too many
dinners with a man wondering
whether he can perform.

COLONEL REED

(smiles)

I guess that means--

She looks up.

ANA

It means I'm still wondering.
(smiles) I'm just kidding.

She winks and touches his hand. He sets the menu down and leans forward to whisper.

COLONEL REED

Just to get this out of the way --
so I don't owe you anything for
last night?

ANA

You Americans are so silly.

The waiter arrives and looks at Colonel Reed.

WAITER

Something to drink, sir?

Colonel Reed turns to Ana.

ANA

I normally like Dom Perignon with
my shrimp cocktail and Brunello
with my steak.

WAITER

A bottle of each, ma'am?

Ana turns to Colonel Reed. He flips through the wine list, smirks when he sees the prices, and nods.

COLONEL REED
That would be splendid.

The waiter nods politely and leaves.

ANA
I saw a beautiful pair of shoes in the mall today. I'll show you. So you see, you don't owe me anything for last night.

Colonel Reed shoots her with a finger pistol.

COLONEL REED
Got it.

ANA
I like the finer things in life and being with interesting people. Does that work for you?

COLONEL REED
Fits like a glove.

ANA
What's your story, Colonel Reed? Married? Divorced? Family?

COLONEL REED
Call me Lance. Divorced, two boys.

He removes a photograph of his wife and two boys from his wallet. She admires it.

ANA
Two handsome boys, just like their father.

He reaches for the photo. She glances at it again before handing it back to him.

ANA
She's pretty. Why did she leave you? Don't tell me -- another woman, or women?

He glances at the menu.

ANA
Are all men the same? I hope the other woman was worth it.

COLONEL REED
You're very good.

ANA
What were you doing at the event last night? Can you tell me, or is it a secret? My guess is that a powerful man like you has many secrets. Am I right?

COLONEL REED
Would you recommend the T-bone or the prime rib?

ANA
I'm guessing your work involves intelligence.

He glances at her with an innocent smile.

ANA
The prime rib.

The waiter arrives with the Dom Perignon and shrimp cocktail.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Colonel Reed and Ana are sleeping under the sheets.

His BlackBerry rings. He rolls over to check the caller ID, then sits up quickly and turns on the bedside lamp.

COLONEL REED
Hello.

He listens, checks the alarm clock (4:15 am), and nods.

COLONEL REED
I'll be right in, sir.

He leans over to kiss Ana on the neck. She grabs his hand and pulls him closer to hug her.

COLONEL REED
I have to go to work.

Ana sits up and rubs her eyes.

ANA
Is something wrong?

COLONEL REED
Some kind of emergency.

Ana stands to reveal her naked body and walks to the bathroom, grabbing her thong and dress from the chair.

He waits for the bathroom door to close and then rummages through her purse. In an inside pocket, he finds her passport -- Ana Rodriguez, Venezuela.

He stands, takes a deep breath, and checks the inside breast pocket of his suit coat to ensure the intelligence report is still there. It is. He breathes a sigh of relief.

Ana emerges from the bathroom wearing her dress and running her fingers through her hair. She slides on her high heels and grabs her earrings from the bedside table.

ANA

If you can't drop me off, I'll need
some money for a taxi.

He grabs his wallet from the bedside table and removes a stack of cash, unsure what to offer. Ana rolls her eyes and grabs two twenties.

ANA

Call me.

She stuffs the cash in her purse, kisses him, and waves as she walks to the door.

He removes the photo of his family from his wallet and pauses to look at it before setting it down.

He enters the bathroom, turns on the sink faucet, and stares into the mirror.

The steam from the hot water rises and fogs the mirror. He wipes the mirror and grabs the shaving creme.

EXT. HOTEL

Colonel Reed exits wearing his Class A uniform.

In the darkness, he stops to view the Potomac River and Washington, D.C.

Traffic is sparse. A nearby traffick lights turns red.

He walks to a rental car in the parking lot and unlocks it remotely as he approaches.

Inside the car, he starts the engine and adjusts the radio to find a news channel. After a pause, he puts the car in drive and exits the hotel.

INT. U.S. CYBER COMMAND, FT. MEADE, MD - MORNING

The sun is rising on the horizon as Colonel Reed enters the parking lot.

The power goes out in the local area, one square block at a time. The Cyber Command building switches to generator power and lights up.

INT. WATCH FLOOR

Uniformed airmen, marines, sailors, and soldiers are typing away at their computers and talking on telephones. The big screen televisions on the wall have flashing red lights.

Brigadier General, the watch commander, is on the phone and gesturing for other officers to act.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
(on the phone)
Give me an update!

He turns to view a big screen television that shows a map of the Maryland electrical grid. His does not blink as he watches -- finally, it turns green.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
(on the phone)
Nicely done.

He listens closely and rubs his forehead.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
(on the phone)
What do you mean?

He groans and slams the phone down. Colonel Reed enters.

COLONEL REED
Did I get you at a bad time?

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Not funny.

COLONEL REED
What's going on?

BRIGADIER GENERAL
We're taking simultaneous hits --
the power grid, secure servers.
They started last night and have
gotten worse into the morning. We
haven't determined the origin.
(MORE)

BRIGADIER GENERAL (CONT'D)
They're breaking off before we can
close the firewalls -- they're
fucking with us.

Colonel Reed gestures to the front office.

COLONEL REED
Keep rocking.

INT. OFFICE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Lieutenant General Lewis is talking on the phone. He waves
Colonel Reed in and gestures to the couch. Colonel Reed
stops to observe the Laocoon statue before sitting.

Lieutenant General Lewis hangs up the phone.

COLONEL REED
Are we under attack?

LIEUTENANT GENERAL
It appears so. The worst part is
they're entering and leaving our
computer systems at will. We can't
shut them down, and we can't
determine who's doing it.

Lieutenant General Lewis stands and joins him on the couch.

COLONEL REED
How can I help, sir?

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Sorry for calling you in so early.
Just wanted you to see this so you
know what's at stake. Any progress
with Senior Colonel Li?

COLONEL REED
I met him last night. A good first
meeting. I'll try to get him out
one-on-one soon.

Lieutenant General Lewis nods with wise eyes.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
I hear the FBI and CIA are not too
excited about your Chinese agent in
Bangkok.

Colonel Reed removes the intelligence report from his inside
breast pocket and hands it to him. Lieutenant General Lewis
dons his reading glasses.

COLONEL REED

They aren't happy with the first report -- "not consistent with his access," they said.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS

Is it? I want success, but when the FBI and the CIA have concerns, I have concerns.

COLONEL REED

What can I say, sir. He agreed to work for us, he took money, and he provided us secrets.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS

After you black-mailed him. Look, I understand we have to take the gloves off, but keep in mind that they can play the same game. Coerced agents usually are not trustworthy. We can't turn this success into a failure. The congressional oversight committees wouldn't be pleased. Make sure you have a good exfil plan. If the shit hits the fan, we have to get him out of there.

COLONEL REED

The good news is I'm not susceptible to black-mail. I got a divorce all on my own.

Lieutenant General Lewis doesn't appreciate the humor.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS

Did it ever occur to you that the women you were sleeping with in Bangkok could have been working for the enemy? What if they had shown you a video? We don't doubt your loyalty, but that would have put you in a difficult position, especially if keeping your family had been a priority.

COLONEL REED

With all due respect, general, leave my family out of this. The divorce was complex.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
In my experience, marriages usually fail for simple reasons. Your divorce won't be discussed during the promotion panel, of course, but the Army wants every new general have a good wife. Perhaps you didn't consider that.

Colonel Reed is silent. Lieutenant General Lewis stands, paces, and glances at the Laocoon.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
We're under attack, always have been, but I fear that our worst enemies might be within. Does it seem plausible that Senior Colonel Li was sent here to run a senior-level American agent, someone with access to our computer systems?

COLONEL REED
I doubt they would send a high ranking official for such an operation. But if so, we'll find the son of a bitch.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Then it's even more important that you make progress with Senior Colonel Li, quickly. We must put an end to these attacks.

Lieutenant General Lewis gestures to the safe.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Our cyber defense program isn't ready. Until then, our systems will remain vulnerable to attack. The attacks today have been manageable, but I fear they may get much worse.

Colonel Reed stands.

COLONEL REED
It might be necessary to take off the gloves, sir.

Lieutenant General Lewis nods reluctantly and escorts Colonel Reed to the door.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Keep me posted.

EXT. REMOTE MOTEL, NORTHERN VIRGINIA - MORNING

A two-star motel with a half-lit neon vacancy light.

A Hispanic maid pushes her cleaning cart to the last room and knocks on the door with a "Do Not Disturb" sign.

No answer.

She knocks on the door again.

No answer.

She removes some keys from her pocket, opens the door a crack, and leans closer.

MAID
Room service.

No answer.

She pulls the cleaning cart closer and opens the door, then looks inside, gasps, and makes the sign of the cross.

EXT. REMOTE MOTEL

Four police cars with flashing lights are in the parking lot. The crime scene has been sealed off, with several police officers keeping the onlookers at bay.

INT. MOTEL ROOM

A body on the bed is covered with a sheet, with a splatter of blood on the headboard. There's a half-empty bottle of bourbon on the night stand and a handgun with a makeshift silencer in an evidence bag close to the body.

A photographer is taking photos as a detective surveys the room.

There's a commotion at the door as a policeman blocks the door to keep someone out.

COLONEL REED
I'm Colonel Lance Reed.

POLICEMAN
Sorry, sir, but no one--

DETECTIVE
Let him in.

The policeman steps aside as Colonel Reed rushes in.

The detective waves him over to the bed and removes the sheet to reveal the dead man's face.

DETECTIVE

Do you recognize this man?

Colonel Reeds sits on the bed and nods as he buries his face in his hands.

DETECTIVE

Some of my men are tracking down his family -- he had a Virginia driver's license -- but you were the only name with a phone number we found in his wallet.

Colonel Reed stands and gestures for Detective to cover the face again with the sheet.

COLONEL REED

We worked together at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, until about a week ago. He worked for me. His name is Captain Tom Howard.

DETECTIVE

I'm sorry to hear that. What kind of work?

COLONEL REED

U.S. Army.

DETECTIVE

Have you spoken with him recently?

Colonel Reed shakes his head. Detective decides not to push the issue.

DETECTIVE

Do you have any ideas about why he might have committed suicide?

Colonel Reed looks at Detective and shakes his head. A policeman approaches and nods respectfully.

POLICEMAN

Detective, no suicide note.

COLONEL REED

Is that important?

DETECTIVE
Most people who commit suicide
leave one, but not always.

Detective hands Colonel Reed a business card.

DETECTIVE
If you can think of anything else,
please give me a call.

Colonel Reed accepts the card and nods.

INT. CAFE

Colonel Reed consoles Mrs. Donna Howard as she cries. He holds her hands as the waitress pours coffee.

MRS. HOWARD
You saw him?

Colonel Reed nods solemnly.

MRS. HOWARD
I just can't believe this is
happening. Why would he do such a
thing?

Colonel Reed pours some cream into the coffees, adds some sugar, and stirs. They sip the coffee.

COLONEL REED
If you don't mind my asking, what
was behind this trip home? Was
this a last-minute thing? Tom
never said anything about coming
home when I was there.

MRS. HOWARD
He said he had to do something for
work and wanted me and the kids to
spend some time with my parents.

She pauses to sip her coffee.

MRS. HOWARD
He dropped us off at my parent's
yesterday after we landed at the
airport. Does this have anything
to do with work?

COLONEL REED
Why do you ask?

MRS. HOWARD

He was acting strange the last few weeks, like something was bothering him. I know you guys have your secrets at work, with the long hours and late nights, but was Tom involved in anything, I don't know, unusual?

COLONEL REED

He was doing amazing work. The only thing that comes to mind is that he might have been stressed out. He didn't leave a note in the motel room, so we may never know what happened.

They sip their coffee.

MRS. HOWARD

How are Beth and the boys?

COLONEL REED

Doing great. Thanks for asking.

She touches his hand.

MRS. HOWARD

We really loved spending time with you guys in Bangkok. Tom idolized you, you know, which is why your divorce was such a shock.

Colonel Reed nods.

MRS. HOWARD

I won't pry, and it's really none of my business, but you guys seemed like such a perfect couple.

He holds her stare.

MRS. HOWARD

I should really be going.

COLONEL REED

I'll let you know if I get any more information. I'm so sorry.

They stand, embrace, and walk outside. He helps her into her car, and she drives away.

He sits in his car and starts the engine, then closes his eyes and pounds the steering wheel with his fists.

INT. BAR, WASHINGTON, D.C. - EVENING

Colonel Reed, S/A Nguyen, and Brett Phelps are sipping beers at a back-corner table.

BRETT

I know you lost a good friend, and we're both very sorry, but -- you know we have to ask -- do you think his suicide had anything to do with the Chinese operation?

Colonel Reed shakes his head with mild confidence.

COLONEL REED

Doubt it.

S/A NGUYEN

But you can't rule it out?

Colonel Reed sips his beer and checks his watch.

COLONEL REED

Of course not. Look, I'm supposed to meet Senior Colonel Li soon, so let's move on.

Colonel Reed gulps his beer and stares in the distance. Brett and S/A Nguyen raise their eyebrows with concern. S/A Nguyen removes a report from his inside breast pocket.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. SENIOR COLONEL LI'S HOME, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Senior Colonel Li exits his home, kisses his wife at the door, and walks to his car.

S/A NGUYEN (O.S.)

Our surveillance teams have been following Senior Colonel Li day and night since his arrival.

Two FBI surveillants in a corner cafe spot him and announce his departure via earpiece radio.

As Senior Colonel Li drives away, an FBI vehicle trails him for the short commute to the Chinese Embassy.

S/A NGUYEN (O.S.)

Every day, he drives from his home to work without stopping.

EXT. CHINESE EMBASSY

At mid-day, Senior Colonel Li exits work and drives to a nearby Chinese restaurant, where he meets other Chinese diplomats for lunch.

S/A NGUYEN (O.S.)
He stays at the office most days
for lunch, but has met with other
Chinese diplomats, never any
foreign government officials.

An FBI surveillance team follows him the restaurant, parks, and sends in a team of two to have lunch in the same restaurant.

Montage of Senior Colonel Li attending a series of diplomatic functions.

S/A NGUYEN (O.S.)
He has attended many diplomatic
functions.

Senior Colonel Li sips wine, speaks with individuals and groups, but never shows emotion.

S/A NGUYEN (O.S.)
But to date we haven't noted any
alerting activity and haven't seen
him meet with any U.S. government
officials.

Senior Colonel Li accepts business cards and nods politely.

BACK TO PRESENT

Colonel Reed, Brett, and S/A Nguyen are finishing their beers. Colonel Reed nods as he reads the surveillance reports.

BRETT
We have also taken a close look at
his technical activity.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. HOUSE

Senior Colonel Li is sitting at home surfing the Internet. His wife serves him a cup of tea.

BRETT (O.S.)
Working through his cable company,
we've been monitoring his on-line
activity. He hasn't visited any
suspicious web sites and we haven't
detected the transfer of any
encrypted files.

EXT. PARK

Senior Colonel Li receives a phone call on his iPhone while
he and his wife are taking a walk.

BRETT (O.S.)
We're up on his cell phone and
placed a beacon on his car to track
his movements.

Senior Colonel Li and his wife enter the car and exit the
park, with an FBI surveillance team in tow.

BACK TO PRESENT

Colonel Reed checks his watch as he reads the reports.

BRETT
In short, we've been all over this
guy, but we haven't noted any
alerting behavior.

S/A NGUYEN
And no indications that he has any
lifestyle issues -- women, gambling
-- that we can exploit.

Colonel Reed nods and hands the reports back.

BRETT
What's your plan for tonight?

COLONEL REED
Keep is simple. I'll just try to
make a new friend.

Brett and S/A Nguyen nod in approval.

S/A NGUYEN
Good idea. Keep it simple.

Colonel Reed shakes their hands and leaves.

INT. GENTLEMAN'S CLUB

Colonel Reed and Senior Colonel Li have a private table near a cage with a topless woman dancing inside.

Senior Colonel Li is a fish out of water.

The waitress arrives with two scotch on the rocks. Colonel Reed pays with a good tip.

Colonel Reed raises his glass for a toast.

COLONEL REED
(talking over the music)
I bet you have some great clubs in
China.

Senior Colonel Li sips his drink, sets it down, and leans closer to speak.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
We have many clubs like this in
China. I imagine they have many in
Bangkok as well. However, such
luxuries are difficult with a
military salary.

Colonel Reed nods and struggles to contain his enthusiasm.

COLONEL REED
If there are any military bases you
want to visit or people you want to
meet, let me know.

Senior Colonel Li nods and checks his watch.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
I must be going.

COLONEL REED
What? No, we just got here. You
can at least stay to finish your
drink.

Senior Colonel Li stands. Colonel Reed stands, shakes his hand, and reluctantly follows him to the door.

COLONEL REED
We should have lunch soon.

Senior Colonel Li nods politely and exits.

Colonel Reed swears to himself, returns to his table, gulps his drink, and give the nod for a lap dance.

INT. BBQ RESTAURANT, GEORGETOWN - NOON

Colonel Reed and Ana are enjoying a pint of beer as two plates of BBQ arrive.

ANA

I love sleeping in on the weekends
and having brunch here.

COLONEL REED

I'll drink to that.

They clink their beers and drink, followed by a peck on the cheek that turns into a passionate kiss.

COLONEL REED

How exactly does this work?

ANA

What do you mean?

COLONEL REED

I understand us -- you're wearing
the Italian shoes I bought -- but
are there, you know, other men
buying you dinner and shoes?

ANA

What's the difference?

COLONEL REED

I would just like to know.

ANA

I like you, but we should both be
honest about what we have. How
does this work for you?

COLONEL REED

What do you mean?

ANA

You just got divorced. Are you
looking for a new wife?

COLONEL REED

No.

ANA

I hope to get married one day and
have children. Are you prepared to
start a new family?

Colonel Reed sips his drink, turned off.

ANA

I'm working my way through a very expensive university. I grew up in poverty and don't want to live that way again. Let's just say I'm very careful about the men I select, and I would very much like to continue what we have. Deal?

Colonel Reed takes a bite of his BBQ sandwich and washes it down with some beer.

COLONEL REED

Deal.

EXT. WASHINGTON HARBOUR

The riverside restaurants are crowded on this sunny day. A crew team rows by as the wind blows.

Colonel Reed and Ana are holding hands and strolling.

ANA

That's terrible. Were you close?

COLONEL REED

He worked for me in Bangkok, a real superior officer. His family is devastated.

ANA

Do you think it was personal or related to his work?

COLONEL REED

We don't know for sure, but I would guess personal.

ANA

What kind of work?

COLONEL REED

All of us who work in the embassies are focused on furthering national security objectives.

Ana stops and rolls her eyes.

ANA

National security objectives? As a colonel working in a foreign embassy, you were probably the
(MORE)

ANA (CONT'D)
Defense Attache or involved in
security assistance.

COLONEL REED
Let me guess -- a political science
major?

ANA
The Internet. I also know that
embassies are platforms for spies --
every three-letter agency.

Colonel Reed feigns ignorance. Ana wraps her arms around him
and kisses him.

ADAM
If it makes any difference, I've
always wanted to have sex with a
spy. Very hot.

COLONEL REED
(smirk)
I'm a humble military officer.

Ana smiles and pulls his arm to continue walking.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Colonel Reed and Ana are naked under the sheets, basking in
the afterglow.

COLONEL REED
I heard it's difficult for a woman
to have multiple orgasms with more
than one partner.

ANA
I heard that as well -- in the Old
Testament.

COLONEL REED
No, I'm serious.

Ana stands and walks to the bedroom.

ANA
It might be true, but I also heard
that a woman can fake her orgasms
with more than one partner.

She blows a kiss and closes the bathroom door.

Colonel Reed laughs and sits on the edge of the bed.

ANA (O.S.)
Feel free to copy my passport
information.

She opens the door wearing a robe and returns to the bed,
then opens her purse and hands him her passport.

ANA
I know you checked my passport the
other night. It wasn't in the same
pocket. It's OK. Go ahead, run
your security checks. By the way,
I left Venezuela to get away from
President Chavez.

She grabs a beer from the mini-bar, sits on the couch, and
turns on the TV.

He puts on a T-shirt and underwear, grabs a beer, and joins
her on the couch.

She channel surfs and stops at a Spanish telenovela.

ANA
This show is about a poor girl who
works for a rich family. She falls
in love with one of the rich sons,
so the family tries to get rid of
her, but she discovers that she's
really from a rich family.

COLONEL REED
So she marries the rich son and
lives happily ever after?

ANA
You're so smart.

Colonel Reed holds her stare and kisses her passionately.
Ana leans back and takes a deep breath.

ANA
I have a secret to confess. I
think I can trust you.

COLONEL REED
I'm all ears.

ANA
(whispering)
What do you think about inviting
another woman to join us?

Colonel Reed shrugs with a smirk.

INT. FBI HQS, COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION - MORNING

S/A Nguyen, Brett Phelps, and Mrs. Howard are sitting at the conference table talking over coffee.

Colonel Reed arrives with a concerned look when he sees Mrs. Howard. He gives her a hug.

COLONEL REED
What's going on?

S/A Nguyen gestures for all to sit.

S/A NGUYEN
We're discussing the unfortunate death of Captain Howard.

COLONEL REED
I understand, but this is a U.S. Army issue. I'm working it.

BRETT
We're dealing with an espionage investigation that involves a U.S. citizen. FBI has the lead.

MRS. HOWARD
(to Colonel Reed)
Is something wrong?

Colonel Reed shakes his head and gestures for them to continue. S/A Nguyen gestures to Mrs. Howard. She removes a letter from her purse.

BRETT
(to Colonel Reed)
Captain Howard wrote a letter and mailed it before his death.

Mrs. Howard opens the letter and pauses when she sees Colonel Reed's nervous expression. He gestures for her to continue.

MRS. HOWARD
(reading the letter)
My Dearest Love: If you are reading this letter it is because I am no longer with you. I could not face the shame of seeing you once the truth was revealed. For this reason, I wanted you to be with the kids at home. I wrote this letter to prevent anyone from altering or destroying it in the motel room. Needless to day, some people in the
(MORE)

MRS. HOWARD (CONT'D)
chain of command would not want the
truth of my activities to be
revealed.

Mrs. Howard looks up and wipes her tears. Colonel Reed
forces a steely stare.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. CLUB ECSTASY, BANGKOK, THAILAND

Colonel Reed and Captain Howard enter. The security guards
greet Colonel Reed like an old friend.

An attractive hostess leads them to a VIP table as a waitress
arrives with two scotch on the rocks.

MRS. HOWARD (O.S.)
In short, my love, I was not the
faithful husband you deserved. I
got caught up in something, and
eventually realized there was no
escape.

Two topless Thai women arrive and sit on their laps.

Captain Howard blushes nervously.

The topless Thai woman on Captain Howard's lap licks his neck
and kisses him.

MRS. HOWARD (O.S.)
I'm a grown man and take full
responsibility for my actions. I
have no one to blame but myself.

Colonel Reed removes two small cigars from his shirt pocket,
hands one to Captain Howard, and grabs a book of matches from
the table to light them.

BACK TO PRESENT

Mrs. Howard sets the letter down and dries her tears.

BRETT
You're doing fine.

S/A Nguyen slides her a box of tissues. Colonel Reed takes a
deep breath and touches her arm.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM, BANGKOK, THAILAND

Captain Howard is taking notes while talking to a Chinese government official. He then offers him an envelope filled with money.

MRS. HOWARD (O.S.)
If I had stopped right away, I
could have avoided some of the
problems, but the situation got
much worse.

Captain Howard is surprised when another Chinese government official enters the hotel room.

After some yelling, the Chinese government official removes photographs from an envelope and lays them on the bed.

Captain Howard looks at them in disbelief.

MRS. HOWARD (O.S.)
My misbehavior soon caught up with
me. While working an operation
against a Chinese official, I was
presented with evidence of my
misdeeds and agreed to work for
them. I thought it was the best
way to protect everyone.

Captain Howard sits on the bed and nods reluctantly.

BACK TO PRESENT

Colonel Reed stares in disbelief as S/A Nguyen and Brett raise critical eyebrows.

S/A Nguyen pours a glass of water for Mrs. Howard as she dries her eyes.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM, BANGKOK, THAILAND

Captain Howard is taking notes while talking to the Chinese official, with the other Chinese official watching.

MRS. HOWARD (O.S.)
To keep the operation running, they
allowed me to report to my chain of
command that my Chinese recruitment
was successful. And they provided
(MORE)

MRS. HOWARD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
bits of intelligence to keep
everyone satisfied.

Captain Howard puts the notes in his briefcase and turns to the other Chinese official, who asks him questions.

MRS. HOWARD (O.S.)
I provided them with a mixture of
true and false information but they
quickly saw through my plan.

An argument starts between Captain Howard and the Chinese official. The Chinese official opens a briefcase with a polygraph machine.

MRS. HOWARD (O.S.)
They demanded that I submit to a
polygraph. I said I needed a day
to think about it. Faced with
revealing secrets to the Chinese or
being shamed for my actions, I
decided there was only one way out.
Please know that I love you and the
kids from the bottom of my heart.

Captain Howard exits the hotel room, leans against the wall, and closes his eyes.

BACK TO PRESENT

Mrs. Howard sets the letter down and wipes her tears, then folds the letter and sets it in her purse.

Colonel Reed, S/A Nguyen, and Brett stand to walk her to the door.

S/A NGUYEN
Thank you so much for coming in
today. We know this wasn't easy.
We'll be in touch.

The door closes. They sit. S/A Nguyen and Brett casually turn to Colonel Price.

BRETT
Moving on to Senior Colonel Li, how
was your meeting?

COLONEL REED
He said something about not having
enough money.

S/A Nguyen and Brett are intrigued.

EXT. REAGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - EVENING

An airplane lands.

Colonel Reed parks his car and walks to the terminal.

INT. REAGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Colonel Reed enters the terminal, checks his BlackBerry, and walks past the outbound security checkpoint.

As he approaches a coffee shop, he sees his ex-wife Beth sitting at a table. He waves to her.

Beth, with salon hair, makeup, and a nice dress, stands with a smile and gives him a hug. She gestures to the two coffees on the table.

BETH

I took the liberty of ordering you
a cappuccino with three natural
sugars -- the way you like it.

They sit. He sets his BlackBerry on the table.

COLONEL REED

Thanks. It's good to see you. You
look great.

She appreciates the compliment. They sip their coffee.

COLONEL REED

What brings you to town?

BETH

Just passing through. I have a
connecting flight.

Colonel Reed sips his coffee.

BETH

I'm flying to my sister's place to
pick up a few things.

Colonel Reed senses the story is not real, but he doesn't mind and enjoys the eye contact.

COLONEL REED

How are the boys?

BETH

Mom and Dad are taking care of
them. They really miss you.

COLONEL REED
I miss them, too. Are they
misbehaving?

They pauses to listen to an announcement.

BETH
Not any more than usual. They're
such good boys. How is work? How
is everything?

A woman behind Colonel Reed (the flight attendant he met
during his return flight from Bangkok) covers his eyes with
her hands.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
There he is.

She removes her hands and kisses him on the cheek.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
How have you been? Why didn't you
call? If you don't have any plans
tonight, I'm--

COLONEL REED
I'm kind of in the middle of--

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Who's this?

Beth forces a smile.

COLONEL REED
This is my ex-wife Beth.

The two ladies exchange glances. Flight Attendant gestures
for Colonel Reed to call her and excuses herself.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Gotta run.

Colonel Reed turns to Beth and shrugs innocently.

BETH
I can see you're adjusting nicely
to your new job.

COLONEL REED
It's not like that.

BETH
No?

COLONEL REED
You asked for a divorce.

BETH
Because you were sleeping with
other women.

They pause to sip their coffee.

His BlackBerry rings and vibrates on the table. He looks at the caller ID -- Ana -- stops the call, and flips the phone around.

Beth glances at the phone and sips her coffee.

The phone rings again. He checks the caller ID -- Ana.

BETH
Are you going to answer that?

He turns at an angle and holds the phone to his ear. Loud music and a woman's voice blast out of the phone.

COLONEL REED
(talking on the phone)
I can't hear you. I'll call you
later. I gotta go.

He hangs up the phones and sets it down with subtle guilt.

BETH
Another friend?

Her flight is announced. She stands and grabs her purse.

BETH
I actually thought you and I could
fix this. How could I have been so
stupid?

Colonel Reed stands and reaches for her, but she turns and walks away, then stops and turns around.

BETH
I can understand you might not be
happy with me all the time, but how
can you live without your children?
What should I tell them?

He shrugs and walks to her.

She turns and walks away.

INT. NIGHTCLUB

A burly bodyguard checks Colonel Reed for weapons and opens the velvet rope.

He walks to the bar, orders a scotch on the rocks, and turns to watch the dance floor.

He sees Ana on the dance floor with an attractive woman with red hair. She sees him and waves for him to join them.

Colonel Reed sips his drink, smiles, and gestures that he is good where he is.

Ana won't take no for an answer. She shuffles over in her high heels and drags him to the dance floor.

He kisses the woman with red hair on the cheek and then does a conservative guy dance.

The next song is out of his league -- too fast -- so he makes his way back to the bar.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Colonel Reed and Ana enter the room.

COLONEL REED
Can I pour you a drink?

Ana walks to the bathroom and closes the door.

ANA (O.S.)
Red wine. Why did you want to
leave so early?

He sits on the couch and turns on the television. She exits the bathroom and sits next to him. He checks his watch.

COLONEL REED
It's 2:00 am.

ANA
Old man getting tired?

COLONEL REED
What about the red head?

ANA
She's not the one.

Colonel Reed smiles, leans back, and closes his eyes as Ana runs her fingers through his hair.

INT. FBI HQS, COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION - MORNING

S/A Nguyen and Brett Phelps are reviewing files in the conference room.

Colonel Reed knocks on the door. S/A Nguyen and Brett wave for him to enter.

COLONEL REED

You said you have some good news?

BRETT

We have some very good news, but take a seat first.

Colonel Reed sits, leans back in his chair, folds his arms, and waits.

S/A NGUYEN

Just a follow-up to our discussion with Mrs. Howard. We wanted to be sure we're all on the same page -- that this case is done.

Colonel Reed nods.

BRETT

The Chinese probably know about Captain Howard's suicide, so they will know that the double agent operation is blown.

Colonel Reed leans forward.

COLONEL REED

I don't need you guys to tell me that the operation is done. If it makes you feel better -- you were right, OK?

S/A NGUYEN

No hard feelings. Let's keep this professional. We just don't want any surprises. Are you ready for the good news?

INT. ELEVATOR

S/A Nguyen, Brett, and Colonel Reed are riding down to the basement.

The tension is thick as the numbers count down.

INT. HALLWAY

They exit the elevator and walk through the bowels of FBI headquarters.

FBI special agents walk purposefully as the cleaning crews and contractors relax in the break rooms.

When they reach the end of the hall, S/A Nguyen gestures to the swinging doors. Brett swings them open to reveal a room filled with garbage.

People are busily dumping garbage onto large large and sifting through it.

S/A Nguyen leads the way and waves to some of the teams as they work busily.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

S/A Nguyen gestures for them to sit and closes the door.

COLONEL REED

Not exactly what I imagined an FBI tour would be like.

BRETT

Don't mind the stench. You'll get used to it.

S/A Nguyen grabs a box, sets it on the table, and sits.

S/A NGUYEN

Our physical and technical surveillance of Senior Colonel Li revealed no suspicious activity.

BRETT

(to Colonel Reed)

You're the only U.S. official he's agreed to meet.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. SENIOR COLONEL LI'S RESIDENCE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

An FBI surveillance team in the corner cafe notices Senior Colonel Li and his wife having an argument in the kitchen.

Senior Colonel Li waves a piece of paper in her face, throws it down, storms out of the house, and drives away.

Senior Colonel Li's wife grabs the piece of paper, crumples it, walks out the front door, and throws it away.

S/A NGUYEN (O.S.)

We have dedicated a lot of resources to monitor Senior Colonel Li. It wasn't until recently that we decided to pay more attention to his wife.

A garbage truck with undercover agents stops in front of the house and dumps the trash into the truck.

INT. SHOPPING MALL

Senior Colonel Li's wife is shopping at a ritzy store in a luxury shopping mall.

BRETT (O.S.)

Turns out his wife has a shopping problem. She ordered several credit cards and ran up the bills without telling her husband.

The cashier swipes the credit card, sets the items in a bag, and wishes her a good day.

EXT. STRIP MALL

An FBI surveillance team follows Senior Colonel Li and parks.

Senior Colonel Li enters a pawn shop.

S/A NGUYEN (O.S.)

He began selling some family possessions and valuables.

Senior Colonel Li exits the pawn shop, pauses in his car, and then drives away.

EXT. CHINA TOWN

Senior Colonel Li parks his car and enters a Chinese restaurant, with FBI surveillance outside.

BRETT (O.S.)

He has been testing the waters with some loan sharks in Chinese organized crime, claiming that it is part of an intelligence

(MORE)

BRETT (O.S.) (CONT'D)
operation, but he has stopped short
of requesting a personal loan.

BACK TO PRESENT

S/A Nguyen sets the credit card statements on the table.

S/A NGUYEN
He canceled the credit cards, but
he's in for about 100K.

BRETT
Corruption is rampant in the
Communist Party. He could probably
borrow the money from organized
crime, but his career would end.

Colonel Reed smirks.

COLONEL REED
I thought you guys didn't like
coercion? Are you suggesting we
blackmail him?

S/A Nguyen shakes his head.

S/A NGUYEN
We didn't lure him into this, and
we won't threaten to expose him.

BRETT
We're offering him a way to resolve
his problem -- no strings attached.

COLONEL REED
But the threat is implicit.

S/A Nguyen and Brett look at each other.

S/A NGUYEN
He might see it that way.

COLONEL REED
Then I'm in.

Brett clears his throat.

BRETT
You can offer him 100K to pay off
the credit cards plus one million
if he agrees to work for us.

Colonel Reed leans back and smiles.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Colonel Reed leans his head back under the steaming hot water in the shower and closes his eyes.

He wipes the fog off the mirror with a towel and slides a razor through the shaving cream on his face.

He stares into the mirror, splashes some water on his face, and sprays some cologne on his neck.

He adjusts the cuff-links on his starched white shirt, slides on a navy blue blazer, and stuffs some folded credit card statements into his inside breast pocket.

He takes a last look in the mirror, grabs his car keys, and exits the room.

EXT. RESTAURANT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Senior Colonel Li is waiting outside. The line is long. He checks his watch.

Colonel Reed pulls up to the curb in his car, rolls down the window, and waves.

COLONEL REED

Colonel.

Senior Colonel Li sees him and enters the vehicle.

INT. CAR

They shake hands and drive away.

COLONEL REED

I hope you weren't waiting too long. They don't take reservations, so I found a better restaurant. How are things?

SENIOR COLONEL LI

Everything is good. Thank you.

COLONEL REED

Work, wife, the kids?

Senior Colonel Li nods.

SENIOR COLONEL LI

Work is busy. We have our child with us, our daughter.

COLONEL REED
Most Chinese officials have to
leave their children behind.

Senior Colonel Li nods.

A valet greets them as they arrive at the restaurant.

INT. RESTAURANT

They are finishing desert and sipping coffee.

Colonel Reed pays the check with cash and gestures to the
restaurant bar.

COLONEL REED
How about another drink before we
go? I have something important I'd
like to discuss with you.

Senior Colonel Li nods. Colonel Reed leads the way.

INT. RESTAURANT BAR

An attractive waitress sets two scotch on the rocks on the
table and excuses herself.

Colonel Reed and Senior Colonel Li clink glasses.

Senior Colonel Li sits in silence.

COLONEL REED
How are you enjoying Washington?

SENIOR COLONEL LI
A great place for work.

COLONEL REED
I imagine it is very competitive
for you to be assigned here.

Senior Colonel Li nods and sips his drink. Colonel Reed sips
his drink and takes a deep breath.

COLONEL REED
We're both intelligence officers,
so we know the game.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
A great game.

They toast and sip their drinks.

COLONEL REED

So it should come as no surprise to you that we take a great interest in your activities here.

Senior Colonel Li nods.

Colonel Reed removes the credit card statements from his inside breast pocket and sets them on the table.

Senior Colonel Li picks them up and stares blankly as he flips through the pages. He sets them down, leans back, and sips his drink.

COLONEL REED

We have noticed that your wife has a spending problem and that you're having a hard time coming up with the money.

Senior Colonel Li stares blankly.

COLONEL REED

You haven't committed any crimes, but if your government were to find out about this, it would probably end your tour here in Washington, and probably hurt your career.

SENIOR COLONEL LI

You would show these to my government?

Colonel Reed shakes his head.

COLONEL REED

You have my word that we won't show them to your government, but we would like to offer you an opportunity that would be beneficial to both of us.

Senior Colonel Li sips his drink.

COLONEL REED

If you agree to work with us, we can eliminate these debts and pay you a large sum of money.

Senior Colonel Li reviews the credit card statements again.

Colonel Reed grabs his BlackBerry, makes a call, speaks quietly, and nods.

COLONEL REED

Why don't you call Citibank to get your balance.

Senior Colonel Li looks at the Citibank credit card statement -- \$24,289 -- and calls the toll-free number.

Senior Colonel Li turns to speak to the computer voice and enters some numbers on the phone. Finally, he holds the phone up to his ear and listens.

COLONEL REED

We'll pay off all the others cards as well. On top of that, we'll pay you one million dollars to work with us during the remainder of your tour here.

SENIOR COLONEL LI

What do you want to know?

COLONEL REED

Do we have a deal?

Senior Colonel Li gulps his drink and nods. Colonel Reed smiles confidently and shakes his hand.

The waitress passes by. Colonel Reed signals for another round. Senior Colonel Li nods.

COLONEL REED

This is moving fast, I know, but to continue with the credit card payments, we'll need some sensitive information as proof that you've crossed the line.

Senior Colonel Li stares in the distance, deep in thought.

The waitress arrives with the drinks. They both drink. Senior Colonel Li sets his drink down.

SENIOR COLONEL LI

Captain Howard was working for us in Bangkok. We had video tapes of him with prostitutes. I have more, but will that suffice for now?

Colonel Reeds sips his drink, smiles, and sets his drink down. They shake hands.

INT. HOUSE OF MRS. HOWARD'S PARENTS - MORNING

Mrs. Howard and her young daughter and son are eating breakfast with her parents.

Her father reads the newspaper and looks on with concern as her mother pours more coffee.

MRS. HOWARD
(smiling to the children)
Would you guys like to go to the
zoo today?

Her parents give supportive smiles.

The children shrug and continue eating.

The doorbell rings.

Her father sets the newspaper down.

EXT. HOUSE

A moving truck is parked in front of the house.

Mrs. Howard and her father approach the two movers, who appear to be former military. They shake hands.

MRS. HOWARD
I'm Donna.

MOVER
Good morning, ma'am. We were told
you wanted all of your furniture
moved to storage until you find a
place to live, but there is a box
of personal items we thought you
might want to have now.

Mrs. Howard looks at her father and nods.

INT. HOUSE

The two movers lug the box up the stairs.

The children watching cartoons stop to watch.

The movers set the box on a guest bed like a religious relic.

Mrs. Howard follows the movers to the front door and signs some papers on a clipboard.

The movers separate the carbon copies and hand some to her.

MOVER

Thank you, ma'am. You all have a
good day.

The movers look at her with sadness in their eyes. Mrs.
Howard nods, closes the door, and walks up the stairs.

In the bedroom, she opens the box. Her mother comforts her
but she gestures that she prefers to be alone.

Her mother kisses her on the cheek and leaves.

She removes the items from the box -- clothes, photographs,
papers -- and begins looking at them.

She sits on the bed and wipes her tears as she admires the
photographs.

She raises one of his shirts to her nose and smells it.

While flipping through a pile of business cards and small
papers, she sees a mauve matchbook for a strip club called
"Club Ecstasy".

She opens it to see two missing matches and flips it around
to see the web site address.

EXT. ZOO

Mrs. Howard, the children, and her parents are walking
through the crowd of people.

They stop to view the tigers. The parents snap a photograph
of Mrs. Howard and the children.

They stop to get cotton candy for the children and grab an
open bench in the shade.

DAUGHTER

Mommy, can we go look at the
monkeys?

MRS. HOWARD

Of course.

The two children run. Mrs. Howard holds her mother's hand
and leans her head on her father's shoulder.

INT. HOUSE

Dinner is ending. Everyone is taking the plates to the kitchen.

Mrs. Howard turns on the faucet and grabs the dish soap.

MOTHER

I'll take care of that, honey. Why
don't you get some rest.

She walks the two children to the family room, turns on cartoons, kisses them on the forehead, and walks up-stairs to her bedroom.

She closes the door, sits at the desk, and clicks on the computer keyboard.

She removes the mauve matchbook from her pocket, flips it around, and types the address in the internet browser.

She is bombarded with nude photographs and scenes of men surrounded by hot young women.

She clicks on the "Events" tab and browses the photographs, mostly of shirtless military men on the stage with strippers exposing their breasts.

Mrs. Howard lets go of the mouse and closes her eyes.

INT. CLUB ECSTASY

Mrs. Howard imagines herself in the club. Captain Howard cannot see her. He is sitting in the VIP room with a drink in his hand. A hot Thai woman sits on his lap, removes her bra, and sinks her tongue in his mouth.

The hot Thai woman leads Captain Howard down a hall with small rooms. Mrs. Howard follows, but he cannot see her. They enter a room. She pushes him onto the bed and turns to her with a grin as she shuts the door.

Mrs. Howard pounds on the door and cries.

INT. BEDROOM

Mrs. Howard closes the internet browser, grabs her address book from the desk drawer, and flips the pages.

She finds her friend Gloria, dials the number, and leans back as the phone rings.

MRS. HOWARD
Hi, Gloria, it's me.

She smiles and nods.

MRS. HOWARD
It's good to hear from you, and
thank you. Yes, we got the
flowers. They were beautiful.
We're still at my parents' place,
and the children are fine.

She finally manages a smile.

MRS. HOWARD
We miss you guys, too. Please
visit us the next time you're in
town. Say, I don't want to bother
you with this, but is there any
chance you could check on something
for me?

More listening and nodding.

MRS. HOWARD
I need you to keep this between us,
but I was wondering whether you
could go to a place called Club
Ecstasy and ask whether they ever
saw my husband, or any other
information they might have.

More listening and nodding.

MRS. HOWARD
Right. It's a start.

She wipes a tear.

MRS. HOWARD
I love you, too. OK, we'll talk
soon. Bye.

She hangs up the phone, wipes her tears, and walks downstairs
to join her parents on the couch.

The children turn.

SON
Can we watch more cartoons?

Mrs. Howard nods. She holds her mother's hand and leans her
head against her father's shoulder.

EXT. U.S. CYBER COMMAND, FT. MEADE - AFTERNOON

Colonel Reed, wearing his Class A uniform, parks his car and approaches the entrance.

INT. WATCH FLOOR

All is quiet on the watch floor -- no chaos or flashing red lights.

Brigadier General hangs up the phone, glances at his e-mail in-box, and then dons his reading glasses and begins reading the newspaper.

He sees Colonel Reed passing by.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Colonel Reed.

He stands. They shake hands.

COLONEL REED
Quiet day.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Finally. Let's hope it's not the calm before the storm. Hey, what's going on? There have been several VIPs arriving today.

COLONEL REED
(smiles)
We had an operational success.

Brigadier General slugs him on the shoulder.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Need-to-know, top secret, all that good stuff. Hey, congratulations. This should help with the star.

COLONEL REED
Fingers crossed. Hey, thanks. Keep America safe.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

A small group, including Lieutenant General Lewis, Colonel Reed, S/A Nguyen, Brett Phelps, and a handful of military and civilian officials are sipping wine and eating snacks.

Each congratulates Colonel Reed.

Lieutenant General Lewis approaches the podium.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Thanks to all of you for taking
time out of your busy schedules to
join us today. In this line of
work our mistakes are made public
and our successes remain hidden.
We're here to celebrate one of our
successes, one so important that I
won't say what it was, but you know
what I'm talking about.

He gestures to the visitors; in particular, S/A Nguyen and
Brett.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
In my long career, this is one of
the best examples of inter-agency
cooperation I've ever seen, and it
goes to show how effective we can
be when we work together.

S/A Nguyen and Brett raise their glasses.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
We're here to celebrate the
particular achievement of one man,
Colonel Reed. (to Colonel Reed)
You alone were able to establish
contact with him and you alone were
able to convince him to do what few
people do willingly. For this, I
offer my congratulations. To
Colonel Reed.

Everyone in the room raises a glass and drinks, and the
guests begin filing out of the room.

COLONEL REED
S/A Nguyen, Brett, you guys are
real professionals. This
celebration is for you as well.

They shake hands and exit the room.

With all the visitors gone, some uniformed military officers
approach Colonel Reed to shake his hand.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Nice show. You should have seen
the looks on the faces of those FBI
and CIA guys.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL
You just put military intelligence
back on the map. Move over FBI and
CIA -- we're taking over!

The military officers enjoy a good laugh.

INT. OFFICE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Lieutenant General Lewis gestures to the couch. Colonel Reed eyes the Laocoon statue as he sits.

Lieutenant General Lewis grabs a file from his desk, sets it on the coffee table, and sits.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
I meant what I said. This is a
great achievement, but let's not
get too cocky with our friends at
FBI and CIA. They did most of the
leg work.

Colonel Reed nods respectfully. Lieutenant General Lewis gestures to the file. Colonel Reed picks it up.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
CIA dropped that off earlier. It's
background information on Senior
Colonel Li. It should be helpful
with your handling of the case.
Some of it is very sensitive, so
keep it under lock and key.

Colonel Reed checks his watch and flips through the pages.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
What was the big piece of
information you got?

COLONEL REED
He told me about the double agent
operation -- that Captain Howard
was working for them.

Lieutenant General Lewis rubs his chin pensively.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
His suicide got some press. Do
you suppose it's possible they know
about it and concluded that the
operation was blown? Perhaps this
is feed material.

COLONEL REED
It's possible, but the way I--

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Were you aware that Captain Howard
was going to strip clubs and paying
for prostitutes?

Colonel Reed pauses and shakes his head.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
That kind of stuff happens with our
own, especially in places like
Bangkok, but our officers need to
set the example, especially those
with security clearances.

Colonel Reed senses that the comment was directed at him.

COLONEL REED
I agree.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Mrs. Howard must be devastated.
She'll need your support.

COLONEL REED
Of course. Any thoughts on how
this will play out with the
upcoming promotions?

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
As you know, we promote people
based on their ability to assume
higher levels of responsibility,
not on particular achievements.
That said, you really made some
people in the Pentagon happy with
this recruitment. I would say your
chances are good.

Colonel Reed smiles humbly and gestures to the Laocoon.

COLONEL REED
Do you think the gods would have
punished him if he had not warned
the Trojans about the Greeks?

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
He was a priest who foresaw the
future. Not warning them wasn't an
option. It was his duty.

Colonel Reed ponders the response.

EXT. U.S. CYBER COMMAND, FT. MEADE, MD - MOMENTS LATER

Colonel Reed, wearing his class A uniform, exits the building and walks to the parking lot, holding the top secret file.

He slides the keys in the car door.

He hears the sound of high heels on the pavement and turns.

MRS. HOWARD

Colonel Reed. They said I would
find you here. Can we talk?

He checks his watch.

COLONEL REED

I'm kind of in a rush.

He turns to open the car door.

MR. HOWARD

I wanted to ask you about Club
Ecstasy.

He pauses, turns, checks his watch -- avoiding eye contact --
and gestures down the road.

COLONEL REED

There's a coffee shop down the
road. You can follow me.

She nods and walks to her car.

INT. CAR

He sets the top secret file on the passenger seat, starts the
car, and exits the parking lot.

He glances repeatedly at the rear-view mirror. Mrs. Howard
is close behind.

At a red light, he begins to lose his patience as he glances
at the clock on the dashboard.

The light turns green. He crosses the intersection and turns
into the cafe.

INT. CAFE

The waitress sets the coffee down and excuses herself.

Mrs. Howard is not eager to start.

COLONEL REED
How are you holding up?

MRS. HOWARD
One day at a time. It's been
really hard on the kids, you know.
How are Beth and the boys?

COLONEL REED
Doing fine. You're still at your
parents' house?

She nods and sips her coffee.

MRS. HOWARD
I wanted to ask you about Club
Ecstasy.

She sets the mauve matchbook on the table. He picks it up,
inspects it (two matches missing), and sets it down.

MRS. HOWARD
It was clear from his letter that
he was with another woman.

He nods knowingly.

MRS. HOWARD
I guess what I'm asking is whether
you know who or what he was talking
about. When we met, he didn't like
strip clubs.

COLONEL REED
Club Ecstasy was one of the more
popular clubs. As you know, our
work required us to bring our
contacts to these places.

She nods politely and sips her coffee.

MRS. HOWARD
Did the two of you ever go to this
particular club?

He inspects the matchbook again.

COLONEL REED
It rings a bell. We had two
targets we were pursuing together,
and I'm pretty sure we brought them
here once.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. CLUB ECSTASY

Colonel Reed and Captain Howard enter. The security guards greet Colonel Reed like an old friend.

An attractive hostess leads them to a VIP table as a waitress arrives with two scotch on the rocks.

Two topless Thai women arrive and sit on their laps.

Captain Howard blushes nervously and leans closer to talk over the loud music.

CAPTAIN HOWARD

Sir, I have to admit that I'm not very comfortable with this.

COLONEL REED

First, don't call me sir when we're working. Second, if you want to succeed in this business, you have to learn to swim with the sharks. You'll be taking many of your contacts to these clubs.

The topless Thai woman on Captain Howard's lap licks his neck and kisses him.

COLONEL REED

Just sit back and have a good time.

Colonel Reed removes two small cigars from his shirt pocket, hands one to Captain Howard, and grabs a book of matches (mauve) from the table to light them.

BACK TO PRESENT

Colonel Reed sips his coffee.

MRS. HOWARD

I asked the Embassy security office in Bangkok to check. For all the days I suspected he might have gone to the club, the security tapes are missing. That seems like more than a coincidence.

Colonel Reed raises a curious eyebrow.

MRS. HOWARD

I know this isn't easy to talk about, but did you ever see him with another woman?

COLONEL REED

I was his supervisor. We didn't have a social relationship. If he was doing something like that, he probably wouldn't have told me.

MRS. HOWARD

Please don't take this the wrong way, but after what happened with you and Beth, I just thought--

Colonel Reed stares at her.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. CLUB ECSTASY

The waitress arrives with two more scotch on the rocks.

Colonel Reed and Captain Howard finish their drinks and accept the new ones.

STRIPPER

(to Captain Howard)

You want suckie fuckie?

Captain Howard stares at her nervously.

COLONEL REED

Of course he wants suckie fuckie.

Colonel Reed grabs some cash from his pocket, slaps it on the table, and turns to Captain Howard.

COLONEL REED

Don't embarrass me. Get your ass in there. That's an order.

Captain Howard stands. The stripper leads him to the back room. When he looks back, Colonel Reed winks.

BACK TO PRESENT

COLONEL REED

I'm sorry, but I really have to go.

Mrs. Howard nods politely.

Colonel Reed leaves with the top secret file.

She grabs the mauve matchbook, sets it in her purse, and closes her eyes.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Colonel Reed, wearing his Class A uniform, is driving aggressively and checking his watch. He enters some traffic and smacks the steering wheel.

The traffic starts to move. He hits the accelerator and quickly hits the breaks.

He passes a sign for a Pentagon exit in 3 miles, then glances at his watch and the file on the passenger seat.

He approaches a sign for a Washington D.C. exit and swerves at the last second to exit.

INT. BAR

Colonel Reed holds the top secret file inside his uniform coat as he weaves through the crowd.

He checks his watch, looks around, does not see her, and continues looking.

Finally, he sees Ana standing at the bar. An attractive young man is talking to her.

His eyes narrow as the man touches her arm and laughs. She laughs with him.

He arrives and kisses her on the cheek.

COLONEL REED
Sorry I'm late.

He stands by Ana with his back to the young man.

YOUNG MAN
I think it's too soon to introduce
me to your father.

Colonel Reed turns to reveal his uniform.

COLONEL REED
Get lost, punk.

Colonel Reed stares the young man down. Ana gestures politely for the young man to leave.

ANA
What was that all about, and why
are you so late?

COLONEL REED

Work. We need to change the plans.
Let's go to my place. Where's your
friend?

Ana laughs and sips her drink.

ANA

What's gotten into you? We can go
to your place, but my friend is
running late. I can call her and
tell her to meet us there.

Colonel Reed grabs her scotch on the rocks, takes a healthy
sip, and takes a deep breath.

COLONEL REED

Sorry. I have a lot going on.
Tell me about your friend.

ANA

If I didn't know better, I'd say
you've never had a threesome.

COLONEL REED

(smirks)
Not for free.

ANA

Sex is never free, dear.

Ana grabs her drink and finishes it.

INT. HOTEL

Colonel Reed gestures for Ana to sit on the living room couch
as he enters the bedroom.

He confirms that she isn't looking and then slides the top
secret file between the mattress and the box spring.

He changes out of his uniform, puts on jeans and a linen
shirt, and splashes some water on his face.

He grabs two glasses from the kitchenette, fills them with
ice, grabs two small bottles of scotch from the mini-fridge,
and joins her on the couch.

ANA

How long are you staying here? Are
you planning to buy a place?

He pours the two drinks. They toast, kiss, and sip.

COLONEL REED
 I'm still looking. I spend most of
 my days in the Pentagon, so I'll
 probably buy a condo on the metro.

Ana's cell phone rings. She checks the called ID and excuses herself to the window.

ANA
 (on the phone)
 Hey, you made it. Come on up.
 We're in 702.

Colonel Reed stands, wraps his arms around her, kisses her, and leans back to make eye contact.

COLONEL REED
 Just to be clear -- this woman is a
 friend, right? Not for hire.

ANA
 Would it make a difference?

COLONEL REED
 Prostitution just happens to be
 illegal, and I kind of like the
 idea of two women wanting it.

Ana taps him on the forehead and rolls her eyes.

ANA
 I swear to God -- all men are the
 same. Am I right?

They sip their drinks and enjoy the view. Down the hall, the "ding" of the elevator can be heard and muffled footfalls approaching the door.

There's a knock on the door. Colonel Reed spans Ana on the ass as she goes to answer it.

Ana opens the door to reveal a beautiful young Thai woman wearing a silk blouse, a skirt, and heels.

They kiss, close the door, and approach Colonel Reed.

ANA
 (to Colonel Reed)
 This is Lucy.

Colonel Reed kisses Lucy on the cheek.

LUCY
 Nice to meet you.

Ana hands Lucy the two glasses.

ANA
(to Lucy)
Why don't you pour us some drinks
and join us in the bedroom.

Ana takes Colonel Reed by the hand and leads him to the bedroom. She helps him lay on the bed and then sits on a chair in the corner.

COLONEL REED
What are you doing?

ANA
I want to watch first.

Lucy enters with three scotch on the rocks, hands one to Ana, and then sits next to Colonel Reed.

Lucy downs her entire drink. Colonel Reed does the same and turns to Ana.

ANA
Don't look at me.

Colonel Reed looks at Lucy and smiles.

Lucy begins kissing his neck, then slowly unbuttons his shirt as kisses his chest.

Colonel Reed blinks and takes a sudden deep breath.

Lucy loosens his belt, unzips his pants, and reaches inside his underwear.

Colonel Reed sits up and shakes his head.

ANA
What's wrong?

COLONEL REED
I, I don't know.

Colonel Reed looks at the glass on the night stand, tries to stand, and then falls onto the floor, half-conscious.

LUCY
(to Ana)
It should take a few minutes to
kick in. Do you have a camera?

Ana grabs her cell phone as Lucy stands, removes a wig, and drops the skirt to reveal male genitalia.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Sunlight fills the room.

Colonel Reed is sleeping on the bed with a sheet covering his naked body.

His BlackBerry rings and vibrates on the kitchenette counter.

He groans, rolls over, and rubs his eyes.

He focuses on the alarm clock -- 9:45 am -- as he drifts off to sleep again, then sits up quickly.

He groans and rubs his head, then slides on some underwear and walks to the kitchenette to check his phone -- a missed call from the FBI office.

He scrolls down to Ana's name in the BlackBerry and dials the number. The number is no longer in service.

COLONEL REED

What the?

His eyes bulge as he focuses on the untucked sheets between the mattress and box spring. He runs over to lift the mattress -- the top secret file is missing.

COLONEL REED

Shit!

He paces and rubs his temples, then dials the missed call on his BlackBerry.

COLONEL REED

(on the phone)

Hey, I'm running late. I had to stop by the office for something. OK, see you soon.

INT. FBI HQS, COUNTERINTELLIGENCE DIVISION

Colonel Reed, wearing a blazer and dress slacks and holding a cup of coffee, knocks on the door and lets himself in.

He shakes hands with S/A Nguyen and Brett Phelps.

Brett smirks.

BRETT

Looks like you had a late night.

Colonel Reed forces a smile and sips his coffee.

COLONEL REED
Probably a few too many.

S/A Nguyen sets a file down.

S/A NGUYEN
(to Colonel Reed)
Tonight is your first meeting with
Senior Colonel Li since the
recruitment.

BRETT
He might have gotten cold feet, so
it's very important to recruit him
again to make sure he's one hundred
percent on board.

S/A Nguyen slides him a piece of paper.

S/A NGUYEN
We compiled a list of questions for
the meeting tonight. If he can
provide detailed answers to any of
these questions, we'll know he's
the real deal.

BRETT
It's highly unlikely they would
allow Senior Colonel Li to answer
any of these questions if he was
under their control -- they're far
too damaging.

Colonel Reed reviews the questions and sips his coffee.

S/A Nguyen continues reading his file. Brett sips his coffee
and gestures to Colonel Reed.

BRETT
Was the historical information in
the file useful?

Colonel Reed looks up, confused.

BRETT
The file we gave you on Senior
Colonel Li and the other sensitive
Chinese operations.

Colonel Reed nods knowingly and gives a thumbs-up.

COLONEL REED
Good stuff.

Colonel Reed pauses to look at them. S/A Nguyen looks up, surprised to see Colonel Reed looking at him.

COLONEL REED
Should we meet tonight after the
meeting, or can this wait until
tomorrow?

S/A Nguyen and Brett look at each other and shrug.

BRETT
I can wait until tomorrow. How
about the same time?

S/A Nguyen nods in agreement.

Colonel Reed folds the list of questions, slides it into his inside breast pocket, and stands.

COLONEL REED
See you then.

Colonel Reed offers an informal salute. S/A Nguyen and Brett wave and return to reading the files.

INT. CAR

Colonel Reed is driving along the Potomac.

He pulls off the road at a tourist spot, stops the car, and steps outside to pace.

Some tourists are snapping photographs.

He scrolls down his BlackBerry contacts to Ana and calls again. The number is no longer in service.

He confirms that he has a good signal and gives it another try -- out of service.

He stares at the river in disbelief.

EXT. U.S. CYBER COMMAND, FT. MEADE

Colonel Reed arrives and parks the car.

INT. OFFICE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Colonel Reed and Lieutenant General Lewis are sitting on the couch. Colonel Reed removes the list of questions.

COLONEL REED
I met with FBI and CIA earlier.
They gave me a list of questions
for the meeting tonight.

Lieutenant General Lewis reviews them.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
You need to take control of this
operation. We should be able to
generate these questions on our
own. From now on, you should meet
with our experts.

Colonel Reed nods respectfully and takes the paper.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
We're taking a lot of heat on
Captain Howard's suicide. I'm
telling you this because, as his
supervisor, you'll probably be
deposed at some point.

COLONEL REED
Yes, sir.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Will there be any surprises?

They look at each other. Colonel Reed shrugs.

COLONEL REED
No.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Good. Have a good meeting.

They stand and walk to the door and shake hands.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Before I forget, I'll need that
file back.

Colonel Reed feigns ignorance.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
The China file. The FBI and CIA
made me sign for it.

COLONEL REED
Of course.

Colonel Reed turns and exits the office.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - EVENING

Colonel Reed is sitting alone sipping a scotch on the rocks.

There's a knock at the door.

He walks calmly to the door, peers in the peephole (sees Senior Colonel Li with a briefcase), and opens the door.

They shake hands.

Colonel Reed ensures the coast is clear, sets the "Do Not Disturb" sign on the door handle, and closes the door.

He gestures to the couch. They sit.

COLONEL REED

A drink?

Senior Colonel Li nods. Colonel Reed pours a scotch on the rocks for Senior Colonel Li and removes the folded piece of paper from his inside breast pocket.

COLONEL REED

I guess we can get down to business. I have some questions I'd like to discuss with you. First, which tools are you using to penetrate our computer systems?

Senior Colonel Li removes a folded piece of paper from his inside breast pocket and sets it on the table.

Colonel Reed picks it up and unfolds it.

COLONEL REED

What's this?

SENIOR COLONEL LI

That is the information you are going to pass to your superiors about this meeting.

COLONEL REED

I don't understand.

Senior Colonel Li sips his drink and sets it down.

SENIOR COLONEL LI

Now that your government believes I work for you, I would like to offer you the opportunity to work for us.

Colonel Reed looks at him with confusion.

COLONEL REED
Why would I do that?

SENIOR COLONEL LI
I will tell you a story.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM, BANGKOK, THAILAND

Captain Howard and a Chinese government officials are sitting and talking.

SENIOR COLONEL LI (O.S.)
You ran an operation in Bangkok against one of our officials. You lured him into a compromising position and presented evidence to him to coerce him.

Captain Howard shows the Chinese government official a series of photographs.

SENIOR COLONEL LI (O.S.)
As I told you during the last meeting, this operation was under our control. It was actually your officer who was caught in a compromising position.

There's a knock at the door. Another Chinese government official enters.

SENIOR COLONEL LI (O.S.)
Captain Howard was honorable. He decided to take his own life rather than betray his country. However, he did provide us one interesting piece of information.

Captain Howard reviews the photographs and nods reluctantly.

BACK TO PRESENT

Colonel Reed leans back and sips his drink.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
He told us you had been reassigned to U.S. Cyber Command. It was then that we decided that you were our primary target.

COLONEL REED
You decided wrong.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
But the story is not over.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM

Colonel Reed enters the Chinese diplomatic function.

SENIOR COLONEL LI (O.S.)
Given your affinity for women, we
tasked our agent Ana to make
contact with you and make promises
of a sexual encounter.

Ana approaches Colonel Reed at the bar.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Judy enters the hotel room.

Colonel Reed and Ana enter the bedroom. Judy pours three
drink and laces one with a white powder.

SENIOR COLONEL LI (O.S.)
Your sexual encounter was not what
you expected.

Judy removes her skirt to reveal male genitalia and then
climbs into bed with Colonel Reed as Ana films them.

SENIOR COLONEL LI (O.S.)
Your humiliating sexual encounter
with a man was caught on film.

Judy removes Colonel Reed's clothes.

BACK TO PRESENT

Colonel Reed chuckles and sets his drink down.

COLONEL REED
You have a video tape of me and you
think I'll work for you? Who
cares? I'll say I was drugged.

Senior Colonel Li sets his drink down.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
Let's just say you look quite
conscious in most of the film. But
the story is not over.

Colonel Reed stares and grabs his drink.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
As luck would have, you made the
terrible mistake of leaving a top
secret file with classified
information in your room.

Senior Colonel Li removes it from a briefcase and sets it on
the table. He also sets down a stack of DVDs.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
The investigation of Captain Howard
has led your investigators to Club
Ecstasy. What you don't know about
your favorite club is that the
owner worked for us. He provided
us all the security tapes of you
and Captain Howard, to include the
pressure you put on him to have sex
with prostitutes.

Colonel Reed grabs the DVDs.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
Perhaps you can survive a video of
a homosexual encounter. But can
you survive, will you ever wear a
star on your shoulder, if this file
and these security tapes are
revealed?

Colonel Reed leans back and sips his drink, struggling to
maintain his steely stare.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
You have one day to think about it.
All we ask, in exchange for one
million dollars, is that you bring
us a copy of the new cyber defense
program U.S. Cyber Command is
developing. We'll give you a
polygraph. If you fail to deliver
or are lying, we will release this
information to your superiors.

Colonel Reed stands, stares at Senior Colonel Li, and hastily
exits the room.

INT. HOUSE - EVENING

Mrs. Howard, her two children, and her parents are finishing dinner and bringing the dishes to the kitchen.

The children run to the living room to watch television.

Mrs. Howard starts rinsing the plates. Her mother watches and moves closer to help.

Mrs. Howard opens the dishwasher and begins setting the dishes inside.

Her mother grabs her hand.

MOTHER

Honey, why don't you spend some
time with the kids. I'll take care
of this.

Mrs. Howard manages a smile. Her mother kisses her.

She walks to the living room and sits with her father on the couch. The children are sitting on the floor watching television.

The cartoon has some humorous, gratuitous violence. The children laugh.

MRS. HOWARD

OK, get ready for bed. You have
school tomorrow.

The kids groan.

MRS. HOWARD

OK, but just a few more minutes.
(to her father) I'm feeling kind
of tired.

FATHER

I'll put them to bed. You get some
sleep.

Mrs. Howard kisses the children on the forehead and walks up the stairs to the bedroom.

She closes the door and starts getting undressed.

Her computer awakes and alerts her to a Skype call.

She checks the name (Gloria), smiles, and accepts the call. When the image of her friend appears, she waves.

INT. CAR

Colonel Reed stares ahead blankly as he drives. The oncoming headlights blind him as a light rain falls.

He turns off the radio and takes a deep breath as he arrives at U.S. Cyber Command.

INT. U.S. CYBER COMMAND

Colonel Reed passes through the watch floor. Brigadier General hangs up the phone and shakes his hand.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Working late?

COLONEL REED
Yeah. I have some documents I need to lock up.

Brigadier General winks and slaps his shoulder.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Hey, the good news is that things have been quiet here since the last attack. Knock on wood.

They shake hands.

COLONEL REED
Enjoy your shift.

INT. OFFICE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Colonel Reed knocks on the door and peeks inside. Lieutenant General Lewis waves him in.

Colonel Reed approaches the desk.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
How was the meeting?

COLONEL REED
Good. He answered some of the questions. Good stuff.

He removes the paper from his inside breast pocket.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Why did you drive all the way out here? You could have locked that up in the Pentagon.

INT. BEDROOM

Mrs. Howard waves to Gloria on the computer.

MRS. HOWARD
Good morning.

GLORIA
(on Skype)
I'm glad I got you before you went to bed. How are you doing?

MRS. HOWARD
It's still not easy, but the children are managing. Did you find anything else?

GLORIA
(on Skype)
The security office reached a dead end with the club, but I've been talking to some of the other military officers at the Embassy.

Uneasy pause.

MRS. HOWARD
And?

GLORIA
(on Skype)
I talked to a lot of people about this; everyone says the same thing: Colonel Reed had a notorious reputation for going to these clubs, which is why his wife left him. Many people here are convinced he was the reason your husband committed suicide.

Mrs. Howard wipes her tears.

MRS. HOWARD
Why would he do that?

GLORIA
(on Skype)
Because he's an ass who didn't like anyone who didn't drink or go to those clubs. You need to talk to him or someone in the Army who can do something about it.

Mrs. Howard nods as she wipes her tears.

INT. OFFICE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Colonel Reed gestures to the couch and sits. Lieutenant General Lewis joins him.

COLONEL REED

My meeting was in the local area.
I wanted to check on how things
were going with the program.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS

We're burning the midnight oil.
The beta version is due tomorrow.
What information did Senior Colonel
Li provide?

COLONEL REED

He provided good answers to some of
the questions. Now that he's in
Washington he can't answer all the
questions, but I think we're on the
right track.

Lieutenant General Lewis nods pensively.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS

That's good news.

COLONEL REED

So, burning the midnight oil?

The phone rings. Lieutenant General Lewis nods and answers
the call. He nods and hangs up, then opens the safe.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS

The technicians are ready for the
final test.

Lieutenant General Lewis removes the laptop computer from the
safe and sets it on the desk.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS

If it succeeds, we'll upload it
tomorrow.

Lieutenant General Lewis grabs the phone.

COLONEL REED

I'm on my way out. I could bring
it down for you. Basement, right?

Lieutenant General Lewis hangs up the phone and nods.

Colonel Reed stands, grabs the laptop, and exits the office.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Senior Colonel Li paces as a Chinese polygraph technician sets up his equipment next to the kitchenette table.

A Chinese computer technician is sitting on the couch with a laptop computer.

There's a knock at the door. Senior Colonel Li peers in the peephole and opens the door to reveal Colonel Reed.

Senior Colonel Li gestures for him to enter.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
Did you bring the data?

Colonel Reed nods.

Senior Colonel Li turns to the polygraph technician. He nods to indicate he's ready.

Senior Colonel Li leads Colonel Reed to the chair.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
This gentleman is from our office of security. He will ask you some questions. As we discussed, if you are lying, we will release our information to your supervisors. Do you understand?

Colonel Reed sits and nods.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
Do you have the data?

Colonel Reed removes a pen-drive from his shirt pocket and hands it to him.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
If this program is a fake, we will release our information to your supervisors. Do you understand?

Colonel Reed nods.

Senior Colonel Li hands the pen-drive to the computer technician on the couch. He inserts the pen-drive into his laptop computer and begins reviewing the content.

The polygraph technician finishes connecting Colonel Reed to the machine and turns to Senior Colonel Li.

Senior Colonel Li nods, pours himself a drink, and sits on the couch next the computer technician.

Colonel Reed stares in the distance.

POLYGRAPH TECHNICIAN
Is your name Colonel Lance Reed?

Colonel Reed takes a deep breath and closes his eyes.

COLONEL REED
Yes.

POLYGRAPH TECHNICIAN
Are you in the U.S. Army?

COLONEL REED
Yes.

POLYGRAPH TECHNICIAN
Are you married?

Colonel Reed pauses.

COLONEL REED
No.

The polygraph technicians nods to Senior Colonel Li, who gestures for him to continue.

POLYGRAPH TECHNICIAN
Are you working as a controlled agent against us?

COLONEL REED
No.

POLYGRAPH TECHNICIAN
Have you told anyone about your meeting with us today?

COLONEL REED
No.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. U.S. CYBER COMMAND

Colonel Reed grabs the laptop computer, exits the office, and approaches the elevators.

Beads of sweat form on his forehead. The elevator arrives. He presses "B" as the doors close.

When he reaches bottom, the doors open. He exits the elevator and looks both ways. The hall is clear.

His shoes echo as he walks down the polished floor.

Before reaching the office (he hears voices), he stops in the bathroom and locks the door.

He sets the laptop on the counter, opens it, turns it on, and inserts a pen-drive.

He glances at the door as the file downloads.

When it is done, he turns off the laptop, closes it, and stuffs the pen-drive in his pocket.

BACK TO PRESENT

POLYGRAPH TECHNICIAN
Is the original computer file on
the pen-drive?

COLONEL REED
Yes.

POLYGRAPH TECHNICIAN
Did you or anyone else install a
virus on this pen-drive?

COLONEL REED
No.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. U.S. CYBER COMMAND

Colonel Reed exits the bathroom and walks down the hall to the office.

He waves to the computer technicians and gestures to the laptop computer.

COLONEL REED
Lieutenant General Lewis asked me
to drop this off.

One of the technicians walks over and accepts it.

TECHNICIAN
Thanks.

COLONEL REED
Good job. I hope it works.

TECHNICIAN
Fingers crossed.

Colonel Reed waves and leaves the office.

BACK TO PRESENT

POLYGRAPH TECHNICIAN
Did you bring the Pentagon's new
cyber defense program?

COLONEL REED
Yes.

The polygraph technician stops to review the data. He turns to Senior Colonel Li and nods.

Senior Colonel Li gestures for the polygraph technician to disconnect Colonel Reed from the machine, then pours a drink and gives it to Colonel Reed.

Colonel Reed stands, gulps his drink, and paces.

Senior Colonel Li turns to the computer technician on the couch, who is reviewing the contents of the pen-drive.

The computer technician finishes running the diagnostic tests, turns to Senior Colonel Li, and nods.

Senior Colonel Li stands and approaches Colonel Reed.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
It appears that everything is in
order. When you are ready, we can
discuss payment.

Colonel Reed finishes his drink and sets the glass down.

COLONEL REED
Are we done?

Senior Colonel Li nods. Colonel Reed walks to the door.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
One moment.

Colonel Reed stops and turns. Senior Colonel Li removes the top secret file from his briefcase and hands it to him.

Colonel Reed grabs it and exits the room.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Colonel Reed looks in the mirror and ties a double Windsor knot for his class-A uniform.

He slides on his coat with a chest full of ribbons, buttons it up, and tugs the lapels.

He grabs the car keys and the file from the kitchenette counter and exits the room.

INT. WATCH FLOOR, U.S. CYBER COMMAND

All is quiet.

Colonel Reed passes through the watch floor and waves to Brigadier General, who is talking on the phone.

Brigadier General waves and gives a thumbs-up.

INT. OFFICE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Colonel Reed knocks on the door. Lieutenant General Lewis is talking on the phone and waves him in.

Colonel Reed walks to the couch and pauses to look at the Laocoon statue before sitting.

He stands to shake hands with Lieutenant General Lewis and hands him the top secret folder.

They sit.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Thanks. The FBI and CIA have been
harassing me for this.

COLONEL REED
How's the new system working?

Lieutenant General Lewis knocks on the wooden table.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
So far so good.

Lieutenant General Lewis narrows his eyes and takes a deep breath.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
I'm obligated to tell you that Mrs.
Howard has filed a formal complaint
against you.

Colonel Reed nods soberly.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
The promotion panel will not look favorably on this.

COLONEL REED
I'm not totally surprised. In my defense, I'd like to say--

Lieutenant General Lewis raises a hand.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
I would advise you against saying another word. Save it for the lawyers. Anything you say to me will not be protected.

Colonel Reed leans back.

COLONEL REED
I see.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
I will say, though, if there is any truth to her claims, you'll be in a difficult position.

There's a knock on the door. A military officer pokes his head in the office and clears his throat.

MILITARY OFFICER
Excuse me, general. We have a situation.

INT. WATCH FLOOR

Complete chaos.

The television screens on the wall have flashing red lights.

The military personnel are busily talking on phones and typing on their computers.

Brigadier General rushes to his desk and picks up the phone.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Give me the White House. (waits)
This is U.S. Cyber Command. We're on full alert. What's your status?
(waits and nods) Roger that.
Please advise any updates.

Lieutenant General Lewis arrives. Brigadier General hangs up the phone.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
General, we're taking hits from all directions -- much worse than the last attack.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
Is the new system up and running?

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Full speed ahead, but they're breaking through our fire walls with no resistance. Should we bring back the old system?

Lieutenant General Lewis closes his eyes.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
No. It's too late for that. Just follow protocol.

Brigadier General nods and grabs the phone.

INT. OFFICE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Colonel Reed, sitting on the couch, hears the noise below, walks to the office window, and slides the curtain open to see below.

He watches in horror as the military personnel work frantically to defend the computer networks.

Brigadier General leads admirably as he gives orders and responds to phone calls.

Colonel Reed closes the curtain and walks to the Laocoon statue. He can't take his eyes off the look of horror and suffering on Laocoon's face.

Lieutenant General Lewis enters the office. Colonel Reed turns to him.

COLONEL REED
General, how bad is it?

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
I don't understand. The new system is up and running. It was written with new code that no one has ever seen, but they're bypassing our fire walls.

COLONEL REED
We can stop it, right?

Lieutenant General Lewis paces.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
I don't know. They'll do their
best, but this could be the end of
U.S. Cyber Command.

He stops and looks at Colonel Reed.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
The other agencies fought us tooth
and nail on this. We assured the
president there would be no
problems, so he gave us the green
light. Either way, we're done.

Colonel Reed lowers his head respectfully and gestures to the
door. Lieutenant General Lewis nods.

INT. WATCH FLOOR

Brigadier General dials a number.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Revert to secondary fire walls and
isolate the data back-up. We'll
have to reboot the system again to
shut down their attacks.

He hangs up the phone and glances at one of the televisions
on the wall. One green light in a sea of red.

A military officer hangs up the phone and gives a thumbs-up
to Brigadier General.

Another green light in a sea of red.

Colonel Reed walks through at a quick pace and offers a half
wave to Brigadier General.

The curtain opens from the window overlooking the watch
floor. Lieutenant General Lewis stands solemnly.

At the door, Colonel Reed turns to look one last time before
exiting.

Another military officer hangs up the phone and gives a
thumbs-up to Brigadier General.

A few more green lights in a lake of red.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Colonel Reed, wearing his class A uniform, sits in his car, and closes the door.

He watches in disbelief as men and women in uniforms and suits rush into and out of the building.

He puts the car in drive and exits the parking lot.

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Colonel Reed paces.

He dials Ana on his BlackBerry. The number is still out of service.

He scrolls down to his ex-Wife Beth but does not dial.

He enters the closet, grabs a small black leather travel bag, and exits the room.

INT. CAR

Colonel Reed is driving on a busy interstate (I-66) full of traffic heading west.

The traffic clears as farmland appears. He takes an exit for a county road.

He drives by some local businesses -- mechanic, hardware -- before arriving at the remote motel where Captain Howard had killed himself.

He slows as he drives by and parks at a bar just down the road.

He exits the car, looks around, and enters the bar.

INT. SMALL TOWN BAR

The dozen or so clients turn to look as Colonel Reed enters wearing his class A uniform.

He sits at the bar. A bartender wearing a baseball cap and a flannel shirt approaches.

BARTENDER

What can I get for you, colonel?

Colonel Reed glances at the whiskey bottles.

COLONEL REED
Give me a double of your best
scotch.

The bartender nods, pours the drink, and slides him a small bowl of nuts.

Colonel Reed down the drink and gestures for another.

The bartender fills the glass.

CUT TO:

INT. SMALL TOWN BAR

Colonel Reed is sitting at a table talking to a handful of locals. He has had a few drinks.

COLONEL REED
So we're about to knock down the
door and this Arab terrorist tries
to jump out the back door.

The people lean closer to listen.

MAN
What did you do?

COLONEL REED
We chased his ass down and shot
him. That's what we did.

MAN
Amen to that!

They all clink glasses to toast. Colonel Reed reaches for some cash as the waitress arrives with more drinks.

MAN
You're money ain't good here,
colonel. We got it.

Colonel Reed nods humbly and sips his scotch.

COLONEL REED
Thanks. I grew up in a town just
like this.

MAN
Hey, colonel. Thanks.

Colonel Reed nods humbly. They shake hands.

Colonel Reed notices something on the television. He stands and walks to the bar.

COLONEL REED
Can you turn that up?

The bartender stops drying a glass and turns up the volume.

A newscaster is standing outside of U.S. Cyber Command.

NEWSCASTER
(on TV)
U.S. Cyber Command has not made an official statement, but our sources indicate we faced a major cyber attack today. We have no estimate of the damage, but one source called the attack "unprecedented."

The news programs cuts to the anchor.

Colonel Reed stares in disbelief, then turns to the others and waves.

COLONEL REED
Thanks for the drinks. I have to get going.

BARTENDER
Hey, colonel. You've had a few to drink. You OK to drive?

Colonel Reed gestures down the road.

COLONEL REED
I'm staying at the motel.

INT. MOTEL LOBBY

A bell rings when Colonel Reed enters. An old man behind the desk looks up.

Colonel Reed sets the black leather travel bag on the floor.

COLONEL REED
One room, please.

The old man hands him a key, opens the registry, and gives Colonel Reed a pen to fill in the information.

INT. MOTEL ROOM

Colonel Reed sits on the bed watching the news story about the cyber attack.

He grabs his BlackBerry and dials. His two sons on the other end answer.

COLONEL REED

Hey guys, it's me. How are you?
Is mommy there?

He listens and smiles.

COLONEL REED

Are you doing your homework and
being good kids?

He listens and smiles.

COLONEL REED

That was always your favorite
cartoon. Hey, I love you both very
much, so much. Tell your mommy I
love her too.

He wipes the tears in his eyes as he hangs up the phone.

He stands, walks to the mirror, adjusts his uniform, opens his black leather travel bag, and grabs a gun.

He loads the chamber, takes a deep breath, and begins pacing.

He checks the empty mini-fridge and sits on the bed.

He turns off the television.

He closes his eyes and raises the gun to his head.

He leaves the gun on the bed and paces. He takes a deep breath, sits down, and grabs the gun.

There's a knock at the door.

He sets the gun in the black leather travel bag and walks to the door.

He opens it to reveal S/A Nguyen and another FBI officer.

S/A NGUYEN

Colonel Reed. Please come with us.

S/A Nguyen removes handcuffs from his belt. Colonel Reed offers his wrists.

INT. JAIL CELL - LATER

Colonel Reed, wearing an orange suit, is lying on the bed looking at the ceiling.

Down the hall, a steel door opens and slams shut. Footfalls approach the cell.

S/A Nguyen and Brett Phelps enter the cell and sit on the other bed. Colonel Reed sits up.

S/A NGUYEN
Why did you do it?

COLONEL REED
It's a long story.

BRETT
We have all day.

S/A NGUYEN
Do you have any idea how much damage you caused?

COLONEL REED
I do now. Look, they entrapped me with a male hooker dressed like a woman and then stole that top secret file from my hotel room.

BRETT
Is that all?

Colonel Reed shakes his head.

COLONEL REED
They also had audio and video of my activities in Bangkok with Captain Howard.

S/A NGUYEN
Wait a minute.

S/A Nguyen stands and waves. The steel door opens and slams shut. The sound of high heels approaches.

Mrs. Howard arrives and sits next to Colonel Reed.

S/A NGUYEN
(to Colonel Reed)
Tell her.

Colonel Reed avoids eye contact.

COLONEL REED
I wasn't a good influence on your
husband.

An awkward silence.

MRS. HOWARD
That's it?

Tears begin to well in Colonel Reed's eyes.

COLONEL REED
We went to Club Ecstasy. I
pressured him to have sex with one
of the women.

Mrs. Howard looks at him, crying.

MRS. HOWARD
You told him he wouldn't be a real
man if he didn't?

Colonel Reed nods and wipes his tears.

MR. HOWARD
Why?

Colonel Reed can't hold back the tears.

COLONEL REED
I don't know.

He falls to his knees and hugs her legs.

COLONEL REED
I'm so sorry.

Mrs. Howard looks down at him with pity but can't take it any
more. She stands and rushes out of the cell, crying.

S/A Nguyen and Brett help him off the floor and onto the bed.

Colonel Reed takes several deep breaths to calm himself.

BRETT
She agreed to not press charges if
you were honest with her.

S/A NGUYEN
The court martial might not see it
the same way.

Colonel Reed nods and wipes his last tears.

Brett stands and waves down the hall. The steel door opens and slams shut. The sound of high heels approaches.

Colonel Reed looks up to see Ana.

COLONEL REED
What's she doing here? She works
for them.

S/A Nguyen and Brett slide over to make room for her between them on the bed.

S/A NGUYEN
She works for us.

Colonel Reed manages a steely stare.

COLONEL REED
For us? She's a double?

S/A Nguyen nods and gestures to Ana.

ANA
I came here on a student visa,
mostly to get away from the
government in Venezuela. As a
student, I had many wealthy
boyfriends, to include politicians
and other officials. Then the
Chinese approached me and asked me
to collect information for them.

BRETT
She immediately reported the pitch
to us. We decided to run her as a
double agent.

S/A NGUYEN
When we learned that Senior Colonel
Li was arriving, we knew he would
use Ana to target someone with
access to cyber secrets.

ANA
The night we met at the diplomatic
function, Senior Colonel Li pointed
you out.

Colonel Reed jogs his memory.

COLONEL REED
What about the file, the video
tapes, and the computer program?

Colonel Reed turns to Ana.

COLONEL REED
The night you drugged me.

S/A Nguyen and Brett turn to Ana.

ANA
Senior Colonel Li thought he could
entrap you in a compromising sexual
position.

S/A NGUYEN
It definitely wasn't our idea, but
we had to go with it.

BRETT
(a wink to Colonel Reed)
Don't worry: Ana assures us you
didn't enjoy it.

Colonel Reed manages a smile.

S/A Nguyen gestures for Ana to leave.

As she walks away, Colonel Reed thinks about it.

COLONEL REED
You planned it, but you didn't know
what would happen. You let me give
him the cyber program.

Colonel Reed has a Eureka moment.

COLONEL REED
The polygraph?

S/A Nguyen and Brett nod.

COLONEL REED
Senior Colonel Li could only accept
the cyber program from someone who
could pass the polygraph.

S/A NGUYEN
That's right.

COLONEL REED
I gave them a Trojan horse?

Brett shoots him with a finger pistol.

Colonel Reed leans back and manages a smile.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Colonel Reed leans his head back under the steaming hot water in the shower and closes his eyes.

He wipes the fog off the mirror with a towel and slides a razor through the shaving cream on his face.

He stares into the mirror, splashes some water on his face, and then sprays some cologne on his neck.

He adjusts the cuff-links on his starched white shirt, and slides on a navy blue blazer.

He takes a last look in the mirror, grabs his car keys, and exits the room.

INT. BAR

An upscale bar in Georgetown.

Colonel Reed enters and sees S/A Nguyen and Brett Phelps sitting at a table.

They stand, shake hands, and sit. Colonel Reed gestures to the bartender for a drink.

Brett removes a pen-drive from his inside breast pocket and slides it to Colonel Reed.

Colonel Reed inspects it as his drink arrives, then looks to Brett for an explanation.

BRETT

The first program you gave Senior Colonel Li was for a virtual system. No damage was done. The whole thing was an exercise.

S/A NGUYEN

A few people in the media have reported it was an exercise, but you have to sell the story that it was a successful cyber attack.

Colonel Reed downs his drink and leaves.

EXT. STREETS OF GEORGETOWN

Colonel Reed exits the bar and turns into the residential area. At a corner, he glances back, sees no one, and continues walking.

BRETT (O.S.)

The first attack should whet their appetite. They got good access but not the crown jewels.

S/A NGUYEN (O.S.)

We know their primary targets by the IP addresses they were attacking in the virtual world. The whole thing was a simulation.

Colonel Reed walks through a small park. He passes a couple kissing on a bench, then turns back and heads to the park exit in the opposite direction.

BRETT (O.S.)

We need two things from this meeting. First, tell him you need more quality information, real stuff that we can confirm. If not, tell him your superiors are having doubts about the case.

S/A NGUYEN (O.S.)

Second, you need to convince him that the patches on the pen-drive will provide them the access they need for a lethal attack.

Colonel Reed exits the park, ensures that no one is following him, and walks across the street to an empty bus stop.

A small limousine approaches and stops. The tinted rear window lowers to reveal Senior Colonel Li.

Colonel Reed stands and approaches the car.

INT. CAR

Senior Colonel Li gestures for Colonel Reed to sit and for the driver to continue.

Colonel Reed gets comfortable in the leather seat and sees the same computer technician facing him.

Senior Colonel Li gestures to a bottle of scotch and pours two drinks.

They toast and sip the drinks.

SENIOR COLONEL LI

Do you have the pen-drive?

Colonel Reed nods and removes it. Senior Colonel Li gestures to the computer technician.

The computer technician takes it, plugs it into his laptop computer, and begins working.

SENIOR COLONEL LI

We heard some rumors in the media that the attack was an exercise.

COLONEL REED

Hardly. You guys did significant damage. It's a new system, so it hasn't had time to replace all the old programs. Your technicians should be able to confirm that the attack was real.

Colonel Reed looks at the computer technician. He nods.

COLONEL REED

The system is up and running now, though, and that pen-drive contains all the security patches.

SENIOR COLONEL LI

We will see. You are doing a service to the world. On behalf of China, we thank you.

COLONEL REED

A service to the world?

SENIOR COLONEL LI

We know that many of your senior government and military officials do not support the endless wars your country is waging. The problem is your capitalistic system is reaching a point of instability: if you stop the wars and the spending, your economic system will collapse. And yet, your leaders continue business as usual as if all is well.

COLONEL REED

How will these attacks help?

SENIOR COLONEL LI

We will cause no harm to your people or your domestic infrastructure, despite all the propaganda you hear in the media.

(MORE)

SENIOR COLONEL LI (CONT'D)

Our only goal is to dismantle your war machine. If your planes cannot fly and your ships cannot communicate, the wars will end. Perhaps then we can have a world based on mutual cooperation.

The computer technician nods approvingly, removes the pen-drive, and hands it to Senior Colonel Li.

SENIOR COLONEL LI

Everything is in order.

COLONEL REED

Not so fast. The only way I can continue this is if you provide me some good information we can verify. If I return with nothing, they'll begin to suspect something. After your next cyber attack, they'll know I was behind it if you don't give me something good.

Senior Colonel Li considers the request.

COLONEL REED

Give me the name of a U.S. agent you are handling somewhere in the world, or perhaps some secret cables from your embassy.

Senior Colonel Li exchanges glances with the computer technician and nods.

The computer technician removes a large envelope from his computer bag and hands it to Colonel Reed.

Colonel Reed opens it and glances at the contents.

SENIOR COLONEL LI

Those are sensitive cables from the embassy. Your experts should be able to confirm their value. If you have any problems after the attack, we have an exfil plan to remove you from the country.

Senior Colonel Li gestures for the driver to stop.

SENIOR COLONEL LI

If this attack is successful, you will receive more cables.

Colonel Reed nods and steps out of the car.

EXT. U.S. CYBER COMMAND, FT. MEADE - MORNING

The sun rises on the horizon.

Colonel Reed arrives and enters the parking lot.

INT. OFFICE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Colonel Reed, wearing his class A uniform, knocks on the door and peeks his head in.

Lieutenant General Lewis is talking on the phone and waves for him to enter.

Colonel Reed stands by the couch and waits for the phone call to end. Lieutenant General Lewis hangs up the phone, shakes his hand, and gestures to the couch.

They sit.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
You've been through quite an
ordeal.

Colonel Reed nods.

COLONEL REED
Yes, general.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
I'd like to say you've done a good
thing for your country.

COLONEL REED
You were aware of this plan from
the beginning?

Lieutenant General Lewis nods solemnly.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
To be honest, I never thought it
would work, but our friends at CIA
and FBI said we had to get someone
past the Chinese polygraph to make
this work. On the bright side,
we're in a good position to strike
a major blow against the Chinese
cyber program. I just wish there
had been another way.

COLONEL REED
I understand. What happens now?

Lieutenant General Lewis removes a letter from his inside breast pocket and sets it on the table.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
 Legally, this was a case of entrapment. You didn't pass any real secrets to China, so we can't prosecute you for espionage. However, you'll face a court martial for your actions in Bangkok with Captain Howard. Or, if you sign this resignation letter, you can retire with full benefits and no formal admission of guilt.

Colonel Reed takes a deep breath, reads the letter, removes a pen from his uniform, and signs it.

They stand. Colonel Reed walks over to look at the Laocoon statue.

COLONEL REED
 (facing the statue)
 I guess I should consider myself lucky. You could have sent serpents to kill me.

Colonel Reed turns.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
 We could have, but I believe in a merciful God.

They shake hands.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
 What will you do now?

COLONEL REED
 I was thinking I should start with my family.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL LEWIS
 I think you'll find that Beth also believes in a merciful God. Let's watch the fun.

Lieutenant General Lewis gestures to the window.

INT. CHINESE CYBER WARFARE HQS

A Chinese version of U.S. Cyber Command.

Chinese General is sitting at this desk reading a file for Senior Colonel Li's operation.

He ponders the information, removes a pen-drive from an envelope, and walks from his office to the operations floor, where uniformed officers are working busily.

Chief of the operations floor stands at attention.

CHINESE GENERAL
(in Chinese)
You have read the file of Senior
Colonel Li's operation?

Chief nods respectfully.

CHINESE GENERAL
(in Chinese)
You are confident we can trust
Senior Colonel Li?

Chief pauses and nods respectfully. Chinese General nods, hands him the pen-drive, and returns to his office.

Chief inserts the pen-drive, executes the file, and waits for the computer technicians to acknowledge success.

INT. WATCH FLOOR

S/A Nguyen, Brett Phelps, and Brigadier General pace around the table as a dozen or so computer technicians sitting around a conference room table prepare.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
OK, boys and girls, as we speak,
the most important cyber unit in
China is entering our virtual
program.

S/A NGUYEN
It will take some time for all of
them to enter and get past the fire
walls. In the meantime, you'll
notice them attempt to exfil data
to confirm their access to
classified reports.

Some of the lights on the computers turn red, indicating initial access by the Chinese.

BRETT
Some of the reports are real, some
false. We just want them to
(MORE)

BRETT (CONT'D)
believe they're operating in the
right place.

More lights turn red.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Wait for it. We want to ensure
they have complete access until we
attack.

More lights turn red as everyone waits patiently. Finally,
all the lights are red.

Brigadier General turns to S/A Nguyen and Brett with a thumbs-
up. They nod approvingly.

BRIGADIER GENERAL
Give 'em hell.

The computer technicians begin typing frantically.

INT. CHINESE CYBER WARFARE HQS

The Chinese computer technicians are working busily.

A sense of euphoria fills the rooms as progress is apparently
made in the operation.

However, things quickly turn south.

Computers shuts down and lights turn off.

Generator power kicks in.

Computers get error messages and lock up as the electrical
grid in the local area shuts down.

Finally, the most sensitive data from the server starts to
exfil into cyber space.

The Chinese technicians are unable to stop it. Finally, one
of them starts smashing the servers with a sledge hammer.

Chinese General, watching from his office, stands silently
and closes his eyes.

He turns and reaches for the phone on his desk. The line is
dead. He checks his cell phone. No signal. Finally, he
removes a satellite phone from his desk.

CHINESE GENERAL
(in Chinese)
Arrest Senior Colonel Li.

INT. AIRPLANE - AFTERNOON

Colonel Reed, wearing a polo shirt and khakis, is sitting in economy class sipping a diet soda and eating peanuts.

An unattractive flight attendant passes by.

COLONEL REED
Could I get a scotch?

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Six dollars. Credit card only.

COLONEL REED
I'll pass.

The captain announces the descent. Colonel Reed tightens his seat belt and closes his eyes.

INT. AIRPORT

Colonel Reed pulls his carry-on past the busy gates in the small airport.

At the exit, Beth and his two boys are waiting for him. His boys rush over to give him a hug.

BOYS
Daddy!

Colonel Reed kneels down to hug them.

COLONEL REED
You guys look great. I've missed you so much.

BOYS
You're going to stay with us, right daddy?

Colonel Reed stands and looks at Beth.

COLONEL REED
We'll have to talk to mommy about that.

He kisses her on the cheek.

EXT. PATIO

Colonel Reed is sitting on the patio furniture watching the boys playing in the back yard.

Beth arrives with two glasses of red wine. Colonel Reed accepts one and raises his glass to her.

COLONEL REED

I made a reservation at the hotel in town. I understand we need some time to discuss things.

BETH

We'll take it slow.

They sip their wine.

BETH

How does it feel to be retired?

COLONEL REED

Strangely liberating.

BETH

I have to say, I can understand that they're holding you accountable for your actions in Bangkok, but I don't like the way they used you.

COLONEL REED

If I learned anything in my long career, it's that the military will do anything to defeat the enemy. The operation was quite brilliant, if you think about it.

BETH

Something just doesn't seem right. This Chinese colonel said he came here to target you, and then your own people run this operation to have you work for him.

COLONEL REED

It wasn't like that. I insisted on taking the lead.

BETH

Not Lieutenant General Lewis?

COLONEL REED

I would've done it on my own. I made my own choices at each step.

BETH

And the FBI and CIA gave you the invitation to the event where you
(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)
just happen to meet Ana, who just
happens to be a double agent.

COLONEL REED
What are you saying?

Beth sips her wine and shakes her head.

BETH
I don't know. Something just
doesn't seem right.

Colonel Reed slides closer to Beth and kisses her on the
cheek.

COLONEL REED
You always were the insightful one.

Beth leans her head on his shoulder and grabs his hand as
they watch the boys playing.

EXT. PARK, WASHINGTON, D.C.

Senior Colonel Li is sitting on a park bench reading a
newspaper article about the cyber attack.

His wife is playing with their daughter in the sand box.

Brett Phelps approaches the bench, sits on the other end
without looking, and opens a newspaper.

BRETT
(in Chinese)
Good to see you, colonel.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
(in Chinese)
It appears our plan worked.

BRETT
By our best estimates, we struck a
major blow to the Chinese cyber
program. Thanks to you.

They turn to each other with smiles and shake hands.

SENIOR COLONEL LI
Today we celebrate a victory. We
have had a good ten years together,
but I will certainly be arrested if
we do not flee now.

BRETT

Has it been ten years? Time flies.
Good thing you're here.

SENIOR COLONEL LI

Indeed. An exfil plan from China
would have been most difficult.

Brett stands, folds the newspaper, and sets it on the bench.

BRETT

Are you and your family ready to
start your new life?

Senior Colonel Li nods, stands, and waves to his wife.

She grabs her daughter by the hand, approaches, and kisses
Brett on the cheek.

WIFE

Good to see you, Brett.

BRETT

You're as lovely as ever. We have
a nice place for you.

Brett gestures to a black limousine parked on the street. As
they walk, S/A Nguyen exits his vehicle and opens the back
door of the limousine.

Brett offers a last hug and helps them into the limousine.

They wave as the limousine drives away.

S/A Nguyen turns to Brett.

S/A NGUYEN

That was an amazing operation.

BRETT

Thanks to you.

They walk in the park. Brett removes two cigars from his
inside breast pocket and offers one to S/A Nguyen.

They sit on a park bench and light the cigars as a group of
Chinese security officials enter the park. They point to the
fleeing limousine and throw up their hands in frustration.

BRETT

I think I've had enough. Then
again, maybe not.

They enjoy a laugh as they puff their cigars.