

The Last Vice

Written By

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Based on, if any

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START OF ACT #1

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE

A POLICEMAN stands watch over a construction site. Fresh rain appears there, washing away a hand. The flesh has rotted off and maggots are eating away at it. Approaching are two detectives, STEVE and DANIEL. Daniel is the older cop, late 40s, balding, grey-haired, with a pot-belly. Steve is in his late twenties, black hair. The scene is littered with footprints. Steve waves at the police officer.

STEVE

Hey! How many of these are yours?

POLICEMAN

What?

STEVE

How many are yours? Did you walk back out the same way you came in?

POLICEMAN

No. (beat) I was looking for any evidence around before I called you.

Steve and Daniel look at each other. Daniel smirks.

STEVE

Make a note. First officer on the scene PRESERVES the scene, not tramples on it.

The officer shrugs helplessly. Steve shakes his head and goes back to looking at the hand.

DANIEL

Oh this is nothing. Besides, he saved us paperwork. I was on a case a decade ago, place looks like a butcher shop. There, on the kitchen table, is a bloody knife. Dead body in the next room, and I figure, "Who's dumb enough to touch the obvious murder weapon?" I leave to go to the body, and the officer comes in with the bent, bloody knife in hand, no glove, and says, "Is this important?"

Steve laughs and looks back at the hand, which has fly larvae crawling on it.

STEVE

Maggots on hand and it's the only exposed part. Flies only lay eggs in exposed flesh, which means that she had cuts on her hands to get into it. Defensive wounds most likely.

2

Steve looks around the site. Metal pipes lay around, construction shafts and 2x4s are scattered. He points at the construction site.

STEVE (CONT'D)

You see this? This is the problem right here.

Daniel looks around, then looks at Steve.

DANIEL

What? You think if the construction was finished this girl wouldn't be here?

STEVE

Partially. You never find dead, buried bodies in the UK. When I worked at the FBI, we had to get flown in to identify bodies from an airplane explosion.

3

CUT TO:

EXT. CRASH SITE

Steve surveys the scene of the explosion while techs outline a map of the debris over three miles. The techs reassemble the skeletons.

4

BACK TO:

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE

I asked why they didn't have any forensic anthropologists. They said, (British accent) "We don't got no land here. So nowhere to bury bodies. We don't expatriate our dead, so we don't have to identify them." Given the heat and

(MORE)

moisture, I think they'll be pulling her out by chunks. Want to take bets on which ones will lose their lunch?

5

The CSU teams begin to unload. The first scene officer waits for the detectives to clear the teams. When they do, Steve points to a young, good-looking male CSU and holds up his fingers to say "Five." Daniel gives him a thumbs up.

The CSU tech performs perfectly well, even as they dig out the arm and the flesh falls off the forearm. One of the other CSUs runs off and begins throwing up instead. Steve hands Daniel a five dollar bill disgustedly.

DANIEL

You got to get to know the locals better. That's Rodgers kid, you know, the Medical Examiner? He's been a mortician's apprentice since he was old enough to do the alphabet. He's immune, he could eat spaghetti during a surgery.

Steve looks pissed, but not about the bet.

STEVE

So what now? There's no witnesses around. No ATMs nearby, no traffic cams. If we can't ID her, we have nothing.

DANIEL

We go back, fill out paperwork, and wait. Flesh is falling off her, so no prints. When she's cleaned up, we'll look at her, reconstruct what's missing, and go through missing persons reports, hope we can match her up to someone.

Dental records only work if she was in government service. DNA is so backed up that they are now processing cases in order of expiration on statute of limitations. Most likely, she's "Sally in the Alley" and we add her to the almighty board as a red mark for one of our unsolved homicides. And that's it. We wait until we

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

catch another one.

6

They walk back to their car. Daniel drives. Steve takes a deep breath at the door of the vehicle and looks back at the CSUs processing the scene. Then he gets in.

INT. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

The girl's dead body is laid out. Large portions of the flesh are pieces together. She appears Asian with tattoos on her upper torso. Her head has been repositioned onto her body, but it has obviously been severed. The MEDICAL EXAMINER ALLEN HALL is looking over her. He's a large, athletic African American man who looks as if he should play professional basketball rather than be a doctor. Daniel shakes the docs hand. He turns to introduce the Dr. to Steve, but Steve is already examining the body.

STEVE

Cut off her head?

DR. HALL

Clean through, very sharp blade.  
Asian female in mid-20s.  
Extravagant tattoos, not finished yet.

STEVE

Is there any way to determine if she lived primarily in America or if she's from another country?

Steve is looking at the patterned tattoos.

CUT TO:

LIMBO LAND SHOT

Steve is looking at the patterns and seeing the shapes move and shift. Photos flip through his mind of the irezumi style of tattoos. He sees her being tattooed with by hand with a bamboo pen.

7

BACK TO:

INT. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

DR. HALL

Yeah, we look at the minerals in her bone. Compare that to the minerals of drinking water by country, we can get a match.  
(beat) Do you know these tattoos?

STEVE

Yeah, I think these are fishbone tattoos. Ancient technique. Only gangsters and prostitutes have tattoos in Asian countries.

8

DANIEL

So, beheading is a message. She's a prostitute, it's maybe "Don't leave or we'll kill you." She's a gangster, it's the beginning of a gang war.

Steve pulls out his cellphone and takes a picture of the dead girl.

STEVE

Find out doc. Check her origin and check that tattoo ink. If it's made from metal, she's a gangster's girl.

INT. STEVE'S APARTMENT

Clothing is strung about next to open books, pictures, and magazines. He puts up his gun and police badge and changes into nightclub clothing. As he picks up the phone book, he is shaking uncontrollably. He goes to his fridge and takes out a beer. There is nothing else in the fridge except condiments.

He drinks the beer with a prescription pain pill and waits. He picks up the phone book again and his hand has stopped shaking. He looks through the phone book, points at a listing of local strip clubs, rips off that page, then leaves.

EXT. SEEDY STRIP-JOINTS

Shots of Steve going in and out of various locations, talking to women, bribing under the table to bartenders and strippers, and drinking heavily. As he walks out of one club reading a card with the name "Go-Go Rama" on it, he runs into MERIDITH, a 5'8 red-head. She calls him an asshole and keeps walking into the bar.

INT. GO-GO RAMA

Brief establishing shot of a strip club, with a large ASIAN BOUNCER in the doorway. As Steve asks questions, he looks around to see girls that are under heavy guard. When he tries to talk to them, he is grabbed and thrown out of the

building.

EXT. GO-GO RAMA

Steve gets up and dusts himself off.

STEVE

It's not what you think, I wasn't  
harassing the girl.

The Asian man mutters to himself and takes off his jacket.

STEVE (CONT'D)

You don't speak a word of English  
do you?

Steve unbuttons his cuff and rolls his shoulders.

STEVE (CONT'D)

(fake asian accent). Yes. I am  
the one who killed your  
grandfather. Your karate is weaker  
than my school's.

The bouncer begins to throw a haymaker at Steve. Steve expertly dodges the punch, moving to the outside of the weaker hand so that the bouncer has to keep readjusting himself to throw a punch. Steve peppers him with quick combos of jabs, hooks, and crosses. After a couple of exchanges, the bouncer rushes into Steve and pins him up against the wall. He slams Steve a few times before punching him in the ribs repeatedly before working Steve's face.

Steve sticks his thumb into the bouncer's eye and uses the pressure to push the bouncer's chin up. He throat punches the bouncer, gagging him. He follows up by clapping both his hands on the bouncer's ears and grabbing the back of his head. He then knees the bouncer in the chin, causing the bouncer to flatten out and hit the ground belly first with a gigantic thumb.

Steve leans against the wall, catching his breath and spitting out blood. As he heaves in and out, two more bouncers walk out of the bar. They look at Steve and at their friend on the ground. Steve starts waving them off.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Oh no guys, (beat) I'm good. We  
don't need to do this. Walk back  
inside and we'll forget about it.

Both bouncers approach Steve.

EXT. GO-GO RAMA

Police cars and ambulance are around the bar. Steve's face is now swollen on the left side considerably and he has gashes all over. The three bouncers are being carried off on stretchers. Dr. Hall is pulling a tooth out of Steve's swollen fist.

DR. HALL

Nice strategy detective. I think there's a dozen more strip-clubs in the city if you want to go fist-a-cuffs there too. If you count the out-of-city limits, I think there's around two dozen.

He cleans and bandages Steve's hand. Steve's eyes are too swollen to see so he head bobs like Stevie Wonder trying to focus through his eyes.

STEVE

Who says "fist-a-cuffs?"

DR. HALL

(Ignoring). We have to get you to the hospital, check you for concussion, broken ribs, and especially that hand. Human saliva has almost twice as much bacteria in it as animal bites, you'll get tested and given antibacterials.

STEVE

Thanks Mom. You can put my fruit roll-up in my lunch bag.

10

Steve pushes up the swollen flap of his eye to see out. The three bouncers he fought are being put on gurneys and carried out. A smile parts through his blood-caked lips.

INT. HOSPITAL

Steve lays in a bed hooked up to IVs for antibacterials and anti-inflammatories. Daniel comes in to look at him. He looks around the room and at Steve.

DANIEL

The rumors all said you were a train-wreck, but this is a terrible impression you're making for your first week.

11



The swelling on Steve's face has gone up considerably. He tries to reply but ends up making a grunt instead.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I read your jacket. I served too you know. Vietnam, I was an MP. One day, we were at chow hall. One of the guys said, "I think I'm through with all this. I just want to go back to the World." (beat). We called the World any place but where we were. So he pulls out his gun and shoots his head off. And we keep eating.

CUT TO:

VIETNAM WAR ZONE.

A young Daniel is on patrol. An explosion rocks the scene, shooting up red mist from dead bodies as they blow up. He sees a grenade drop into the field next to three soldiers.

12

YOUNG DANIEL

Everyone get down!

He knocked down the two in the back, but the grenade explodes next to him and the one in the front he is running towards. The blast hits his helmet hard and knocks off the top of the kevlar. His face is bloody meat on the left side.

He sees VC insurrigents running in. He fires on them and starts pulling the man in front to safety. Explosions, fire, flashes of light, all of these go off as he's pulling men back and into safety. Then a helicopter arrives shooting into the jungle and the men retreat. He passes out from blood loss and everything goes black.

CUT TO:

INT. VIETNAM HOSPITAL

An incredibly large woman is hitting on an 18 year olds chest, shattering his ribs. She's crying. Daniel's face is missing parts to it and he's drooling out of the side of his missing cheek.

GOLIATH NURSE

Live Goddamn it! Live!

Daniel looks at the bloody-nurse. She turns to look at him.

GOLIATH NURSE (CONT'D)  
This kid, just 18, he's dead now.  
What the hell are you in here for?

Young Daniel gets up and walks out of the hospital, spit running down his face.

BACK TO:

INT. HOSPITAL

DANIEL  
Anyway, all I knew is that the big  
bitch wasn't touching me.

Steve and Daniel look at each other, Steve laughs.

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
You're wondering what the point of  
that story was?

STEVE  
I thought it was going to be a  
story of how you met your wife.

Because of the swelling, that sentence comes out as a jumbled mess.

DANIEL  
I thought I was okay too, but I  
started losing it. Bit by bit,  
feeling numb, suicidal, losing my  
appetite, unable to sleep. I was a  
hero, but it didn't feel like it.  
I found out I had survivor's guilt,  
that nurse was right, why'd I live  
when some kid got killed before he  
was old enough to vote?

Daniel gets up and starts to leave.

DANIEL (CONT'D)  
I read your jacket. After you got  
back, you have a habit of these  
sorts of crazy stunts. What I  
learned? The truth is, there is no  
reason. One foot to the left and  
I'd have been dead. And beating  
myself up over it didn't do anyone  
any good.

Daniel turns to look back.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

And idiot, next time you want to take on the mob, remember we got a Vice squad for this.

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INT. POLICE STATION

Steve is filling out a mountain of paperwork related to the incident. He goes to the bathroom and opens up his pain pill bottle and finds only one pill left. He looks in the mirror and sighs, then takes the pill.

When he goes back to his desk, he finds a Chuck Norris poster with his face cut out over Chuck Norris. Daniel approaches him with coffee.

DANIEL

You almost done yet? We got real po-lice-work to go do. Place you got beat up, excuse me, won a major decisive victory at is definitely doing something shady. The girls are all escorted by guards, most don't speak English, and if we can get an in, we can make some arrests.

16

STEVE

Those guys are still in the hospital.

DANIEL

We couldn't cover you another day. It just means they have a better health care plan. Anyway, Vice Squad is working near that area. We should go ask, maybe they got a CI we can get to find out what these guys are up to.

EXT. STREET

Steve and Daniel approach a white van vehicle with the words "Ron's mechanics" on the outside. Daniel opens the door and the two police inside are having sex with two prostitutes.

17

STEVE

I didn't know the police van caught the "Spice" channel. I guess "Ron's Mechanics" does pack plenty of lube.

18

Officer GORCHEK, a fat young guy with a Boston accent and officer MEADOW, a more militaristic looking rookie, start scrambling for clothes and pushing the hookers outside.

DANIEL

Where's the sergeant in charge?

The two officers look at each other.

GORCHEK

Well, he's got more money. He got a room at the motel down there.

19

The hotel can be seen in the distance. It looks like leaning against it would bring the whole place down.

STEVE

That's not a hotel, that's termites holding hands.

DANIEL

I sent the information about the strip club you were supposed to survey almost four days ago. Do you have anything useful to tell us?

Meadow scrambles for a folder next to a condom wrapper and fast food wrappers.

MEADOW

Uh... yeah. The guys surrounding the girls are Asian. Maybe Korean or something.

STEVE

Japanese you idiot. They're Yakuza. They run prostitution in Asia and Hawaii. The tattoos and the missing pinky tip are a give-away.

Steve pushes open the door on the van and looks around. He goes to the roach motel and looks at the cars. He sees a Mustang parked outside and looks inside. A Febreeze can, empty dime bags, and cologne. He smashes the driver window with the butt of his gun and sits down on the hood.

The alarm goes off while he sits on the hood of the car with his cellphone out. A man comes running out of the upper hotel hotel room shirtless. RONNIE, a wild-haired middle age man, runs up to him.

RONNIE

Are you insane? Why the hell you'd do that to my car? I'm suing you!

Steve plays back the video of Ronnie running out of the motel room for Ronnie to see.

STEVE

No, you're not. You have cologne in the car to mask the smell of fresh trim off you. You keep Febreze to get the smell of drugs and cigarettes off your clothes. You can afford a real hotel, but whoever your with isn't your wife so you don't spend too much money on the place.

Ronnie is twitching, tapping his fingers on the car. He has a noticeable pup tent pitched inside his pants.

STEVE (CONT'D)

The twitching plus erection equals cocaine use. We can test you right now. So, either I bust you for drugs and you can explain to your wife why you're here, or you can volunteer to serve your city.

Steve flashes his badge at him. Ronnie look bewildered. After the initial shock, and tactical readjustment of the package, he begins shouting at Steve again.

RONNIE

You can't do this! This is entrapment! This is blackmail! I'm going to sue the city for this!

Steve calmly begins dialing into his phone while Ronnie rants in the background.

STEVE

Dispatch, this is badge number 3355, calling in to check on a license plate if there are any outstanding warrants or tickets.

RONNIE

Hey, hey, hey! Whoa, hey! Come on now, what the hell do you want!

STEVE

Warrant for arrest? Thanks. (hangs up). Bad news, you haven't paid for your tickets. That's not entrapment, we have probable cause for search, seizure, and arrest. And with the last Supreme Court ruling, we can strip-search you and probe you, and yes yes we'll do it, and yes, we'll get the guy with the fattest fingers imaginable to do it.

20

Ronnie looks horrified by the thought. Steve enjoys the reaction.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Go get dressed, bring any drugs with you to dispose of them to the officers. Then get inside that van over there. Move.

Steve walks back into the van. Gorchek, Daniel, and Meadow look at Steve when he gets in.

DANIEL

Where'd you go?

STEVE

Got us a new CI. Wire him up when he gets here and have him approach the girl's at Go-Go Rama. He looks like the type that has to pay, (he look at Gorchek and Meadow), so it won't be hard to get him in.

MEADOW

We never paid no one. It was... professional courtesy.

STEVE

Like a reminder card on Christmas? Shut up and just don't screw anything up.

Ronnie looks around embarrassed and starts to talk, then stops, then starts again. After three dry runs, he clears his throat and speaks.

RONNIE

My... kid is in the hotel room.

DANIEL

Your what is in the hotel room?

RONNIE

My kid. Was going to bring him to his grandma's house later today, needed to kill some time, so....

DANIEL

Oh for Christ... you brought him to a sex motel with a hooker? I should charge you for corruption of a minor.

STEVE

Just... jerkoff, go get your kid and bring him in here, and THEN wire this guy up. And stop by a gas station.

EXT. GO-GO RAMA

Steve is swallowing Pepto-bismol as if he's at a kegger. Daniel is playing mock-grip wrestling with the baby as if it's beating him. Ronnie is testing out his wire.

21

RONNIE

Why do you need me to do this?

STEVE

I've already been made. These two are banging prostitutes, which means if it goes to court, and that comes to light, no convictions. Daniel looks, talks, and smells like old dirty cop.

DANIEL

That used to be my name as a rapper.

STEVE

I'm so glad you didn't say that was your stripper name.

22

After ensuring everything is running well, Meadow and Gorchek button Ronnie' shirt back up with the wire.

GORCHEK

Whenever you say "overpass", we'll come in. Make sure that you do not ask them for sex directly, that's

(MORE)

GORCHEK (CONT'D)

entrapment. Ask what services they offer for more discriminating clients and show them the cash.

Ronnie exits the van and walks to the bar. He walks inside. His voice is heard over the microphone set.

RONNIE

Hey... (clears throat). I heard that there was entertainment for a more discriminating customer with extra means.

The wire goes silent. The men stand around and listen. They begin to look more and more worried as time passed.

DANIEL

Think his wire fell off or he got made?

STEVE

He'd have said the word by now. I don't know what's going on.

Suddenly the mic starts picking up.

RONNIE (O.S.)

OVERPASS! OH GOD OVERPASS!

Meadow and Steve bust out the back of the van. They run to the front-door with their badges drawn. The bouncers eye Steve as he runs by. The two men split up and start opening and rushing through doors throughout the bar. Finally, they get to the back of the bar. They draw their guns. Meadow opens the door with Steve providing cover. Ronnie has one prostitute sitting on his face and another sitting on his lap with his pants down.

MEADOW

(Holstering firearm.) You're the lead officer, you get to write this in the report.

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INT. POLICE STATION

Steve is looking at LT. GRANGER, a sharp black woman in her late 40s. He's inside her office, staring at the wall of plaques and medal she's amassed. She's reading his report.

LT. GRANGER

And so you're saying the two women overpowered your CI and forced him into sexual copulation?



STEVE

Yes ma'am. The wire died on us after the initial conversation. We need to get our equipment up to speed. I assume the CI wanted to... make sure the charge stuck.

Lt. Granger shakes her head and keeps reading the report. She stops and looks up.

LT. GRANGER

This makes a good bust for vice, it might be the only time those two did something useful. But why did we have two homicide detectives on it?

STEVE

I think it leads us back to our dead girl. Her tattoos say she's Yakuza, same as the guys at that bar.

LT. GRANGER

The bar you got into a fight at?

STEVE

The same. I know they are running prostitution out of there and with this bust, we got something over them we can leverage for information.

LT. GRANGER

We have nothing on them. The girls are all illegals.

STEVE

So? Prostitution is prostitution.

LT. GRANGER

Not here. We're going to charge the girls with the crime and then ship them back to whatever country their from. They aren't US citizens, they can't press charges against anyone at the bar.

Steve gets up and walks in front of Lt. Granger.

STEVE

To be clear here, I brought us a  
(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

well-known criminal syndicate,  
directly to you, in the commission  
of a crime, with witnesses, linked  
to a murder investigation, and  
we're letting everyone walk?

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LT. GRANGER

Sit down detective. Here.

She throws him over the penal code book.

LT. GRANGER (CONT'D)

It's right there. What you brought  
vice was a good bust and us... you  
gave us a health code violation.  
Not exactly strong leverage.

STEVE

Bureaucratic bullshit. I'm out for  
the day, call me if another body  
drops somewhere.

EXT. STEVE'S APARTMENT

Before he gets into his apartment, Steve finds Meredith  
waiting for him outside of the apartment.

STEVE

Who are you?

MEREDITH

I called you asshole outside the  
bar when you were going in and out  
of the strip clubs.

STEVE

If you came to apologize, I'm  
pretty thick-skinned.

MEREDITH

No, I came to talk to you about  
those girls. I've been digging.

Steve opens his apartment door and ushers her in mockingly.  
The garbage can overflows with beer bottles and fast food.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

Guess it's been a while since a  
woman's been over.

25

STEVE

It's still waiting on one.

She sits down and pulls out a cigarette. Steve gets a beer from his fridge and pops two pills.

STEVE (CONT'D)

What are you here for?

MEREDITH

To find out what happened to those girls. I know them.

STEVE

We're going to charge them with prostitution, let their pimps walk, and then send them back home after we keep them in our jails until they process.

MEREDITH

Do you know how those girls got over here? Those assholes advertise online, easy job overseas with minimal qualifications and they pay for the flight. Girl shows up, they steal her passport and detain her, tell her she has to pay them back for the flight and for the cramped apartment they are putting her up in.

Steve massages his temples, his hands are beginning to tremble.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

So she becomes a sex worker with nowhere to go. Then, they put a gun to her head and make her call her friends up and tell them about the wonderful opportunity. If that's not enough, they then call up her mom and tell the mom that if they want their daughter back, they have to bring them three new victims. And you're putting the girls away!?

Steve points at the wall.

STEVE

See the wall? Look carefully and read what you see on it.

The wall has various newspaper clipping, awards ,and citations it. The newspaper story headline is "FBI agent nabs Riverside Strangler."

STEVE (CONT'D)

A few years ago, I was the top manhunter at the FBI, tracking serial killers, child smugglers, rapists, anyone bad. Then, along came 9/11. Suddenly, I'm reassigned to monitoring anti-war groups, wiretapping cell phone conversations, and watching traffic on open networks at coffee shops. So I say that this is bullshit, a violation of civil rights, and that it's not what I should be doing. A week later, I'm reassigned to a field office in Iraq. When the word comes from on high and you buck, they buck back.

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Meredith looks at the wall unimpressed.

MEREDITH

And your reaction was to become a washed-up alcoholic that pops pills? Way to fight the power.

STEVE

You still didn't say what you wanted.

MEREDITH

I'm an escort, I see these guys coming into town. They run drugs, they run guns, they're carving out their own area here. These girls can't get away, so I help them smuggle messages to their family, get them supplies when they need it, and if one of them escapes, I give them a place to go until they can get money to go back home, but most can't. Same guys that nabbed them are still there, so they have to get menial jobs here.

STEVE

WI think all these low-cost whores are driving your price down and you

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

want me to make sure that the equation stays tipped towards demand.

Meredith slaps Steve as hard as she can. The combination of alcohol and pain pills makes him numb to it, so he doesn't react. She slaps him again.

MEREDITH

I thought I finally found someone that could help. You're just another worthless bastard.

She storms out of the apartment while Steve keeps drinking.

STEVE

That and then some.

27

He passes out in his recliner.

CUT TO:

IRAQ CONVOY

The scene is obviously hazy and distorted. There is a teenager tied to a chair, a flash of white, and then he is with another soldier in a convoy. An explosion occurs which flips the vehicle over and leaves Steve flipped upside down.

28

BACK TO:

INT. STEVE'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Steve wakes up and feels his face, which is stinging and sensitive to touch. He has beer all over his lap from where he passed out. He changes clothes and tries to go to sleep, but continual shots of his clock show he can't sleep. He goes to his living room and looks at his old medals and newspapers, pacing around. He finally sits down and gets on his computer and looks up human smuggling. The computer flashes images and headlines that match up with Meredith's story. He begins looking up Yakuza members on the police database tied to smuggling. He gets a few hits and he looks up one in particular, Chen. Chen runs a comic book store specializing in Manga, but police have arrested him for numerous crimes, all of which he walked on. Steve goes to a cellar, then a hardware shop, and picks up some tools.

EXT. MANGA SHOP - NEXT DAY

Steve takes photos of the Manga shop. Large numbers of kids come and go from the shop. Finally, at nighttime, the shop closes down. Steve picks the lock and enters the back. He

rummages through the various items there, finding Manga action figures. When he opens them up, he finds they have cocaine stuffed into various areas. He finds Chen in a room counting money. He quietly unholsters his gun and his Chen on the back of the head with it. He then starts to drag Chen off, but then, goes back and stuffs all the cash into his pockets. He handcuffs Chen, stuffs gags him, and drags him off.

INT. CELLAR

Steve walks Chen down into a cellar with a hood over Chen's head and a gun pointed at it.

STEVE

Take off all your clothes.

CHEN

What the hell are..

Steve butt strikes him with his pistol. Chen eventually complies after a few strikes and they keep walking. Steve has Chen stand one-legged on a half-broken cindar block and pulls off the hood. He walks to a desk with water, salt, a car battery, and cables on it. He then pours the water on the floor, throws salt on the water, and sticks a battery cable to the water. He brings the battery up with him on the staircase and connects it to the other end.

CHEN (CONT'D)

What the fuck are you doing?

STEVE

I was sent to Iraq to train in special interrogation. We learned that the most effective torture is when it's self-inflicted. If you want to escape, get off the block and make it to the stairs.

Chen gets off the block and as soon as he hits the water, his body begins seizing up. He walks a few steps, but then can't move anymore.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Oh, this is when things get dicey. If you can't stand up anymore and hit the ground, you'll put those eyes and testicles close to the ground, both loaded with potassium and excellent conductors of electricity.

CHEN  
(Shouting) Turn it off!

STEVE  
Well, if we turn it off now, we'll  
have to restart the experiment.  
You sure?

Chen collapses to all fours and tries crawling, but can't move. Steve waits and unhooks the car battery. Chen can't move. Steve drags him up and puts him back on the block. Chen is shaking visibly. Steve gets back on the stairs.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
You shouldn't have done that. All  
that electricity fried your  
muscles. Eventually, you won't  
have the strength to stand on that  
block, and you'll get electrocuted  
to death. Or you can answer my  
questions.

CHEN  
You can't do this!

CUT TO:

IRAQI HOME

A sixteen year old Iraqi teenage boy is strapped to a chair. Steve is handed a gun. He looks at the boy, holds the weapon up, and the scene goes white.

STEVE  
I was in the military as part of a  
special investigations unit looking  
for abuse. I was put as the XO in  
charge of a unit suspected of  
retaliation killings. They started  
off going after suspected Iraqi  
terrorists, but branched into just  
killing for fun. I was "initiated"  
by killing a sixteen year old boy.

30

BACK TO:

INT. CELLAR

CHEN  
Why are you telling me this?

Steve looks at him shaking uncontrollably as his leg muscle begins to fail him. He worms his other foot under his tired

left leg and places his weight on his right leg.

STEVE

This cellar used to belong to a serial killer, he left his victims in here to be eaten by rats. One rat eats two pounds of flesh per day. You weigh about 160. Figure out how long it'll take to go through you.

Chen falls down and gets electrocuted again. Steve pulls the cable off the battery. Chen lies on the ground.

CHEN

What do you want to know?

STEVE

There was a woman's body found at a construction site. Her tattoos say she's a Yakuza member. Who is she?

CHEN

Her name is Mika, Mika Shisune.

STEVE

Who killed her?

CHEN

Don't know. She was a geisha. High-level escort. She worked politicians, CEOs, the big stuff. We sell it as insider information to big corporations, governments sometimes. We provide a valuable service, people pay us good.

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STEVE

And what about the sex slaves you smuggle in? What tax status does that file under?

CHEN

Shit, you already found out supercop. No law against it. Russians do it too. They probably off'ed her, I heard she was trying to put pressure on the Russians using her connections. Might have got her killed. People pay; we provide. It isn't personal.

32



Steve nods as if in agreement. Then he rehooks the wires back and electrocutes Chen.

STEVE  
Nothing personal.

INT. POLICE STATION

Steve is digging through the records for Mika Shisune on the computer. Daniel approaches his desk.

DANIEL  
Who's she? We shouldn't catch another case for at least a week.

STEVE  
Meet Jane Doe. This is her with attached head. Note the tattoos.

The pictures show tattoos on the shoulder that were in the autopsy room.

DANIEL  
How'd you get this information? We had no leads a day ago.

STEVE  
An anonymous source came forward. He was scared, so he's completely underground now. Important thing is we caught a break.

DANIEL  
No records at all on her, squeaky clean for a woman running with gangsters.

STEVE  
No record because they use her in places with heavy security, a street bust would get her VIP pass revoked. Rumor mill has it she was doing covert work on the Russians. Let's shake them and see what we can find out.

DANIEL  
Shake them with what?  
Interrogation relies upon having some leverage on the person. We got nothing but a name right now.

STEVE

I was taught different interrogation techniques. If we hit him with this, his reaction will tell us if he's guilty or not.

DANIEL

You trying to see how many foreign gangs you can piss off at once? If you piss off a German one, we can reenact World War II.

STEVE

I'll tell them you're my senile father if you're worried about the blowback.

DANIEL

I'll tell them that I do remember you were a big disappointment to your mother and I. And that I'm certain I'm not your biological father.

STEVE

You would have known that as soon as you had to change my diaper the first time. Now we have to get death threats from a bunch of scary people.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT

The restaurant is filled with businessmen and women, mostly foreigners which can be seen by the brands on lighters and on designer purses. At the main table, MIKHAIL SOVERIN, a blond-haired Russian in his late 20s is sitting at the table with two women. Steve and Daniel approaches him.

STEVE

Boris!! There you are. God it's been ages.

33

Mikhail looks confused and starts motioning towards his guards.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Come on Boris! Don't be like that.

Steve pulls out his badge and flashes it to Mikhail. Mikhail now smirks, waves his guards off, and looks at Steve.

MIKHAIL  
How may I help detective?

STEVE  
Boris, there was this woman named  
Mika.

He puts a picture of Mika onto the table. He studies Mikhail's face carefully. The eyebrows raise on both Mikhail's eyes slightly.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
Now, Mika specialized in getting  
information that people paid big  
money. She ends up with her head  
cut off. What do you know about  
that?

MIKHAIL  
I no know this person. She sound  
like trouble.

Steve points at Mikhail's eyes.

STEVE  
When you saw her picture Boris, you  
raised your eyebrows. It's called  
an eyebrow tilt, we do it  
instinctively when we recognize  
someone. You know her.

34

MIKHAIL  
I sorry. No know her, don't know  
Boris. You go now, try food.

Steve gets a table not far away from Mikhail so he can see him. Daniel sits down next to him.

DANIEL  
That went like I thought it would.  
You need leverage kid. Bust  
someone on a lower rung, get them  
to flip, and use that against him.  
That's how cops do it.

STEVE  
This guy is running this place like  
a king already, no one is going to  
rat on him. But we do need  
leverage.

DANIEL

Look kid, I gotta know this.  
You're running after every mobster,  
wanting them to know your name. I  
only care about getting the case  
cleared.

STEVE

I know. It's roundabout, but this  
will get us back to our killer.  
See those girls with Mikhail? I  
have a friend that might be able to  
ID them. If he's like most  
mobsters, he brags to them. Maybe  
it'll give us something.

DANIEL

Long-shot at best.

STEVE

Worst thing that will happen is  
I'll end up dead. In which case, I  
hope you work that case better than  
this one.

DANIEL

I'll follow your patented technique  
of making outrageous claims, going  
outside official channels, and  
having no substantial evidence for  
anything I say. You'd be proud.

END OF ACT #1

START OF ACT #2

INT. LT. GRANGER'S OFFICE

Steve and Daniel are sitting while Lt. Granger is flipping  
through a stack of paperwork. She is not paying attention  
to either of them and instead is preparing statements on her  
computer.

LT. GRANGER

What's the update on our Jane Doe?

DANIEL

She's not Jane Doe anymore, we now  
got an I.D. and possible suspects.

She stops typing and looks up at them.

LT. GRANGER

That's commendable. These cases usually just add to our board of shame. Who is she and who are our suspects?

Daniel squirms a bit on the mention of suspects.

DANIEL

Well, it's still a Whodunit. The Yakuza says it's the Russians, the Russians say they don't know who she is, but I think it's her job that got her killed. She was basically a high class escort that bought corporate and government secrets and sold them to bidders through the Yakuza.

LT. GRANGER

Look for names with prior assault records, bloody murder like that, we're probably looking at someone with priors.

STEVE

That's assuming the guy killed her himself, which is unlikely. A power player isn't going to kill an escort himself, he'd get someone else. Daniel pulled one name that's local and has enough juice for a move like that.

Lt. Granger eyes Daniel, who shifts away from the intent stare like a slug retracting from salt.

LT. GRANGER

And by "juice", you mean someone who could rip this department in half and put us into the smallest corner of the Earth?

DANIEL

It's.... Senator Bitter. We have payments of 9,999 dollars, multiple times a month.

LT. GRANGER

Why such a specific amount? What can you buy with that?

STEVE

The IRS flags all transactions ten grand and over. She was smart enough not to draw in the IRS or FBI with those transactions.

Lt. Granger now looks at Steve and gives him the same withering look. Steve gives her one right back, the two of them drawing closer together like opposite magnets ends.

LT. GRANGER

Why are we so certain it's him?

STEVE

The Russians would be at war with the Yakuza if they killed a high value asset. We have no Russian bodies. Not them. My informant swore on his life it wasn't the Yakuza, and it doesn't make sense for them to kill one of their own. Which leaves us with one other suspect.

LT. GRANGER

Daniel will be the lead, he will do \*all\* questioning, which will only be in matters of the case, and if a sufficient alibi is established, he will be cleared immediately. Understood?

DANIEL

Clearly.

He pulls Steve out of his staring contest with the Lieutenant, who is going for aspirin in her purse and phones in to call the Police Chief. She can be heard explaining that Senator Bitter is a person of interest. The Chief can be heard just as loudly on the other end of the phone.

INT. SENATOR BITTER'S OFFICE

A large painting of Senator Bitter adorns his office, along with pictures of himself with President Bush, an autograph of President Reagan, a picture of himself at the Republican convention, and pictures of himself scattered about his desk. The Senator's aide brings them in, and the Senator flashes his widest grin.

SEN. BITTER

Gentlemen, please take a seat.

CUT TO:

LIMBOLAND SHOT

The scene goes to white as Steve surveys the room, highlighting the main poster of Sen. Bitter, his pictures with the family, and his paraphernalia around the room while Daniel sits down. The path to each photo shows them facing outward.

Steve stays standing and observes, then sits down.

BACK TO:

INT. SENATOR BITTER'S OFFICE

DANIEL

We're following up on leads in a homicide investigation. Do you know this woman?

He slides over Mike's photo. The Senator barely glances at it while still maintaining his smile.

SEN. BITTER

No, but I meet hundreds of new people each day. Should I recognize her?

DANIEL

These account transfers are from your bank, in a very large amount. If you don't know her, can you explain how you transferred all this money to her?

Daniel hands over a series of bank account transfers. The Senator twitches for a second, then goes back to his smile.

SEN. BITTER

Let me look at the photo again. (beat). Oh yes, I believe she may be a masseuse that we employ, one of many.

DANIEL

You pay almost 10 grand for a massage?

SEN. BITTER

They're very good massages. If you're implying I did anything inappropriate, I love my family too

(MORE)

SEN. BITTER (CONT'D)

much for anything like that.

Steve stops surveying the room and looks at the Senator.

STEVE

Want to know what I think? Your smile, it's fake. When someone smiles for real, their eyes contract too, the orbicularis muscles contract. Your smile is fake.

Sen. Bitter stops smiling.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Further, you say you love your family. But all the family portrait are pointing outward. They're not for you to look at, they're for visitors to look at. People do this when they engage in behavior that they aren't proud of doing in front of their family. Your bodyguards and aides are too smart to let you get caught with your pants down, but you're guilty.

The Senator rocks in his chair, then stands up.

SEN. BITTER

I'll take that to mean you have nothing concrete. What's your name detective?

STEVE

It's Steve. Don't worry, you'll get to know it well.

The aide escorts them back out.

EXT. SENATE OFFICE

DANIEL

So what do you want to do for the next few days you're still on homicide and not tucked away on pawn shop detail?

STEVE

The Senator is dirty, but I didn't read the sort of malevolence you'd need to order a hit on someone.

(MORE)



STEVE (CONT'D)

Find out where the Russians operate. If the Russians did this, the Yakuza will have to send a message or else they look weak on foreign turf. They're not as ruthless as the Russians, so they might try hitting the Russians financially instead of with bodies like a street gang.

DANIEL

What are you going to be off doing while I'm doing all the real police work?

STEVE

I'm going to tap my CI for information. Last source said that Mike was using a politician to put pressure on the Russians, which might mean our lame politician here was doing the right thing for the wrong reasons. Find out what he was up to and if it connects to Russians.

DANIEL

You realize you have to register your CI so that if it goes to court they have a contact? You know, police protocol and such. That parlor trick you did won't get a conviction in court.

Steve waves off Daniel and heads off.

INT. STEVE'S APARTMENT

Flashbacks fade in and out of the convoy explosion, the sixteen year old being shot, and a woman getting hit. Steve puts on "Blue Moon" by Frank Sinatra and takes a shot of whiskey and a vicadin. He crumples down in a chair and pulls out Meredith's number.

MEREDITH

You had a change of heart? Word is you've been kicking some hornets nests.

STEVE

Me? No, never. I was just in a penthouse, sipping aged scotch,

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

listening to Mozart, thinking of  
you.

MEREDITH

Translation: Drinking bottom shelf  
whiskey, in your crap apartment,  
listening to... you strike me as a  
"Spice Girls" fan, so I'll go with  
that.

STEVE

It's not bottom shelf whiskey.

MEREDITH

So do you have something for me or  
you just getting lonely? I don't  
think you can afford my rates.

STEVE

How much do you charge?

MEREDITH

350 an hour.

Steve chokes on the whiskey.

STEVE

350 an hour? Do you suck polish  
all their chrome or something?

MEREDITH

You'll never know. Now, you got  
something or...?

STEVE

Yeah, yeah, I got something. And  
unlike you, it's not the clap. Get  
over here.

INT. STEVE'S APARTMENT - LATER

The trash can has now been emptied and the apartment cleaned  
up a bit. Meredith arrives wearing a white dress with  
V-neck style. She looks around and notices the  
improvements.

MEREDITH

Looks like you do care after all.

STEVE

I called you over here because I  
need to know if you recognize these  
two girls.

He shows her his cellphone picture of Mikhail and the two women.

MEREDITH

They're higher-rate. That's for sure. You got Mikhail right there, he's number two in the Russian mob.

35

STEVE

Our sources put him at number one.

MEREDITH

Nope. Everyone knows he answers to the Boss, but no one has met or seen the guy.

Steve thinks about it for a moment.

STEVE

Makes sense. Vincent Gigante was the head crime bos, he used to run around New York in his pajamas and talk to himself. His nickname was "The Oddfather". Everyone thought he was crazy until an informant pinned him as the head of a crime family. FBI couldn't believe it. If a guy in plain sight can hide like that, a guy that doesn't want to be found can be even harder.

Steve prepares another shot for himself. Meredith grabs the drink.

MEREDITH

Why don't we go out somewhere nice? You can't just stay in here trying to drink yourself to death.

STEVE

I can certainly try. Why do you want to go out?

MEREDITH

Come on, I got some people you need to meet. It'll be good for you to think about something besides mobsters and dead people, you're going to turn into a freak.

STEVE

Too late.

Even as he says that, he reluctantly puts on a coat and goes outside with Meredith.

INT. CATHOLIC CHURCH

Meredith drags Steve into a Catholic Church. She dips her hand in water and makes the sign of the cross. Steve just walks past it. She takes him to the nunnery, where SISTER MERCIT hugs Meredith. There are women there who seem afraid of Steve.

MEREDITH

This is Sister Mercit, she runs the Underground Railroad.

STEVE

Underground railroad?

MEREDITH

She moves human slaves to convents in other parts of the World, helps them get legal papers, communicates with their family, and keeps them as nuns until they can get back out there.

STEVE

This how they smuggle pedophile priests too?

36

Meredith hits him. Sister Mercit is not flustered by Steve's sarcasm.

SISTER MERCIT

We help in many places here the laws of man have failed. I know Meredith, but who are you?

STEVE

Steve. I tried to free some women like this, but it only ended up making the situation worse.

She nods sympathetically.

SISTER MERCIT

Well, it's hard for many people to believe that not only is slavery still around, it's a thriving business. We deal with it more than drug addiction now.

MEREDITH

See, if you get any of those girls again, you can bring them here. No questions asked, they'll take them in and you can finally do something right for a change.

STEVE

Sister, quick question. What level of sin is it to hit a woman?

The nun shakes her head and walks off.

INT. FRENCH RESTAURANT

Steve and Meredith are eating, with Meredith pulling out a wide variety of rings, necklaces, jewelry, and keepsakes while digging for her credit card.

STEVE

What is all that? It looks like you run a jewelry shop on the side.

MEREDITH

(Flashes jewelery, proud). Clients buy me these. I have to keep them around because if I see them, I need to put on their necklace or ring.

STEVE

They pay you 350 an hour \*and\* buy you things on top of that? How'd you get into all this?

She puts away all the jewelry and looks at him.

MEREDITH

I used to be a teacher. High school, taught history. But looking like this didn't help, boys at that age are really just a body part masquerading as a human. Kids would fight over me, parents would call me names, it got ugly. So I quit. But being unemployed with a teaching degree didn't do me much good. So I remember one of my girlfriends in college had worked as an escort, so I called her up.

She shows a photo to Steve of her and her friend.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

So, I charge 200 dollars an hour, which I thought was ridiculous. And yet, guys kept flooding in, I didn't have a free moment. So I kept upping my price, until I found 350 was the sweet spot. Funny thing is, at 200, guys just wanted sex. At 350, they bring me out, buy me gifts, show me off, and just want to talk. What about you? You don't seem like all the other cops I've met.

Steve's phone rings. He picks it up and answers, says "Ok" on the phone, and then hangs up.

STEVE

Duty calls.

MEREDITH

Doesn't mean you can't answer my question.

STEVE

Another time. Find out who those girls are and I'll answer your interrogation.

MEREDITH

It's supposed to be fun when you get to know someone new, you know?

Steve doesn't acknowledge the comment and walks out.

EXT. DANIEL'S HOUSE

Steve knock on the door and Daniel answers it. He lets Steve in. Steve begins surveying the house.

CUT TO:

LIMBOLAND SHOT

Steve notices the tables, the tidiness of the house, the furniture, the pictures, and each of the items in the house.

BACK TO:

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE

DANIEL

You're doing it again. That thing  
(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

you did with the Senator and when we looked at that dead girl. Spill it, what do you see?

STEVE

Tragedy. Something terrible happened here. The house is maintained like it's supposed to be, but no one actually lives here. Real people have clutter, the chairs and table are arranged for a family but there's no family.

DANIEL

You're too clever for your own good kid. My wife had ovarian cancer, it took three years before she succumbed. I worked hard trying to manage all the bills. My daughter thought I should be spending that time with my wife when she was dying but it killed me. She was always strong, defiant. Seeing her with tubes all in her nose, in unspeakable pain, I could swear her eyes just asked me to end it all everytime I saw her. When she passed, Veronica, my daughter, took all her Mom's jewelry, any cash lying around, and bolted with my car. Wrecked it. Haven't seen her since.

Steve fumbles for words. He finally manages.

STEVE

You have a beer or something?

Daniel ushers him to the kitchen and opens the fridge. Steve pulls out a beer and starts drinking. He sighs and looks at the beer. Steve finds his words and says, "I remember..."

CUT TO:

INT. STEVE THE YOUTH'S HOME

Steve's Dad is a large man, balding, who drinks heavily. He 37 beats his wife while Steve looks at it through a cracked door. One day, Steve runs out to help his Mom, and his Dad work him over. An older version of Steve wakes up in the lawn, badly bruised and beat up. He runs away. After

appearing more scraggly, he finds a boxing gym and wins the sympathy of SEAN SILK, an old, short black boxer. Steve trains at the gym and works construction.

An older, stronger version of Steve stares down his old man when he enters the house, fists clenched. The old man gets up. He tries to slam Steve through the wall.

Steve whips his Dad around and begins a furious torrent of punches to the ribs. As his Dad covers up and doubles over from the pain, he starts punching his Dad in the face, over and over. The cartilage on the nose breaks and cracks, until there's no nose left. He mounts and begins punching over and over again until his hands come back as nothing but blood red stumps with matted blood, snot, and spit on them.

BACK TO:

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE

STEVE

At first, it's all technical. I hit him with perfect training. Until the first shot I land on his face. Then the next twenty. He's barely recognizable at that point as my Dad. When I stopped, he looked like Droopy from the comics, his face was so crushed that he had no bone structure left to support his face. He didn't die. He's completely blind in his left eye, mostly in his right one.

CUT TO:

INT. MODERN TIME - STEVE'S MOM'S HOUSE

An older version of Steve's Dad tries to eat. His face hangs off the bone and he has to slurp his food to get it in. Steve's Mom dotes over him.

He's the sweetest man you'll ever meet now. Doctors said I scrambled his brains so completely that they're amazed he can talk, but that also killed whatever was aggressive in him. I also killed most the nerves in his face, so he has a hard time keeping food in his mouth when he eats. Anyway, at the hearing, they ruled that based on

(MORE)



extenuating circumstances, I could either join the military or serve three years for aggravated battery. I went to the military.

Daniel seems shocked by the story, but regains his composure quickly.

STEVE (CONT'D)

But it's not satisfaction I feel. It's guilt. I left Mom alone with him for three years, and I couldn't protect her.

DANIEL

That why you're killing yourself trying to save these women? There wasn't anything you could have done for your Mom then, and there isn't much you can do for these women now.

Steve gets up and throws away his beer. He looks at the paperwork strewn about.

STEVE

What'd you find out?

Daniel gets up and grabs some files from the table. Steve joins him and looks at the paperwork.

DANIEL

Our friend the Senator was targeting waterfront Unions. Now, maybe, no big surprise. Republican aren't fond of Unions and this could score big in the upcoming election. But, when I look at the dock, I see these discrepancies.

Steve pours over the documents.

STEVE

Missing containers. There's containers that are outbound that never get reported on the inbound manifest.

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DANIEL

That's it. Now, if this were random, then it could be computer or human error. But, check out the

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

dates.

STEVE

They're not a steady pattern, but they're regular.

DANIEL

On and off about two weeks. My guess is whatever they unload is related to the Russians and our dead girl.

STEVE

Do me a favor. Sit on this. I need to talk to the Gang Unit and find out how the Russians operate. If we move too fast on this, we could lose our only lead.

DANIEL

You got maybe one week before our next meeting with the Lt., at which point, we have to come clean on this lead.

INT. POLICE STATION - NEXT DAY - GANG UNIT

Steve is waiting in the lounge drinking coffee. The officer across from him is MIKE, who has a long handlebar mustache that he plays with incessantly. Alongside him is TRAN, an Asian cop who dresses like a banker. Steve walks to their desks. 39

TRAN

Daniel called. You're here about the Russians? We don't really deal with them much.

STEVE

Why not?

TRAN

Stats mostly. We can nail a hundred yos for the price of one mobster. They're not visible, they're well-connected, and it takes months to piece together a sting operation to catch one of them. We need arrests to keep our stats up. 40

MIKE

It's all about stats these days. Everything has to fit on a powerpoint slide. Rates of arrests, number of convictions, patrol of high-crime areas. You want Russians, you need a special task force.

Steve grabs where he keeps his pain pills, but doesn't pop one in, he just feels the bottle and rubs it like a genie lamp.

STEVE

I get that. I just need intel on how they operate. They might be connected to a murder investigation.

MIKE

That sounds like a task force to me. And you know what a task force means? OVERTIME! Time to buy my boat.

41

He slaps Tran on the back.

STEVE

Maybe. If I can get a task force, you two are top of the list if you can give me some real intel.

TRAN

Okay, here's some real intel. Here's a book with all their tattoos. Russian mobsters tattoo \*everything\* they do on themselves. Anyone caught faking a tattoo gets it cut off. Learn to read these and you know everything about a Russian mobster.

Steve flicks through the photos showing intricate tattoos, most with religious symbols and iconography.

STEVE

This is seriously good stuff. What else do you know?

TRAN

They aren't intricate with the bodies like the Italians. The

(MORE)

TRAN (CONT'D)

Italians like to keep bodies up in meat lockers they use as fronts so when the body gets dumped, you can't put a time of death. Russians just chop the hands and the head off, leave the rest of the body. Drugs they get from Afghanistan, courtesy of the war, and women they get from Israel.

STEVE

Israel? Seriously?

TRAN

Yeah. When Stalin needed a whipping boy for Russia, he picked on the Jews. Millions fled to Israel. Rats come with every ship though and they picked up plenty of mobsters too, who use it as a trade-route for Western markets. Russia is too cold to ship much, so they need to use proxies in Greece, Spain, and Israel to move major supplies through, big part of the war that Russia keeps trying to wage on Georgia. Israeli government won't touch it because publicly admitting anything wrong in Israel gives ammunition to the countries which hate them, which means, every country not the USA.

Steve looks relieved talking to Tran.

STEVE

You two are the first competent pair of cops I've met. I get a task force, you're first up. Warn me if they try to send me any hairbags okay? I know the Lieutenants love to dump dead weight on task forces.

MIKE

No dead weight here, just lean, mean, crime-fighting machines here. Batman and freaking Robin right here. He's Robin though cause he dresses like a fruit.

TRAN

Haters always gonna hate.

INT. POLICE STATION - HOMICIDE

Daniel is at the station, looking at more shipping manifests.

STEVE

Big break on this. The disappearing containers, check if the country of origin is Afghanistan or Israel.

Daniel digs up all the numbers he circled for missing containers.

DANIEL

We got a lot of hits on this. What do you want to do?

STEVE

Find out when the next shipment is coming in.

DANIEL

Two days.

STEVE

I'm on it. Find any Yakuza connections we may have missed as well, anything suspicious. Get with Tran and Mike, they know these gangs pretty well.

EXT. SHIPPING YARD

Steve keeps dialing for Meredith, but she doesn't answer. Steve looks to be concerned. The dock shows a regular crew getting containers, but one sits off by itself, the crew avoiding it completely. When the yard is empty of all the containers, an outside truck pulls up to hitch it in. Steve gets out of his car and walks up to the driver. It's one of Mikhail's bodyguards. Steve taps on the window and flashes his badge.

STEVE

License and registration sir. Greencard too if you have one of those.

The bodyguard gets out. He's larger than Steve.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Don't they have any midget-sized gangsters anymore?

BODYGUARD

Why you here? We already pay. You trying to do a shakedown here?

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STEVE

No one paid me anything. And what's in the container?

The bodyguard mutters to himself and swings at Steve. Steve dodges it and pulls out a retractable metal baton. He extends it. As the bodyguard lunges forward, Steve hits him in his hand, then his forward knee. He keeps doing this each time the bodyguard moves forward, landing more blows as the bodyguard gets slower with each attempt. The bodyguard drops falls down, and Steve cracks him right below his skull. The bodyguard drops unconscious. Steve handcuffs the bodyguard's hands behind his back. He then goes to the back of the container and opens it up. Inside are a dozen women, most very young, a bunch of boxes, and money. Steve checks the boxes and finds drugs smuggled inside of children's toys. The women are all shouting at him in foreign languages. Steve quickly exits, and dials on his phone.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Sister Mercit? Yes well, a quick question. How many languages do you speak?

INT. CELLAR

The bodyguard wakes up, naked, handcuffed behind his back. He chuckles.

BODYGUARD

Where we at? Grandma's rape dungeon? And what's that smell, it's horrible. Smell like your Grandmother's pussy.

Steve is on the steps looking at the bodyguard.

STEVE

I'm guessing the mob didn't hire you for wit. Turn your head left and look. No, other left. That was the previous occupant.

43

Chen's body has been eaten by rats, four of them are going after his leg.

BODYGUARD

Oh, you sick, sick man you. Evil.  
You make good KGB agent if you  
looking for job. You kill him?

Steve walks towards the bodyguard.

STEVE

Me? No. You killed him.

BODYGUARD

Come on. No one believe that. He  
been dead a while. Try someone  
stupid to try scare tactics on.

STEVE

See, we got a tale of two cities  
here. Option 1, you take the rap  
for the murder and say that Chen  
here got greedy. I'll give the  
drugs and part of the money back in  
exchange after you sign your  
confession. Option 2, we do this  
the hard way and I kill you. Since  
the girls are missing, and the  
drugs are missing, and the money is  
missing, and you're missing, it'll  
look like you decided to cash in  
big.

The bodyguard laughs at Steve's suggestion.

BODYGUARD

You evil yes? You start war  
between us. We got guns. We got  
manpower. We got money. You start  
war, we wipe them out.

STEVE

I'm perfectly fine with that.

The bodyguard thinks about it. He stands up and look at Steve.

BODYGUARD

After confession, I get phone call.  
I make sure the delivery made. You  
lie, I take back testimony. But,  
you aware, girls worth millions.

(MORE)

BODYGUARD (CONT'D)

Someone will come for you.

STEVE

Lots of people have come for me.  
I'm here. They're not.

INT. LT. GRANGER'S OFFICE

Steve and Daniel are back in Lt. Granger's office. This time, she's completely focused on them.

LT. GRANGER

And how exactly did you know he had the body in his trunk?

STEVE

I didn't. We watched the Russians per our last briefing. I just stopped him on a traffic violation, I just wanted to ruffle his feathers. I notice blood stains, execute probable cause, find the body. We think the Jap robbed the Russians, so he tortured him until he gave up whatever he took.

LT. GRANGER

That's a hell of a lucky break.

STEVE

You know the cop motto: "Better lucky than good."

DANIEL

What's more important now is that we set up a task force and start hitting both these gangs hard. There will be a war starting up soon.

LT. GRANGER

We don't have the budget for a task force. All of our money is in anti-terrorism units.

STEVE

I may have called in a favor.

Senator Bitter walks into the police station. He shakes hands with many of the officers who recognize him, and enters into Lt. Granger's office. Everyone stands up to greet him when he enters.



SEN. BITTER

Oh sit, sit. No need to be so formal. I got a call saying the docks are under investigation. Which means the Union leaders there are under investigation?

Lt. Granger is caught aback by the appearance of Senator Bitter and the situation.

LT. GRANGER

You two are friends now?

SEN. BITTER

Let's just enemy of my enemy sort of situation.

STEVE

To answer the question, yes. There is no way the docks could be used without someone high up in the Union chain approving it. Which means, the Democrats will lose a major monetary source for next election. And as we all know, the people are in such an anti-incumbent mood right now.

Senator Bitter gives his Botox-inspired smile.

SEN. BITTER

Then whatever you need. I'll call the mayor, all overtime, vehicles, surveillance equipment will be approved, State's funds if needed. Now excuse me, I have a convention to attend.

The Senator leaves quickly, shaking a few hands and taking pictures with policemen on his way out.

LT. GRANGER

You have heard of a chain of command right before you go jumping all the way up to the State's Senators?

STEVE

I can't hear much of anything over the sound of all the ass I keep kicking.

She glares him down but says nothing. She curtly waves both of them off. They walk back to their desks.

DANIEL

You didn't even vote for him did you?

STEVE

I can't stand him, I wish he'd lose. But I learned something working the field in Afghanistan. You learn to work your assets. You don't have to like them, they don't have to like you, but if they can deliver, you take them.

45

DANIEL

That's calculated, I guess. What's our next move?

STEVE

I have to talk to an old acquaintance. Get a list of the best cops around. Do some background checks, look for anything suspicious. The Russians and Japs can't operate without inside men. We had an acronym we used. We called said we were looking for MICE. People who had problems with money, ideology, compromising secrets, or egos. Anyone passed over for promotion, has suspect ties, or who has money problems can't be on the task force. And get with Tran. He might be able to help ferret out some connections.

EXT. ABANDONED OVERPASS

Steve is waiting in his car. He keeps dialing for Meredith and gets no answer. Another car pulls up directly alongside him on the passenger side. He rolls down his window on the passenger side.

STEVE

I can tell you never worked patrol. Try the other way.

The car flips around so the two are opposite each other and both driver's side windows are next to each other. Inside

the sedan is VICTOR, a Hispanic man with tattoos on his forearms.

VICTOR

Still a smartass I see. Haven't heard from you in a while, not since you burned your last bridge. I'm pretty sure my security clearance will get revoked just being seen with you.

46

Steve reaches into his glove compartment and pulls out some of the cash he took from the Russians.

STEVE

You think this will smooth over any problems?

Victor counts the money, then whistles.

VICTOR

Damn bro, what job did you get when you got out?

STEVE

Money's green is all that matters. Special order.

VICTOR

Alright, I can deal. What do you need?

STEVE

Semtex, enough to blow up a good size building, with detonator and timers, Russian specs. A cellphone jammer C-Guard HPe, tactical gloves, an auto-shotgun, two Sig .40s with extended clips, an M110 with 20 round clip, thermal scope, and night goggles.

VICTOR

Sounds like a party package. We can provide, but patience is necessary. Semtex is dangerous stuff, we don't mess with it much because it's too unreliable. Hard to transport it safely.

STEVE

Not planning on playing this safe.

VICTOR  
When did you ever? Anything else?

Steve pulls out a picture of Meredith and hands it over to Victor.

STEVE  
I had an asset go missing. I've called for four days, no luck. She might have gotten in over her head or she might have just changed her mind. There's an extra fifty-thousand if you can tell me about her.

Victor studies the picture.

VICTOR  
She's hot, but you know that's not my specialty. You were the big manhunter. Things that go boom are mine.

STEVE  
Where do you get all that stuff anyway?

Victor look around the empty underpass.

VICTOR  
You got a wire on or something?  
Come on, the day before 9/11, Rumsfeld gets on t.v. and says the Pentagon has no idea where over 25% of the money they get. That's 300 billion dollars. Since 9/11, man, the Pentagon has no idea where any of its money really goes. Fortunately, I only sell to the good guys, which is why talking to you is such a risk. Never know what you Psy-ops freaks are up to.

47

Steve flips him off.

STEVE  
Saving the asses of Special force attachments if I remember correctly. I caught your Al-Qaeda "informant" putting a bomb in the back of a car.

VICTOR

Only reason I still tolerate you.  
It's like trying to hug a cactus.

EXT. HIGHWAY

Steve is driving away from the meeting point. Along the route there are numerous detour signs. As he keeps passing them by, he goes into a one way route.

CUT TO:

LIMBOLAND SHOT

He looks around and notices that the equipment pushes him into a corner. He keeps looking into the street and notices that despite the construction equipment littering the scene, there's no actual construction. He starts accelerating.

BACK TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY

A man with a cinder block walks out into the street wearing a face mask. Steve has already moved onto the side of the street, and runs over the man. He catapults onto the car and smashes partly through the window. Numerous gun shots ring out across the car as the man on top gets sprayed with bullets, shooting a mist out that seeps through cracks in the front windshield.

Steve tries to drive off, but can't see where he's going. The tires get blown out, and he skids on his rim to pull his car opposite the shooters so he can roll out of the driver's side away from the bullets. He ducks behind his engine blocks while the shooting continues. He gets down flat on his stomach and looks underneath the hood of the car, which has three pairs of shoes walking towards the vehicle. He aims at the first set, squeezing off a shot carefully.

The bullet rips through the foot and the man screams as he falls down. The third man runs for cover while the second one drops down to look underneath the car. As soon as he does, Steve pulls off the second shot and the bullet pops the back of the man's head off, sending brain and bone fragments into the air, with the bone fragments skipping off the pavement.

The third man is now behind cover and he takes pot shots at Steve's position. Steve peers out in front of the engine block to look at the first man down on the ground. He aims and shoots the man twice in his gun arm, prompting fresh

screams.

STEVE

You don't stop shooting at me and come out with your hands up, I'm going to keep peppering your friend.

GANGSTER THREE:

Fuck you pig!

Steve shoots the downed gangster again, this time in the leg.

STEVE

I have two clips with fifteen bullets a piece. Your friend isn't going to die, but man I'd hate to be him right now.

GANGSTER TWO:

Stop shooting please man!

STEVE

He did say please. Police are on their way, make up your mind now.

Steve shoots again, this time aiming carefully to clip the toes off the downed gangster.

GANGSTER THREE:

Alright, alright man! Slow your roll! I'm coming out.

STEVE

Throw away the gun first.

The submachine gun skids across the pavement.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Now walk forward slowly, with your arms fully extending in front of you.

The third gangster walks out of his cover slowly.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Is anyone else out here?

The third gangster shakes his head. As soon as he does, Steve double-taps him in the heart. He quickly falls forward, faceplanting the concrete. Steve kicks gun back over to where his hands were stretched out. He then walk to

the second gangster, who is sucking hard and biting his lips to keep from screaming in pain.

Steve walks onto the crotch of his pants with his right foot and puts the left foot on top of the shoulder where he shot the gangster. The gangster starts screaming.

STEVE (CONT'D)

You're going to talk. If not, we'll play a couple of games. The first game is called, "How much do I weigh?" The second game is "How hard can I stomp?" And the third one is "How high can I jump?" Who hired you?

The gangster is twitching heavily and screaming. Steve rocks his weight back and forth between his two feet.

GANGSTER TWO:

I don't know!

Steve stomps hard on the bullet wound in the shoulder. The gangster screams then starting making hissing sounds with his mouth as it froths up.

GANGSTER TWO: (CONT'D)

I mean it! The guy that hired us paid cash, we didn't see him! He gave us a cellphone that tracked this car and told us where to set an ambush at! Check my pocket!!

Steve kneels down, still on top of the gangster, and pats down his pockets. He pulls out a wallet and cellphone, and checks the cellphone. The casing is cracked, but a GPS monitor is locked onto his location. He then pulls open the wallet and pockets the money.

GANGSTER TWO: (CONT'D)

You seriously robbing me?!

STEVE

Seriously am. I mean, you didn't kill me, so why should you get to keep the money? Now, you need a good excuse so people believe you didn't talk. So open your mouth up.

GANGSTER TWO:

What the

As he starts to mouth those words, Steve pistol whips his front teeth. They shatter and go into the gangster's throat. He gags and starts vomiting them up with the blood and spit running outward. Steve pickpockets the other gangsters while collecting their weapons as well and pockets the money.

STEVE

Ten grand for me? I'm flattered.

He then looks under his car carefully and finds the bug. He smashes it and calls for backup.

EXT. STREET

Twenty different police cars have shown up with cops littering about everywhere, marking spent casings, photographing the skid marks where Steve went off road. Lt. Granger and Daniel arrive.

DANIEL

This is where mistakes get made.  
This is where things get messed up  
bad.

48

LT. GRANGER

What's the problem?

DANIEL

You got too many feet trampling  
around. Things are moving too  
fast. Evidence gets missed,  
misplaced, run over. It's moving  
too fast. Slow it down Lieutenant.

LT. GRANGER

EVERYBODY FREEZE!

No one seems to pay attention though a few look over. She shouts again, even louder.

LT. GRANGER (CONT'D)

I SAID EVERYBODY FREEZE!!!

The cops stop moving and everybody looks over toward Lt. Granger.

DANIEL

We appreciate everyone trying to  
help, we really do. But if you are  
NOT part of this case and have not  
been assigned, you need to leave  
the area. Lt. Granger will assign

(MORE)



DANIEL (CONT'D)

the detectives in charge.

Lt. Granger walks with Daniel to where Steve is at.

LT. GRANGER

Who do I assign to this? It's homicide, but there's a conflict of interest here.

DANIEL

No, it's not homicide. Clear self-defense involving an officer of the law.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER RAYMOND walks onto the scene. He is clean-cut in his early thirties. He has a baby face that is marred by an eagle-like nose.

LT. GRANGER

Who has this case then?

DANIEL

I think it should go to the Gang Unit. These look like bangers to me. Get Tran and Mike over here to confirm, if so, then they're up.

IA Raymond raises his voice.

IA RAYMOND

Excuse me, who is the officer in charge of the scene?

LT. GRANGER

I'm the ranking officer on the scene until the Captain arrives.

IA RAYMOND

I'm Raymond, Internal Affairs.

DANIEL

(aside to Lt. Granger) A cheese-eating rat bastard is what he really means.

IA RAYMOND

Any shooting involving an officer is Internal Affairs jurisdiction.

LT. GRANGER

Only if there is proof of impropriety on the part of the officer. You have to establish

(MORE)

LT. GRANGER (CONT'D)

that first, then you're lead. For right now, (shouting) TRAN AND MIKE!, (normal), the Gang Unit is in charge, you will liaison with them.

Tran and Mike hurry over. Mike shakes Daniel's hand.

MIKE

Chuck Norris takes some more down!

IA RAYMOND

I'm sorry, "Chuck Norris"?

MIKE

It's what people at the station call Steve. He's like Chuck Norris.

IA RAYMOND

You're referring to the incident at the strip club?

MIKE

Who's he?

DANIEL

IA.

MIKE

Sorry, don't speak English. Yo no hablo Inglés, ¿podría tu hablar en Español y luego lamer me culo?

LT. GRANGER

He means to say he'd be delighted to cooperate.

IA RAYMOND

Steve will need to turn in his weapon, undergo an interview, and wait until he's cleared before he can return to duty.

DANIEL

Hey, how about you first make sure that he's okay and doesn't need to go to the hospital first?

LT. GRANGER

I'll handle Steve. Raymond, you will survey the scene with these two detectives, but you are not the

(MORE)

LT. GRANGER (CONT'D)

lead. I will bring Steve in, get a debriefing, and you can question him afterwards. Clear?

Raymond walks off huffy and begins barking orders at the CSAs on the scene. Mike argues with Raymond about who tells the CSAs what to do while Tran walks with Daniel over to Steve at the ambulance. Steve has a shock blanket on.

STEVE

I keep telling them I don't want the damn blanket, and they keep putting the thing right back on me.

DANIEL

How you holding up?

STEVE

Me? I'm good. These guys are amateurs, fell for an old sniper trick and shot all over the place. A pro would have picked a higher vantage point to get a better field of view.

TRAN

Yeah, I recognize the perps. They're all bangers with a local crew. It doesn't make sense for them to make a run on a cop, that's serious heat coming down on them. The Chief is going to start cracking every yos head on every street corner.

DANIEL

I get a feeling you're about to say "But" Steve. You got that look on your face.

STEVE

But this setup. Using a trace? Using a cellphone to track? Setting up a funnel so they could do an ambush? Getting all this gear out here? That's not a street gang, a street gang doesn't have this kind of juice.

TRAN

We'll run any affiliations with larger gang units, but I don't

(MORE)

TRAN (CONT'D)

think we'll get much on that end.  
Who'd run at you like this?

The Captain's car pulls up. The captain is in full uniform, brash shined and boots at high polish. He is in his sixties but still looks stronger than most the men on the scene. His uniform reflects all of the street lights and makes him a lighthouse beacon that draws in all the other policemen.

DANIEL

I dunno. With Steve, it's more like who doesn't want to run at him. Right now, we got at least two high-level gangs, plus whoever else is on the list of that dead girl that wants him put away.

The captain clips his heels together.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

Who is charge of this scene?

Both Mike and IA Raymond say yes.

MIKE

Hey Dad, I'm in charge of this one. Gang made an attempt, the hit failed.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

And who is this other person?

MIKE

Internal affairs. He thinks he runs this investigation.

The captain turns to look at Raymond and gives him a look that rips to his core.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

You? Son, if you don't get the fuck off this crime scene, I'll rip your pencil-dick off and fuck you with it in front of everyone here. And if you want to find out who has more juice, you just take it up to your commander. I promise you that when I'm through crawling out each and every one of your orifices, your gaper will be stretched out further than a virgin prom queen at a donkey show. And when I'm

(MORE)

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY (CONT'D)

finished with you, you can visit your proctologist to find an ointment that soothes the aching sensation the most. You'll get the report when they're done here. Now move or you will be moved.

Raymond looks like he's about to cry. The policemen and women let out cat-calls, "Ohhhs", and other noises to give their approval to Captain Pawlsky. Raymond sulks off and drives away from the crime scene.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY (CONT'D)

I hate those smug pricks. Where's the officer?

The other patrolmen point to where Steve is at and the Captain walks towards him.

TRAN

That's Mike's dad.

STEVE

The family resemblance is uncanny.

When the captain approaches, the men all look at him.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

You're Steve correct? My boy tells me good things about you, good things indeed. When you hit your time in, you fill out that paperwork and let me know, understood?

He doesn't wait for acknowledgement from Steve.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY (CONT'D)

Now, Mike, you're getting full authorization for a special knockers squad, full overtime. Hit these Yos hard, understand? Anything short of a body bag and we'll sweep it, but these bangers need to know who runs these streets.

The Captain walks off. News teams have started gathering around and the Captain walks up to start answering their questions.

DANIEL

We know why he got dressed up.

STEVE

So if I get promoted ahead of you,  
you going to take it personal?

DANIEL

If it means I got to take down  
every gang banger and mobster, no.  
Keep your title. I want to live.  
You need to go to the hospital?

STEVE

No, I'm fine.

DANIEL

Well, as much as this pains me,  
Raymond was right. Protocol states  
we have to relieve you of your  
weapon, test it, and wait for you  
to be cleared by a shrink to rejoin  
the force.

STEVE

Come on, what is this?

DANIEL

Some rules you can bend, some rules  
you can break. Not this one. Come  
on, put it in the evidence bag.

Steve hesitantly puts his gun into the bag.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

I'll take you to your house and  
drop you off. I'll also pick you  
up in the morning, they're going to  
grill you all day, so try to get  
some sleep.

EXT. STREET CORNERS - NEXT DAY

Mike has rounded up a bunch of officers who are busting up  
anyone on the street. They aggressively search dealers,  
stashs, and beat up anyone caught with anything. They have  
a list of known gang affiliates, kicking down doors and  
barging into houses with full riot gear.

In one instance, it's nothing but a grandma by herself,  
cowering from the police officers who ransack the house. In  
another, they handcuff another gang member to a fence and

hit him with their nightsticks while he thrashes.

OFFICER

It's every hour, on the hour, until  
you give up everyone on this list,  
I don't care where they're hiding!

They then continue to beat the gang member until he is  
uncuffed. He lies on the ground, unable to move.

The police station slowly begins to feel with beaten gang  
members.

Daniel and Tran are watching the scene unfold, listening to  
glory stories from officers.

DANIEL

Whoever set this up was smart, they  
knew the police blowback would be  
hell. These dumb yos are getting  
their heads cracked for someone  
else's war.

TRAN

Doesn't bother me. Next time they  
try to pull someone else in to  
fight for them, they won't do it.

DANIEL

I'm not concerned with who the  
lackeys are, I want the ringleader.

INT. INTERROGATION CELL

Steve is in the interrogation cell waiting. IA Raymond is  
fuming, reading over the report. He sits down in front of  
Steve.

IA RAYMOND

So the file report says you shot  
one of the gang members five times.  
This didn't seem excessive use of  
force to you?

STEVE

Not at all. I shot him in the legs  
three times because he kept trying  
to get back up. When I went around  
the side of the car, he was  
reaching for his gun. I shot him  
twice in the arm to finish subduing  
him.

IA RAYMOND

See, the trajectory of the bullets don't match the story. If he was standing, the bullets would go from posterior to anterior, that's front to back. These bullets show a sideways trajectory, as if he was shot while already on the ground.

STEVE

I said he was trying to get up. As long as a suspect is making an attempt to resist the officer with a lethal weapon, the officer is in his rights to defend himself once intention to use deadly force has been established.

Raymond strokes his hair.

IA RAYMOND

What about his teeth? How'd those mysteriously go missing?

STEVE

They smashed out of his mouth when he hit the pavement. You'll find a big splotch where he spit them out on the scene.

IA RAYMOND

He told us, well, he didn't tell us because he can't really talk, and he had a damn hard time typing with only one hand, but he told us that you hit him with the butt of your gun. Analysis shows blood on your gun.

STEVE

He spit at me when I was frisking him for other weapons. Must have hit the bottom of my gun.

IA RAYMOND

And the damage to the butt?

STEVE

When I dropped down to shoot, the butt hit the ground.



IA RAYMOND

We both know what really happened here.

STEVE

And unless psychic prognosis is the basis of investigations now, you have shit on me and I'm walking. You charge, and you'll be sued by the police Union, and I'll win. So this is the moment where you feel your sack and find out how many swimmers you got in there. You charging me?

Raymond pauses to think. Then reluctantly looks to Steve.

IA RAYMOND

You're clear for now, pending new developments, and a psych evaluation.

INT LT. GRANGER'S OFFICE

Steve receives his badge and gun back. He goes back to his desk and starts pulling his gun apart, looking for any sign of tampering.

DANIEL

You getting paranoid there since the shooting?

STEVE

Think about it. How many chances would someone have to plant a tracker on me? Where's the best place to do it?

DANIEL

You're saying it was done here at the station. Awfully ballsy.

STEVE

Not if you're a cop.

DANIEL

Think it was one of our own? Doesn't make sense. Only one here with any right to kill you is me for being such a pain in the ass.

STEVE

To be honest, I'm not worried about that at all.

DANIEL

Well? Don't make me ask such an obvious question.

STEVE

I'm worried about my CI. She went after a lead, I asked her to look into the two women that were with Mikhail at his restaurant. I haven't heard a word from her in a week. Either she ran, which doesn't seem her style or

He doesn't finish the sentence, he just lets it hang.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Where are we at for the Task Force?

DANIEL

Not going to be one, at least not for a few weeks. The captain wants bodies in prison and heads cracked, so anyone available is on that detail.

STEVE

He's missing the point.

DANIEL

Yeah, but so are you. This isn't about you, it's about making sure police out there are safe.

Steve mulls it over.

STEVE

Do we have any leads to follow up on? There should have been some other bodies dropped by now.

DANIEL

There's no bodies, I don't know what gives on that end, but I got something else.

He smiles and pulls out a file from his drawer.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

While you were out playing supercop  
(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

and God only knows what else, I did some checking. These Yakuza guys are part of three main gangs, each of which is at war with each other. In addition to death by beheading or shooting, the number three cause of death is cancer. Liver cancer.

STEVE

The irezumi tattoos they put on themselves.

DANIEL

Yeah, heavy metal ink, plus they can't sweat, they eat fish with mercury in them all the time, and they drink. Now, what if I told you a hospital here had a man, from Japan, covered in tattoos, who needs a liver transplant?

STEVE

It'd mean we got a live Yakuza boss right here.

DANIEL

And we do. I can't pronounce his damn name, but Tran already told me he's not from the same branch as the guys that set up shop here.

STEVE

Better to be lucky than good.

DANIEL

Well, I'm not lucky, I am good. Well, Tran helped out a bit too, but you know what I mean. You need to get lucky and find out if this guy might actually be able to help find your CI.

INT. HOSPITAL

Steve enters into the room of Mr. Yakumora, the head of the Sumiyochi. The whites of his eyes are yellow and the skin on his hands and face looks toxic yellow. He doesn't acknowledge Steve when he walks in.

MR. YAKUMORA

I wondered when you would visit.  
I've heard of an American

(MORE)

MR. YAKUMORA (CONT'D)

interfering with Yakuza business.  
Dangerous business.

STEVE

It's not myself I'm worried about.

MR. YAKUMORA

Then what are you worried about?

STEVE

This woman. (He pulls out a picture of Meredith.) She went to find out about a group of women who hung around a Russian mob boss.

Mr. Yakumora gets up and slaps Steve. Despite his health, Mr. Yakumora is still surprisingly fast. He sends Steve to the floor with the hit.

MR. YAKUMORA

What sort of man sends a woman to do his work? It's a disease of this generation.

Steve is reeling, but he sits back down.

MR. YAKUMORA (CONT'D)

In my day, the Yakuza meant something. We helped where the police couldn't. You needed to get money back, we provided. You wanted to gamble, we held dens. You wanted sex, we provided. But we provided willing girls. We didn't steal them from the Philippines, or Europe, or Hawaii. We didn't deal drugs. But now, we do all that. And worse. We don't need to hospitals anymore to get our organs because we can get those too. Except for old hold-outs like me, too stubborn to realize I'm just a ghost walking among the trees.

STEVE

Can you find out where she is?

MR. YAKUMORA

I can try. But I make you no guarantees. Let me tell you something else we used to not do.

(MORE)

MR. YAKUMORA (CONT'D)

We used to not work with the gaijin  
in our businesses.

STEVE

Oh... How'd I miss it? It's  
obvious.

Mr. Yakumora nods and looks at a painting.

MR. YAKUMORA

I never betrayed a friend,  
dishonored myself, or ran from a  
fight. It's not much, but as I'm  
to die, it's all the measure of  
what I am. The new ones have no  
rules or ethics, they're just after  
money. Your plan to frame the  
Sumiyochi failed because they're  
already working with the Russians.  
They knew the Sumiyochi didn't  
steal the drugs just like the  
Sumiyochi knew the Russians didn't  
kill their man.

He goes to get a piece of paper and slowly writes down an  
address.

MR. YAKUMORA (CONT'D)

This address will show you what's  
going on. They're not going to be  
there long, and I'm not going to be  
around much longer either. May the  
spirits consider this much  
atonement. Good-day, officer.

INT. LT. GRANGER'S OFFICE

Steve and Daniel are again at Lt. Granger's desk. Her  
aspirin bottle is out.

STEVE

We caught a big break. One of the  
major Yakuza bosses told me that  
this address right here is where  
something big is going down?

LT. GRANGER

What "something big" is it? We can  
get a warrant if you can say what  
we're looking for and where.

STEVE

He didn't specify. He just told me to go there.

LT. GRANGER

Will he sign an affidavit to that effect?

STEVE

He's a freaking crime boss. He's not even supposed to talk to me.

LT. GRANGER

Yeah, exactly. And what are the odds this crime boss is going to send you and us on a goose chase while he does whatever it is he really wants to do?

STEVE

Call him then. His name is Yakumora. He's at Trinity Hospital, room 3238.

Steve waits impatiently while Lt. Granger dials the number. She holds a brief conversation with someone on the other end. She hangs up.

LT. GRANGER

That's just not possible anymore. Mr. Yakumora is dead. Complete liver failure almost 48 hours ago. You're lucky to have even talked to him.

STEVE

Can't we claim that as a dying confession then?

LT. GRANGER

That only works if he admitted to a crime, he just gave you an address.

STEVE

Come on Lieutenant, something big is going down there, we need to find out what.

LT. GRANGER

The law doesn't just allow us to enter a premise on vague suspicions that something might be going on

(MORE)

LT. GRANGER (CONT'D)  
there. We need proof.

STEVE  
Give me the task force and we can start wire tapping, following people around, getting answers on this.

LT. GRANGER  
Captain's orders are for bangers. That's all we've been doing. There's no one free who hasn't already worked every ounce of overtime they can squeeze for double-pay, plus all the processing. We're tapped.

Steve goes back to his desk and grabs all the paperwork relating to the case. He motion for Daniel to follow him to the interrogation room.

DANIEL  
Worried about prying eyes?

STEVE  
I never told you my full story. About everything that happened. You know part of it, I was in the FBI as a manhunter, I caught several serial killers and escaped cons.

CUT TO:

PICTURES OF STEVES KEY EVENTS

The clips from Steve's wall where he won accolades for catching various serial killers and making a name for himself are shown.

STEVE (V.O)  
Then they ordered all of us on anti-terrorism duty, which meant massive surveillance and infiltration of ordinary Americans, including wiretapping and eavesdropping on cellphones.

CUT TO:

INT. PUBLIC RALLY

A very unhappy Steve is shown at an event called Democracy

NOW! where he's writing the names and descriptions of attendees, going through their phones when they put them down and speak, and recording conversations.

STEVE (V.O)

I protested, they put me in Iraq and Afghanistan to teach the same techniques from manhunting to hunting terrorists. Not a dream job, but at least I didn't feel guilty about it.

CUT TO:

INT. IRAQI FOB

Steve is talking to soldiers in camps, showing them how to do wiretaps, track e-mails, and engage in MOUT.

STEVE (V.O.)

Word comes down about a political red ball. No one wanted it, and since I was on the shit list already and my previous background was Psy-ops, they put me on it. They reinstated my rank in service and put me back into the military to infiltrate a possible kill unit that is targeting Iraq civilians. After a month on patrol, my initiation was to kill a sixteen year old who ostensibly helped plant a bomb that took out twelve Marines at a change of command ceremony. I killed him.

CUT TO:

INT. IRAQI HOUSE

The same scene seen in Steve's dream with the boy tied up. Steve grimaces, shaking on the trigger, until he closes his eyes and fires.

STEVE (V.O.)

I documented all their war crimes and brought the report back up. The word from the top brass was to bury the report and to transfer the soldiers out of the unit to other ones. Their reasoning was that what really happened was that it was the

(MORE)



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

combination of the unit altogether that caused the problem, the soldiers by themselves weren't any real problem. I couldn't handle that. So I leaked portions of the report to a German newspaper. They printed it. The Iraqis ambushed the unit, which I was still in, while we were on convoy. I was the only survivor.

CUT TO:

INT. HUMVEE ON ROAD

The other scene from his dream replays, with a RPG hitting the side of the convoy, killing the man sitting next to him instantly, flipping over the humvee, and trapping Steve in it while he is helpless, upside down, watching the rest of the humvees get attacked.

BACK TO:

INT. INTERROGATION CELL

STEVE

If the higher-ups had listened, had done the right thing, the fall-out wouldn't have been as bad and all of those men would still be alive. It's the same thing now.

DANIEL

This isn't the same. All we have now is a vague address. We can check it out, undercover, but if it's a bust, then what?

STEVE

There's something more. The Yakuza and the Russians are working together. That's why we haven't seen any bodies drop. I was expecting to get a body count and that would give us a task force to crack down on these guys. Instead, they knew from the start that it was a setup, and that's why they went after me.

DANIEL

So what's the new plan?

STEVE

You go check out that site. Call me and let me know what you find there. Be careful though, if it looks like there are people there, get out quick. I'm going to get plan B in action.

DANIEL

We don't have a plan A.

STEVE

I'm counting on you to come up with that one.

END OF ACT #2

START OF ACT #3

EXT. ABANDONED OVERPASS

Steve is back waiting in his car when Victor drives up. He gets out of his car, as does Steve.

VICTOR

I heard you took some serious heat after our last meeting. Cops been hitting every banger that's on any street corner, you can walk around anywhere in the ghetto without looking over your shoulder.

STEVE

That's actually been a problem for me. They're focusing on the wrong target.

VICTOR

Not my business. First up though, your girl, I tried man. Nothing. She didn't pop at any airports, buses, or anywhere else that crossed the border. Sorry man, but if you ain't heard from her by now, well you know.

He pops open the trunk of his car.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

Now, onto business. I got everything you asked for and more. AA-12 with Frag-12s, the red

(MORE)

VICTOR (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

magazine for HES. A C-Guard HPe  
cellphone jammer, modular vest with  
webbing and a subload thigh harness  
for the sidearms. My units were  
always combat ready. I can hear  
the Hajis screaming already.

Steve's phone starts ringing, it's Daniel. Steve answers  
it.

STEVE

Yeah, what did you find?

DANIEL

It's a drug lab, but there's no  
drugs here. Nothings been used up  
yet, but there's some stuff here  
I've never seen before either.  
Medical equipment, by the looks of  
it.

STEVE

Thanks. Can we use this for a  
warrant?

DANIEL

No. We aren't supposed to be in  
here. If we could track a known  
gang affiliate to the area, we  
could use that. But without a task  
force, that's a shot in the dark.

STEVE

So we're still going nowhere. Get  
out of there, we'll reconvene  
later.

Steve hangs up the phone.

STEVE (CONT'D)

You did good. Even brought me  
safety gear? I'm touched.

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VICTOR

A good NCO always makes sure his  
subordinates are squared away, even  
if they are a pain in the ass.  
Besides, I can't lose you if you're  
going to be making high dollar  
orders like this.

STEVE

Vic, I need a quick breakdown of the drug trade.

VICTOR

Oh, I get it. This is some Hispanic stereotype thing? I bet you think I make a good habenos too.

STEVE

No, it's because I know you didn't join the military voluntarily either. Plus, I know your real job is supposed to be monitoring drug trafficking and distributions that are tied to terrorist organizations.

Victor laughs.

VICTOR

You're still sharp. Everything depends on what you're bringing in. They need a lab?

STEVE

Yes.

VICTOR

You got meth. The hard part about it is getting two chemicals: Ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, either one works. You get that from Mexico, China, Germany, India, or the Czech Republic.

STEVE

Wild stab, but I'm going to guess this batch is going to come in from the Czech Republic. What about Japan? Same region as China and India.

VICTOR

True story, the guy that discovered it was Japanese. But Japan has strict laws on it, it's completely illegal and enforced. So there are no manufacturing plants in Japan. Japanese dealers get it from the outside, usually the US.

STEVE

Victor, you're a beautiful, beautiful man. You ever want a shitty, low-paying job, I'll give you a great recommendation.

VICTOR

A recommendation from you? Pretty much a guarantee not to get hired anywhere. You take care of yourself, no one out there to watch your six huh?

He gets into his car and drives off. Steve calls Daniel back.

STEVE

Where you at now?

DANIEL

Going to the office, why?

STEVE

I got it, all the pieces. The Japanese need the Russians because they can get a chemical used to manufacture meth. The Yakuza are a major part of Japanese businesses, so the Russians use these fronts to smuggle the drugs around without getting detected. That's why they're working together.

DANIEL

It makes sense and it's a great story, but how's that help us any?

STEVE

Look for shipments from the Czech Republic, that's where one of the big manufacturing plants is. You find out when that shipment gets here, and you have our case.

DANIEL

What are you going to be doing?

Steve picks up the sniper rifle.

STEVE

Recon.

EXT. MIKHAIL'S HOUSE - EVENING

Steve marks off exit points on a satellite Google map of the house. He plants explosives at those key points, along with explosives at the main power source. He notes the personnel entering and leaving until it is nightfall. He ties a bungee cord around a tree and wraps his sniper rifle barrel and twirls it around to stabilize the end of the barrel. There are seven Russians inside with Mikhail.

When it's completely dark, he flips on the cellphone jammer and blows up the power box. The explosive is a small charge, so it doesn't make much noise. All of the lights in the house go off. One of the men goes outside to investigate. Steve leads him with the rifle. When he gets up to where the box is, Steve shoots him.

STEVE

Six.

The other men start turning on flashlights in the house. When he can see the origin of the light, he shoots at that place. He takes out two of the men before the rest start turning off their lights.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Four.

While he's shooting those two, another two get into a truck and start driving towards his position. He drops the sniper rifle and picks up the remote detonator. When they are on top of the spot, he flips the switch. The explosion rips the truck in half and sends metal shards and flames splattering across the area.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Two.

He leaves the area and walks towards the house, turning on his night vision goggles and putting them on his head. He pulls his pistol out of the side harness. He slowly makes his way into the house. He cuts one of the corners using a "slice the pie" MOUT technique. As he does so, the last two Russians are there. He shoots the first one, but the second one shoots him twice in the chest as the first one goes down. Steve falls and reflexively shoots the second Russian, hitting him in the arm. His goggles fall off his face, and he can only see blackness. He makes short sucking sounds, as he can't breath from the impact of the bullet.

The Russian's arm hit causes him to drop his gun, and he gropes in the dark for it. Not able to find it, he pulls

out a knife from his side pocket and lunges at Steve. He stabs the knife into Steve's side. As he drives to pull the blade back out, it gets caught on the kevlar vest's webbing. Steve holds his hand in place with the knife plunged inside, both screaming. He then pushes his gun until it's underneath the man's chin, and shoots. The Russian drops.

Steve harnesses his firearm. He unslings the shotgun from his back, then pulls the goggles back up to his face. When he reaches the top of the stairs, he sees that Mikhail has a panic room with a gigantic steel door blocking entry.

Steve shoots the door, but the slugs just barely dent the door. He switches to the red-taped HE round. He shoots again. The blast from the impact knocks him down to the bottom of the staircase as a gigantic fireball fills the room.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
(wheezing). Goddamn it Victor, a little warning would have been nice.

He pulls himself up and goes back up the steps. The upstairs is in shambles, with the windows blown out and various things on fire. Inside, the steel door is smashed against Mikhail, pancaking him into the wall. With some difficult, Steve pushes it off of him and checks for a pulse.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
Still alive.

He sees a bag filled with weapons and money and grabs that, and drags Mikhail down the stairs by the leg. He brings them both up to his car, and throws the bag in. He ducktapes Mikhail's mouth shut, and binds his hands and feet behind him. He stuffs him in the trunk after pulling out a first aid kit.

He pulls off his shirt and looks at the wound. The knife wound is bleeding down his pants, and where he was shot is a gigantic bruise that spreads out from the point of impact. He pulls out his pain pill bottle from the glove compartment and takes two.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
Fuck me on this.

He cuts open one of the regular slugs on the shotgun and dumps the powder out. He pulls out the knife, causing fresh blood to start pouring. He pours it into the knife wound.

He does it again with another round. He then lights a stick on fire at the end, and lights the gun powder in his wound with it. He screams and writhes as the powder seers into his abdomen. He falls down and grabs a peroxide bottle and starts dumping it into the wound to cool it down.

He wraps the wound and finishes dressing it. He can see fire trucks and police sirens in the distance. He changes his clothes into his detective clothes, then runs back to the scene. He can see his blood trail. He goes inside and starts rummaging under the sink and above it, until he finds some ammonia. He pours that over all the blood inside and out. The sirens are getting close. He checks upstairs. The fire is burning more intense than when he originally left the scene. He looks into the panic room and notices that it has video recordings on it. Cursing under his breath, he runs down to where he shot the gangster at the staircase. He gropes for the gun. The police and fire department are now there.

He runs back upstairs and quickly shoots the machine three times, then tosses the gun into the fire. He runs back downstaiars, coughing from the smoke. He goes outside. Lt. Granger is outside, along with several police officers.

LT. GRANGER

We heard gunshots, is anyone still shooting in there?

Steve continues coughing up smoke.

STEVE

No, I think (cough), I think there's bullets up there that are getting caught in the heat.

LT. GRANGER

If we let the fire department go in first, they'll destroy evidence.

STEVE

If we don't let them go in first, then anyone injured by stray bullets will have a lawsuit on their hands for us leaving an unsafe environment.

Lt. Granger thinks about it for a moment. She calls the firemen over.

LT. GRANGER

Put out the fire, but try to

(MORE)



LT. GRANGER (CONT'D)

minimize the amount of areas  
affected. We need to keep the  
scene as intact as possible.

They go in with the fire hoses and start spraying in  
controlled areas. Lt. Granger looks at Steve.

LT. GRANGER (CONT'D)

You realize you have no eyebrows?

Steve starts patting his face. His eyebrows are burned off.

STEVE

I went into the house without  
thinking, I guess the fire must  
have been hotter than I realized.

LT. GRANGER

How'd you get here so fast?  
Neighbors have been trying to call,  
but all of the cell lines are dead  
and there's no electricity on this  
block.

STEVE

I told you I was pursuing these  
guys, remember? I came here to  
check what Mikhail was doing, and  
the house was on fire.

LT. GRANGER

Apparently, a big hit just took  
place. Three blocks down people  
called in to the station to say  
they saw an explosion in this area.  
We followed the smoke trail. Go  
see the medic.

STEVE

He's not going to try putting a  
shock blanket on me again is he?

EXT. AMBULANCE

Steve's walking speed goes down considerably and he's  
stumbling when he gets to Dr. Hall. Dr. Hall begins looking  
him over.

DR. HALL

Damn boy, you just a walking  
wrecking ball. Should do a "COPS"  
show just on you, except no one

(MORE)

DR. HALL (CONT'D)  
would believe it.

STEVE  
Fahg, arla mdehet.

Dr. Hall pops open a flashlight and looks into Steve's eyes.

DR. HALL  
You have dialated pupils. You must  
have hit your head when you went up  
there. (shouting). Lieutenant!

LT. GRANGER  
Yeah, is something wrong?

DR. HALL  
He has the symptoms of early  
concussion. He probably hit his  
head on something up there, and the  
inhalation of all that smoke didn't  
help.

LT. GRANGER  
Get him out of here then.

STEVE  
(slowly). I'm okay. Give me a sec  
doc.

He passes out.

INT. HOSPITAL

Steve wakes up with a start and looks around. It's still  
dark outside. He's groggy. He looks at his stomach and  
sees that it's now been professionally treated. A nurse  
comes in to check on him since he's starting to move about.

NURSE PANASHE  
You need to calm it down. Let me  
look at you.

She pulls down his eyelids and checks out his pupils.

NURSE PANASHE (CONT'D)  
Seems you're back to normal.

STEVE  
I have to get out of here.

NURSE PANASHE  
Easy killer, you're not cleared  
yet. We need to get you into a CT  
(MORE)

NURSE PANASHE (CONT'D)

scan.

Steve sneezes out a wad of blood. The nurse gets paper towels and cleans him up.

NURSE PANASHE (CONT'D)

Go easy. We have you on Mannitol until we can find a better treatment. You need a CT scan. You have a hemotoma that's draining out, we need to CT and find out if we need to do ventricular drainage or a craniotomy.

STEVE

I'm fine. Get me out of here.

He starts pulling out the tubes and IV. The nurse tries to calm him down but he gets up. He winces when he goes to where his cut is.

NURSE PANASHE

Nice attempt at field medicine. We stitched it up.

STEVE

Don't put it on the report.

She looks at him skeptically.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Just don't.

NURSE PANASHE

You can die if you keep going around like this.

STEVE

I'll come by tomorrow for the CT scan. You can't keep me here against my will.

NURSE PANASHE

No, but we can strongly advise you to stay.

STEVE

Objection noted.

He puts on his regular clothes and leaves the hospital.

EXT. MIKHAIL'S HOUSE

A taxi drops him off it's now morning. CSAs are combing the area. Daniel is still on the scene. Steve hurries over to him.

DANIEL

What are you doing back out here?  
Shouldn't you be at the hospital?

STEVE

I've got a follow-up tomorrow.  
Anything interesting?

DANIEL

We have at least four possible weapons used. Explosives of some sort used outside, possibly the same used inside. A high-calibre rifle of some sort, and two distinct small calibre shots.

STEVE

What are all the techs doing?

DANIEL

Looking for all the gunshots. We have to find every bullet and document it. There's just barely light now. Because the power was out, the neighbors didn't see anything useful, but we still had to question them all and canvas the neighborhood. We found blood and sampled it, but there's traces of ammonia. The blood might be useless for identification.

STEVE

There's a more scientific way to do this rather than just digging for bullets. We might get a print on an ejected shell. Mind if I jump in?

DANIEL

It's our case, go ahead.

He walks to the first body. There's a number marking it, but nothing else.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Getting a print on a shell would be lucky. This hit looks a little too

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D) (CONT'D)  
pro for something that amateur.

STEVE  
Better to be lucky than good.  
Besides, you're just waiting for a  
report. I might as well show you  
what I used to do.

They set up the scene. Steve marks the shots he made with a  
map that has the bodies on it.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
Now you look at the entry and exit  
wounds. The angle between them  
tells you the trajectory the bullet  
was shot from. Once you have that  
angle, hold up a laser pointer and  
walk it back.

DANIEL  
That easy?

STEVE  
No. Human hands shake  
considerably. Ideally, you'd want  
something to tape it too, then walk  
a reflective string back from that  
site. Match all the shots and you  
know where the shooter was and the  
rounds.

They walk the lines out and set up the scene. They collect  
the casings.

STEVE (CONT'D)  
Anything else we need to do here?

DANIEL  
We need to get lucky. We didn't  
find the boss here. He was either  
taken or he escaped. But given the  
shape of his safe room, I doubt  
that he's still alive.

STEVE  
Alright, well I'm out of here. I  
have an early morning appointment.

INT. DRUG LAB

Steve drags Mikhail out of the car. He's in a hog-tied  
position. While dragging him, he clutches at his side. He

cuts the binds on Mikhail's feet.

STEVE

Walk.

Mikhail makes grunting noises with the mouth gag taped to his mouth.

STEVE (CONT'D)

What?

He rips the mouth gag off.

MIKHAIL

My legs are dead, I've been in that car for hours in that position. I can't walk.

Steve sighs and drags Mikhail in behind him like a wheelbarrow. He winces from where his wound. He puts him in a corner and reties him up.

STEVE

Well Boris, the end game is over for you. I know everything.

MIKHAIL

Smart guy, very proud, yeah? Tell me everything.

STEVE

It's simple. You supply a rare compound, and in exchange, you get to use their distribution. But only I know that. I'm going to blow you up in here. To everyone else, it looks like a war. That will give me the resources I need to hunt all of you down.

MIKHAIL

You are clever, huh smart-guy. You got it all figured out.

STEVE

I got enough figured out.

MIKHAIL

We'll see smart guy.

STEVE

One question Boris, answer this, and I let you live. Where's

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

Meredith?

MIKHAIL

Sorry, don't know any cunt named that. You smart guy, figure it out.

Steve gags him again. He plants the rest of the Semtex throughout the house. He leaves Mikhail tied up and gagged in the far end corner of the warehouse.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NEXT DAY

The containers arrive. Cars start arriving and people begin unloading the containers. The place is devoid of anything else but abandoned buildings. After waiting a few minutes, Steve hits the remote detonator. The warehouse goes up in a gigantic whoosh, shooting out flames from all sides. Steve drives off and waits for the call.

EXT. WAREHOUSE

A similar scene to the house attack is played out again, except this time, there are numerous more body bags, many of them small. Tran, Mike, Daniel, and Lt. Granger are all on the scene.

STEVE

What's all this?

TRAN

Look like another retaliation hit. Could be a random accident with all the drugs involved or it could be a planned explosion. Arson said there's rapid burn marks, but until they analyze it, no telling.

STEVE

What's with the small body bags?

TRAN

Those are kids.

STEVE

Kids?

TRAN

Yeah. They use kid to mule drugs because they're less likely to raise suspicion than adults, plus no minimum sentences. They also make the drugs because the

(MORE)

TRAN (CONT'D)

chemicals are toxic. Street  
nickname for them is "Ants".

Steve is sweating profusely now, his vision is blurring.

TRAN (CONT'D)

You ok? You look like shit.

STEVE

(weakly) It's been, (coughing) It's  
been a rough, rough week.

DANIEL

Are you even cleared to be out  
here? I called the hospital, you  
didn't check back in.

MIKE

(yelling). Guys, check these out!  
These guys are really sick.

He has one of the medical slabs pulled out.

MIKE (CONT'D)

They're organ-harvesting. Look at  
that. Cut out every damn thing in  
her, even her eyes.

TRAN

It makes sense. The girls that  
either OD or don't want to do this,  
they have another way to make money  
off them.

Mike keeps pulling open the slabs. Red hair falls out.

STEVE

Oh shit, oh God.

He falls to a knee and starts shaking.

DANIEL

You need to go back to the  
hospital, you're barely alive out  
here and you're not much good to us  
like this.

STEVE

It's not that. She was my CI, she  
was the one that told me about all  
of this.



DANIEL

Oh Christ.

He grabs Daniel and pulls him behind one of the trucks so he's out of view.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Take a minute right here. You don't want the camera crews to see you like this.

STEVE

When you work in the field, you're told not to get close to assets, because if something bad happens to them...

DANIEL

Great advice in theory, but this is the real World. It's not that easy.

STEVE

I'm okay. Come on, she's a clear homicide, she needs us.

Steve pulls himself up by the truck and composes himself. Captain Pawlsky arrives again in full uniform.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

What a clusterfuck of a mess.  
MIKE!

Mike runs over.

MIKE

Yeah Dad?

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

What's all these dead kids?

MIKE

They're foreign kids, Tran says they ship them in to mule and make the drugs.

Captain Pawlsky appears relieved.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

So they're not American children?

MIKE

Yeah, I guess not.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY  
Oh, that's such a relief. The  
shitstorm will be a little easier.  
Steve, Daniel, Tran, get over here!

They go to meet the captain.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY (CONT'D)  
What's the status on this?

DANIEL  
Possibly a hit or possibly a drug  
lab gone bad. Given that the  
Russians were hit yesterday, I'd  
say this is probably a hit.

TRAN  
Narcotics unit estimates that  
there's 30 to 40 million dollars  
worth of product here, it's a big  
play.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY  
Leads?

Everyone looks around at each other.

STEVE  
The container they brought them in  
on was from the docks. Subpoena  
everyone at the docks and shut them  
down. They have Union lawyers and  
some political backing, but this is  
too big to walk away from. We need  
the task force to comb over every  
record of Mikhail and the dock  
bosses, and look for overlaps,  
payments, anything we can use.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY  
We don't have much money left for  
an operation like this.

STEVE  
Talk to Senator Bitter, let him  
know you are taking down the dock's  
union. He'll probably throw in a  
limo for you.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY  
State money? Oh, that'll be  
sweeter than titty-fucking Heidi

(MORE)

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY (CONT'D)

Montag. Mike, subpoena the dock workers and shut that entire place down. Look through every container for anything out of the ordinary.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - THREE DAYS LATER

GEORGE MARTIN is sitting in an interrogation cell. He is a white male in his late 50s. His lawyer CRANSTERN is sitting next to him, advising him. Daniel and Steve enter into the interrogation room. Looking through the glass are Lt. Granger and Captain Pawlsky, along with DISTRICT ATTORNEY RAWLS, a short man with a powerful voice and a well-trimmed grey beard.

CRANSTERN

What charges are you presenting against my client?

DANIEL

We have him up for racketeering, an accessory to murder, receiving of stolen goods, and human smuggling.

CRANSTERN

Let me see the supporting documents.

While Cranstern reads through the documents, a knock is heard on the door where the Lt., District Attorney, and Captain are. Senator Bitter steps in.

SEN. BITTER

Can I speak to the Captain for a moment?

The captain steps outside.

SEN. BITTER (CONT'D)

What do you have him on?

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

We have a bunch of charges, but none of them will stick. We think the syndicate set him up with an offshore account, but he hasn't touched it. He's been careful.

SEN. BITTER

What about the smuggling charges?

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

The thing is, no one works at the

(MORE)

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY (CONT'D)

docks anymore. Everything is automated. Even though what was in the containers was illegal, he didn't break any laws because the containers were never opened on site. The most we can do is order that the dock not receive shipments from those areas, which just means they'll port them in from somewhere else.

SEN. BITTER

Goddamn it. Do we have him on anything else?

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

Enough to send him to prison for a few years. Missing items from containers and payments from those going a few years back. Theft of televisions, cigarettes, commercial goods, things like that.

Senator Bitter is relieved.

SEN. BITTER

Good. Hit him on that.

53

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

Sir, the DA will probably try to use that as a bargaining chip to get him to confess what he knows for the bigger catch, the mob connections or whatever the hell it is that's causing all this hell.

SEN. BITTER

It's important that we focus on the big picture here. If the democrats win, we know they're soft on crime. The Chief is going to retire in a few years, and you'll need a Rabbi to get you into that position. We clear here?

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

We're clear.

He goes back into the room. Cranstern has finished reading the documents.

CRANSTERN

This is a fishing expedition. The only charges that have any substance are for receiving of goods. However, my client has information that may be of use to your department in ongoing investigations. He would be willing to exchange this information for immunity to prosecution.

Steve and Daniel exit the room and enter the room with the higher-ups.

DANIEL

Well, we got an offer.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

So what? How do we know it's any good?

D.A. RAWLS

We can attach that as a condition to immunity, the information must lead to a meaningful arrest.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

No way. He's not getting off the hook. What we have are a bunch of people here, illegally, who ended up dead. That's a heartbreaker, it really is, but that's not our problem. It just means we need tougher immigration laws.

STEVE

Or a policy where people looking immigrate don't have to get passage through gang members.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

Oh don't start that. My family immigrated here legally and they spoke English. You let every slope or wetback into here who has a sob story and pretty soon every tax dollar we spend will be on how to care for their children and teach ours how to speak their language. No deal.

DANIEL

But we have at least three open homicide cases that he can help close. That's worth more than a simple stolen goods case.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY

You heard me, end of discussion.

He leaves the interrogation room.

LT. GRANGER

He's a racist prick.

D.A. RAWLS

Back when he was a Sergeant, he used to have a special code he told his officers to watch out for. "D.W.A."

LT. GRANGER

Which means?

D.A. RAWLS

"Driving While Asian." See Asians are stereotyped as bad drivers...

LT. GRANGER

Thanks, I get it.

INT. POLICE STATION - GANG UNIT

Tran is going over mountains of paperwork from the dock cases. Daniel and Steve sit down next to him while he looks over them with the scattered files and folders.

TRAN

I'm bogged down at the moment so I hope you don't mind this being brief.

DANIEL

No, what did you dig up?

TRAN

I talked to the Japanese police force. There's some sort of a power struggle between the top-level brass of the Yakuza. Apparently, they generally don't work with foreigners, but the new groups rising are starting to reach out more and more to other criminal

(MORE)

TRAN (CONT'D)

syndicates.

STEVE

So they're merging and forming cartels.

TRAN

Now this is all speculation, but what we have here might be two different internal groups going at it.

This guy, (pulls out photo), is a dual citizen. His name is Shinzi. Dad was from Ireland. Rose up in the Yakuza by being aggressive, the guess is his background makes him more open than some of the traditional Japanese.

DANIEL

So we get a wire up, start tailing his men, look for distribution points.

TRAN

A few small wrinkles on that. First, they're a legitimate business in Japan. That makes invoking RICO statutes difficult. Second, they are fearlessly loyal. They cut off their finger when they join to prove their loyalty. You get something on them, one of their members will come forward with all the evidence and confess to the crime.

DANIEL

Go back. They cut off their finger?

TRAN

The fingertip. They have prosthetics to cover it up.

DANIEL

So they're damn near impossible to catch?

TRAN

Pretty much. That's why we stick  
(MORE)

TRAN (CONT'D)

to bangers. These guys have college degrees, bangers can't spell their own name. You need federal juice to get organized crime, and they only care about terrorism. There hasn't been a major crime bust since Gotti, you think that's because they all packed up and went home?

DANIEL

Thanks, we'll be in touch.

They walk back to their desk.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

It's a tough pill to swallow, but we're at a dead end. We have no leads, one name, a task force finally but nothing for them to really do but tail random people around, and that's about it.

STEVE

After the lab explosion, my guess is that they'll stop business for a while until the heat blows over. Shift operations somewhere that's not under scrutiny.

DANIEL

Sounds right. Don't look down about it, soon enough, there will be another body dropped and we'll go after the people that did it. Hope to God it's not another organized crime hit, they're killing our stats.

STEVE

I got something to take care of.

EXT. ABANDONED OVERPASS - NEXT DAY

Victor's car pulls back up. He's now driving a sports car. He pulls up and pops the trunk.

VICTOR

You always loco but man, this is too much.



STEVE

You got it?

VICTOR

I got everything. Always.

STEVE

There's your payment.

He throws Victor a bag.

STEVE (CONT'D)

One million dollars.

VICTOR

This isn't worth that much. I've seen this when soldiers are about to off themselves, they give everything away.

STEVE

For services rendered, it's a merc fee. I need support.

VICTOR

I can provide cover. But I'm not going in there. Let me show you this place.

He pulls out a blueprint from inside his car.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

It's seven stories high with a parking basement. If you're thinking of blowing it up, not going to happen. Heavily reinforced walls with magnetic interlocking plates.

STEVE

I've never even heard of that.

VICTOR

It doesn't exist in the US. It's Japanese technology that they use to prevent earthquake damage. But it also makes them very hard to bomb as well.

STEVE

What else?

VICTOR

All the windows are reinforced. Bulletproof. Fun thing is, the higher up you go, the thicker it gets. This makes it sound-proof as well as impervious to sniping. The the top levels, even a .50 Cal won't punch through it without two shots.

He rolls it up and gives it to Steve.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

You getting me? The place is a deathtrap. Unknown number of hostiles, it's impervious to bombing or sniping, and no one outside will send any backup for you. You go in, you're dead.

STEVE

I'll call you when I'm ready.

VICTOR

Yeah, nice knowing you too.

INT. CHURCH

Steve has the bag that he picked up from Mikhail with the rest of the money. He drops it off in front of Sister Mercit without saying anything.

EXT. FURUSABISU NO JUMYO CORPORATION - NIGHT

Steve's outfit is modified SWAT/MOUT gear, with body vest, two-way radio, webbing, side arms, submachine gun, and grenades. Victor is in on top of a desk in a building across from where Steve is entering.

VICTOR

I can see you. When you give the signal, thermite will burn through the power lines and cable. The jammer will work in this region, so once you get in there, you're pretty much stuck in there.

STEVE

I'm going in 3, 2, 1.

As he goes in, the lights flicker off before the backup generator hits. The main lobby is completely empty.

VICTOR  
Shinzi's car is the only one in the  
lot. Seems too easy. They may  
have an ambush planned.

When he gets to the staircase, he pulls out a gooseneck  
spycam that's attached to his cellphone from his tactical  
pocket. He looks up and sees a barrel pointed down the  
stairs.

STEVE  
(Whispering) Affirmative on the  
ambush theory.

He pulls one of the three grenades by his side out, pops the  
pin, and pulls open the door. He ricochets the grenade off  
the back wall so it lands up top where the gunner stands.  
The grenade explodes and sends body parts flying, the arm  
that was hanging over landing with a thud next to Steve.

Immediately, cars start swarming to the front door of the  
building.

VICTOR  
Where you at now?

STEVE  
1st floor, by north stairwell.

VICTOR  
Incoming tangos, dozen vehicles.  
You're about to get pinched, go for  
cover.

Steve takes out another grenade and wire, and runs the  
trigger through the wire, tying it underneath the door so  
when it opens, the trigger flies off. He runs behind a desk  
facing the staircase door.

Meanwhile, Victor is shooting the driver's in the SUVs and  
cars approaching. The men get out and start rolling the  
SUVs towards the front door. He switches to shooting out  
the tires. When the cars won't roll anymore, they start  
running towards the front door. Victor picks them off.  
Half them start running towards Victor, half toward the main  
entrance. A few pick up their dead friend and use them as  
human shields while they run. He picks off the ones without  
shields as quickly as possible, but one of them has reached  
the building he is in.

VICTOR (CONT'D)  
Hey, pendejo, I got who I could,  
(MORE)

VICTOR (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

but I have to relocate. You got four on the way in. I got six coming up the stairs for me.

Steve can clearly see the four men and they can see him as well. Steve shoots at them through the glass. The bulletproof glass absorbs the bullets, but the spiderweb pattern of cracks makes it difficult to see. Meanwhile, the staircase door has opened. The pin flies off, and the grenade rolls forward as three men charge to where Steve is firing at the glass. When he sees them, he jumps forward from where he is standing and covers his head in a fetal position, covering his ears. The men from the outside run in.

As both groups run forward, the grenade explodes. It rips completely through the men standing on top of it, sending an explosive mist through the air that is coupled with clothing and body parts. The shrapnel in the grenade flies forward, hitting the men coming in through the door. The metal pieces embed in Steve's combat armor, sticking out like little shurikens in his armor.

The men coming in the front are blasted by shrapnel to the mid-section, arms, and face, eviscerating their eyes, nostrils, and lips. Steve stands up and blasts them with the MP5.

CUT TO:

BUILDING ACROSS

Victor is behind a door with a knife ready. One of the Yakuza members walks in. Victor steps on the pit of knee, dropping him forward, while he cups hand around the man's mouth. He pinches the nose and uses that to pull the head forward while he slides the knife over the carotid artery. The blood gushes out, running down the side of the man's mouth while he spasms. When he stops thrashing, Victor puts the knife back in its harness.

BACK TO:

INT. FURUSABISU NO JUMYO CORPORATION

The doors leading up the staircase have been blown off. The sprinkler system is activate on the first floor. He goes to the second floor and checks with his snake cam. No one is in there anymore. He does the same on the third floor, which has three men who have a makeshift barricade set up with flipped over desks and tables.

Steve goes back down the stairs and hits the elevator to go up to the third floor. He runs up to the third floor. When the elevator door opens, both men turn around. Steve swings open the door and burst first on both, killing them.

CUT TO:

BUILDING ACROSS

Two of the Yakuza men are on the same floor, searching for Victor. One of them walks into a room and begins searching it. Vic has pulled one of the tiles off and is in the ceiling. He slowly drops down behind the Yakuza and strangles him until he crushes the wind pipe. He lets the body hit the floor.

The second Yakuza member hears the drop and runs into the room. Victor has pulled his knife and stabs the man in the heart as soon as he walks in. This one begins to scream before Vic pulls his knife out the man's heart and shoves it upward, through the bottom of the man's jaw into the roof of his mouth and into the brain.

The commotion has the other three running up the stairs into the same hallway. Victor has picked up the machine gun from one of the downed Yakuza members. When he hears the three run by, he begins blasting the wall, gunning down all three in mid-stride.

VICTOR

So amateur.

He walks out the building with his sniper rifle.

BACK TO:

INT. FURUSABISU NO JUMYO CORPORATION

Steve is on the seventh floor. He sees the main office with the words "Shinzi" on top of the door. He look under the door with the flex cam, but doesn't see anything. As he walks through, SHINZI pops out from under the desk, pointing a gun at him. The two circle, meeting for the first time.

SHINZI

Mexican standoff. Always wanted to know if it was as exciting as it seemed. It is. Nipples are tingling all over.

STEVE

Why'd you kill Mika?

SHINZI

When she found out about my plans for expansion, she tried to poison me. I couldn't let the people back home know about that before I took over, so I killed her and made it seem like the Russians did it. It's the sword on my desk if you want to look at it.

STEVE

It's not much of a standoff. I have body armor and automatic weapons, you have one gun. Put it down.

SHINZI

And what? You'll arrest me? Please, you haven't left one body alive yet, I'm not going to fall for that. Besides, this is a .50 cal, your body armor might as well be made out of Styrofoam.

They keep circling each other, getting closer.

SHINZI (CONT'D)

Or you could be adventurous. Pull the pin on that last grenade and take us both out at the same time. It'll be like fate.

STEVE

Better idea. You got those swords on your desk. Can you kill anything besides 100 lbs. women?

SHINZI

You want to duel me? Are you serious?

STEVE

It'll be like fate.

SHINZI

No cheating now. I throw you a sword, you pick it up. We put our weapons down together.

Shinzi slowly walks back towards the swords.

STEVE

Why do you do all this?

SHINZI

Power, women, money, it's not a bad deal. You're crying about it now, but question. How many children died making your phone and your shoes? Are you going after Apple or Nike next?

STEVE

It's not the same.

SHINZI

No, it's not the same to YOU.

He throws the first sword at Steven's feet.

SHINZI (CONT'D)

See, that's because you benefit. But when you need a heart for your dying eight year old, you suddenly find us very helpful. We take street trash kids that would die anyway, and turn them into life-saving machines. It's recycling.

Steve bends down to pick up the sword, keeping the weapon trained on Shinzi.

SHINZI (CONT'D)

Some people need to cross borders to get out of their country. We help them. Some people need their money back and getting it from court would take too long. We provide. We're service-oriented.

They both have their swords now.

SHINZI (CONT'D)

Let's put them down together.

They both slowly lower their weapons to the ground, each keeping the barrel pointed at the other until the last minute. They walk towards each other slowly. Shinzi raises the sword high in a pseudo-Samurai stance. Steve doesn't have the sword in any sort of a stance. He look at Shinzi, laughs, and cuts off his fingertips.

Shinzi's sword falls to the ground and rattles next to his fingertips. The blood starts shooting out while Shinzi wraps his fingers in his shirt.

STEVE

Research told me that martial arts clubs don't let Yakuza members in. Beat a Yakuza in the gym, they kill you on the street. Bad business. So I knew you didn't know how to sword fight. No hand guard on these swords, so that stupid stance they make in movies with the sword high makes no sense. Just stab the guy in the hand and be done with it.

He runs his sword through Shinzi's stomach and walks him against the glass. Shinzi isn't dead but isn't able to move around anymore. Steve walks back up and gets his machine gun. He drops the magazine and puts a fresh one in. He then unloads the entire clip into Shinzi. Shinzi cokes the window as spiderweb fractures emerge on the window. Shinzi's bullet-ridden corpse slumps against the window.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Well that's disappointing. I thought he would fall out dramatic-like. Can't even die right you piece of shit.

As he walks out, he looks at the last grenade. He pulls it and throws it at Shinzi.

STEVE (CONT'D)

It's like fate.

EXT. NURSE PANASHE'S HOUSE

Steve knocks on the door. Nurse Panashe answers the door.

NURSE PANASHE

What are you doing here?

STEVE

I'm like a stray dog. You keep feeding me, I follow you home. Can I come in?

NURSE PANASHE

I guess. How'd you find me.



Steve flashes his badge.

NURSE PANASHE (CONT'D)  
Dumb question I guess. Yeah, come  
in. What's this about?

STEVE  
An explosive device may have  
detonated that contained metal  
shrapnel in it. I was wearing a  
vest and my upper body absorbed the  
metal nicely. My lower body  
however, may have been unpleasantly  
unguarded.

NURSE PANASHE  
You're telling me you have shrapnel  
in your ass?

STEVE  
Yes, that's it. And that means  
driving over here was a bigger pain  
than you can imagine. And

NURSE PANASHE  
Don't tell anyone?

STEVE  
Yeah.

EXT. FURUSABISU NO JUMYO CORPORATION

Bodies, vehicles with shot out windows and deflated tires,  
blood-smeared window of the first and last floor, and  
general carnage surrounds the scene.

Lt. Granger, Captain Pawlsky, Daniel, Tran, Mike, and Dr.  
Hall are talking, with the familiar crew of CSAs and techs  
sweeping the area. Steve takes two pain pills before he  
limps over.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY  
Good news kid. I'm creating a  
permanent task force to deal with  
these new syndicates. This is  
reaching international news. We're  
getting funding and training to  
handle these new groups. The  
governor signed off on it this  
morning after he saw this disaster  
and I explained the situation and  
your warning the previous weeks.

He pulls Steve over and whispers to him.

CAPTAIN PAWLSKY (CONT'D)

So long as you don't make a fuss about what happened with the docks. This is no time to pass blame. Get me?

The Captain walks back off to go speak to the cameras again.

STEVE

Do we have a body count?

LT. GRANGER

Not an exact one. Some of the explosions inside have made it difficult to guess the exact amount of people involved. Outside we have ten bodies, six more across the street, and we're guessing ten more inside.

STEVE

We going to eat twenty-six bodies on our stats?

LT. GRANGER

We'll have to eat it and like it. You shouldn't worry. You have a rabbi, the Captain loves you. My sorry ass just hit the glass ceiling.

DANIEL

Well, I'm retiring. This settles it. I'm too old-fashioned, give me a bad guy and I give you an arrest. But this stuff, it's above me.

STEVE

What's the department going to do without it's old hairbag?

DANIEL

They'll blame the twenty-six bodies on me so they don't have to eat them is what the department will do. I'm thinking of opening a bar. Try finding my daughter and reconnecting with her.

STEVE

Good luck. I'm going to stick with  
what I do best.

DANIEL

Causing shitstorms, annoying  
people, making wild accusations  
with no evidence and go outside of  
official channels?

STEVE

Exactly.

END

END OF FILM

- 1 Establishing the World and the environment. Dark, gritty, dangerous, and full of incompetencies.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:08 PM**
- 2 Exposure of a cruel World  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:08 PM**
- 3 Initial Apathy of lead character, as well as background information that he used to be more than a regular cop.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:08 PM**
- 4 Edit from Original.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:09 PM**
- 5 Lack of initial concern.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:09 PM**
- 6 Plot Point: People die all the time in this particular setting.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:10 PM**
- 7 Plot point: These tattos are very specific to Asia and Japan.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 6:43 PM**
- 8 Plot points: Main character has an extensive background and cultural experience.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:10 PM**
- 9 Plot point: Main character is tough.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:12 PM**
- 10 Character development: He's sarcastic even to people close to him.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:13 PM**
- 11 Character development: Steve doesn't play well with others.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:13 PM**
- 12 Enter Vietnam scene has been edited.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:14 PM**
- 13 Character Development: Daniel's paternalistic side.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:14 PM**
- 14 Grand Unifying Theme of the Movie/Series: Bad things happen for no reason and you might get lucky or screwed.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:15 PM**
- 15 Plot point: Steve's reckless tactics are not standard protocol.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:15 PM**
- 16 Plot point/Character Development: The differences between how Steve approaches a problem and how Daniel does.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:17 PM**
- 17 Plot point: The other cops are embarrassingly useless.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:18 PM**
- 18 Character development: Trade-mark sarcasm.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:17 PM**

- 19) Plot point: Even the people in charge are not good people.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:18 PM**
- 20) Character development/plot point: Steve's methods involving coercion and blackmail.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:19 PM**
- 21) Character development: Minor point, but Steve has stress ulcers. See Drinking and Using Pain Pills.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:20 PM**
- 22) Character development: Mutual banter between the two.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:21 PM**
- 23) Plot point: Police do a lot of paperwork.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:23 PM**
- 24) Plot point: The painfully spelled out plot point is what leads to the more dire actions later in the story.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:28 PM**
- 25)  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:28 PM**
- 26) Character Development/Plot Point: The more intense actions that Steve will undertake are directly tied to his betrayal from another organization.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:31 PM**
- 27) Character Development: Steve's suicidal character, feelings of worthlessness.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:32 PM**
- 28) Plot point: Vaguely hinted dramatic event.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:33 PM**
- 29) Character development/plot point: The kids are used as mules, but Steve doesn't realize that at this point.  
  
Also, he tends to enrich himself while solving crimes.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:35 PM**
- 30) Character Development: Steve's backstory and his persistent guilt complex are tied to this mission.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 6:43 PM**
- 31) Plot points: The Yakuza and criminal enterprise's view of themselves and their role.  
  
Also, the case just got bigger.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:37 PM**
- 32) Plot point: Subtle, but Chen is lying. Torture doesn't work.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 5:38 PM**
- 33) Character Development: Steve's irreverant attitude towards a high-level mobster.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 6:44 PM**

- 34 Character Development: Steve worked as a counter-intel in Psy-Ops. This is part of his training.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 6:39 PM**
- 35 Open Thread: In case of sequel or television series, always leave more mysteries to be solved. He's only number 2.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 6:46 PM**
- 36 Character Development: Steve is a persistent dick, even when he has no reason to be.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 6:47 PM**
- 37 Character Development: The apathetic attitude of Daniel and the remorseful attitude of Steve is explained.
- It also shows why Steve takes this case personally, women abused at the hands of a man.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 7:23 PM**
- 38 Plot Point: They find out how the girls are getting shipped in, via the Docks.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 7:26 PM**
- 39 Character Development: The differences in how they dress reflects the difference in mannerisms between Mike and Tran.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 7:28 PM**
- 40 Plot Point: The cops have been apathetic about nailing larger criminal syndicates and organizations. This explains why.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 7:27 PM**
- 41 Plot Point: The lack of budget has caused cut-backs.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 7:45 PM**
- 42 Plot point: There are dirty cops involved.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 7:46 PM**
- 43 Plot Point: Steve is trying to frame the Russian Mob for killing the Yakuza and start a war against them both so he can get the manpower to bring them both down.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 7:48 PM**
- 44 Plot point: The Senator wants to win re-election.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 7:49 PM**
- 45 Character development: More of Steve's background in Psy-Ops.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 7:51 PM**
- 46 Character Development: Victor works somewhere that requires security clearances and Steve has been like this a long time.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 7:57 PM**
- 47 Plot Point plus Sequel Setup: Victor can get access to lots of dangerous equipment without anyone knowing.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 8:47 PM**
- 48 Character Development: Daniel understands how police protocol should work. Shows his experience.  
**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 8:48 PM**

49 Character Development and Sequel Note: Cops hate Internal Affairs and this is the internal struggle.

**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 9:12 PM**

50 Plot point: The organized crime units know not to bring heat on themselves, so they use street gangs for dirty work.

**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 11:04 PM**

51 Plot / Character Development: Steve recounts his exploits, why he has his attitude and mistrust of official protocol, his guilt, and what the story is about up to this point.

**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 11:12 PM**

52 Character Development: Steve didn't ask for body armor when he first talked to Victor, a sign of his suicidal tendencies.

**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 11:14 PM**

53 Plot Point/Future Setup: The conflict that politics brings into doing police work.

**Michael Soileau May 10, 2012 11:58 PM**