

SLEEPING GIANT

by

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FADE IN

EXT. HIMALAYAS - DAY

As the CAMERA combs the sprawling and majestic Himalayan mountains we MOVE IN on eight tiny specks. Eight CLIMBERS comprise an international group looking for the ultimate high. They're loaded down with ropes, backpacks, oxygen canisters, etc. The French Climbers are on point, followed by the Americans, then the Germans.

The Climbers stop for a moment to catch their breath. Fighting the wind the Senior American CLIMBER regards a map.

SENIOR CLIMBER

We have no choice but to set-up camp here and find base camp tomorrow.

The other Climbers nod in agreement. A French CLIMBER wanders, trips and falls over something.

FRENCH CLIMBER

Mon dieu. Hey, over here, look at this!

The other Climbers scramble over to him. The French Climber bends down and brushes the snow off of what appear to be train tracks.

SENIOR CLIMBER

What is it?

FRENCH CLIMBER

I don't know.

GERMAN CLIMBER

Looks like train tracks.

SENIOR CLIMBER

At eighteen thousand feet?

The French Climber continues to brush the snow off the tracks and the entire group follows him. The tracks lead straight into a mountain wall.

PULL BACK to reveal TWO ENORMOUS METALLIC DOORS dug into the side of the mountain - each is seventy feet wide and fifty feet high and covered with a flaky white coating. The Climbers stare at this bizarre sight. The Senior American Climber runs his hands across the metal doors.

SENIOR CLIMBER

Jesus.

A German CLIMBER approaches the door, takes his ice pick and bangs it against the metal.

CLANG! CLANG!

SENIOR CLIMBER

Don't do that!

GERMAN CLIMBER

It's a door: knock knock - who's there?

He raises the ice pick to bang on the door again when machinegun fire erupts and the Climbers are instantly cut to shreds. The white mountainside is stained red with blood.

SILENCE

A group of hooded MEN in white snowgear emerge from the door and drag the bodies inside.

INT. STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER SING LI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

SING LI (72) sleeps soundly. Two masked ASSASSINS steal into the room from the window that they have cut out. They approach the bed. One Assassin takes a pillow, straddles Sing Li and suffocates him. The second Assassin holds Sing Li's legs down. Sing Li struggles in vain.

After a beat Sing Li's body collapses.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

CAMERA combs the George Washington Bridge and rises to reveal the glowing New York City skyline and the upper West side. We MOVE IN on a corner apartment building.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

Sparsely furnished, this apartment more closely resembles a library than a living area. The walls are covered with books from floor to ceiling. In front of a mirror JIM WEBER attempts to tie the bow-tie of his tuxedo - with little success. For a charming brainiac his frustration with something so simple is endearing. His AUNT SOPHIE does her best to help him but he wants to do it himself.

JIM

This side's lopsided.

AUNT SOPHIE

It's fine. Y'know, this is the first time I've seen you dressed-up since

your prom. I'm sure you'll meet a nice girl tonight.

JIM

Aunt Sophie, it's not that kind of party - it's business.

Jim can't get the bow-tie right. Exasperated, he yanks it off. He looks at his watch.

JIM

I'm late.
(kissing her cheek)
Don't wait up for me.

They hug and she smiles at him proudly. Jim heads out.

INT. CHINESE STANDING COMMITTEE - DAY

The 7 members of the Standing Committee sit divided: three "Hawks" on one side of the table and three "Doves" on the other. The right-wing pro-war Standing Committee Hawks are JIN LEE, WEN YAN, and TAK HO LI. All of them look like they would just as soon slit your throat as look at you.

Between the 3 Hawks and 3 Doves HOY CHIN bows.

JIN LEE

Standing Committee Member Sing Li has died in his sleep. He will be replaced by Hoy Chin.

Hoy Chin sits with the Hawks. The three Doves look dismayed.

JIN LEE

Gentlemen, the first order of business will be Taiwan.

INT. GRAND BALLROOM/PRATT HOUSE - NIGHT

The Grand Ballroom is straight out of Versailles. One DIPLOMAT greets another with a hearty congratulatory handshake and pat on the back.

DIPLOMAT 1

Did you ever think you'd see this day, Edmund?

DIPLOMAT 2

Not in my lifetime, Walter.

The Diplomats smile in agreement. They turn as the AMBASSADORS for India and Pakistan are escorted into the ballroom. A light round of applause and bows proceeds.

Under Secretary for Arms Control & International Security Affairs JOHN DRAKE (55) greets Senator WILLIAM RICE. Drake

is austere and reserved but we can see the warmth in his eyes.

DRAKE

William, it's good to see you.

Handshake.

RICE

Congratulations, John. We all know that you were instrumental in bringing both the Pakistanis and Indians to the table.

DRAKE

Really, sir, it was Coleman as much as me.

RICE

You'll never make President, John, if you don't learn how to toot your own horn.

Both men chuckle. Rice swings an imaginary golf club.

RICE

Why don't you meet us in Darien on Sunday? We'll play the back nine.

DRAKE

I'd love to but I'm due back in D.C.

RICE

Well then, next time.

DRAKE

Next time for sure, Senator.

Drake walks off and scans quickly around the room; he looks at his watch and frowns. Drake looks at one of the many televisions in the room: KIMBERLY GREY (30) reports live from Tiananmen Square.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

Jim is still trying to fix his bow-tie when he peeks his head over the seat to get a better look at the small TV on the DRIVER's dashboard.

JIM

Can you turn that up, please?

The driver turns it up. Jim watches Kimberly Grey file her report.

ON SCREEN:

KIMBERLY GREY

The Chinese Government has just issued a press release stating that an international expedition of mountain climbers in the Himalayas has lost contact with its base team. They report a possible avalanche but are not allowing any rescue teams into the area citing hazardous conditions. Kimberly Grey reporting live from Tiananmen Square.

JIM (to himself)
What the hell is that?

The Driver shrugs his shoulders.

EXT. EAST 68TH STREET, NEW YORK - NIGHT

Limousines line the north side of street in front of the Pratt House. DOORMEN and CHAUFFEURS open limousine doors to let out the prestigious DIPLOMATS.

Away from the limousines the taxi pulls up. Jim steps out and crosses the street. He holds his hand over his collar as he makes his way towards Pratt House in the shadows of the buildings. He passes an alleyway then comes to a halt when more people exit their limousines. Bookending the doorway are two large DOORMEN dressed in tuxedos.

JIM
Psssst.

The Doorman turns expecting to find a panhandler.

DOORMAN
Right this way, sir.

JIM
Ah... I need a favor.

The Doorman looks at him queerly.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Towering over Jim is the Doorman whose meaty fingers gently tie Jim's bow-tie.

The Doorman does the final twist then steps back to regard his masterpiece.

DOORMAN
Perfect.

JIM
Thanks.

INT. PRATT HOUSE ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Jim enters and heads towards the Grand Ballroom. Giant oil portraits of ex-Secretaries of State stare down at him.

INT. GRAND BALLROOM/PRATT HOUSE - NIGHT

Jim enters and looks around at the splendor; he can't believe his eyes. Drake greets him with a warm handshake.

DRAKE

Glad you could make it, Jim.

JIM

Thanks for inviting me, Professor.

DRAKE

"John". In here I'm just "John".
"Professor" makes me sound like an
old curmudgeon.

JIM

What about "Under Secretary for Arms
Control and International Security
Affairs"?

DRAKE

Only in mixed company.

Jim chuckles. A GENTLEMAN in a tuxedo standing just to the right of an extremely large screen television looks at his watch and clinks his champagne glass with a spoon in order to gain the attention of the other Diplomats. A lull falls over the room along with a mass of confident smiles.

GENTLEMAN (jovially)

Ladies and gentlemen, if I'm not
mistaken, it is time.

He flicks on the television to CNN and all eyes are on BERNARD SHAW. Under Shaw's face an electronic label flashes:
SPECIAL REPORT

ON SCREEN:

BERNARD SHAW

After decades of bad blood between
Pakistan and India, President Russell
and the White House have just
announced that they have finally
succeeded in brokering a truce
between these warring nations.

The room is filled with congratulatory pats on the back.

BERNARD SHAW

More importantly, effective
immediately, India and Pakistan have

agreed to dismantle their nuclear warheads.

Cheers along with the sound of champagne corks popping ring out. The Gentleman shuts off the television and the conversation resumes.

JIM

They didn't even mention you or any other people here, just President Russell.

DRAKE

That's just the way it is, he gets the credit and we get a party. I doubt Russell knew where Pakistan was until a month ago - he's been so busy trying to get reelected.

JIM

Well, this truce ought to help.

DRAKE

It certainly will.

(beat)

C'mon, it's time for the grip 'n grin.

Drake leads Jim towards a group of Diplomats who are drinking champagne and smoking cigars. Drake taps one of the men in the group on the back. Senator CORNWALL (65) turns around.

DRAKE

Senator Cornwall.

CORNWALL

John, congrats on the deal.

Cornwall proudly pulls out a cigar from his pocket.

CORNWALL

It's a San Luis Rey, series A. About nine years old. I got it from a friend at Guantanamo.

DRAKE

I don't know if you're aware of this, sir, but we've had an embargo with Cuba since that young guy was president...

CORNWALL

Oh yes, I recall hearing something about that.

Hearty laugh. The Senator pulls out a clipper and begins to trim Drake's cigar.

DRAKE

I want you to meet Jim Weber.
Studied with me at Harvard. Runs the
China team at Rand.

CORNWALL

Jim.

JIM

Nice to meet you, sir.

DRAKE

Studied there for two years. If you
need help with anything, he's your
man.

CORNWALL

Good to know.

The Senator hands Drake the cigar, then turns to Jim and
hesitantly hands him one too.

JIM

Thank you, sir.

Drake and Jim walk off.

DRAKE

He's a real prick. Votes with his
checkbook. How he ever got on the
intelligence committee is beyond me.
Although he does know a thing or two
about cigars.

Jim and Drake head over to a table of hors d'oeuvres where
CAL THURSTON (35) stands. Oddly he is the only man in the
room wearing a suit, not a tuxedo.

Jim and Cal acknowledge each other because they're much
younger than everyone else around. Cal extends his hand.

CAL

Cal Thurston.

JIM

Jim Weber.

DRAKE

What - the Company doesn't allow you
to write off formalwear anymore?

CAL

Budget cuts, they're hurting us in
every department.

The three men laugh. Jim is impressed that Drake pegged Cal
for a CIA Agent. Drake turns around and greets another

Ambassador, leaving Cal and Jim alone.

CAL

So what are you doing here?

JIM

Secretary Drake wanted to show me the ropes. And you?

CAL

Same thing. Boss thought it was time to meet the Wizard of Oz.

JIM

It's pretty interesting, isn't it?

Jim looks around and notices that all of the men including Cal are smoking cigars and he lights up. Drake turns back.

DRAKE

I didn't know you smoked.

JIM

When in Rome...

EXT. SKIES OVER TAIWAN - DAY

A SQUADRON OF CHINESE SU-27's scream across the sky. The fighter jets sweep in low as they approach the shores of Taiwan.

INT. TAIWANESE RADAR STATION - DAY

Worried Taiwanese SOLDIERS and a RADAR CONTROLLER watch the radar screens as the eight enemy jets approach.

RADAR CONTROLLER

Eight inbound, sir. Coming right at us.

SENIOR OFFICER

Sound the first alarm. Prepare to repel.

EXT. TAIWANESE RADAR STATION - DAY

Overlooking the Taiwan Straits this station is prime real estate but that means very little now as the jets blast close to the tower. The windows rattle from the fly-by but no shots are fired. The jets break formation and head back out over the ocean.

EXT. OLD TAIWANESE FISHING TRAWLER - DAY

About a mile off the coast, twelve elderly Taiwanese FISHERMEN react to the sounds of the streaking fighter jets overhead.

INT. TAIWANESE RADAR STATION - DAY

The Taiwanese scramble about the station. The SENIOR OFFICER shifts between the screen and his view out to sea.

SENIOR OFFICER
What the hell are they doing?

INT. SU-27 FIGHTER - DAY

The flight COMMANDER of the squad has his sights on the fishing trawler. He pushes a button and speaks into his headset.

COMMANDER
Target sighted.

INT. STANDING COMMITTEE - DAY

Over the radio the Standing Committee Members hear the Commander's voice.

COMMANDER (O.S.)
Awaiting your order, sirs.

JIN LEE
Fire when ready, Commander.

The three Doves can stand it no more. They rise with their leader, SHI YONGFA.

SHI YONGFA
We refuse to sit here while you start
World War III!

JIN LEE
Good! Then leave!

Shi Yongfa and his compatriots exit.

INT. SU-27 FIGHTER - DAY

The Commander receives the order.

COMMANDER
Prepare to attack.

He releases his missiles as do the other planes. This is an egregious joykill.

COMMANDER
Missiles away.

EXT. OLD TAIWANESE FISHING TRAWLER - DAY

The Fishermen know what's coming but it's too late.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The Trawler is decimated. The fighter squadron screams back towards mainland China.

INT. SU-27 FIGHTER - DAY

The Commander assesses the situation then speaks into his headset.

INT. STANDING COMMITTEE - DAY

Jim Lee, Wen Yan, Tak Ho Li, and Hoy Chin listen attentively.

COMMANDER (O.S.)

Direct hit, sirs. 100% casualties.

The Hawks are content.

INT. BATHROOM STALL - NIGHT

Jim pushes himself up and away from the toilet and flushes. His tie is now undone and he looks disheveled. He wipes the remains of the acidic saliva from the corners of his mouth then regards the guilty party: the cigar. He tosses it in the toilet.

The stall door swings open and the stoic MORGAN BARNES (65), a State Department Aide, looks down on Jim.

BARNES

Professor Weber?

JIM

Uh-huh.

BARNES

Secretary Drake requests your presence.

Barnes exits and Jim follows him, straightening himself up on the way.

INT. STAIRWELL/HALLWAY/PRATT HOUSE - NIGHT

Barnes leads Jim through a series of back hallways and staircases.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM/PRATT HOUSE - NIGHT

Several stately MEN regard an electronic map of the world: Drake, Senator Cornwall, ex-Secretary of State WALTER BROOKINGS, former CIA Director EDMUND JANSEN, Under Secretary of the Treasury MARTIN LOWE, Deputy Director of the NSA PAUL STROLL, and Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs JAMES HUTCHINS.

Cal Thurston sits off to the side. Jim enters and Drake nods to an empty seat.

DRAKE

Secretary Coleman's plane is being rerouted to Kennedy so he'll be here shortly. Let's get started.

Drake walks over to the map. Lights blink off the coast of Taiwan.

DRAKE

Moments ago we learned that China's Standing Committee has been overthrown by a right-wing coup d'etat.

Jim can't believe his ears.

DRAKE

The new military regime just began conducting military exercises deep in Taiwanese airspace.

BROOKINGS

They don't waste any time over there, do they?

Drake points to the red lights.

DRAKE

A squadron of Chinese SU-27s was spotted here conducting live missile exercises. A Taiwanese fishing boat found itself in the wrong place and time. The Chinese claim that the boat was on a reconnaissance mission; Taiwan denies it.

Drake points to another group of red lights.

DRAKE

Chinese M-9 missile batteries in Fujian are being fueled and the group armies in the Nuying Military Region are on level one alert.

Stroll looks over at the first two television sets.

STROLL

You might want to call Brandson and let him know there's gonna be billions of Taiwan dollars pouring into the Federal Reserve tomorrow.

DRAKE

Martin, get on the horn with Brandson.

Martin Lowe picks up the phone.

EXT. EAST 68TH STREET, NEW YORK - NIGHT

Rain begins to fall as a small motorcade of black cars surrounding a limousine pull up to the side entrance of Pratt House. Secretary of State OLIVER COLEMAN (65) gets out of the car. Coleman's a no-nonsense man with an air of urgency and authority.

INT. BACK STAIRS/PRATT HOUSE - NIGHT

Led by two Secret Service Agents, Coleman makes his way up the stairs.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM/PRATT HOUSE - NIGHT

Coleman enters, quickly nods to Drake and the others, and sits at the head of the table.

COLEMAN

Gentlemen, I have to make a recommendation to the President and I'd like your consensus.

DRAKE

At this time, sir, my recommendation is that we go on alert, nothing more. We don't want to draw any unnecessary media attention, especially if it turns out to be nothing.

BROOKINGS

John, this time they've crossed the invisible line so far into Taiwanese airspace that they can't even say it's simply an exercise.

On the way to his seat Drake picks up a fax that's being received.

DRAKE

Gentlemen, Fort Meade informs us that they intercepted a signal from Beijing on a frequency that has been defunct for ten years. The message was in code and cut off, but what they did decipher reads as the following: "Navigator Com: Not exercise. Sing Li murdered. End. Invasion imminent. Proceed full-force towards T ..." That's it.

JANSEN

I'm not aware of any agents in

mainland China that would have access to that level of intel.

Coleman listens attentively.

HUTCHINS

Sir, this is one of those situations that we have to nip in the bud. Especially this late in the reelection campaign. I don't care who's running the Standing Committee: I recommend that we move at least one carrier battle group into the area immediately.

JANSEN

If we get our ships there in time, they won't try anything.

DRAKE

I think that we can only act as the middleman here. If the invasion starts, there isn't much we can do except watch.

LOWE

Watch what, John - billions of dollars of US and European interests become property of the People's Republic?

BROOKINGS

Gentlemen, let me remind you: in accordance with the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act we are obligated to support Taiwan against an unwanted Chinese reunification.

Coleman clears his throat to let everyone know that he has made a decision.

COLEMAN

As leaders of the free world we cannot afford to lose face to China. Especially this late in the President's first term. In light of the aggressive stance of China's new Standing Committee, I am going to recommend to President Russell that we move not one, but three carrier battle groups into the region. Three: to send a strong message to Beijing and the rest of the world that we're committed to a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan problem.

Brookings moves to the map.

BROOKINGS

We'll move the Independence from Japan, the Carl Vincent from the Hawaii, and then have the Abe Lincoln come around from the Persian Gulf.

Jim looks startled. He hesitates, then speaks:

JIM

Excuse me, sir.

COLEMAN

Who are you?

DRAKE

He's with me, sir: Jim Weber, he heads the China team at Rand.

JIM

Excuse me for saying so, but I disagree with such a strong show of force this early.

COLEMAN

This early? China could walk into Taiwan before breakfast.

JIM

Sir, China is three thousand years old; America isn't even three hundred. What seems like a long time for us is miniscule for them; they may have been waiting a long time for this opportunity.

COLEMAN

This isn't some bullshit theoretical game we're playing for fun.

JIM

Sir, from "The Art of War", we know that there's no such thing as conducting an exercise for the sake of conducting an exercise. America's 'big stick' policy isn't going to intimidate the Chinese military regime. It never has and it never will.

(beat)

I think it's too soon to tell what they are really doing to warrant a show of force that would leave us so heavily concentrated in one area of the Pacific. Moving three aircraft carrier groups may be the kind of American over-reaction that they are

hoping for.

COLEMAN (sharply)
We don't have time for your hi-
falutin theories, son.

INT. WANG ZHI WEI'S OFFICE/MSS - DAY

WANG ZHI WEI is the head of the MSS, the Chinese CIA. He's a stoic man who probably sees more violence before breakfast than you'll see in your entire life.

Enter MSS AGENT CHANG.

CHANG
Sir, we just intercepted a message sent by the Underground. We were able to cut most of it off but I'm afraid that some of it got through.

WANG
What did it say?

CHANG
"Navigator Com: Not exercise. Sing Li murdered. End. Invasion imminent. Proceed full-force towards T ..."

Wang is deeply disturbed by the news. He takes the file that Chang read from.

WANG
Good work. Dismissed.

Chang exits.

INT. ANTECHAMBER/PRATT HOUSE - NIGHT

The Diplomats don't waste any time with small talk as they exit. Drake and Jim hang back.

JIM
I'm sorry, John...

DRAKE
You don't talk to the Secretary of State about theories. He wants the facts, he wants to know where the land mines are, he wants to know where the missiles are pointed.

JIM
I know.

DRAKE
However, sometimes the facts rise to

support the theory. Let's go.

JIM
Let's go where?

DRAKE
You're coming with me to D.C.

JIM
Why me?

DRAKE
Because I need someone watching my
back who doesn't have a vested
interest.

INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

Cal rides with Coleman in the back of his limousine.

COLEMAN
Who was that Weber kid?

CAL
Drake's protege.

COLEMAN
Well, I want to know everything about
him and I want to know it now. Stick
to him like white on rice.

CAL
Yes, sir.

INT. LEAR JET - NIGHT

Jim sits next to Drake in a government plane. Jim watches the television while Drake talks into a secure phone. On the television, Kimberly Grey reports live again from Tiananmen Square.

ON SCREEN:

KIMBERLY (into microphone)
Conflicting reports are coming out of
Taipei and Beijing regarding a
Taiwanese fishing boat that was blown
to pieces earlier this morning.

JIM (to himself)
Jesus, doesn't she ever sleep?

DRAKE (into phone)
Effective immediately: James Carlton
Weber upon my designation is to be
given code level clearance... And
Mary, I want you to find out

everything you can about a Company
guy named Cal Thurston - OK?

JIM

What's that for?

DRAKE

Standard procedure. People never
just "pop-up" like that. There's
always a reason.

JIM

I never realized that you were so Zen.

Drake chuckles.

EXT. WASHINGTON - ESTABLISHING SHOT - NIGHT

Over the Washington Monument the jet glides in for a landing.

EXT. U.S. HIGHWAY 270 - NIGHT

A State Department car speeds down the highway towards
downtown Washington.

DRAKE

I'm giving you the next twenty-four
hours to turn your theory into facts.

Jim nods as the car enters the State Department building.

INT. SITUATION ROOM - NIGHT

Jim sits at a desk in front of a computer, a telephone and
sundry standard issue government office supplies.

Enter Cal carrying two cups. Jim is surprised to see him.

CAL

I thought you could use this.

Cal hands Jim a cup.

JIM

Thanks, but I don't drink coffee.

CAL

It's tea, no sugar.

Jim looks into Cal's cup and sees that he's drinking coffee.

JIM

How did you know that I didn't drink
coffee?

CAL (fishing)

Lucky guess.

Now there's reason to be suspicious of Cal.

CAL

I'm here to lend you a hand with anything you need.

JIM

Thanks, but really, I'm OK.

CAL (insistent)

C'mon, two heads are better than one.

JIM

Who sent you?

CAL

Coleman.

JIM

Really? I didn't realize I made that big of an impression.

CAL

Listen, I'm just a peon like you. I'm just following orders.

JIM

That's what Eichmann said. I'm gonna call Drake first.

CAL

I wouldn't bother. Coleman has already spoken to him.

Jim puts the tea down and gets back to work.

INT. CHINESE STANDING COMMITTEE - DAY

Jin Lee, Wen Yan, Tak Ho Li, and Hoy Chin confer.

JIN LEE

Will the missiles aimed at Washington and New York be armed on time?

WEN YAN

Yes, sir.

TAK HO LI

What has been the reaction of the NATO forces?

WEN YAN

The Europeans are leaving the Americans out to dry - as expected.

JIN LEE

Excellent. The Americans will be isolated by the time we attack them.

Wang enters.

WANG
You called for me, sirs?

JIN LEE
Has the MSS picked up any internal cause for alarm?

Wang is holding the file that Chang gave him. He looks down at it: "Navigator.Com".

WANG
No, sir.

TAK HO LI
And you've taken care of any possible uprising from the Underground?

WANG
As requested, sirs.

JIN LEE
Excellent. That'll be all for now.

Wang turns to leave.

JIN LEE
Commence Stage Two.

EXT. NUYING PROVINCE/ARMY BASE - NIGHT

Scores of Chinese PILOTS and GUNNERS amble to their positions in their helicopters. The helicopters take off in unison.

EXT. SKIES OVER TAIWAN - NIGHT

The helicopters fly towards Taiwan.

EXT. TAIWANESE PATRIOT MISSILE STATION - NIGHT

A battery of well-concealed U.S.-supplied Patriot Missiles rise from their secluded nesting place and lock into position.

INT. HELICOPTER - NIGHT

The PILOTS and the COMMANDER carefully monitor their equipment. Suddenly a grid starts beeps frantically.

COMMANDER
They've locked on, sir.

INT. STANDING COMMITTEE - NIGHT

Jin Lee, Wen Yan, Tak Ho Li, and Hoy Chin listen to the Commander.

JIN LEE

Good. Release the decoys and get out of there.

INT. HELICOPTER - NIGHT

The Commander gives the signal to a SOLDIER who flicks a switch.

EXT. SKIES OVER TAIWAN - NIGHT

Out of the back of the helicopters comes heated schrapnel that will draw the fire of the Patriot Missiles.

EXT. TAIWANESE PATRIOT MISSILE STATION - NIGHT

The turrets follow the helicopters and missiles tear out of the launchers.

PSSST! PSSST! PSSST! PSSST! PSSST!

EXT. SKIES OVER TAIWAN - NIGHT

The missiles strike the schrapnel in the helicopters' wake and explode.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The helicopters receive some of the shock from the explosions but remain essentially intact.

INT. STANDING COMMITTEE - DAY

Jin Lee, Wen Yan, Tak Ho Li, and Hoy Chin listen to the Commander over the intercom.

COMMANDER (V.O.)

Yes, sirs, the Taiwanese have fired on our reconnaissance helicopters. No casualties reported.

INT. SITUATION ROOM - DAY

Jim walks over to an array of monitors of satellite graphs of the Far East. He looks at the monitor labelled Taiwan; then looks at the monitors for Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Japan; finally Jim looks at the monitor for Northern India and Tibet. He runs his finger to the space on the map between Nepal and Bhutan that directly links India to China. He catches Cal's attention.

JIM

Could you help me out a second?

Jim points to 100 red dots spread about over the area labeled Tibet.

JIM

Do you have any idea what these red dots mean?

CAL

Each dot represents a hundred troops. There are ten thousand Chinese troops stationed in that area.

JIM

Ten thousand - that's it?

CAL

The satellite doesn't lie: if it says 10K then it's 10K.

JIM

Right on the border with India...

CAL

It doesn't matter because that's dead in the middle of the Himalayas - no man's land.

Jim reflects.

JIM

Wait a second: isn't that the area where the climbers are missing?

Drake enters.

DRAKE

Breakfast.

Drake tosses a bag of fastfood onto Jim's desk. Jim glances at his watch: he has been up all night. Drake turns to Cal:

DRAKE

"Breakfast."

Meaning, "Get the hell outta here, kid." Cal plays deaf.

DRAKE

Coleman wants to see you.

Cal exits.

DRAKE

That he understands. The Chinese just drew fire from Taiwan.

Jim can't believe his ears.

JIM

Shit. I thought we had more time.

DRAKE

What have you got for me?

Jim hands a document to Drake.

JIM

This is an extensive report on every single one of Taiwan's means of defense against an attack from China.

DRAKE

How else do you think the CIA spends its time?

JIM

It wasn't prepared by the CIA; it was prepared in Chinese by the MSS.

DRAKE

Yeah, so...?

JIM

But it's signed in English:
"Navigator".

Jim pulls out a copy of the fax transcript that Stroll received at Pratt House.

JIM

Look at the fax we received last night: "Navigator Com: Not an exercise."

DRAKE

Another official taking bribes?

JIM

Usually they slip documents rather than use signal codes transmitted on obscure frequencies - right?

DRAKE

Then it's a sleeper agent.

Drake rifles through the rest of the file and something falls out. Jim bends over and picks it up. It's a photo.

CLOSE ON the photo circa 1956 of a stiff looking white couple posing with their adopted Chinese child in front of the Washington monument.

JIM

Jesus.

DRAKE

I bet I know who this little guy is.

JIM

I guess you should go to Coleman...
he was head of the CIA then.

DRAKE

C'mon, let's get outta here.

JIM

Wait-a-second: John, I want to show
you something.

Jim leads Drake over to the monitor of Tibet.

JIM

Y'see this?

Jim points to a precise region in the Himalayas just north of
India.

JIM

In between those mountains, there:
it's the Nathu-la pass, the route the
Dalai Lama rode his horse out of
Tibet in '59.

DRAKE

What about it?

JIM

Horses, John. They rode horses right
into India.

DRAKE

That's great for Trivial Pursuit but
what does it have to do with Taiwan?

JIM

Nothing. That's my point.

(beat)

That's where the climbers are
missing. That's where they aren't
allowing any expeditions. That's
where something's going on that they
don't want us to know about.

EXT. HALLWAY/WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Drake and Jim walk down the hallway.

DRAKE

Nobody is going to risk starting
World War III over India.

JIM

You know what the word "China" means
in Chinese, John: "Leaders of the
Universe."

(beat)

Remember what Napoleon said about
China two hundred years ago? "There
lies a sleeping giant. Let her
sleep, for when she wakes she will
shake the world."

INT. WANG ZHI WEI'S OFFICE/MSS - DAY

A sterile office built during the height of Communism. Wang
Zhi Wei carefully looks over photos and files of the Standing
Committee Members. He separates the photos of Jin Lee, Wen
Yan, Tak Ho Li, and Hoy Chin from the photos of Shi Yongfa
and the two other doves.

Enter MSS AGENT CHANG carrying another file.

CHANG

Here are the files you requested on
Kimberly Grey and the Underground
Dissidents, sir.

WANG

Thank you. That will be all for now.

Wang begins to look over the file on journalist Kimberly Grey.

INT. SECRETARY OF STATE COLEMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Cal speaks to Coleman.

CAL

Weber's mostly concerned with the
possibility of China moving west.

COLEMAN

Then he's barking up the wrong tree.
Military intelligence has played out
all of the scenarios and General
Nelson delivered his report to me
earlier. China is on the verge of
invading Taiwan and we're gonna be
there to stop 'em.

CAL

And he thinks that transmission
signed "Navigator" may be legit.

COLEMAN

Like I said, the wrong tree.

Drake and Jim enter.

DRAKE

Mister Weber has uncovered information that leads us to believe that the boy in the photo is now an agent deep inside the Chinese government, possibly within the Politburo itself.

COLEMAN

John, if we had any agents or even sympathizers "deep inside the Chinese government" don't you think that I would be the first to know about it?

DRAKE

Yes, but...

COLEMAN

John, when I order three aircraft carriers towards Taiwan on the behalf of the President of the United States of America I cannot afford to have your boy running around spouting outlandish egghead theories. I want you to put an end to this and an end to it now.

Coleman stands, signifying that the meeting is over.

JIM

Sir, Taiwan's a ruse. They'll sucker us in and then when we least expect it, they'll make their real move.

COLEMAN

And what will that real move be, Mister Weber?

JIM

My research tells me that they're going to move into India. Then they'll move through the Middle East, through the Soviet States and Europe, and then towards the United States.

COLEMAN

You've been chained to that desk of yours for too long, Mister Weber.

You need to get out into the real world. And in the real world, we're gonna kick their asses back to Confucius by next Thursday, son.

(beat)

Now if you'll excuse me, I'm scheduled to brief the envoy and former President Morrison for their fact-finding trip to Beijing.

JIM
Morrison's going to China?

COLEMAN
Don't you read the papers, son?

JIM
Haven't had time lately; "been
chained to my desk".

Coleman exits and Cal follows him.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Defeated, Drake and Jim exit the White House.

JIM
Imagine if we had a government that
was interested in telling the truth,
John.

DRAKE
The truth - what's the truth got to
do with it?
(beat)
Come on, lemme buy you a drink.

INT. BAR - DAY

Drake and Jim sit in a quiet corner of this Capitol Hill
watering hole. CNN blares over the several televisions.
Kimberly Grey files her report from Tiananmen Square.

KIMBERLY GREY
It is reported that President Russell
has briefed former President Morrison
on the gravity of his emergency visit
to Beijing where he hopes new light
will be shed on the military
manoeuvres in the Taiwan Straits.

China's new Standing Committee still
denies any acts of aggression and
assert that they now have the right
to attack Taiwan after their U.S.-
supplied Patriot Missiles shot down
two helicopters early this morning...

JIM
Either she requires little sleep or
she's twins.

DRAKE
Excuse me?

JIM

Kimberly Grey - I've seen her on the news about five times in the last 24 hours.

DRAKE

Thirty-six hours.

JIM

Is that how long I've been up? I should've gone to medical school.

(beat)

What if we just can't see them, John? What if they're hidden or... underground?

DRAKE

You're fishing, Jim...

JIM

Put the pieces together: 1) China's ally Pakistan lures India into a false sense of security by agreeing to disarm. 2) The last dove in the Standing Committee mysteriously and conveniently dies. 3) A group of expert mountain climbers disappears in the Himalayas. 4) The CIA, who was getting reliable information from a sleeper agent - probably in the Politburo - suddenly receives a message on what they thought was a defunct frequency: "Sing Li murdered. Immanent invasion, proceed full force towards T." What's the "T", John? I don't think it's Taiwan. I think it's Tibet. Why the hell else have they been there since '59?

You think they give a shit about the Dalai Lama? Strategic advantage: Tibet is not only their gateway into the Middle East but to the rest of the world; Long range missiles with nuclear capabilities pointed at New York and Washington.

DRAKE

Jim, remember your original idea for your thesis, about the secret treaty between Russia and China to attack the United States from Siberia, Cuba, and submarines near Hawaii?

JIM

John...

DRAKE

Now you're telling me that
unbeknownst to the entire global
intelligence community four men are
responsible for secretly rallying 1.2
billion fellow countrymen against the
rest of the free world?

JIM

That's what I'm saying.

(beat)

And d'you know what? I bet that's
what this "Navigator" is trying to
warn us about.

DRAKE

And he's member of the Politburo
nonetheless?

JIM

Nobody else would have access to this
level of intel.

DRAKE

Jim, how sure are you about all this?

JIM

So sure that I can taste it.

DRAKE

Y'know, if you're right then we're
all fucked because it also means that
they already have long-range missiles
with nuclear capabilities in Tibet
pointed at Washington and New York.

If India is first then we're not far
behind.

JIM

I am right. And we are all fucked.

Drake studies him for a beat, then:

DRAKE

Then there's only one thing to do.

JIM

What's that?

DRAKE

Pack.

(beat)

Morrison's envoy leaves in an hour.

Jim exhales a sigh of relief. He's grateful that Drake
finally believes him.

JIM

Good. Thank you for trusting me.
And don't forget to bring a roll of
toilet paper - there's no TP in
public places over there.

DRAKE

I'm not going. You are.

Silence.

JIM

Wait a minute: I can't go to China.
I'm not a diplomat, I'm a researcher.
I have theories, not...

DRAKE

Listen, they'll peg any agent from a
mile away, but you...

(beat)

I mean, you actually do work at the
Rand Corporation. You're neutral,
you have no official history except
the time you spent there as a
student. You're the invisible man.

JIM

John, wait-a-minute...

DRAKE

Jim, you just spent the last hour
convincing me that China is going to
try to take over the world.

JIM

Yeah, that's what I think, but...

DRAKE

And this "Navigator" is the only one
who can confirm this theory. That's
what you said - right?

JIM

John, I've been up for thirty-six
hours, I'm not going to China.

Jim gives a convincing look to Drake as we...

CUT TO:

EXT. D.C. AIRPORT TARMAC - NIGHT

Under a light drizzle, Air Force II is boarded by various
members of the envoy.

DRAKE (v.o.)

You can sleep on the plane.

Jim and Drake make their way to the plane under the cover of an umbrella.

DRAKE

Remember, you're only there to make contact with this "Navigator" and see if he wants to open up. Nothing else.

JIM

Ok.

DRAKE

And whatever you do...

JIM (cutting him off)

I know, I know. Don't embarrass the State Department.

DRAKE

No.

(beat)

Be careful.

Drake give Jim a fatherly pat and Jim heads towards the plane. After a few steps he turns back around.

JIM

Hey, John.

Jim catches Drake's attention.

JIM

Do me a favor.

DRAKE

Sure.

JIM

Call Aunt Sophie and tell her not to wait up for me.

DRAKE

I'll get right on it.

The men smile warmly at each other as Jim gets onto the plane.

INT. POLITBURO MEMBER SHI YONGFA'S OFFICE - DAY

MSS AGENT CHANG finds a TRANSMITTER in the basement of dove Politburo Member Shi Yongfa's Office.

He looks surprised to find this item here. He rushes out.

EXT. SKIES - NIGHT

Airforce II flies in formation with two AWACs and two fighter

jets.

INT. AIR FORCE II - NIGHT

While the State Department Officials sleep, Jim compares documents and searches the computer for information. Just like in the briefing room at Pratt, on board Air Force II is a series of monitors. Jim looks down at a television where he finds Kimberly Grey filing yet another report.

KIMBERLY GREY

And this morning the Taiwanese Stock Market fell over 800 points in the first ninety minutes of trading. The market was immediately closed and...

JIM

Kimberly Grey, get some sleep, for godssake.

Jim shuts off the television and starts to play with the National Reconnaissance Organization satellite images. Jim finds satellite image of the Himalayas on the computer.

CLOSE ON COMPUTER SCREEN image of blue grid mapped over Southeast Asia. Jim uses the mouse to enlarge specific areas; he continues to enlarge portions of the grid to see various houses and cars in little villages.

He backs up the image and finally freezes it over the following area: Southwest China, Northeast India, Tibet. He steadies the finder and zooms in to get a closer look.

Jim's POV: a thin black line leads from the middle of China to Tibet. Jim studies this closely. He hits the print button and a transparency of the image comes out of the printer. Jim notices that everybody else is asleep and quietly heads towards the cockpit.

INT. AIR FORCE II/COCKPIT - NIGHT

Jim knocks on the cockpit door.

CO-PILOT

Can I help you?

Jim enters.

JIM

I'm sorry to bother you but I was wondering if you guys have a map up here - everything's electronic back here and I'd love to get my hands on a good ol' fashioned map.

PILOT 1 turns around and frowns at Jim. Although the Pilots should respect all passengers on Airforce II, Jim looks a

little young to be taken seriously. PILOT 2 hands him a map. Jim places the transparency over the map and regards the line heading into the mountains.

JIM

You guys mind helping me out for a minute.

They mind. Jim doesn't notice as he awkwardly shows them the map.

JIM

See this line here? What could it be?

The Pilots hesitate then figure that the best way to get rid of him is to give him what he wants.

PILOT 2

Too thin to be a highway...

Pilot 2 holds up the map for Pilot 1.

PILOT 2

You were airborne recon - what's this look like to you?

Pilot 1 looks carefully at it.

PILOT 1

I dunno - train tracks...?

JIM

I don't remember hearing anything about China constructing a train to Tibet.

The Pilots shrugs their shoulders - they don't care. There's an awkward silence that Jim takes as his cue to exit.

JIM

OK, then. Thanks.

INT. AIR FORCE II - NIGHT

As Jim reaches his seat he stops dead in his tracks, shocked to find Cal regarding his computer terminal.

JIM

I thought they taught you how to be discreet at Langley, asshole.

CAL

You've been reading too many spy novels.

JIM

Who's dick did you suck to get on

board?

CAL

Just Aunt Sophie's.

Jim realizes that Cal is baiting him so he eats his comeback. He grabs Cal by the shoulder and pulls him out of the seat.

JIM

Get the hell outta my seat. Now!

CAL

Jesus, take it easy, Weber.

JIM

Find what you were looking for?

Jim regards the computer screen to see what Cal was looking at. Jim's POV: The NRO satellite image of the Himalayas.

CAL

Just browsing. Don't get your panties all bunched up, I'm here to protect you.

JIM

Well keep your nose out of my fucking panties and we won't have any problems - y'hear?

Cal heads back to his seat in the rear.

CAL

Y'better get some sleep. Tomorrow's going to be a long day.

JIM

Whatever you say, amigo.

Upset, Jim takes his seat and gets back to work.

EXT. TARMAC/BEIJING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Airforce II glides gently onto the Tarmac. Waiting for the plane to taxi over is the requisite entourage replete with a military band and an array of black Mercedes limousines with tinted windows.

Off to the side stands Wang with an MSS PHOTOGRAPHER with a long lens. As the envoy exits the plane the Photographer snaps photos.

MSS AGENT CHANG approaches Wang carrying the transmitter found in Politburo Member Shi Yongfa's office.

CHANG

Wang Zhi Wei, I'm sorry to bother you

but I thought that you would want to see this immediately.

Wang raises his eyebrows.

WANG

What is it?

CHANG

I've had it checked out and it's a standard operating transmitter used by the CIA.

WANG

Where did you find it?

CHANG

Shi Yongfa's office.

WANG

Good work.

American Ambassador to China ANTHONY STODMAN (55) and his entourage greet the State Department Officials. Stodman offers a hearty handshake to Morrison and then the others.

STODMAN

Welcome to Beijing, I'm Ambassador Stodman. Please follow me.

EXT. CHANGAN BOULEVARD - DAY

The entourage drives through the streets of Beijing.

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

Stodman, Jim, Morrison and the rest of the envoy regard the passing scenery of downtown Beijing.

STODMAN

We're going to give you a few minutes to check into the hotel, then there's an official state dinner.

All of the members of the entourage nod while they continue to watch the dirty streets packed with bicyclists. They drive down Changan Boulevard and approach Tiananmen Square.

EXT. BEIJING HOTEL - DAY

The entourage comes to a stop in front of the Beijing Hotel which overlooks Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Jim and the rest of the diplomatic party exit their limousines.

INT. BEIJING HOTEL - DAY

Stodman, ex-president Morrison, and the rest of the group

enter the 5-star hotel. Jim lags behind. KIMBERLY GREY, her cameraman DOUG, and her soundman RICH wait for Morrison.

KIMBERLY

Would you care to comment, sir, on the goals of this trip to China?

MORRISON

At this time, I can only say that America is concerned with the Taiwan situation and we need to gain a better understanding of what's going on before we decide on our course of action.

KIMBERLY

Does "a better understanding" include three aircraft carrier groups speeding towards the Taiwan Straits?

MORRISON

I have no comment on that matter.

Kimberly turns to Doug and Rich as Morrison walks off.

KIMBERLY

What a surprise.

There is a group of Chinese DIPLOMATS there to greet Morrison. Stodman brokers the perfunctory introductions. Flashes go off as the media take photos of ex-President Morrison shaking hands with various Diplomats.

Jim is left off on the side - it seems as if nobody wishes to speak with him. He does a doubletake when he sees Kimberly.

Suddenly Kimberly brushes up along side of Jim and puts a microphone in his face. Doug points the camera at him and Rich hits the record button. Jim is taken aback.

KIMBERLY

Hi, I'm Kimberly Grey.

JIM

I know who you are; I've seen you on TV about twenty times in the last 48 hours. Don't you sleep?

Rich answers for her.

RICH

No, she doesn't.

Kimberly ignores this and points the microphone in Jim's face.

KIMBERLY

Do you mind if I ask what role you're

playing here today?

Jim has to think for a beat as to what his answer should be.

JIM

Ah... Jim Weber... I'm just doing research.

KIMBERLY

What kind of research - research on the shift of power in the new Standing Committee?

JIM

Ah... Noodle House research - for the Zagat's Guide.

Kimberly lowers the microphone and signals to Doug to shut off the camera.

KIMBERLY

Thanks, asshole. What are you, Company?

Jim shakes his head 'no' and Kimberly starts off. Jim catches up to her.

JIM

Listen, I'm sorry, but I'm really just here doing research. Nothing terribly exciting.

KIMBERLY

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

JIM

I love your broadcasts. Let's talk later.

Kimberly doesn't respond; she just walks off. The photo opportunity ends and Morrison and the rest of the entourage are led to their rooms. Jim watches Kimberly walk off then follows the others upstairs.

INT. JIM'S ROOM/BEIJING HOTEL - NIGHT

Jim enters his hotel room, puts down his laptop computer on the desk and throws his carry-on luggage onto the bed. He plugs his computer into the electrical socket and then into the phone jack. He turns it on. While he waits for it to boot up, fully clothed, Jim falls onto the bed.

BEEP.

Jim gets up and goes to the computer. The screen is a PGP encryption which appears as an everchanging random series of letters and numbers. Jim types various codes and the letters

miraculously re-form to spell out:

You have one new message

Jim types another password and up comes the message:

Jim,

Here are the sat photos you requested. No avalanche.

Proceed with caution.

Drake

On the screen appears three satellite photos. Photo 1 is labeled 13:00 and shows the 8 Climbers trekking in single file. Photo 2 is labeled 14:00 and shows them still trekking. Photo 3 is labeled 15:00 and shows the clear route with no sign of the Climbers.

Jim looks at the photos and thinks for a beat.

INT. GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Jim enters the Great Hall of the People dining room and heads for the dais table. Jim notices that all the seats at the dais table are taken. He is blindsided by an ESCORT who takes him by the arm.

ESCORT

Right this way, Mister Weber.

The Escort leads Jim to his table.

JIM

Ah, the kiddie table.

Already seated are a few AIDES from the American Embassy and a few JOURNALISTS, including Kimberly, Doug and Rich. The Escort leads him to the empty seat next to Kimberly. Jim and Kimberly look at each other, then Jim nods hello to the other people at the table.

LATER

Waiters clear the dirty plates from the tables while a Chinese DIPLOMAT makes introductory welcoming remarks.

CHINESE DIPLOMAT

... and I would just like to thank the American delegation for their warmth and understanding and hope that they continue to accept the hospitality which we extend them...

Jim looks at his watch.

JIM (to himself)
What bullshit.

KIMBERLY
Welcome to China.

JIM
Welcome back, you mean.

KIMBERLY
When were you here?

JIM
'88, '89.

KIMBERLY
Before my time. You were here for
Tiananmen?

JIM
The University sent us home right
beforehand. Haven't been back since.

Kimberly nods with her head towards all of the exits of the
room: two MSS Agents are at each door.

KIMBERLY
Well, it's become a police state.
See those two by the door?

JIM
MSS - right?

KIMBERLY
And there are two more on the outside
the door and two more on every exit
of the hotel. My phones are tapped,
my mail is opened, my faxes are
monitored, and my instantaneous E-
mail mysteriously arrives a day late.

JIM
So why are you still here?

KIMBERLY
Because this is where the end of the
world is going to begin.

JIM
An optimist: just the kindred spirit
I was looking for.
(beat)
I want to talk to you: let's get out
of here.

Kimberly turns to Doug and Rich.

KIMBERLY

Why don't you guys get a few hours of shut-eye and we'll check in later.

Doug and Rich nod and Jim and Kimberly take off.

EXT. BEIJING STREETS - NIGHT

Jim and Kimberly make their way through the streets of Beijing. Jim looks back and notices the MSS Agents conspicuously following them.

JIM

Should we try to lose our tails?

KIMBERLY

It wouldn't matter. They've probably already planted a bug on you.

Kimberly looks down at Jim's jacket. Surprised, Jim brushes some lint off himself. She smiles. They cut through Tiananmen Square. Jim notices army patrols set up around the perimeter.

KIMBERLY

Tell me what you're really doing here.

JIM

Tell me first what you know about the mountain climbers in the Himalayas.

KIMBERLY

Noodle houses - that's what you're researching, right?

INT. QUANJUDE NOODLE HOUSE - NIGHT

Jim and Kimberly sit in a booth in a lively noodle house/bar. A WAITRESS puts two bowls in front of them and heads off. Kimberly looks cautiously around the room to try to pick out who's following them. She engages Jim in a superficial conversation while she shifts her journalist's notepad with her real observations and questions into Jim's view.

KIMBERLY

So how long have you worked at Rand?

JIM

Only a year.

Kimberly inconspicuously spins her pad around: Green jacket in corner, black suit behind me.

KIMBERLY

What did you do before that?

JIM

I was in school. Ph.D. Post World
War II Sino-American relations.

Kimberly writes: What are you really doing here?

KIMBERLY
Where are you from?

JIM
Riverdale, just north of Manhattan.
And you?

Jim writes something and spins the notepad to Kimberly.

Looking for an old friend. Taiwan?

KIMBERLY
Raliegh Durham.

Kimberly writes on her pad: A front.

JIM
Do you get to choose what subjects
you're going to report on or do you
have to listen to the network?

KIMBERLY
It's half 'n half. The really
interesting stuff I do on my own.
When I have the time, of course. The
meat 'n potatoes stuff is dictated
from above.

Jim spins the notepad back: New Standing Committee?

JIM
Well, I can tell you one thing.

Kimberly spins the notepad back: Bad news!

KIMBERLY
What's that?

JIM
You look even more beautiful in real
life than you do on TV.

Kimberly is taken aback but jokingly writes: Pig.

KIMBERLY
I'm flattered.
(beat)
So what originally brought you to
China?

Jim grabs the notepad and writes: Tibet?

JIM
The hospitality. And the food.

Kimberly writes: Bingo.

Jim hides his frown and continues the niceties.

JIM
Care for a beer?

Jim writes: Source?

KIMBERLY
Love one. Tsing Tao, please.

Kimberly writes: Underground

Jim does a double-take and stares at the word "Underground".

JIM
I didn't know they were making a
comeback.

Jim gets up and goes to the bar.

JIM
Two Tsing Tao.

While the bartender gets the beers, Jim heads towards the bathroom. As he hits the bathroom door, it opens almost knocking him over. Jim is shocked to find Cal casually wiping his wet hands on his pants.

CAL
No towels. Crazy - isn't it?

JIM
Small world - isn't it? I mean, what
are the chances of us two homeboys
meeting in the same noodle bar at
midnight?

Jim brushes by him and heads into the toilet.

INT. TOILET - NIGHT

Jim looks around and frowns at the primitive facilities: a hole in the ground.

INT. QUANJUDE NOODLE HOUSE - NIGHT

Jim exits the toilet, grabs the two beers off of the bar and turns to find Cal sitting down across from Kimberly. This does not make Jim happy. Jim goes over, sits next to Kimberly, and hands her a beer.

CAL

The little note-passing game, it should stop. You're drawing attention to yourselves.

KIMBERLY (to Jim)
You said you weren't CIA.

JIM
I'm not CIA.

CAL
I'll vouch for him: no operative would be so stupid as to pass notes in front of eight MSS agents, two surveillance cameras, and microphones in every soy sauce container.

JIM
Fuck off.

CAL
Relax, amigo. We're on the same team.

JIM
I certainly hope not.
(to Kimberly)
C'mon, we're outta here.

EXT. QUANJUDE NOODLE HOUSE - NIGHT

Jim and Kimberly exit the Noodle House.

JIM
Fuckin' Coleman.

KIMBERLY
So I guess you're really not with them...?

JIM
I have C-level clearance, for Christ's sake. I'm not that...

Jim searches for the words.

KIMBERLY
"Adventurous"? "Savvy"? "Wily"?

JIM
"Important... interesting"

Kimberly smiles. She relaxes, she believes him.

KIMBERLY
Don't be so modest.
(beat)
Did you really grow up in Riverdale?

JIM

Yes.

KIMBERLY

I went to the School of Journalism at Columbia. I used to go to the Cloisters on the weekends.

JIM

My parents used to take me there for picnics, but I haven't been back in years.

KIMBERLY

I would bring a little lunch and read, look out over the river. Y'ever go down to that jazz club on 107th and Broadway?

JIM

Yeah, we used to sneak in with our fake ID's and see Tal Farlow play.

KIMBERLY

I saw Tal Farlow play there a few times...

JIM

Y'know I saw Tom Waits play there once.

KIMBERLY

You're joking! I love Tom Waits.

(beat)

You still haven't told me why a nice boy from New York is interested in Chinese politics?

JIM

Is this another interview?

She smiles warmly to let him know that it's not.

JIM

My father was a linguist. Spoke Mandarin fluently but never got a chance to use it anyplace except at M.I.T., where he taught.

(beat)

He was fascinated by Chinese philosophy because it always seemed antithetical to what was actually going on in China. He thought it was ironic that anyone could be so mystical in a country where people

are ruthlessly slaughtered every day.

KIMBERLY

Are you close to your parents?

JIM

They died in a plane crash when I was eleven. I was raised by my aunt.

KIMBERLY

I'm sorry.

She points to a street address, her apartment.

KIMBERLY

Well, this is me.

(beat)

Thank you for the noodles.

JIM

What should I tell Zagat's - three stars, three and a half?

Kimberly smiles.

Just then Doug and Rich cruise up in the Chinese version of a Range Rover. Doug peers his head out the window.

DOUG

Kimberly, c'mon... they've arrested some dissidents near the Great Wall.

KIMBERLY

Shit.

JIM

What's wrong?

Kimberly looks at the sky to see when daylight will break.

KIMBERLY

That means the executions should start in about an hour. Let's go.

Kimberly heads for the jeep.

JIM

Wait, I'm coming with you.

Jim hops into the jeep behind her.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

Rich drives, Doug is in the passenger seat and Kimberly and Jim are in the back. Rich looks into the rear-view mirror and notices that they're being followed.

RICH

Shit.

KIMBERLY

What is it?

RICH

We have a tail... but it doesn't look like an MSS car...

Jim turns around and takes a look.

JIM

That's because it's not an MSS car. It's a CIA rental.

Jim's POV: Cal Thurston drives a rental car.

JIM

Don't worry about him; he claims he's on our side.

KIMBERLY

What would lead you to believe otherwise?

JIM

My gut.

EXT. BEIJING STREETS - NIGHT

The jeep crosses the perimeter of the city. Cal is right behind them. In the distance we can see an Army roadblock.

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

Rich peers out the window at the flares in the distance.

KIMBERLY

Stop the car. We'll walk from here.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD/OUTSKIRTS OF BEIJING - NIGHT

The jeep pulls over on a deserted unlighted road and Cal pulls over right behind them. All of them exit their vehicles. It's pitch black except for the distant fires. Cal comes over to Rich and Doug and offers them a hearty handshake.

CAL

Not bad, not bad. I thought you were going to lose me back there for a moment. Thank God I broke your taillight.

RICH

Thanks alot, asshole.

KIMBERLY

Well, now that you're here, grab a sack and take a walk with us.

Rich and Doug unload their gear from the jeep. Kimberly throws a sack into Cal's arms.

JIM

I thought the CIA had a clause against manual labor?

CAL

No, that's menial labor. We leave that stuff to you researchers.

Kimberly, Rich, and Doug start off. Kimberly looks back to Jim.

KIMBERLY

Come on.

Jim follows her and Cal follows him.

EXT. FIELD/OUTSKIRTS OF BEIJING - NIGHT

Rich and Doug lead the way through the fields while Cal and Jim walk with Kimberly. In the distance we can hear muffled screams and see small fires burning.

JIM

Where are we going?

KIMBERLY

Shhh...

JIM

What's going on over there?

KIMBERLY

Every once in a while they round up suspected underground members and try to scare some sense into them.

JIM

Does it work?

KIMBERLY

Most of these kids would rather die than squeal on their friends, so it tends to get pretty messy.

CAL

We do the same thing at Annapolis every coupla months.

JIM

Shut the fuck up.

Rich and Doug are fed up with the noise.

RICH

Keep it down back there!

Just then, a group of MSS AGENTS swarms upon Doug and Rich and screams at them in Chinese. Cal draws his gun. Jim holds his hand over Kimberly's mouth to stifle her screams as the MSS Agents raise their guns to Doug and Rich's heads.

MSS Agent 1 turns to MSS Agent 2.

MSS AGENT 1 (in Chinese, subtitled)

It's them: Weber and Thurston.

DOUG

No!

RICH

No!

Suddenly, the MSS Agents pull their triggers.

BANG! BANG!

Doug and Rich's lifeless bodies crash to the ground.

Jim grips Kimberly tightly in order to stifle her cries. Cal takes aim as the MSS Agents approach and look around. But then the MSS Agents turn back and start to drag Doug and Rich's bodies in the opposite direction.

CAL

Let's get out of here.

Kimberly cries hysterically as Jim escorts her back to the car.

CAL

How far is it back to the main road?

KIMBERLY

About three miles.

CAL

We should walk. Those cars are deathtraps.

JIM

We'll take our chances.

CAL

Don't be stupid, Weber.

JIM

Get outta here. We'll be fine by ourselves.

CAL

Suit yourself. I'll see you back at
the hotel - if you make it.

Cal takes off and Jim and Kimberly head towards the jeep.

KIMBERLY

You heard - didn't you?

JIM

Yes, I heard. Cal doesn't speak
Chinese. He doesn't know what they
said.

INT. WANG ZHI WEI'S OFFICE/MSS - NIGHT

The two MSS AGENTS who killed Doug and Rich give their report
to Wang Zhi Wei.

MSS AGENT 1

The bodies of the Americans have
already been cremated along with the
last batch of dissidents.

WANG

Fine.

EXT. U.S. EMBASSY - DAWN

Jim and Kimberly approach the gates to the U.S. Embassy and
ring the buzzer impatiently.

VOICE (on intercom)

This is Sergeant McAllister, can I
help you?

INT. U.S. EMBASSY - DAY

An irritated and groggy Ambassador Stodman enters.

STODMAN

I take it this couldn't have waited
until morning?

He takes a look at Jim and Kimberly who are dirty and
disheveled.

STODMAN

Ms. Grey, it's a pleasure to see you.
(he does a double
take)
What on earth happened to you?

KIMBERLY

Two Americans were just murdered by
the MSS and we barely escaped.

JIM

I need to get a direct line to...

Stodman shushes Jim and points to the lighting fixtures. His face says, "You never know; we could be bugged."

JIM

You're fucking kidding me.

Off Stodman's serious look we...

CUT TO:

INT. MSS UNDERGROUND INSTALLATION - DAY

Two MSS Agents sit in front of wire-tapping devices listening to Jim, Kimberly, and Stodman.

STODMAN (V.O.)

Follow me.

OFF we hear footsteps then one MSS Agent turns to the other.

MSS AGENT 1

They must be going into the bubble.

MSS AGENT 2

Call Wang and let him know what's going on.

INT. SECURE ROOM/AMERICAN EMBASSY - DAY

Stodman leads Jim and Kimberly into the secure room, which consists of a suspended plexiglas bubble surrounded by fans whose motors create noise that bugging equipment cannot penetrate. Stodman, Kimberly, and Jim climb into it. It's totally surreal. They sit down.

STODMAN (to Jim)

You're not the run-of-the-mill envoy personnel. Company?

JIM

No, sir. And I'm not here for the photo opportunities. Secretary Drake sent me because I believe that one of the members of the Politburo is a CIA sleeper agent.

Stodman raises his eyebrows.

JIM

We intercepted a signal from Beijing on a frequency that hasn't been used in years. The message warned of an "Imminent invasion" and requested that we proceed full-force towards

"T". I don't think they meant Taiwan.

STODMAN

Where, then?

JIM

Tibet, sir.

STODMAN

I don't think that we should be discussing foreign policy in front of a journalist.

KIMBERLY

I'm an American citizen and my crew, Doug Wyatt and Rich Morrow, were just murdered.

JIM

The MSS was really gunning for Cal Thurston and me.

Stodman reflects for a beat.

STODMAN

You said you believe one of the Politburo Members sent a message to the States?

JIM

Yes.

Stodman looks at his watch.

STODMAN

Well then, you should get washed-up: Morrison and the envoy have been granted breakfast this morning with the Politburo.

MONTAGE of the U.S. Military Machine churning its wheels as it prepares to defend Taiwan.

1. Carrier Battle Groups cuts through the Pacific Ocean
2. Naval Officers aboard a nuclear submarine run through drills
3. Army Soldiers march in formation with their duffle bags towards a waiting transport plane
4. Coleman, Russell, and the White House staff convenes in the Pentagon War Room
5. F-18s take off the decks of adjacent aircraft carriers

INT. SECURE ROOM/AMERICAN EMBASSY - DAY

Jim calls Drake on the secure phone while Kimberly waits.

INT. DRAKE'S OFFICE - DAY

Drake works at his desk.

SECRETARY (O.S.)

Mister Weber on line three, sir.

Drake grabs the phone quickly.

DRAKE

Jim.

Start intercut

DRAKE

Navigator?

JIM

Not yet, but this morning there's a Politburo breakfast and he'll definitely be there.

DRAKE

Just find out if he wants to come in and we'll do the rest. How's that Thurston-kid doing over there?

JIM

He's a pain in my ass. Did you find out what Coleman's problem is?

DRAKE

Not yet but I'm working on it.

JIM

I'll call you back after the breakfast.

Jim exits the bubble. Kimberly reenters the main room and Jim joins her.

KIMBERLY

I'll take care of Doug and Rich's things then meet you afterwards.

Jim reaches over and wipes the last tear from Kimberly's cheek. They look intensely at each other and then Jim gives her a big hug.

INT. WANG ZHI WEI'S OFFICE/MSS - DAY

Wang collects data on the American entourage. Scattered in front of him are photos that let him know where all of the members of the envoy are at every moment. He looks at a

photo of Jim, Cal, and Kimberly sitting in the Noodle House.

EXT. TAIWANESE RADAR STATION - DAY

The CONTROLLER monitors the radar screens.

EXT. SKIES OVER TAIWAN - DAY

Eight SU-27s flies through the skies off the coast of Taiwan. They're getting really close, taunting the Taiwanese.

EXT. PHILIPPINE SEA - DAY

The Carl Vincent Aircraft Carrier and its accompanying warships cut through the ocean.

INT. CARL VINCENT AIRCRAFT CARRIER - DAY

Two AMERICAN NAVAL OFFICERS man the controls. The radar screen starts to blip wildly.

OFFICER 1

Looks like they've got incoming.

ADMIRAL

Man the course, we should be within range within twelve hours.

INT. STANDING COMMITTEE - DAY

Jin Lee points to an electronic map of the Pacific that shows the 3 American Aircraft Carriers moving towards Taiwan. There is a line in the water that demarcates the "point of no return".

JIN LEE

Once they pass this line then it will take them days to get out of the straits and there is zero risk of them making it back anywhere near the Bay of Bengal for weeks.

The three other Hawks are content.

EXT. GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE - DAY

Wang Zhi Wei exits his limousine flanked by two SOLDIERS. They walk silently into the Great Hall.

INT. GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE/DINING ROOM - DAY

Wang Zhi Wei enters and inspects the dining arrangements: two long tables face each other - one for the Politburo and one for the American envoy - and there's a lectern in between the tables. Wang overlooks the dais table. The CAMERA slowly turns from Wang's intense face to reveal the layout of the room, then we slowly...

DISSOLVE TO:

LATER

as perfunctory handshakes and bows abound as Stodman leads Morrison and his entourage into the dining hall and introduce them to the Politburo Members. The 22 Politburo Members stand in line waiting to greet their visitors. At the end of the line are Jin Lee, Wen Yan, Tak Ho Li, and Hoy Chin.

The Americans, including Cal, form a procession led by ex-President Morrison. One by one the American Diplomats shake the hands of the Chinese Diplomats.

EXT. GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE - DAY

Wang Zhi Wei exits the Great Hall as Jim approaches and is abruptly stopped and manhandled by two MSS AGENTS. Wang Zhi Wei looks on with a poker face. The MSS Agents pat Jim down.

MSS AGENT

Who are you? What do you want?

Wang Zhi Wei slowly approaches them and listens in.

JIM

I'm with the delegation. I'm Jim Weber.

The MSS Agents glance over to Wang Zhi Wei who nods for them to let Jim in. Even though Jim has no idea who Wang Zhi Wei is, he nods "thank you" to him. Wang Zhi Wei's face remains stolid.

INT. GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE DINING ROOM - DAY

Jim enters the dining room and Wang follows him in the distance. Everyone is already seated so Jim moves carefully towards the empty chair amongst the Americans a few seats away from Cal who leans over towards him.

CAL

Glad you could make it.

Jim pays no attention to him. The CAMERA follows Jim's eyes as he attempts to look into the soul of every Politburo Member.

Each Diplomat has a Waiter attending to him during the lavish 15 course meal. Every few moments someone pours something into Jim's teacup or glass and puts another delicacy on his plate. Behind both tables of Diplomats is a TRANSLATOR.

Ex-President Morrison stands and takes a bunch of index cards out of his pocket. After every phrase, the Translator standing in back of him translates his English into Chinese.

All of the Politburo Members sit there in their Mao outfits with slight political smiles plastered on their faces listening to Morrison speak.

MORRISON

Gentlemen, we have some very serious matters to discuss so I'll get right to the point. For many different reasons the interests of Taiwan are as compelling to America as they are to China. In situations as delicate as this, there is no room for misinterpretation. That is why we have come here. As we all know, in direct response to the exercises that you are conducting in the vicinity of Taiwan, three American Carrier Battle Groups are headed towards Taiwan. We do not wish the situation to escalate.

Jim subtly takes out the old photo of young Navigator standing with his white parents in front of the Washington Monument. He studies the young Navigator's face. Jim looks around the room at the eyes of the Politburo Members before him.

Politburo Member RONG LIN looks over to Jin Lee then rises to rebut Morrison's attack.

RONG LIN

We thank you earnestly for making the trip to our fair country. And we would like to work together with our American friends to eliminate any potential misinterpretation of our actions.

(beat)

Simply, Taiwan is China: China is Taiwan. Although they persist in maintaining a separate government, their people and our people are one. Therefore, the military exercises that have been conducted in that area of the world constitute a threat to no one. We are breaking no international laws or treaties by conducting them. The United States should not interfere in the internal affairs of the People's Republic. Thus, gentlemen, I suggest that we spend the remainder of our time together enjoying a festive meal and discussing lighter subjects such as...

Jim bursts out of his seat.

JIM

Wait a minute.

(beat)

Gentlemen, this is a very serious matter and while you may be able to disguise your intentions today, that is not going to help prevent a war tomorrow.

Most of the smiles on the Chinese Diplomats' faces have been erased. Jin Lee, Wen Yan, Tak Ho Li, and Hoy Chin rise and head towards the exit. All of the Americans raise their eyebrows at this unabashed "fuck you."

MORRISON

Gentlemen, please excuse our zealous young friend, he is unaware of how foreign policy is conducted.

JIM

No, you're wrong, sir. I'm fully aware of how foreign policy is conducted and what we need in a situation like this is somebody to navigate us through this storm, what we're looking for is a Navigator.

As Jim speaks the words "Navigator", he tries to make eye contact with each of the Politburo Members across from him. He tries to gauge any reaction from them.

Everyone in the room thinks Jim is a rambling madman. Morrison and the envoy are ashamed. In the corner, Wang Zhi Wei watches Jim carefully. Dove POLITBURO MEMBER SHI YONGFA perks up his ears.

EXT. GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE - DAY

The Functionaries, Translators and Politburo Members lead the Americans to their waiting cars. The meeting is concluded by meaningless smiles and handshakes.

Jim heads towards the second limousine in the envoy. He looks back to try to make a move towards Shi Yongfa. Ex-President Morrison grabs him by the arm.

MORRISON

Young man, I hope it comes as no surprise when I ask you the question, "Who the fuck do you think you are?!"

JIM

Sir...

MORRISON

Just because Secretary Drake signed your permission slip to go on this field trip doesn't give you the right

to insult the highest ranking members
in the Chinese Government!

Morrison heads towards the first limousine in the convoy.
Again Jim looks back - this time only to see Shi Yongfa
getting into an awaiting car.

Cal walks by.

CAL

Nice work. You weren't planning on
a career in politics - were you?

JIM

Blow me...

As the limos pull away Kimberly pulls up in her car. She's
doesn't want to be spotted, so she's wearing a hat and a
scarf.

KIMBERLY

I just found out that a transmitter
turned up in Politburo Member Shi
Yongfa's basement.

JIM

How can we get in touch with him?

KIMBERLY

Get in the car.

EXT. BEIJING STREETS - DAY

Jim and Kimberly drive past Jiang Shan park where hundreds of
Chinese people practice Tai Chi. They move to the
backstreets where they hope to avoid being spotted.

KIMBERLY

Shi Yongfa's a creature of habit;
I've interviewed him many times. He
takes a walk every afternoon in the
Temple of the Five Pagodas.

JIM

Well then, that's where we'll
approach him.

KIMBERLY

First we should ditch our tails.

Jim turns around and looks out the rearview mirror at the MSS
Agents following them on motorcycles.

EXT. MARKET - DAY

Kimberly and Jim drive slowly up to a market. There are many
live animals around along with an extensive collection of

Chinese ornaments and housewares.

INT. JEEP - DAY

Kimberly turns to Jim as she hits the brakes.

KIMBERLY

Ready?

(beat)

Let's do it.

The jeep stops and Kimberly and Jim bolt out of it and into the crowded marketplace.

EXT. MARKET - DAY

Kimberly grabs Jim by the hand as the MSS Agents on motorcycles turn the corner and head towards them. Kimberly drags Jim into an herb store.

INT. HERB STORE - DAY

Kimberly and Jim walk through the herb store as nonchalantly as possible.

EXT. REAR OF MARKET/ALLEY - DAY

Kimberly and Jim walk out the back door and down the alley. Jim quickly sheds his sportscoat and slaps a Mao cap on his head. From the back Jim easily blends into the crowd. He shoves the sportscoat into a garbage can as they turn the corner onto the street.

EXT. BEIJING STREETS - DAY

Kimberly and Jim meld into the crowd keeping their heads down.

EXT. MARKET - DAY

The MSS Agents enter looking for Jim and Kimberly.

EXT. REAR OF MARKET/ALLEY - DAY

The two MSS Agents burst into the alley with their guns drawn.

EXT. TEMPLE OF THE FIVE PAGODAS - DAY

Jim and Kimberly make their way through the crowded streets as they approach the Temple of the Five Pagodas. The temple is an exact replica of an Indian Buddhist temple presented to the Ming emperor in 1473. At the entrance, Jim stops and turns to Kimberly.

JIM

Listen, I have no idea what's going to go on in there. So I want you to do me a big favor and just wait out

here. If I'm not out in fifteen minutes, go back to the embassy and call Under Secretary Drake. He'll know what to do.

Kimberly understands and gives him a reassuring hug.

KIMBERLY

Be careful.

INT. TEMPLE OF THE FIVE PAGODAS - DAY

Jim enters the temple and looks around. Off in the distance Jim spots Shi Yongfa step out of the shadows. Jim begins to cautiously make his way towards him. When Jim feels that nobody is looking he turns quickly and extends his hand to Shi.

JIM

Jim Weber, I'm here to bring you in, Navigator.

SHI

I know who you are, Mister Weber.

Shi's English is less fluent than we would expect. Jim squints for a beat and tries to understand the situation.

JIM

Let's get you out of here. But first, please tell me I'm right, it's Tibet, not Taiwan - isn't it? That's what you were talking about in your message - right? India's the real target...

Jim speaks so quickly that Shi doesn't understand what he's saying. Just then...

PSSHT! PSSHT!

Two crisp silenced bullet crack the air as they whiz past Jim and into Shi's heart. He goes down like a rock into Jim's arms. Jim thinks fast and uses Shi's body as a shield.

PSSHT! PSSHT!

Shi's lifeless body sucks up two more bullets.

From out of nowhere three MSS Agents appear on the other side of the temple - guns drawn.

PSSHT! PSSHT! PSSHT!

All of the MSS Agents take bullets in the chest and drop like stones. Jim peeks out to see who the shooter is: he spots Cal run from one vantage point to another. Jim's mind races

a mile a minute.

CAL

Don't make this any more difficult
than it has to be, Weber.

JIM

"Just following orders" - right?

Jim picks up Shi's body, holds it up, and then pushes it out
from behind the corner. Cal mistakes Shi's body for Jim's.

PSSHT! PSSHT! PSSHT! CLICK! CLICK!

And Jim runs out the other side of the pagoda. Cal sprints
after him, reloading on the run.

EXT. TEMPLE OF THE FIVE PAGODAS - DAY

Jim exits the temple gate and looks around. Jim spots
Kimberly waiting patiently. He grabs her by the arm and
pulls her along with him.

JIM

Get to the embassy and call Drake.
Tell him that Thurston killed
Navigator.

KIMBERLY

What?

JIM

Just do it!

Jim pushes her in the other direction as Cal exits the Pagoda
and comes after him.

Jim begins to run down Taipingqiao Jie. He ducks in and out
of pedestrians like a running back. He looks back to see Cal
still hot on his trail.

EXT. CHANG AN AVENUE - DAY

Jim heads back towards the corner where he dropped the
sportscoat into the garbage can. He approaches the corner,
bows his head and blends into the crowd of pedestrians,
bicyclists, and street vendors.

Finally Jim ducks around a corner and crouches down in an
alley. After a few beats, while Jim catches his breath, Cal
abruptly turns the corner and looks around. Jim just sits
there staring at the bottom of Cal's legs.

Then Cal heads down the street. Jim comes out of his hiding
place and starts to go in the other direction. Jim turns
another corner only to find Cal's gun pointing directly at
him.

CAL

Nice move, bonehead.

JIM

Gonna shoot me in the middle of the street?

CAL

Shut up and follow me.

Cal displays the barrel of his gun to prove to Jim that he's serious. Cal points Jim in the direction he wants him to go.

CAL

Y'know, actually, I should thank you. I would've never gotten a clean shot at Navigator if it weren't for you.

Jim grits his teeth; he realizes that he's just a pawn in a larger game. He was completely duped.

JIM

Fuck you.

CAL

Oooh, that hurts.

(beat)

Y'know, you're not so smart, Weber. You brought Navigator to me like room service.

Over Cal's shoulder Jim spots the MSS Agents who were trailing him before. As Cal starts to lead Jim, Jim pushes Cal into the street. Cal is almost hit by a passing car. Cal has no choice now but to take his best shot at Jim. However, as he pulls his gun out MSS Agents swarm upon him screaming in Chinese.

MSS AGENTS

Freeze! Freeze! Freeze!

Jim, still wearing the traditional Chinese garb, again melds into the crowded streets and inconspicuously walks off. He looks back to see Cal being led off by the MSS. Jim breathes a sigh of relief. He turns to walk away. Then out of nowhere...

Whack!

Jim is cold-cocked and knocked out.

INT. MSS UNDERGROUND INSTALLATION/CELL 1 - NIGHT

Jim is handcuffed and his legs are bound - black hangman's bag over his head. Rats, vermin, and roaches are Jim's only companions in a dark and dank cell. Slowly he regains

consciousness.

KIMBERLY (v.o.)

I'm a journalist!

Jim wakes to the sound of Kimberly's voice.

INT. MSS UNDERGROUND INSTALLATION/CELL 2 - NIGHT

Kimberly, furious, screams at her captors.

KIMBERLY

I demand to see Ambassador Stodman at once!

Start intercut

JIM

Kimberly...

KIMBERLY

Jim!

JIM

I'm sorry I got you into this mess.

KIMBERLY

Don't be. It'll be alright.

JIM

Did you speak to Drake?

KIMBERLY

They arrested me before I got to the embassy.

There's silence as both of them contemplate their impending interrogations.

JIM

Where are we?

The door opens and Jim receives a sharp kick in the chest. Now he knows where he is. The door shuts.

KIMBERLY (O.S.)

Jim, are you OK?

Jim coughs as he tries to regain his breath.

JIM

Par for the course, I guess.

The door of Jim's cell opens and he cowers in the corner.

Two GUARDS pick him up and drag him out.

INT. MSS INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

The Guards lead Jim into the MSS interrogation room. The bag is taken off Jim's head and he's horrified to find a half-unconscious Cal strung up naked to the cold brick wall.

Cal is covered with blood and dirt. The Guards string Jim up next to Cal who momentarily regains enough consciousness to acknowledge Jim's presence.

Out of the shadows appears Wang Zhi Wei, the head of the MSS. YE JIAN, his translator, isn't far behind. Wang is ice cold and deliberate. Another GUARD stands ready to pummel Cal and Jim. Jim tries to get a look at Wang but can't make out Wang's face due to the interrogation light being shined in his eyes.

WANG (To Ye in Chinese)
Maybe Mister Weber would like to tell
us what he's doing in Beijing.

YE JIAN
What are you doing in Beijing?

JIM
I was sent by Under Secretary of Arms
Control & International Relations
John Drake to make contact with a CIA
sleeper agent. Code name: Navigator.

CAL (to Jim)
You have no idea what you're doing.
They're going to kill you anyway so
shut the fuck up!

Cal receives a sharp blow to his head that knocks him unconscious.

WANG (To Ye in Chinese)
Ask Mister Weber what he knows about
this agent.

YE JIAN
What do you know about this agent?

Wang keeps his poker face.

JIM
He was providing very high level
information.

WANG (To Ye in Chinese)
Ask Mister Weber why he killed this
Navigator.

YE JIAN
Why did you kill him?

JIM

I didn't.

Wang nods to the Guard who quickly delivers a sharp blow to Jim's midsection - it's the kind of precise blow that makes you piss blood.

YE JIAN

Every time you lie the pain will get worse! What did Navigator tell you in the temple?

JIM

Nothing.

(nodding towards Cal)

He shot him before he had a chance to say anything.

WANG (To Ye in Chinese)

Tell him about his predicament.

YE JIAN

Even if you're not lying, you will be shot at dawn for being an accomplice to the murder of Politburo Member Shi Yongfa.

Jim assimilates the news. Wang motions to the Guard who starts to shake Cal and splash water on him to wake him up. Cal barely regains consciousness.

WANG (To Ye in Chinese)

Ask him again who he works for?

YE JIAN (to Cal)

We will give you one last chance to tell us who you work for.

CAL

I'm telling you the truth... Cal Thurston... Thurston Import/Exports...

Wang unhooks his .45 from his holster, casually raises his arm and fires one shot into Cal's head.

BOOM!

Blood splatters all over Jim who looks as if he's about to vomit.

YE JIAN (to Jim)

That action was meant to teach you the meaning of the word "respect". If you choose to disrespect our intelligence like your friend did, you will be dealt with similarly.

Jim's fed-up. He maneuvers his bicep to wipe some of Cal's splatter blood off of his own face then he looks Ye dead in the eyes. He's a changed man, not as fierce as Wang, but deathly serious.

JIM

That action had nothing to do with "respect", it had to do with "power".

YE JIAN

Chairman Mao said, "Power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

Jim laughs. Wang is growing impatient. Jim looks Wang dead in the eyes.

JIM

No, he didn't! Mao said, "Power grows out of the barrel of a gun, let's learn how to control the guns so that they don't control us."

Wang and Ye can't believe that Jim knows Chinese history better than they do. It's now apparent that Wang must understand English since he's responding to Jim's retort. Ye motions to the Guard who slams Jim. Hard. Jim coughs up more blood.

Wang looks away - he's pensive.

WANG (To Ye in Chinese)

Bring the girl.

JIM

Listen, I've been straight with you: the girl doesn't know anything, leave her alone.

Ye and the Guard take down Cal's body and drag it out of the cell. Wang and Jim just stand there looking at each other with apparent disdain.

WANG (in Chinese, subtitled)

How were you certain that the man you met was Navigator?

JIM (in Chinese, subtitled)

I wasn't. The only thing I had to go on was the photo in my pocket. Listen, she's just a journalist...

Wang holsters his .45 and moves towards Jim.

WANG (in Chinese, subtitled)

No, you listen.

Jim shuts-up as Wang reaches into Jim's pocket and takes out the photo. His eyes go wide as he looks at the photo of the young Navigator standing with his adoptive Caucasian parents in front of the Washington monument.

Wang fixates on the photo. Something is wrong. Jim has no clue what's going on. Wang finally breaks his gaze from the photo and looks Jim dead in the eyes.

JIM

I'm asking you as a gentleman, she's done nothing except be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Don't touch her... please.

Wang pockets the photo and quickly releases Jim from the wall. He looks like a man possessed, as if his purpose in life has instantly been made clear to him. He leads Jim out the door apparently to execute him.

INT. LONG DARK CORRIDOR/MSS INSTALLATION - NIGHT

Wang leads Jim down a musty corridor.

JIM

Please, she's just a journalist... and I'm just a researcher. I wasn't sent to kill anyone, just to make contact...

Wang shushes Jim with a stern look as he continues to drag him by his handcuffs past miscellaneous cells and Guards.

Waiting for them at the end of the corridor is Ye who has Kimberly bound and blindfolded and ready for her execution. Jim practically breaks into tears when he sees Kimberly standing there waiting to be executed.

WANG (To Ye in Chinese)

I'll take it from here.

Ye takes off leaving Wang with Kimberly and Jim. At the end of the corridor there's a large metal door that should lead to the public execution area. Wang takes the bag off of Kimberly's head. She tries to remain calm in the face of death. Wang unlocks Kimberly and Jim's handcuffs.

JIM

Listen, please, leave her alone, I'm...

WANG (in flawless English)

No, you listen: we don't have much time.

(beat)

I'm Navigator.

And with that, Wang opens the large steel door and Jim and Kimberly are blinded by the city lights of a busy Beijing street.

Jim and Kimberly are so shocked that they just stand there.
Note: hereafter Wang Zhi Wei will be referred to as Navigator.

NAVIGATOR

Let's go.

EXT. BEIJING STREETS - NIGHT

Navigator leads Jim and Kimberly through downtown Beijing.

JIM

If you're Navigator then who was Shi Yongfa?

NAVIGATOR

I set him up. I planted the transmitter and sent the one MSS Agent to find it who I knew would leak it to Kimberly.

Kimberly understands that she's also been used like a pawn as the three of them turn the corner onto another street.

JIM

And the coup d'etat, Sing Li was murdered by the three Standing Committee hawks to have a majority...

WANG

Yes, they suffocated him in his sleep - I know because they accidentally broke his nose.

KIMBERLY

What about Doug and Rich?

NAVIGATOR

I'm sorry that they had to be sacrificed.

KIMBERLY (livid)

"Sacrificed" - is that what you call it?!

NAVIGATOR

I'm terribly sorry.
(to Jim)

And I'm sorry about the interrogation. I had to make sure that you weren't another hired Assassin sent to kill me.

KIMBERLY

Who wants to kill you?

NAVIGATOR

Coleman.

KIMBERLY

Why?

JIM

The CIA claims he defected.

KIMBERLY

Why?

NAVIGATOR

Coleman was the director of the CIA before he became Secretary of State. In March of '89 I told Coleman to stop pushing so hard. I told them that Deng Xiaoping wouldn't hesitate to kill the students. They didn't believe me.

They duck into an alley and take a breather.

INT. ALLEY/BEIJING - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly catch their breath.

NAVIGATOR

Coleman pushed those kids. They wanted to create some dissension within the Politburo to destabilize the government. And five thousand innocent kids paid for it.

KIMBERLY

What's going on now?

JIM

There are hundreds of thousands of troops hidden deep in the Himalayas ready to march into India - right?

NAVIGATOR

That's the good news.

KIMBERLY

The bad news?

NAVIGATOR

Long-range nuclear warheads aimed at Washington and New York.

JIM

Shit.

(beat)

That's why the climbers were
murdered - they must have stumbled
onto it.

NAVIGATOR

Exactly.

JIM

Where are the troops? The satellite
shows the same ten-thousand that have
been there since '59.

NAVIGATOR

"Operation: Giant Awakes": it's like
the Chunnel. The troops are deep in
the mountains underneath the missile
silos.

JIM

I knew it.

NAVIGATOR

It's all underground. Starts in
Lhasa and goes through the mountains
for twenty miles.

JIM

We have to get you on a secure line
to Drake.

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly head back out onto the busy
Beijing Street, checking to see if they are being tailed.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Coleman briefs President Russell while Drake looks on
pensively.

PRESIDENT

What are General Obsfeld and General
Nelsons's feeling on a direct Chinese
attack on Washington or New York?

COLEMAN

We've always suspected that China was
in the disputed area known as Tibet
in order to install long-range
missiles that could reach the East
Coast; however, we've been monitoring
the Himalayas very carefully and we
have not seen any moment that would
indicate that there are silos in the
mountains. Anyway, I strongly doubt
that they would be willing to swap
Beijing and Shanghai for New York and
Washington.

Drake frowns. The President, assured, nods in agreement.

INT. HALLWAY/WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Coleman and Drake head out of the Oval Office. Drake hesitates for a beat before he speaks his mind.

DRAKE

Secretary, don't you think that you could be underestimating the will and ambition of the new Standing Committee?

COLEMAN

I most certainly do not.

(beat)

So how's your boy doing over there?

Drake plays his cards close. He knows that Coleman probably knows more than he does by know.

DRAKE

Fine. And yours?

Coleman stops and turns to Drake but ignores his question.

COLEMAN

Y'know, you sent some egghead college boy to China on Air Force II without any authorization. I could demand your resignation on my desk in five minutes.

Coleman starts to walk off.

COLEMAN

You have a nice day now.

Off Drake's look we...

CUT TO:

EXT. AMERICAN EMBASSY/BEIJING - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly arrive across the street from the Embassy. Navigator pulls Jim and Kimberly out of view. Navigator crouches down and looks at the Embassy.

Navigator's POV: the CAMERA PANS and at various points fixes and zooms in on the faces of MSS Agents that Navigator recognizes. Navigator realizes that there's no way they're getting near the embassy.

KIMBERLY

What about the British Embassy?

JIM
Or the Canadian.

Navigator looks at his watch.

NAVIGATOR
No, it's too late. It'll be the same
everywhere we want to go.

KIMBERLY
What about the Voice of America or
Radio Free Asia?

NAVIGATOR
MSS started blacking them out last
week.

JIM
What about the Underground?

NAVIGATOR
Difficult to find.

KIMBERLY
Follow me.

INT. CLUB X - DAY

Kimberly leads Jim and Navigator through the noisy punk club. Lights pulse to the cheesy Chinese version of the Sex Pistols who blare their music and jump around frenetically.

NAVIGATOR
We raid this place weekly.

KIMBERLY
Shhhhh.

They cut through the crowd and arrive at a service elevator concealed by a fully stocked bar; Kimberly pushes the button to the elevator and it opens.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly silently ride to the basement. In the distance we can hear the music dissipate. The elevator stops and Jim and Navigator cautiously exit while Kimberly lags behind. She presses the top floor button then exits. The doors close but not before Kimberly slides a hairbrush between them that creates a space for her to slip her fingers into. Jim and Navigator help her pry the doors open.

They stare down into the bowels of the elevator shaft which is about eight feet deep. Kimberly jumps in - Jim and Navigator follow.

INT. ELEVATOR SHAFT - DAY

In the darkness, Kimberly forces open a service hatch. The three of them jump through it.

INT. FIRST LEVEL UNDERGROUND - DAY

AK47s instantly surround the heads of Kimberly, Jim, and Navigator. Angry DISSIDENTS recognize Navigator as Wang Zhi Wei, head of the MSS and surround him - they can't really believe their eyes. Everyone shouts at once.

JIM

Don't shoot! Don't shoot!

KIMBERLY

Press corps! Don't shoot!

DISSIDENT

What are you doing here? You shouldn't be here!

NAVIGATOR

We're unarmed! Don't shoot!

DISSIDENT

He's MSS!

NAVIGATOR

I am here to help.

A surly DISSIDENT presses his pistol into Navigator's jaw.

SURLY DISSIDENT

Like you helped my brother in Tiananmen Square?!

He cocks his weapon, ready to blow Navigator's head off.

SURLY DISSIDENT

Once MSS, always MSS!

This could be the end of the line for all of them. Jim looks to Kimberly for help.

KIMBERLY

We came to see Chen Xing Lin!

Everyone stops.

INT. UNDERGROUND HALLWAY - DAY

The trio is escorted at gunpoint down a hallway into the heart of the underground. They reach a door and a Dissident knocks a code. The door opens and the Dissident Headquarters is revealed.

INT. DISSIDENT HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly enter the Underground Headquarters (which looks like a make-shift version of the conference room at Pratt House). There are old paper maps instead of electronic maps, shortwave radios instead of video monitors, and morse code apparatuses instead of telephones and faxes.

CHEN XING LIN (32), the leader of the Dissidents, sits at the head of the war table. When he eyes Navigator/Wang Zhi Wei he instantly rises.

CHEN

What is he doing here?

KIMBERLY

Wait, listen to me.

CHEN

Over ten thousand students have disappeared since Tiananmen thanks to him!

NAVIGATOR

It's going to be a hundred times worse with the new Standing Committee in power.

Chen stares at his mortal enemy. Navigator remains calm.

CHEN

I should kill you now.

NAVIGATOR

Perhaps.

(beat)

But then we both lose.

Chen looks at Navigator and tries to figure out what he means. Kimberly comes between them.

KIMBERLY

You were right, Chen: it's Tibet. There are already three-hundred thousand troops stationed underground. And they're going to march into India if we don't do something.

JIM

Do you have any way to get a secure message to Washington?

CHEN

Not anymore. They've been intercepting our signals for the past 48 hours.

NAVIGATOR

He's right: all means of
communication - faxes, telephones,
the internet, satellites - everything
is being scrambled.

(beat)

Can you get us to Llasa?

Neither Jim nor Kimberly can believe their ears. Chen stares
into Navigator's eyes.

NAVIGATOR

We know that you've been transporting
goods and a few people back and forth.

Chen is reluctant to give up this vital clandestine
information.

NAVIGATOR

If you can get me to Llasa, I know a
way to shut down the operation.

INT. VAN - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly ride in the back of a van. Chen
goes through a briefcase of maps. Jim turns to Navigator.

JIM

What are you going to do when you get
there?

NAVIGATOR

Sabotage the ventilation system -
it'll cause the mountain to open and
the American satellites will pick it
up. The only thing we have to figure
out is how to get inside.

JIM

We?

Off Jim and Kimberly's surprised looks we...

CUT TO:

EXT. VAN - DAY

An inconspicuous cleaning van drives through the outskirts of
Beijing headed for the Great Wall.

EXT. GREAT WALL - DAY

The van comes to a halt right in front of the Great Wall.
The door opens and Chen emerges. He uses binoculars to look
around to make sure the coast is clear and then he goes
behind the van and opens the back door.

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly and a few DISSIDENTS exit the van.

CHEN

Follow me.

They follow Chen past the Great Wall and down to a field that's covered with brush. Chen again checks through his binoculars. When he is certain that the coast is clear, he motions to the Underground members to remove the brush. Jim, Navigator, and Kimberly help.

After a few seconds the wings of a airplane appear. This is no 747, this is an old propeller plane that holds four or five people. When Jim realizes that he is about to spend the next few hours in this flying Volkswagen he becomes pale.

JIM

This plane will never make it to
Llisa.

KIMBERLY

Don't worry, they use it all the time
to trade supplies with the Tibetans.

Kimberly puts her hand on Jim's shoulder to reassure him.

Suddenly, Chen freezes and listens for distant noises.

CHEN

Hurry! Hurry! Somebody's coming!

Off in the distance near the Great Wall, an Army patrol in an All-terrain Vehicle stops. The Dissidents shift into high gear.

The SOLDIERS get out of their ATV armed with AK47s. They aim at the plane. One of the Underground members turns and pulls out his pistol.

Navigator quickly pulls Jim and Kimberly onto the plane.

Two Dissidents finish preparing the end of the airstrip. The first gunshots from the AK47s hit the ground near the plane.

One Dissident runs towards the plane, firing his pistol at the Soldiers. He is shot and killed.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Jim and Kimberly duck on the floor of the plane as the pilot starts the engine. Navigator lifts a tarp and uncovers a cache of weapons. He pulls out an AK47 and fires at the Soldiers.

EXT. AIRSTRIP - DAY

While bullets spray the ground around the airplane, Chen runs over to his slain fellow Dissident and grabs his gun. He fires at the Soldiers and they duck for cover giving the plane a chance to take off. Chen waves furiously to the plane, signaling them to leave.

CHEN

Get out of here! I'll call ahead and tell them to expect you.

The plane taxis down the runway. The all-terrain vehicle is joined by another and together they chase down and fire at the plane. Bullets chew into the fuselage, but no one is hit.

The plane struggles to lift-off. Finally they get away.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

After the plane attains a reasonable height, Navigator, Jim and Kimberly look through the Underground's array of antique military supplies. There are compasses, gas masks, Mausers, grenades, C-4, and dynamite.

NAVIGATOR

The military regime has always had two major concerns: getting into the tunnel undetected. And getting out. There's a fail-safe switch which opens the doors on both ends if the ventilation system fails. The doors open and the soldiers rush out into the mountains. It's computer controlled, so the only way to attack it is from the inside.

JIM

But they'll spot us in a second: we're not exactly Chinese.

Navigator tosses gas masks into Jim and Kimberly's laps.

NAVIGATOR

Now you are.

JIM

No way. You can try to convince me to help you get inside but there's no way she's going in.

Navigator calmly removes a chain from around his neck and holds it up. On the chain are three computer chips that resemble hotel roomkeys.

JIM

What's that?

NAVIGATOR

Three keys, one for each computer.

Kimberly understands and grimaces.

JIM

Yeah, so.

NAVIGATOR

Three computers, one on each side of the room. It takes three people working in unison to bypass the security system.

JIM

Shit.

Kimberly tries on her gasmask and smiles awkwardly through it at Jim.

EXT. HIMALAYAS - DAY

The plane approaches the sprawling Himalayan mountain range and starts to bear south.

EXT. LLASA AIRSTRIP - DAY

Several MONKS remove the bushes from the clandestine tarmac. We can hear the plane's motor but because the tarmac is surrounded on all sides by mountains, we won't see the plane until the last minute.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Jim and Kimberly peer out the window at the snow-capped Himalayas. There's no airstrip in sight. Suddenly the airplane passes the tip of a mountain and drops 2,000 feet. Inside, it feels like an amusement park ride. Jim and Kimberly are able to spot the airstrip as they readily approach it: but first they have to put their stomachs back in place.

EXT. AIRSTRIP - DAY

The Monks patiently wait as the airplane touches down and taxis towards them. The plane comes to a stop and the Monks rush out to greet them.

MONK

We don't have much time. The train makes its mail stop in Llasa in twenty minutes and the next one is not until tomorrow.

They head for a decrepit jeep.

INT. JEEP - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly sit in the back of the jeep. Navigator continuously prepares his armory of miscellaneous antique weapons. Kimberly turns to Navigator.

KIMBERLY

What was he talking about, the "mail stop"?

NAVIGATOR

There's only one way into the tunnel and that's the train. It makes one final stop in Llasa before it heads into the mountain.

JIM

So we get inside, screw up the ventilation system - then what - we still have to get out - right?

NAVIGATOR

Get out?

(beat)

Thanks for reminding me.

Jim and Kimberly force a chuckle.

EXT. LLASA - DAY

The jeep makes its way down the mountain towards the majestic city of Llasa. We can begin to see Potala Palace, the ancient city built into the side of a mountain. It's literally one of the seven wonders of the world.

INT. JEEP - DAY

All eyes are glued on Potala Palace.

JIM

It's unbelievable.

KIMBERLY

I've seen pictures, but I never imagined...

NAVIGATOR

It's truly beautiful...

JIM

And if we don't do something the new Standing Committee will turn it into a strip mall.

KIMBERLY

Right after they kill all the Monks.

EXT. LLASA POSTAL DROP/RAILROAD STATION - DAY

The jeep comes to a halt and the Monks quietly lead Navigator, Jim and Kimberly towards the back of a make-shift postal facility. A Monk approaches with a walkie-talkie.

MONK

This will enable you to contact us.
There's not much else we can do.

NAVIGATOR

You can pray for us.

MONK

We've been doing that for years, my son.

The Monks lead Navigator towards the postal facility leaving Jim and Kimberly alone.

KIMBERLY

The jazz club on 107th and Broadway:
just think, that's where we'll be
sitting soon, having a beer and
listening to Tal Farlow.

JIM

Are you sure Tal Farlow's still alive?

They smile at each other affectionately. Navigator pops back out of the postal facility.

NAVIGATOR

Come on, the train's coming.

Jim and Kimberly head off with Navigator into the postal facility. In the distance we can hear the train.

EXT. FRONT OF POSTAL FACILITY/LLASA - DAY

The train pulls in and Navigator, Jim and Kimberly stand there inconspicuously dressed as Monks holding sacks of mail.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly help load mail onto the train. Jim and Kimberly must keep their heads down in order to go unrecognized by the Soldiers. As the train is about to take off, a Soldier turns to Navigator.

SOLDIER (in Chinese, subtitled)

Hurry up. Get off the train.

Suddenly Navigator grabs the Soldier's rifle with his left hand and pummels the Soldier's neck with his right hand. The Soldier goes down and Navigator quickly snaps his neck. Jim and Kimberly look on, horrified. Navigator casually stands up.

NAVIGATOR

Perfect. He's your size.

Jim raises his eyebrows.

NAVIGATOR

Her size is going to be harder to find.

Navigator then heads into the next car as the train pulls out of the Lhasa station.

LATER

Navigator returns wearing a Soldier's uniform and carrying one for Kimberly. He inspects the Soldier's weapons and gear. Jim is wearing Chinese military garb.

LATER

Navigator hands Jim and Kimberly a pair of handguns.

NAVIGATOR

These are 9 millimeter automatics. Each clip holds fifteen rounds. You'll want to pop a new clip in before you're empty. You point and pull the trigger...

There's a long beat as they regard each other - just the SOUND of the click-clack of the train as they stare out at the passing scenery of the splendid Himalayan mountains.

LATER

JIM

What it was like for you, all those years, is something very difficult to imagine.

Navigator reflects for a beat.

NAVIGATOR

I respect the will, endurance and determination of the Chinese people.

KIMBERLY

Do you miss the States?

NAVIGATOR

I miss... New York pizza.

Jim and Kimberly smile.

JIM

It's the water.

Navigator smiles and they regard each other for a beat.
Click-clack, click-clack.

EXT. HIMALAYAS - DAY

The train chugs towards the edge of Lhasa. Just like in the satellite photo that Jim saw earlier, the train tracks seem to suddenly end at the base of a mountain.

There's a large tarpaulin covering the base of the mountain so that a satellite photo won't notice the train disappearing. In fact, when the train pulls under the tarpaulin, the top of the tarpaulin lights up to represent a perfect image of what the train would look like if it were sitting at the base of the mountain. However, the train doesn't stop at the base of the mountain; the mountain opens and the train goes into it.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly wait in the mailroom and look out the window.

NAVIGATOR

This is it, last stop.

Navigator takes the safety off of one of the many guns he's carrying. Jim and Kimberly don their gas masks.

INT. CHINESE MILITARY TUNNEL - DAY

The train comes to a stop and hundreds of Soldiers rush to unload the supplies. Navigator, Jim and Kimberly help Soldiers unload mail.

Jim and Kimberly look around at the amazing underground facility: a totally self-contained city the size of Manhattan. The Tunnel is constructed like a military base: barracks on the side and a plethora of jeeps and armored personnel carriers. As far as the eye can see is a string of tanks just waiting to burst out of the Indian end.

Navigator motions for Jim and Kimberly to take a look at the car in front of the train.

NAVIGATOR

Looks like we have company.

JIN LEE, WEN YAN, TAK HO LI, and HOY CHIN look around with pride at the war machine that they have constructed.

Jim and Kimberly can't believe their eyes.

JIM

I guess that means that we don't have much time.

NAVIGATOR

Let's go.

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly make their way past all of the SOLDIERS and head past the barracks towards a doorway.

INT. HALLWAY/TUNNEL - DAY

Navigator leads Jim and Kimberly down a hallway and as they turn a corner a SOLDIER spots them and calls to them.

SOLDIER (in Chinese, subtitled)

Where are you going?

Jim and Kimberly sweat profusely as Navigator approaches the Soldier.

NAVIGATOR (in Chinese, subtitled)

We were just going to...

Then Navigator smashes the soldier across the face with his elbow, quickly slashes his throat, and drags the body off to the side. Navigator points down the hallway.

NAVIGATOR

This way.

They head down the hall until they hear two Soldiers approaching them. Navigator drags Jim and Kimberly into a room.

INT. LARGE REFRIGERATOR - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly huddle in the cold darkness while they wait for the Soldiers to pass. Kimberly looks around.

KIMBERLY

Oh my god!

NAVIGATOR

Shhhhh.

She shines a penlight and Navigator and Jim look with astonishment at the corpses of the eight Mountain Climbers.

Navigator peeks out the door and sees that the coast is clear. They exit.

INT. HALLWAY/TUNNEL - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly move cautiously down the hallway.

INT. SITUATION ROOM/TUNNEL - DAY

COMPUTER ENGINEERS man the computers. GUARDS stand at the door.

Navigator enters and salutes a Guard. When the Guard salutes him back, Navigator lowers his arm right into the Soldier's neck. As the Soldier falls Navigator slices his throat then throws the body down.

Navigator draws his gun and fires into another Guard's chest and the body flies backwards. The Engineers look on in horror. One of the Engineers reaches into his desk drawer for a gun and Navigator fires two shots into his chest, killing him instantly.

Navigator motions with his pistol for them to move towards a closet. Then he whistles to Jim and Kimberly to enter. Jim and Kimberly each move towards a computer.

While pushing the other Engineers into the closet Navigator pats them down. Navigator locks the door and goes to the third computer. He motions to Jim and Kimberly to insert their key into their computer. The three computer screens respond by lighting up with a new program.

KIMBERLY

Is that it?

NAVIGATOR

No. Now the password.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

Two Soldiers enter the mail car. One of them reaches for the last mail bag; he moves to throw it over his shoulder but it's too heavy. He falls backwards. Both Soldiers quickly draw their guns. The other Soldier comes over and kicks it hard. Cautiously he undoes the tie on the sack to reveal the body.

The Soldier blows an emergency whistle.

INT. CHINESE MILITARY TUNNEL - DAY

There's a brief silence then Jin Lee, Wen Yan, Tak Ho Li, and Hoy Chin nervously look at each other. Suddenly the entire Tunnel is alight and sirens blare throughout.

The four Hawks run for cover while the three-hundred thousand Soldiers go on stage-one alert. Guns drawn the Soldiers begin to search the tunnel for the infiltrators.

INT. SITUATION ROOM/TUNNEL - DAY

Suddenly alarms go off.

JIM

What's that?

NAVIGATOR

Don't worry about it. The password

is...

Just then the door bursts open and Soldiers enter. Navigator quickly pulls around the AK47 strapped to his back and the blood bath begins. Jim and Kimberly duck for cover under the computers. Navigator finally kills the last soldier and peeks his head down the hallway. He hears other soldiers coming and yells to Jim and Kimberly.

NAVIGATOR

We must go! Now!

JIM

But we're not finished...

NAVIGATOR

Come on!

Jim and Kimberly follow Navigator out of the computer room.

INT. HALLWAY/TUNNEL - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly cut down the hall away from the soldiers.

JIM

Now what?

NAVIGATOR

We improvise.

In front of them two Soldiers come down the hallway with their guns drawn. Navigator quickly pushes Jim into a doorway while he takes out the two Soldiers. He fetches Jim and Kimberly and they continue down the hallway.

NAVIGATOR

We'll go to the ventilation room
itself. We'll do it manually.

JIM

What do you mean?

Navigator pulls a hand grenade from his belt and holds it up.

NAVIGATOR

"Manually".

INT. STAIRWELL/TUNNEL - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly enter the stairwell which is guarded by two Soldiers. Navigator takes out both the soldiers with his knife.

Navigator stops to catch his breath.

KIMBERLY

C'mon, let's go.

NAVIGATOR

We have to make one pit stop first.

JIM

A pit stop?

Navigator leads them out of the stairwell.

INT. HALLWAY/TUNNEL - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly move down another hallway until they arrive at a precise panel in the wall. Navigator runs his hand over it and then taps it to see if it's hollow.

JIM

What are you doing?

NAVIGATOR

Shhhhh....

Navigator then stands back and kicks the panel in. Kimberly stands a few feet aside. Navigator looks down a shaft.

NAVIGATOR

Get in.

JIM

There's no way I'm going in there.

Just then five soldiers round the far corner and shoot at them. At the same moment, Kimberly takes off down the hallway while Navigator pushes Jim through the hole.

JIM

No!!!!!!

Navigator and Jim fall rapidly.

INT. SHAFT - DAY

Navigator and Jim unravel themselves from each other in the dark and small ventilation shaft. Jim looks around for Kimberly who is nowhere to be found.

Just as the soldiers are about to fire at them from above, Navigator kicks in the grate, jumps through the hole and pulls Jim to safety.

INT. STANDING COMMITTEE UNDERGROUND SHELTER - DAY

Jin Lee, Wen Yan, Tak Ho Li, and Hoy Chin drop their champagne glasses and look on in horror as Wang/Navigator levels his gun at them. Jim looks on to see how Navigator will play it.

NAVIGATOR

You have one minute to call off the attack or you'll never see daylight again.

JIN LEE

Even if you shoot us now, there's no way to stop it. It's China's destiny and you know it as well as we do, traitor. As soon as you fire one shot the guards outside the door will enter and kill you and your friend.

NAVIGATOR

No they won't because it's an hermetically sealed room that locks from the inside.

Jin Lee is surprised that Navigator knows the layout better than he does. From the corner of his eye Navigator spots Hoy Chin drawing his gun.

Navigator shoots back and nails Hoy Chin in the forehead.

But the three others have now had time to draw their guns and they open fire on Navigator.

Jim dives behind a desk and Navigator dives behind a pole.

Wen Yan and Tak Ho Li take positions on opposite sides of the room. Navigator shoot wildly to distract them and then jumps between them. They take aim and fire but instead of killing Navigator, kill each other.

Now it's just Jin Lee and Navigator.

Jin Lee fires a few shots at Navigator while Navigator reloads. Then Jin Lee runs around the desk and grabs Jim.

Jin Lee comes out holding Jim around the neck and pointing his gun at Jim's head.

JIN LEE

Throw down your gun, traitor.

Navigator and Jim look deep into each other's eyes while Navigator reflects for a beat. Then Navigator takes his hand off of the trigger and kneels down to put the gun on the floor.

BANG!

A single shot is fired and Jin Lee drops like a rock.

Jim and Navigator can't believe their eyes when they turn to find Kimberly standing in the chute holding the warm gun.

JIM (to Kimberly)
Thanks...

NAVIGATOR
C'mon, let's get outta here...

Navigator grabs whatever guns are lying around as they head towards a rear door that looks like the inside of a door to a vault.

INT. HALLWAY/TUNNEL - DAY

Navigator exits the door with his guns blazing. He takes out all of the SOLDIERS in sight. Then turns back and nods to Jim and Kimberly to tell them that the coast is clear.

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly make their way down the hallway and back to another stairwell.

INT. STAIRWELL/TUNNEL - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly bound up the stairs as SOLDIERS enter the stairwell and fire at them from below. Navigator fires back as Jim and Kimberly head for the top floor.

INT. VENTILATION ROOM/TUNNEL - DAY

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly enter the base of a huge room filled with air ducts. Navigator locks the door behind them and barricades it with some barrels.

NAVIGATOR
I didn't realize it was this big.

KIMBERLY
That grenade isn't even going to put a dent in it.

Navigator takes out a few pounds of plastic explosives and wire from his belt. Jim and Kimberly's eyes widen.

JIM
C-4?

NAVIGATOR
Harvard Magna Cum Laude - right?

He hands the wire to Jim.

JIM
Yeah, but I slept through "Explosives 101".

NAVIGATOR
I'm going to attach the C-4 to every duct; you-two follow me with the wire and attach it to every piece of clay.

Jim and Kimberly starts to unravel the wire. They follow Navigator around the room. When they get to the last air duct, Jim notices that there's no way out.

JIM

Wait a second, how are we going to get out?

Navigator points up towards the top of the air ducts. Jim and Kimberly can't believe their eyes: there's no exit up there.

KIMBERLY

Before or after we blow the room to bits?

Navigator takes out a grenade, attaches it to the C-4 and sticks the wire into it.

JIM

The detonator?

NAVIGATOR

We'll do it the old-fashioned way.

Navigator taps his gun - the detonator.

JIM (to Kimberly)

"We earn it"...?

Navigator then goes over to a rope ladder that leads to the top of the ducts.

Suddenly there is pounding at the door. SOLDIERS fire indiscriminately in order to break open the door to the ventilation room.

Navigator pushes Jim and Kimberly up the ladder.

NAVIGATOR

Go on!

Jim and Kimberly shimmy up the ladder which apparently ends at the ceiling. There's no door or anything, the ladder just ends near the top of the air duct.

Navigator follows them up the ladder.

JIM

Where to?!

NAVIGATOR

Up!

Jim and Kimberly continue upward. As they approaches the ceiling, Navigator takes the AK47 from behind his back and

starts to spray a hole in the ceiling with bullets.

Jim and Kimberly hide their faces as plaster and debris fall on them. They hold on to the ladder for dear life.

Meanwhile the SOLDIERS have broken through the door and start to look around the room for people to kill.

At the top of the ladder, snow starts to fall on Jim's face. Now he understands where they're going.

NAVIGATOR

Go on!

The AK47 runs out of bullets and Navigator lets it drop to the ground.

Jim uses his hand to excavate the hole where the bullets hit.

Below them the Soldiers scurry about. As Jim sees daylight, Navigator fires at the Soldiers below. The Soldiers take cover.

EXT. HIMALAYAS - DAY

Jim pokes his head through the hole and sees nothing but barren snow-capped mountains and beautiful blue sky. It's a majestic view, unfortunately Jim doesn't have time to appreciate it. He climbs up then reaches back down to pull Kimberly up to safety.

INT. VENTILATION ROOM/TUNNEL - DAY

Navigator grips the bottom of Kimberly's boot to help push her up. The Soldiers below turn the corner and start to pummel Navigator with bullets. Navigator fires back at the Soldiers who take cover again.

Navigator climbs to the highest rung on the ladder and looks down below. He unloads the rest of his bullets shooting at the Soldiers.

Here it is, the moment of truth: Navigator can feel the cold air of the Himalayas.

Jim and Kimberly look down at Navigator.

Navigator unholsters his side-arm and squints at the grenade. He raises his gun and fires one shot at it.

He misses.

NAVIGATOR

One.

Jim and Kimberly frown. Just then, Soldiers emerge from Navigator's blind side and shoot him. Navigator takes a

bullet in the leg and almost falls from the rope ladder.

Jim reaches down quickly and grabs Navigator with his left arm. Kimberly grabs Jim to support him.

Navigator dangles there; he spins around, tries to aim and fire a few shots at the Soldiers.

NAVIGATOR

Two, three, four, five, six...

Navigator's in excruciating pain and hanging on for dear life.

NAVIGATOR (to himself)

One left.

Jim and Kimberly comprehend the intensity of the moment.

JIM

Give it your best shot.

There's silence as the Soldiers below reload. Navigator takes aim at the grenade. The rope ladder spins violently; he can't get a clear shot off. Jim does his best to hold him steady.

Finally Navigator steadies himself, takes aim, and gets ready to fire his last bullet.

NAVIGATOR'S POV: Close on sights of the gun aimed at the grenade.

Navigator slowly squeezes the trigger as he breathes - just like in the military manual.

Jim squints and braces himself for the gun to fire.

CLICK.

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly look at each other in dismay.

Could Navigator have miscalculated???

CLICK CLICK CLICK as Navigator pulls the trigger of the empty gun.

The Soldiers below take aim at Navigator and are about to blow him away when suddenly Jim reaches behind his back and grabs the gun that Navigator gave him on the train.

Jim fires a few shots at the Soldiers to force them to take cover - also he gets used to aiming a pistol, something he has never done before.

KIMBERLY

Give it your best shot.

Jim gulps as he looks at the grenade off in the distance. He looks down the barrel of the gun and concentrates with all his might.

BANG!

BULLSEYE! The bullet hits the grenade dead in the center and the CAMERA PANS to show the spark pulse through the wire from explosive to explosive.

EXT. HIMALAYAS - DAY

Supported by Kimberly, Jim uses all of his strength to pull the wounded Navigator through the hole and up into the snow.

NAVIGATOR

Nice shot.

Suddenly beneath them there's a huge explosion that resounds like an earthquake and knocks all three of them to the ground. After a moment, they regain their senses as the entire ceiling of the ventilation room collapses and there is a large hole left in the top of the mountain.

Navigator, Jim and Kimberly are now apparently stuck in the Himalayas. But then they look up amazed to find themselves looking at a group of Climbers' feet.

INT. FORT MEADE - DAY

Two RESEARCHERS monitor satellite photos of the Far East. A beep goes off on one monitor and an Agent uses the mouse to direct the image onto the area in the Himalayas that has just emerged.

RESEARCHER 1

What do you make of this?

RESEARCHER 2

Could just be another avalanche.
Keep your eye on it.

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

A second alarm rings out and there's pandemonium as the Soldiers frantically scuttle for fresh air and/or gas masks.

EXT. HIMALAYAS/INDIAN END OF TUNNEL - DAY

On the Indian side of the Tunnel (from Scene 1) there has been enough carbon monoxide buildup to automatically trigger the Tunnel opening. Alarms sound as the snow is pushed back by the monstrous doors opening.

Standing in the open Tunnel hatch are not Soldiers ready to purge into India but confused Soldiers gasping for air.

INT. FORT MEADE - DAY

Suddenly the alarm sounds and the Researcher focuses on the area on his monitor that represents the Tunnel opening.

RESEARCHER 1

Holy shit!

RESEARCHER 2

Where the hell did those troops come from?

RESEARCHER 1

Call General Mitchell!

INT. SECRETARY OF STATE COLEMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Furious, Drake enters Coleman's office.

DRAKE

I've just received word that there are three hundred thousand Chinese troops in Tibet.

COLEMAN

What the hell are they doing there?

DRAKE

What I want to know is why we didn't know about this last week, or last year, goddamnit!

COLEMAN

What are you talking about?

DRAKE

You know damn well what I'm talking about: Navigator.

COLEMAN

Listen Drake...

DRAKE

By the time I get back I want to see your resignation on that desk, Mister Secretary.

MONTAGE OF

1. American Carrier Battle Group moving towards the Bay of Bengal
2. The Indian Army moves into place to protect their border against the Chinese
3. Drake briefs President Russell

4. The Chinese Ambassador apologize to the United Nations for the "misunderstanding"

5. The Researchers at Pratt House and the Rand Corporation monitor the newscasts about China

INT. POTALA PALACE - DAY

Jim slowly wakes.

JIM

Kimberly...?

A Monk joins him.

JIM

Where are my friends? Are they OK?

The Monk doesn't speak English but still understands what Jim is asking. He gently helps Jim up from the bed and leads him over to the window.

JIM'S POV: On the balcony below Kimberly files her report to a local CAMERAMAN.

KIMBERLY

... Kimberly Grey, signing off from Lhasa, Tibet.

The Cameraman clears her.

JIM

You really don't sleep - do you?

Kimberly chuckles as they share a loving look.

Navigator peaks his head out from the adjacent balcony.

NAVIGATOR

Jim, finally you awaken.

(beat)

The new Politburo is sending a plane to escort you two back to the United States.

JIM

You're coming with us - aren't you?

NAVIGATOR

The new Politburo thinks that my expertise will be useful back in Beijing.

KIMBERLY

New York pizza doesn't fit in a Federal Express envelope, y'know.

NAVIGATOR

You've tried, I take it.

KIMBERLY

As a matter of fact, I have.

The three of them share a laugh while overlooking Lhasa from high above in Potala Palace.

EXT. KATMANDU AIRPORT - DAY

Navigator puts Jim and Kimberly onto the waiting plane.

JIM

Plenty of room if you've changed your mind.

NAVIGATOR

I have indeed given it a lot of thought.

And although your dedication to truth and justice have shown me that America must have a lot to offer, I'm afraid that my place in the world remains in China.

KIMBERLY

Truth and justice have no place... or race, or color.

NAVIGATOR

That is true.

(beat)

Don't worry, we'll see each other again.

JIM

I hope so.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Kimberly and Jim sit in first class. On the monitor Bernard Shaw reports:

BERNARD SHAW (on television)

A press release just issued by the Chinese government states that the four members of the Standing Committee responsible for the maneuvers in Taiwanese Airspace have resigned and have been replaced by more progressive and peaceful political leaders.

JIM

"Resigned".

KIMBERLY

It's a very demanding job. Many politicians "resign" under all that pressure.

BERNARD SHAW (on television)

Next we have a special report from Kimberly Grey.

KIMBERLY

Shut it off...

JIM

I want to see it.

KIMBERLY

You know how it ends, it's no fair.

JIM

I know, but that's why I want to see it.

They play like little children shutting off the television and turning it back on. We only see brief clips of Kimberly's report on the thwarted invasion of India.

KIMBERLY

You just want to see how many times I mention your name!

She finally gives up and lets the television play.

KIMBERLY (on television)

Kimberly Grey, signing off from Lhasa, Tibet.

JIM

Shit, it's over.

BERNARD SHAW (on television)

Thank you, Kimberly for shedding light on yesterday's mysterious about-face of United States foreign policy, wherein the American military machine concluded that the Chinese currently pose little threat to Taiwan. More later on the top-secret Chinese army installation uncovered deep in the long contested area known as Tibet.

INT. JAZZ CLUB/UPPER BROADWAY - NIGHT

Music plays as a WAITER escorts Drake towards a table. Sitting there smiling are Jim, Kimberly, and Aunt Sophie. Jim rises and he and Drake exchange a new version of their dialogue from their first scene.

JIM (imitating Drake)
Glad you could make it, John.

DRAKE
Thanks for inviting me, Professor.

JIM
"Jim". I'm just "Jim". "Professor"
makes me sound like an old curmudgeon.

Their handshake turns into a celebratory hug.

JIM
You remember Aunt Sophie...

AUNT SOPHIE
Professor Drake, it's so nice to see
you again...

He goes to shake her hand and she ignores it and gives him a
wet one on the cheek. Jim laughs.

DRAKE
Aunt Sophie, I'm glad to see you
haven't changed...

JIM
And I'd like you to meet a new friend
of mine, Kimberly Grey.

Drake shakes Kimberly's hand.

DRAKE
Thank you very much for your help.

Kimberly nods. Jim takes his seat next to Kimberly and Drake
sits next to Aunt Sophie.

JIM
How's Coleman?

DRAKE
History.

JIM
Better late than never.

AUNT SOPHIE
"Better late than never" for alot of
things!

She's talking about Jim and Kimberly - not Coleman. Jim and
Kimberly smile at each other.

KIMBERLY
Amen!

JIM

Here here!

Drake smiles as the four of them toast their beers in agreement to the cool jazz as the...

CREDITS ROLL.

