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Belly of the Beast

By James Townsend

As I said, through
our mutual friend in Burma...
...I thought maybe everybody
could be understanding here.
We just want peace.
You guys have the whole of Burma.
Stay there, leave us alone
and tell my friend I said hello.
We respect him.
We're staying out of his face.
We run a really big operation here.
Sometimes things like this,
it happens.
We've been doing business
for a while.
You keep your territory,
we keep ours.
This arrangement works.
Right? War's never good
for business.
Yes, you're right. The last thing
we need is an enemy in the CIA.
Cross!
Help! Help!
Yeah, it's all clear.
Check the front gate?
Done.
- Check the north side?
- Yeah.
Done. It's clear.
- You don't see anything over there?
- I can't see nothing.
I checked it. It's clear.
- Hey, Daddy.
- Hey, baby, everything okay?
Everything's great. How are you?
- Hey, did you get the list I left you?
- Not yet.
I can't believe you.
Well, listen.
Don't forget to feed the fish.
And remember, Maria comes in
on Wednesdays.
And take care of yourself, okay?

- Don't drink too much coffee.

- Don't worry about me.

Hey...

...let me talk to Brice.

Dad, how did you know?

Baby, when are you gonna understand

I know everything?

Listen, Daddy, I love you.

Take care of yourself, okay?

All right. Love you. Bye.

- What?

- Nothing.

Shut up, asshole.

My dad's the best.

- Come on, guys. We've got to go.

- The train leaves in two hours.

All right.

- Let's go.

- Yeah, let's go.

Watch out over there, man.

Yeah. All right. It's not like

it's gonna break or anything.

It's time for you to die.

It's time for you to die.

You're giving me a headache!

- You all right?

- Yep.

Okay.

Hey...

...so why didn't you tell your dad
that I...?

That I was coming with you?

He's... He's protective.

After Mom died...

...I'm all he's got.

All right.

He's a good guy.

Like I hope you will be.

And now for the latest world news.

Officials search for evidence

after a bomb destroyed...

...a police station in Thailand

this morning.

Fourteen military police were killed.

- Gen. Jantapan of Special Forces...
- Come on, it's so boring!
- Music!
...assures the community...
...no stone will remain unturned.
- Music!
Enjoy yourself!
Yeah, that's more like it.
- Oh, my God!
- No!
No! Oh, my God!
Out of the water. Quickly.
- Hey, you can have all our money.
- It's not about the money.
- No!
- Brice!
- Hey, Tom.
- Hey, Jake.
Two days early.
Listen, the agency know
you're still using me?
No. No, this is just between
you and me.
Well, let's keep it that way.
Listen, there's something else.
- We got a tape today.
- What are you talking about?
There's no two ways to put this.
Jessica and the Winthorpe girl
were kidnapped.
You're kidding.
- Does this have to do...?
- No. Absolutely not.
- They don't even know who Jessica is.
- Well, is it money or...?
We don't know anything yet.
Well, is she okay?
She's alive.
The Abu Karaf can no longer
not do anything...
...when our brothers are tortured
and oppressed.
These prisoners of war
will be executed...

...within a week if our demands are not met.

All members of the Abu Karaf must be released with full pardons.

I demand an immediate response!

They got a list of demands as long as your arm.

We have a good relationship with General Jantapan.

He favors direct action and is offering full cooperation.

Gentlemen, I'm sure you understand the sensitivity of the situation.

We have to ensure this stays in the family.

Nothing is released without my express permission.

We must resolve this without harm to the girls or the reputation of the U.S.

We agree fully.

That's why I'm putting Agent Washington in charge.

He's been operating in the area for four years...
...and is more than qualified for the job.

- Leon?

- Thank you, sir.

The first picture you have there is the current head of the Abu Karaf. Name's Mongkol.

Since he took over...
...they've become more hostile towards the government.

The usual stuff.

Ambushing police patrols, small rudimentary bombs.

- Anything like this before?

- Nothing, sir.

- Where's their money from?

- Arms, mainly.

- What about this Hopper guy?

- He's a good man, sir.

It's a damn shame his daughter's

caught up in this.

Tom, didn't you work with him?

I trained under him for two years
in Southeast Asia.

- He's been out for 10 years, though.

- Where is he?

He left Honolulu four hours ago.

Lands in Sangoon at 6 a.m.

Sit on him.

If he starts making waves...

...pick him up, send him home.

- Yes, sir.

That's all.

Thank you.

I got a plane to catch.

Taxi service this way, sir.

Come on. Right here.

Excuse me, excuse me.

This way, please.

- Is this your first time in this town?

- No.

Hey, where you come from?

- Far away.

- Far away will be England, right?

Close enough.

All right. If you need something,
just tell me.

- I'll get it for you, you know.

- Okay.

You know, this town,

I'm telling you.

There is the beautiful girls,
like angels.

We have those younger, sexy girls.

We have a lot of bars here.

Not only, we have a specialty
massage here in this town.

It's very nice here.

I just need you to get me
where I asked you, okay?

Yeah, I'm going this place
that you want to go...

...but I want to give you
information about the town.

If you like to drink some beers...

...we have young girls,

look good, here...

...nice brown, black.

You'll see, you'll love it.

The ride is over.

- How long will you stay?

- A week or two.

- How would you like to pay?

- Cash.

Okay, would you please

sign your name?

Come back, you asshole!

Fuck you!

Open the fucking door!

- Don't go! Fuck you! Fuck you.

- Come back here!

- You know my situation.

- Yes, sir.

It's become an international issue,

and I'm under a lot of pressure.

I understand, sir.

It's my men that are being killed

by the Abu Karaf.

We're working with the CIA

to finalize plans.

Just make sure you don't act

without consulting me.

- We can't afford to upset anyone else.

- Yes, sir.

Don't let this get out of control.

He won't leave me alone.

- What's your problem, junior?

- Asshole, you calling me a junior?

- You look like junior.

- Oh, you think you're tough, huh?

She's paid for, so it ain't

got nothing to do with you.

I work for club, not you.

What you mean, you work

for the club, bitch? You work for me.

Why don't you go back

to your own genetic puddle...

...and go for a swim, boy.

So you think you're tough,
you walking in here, huh?

- You all right?

- Yeah, I'm...

What's going on? Get out of the way.

What's going...?

Jake.

- We've got to talk.

- Let's go have a beer.

My old buddy, Jake Hopper.

So, what's up?

- You here on business or...?

- I got a little problem.

That's not like you, Jake.

Mr. Clean.

No, it's nothing like that.

It's Jessica.

I'm afraid she's been kidnapped.

What do you...?

I mean, where?

Well, they say with the Abu Karaf
up north, but...

...I don't know too many Muslims be
up there, so something's funny.

- What do they want from you?

- I don't think it has to do with me.

Jessica's friend is the daughter
of Senator John Winthorpe...

...and I think maybe that's
what they were after.

- Shit, man. I'm sorry.

- Listen, Fitch...

...I've been out of the game
for 10 years.

I need some goddamn help.

Listen, man, I mean...

I'm not on the inside
anymore, you know?

I've got some contacts.

Yeah, I'll check it out.

They've been giving this government
a serious headache.

- Do the best you can, you hear?

- I'll do whatever it takes, Jake.

- Excuse me. Jake, right?
- Yeah.
- I want to thank you for what you did.
- You're welcome.
- Where are you going?
- Back to the hotel.
- Which hotel?
- Songwat.

Oh. Well, maybe we could
get something to eat.

- Something nice.
- Yeah, but I'm not hungry.

Thanks.

Mom...

...I want you to find Dad.

We're gonna need his help.

I love you, Mom.

Help!

Brother, I haven't forgotten
my English.

- You're looking very good.
- Thank you.
- Must be the haircut.
- And how are your wounds?
- Better.
- And how is your heart?

Healing nicely.

I haven't forgotten that day, Jake.

I'm very, very proud of you.

You stay a full monk
for 10 years...

Really, really wonderful.

Then again, I think you're
the lucky one...

...because your life is simple.

Simple is good.

Simple is very good. I wish I had
simple in my life right now.

Jake, I'd like to think you came all
the way out here to see me...

...but I don't think so.

Is everything all right?

It's Jessica.

She's been kidnapped.

What?

By who?

Well, they're saying the Abu Karaf,
but I don't think so.

- Is there anything I can do?

- Your prayers.

I'm going to go see

Paijan Paitoon.

- How are you?

- Good.

- How was your flight?

- Long. Very long.

You must be exhausted.

Come.

- Have some tea.

- Sure.

We've got a unit of rangers that
can mobilize whenever I say so.

But I need intel, bad.

This is a preliminary report.

It covers what we know of the

Abu Karaf and their known locations.

I don't have the resources

to deal with this for you.

I fully understand, and we'll offer
whatever you need.

I'm very grateful.

Until there are dead bodies,
my priority is the girls.

Of course.

I'm sorry that these animals have
involved such innocent children.

You have to eat something.

I'm not hungry.

You need to eat to keep
your strength.

We have to stay positive.

I know my dad's gonna
do something about this.

He can't help us.

He can't.

You don't know my dad.

For 10 years, I have
pledged my life...

...to atone for my past.
This is my life.
But now going back on this road...
...I have great trepidation.
If you walk this road...
...you may not come back.
I will take with me...
...everything you have taught me.
It is your choice.
Thank you, master.
- What are you doing here?
- I come to bring you food.
- Did Fitch put you up to this?
- No.
He does not even know I'm here.
Okay.
Am I disturbing something?
No, not at all. Come in.
- And she is...?
- Lulu, a good friend of mine.
Hey, thanks for the food.
Okay? I'll call you.
What are you doing here?
I gave back my vows.
I'm here to help you.
You need to leave now.
I've spoken to Master Paitoon.
He understands.
You'll screw up the last 10 years
of what you've done.
I don't want you involved.
Jake, you know I'll do
anything for you.
I owe you my life.
Brother, listen to me.
You don't owe me anything...
...but thank you.
Listen, I may have a lead for you.
A man by the name
of Fernand Zadir, a French Arab.
- Who is he?
- Algeria originally...
...then France.
Been here 15 years.

Started in furniture but moved up to bigger stuff.

Bigger stuff meaning arms.

Yes. And you know who runs most of his business?

- Abu Karaf.

- Exactly.

Let's do it.

That's Fernand Zadir. He's got half the local police in his pocket.

The other half likes eating here too much to bust him.

Who's that girl?

Her name is Lena.

She works for someone rather big.

Well, let's find out how big.

I want to talk to your boss, huh?

Please, sit down.

What can I do for you?

I was wondering if you could pass on a message for me.

- Who to?

- To the Abu Karaf.

What business have you got with them?

Probably none, but some say they had something to do...

...with the kidnapping of my daughter.

- Are you sure?

I'm not sure at all, but I thought we should meet...

...and straighten things out.

Well, that is very unfortunate...

...but I'm afraid I cannot be of any help.

Pass on the message.

- Hey, Fitch. How you doing?

- Jake, how are you?

- All right. How are you doing?

- All right. Lulu, come here.

I'm gonna get you laid if it kills me.

It's not what I had in mind.

What do you got?

I've got a guy coming in

from Singapore...

...says he did business
with the Abu Karaf.

- When's he coming in?

- Says he's busy. Two days.

Okay. Well, listen, did you ever hear
of a guy called Fernand Zadir?

- No.

- You sure?

Sure, man. I can find out.

You do that.

Okay. Yeah, man.

- I will see him to the door.

- Yeah, you do that.

Jake, I need to talk to you.

- About what?

- I can't tell you here.

There's something I need to tell you.

Fitch lied to you about Fernand Zadir.

- How do you know that?

- He does know him.

I have seen him at the club.

- What else?

- Nothing. I have just seen him.

I've only been working there
for three months.

So, what are you doing here?

I have some personal problems
with my daughter.

- How long will you be staying here?

- I really don't know.

Listen, there's something

I want you to do for me.

Bridgeport?

"Sang Kom train yard tomorrow."

Yeah. How you doing? All right?

All right, keep going. Good, good.

All right, I'll see you in a bit.

I gotta check

on this air conditioning.

Yeah.

You did what?

If the boss found out you sent it
by the fucking fax, he'd kill you.

Don't be such a fucking idiot.
Of course I won't be there.
Go by yourself.
Be there at noon.
- I thought I could come with you.
- Okay.
Go home.
- Jake.
- Yeah?
Be careful.
Okay. Somebody up there
about to snipe Mongkol.
If I let him do that, I could lose
the only link to my daughter...
...and I can't let that happen.
If I shoot him...
...a whole world of trouble's
gonna come down on us.
- Yeah.
- Here we go.
Some men were killed today.
You are responsible.
I know who you are.
Okay, so, what would you like me
to do?
Mr. Hopper, you disturbed
an important anti-terror raid.
That's not true, and you know it.
Maybe a few days here
will help you understand.
Our hospitality is famous.
- I think that'd be a big mistake.
- No, Mr. Hopper.
You made a big mistake
by coming here.
Wait. Hold it.
Captain, tell your men
not to do anything stupid.
- Let him go, Jake.
- Leon, Leon.
My daughter's rotting somewhere
in a goddamn hole.
Do you expect me to get
with your program...

...while they're jerking our chains?

- You won't leave alive...

...without me. Do you hear?

- We'll see.

Jake.

He's coming with me.

I'll take full responsibility.

Next time I see you,

I put a bullet in your head.

- Go for it.

- Key.

I'll contact you later.

I'm taking you to the airport.

Leave this to us, Jake.

You look smart. We can do this the hard or easy way. How you want it?

- I hope you're not threatening me.

- You know me better than that.

Listen to me. This is my daughter.

What that means is, anybody

who stands in my way...

...it's gonna be them or me.

- I don't want you in a body bag.

You ain't gonna have to worry about that.

You got something else to say?

I won't be here the next time, Jake.

Help me!

Jessica! Jessica!

No! No!

No! No!

Stop!

- Boss needs her.

- She killed my brother.

Get the body out of here, leave her alone.

Get up!

The time will come.

Jade, I'm home.

Jade?

They killed her roommates, and your hotel is full of police.

This place is safe.

We've gotta find this guy Fernand.

- You think he set up Mongkol?
- No, he'd be screwing himself.
I'll see what I can do.
- I'll meet you back here.
- Thank you, brother.
You need anything?
No.
Is there any chance anybody
saw you go into the office?
No.
It's just... Just Jade.
It was horrible.
- There was blood everywhere.
- I'm sorry.
It's my fault.
She was so strong.
It didn't matter what happened.
She...
She never complained.
And now they're gonna come
for me.
No, you're with me.
You don't have to worry.
You're with me.
You're not always going to be here.
Well, I might not always be here...
...but you can be with me
as long as you want.
Okay?
Don't leave me.
I won't.
I'm sorry, sir.
Leon had Hopper released.
Things like that happen, captain.
Hopper will have his day.
Hold out the apple, captain.
Sir, please, I can explain
what happened.
Closer, captain.
- There was nothing I could do.
- I said, closer.
Closer to your head!
If this happens again,
you will be the apple.

Yes, sir.

Fernand Zadir met with Hopper.

Soon, Fitch will do the same.

Silence them.

Fernand uses this place when his shipments come in from the river.

Sunti, are you in the mood for a dance?

We were too late.

He was all we had.

No, no, no.

I don't think so.

Sooner or later, they'll slip up, and when they do...

...we'll get what we want.

- You think they'll come for you?

- I pray they come...

...because then we'll find out where my daughter is.

No!

No! Don't hurt me!

- Get off me!

- Jess!

This is a final warning. We will execute them within 76 hours...

...if our preliminary demands are not met.

- Where are we going?

- Fitch is all we've got.

- Where are we going?

- Fitch is all we've got.

What...? Is this woman cra...?

Wait here.

Is he gonna offer you a deal?

I don't think so.

Then what does he want?

I don't know and I don't care.

And what brings you to this part of town, Mr. Hopper?

As you know,

I'm here to find my daughter.

And I'm still looking for my money.

I understand that,

but I can't help you.

If I had your daughter,
you wouldn't be here.
I believe you.
This may be a long shot, but who
was that woman at the train yard?
Why should I trust you?
Let me put it this way.
One of the kidnapped girls...
...is the daughter
of Senator John Winthorpe.
You do not want a bunch of these
black-op boys coming in here...
...and tearing up your world.
Her name's Lena.
She works for Bridgeport.
It kind of seems to me
like maybe she's setting you up.
I think you're right.
You know they're gonna
manipulate the CIA...
...into believing you're a threat.
Thank you for saving my life.
Nothing personal.
For me, it's all about the girls.
I'm just here for those girls.
Hey, buddy.
- How you doing?
- Great. How are you?
You know, Fitch, you ain't nothing
but a trailer-park bitch.
I think I figured it out. You lost out
on the heroin out of the north.
It all went to the Chinese
in the triangle.
You lost out on the Abu Karaf
in their arms dealing...
...because, hey, they're Muslims,
and after 9111, well...
So you orchestrate the kidnapping
of two poor little innocent girls.
Then you enlisted
Thai Special Forces and the CIA...
...to crush your business competition,
but you made one big mistake.

You kidnapped my daughter.
You done? Good,
because I just wanna say, Jake...
...you're a fucking dog.
You're gonna die right here...
...and your body's gonna rot
in a hole, just like Jessica's.
I suggest you put your gun down...
...and tell us where his daughter is,
okay?

The general's taking
really good care of her.
What do you think of that?
Great. I like this one.
I want him.
Well, you're not my type, but, hey.
You enjoying this? Good...
...because it's the last thing
you're ever gonna see.
I liked you much better as a bitch.
Are you enjoying it?
Jake, this is between you and him.
Please don't kill him.
Jake, give me a break, huh?
For old times' sake.
I'm just...
You know, I'm really confused.
Didn't you just say I'm a dog
and I'm gonna die in this hole...
...just like my daughter?
Sunti, this is not a good man.
What are we gonna do? It's not like
I can take him home to Mama.
I guess he sealed his own fate.
It came from the president's office
10 minutes ago.
Do you think we're doing
the right thing?
I don't think we have
any options, sir.
What about the girls?
Senator Winthorpe wanted
more time...
...but the boss has made up

his mind.

Hi, Shirley. Get me Leon.

Yep.

Yes, I think it's for the best.

I can have Colonel Rose mobile
in 12 hours.

- Did you find Hopper yet?

- Still nothing, sir.

Listen, Hopper's a joke. A washed-up
old man. I'll take care of him.

Sir, did you know a Fitch McQuoid?

Sure. He's retired, right?

He was found dead in his club
three hours ago.

Stay in touch.

General, my people have decided
to move forward as planned.

I understand.

I'll let my officers know.

You're doing the right thing, Leon.

Be careful.

I'll be fine.

Listen, I've been thinking.

Not that anything would happen...

...but in the rare event
that I don't come back...

...this will be enough to tide
you over for a while.

The phone number of my good friend
Tom Collins is in there. You call him.

All right?

Keep it.

I will be waiting for you
when you get back.

- Time to go.

- All right.

- You got both of those?

- Yep.

- Yeah.

- Leon.

How'd you get this number?

Abu Karaf don't have my daughter.

You know that.

But Jantapan does,

and I think you know that.
Going to get the girls. Thanks.
Wait a minute. Hopper.
Shit.
Clear.
Get us out of here!
Let us out! Please!
Stay here.
You might defeat me...
...but you cannot defeat the magic.
It's okay. It's your father.
You can come out now.
Hey, come here, baby.
What'd you think,
I wasn't gonna come and get you?
Thank you.
Thank you.
- We did it, Jake.
- That we did.
Sunti.
See you next time, Jake.
Move in.
Go, go, go.
Wait, stop. Stop, all right?
Put your men at ease.
Goodbye, brother.