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Get Carter

By David McKenna

INT. UPPER EAST SIDE APARTMENT -EARLY MORNING
A huge, tome-filled bookshelf looms in the b.g. of a large, contemporary Mediterranean-style living room. The large panoramic view shows a beautiful vantage of Central Park below.

ON TRACK :

An ALARM CLOCK BEEPS.

INT. DARK MASTER BEDROOM -DIGITAL CLOCK

It reads six A.M. A man's hand reaches over to stop it.

INT. PLUSH HOME GYMNASIUM

The MAN sprints on the treadmill. The time on it reads

47:

The PHONE RINGS in the b.g. but the Man can't hear it.

INT. SPACIOUS STEAM/SHOWER

He sits on the bench, takes a steam, and shaves.

INT. BEDROOM -DRESSER

A money roll of hundreds. A cell phone. A Rolex Presidente on top of a list of betting codes (i.e. K-41, M-63, etc.), dollar amounts, and random sports cities. The Man systematically puts everything in its proper place and exits the bedroom.

INT. GIANT KITCHEN -LOUD BLENDER

The Man turns it off, pours his protein shake into a glass, and takes a giant sip. A pot and pan holder hovers above the marble island countertop.

2.

HIS POV:

The sports caption on the New York Times reads "THIS WEEKEND --BREEDER'S CUP AT HOLLYWOOD PARK: A PREVIEW" with a picture of a horse winning a race below. The article reads "Sweet Di Eyes Triple Crown."

BACK TO SCENE:

A red light flashes on the MESSAGE RECORDER to his left. He reaches over, pushes a button, and it BEEPS.

MALE (V.O.)

Hey, Jack. It's Frank. Sorry to be calling you so late. It's... Christ, three-forty, six-forty your time.

The despondent male voice quickly comes to tears.

MALE (V.O.)

I'm sorry, Jackie. About everything. But I really need to talk to you. Call me... please. The man hangs up and the RECORDER BEEPS.

TIGHT ON JACK CARTER

Hair slicked back, crisp blue suit, Windsor knot, and a long leather "stand the fuck back" coat. You can't tell if the hard look in his eyes is sudden or permanent. Jack stares at the cordless but doesn't pick it up. Tears of frustration almost formulate, he washes the rest of the shake down the drain, and he exits. END CREDITS.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEAUTIFUL APARTMENT COMPLEX -MORNING

The doorman opens the glass door. Jack's exit exudes power and charisma.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK WEST -SAME TIME

Jack crosses the street illegally in front of a police car. The passenger cop yells at him, they lock eyes, and Jack heads downstairs to the subway.

3.

INT. SUBWAY STATION -CASHIER

Jack spots 25-year-old DEXTER MARTIN in sweats, gold chains, untied high tops, and a NY Giants jacket. The hard, young black man munches an Egg McMuffin.

JACK :

You got an extra subway token on you?
Dexter turns and casually hands one to him.

DEXTER :

Sorry you have to deal with this fucking bullshit, Jack.

JACK :

Just watch the language, huh, Dex?
The two go through the turnstile.
INT. SPEEDING SUBWAY CAR -JACK AND DEX
They sit away from the Wall Street suits and Brooklyn degenerates.

DEXTER :

Eighty-seven grand and he's
blowing me off like some
kindergartner.

JACK'S POV

A 4x6 photo of David Wheeler. In a NYSE trading jacket,
the large 34-year-old drags a cigarette.

BACK TO SCENE:

DEXTER :

Name's Davis Wheeler. Son of
Douglas Wheeler. C.E.O. of -

JACK :

Wheeler Securities. Why didn't
you call me on this right away?

DEXTER :

I thought I could handle him.
Anyway, Sunday he took Dallas, the
Jets and Miami. Ten grand each...
none of 'em cover.

(CONTINUED)

4.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

(astonished)
Miami was in Green Bay.

DEXTER :

I'm telling you! Homeboy doesn't
care. Four Super Bowls, he picks
Buffalo.
The subway comes to a halt at Canal Street.

DEXTER :

You remember him from that one
scam.

JACK :

Refresh my memory.

DEXTER :

He called the 800 number, used his code, K-25, put five grand on the 49ers, lost, and claimed that it wasn't his voice on the recorder.

JACK :

Meaning someone stole his code.
Dexter nods as the subway takes off again.

DEXTER :

You strapped, Jack?
Dexter opens his jacket and shows Jack his gun. Jack stares at him, knowing the kid will be dead in a year.

DEXTER :

He's got the serious heater, man.
Nickel-plated .45 in his briefcase. Motherfuckin' punk, this guy.
Jack palms Dexter's forehead and cracks the back of his head against the subway map. Dexter grabs his head.

DEXTER :

Goddamn, man!

JACK :

I told you to watch your language.
I don't want to hear it.

DEXTER :

I'm sorry, man. Jesus. I just know he's scared, okay? Goddamn.
(CONTINUED)
5.

CONTINUED:

Jack moves to the doors as the subway slows to a stop.

JACK :

You're going to be flooded with action on Sweet Di. Take as much as you can.

DEXTER :

You got it, man. Jesus.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. SUBWAY

The doors slam open. Wall Street exit. A familiar face exits and pauses to spark up a cigarette.

PULL BACK to reveal the 4x6 photo of DAVIS WHEELER. A perfect match. Davis heads up the stairs.

An awaiting Jack surreptitiously follows him.

EXT. WALL STREET -JACK'S POV

Davis heads down the street and enters a small diner just off Maiden and Broadway.

INT. DINER

Clock reads eight A.M. Organized chaos. Waiters with deep NY accents yelling egg orders at the cook without writing anything down. Financial analysts trying to pay for their coffee.

Jack hangs up his coat and looks to the back. Davis sits alone in a two-person booth, engrossed in the Journal.

DAVIS'S POV

He looks up from his paper, sensing something. In his booth, right in front of him, is Jack.

BACK TO SCENE:

DAVIS :

What the fuck?

(CONTINUED)

6.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

It's time to give up on pro ball,

Davis. Doesn't assimilate with

Daddy's portfolio.

Davis meets Jack's gaze for three seconds and knows.

DAVIS :

Dexter, you fucking peasant.

The older WAITER appears and breaks Jack's glare.

JACK :

Do you have egg beaters?

WAITER :

What are you, kiddin' me?

JACK :

A glass of water then. Thank you.

The Waiter looks at Davis and suddenly he's not hungry.

The Waiter shakes his head and tends to his other patrons. Davis pulls out a cigarette.

JACK :

Don't spark up in here. People are trying to enjoy their breakfast.

DAVIS :

What do you want?

JACK :

What do I want? Shut your mouth and listen. That's what I want.

(as Davis is silent)

All you Wall Street schmucks. You analyze numbers 'til you're blue in the face, but when it comes down to betting, a.k.a. thinking with your money, your common sense is as scarce as your ethics.

DAVIS :

And what you do is ethical?

JACK :

If you'd ever hit one you'd think I was ethical.

The Waiter drops off a water. Jack smiles in thanks.

(CONTINUED)

7.

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JACK :

There are two reasons why you

should never bet on team sports. The players aren't interested in the spread and they're not using their money. It's that simple.

DAVIS :

Yes, I grasp the concept.

JACK :

So why are you putting ten grand on Miami when they're playing in Green Bay and it's twenty below zero?

(as Davis says nothing)

I'm sorry that it got this pathetic, but you owe ninety-six thousand -

DAVIS :

I owe eighty-seven!

JACK :

You owe eighty-seven plus a ten percent book fee. I'm letting that 49ers incident slide. But it's time to act intelligent. You've dealt with Dex, he's allowed you to be fiscally irresponsible, it's over.

Davis laughs and gives a condescending shake of the head. Jack punches him hard in the face for this. Blood rushes painfully from Davis's nose. It's so crazy in the diner, however, nobody notices a thing.

JACK:

It's okay. Sssh. You'll be fine.

DAVIS:

(softly whimpering)

You broke my fucking nose!

JACK :

It's okay. Ssshh. You'll still
be able to trade.

Jack practically holds him up in the booth and hands him
napkins. Davis looks ready to faint as Jack whispers.

(CONTINUED)

8.

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JACK :

Rich fathers set spoiled children
up with trusts. They do this for
tax purposes. Where do we go to
get it?

Davis looks down to his engraved "DW" briefcase. Jack
kicks it across the floor. Patrons look over as Jack
turns to ice.

JACK :

Don't be a loser, Davis.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIFTH AVENUE -AFTERNOON

A taxi weaves through traffic.

INT. CAB -JACK'S POV

The same briefcase now contains \$96,000 and a nickel-
plated .45. Jack flips through to make sure it's all
there and shuts it. Outside, NYC. Freakshow central.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK EAST -STEADY ON JACK

Briefcase in hand, he exits the cab and heads for his
complex. He nods at the doorman as he opens the door.

INT. LOBBY -JACK'S POV

TWO DETECTIVES are there to meet him with their badges.

ANOTHER ANGLE:

DETECTIVE #1

Mr. Carter? I'm Detective Carr,
this is Detective Feinberg.

N.Y.P.D.

JACK :

(a nervous nod)

What can I do for you?

DETECTIVE #2

Do you have a brother named Frank
back in Los Angeles, Mr. Carter?

(CONTINUED)

9.

CONTINUED:

Jack hesitates and nods. The two Detectives just stare
at him. Jack is quickly filled with regret and sadness.

DETECTIVE #1

I'm sorry, Mr. Carter.

JACK :

How did it happen?

DETECTIVE #1

L.A.P.D.'s calling it a
carjacking.

JACK :

Gunshot wound?

DETECTIVE #2

Yes, sir. One casing. .357

Magnum.

Jack doesn't know how to feel. Detective #2 suspiciously
looks at his briefcase.

JACK :

Well... thank you very much. For
notifying me.

DETECTIVE #1

You're welcome, sir.

Jack nods and heads for the elevator.

INT. ELEVATOR -TIGHT ON JACK

As he moves up the elevator, this news hits him harder.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. APARTMENT -AFTERNOON

In his boxer shorts, Jack sits before the windows and a
half-bottle of Maker's Mark. An entertainment center
lies on the floor next to him in shambles. A 53-inch TV
destroyed. A four-deck stereo. The only things remotely
intact on the floor are his CDs and a framed photo.

TIGHT ON OLD PHOTO

A happy couple with their baby daughter. The man
resembles Jack. He stares at it.

(CONTINUED)

10.

CONTINUED:

Blood leaks from his arm, obviously from the destruction. Jack finishes his snifter and arrives at a decision. He rises and coolly heads back into the master.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM -LARGE BLACK SAFE

Jack soberly turns the combo and opens it.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. AMTRAK STATION -LATE NIGHT

Cars pass a bridge at blinding speed.

INT. TRAIN CABIN -DINNER TRAY

Remnants of a garden salad. PAN TO the hanging bag.

TWO HANDGUNS AND HOLSTERS

Jack snaps a clip into a Browning .45. Double action.

SIGHTING POV :

A forceful PAN ACROSS the window.

BACK TO SCENE:

He slips the .45 into a holster and back into the hanging bag. He repeats the process with a Heckler and Koch P-7 9mm. He then unzips a large pocket to reveal a

disassembled:

Mossberg .12 gauge shotgun. Jack takes a casual sip of Evian, snaps the barrel into the rifle stock, and pumps -

CUT TO:

INT. TRAIN BAR -LATE NIGHT

Jack greets the bartender with a nod.

JACK :

Maker's Mark neat.

The barkeep grabs a shot glass.

(CONTINUED)

11.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

In a snifter.

Barkeep gives him a look and Jack's there to meet it.

JACK :

Please. Thank you.

Jack checks his quiet surroundings and takes a sip.

CUT TO:

INT. TRAIN BATHROOM -EARLY MORNING

Jack stops shaving and concentrates on his reflection, still saddened by the news.

INT. TRAIN DINING CAR -LATER

In preppy-casual, he reads the Wall Street Journal and sips orange juice. Outside, whizzing by, is a sun-scorched prairie.

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TRAIN CABIN 3C -NIGHT

Jack's furrowed reflection comes INTO VIEW as he talks on his cell phone. He shuts it off then shuts his eyes.

On the track --A loud TRAIN HORN.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. TRAIN CABIN -DAY

Jack opens his eyes to the palm-tree-lined landscape of downtown Los Angeles.

EXT. DOWNTOWN TRAIN STATION -LATER

Jack exits the train, hanging bag now open lengthwise and draped over his shoulder.

INT. DOWNTOWN TRAIN STATION -CONTINUOUS ACTION

Jack speaks into his cell phone receiver.

(CONTINUED)

12.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

Gloria? Are you okay? No, don't get in the car. I'll grab a cab.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHOTS OF LOS ANGELES -LATE AFTERNOON

Koreatown. Griffith Observatory. The Hollywood Hills. Mexican take-out and 7-Elevens.

EXT. 101 FREEWAY NORTH -ORANGE TAXICAB

It crawls through Friday traffic.

INT. TAXI -TIGHT ON JACK

Dry and relaxed.

WIDER:

The foreign driver sweats like Nixon.

JACK :

I hate this dirty town.

CUT TO:

EXT. VALLEY SUBURB TWO-STORY HOUSE -LATER

Jack graciously tips the cabbie and takes stock of the rundown house. He checks up and down the street. After a long and reflective moment -

VOICE (O.S.)

I took a Valium and it literally knocked me out.

Jack turns to GLORIA CARTER, Frank's widow, standing in the doorwell. Mid-forties and still beautiful, the last few years have taken their toll.

GLORIA :

I'm sorry.

JACK :

Don't apologize to me, Gloria.

Jack smiles before he gives her a passionate hug.

13.

INT. SMALL THREE-BEDROOM -JACK'S POV

They enter.

GLORIA:

knows it's untidy but can't help it.

Fifteen year-old DOREEN CARTER, an attractive blonde with a sad expression, locks eyes with Jack as she scoops laundry out of the dryer.

GLORIA :

Doreen? You remember your Uncle

Jack.

Doreen gives a long and almost unforgiving stare.

JACK :

Hello, Doreen.

She nods, finishes scooping her laundry into the basket and disappears into her bedroom. Gloria can only offer a "what did you expect?" shrug to Jack.

GLORIA :

You can put your bag in the office if you like.

JACK :

Thank you.

Jack watches her disappear into the kitchen and he heads toward the back office.

INT. OFFICE -JACK'S POV

A desk, a file cabinet, a sofa-hide-a-bed.

JACK :

opens the closet and hangs his bag.

GLORIA (O.S.)

If you need to shower, use the one upstairs! Downstairs is clogged!

A CAR HONK ECHOES O.S. Jack moves to the door well.

He watches Doreen exit the front door with a duffle bag.
14.

INT. DIRTY KITCHEN -JACK'S WINDOW POV

Gloria watches Doreen leave with a pretty mulatto girl. Gloria braces herself at the counter, her back to -

JACK:

He puts his hand on her shoulder and she loses it.

JACK :

Come on, Gloria. Everything's-

GLORIA :

--gonna be okay!? I've been cheated.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DRIVEWAY -DUSK

Jack opens the garage to reveal a covered car on the left side. Gloria appears from behind him, composed.

GLORIA :

Take her out for a spin. It's
half yours, right?

JACK :

It was a gift.

GLORIA :

That you gave him.

Gloria smiles and starts to remove the cover.

JACK :

Any word on the Mustang?

GLORIA :

Not a one.

A black 1961 Oldsmobile convertible is revealed.

JACK :

He certainly loved his oldies.

GLORIA :

Yeah, and he just put CD players
on both of them.

(opening trunk)

Right back there. I'm sure you'll
want to change 'em up.

(CONTINUED)

15.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

What? Nothing but 'Jimmy' in
there?

GLORIA :

You might find some Sinatra.

The two just stare at each other and smile, reflectively.

JACK :

Would you like to join me for
something to eat?

GLORIA :

No. I'll see you when you get
back.

Jack watches her head back up the path to the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. VENTURA BLVD. -MOVING -TWILIGHT

The Olds moves to JIMI HENDRIX'S "Hey Joe." Jack checks
out Jerry's Deli, the Galleria, and Bob's Classy Lady.

INT. SUSHI BAR -NIGHT

Jack sits alone in the corner. He looks at all the
couples having fun and takes another bite of sashimi.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GLORIA'S HOUSE -NIGHT

Jack finds the house still messy. He walks upstairs.

INT. GLORIA'S BEDROOM -DOORWELL

Jack observes Gloria sleep and gently closes the door.

INT. GLORIA'S LIVING ROOM -JACK'S POV

A large framed picture. It is the same from Jack's
penthouse. Gloria, Frank, and Doreen. All smiling.

PANNING the desk below are several more of the family.

16.

TIGHT ON TWO BOYS -IN SWIMSUITS

Jack and Frank stand with fishing poles, smiling next to
a light pole.

SLOW DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GLORIA'S LIVING ROOM -MORNING

The place is now spotless.

INT. OFFICE -JACK

Dressed in a white shirt and black monochrome tie, he
removes the shotgun from his hanging bag and casually
places it inside the hide-a-bed sofa frame.

EXT. TRASHY BACK YARD -TIGHT ON JACK

He sits at the patio table, sips an orange juice and
checks the LA Times Sports section: "Breeder's Cup"
coverage at Hollywood Park with a caption: "Today's
Favorite, Sweet Di."

GLORIA (O.S.)

Thanks for straightening up, Jack.

QUICKLY TO Gloria. She's showered and pretty but still
in a robe. Jack smiles in a "what else" fashion.

GLORIA :

It's just what I needed.

JACK :

You're welcome.

GLORIA :

Did you go somewhere this morning?

JACK :

Went for a run. Saw the old neighborhood.

GLORIA :

(sarcastically)

That must have been pleasant.

Jack smiles and moves into the clean, formica -
17.

INT. KITCHEN

JACK :

Will Doreen be at the funeral?

GLORIA :

I don't know what's going on with her right now, Jack. She doesn't listen to any of my questions so... I don't have any answers.

JACK :

Well, she's just a kid. You should...

GLORIA :

Hey. You're in no position to give me shit about my daughter. You got that?

Jack offers an apologetic nod. Just then --the PHONE RINGS. She breaks from her anger to answer it.

GLORIA :

Hello? Yes? Unhuh. Hold on.
(covering receiver)
They found the Mustang.

CUT TO:

INT. JUNKYARD OFFICE -MORNING

From a La-Z Boy chair, a grizzled old OPERATOR watches ESPN "College Gameday" on the tube. A DOG BARK interrupts and he sees the '61 Olds roll into the gravel driveway.

INT. OLDSMOBILE -GLORIA

In her black funeral dress and hat, she watches Jack and the Operator cross the junkyard.

EXT. JUNKYARD -STEADY ON JACK

He walks with the Operator and Bronson, the lot's protective Rottweiler.

JACK :

Anything inventoried from the car?

OPERATOR :

Nothin'. Stripped clean. Okay, this is it right here.

(CONTINUED)

18.

CONTINUED:

They arrive at the skeleton of his brother's car.

JACK :

This was a 1966 Mustang.

OPERATOR :

Yeah, well, it's not anymore.

Jack gets in the car and BRONSON begins the BARK.

OPERATOR :

Goddammit, Bronson! Quiet!

Jack carefully looks through the car. No stereo, no dash, no seats. Even the steering wheel is gone.

JACK :

What kind of re-sale is there for classic car parts?

OPERATOR :

It ain't lucrative, if that's what you're asking.

JACK :

It's worth more if it's in one piece.

OPERATOR :

Much more.

It dawns on Jack to check the car's license plate: still there. He then pops the trunk and sees that the disc player is still mounted in the corner.

JACK :

Were you saving the CD player for yourself?

OPERATOR :

No, sir. Didn't even check the trunk. But I'll take it if you don't want it.

Jack looks at the man, slams the trunk down and looks back to Gloria in the Olds. He seems bothered.

CUT TO:

INT. OLDSMOBILE -MOVING

Jack glances over towards Gloria in the passenger seat.

(CONTINUED)

19.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

Can I ask you a personal question?

(as Gloria nods)

Were you two having any marital problems?

GLORIA :

Nothing more than usual.

JACK :

What about Doreen?

(as Gloria looks confused)

Has she been acting... any different?

Gloria just shakes her head.

GLORIA :

She's upset over the death of her father. Why do you ask?

JACK :

Well, Frank and I haven't spoken for 15 years. But just before he was killed, he left me a message. Apologizing.

Gloria looks to Jack, shakes her head and pushes in the lighter. She nervously pulls a cigarette from her purse.

GLORIA :

Goddamn you, Frank.

JACK :

I was doing some thinking. How about you and Doreen take a little vacation? St. John Island in the Caribbean is beautiful this time of year. Get away, just the two of you, eat lobster, snorkel... on me, of course.

She lights the cigarette, exhales, and stares at Jack.

GLORIA :

This is our home.

CUT TO:

EXT. WINNETKA BLVD. -LEGION FUNERAL HOME

The Oldsmobile parks amongst the other cars. Jack and Gloria exit and pass a hearse. News cameras film them as they walk through the doors.

20.

INT. FUNERAL HOME -GATHERING

An undertaker, assistants, and pallbearers. One of them, a tearful EDDIE, an old Irish boozier, hugs Gloria.

EDDIE :

I'm sorry.

Gloria nods as others offer condolences to her, not even recognizing Jack. Finally, a double-take from Eddie.

EDDIE :

Holy Mother of -

JACK :

How are you holding up, Ed?

EDDIE :

Not too good, Jack. Good to see you though. He'd be glad to know you made it out.

Jack pats Eddie on the back and moves to the open casket. It suddenly hits Jack like a wave: the sight of his dead brother. He gently touches his brother's cold face, noticing a bandage patch on the side of his head.

CUT TO:

EXT. FUNERAL HOME -MINUTES LATER

Gloria exits and heads for the limo. Eddie and Jack stop for some fresh air.

EDDIE :

I couldn't believe it when I heard. Good standin' family man, calm as Gentle Jesus, he was a good lad. And these bloody gangbangers, they take it all with a senseless, random act!

AJIT (O.S.)

Yes, well, welcome to America.

Jack turns to face AJIT, 19, a 115-pound busboy with a heavy New Delhi accent.

EDDIE :

This here's Ajit, one of our busboys. He was the last one to see Frank that night.

(CONTINUED)

21.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

Did you see him leave?

AJIT :

No, I left first. My Uncle Rakesh lives just two blocks away.

JACK :

So Frank managed the Half Moon?

(Eddie nods)

Who owns it?

EDDIE :

A gentleman named Cliff Brumby.

Jack nods. Something up the street grabs his attention.

EXT. STREET -TWO PAIR OF SKINNY LEGS

They make their towards the funeral home.

It's DOREEN. She walks with MICHELLE, her Mulatto friend from earlier. Jack approaches both of them and smiles.

JACK :

Hello. I'm Jack.

Jack extends his hand and she shakes it.

MICHELLE :

Michelle.

JACK :

Nice to meet you, Michelle. Do you mind if I speak with Doreen alone for a moment?

Michelle shakes her head and heads for the funeral home.

Jack stares down at Doreen.

JACK :

Is there anything I can do for you?

(as Doreen shakes her head)

I know it's not my place... but your mother needs you right now, Doreen. She loves you very much and I don't think either of you should have to go through this alone.

(CONTINUED)

22.

CONTINUED:

DOREEN :

She's not alone. She has her
Valium.

She meets his hard gaze and walks over to Michelle.

CUT TO:

EXT. ST. MELS CHURCH -DAY

The procession of cars crawls through wrought-iron gates.

EXT. ST. MELS CHURCH -HEARSE

Pallbearers carry the coffin up the stairs. Jack, Gloria
and Doreen walk somberly aside. Jack turns his face away
from the news crew filming them.

A BELL TOLLS.

PRIEST (V.O.)

Please stand.

INT. CHAPEL -SMALL GATHERING

Jack sits with Gloria in the front row. Doreen and
Michelle are right behind.

PRIEST :

As it hath pleased almighty God of
his great mercy to take unto
himself the soul of our dear
brother here departed...

As the eulogy continues, Jack's gaze wanders over the
crowd. He stops on a hard-looking black man in his late
40s, CLIFF BRUMBY. Ex-boxer handsome, he sits with a
young, beautiful blonde wife. Jack whispers something to
Gloria, she looks over and turns back.

GLORIA :

Cliff Brumby and his wife Susan.

JACK :

Cliff owns the Half Moon.

Gloria nods and refocuses back to the PRIEST.

23.

JACK'S POV

He looks BACK over the head of Doreen. Back by the door,
in a black Prada dress and hat, a beautiful and EXOTIC

WOMAN stares at them.

Doreen makes quick eye contact with the Woman and turns back.

JACK:

looks at Doreen, off-kiltered.

JACK :

Do you know that woman back there?

Doreen shakes her head. Jack turns back to the Priest.

PRIEST :

... according to the mighty
working --whereby he is able to
subdue --all things to himself.

Jack looks back again and she's gone. Jack rises.

JACK :

Excuse me.

GLORIA :

(whispering)

What are you doing?

JACK :

I'll be right back.

STEADY ON JACK:

He walks towards the back of the procession, the Priest
ECHOING behind him.

EXT. CHAPEL

The DOOR SLAMS open. Jack walks outside and the Woman is
gone. Then --a 1996 silver Porsche Boxster whips out of
the parking lot.

PAN QUICKLY down the street. As he watches the woman
disappear, he spots two suspicious MEN sitting in a
parked black sedan. Jack stares at them, turns, and
casually heads in the opposite direction.

INT. PARKED BLACK SEDAN -TWO MEN'S POV

Jack turns and heads away from them, up the street.

24.

ANOTHER ANGLE:

DRIVER :

Okay. There he is. Ready?

PASSENGER :

Like a boiled ham.

The two exit the sedan with purpose.

STEADY WITH THEIR POV

Jack turns a corner.

ANOTHER ANGLE:

The Passenger breaks ahead and hurries around the corner.

The Driver hesitates but then follows after him.

DRIVER'S POV

He turns the corner two seconds later, only to find the Passenger pinned to the ground.

ANOTHER ANGLE:

Jack confidently points the Passenger's own gun in defense.

JACK :

It's a dangerous game you two are playing.

DRIVER :

Mr. Carter? We're police officers! Just hold on. I'm going to reach down and slowly produce my badge.

The man ever so slightly flashes his gold shield. Jack rolls his eyes, apologetically.

JACK :

Christ. I'm sorry, Detective. My mistake.

Jack picks up Passenger and gives him back his piece. Passenger flings Jack against the wall and frisks him.

PASSENGER :

I'll show you 'mistake.' How does a night in county sound, asshole?

(CONTINUED)

25.

CONTINUED:

DRIVER :

Rest easy, John.

PASSENGER :

Fuck easy!

Passenger turns to his partner, seething. Jack's clean.

DRIVER :

Mr. Carter, I'm Detective Scott
Simpkins, L.A.P.D. That's my
partner, Detective John Voorhees.

JACK :

Do you have any suspects?

SIMPKINS (DRIVER)

Suspects?

JACK :

As to who killed my brother.

SIMPKINS :

Yes, well, gang-related
carjackings have been real common
in this area lately. Thank God
they love to shoot their mouths
off. We'll get them.

JACK :

A single shot to the head sounds
more like a hit, not some kid
spraying an Uzi.

SIMPKINS :

Two witnesses saw two men in ski
masks, Mr. Carter. One assailant,
one driver.

VOORHEES (PASSENGER)

It's a familiar M.O.

Voorhees looks over to his partner.

SIMPKINS :

Gray Volvo. Nothing on the

plates.

(after a long beat)

Are you going to be in L.A. long,
Mr. Carter?

JACK :

Until tomorrow, probably.

(CONTINUED)

26.

CONTINUED:

SIMPKINS :

And then it's back off to New
York?

JACK :

Excuse me?

Simpkins hesitates before he offers a "nothing" shake of
the head. The two men lock eyes and disappear.

CUT TO:

EXT. HALF MOON BAR AND GRILL -ESTABLISHING

A chrome and glass 12-story building on Ventura Blvd.
The restaurant occupies the ground floor.

INT. HALF MOON BAR AND GRILL -JACK'S POV -LATER

Only a few scattered mourners remain at the reception.
They eat, drink and quietly converse. Jack scans the
walls while he eats with Eddie at a table.

Black and white framed 8X10 photographs are everywhere.
Patrons, partiers and staff. Frank with Sally Field.
Cliff Brumby and wife with a few Ivy League bachelors.
Brumby and Frank with Dennis Rodman.

ACROSS ROOM:

Doreen fends off Gloria.

GLORIA :

It's not right for you to be going
out of town. We need to deal with
this as a family. Uncle Jack's
here -

DOREEN :

Uncle Jack? You know, just forget it.

A frustrated Doreen goes to get another Coke.

CUT QUICKLY TO:

JACK AND EDDIE :

Ajit sits with his plate of food. Jack looks to the presence of security cameras.

(CONTINUED)

27.

CONTINUED:

He takes note of three cameras over the bar.

EDDIE:

They gotta do something with this area. Last five years it's turned into a damn cesspool. This morning, my building had fresh graffiti on it. These animals are everywhere.

JACK:

Those animals didn't have anything to do with it, Eddie.

Doreen joins Jack, Eddie and Ajit with her Coke.

JACK:

Wasn't even a robbery. It was a hit.

EDDIE :

They took his wallet, Jack.

JACK:

They took his wallet to make it look like a robbery.

EDDIE :

They stripped the car.

JACK:

Yes, and left behind a \$600 CD

player. It's a 1966 Mustang, Eddie. A classic. Robbers slash gangbangers would've taken it straight to a chop shop where they'd sand off any identifiable marks and serial numbers. They'd take an air gun, blow the original paint off, give it a new color, new papers, new plates, take it out of state. Maybe Arizona or Texas, and sell it for forty grand. The last thing they'd do is strip it.

(after a long beat)

Someone wanted to make it look like a robbery but didn't know how.

AJIT :

Why would they do that?

(CONTINUED)

28.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

To hide the fact that it was personal.

Everyone looks at Jack, dumbfounded.

EDDIE :

Who'd want to murder Frank? He was a good lad.

Doreen jumps up and throws her Coke in Eddie's face.

DOREEN :

How the hell would you know?!

The entire proceeding stops while Doreen stares at Eddie.

Gloria quickly makes her way over to regain control.

Doreen looks to Jack.

DOREEN :

Or you?! None of you knew! He was my dad! I knew!

Doreen storms out, leaving everyone stunned. Gloria gives a pleading look to Jack. Jack goes after her.

EXT. HALF MOON PARKING LOT -TIGHT ON DOREEN

She cries as she moves between the cars.

JACK :

Doreen, I'm sorry! It wasn't the time nor the place! Doreen!

(turning her around)

It was stupid and I'm sorry.

DOREEN :

I need a ride.

CUT TO:

INT. OLDSMOBILE -MOVING

Jack and Doreen drive down the upscale, tree-lined street. Jack makes a feeble attempt at small talk.

JACK :

So... how's school?

DOREEN :

I haven't been. I've been sick.

(CONTINUED)

29.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

What've you been doing then?

DOREEN :

Working, I guess. Make a left here.

JACK :

You've been too sick for school but you're okay to work?

(as Doreen nods, almost defiantly)

Where do you work?

DOREEN :

Baskin Robbins.

JACK :

Thirty-one flavors?

(as Doreen nods)

That sounds important. Knowing which flavor is which and all that.

Doreen looks over and finally breaks into a half-smile.

JACK :

What do you say we go out to dinner tonight, Doreen? Anywhere you want, my treat.

DOREEN :

I can't. I've got plans.

JACK :

Tonight you've got plans?

DOREEN :

Will you do me a favor? Will you please stop talking to me like you're my father? Please?
Jack takes a moment before he nods.

JACK :

I'm sorry. That's the last thing I wanted to do, Doreen.

DOREEN :

It's up there on the right.
Jack pulls up to a large Tudor-style house tucked inside the surrounding gate.

(CONTINUED)

30.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

Nice. Who lives here?

DOREEN :

Thanks for the ride.

Doreen exits, rings inside and the GATE BUZZES. She stares back at Jack and heads inside. Jack exits.

CUT TO:

INT. HALF MOON BAR AND GRILL

Jack enters. No one from the funeral remaining. Eddie, now behind the bar, gets change from the register. Ajit spots Jack and informs Eddie. Eddie makes his way over.

EDDIE :

Mr. Brumby's upstairs, Jack.

Wants to speak with you. Come on.

INT. GRANITE LOBBY -CONTINUOUS ACTION

Eddie leads Jack into the elevator.

EDDIE :

Gloria wanted me to tell you that she took a ride home with Mrs. Brumby.

INT. POLISHED WOOD ELEVATOR -SAME TIME

Jack stares at the floor lights. Penthouse is lit.

INT. MARBLE HALLWAY -STEADY ON JACK

He follows Eddie towards a door.

INT. BEAUTIFUL OFFICE -JACK'S POV

Expensive works of art. Behind a vast desk, Cliff Brumby talks on the phone and motions for Jack to wait.

BRUMBY:

(into the receiver)

Yes, I know it's Saturday.

Tomorrow's Sunday. Obviously I don't give a damn because I'm here. Fine.

(CONTINUED)

31.

CONTINUED:

EDDIE:

(softly to Jack)

Come back down and I'll pull you a Guinness. On the house.

BRUMBY :

(covering the receiver)

My ass 'on the house!'

Eddie laughs and hastily exits. Brumby smiles, hangs up and greets Jack.

BRUMBY :

I didn't know who the hell you were, Jack, I'm sorry. My goddamn wife had to tell me.

JACK :

How were you supposed to know?

BRUMBY :

You're his brother. I should've went out of my way to find out. Have a seat.

(as Jack sits)

I want to express my deepest sympathies, Jack. Frank was a great employee and an even better friend.

Brumby looks Jack straight in the eye and gets emotional.

JACK :

That's good to know. Thank you.

BRUMBY :

I know you two had a falling out way the hell back when, but if it makes any difference... I know he hoped you two could someday, you know...

JACK :

Be brothers again?

(off Brumby's nod)

Me too.

BRUMBY :

Only he didn't think your ass was interested.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK :

I'm afraid that couldn't be further from the truth. We were just... really stupid. I was stupid.

Brumby waits for a reason why. There isn't one.

JACK :

Are you involved with the day-to-day operations of the restaurant at all, Mr. Brumby?

BRUMBY :

No, that was all Frank. A great restaurant man, your brother. Great with staff, the books -

JACK :

Were there any flaws in his running the show?

Brumby stares:

BRUMBY :

I don't know. He was too generous, I guess. Wouldn't fire bartenders for overpourin'.

(smiling)

Especially that I.R.A. bastard.

Brumby laughs while Jack forces a smile.

JACK :

Is that why you had those security cameras installed over the bar?

BRUMBY:

(nodding)

Mostly just to scare them.

Cheaper than computers, believe it or not. Can't be havin' that shit

and turn a respectable profit.
Jack nods. Then, an uncomfortable silence. Finally -
Brumby's PHONE RINGS.

BRUMBY :

Anyways, I just wanted to say that
I'm sorry, Jack. And if you or
Gloria or Doreen need anything...
you name it.

(CONTINUED)

33.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

Well, I appreciate it, Mr. Brumby.
Thank you.
Brumby answers it. Jack stares at him and exits.

CUT TO:

INT. HALF MOON BAR -TIGHT ON GUINNESS
Eddie hands the pint of beer to Jack.

WIDER:

Jack looks at a security camera above the bar.

JACK :

You think one of your cameras
might've picked anything up?

EDDIE :

I don't know. I guess I can
check.

JACK :

The police haven't yet?
Eddie shakes his head. Jack thinks to himself.

EDDIE :

It might take me a few hours.

JACK :

That's fine. I can be reached at
this number anytime.

Jack writes his cell phone number on a napkin and leaves it on the bar. Ajit crosses past with clean glasses.

JACK :

How often you work here, kid?

EDDIE :

Ajit's here seven days a week.

JACK :

Impressive. Frank must've taken fairly good care of you.

Ajit smiles admirably and stacks the glasses.

34.

TIGHT ON JACK:

He sips his Guinness and pans the wall behind the bar.

He stops and rises to get a better look.

TIGHT ON BLACK AND WHITE 8X10 FRAMED PICTURE

The photo shows Eddie pouring four shots. Three women hang all over him. The one on the far left, smiling, is the exotic woman in black Prada from the funeral.

JACK:

gets up from his stool, slowly walks behind the bar, and shoots a look to Eddie.

EDDIE :

Oh, yes. Geraldine, my sweet.

The porno freaks love it here.

They act like big shots but sure as hell don't tip like it.

JACK :

'Porno freaks?' What was she doing at the funeral?

EDDIE :

Christ. Geraldine loved Frank more than anyone.

Jack gives Eddie a look of death.

JACK :

He was married, Ed.

EDDIE :

I know, Jack.

JACK :

Do you know where I might find her?

EDDIE :

Today? Oh yeah. The track, Jack.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOLLYWOOD PARK RACETRACK

Jack enters. Trainers parade regal-looking horses. Colored flags blow above the mayhem of fans. Jack picks up a Racing Form, ignores all the old men trying to push their picks, and heads inside.

35.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS LOBBY -ROPED-OFF ELEVATOR

People in suits plead and argue to get up to the Turf Club. An older, shabbily-dressed couple in particular.

BOUNCER :

I don't care if you own two fillies! You're not getting up without a tie!

Jack manages to grab the Bouncer's attention.

JACK :

Last name's Thorpe. Or Thorpey. The man looks at his clipboard and shakes his head.

BOUNCER :

Would it be under another name?

JACK :

Yes. How about Franklin?

BOUNCER :

First name?

JACK :

Benjamin. The man looks up from his list and smiles.

BOUNCER :

Yeah, sure. I know Ben.

Jack shakes the man's hand, discretely slips him a hundred, and gets on the elevator. Everyone in line stares at Jack as the elevator doors close on him.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. UPSTAIRS TURF CLUB

The DOORS SLAM open. Beautiful women in hats. Jack makes his way through the crowd and spots ROSE, a decked-out old lady in a wheelchair. She watches the screen with her pen and pad.

JACK :

So who looks good?

She doesn't even bother turning around.

ROSE :

Who the hell do you think!? Sweet

Di.

(CONTINUED)

36.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

Afraid I'm gonna have to miss that train, Rose.

The raspy woman quickly looks back and smiles.

ROSE :

Jesus Christ! Jack! Where the hell have you been?

Jack kisses her on the cheek.

JACK :

New York, Las Vegas... it's good to see you.

ROSE :

Awww, Jack, don't get into that crap right now. Race starts in seven minutes. Make your case.

Jack refers to all the media coverage of Sweet Di.

JACK :

Just open the newspaper, Rose.
Her people have piled so much
pressure on her to match Affirm,
she doesn't know what's going on.
And you can tell she knows that
it's something big from her last
three races.

ROSE :

Oh, Jesus Christ! Give me a
break!

JACK :

Look at her final quarters, Rose.
They've deteriorated steadily the
last six weeks. Horses react to
pressure the same way humans do.
More often than not, they choke.
Rose shakes her head, waves him off and looks at her pad.

JACK :

Institutionalized. She's
reckless.
She ignores. Jack shakes his head, smiles, and exits.
INT. BETTING AREA -JACK'S POV
TIGHT ON three-horse odds. Seventeen to one.
37.

JACK:

steps up to the CLERK behind the "\$50 Minimum" counter,
sets his beer and Racing Form down, and pulls out his
money roll of hundreds. Circled on his Racing Form is
the number three horse, Institutionalized.

JACK :

Fifty win tickets on the three
horse, please.
She looks him in the eye, almost like he's joking. She
then sees the wad of hundreds.

CLERK :

Twenty-five hundred.

He counts out the hundy's like a bank teller. She enters it into the computer as Jack scans the crowd. Tickets pop out for a good fifteen seconds.

CLERK :

Good luck, sir.

JACK :

Thank you.

After the exchange, Jack stares at the tickets. Then -
JACK'S POV

He SPOTS a BLEACH BLONDE in revealing attire escort a Chinese businessman through the gulley.

BACK TO SCENE:

He thinks to himself and follows.

INT./EXT. GRANDSTANDS -BOX OF SEATS -JACK'S DISTANT POV
Jack SCANS the crowd and STOPS on five well-dressed people, all drinking champagne. The Bleach Blonde and Chinese businessman join CYRUS SHERMAN, late 30s, gray suit and red tie. Wraparound sunglasses mask otherwise hungry features.

Jack then spots GERALDINE, the exotic woman dressed in the same black Prada outfit from earlier, minus the hat. She flirts with a giant LIMO DRIVER/bodyguard.

A TRUMPET sounds. An Australian voice over the P.A. welcomes the crowd to the Breeder's Cup and gives the horse listings.

38.

INT. EXCLUSIVE SKYBOX -HIGH ABOVE EVERYONE

A pair of Nikon binoculars angle down.

BINOCULAR POV:

They FOCUS ON Jack as he finishes his beer and makes his way over towards Geraldine.

EXT. GRANDSTANDS -SAME TIME

Geraldine gets affectionate with BIG MIKE the driver while Cyrus, the Chinese Businessman, and the Bleach Blonde compare horse picks.

JACK (O.S.)

Lose your hat?

She turns from Big Mike and stares at Jack, surprised.

GERALDINE (EXOTIC WOMAN)

It's back in the car.

JACK :

The Porsche?

She grins, knowingly. He's been following her. Cyrus hits his clove and approaches Jack.

CYRUS :

Can I help you with something, sir?

Jack shakes his head and addresses Geraldine again.

JACK :

So how'd you know my brother?

CYRUS :

Wait, I'm sorry. Maybe I need to re-phrase my question. Who the fuck are you and what do you want?

GERALDINE :

He's Jack, Cyrus. His brother is Frank... from the Half Moon.

CYRUS :

Oh shit. I'm sorry, Jack, I had no idea, man.

Geraldine. An I'm Cyrus. This is d Big Mike.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

39.

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (CONT'D)

(as Jack offers a nod)

We've known Frank for years.

Couldn't fuckin' believe it, man.

Would you like to join us? Oh shit.

(before he can answer)

Excuse me for just one second.

Cyrus stops the Chinese businessman from paying the waiter for more champagne. Cyrus pays instead.

Geraldine looks at Jack.

GERALDINE :

I knew your brother from the bar.
But that's where it stopped, just
in case you were wondering.

JACK :

I was. What do you do, Geraldine?

CYRUS (O.S.)

She does everything.

Cyrus laughs and sips his drink. Geraldine looks pissed.

JACK :

Does that entitle her to stock
options and a pension plan?

CYRUS :

It sure does. What do you do,
Jack?

The six-eight, 300-pound Big Mike, stares at Jack.

BIG MIKE (LIMO DRIVER)

Let me know if there's a problem
here, Cy.

Jack meets Big Mike's cold stare.

CYRUS :

No, no, it's okay, Mike.

JACK :

No, it looks like I better get
back to my seat. Nice to meet you
all.

Jack stares at Cyrus, but his sunglasses are too big a
shield. Jack reaches for them and Cyrus, with a powerful
sweep of the arm, grabs Jack's wrist.

(CONTINUED)

40.

CONTINUED:

CYRUS :

You don't want to do that, Jack.

JACK :

I was just curious to see what
your eyes look like.
Cyrus smiles, lets go, and speaks with a lisp.

CYRUS :

Well, gee, all you had to do was
ask.
Jack gently lifts the shades up and the two lock eyes.

CYRUS :

They're pretty, aren't they?

JACK :

(nodding)
Like cat piss in the snow.
Cyrus's smile turns to a frown as Jack climbs the stairs.
ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
The horses are settled in... and
away they go!
The crowd goes nuts.
Cyrus turns back to watch the race. Geraldine, however,
watches Jack until he disappears.

EXT. RACETRACK -HORSES

They round the final turn and "down the stretch they
come." Sweet Di has the lead and the crowd feels it.
But here comes Institutionalized. She closes on Sweet
Di, overtakes her in the last hundred yards, and wins by
a length and a half.

INT./EXT. RACETRACK -UPSET AND STUNNED CROWD

They curse and rip their tickets. Jack sips a new beer,
gives the BARKEEP a \$20-dollar tip, and raises his cup in
a "cheers" gesture.

BARTENDER :

Thank you very much, sir!
Jack turns away from the bar and sitting there in her
wheelchair is Rose. She points her finger up at him.
(CONTINUED)

41.

CONTINUED:

ROSE :

You little sonofabitch!

CUT TO:

EXT. HOLLYWOOD PARK PARKING LOT -LATE AFTERNOON

Jack walks with an armed security guard to the Olds and opens the trunk. The guard looks around, a lockbox handcuffed to his wrist.

The guard removes the lockbox and Jack places it in the trunk next to the CD player. Jack rips off three hundred-dollar bills for the guard and slams the trunk.

JACK'S DISTANT POV

Across the lot, Big Mike holds a limousine door open for Cyrus and his crew.

JACK:

jumps in the Oldsmobile and follows.

CUT TO:

EXT. HAVENHURST BLVD. (VALLEY) -LATE AFTERNOON BACK

SEAT POV:

The back of Jack's head, the limo he's following, and the upscale homes of Encino. JIMI HENDRIX' "Stone Free" PLAYS SOFTLY in the b.g.

INT. LIMOUSINE -PARTY

Cyrus snorts a line of cocaine with JODIE, the bleach blonde. He offers Geraldine but she shakes her head. The Chinese businessman now flirts aggressively with Jodie.

CYRUS :

Jodie will take great care of you.

The businessman grins and nods, nods and grins. Cyrus nods to Julie, who surreptitiously dumps a small vial of liquid in the businessman's drink without him seeing.

JODIE :

Me love you long time.

(CONTINUED)

42.

CONTINUED:

He sips as Geraldine whispers to Cyrus.

GERALDINE :

What is that stuff she -

CYRUS :

Flunitrazepam Rohypnal.

GERALDINE :

What, roofies?

CYRUS :

The same shit we always use. Ten times the strength of Valium.

Don't smell, don't taste, and it don't change the pretty color of champagne.

Geraldine stares out the window and thinks to herself.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH-WALLED ESTATE -LATER

The limousine enters through the front gates. Jack continues around the corner and parks. He checks his Rolex and waits.

CUT TO:

EXT. EXTRAVAGANT BEDROOM -SAME TIME

A Monet painting hangs over a king-sized bed with a green silk comforter. Jodie enters with the now-fucked-up Chinese businessman in tow. She takes off her shirt, turns back and stares at him.

JODIE :

Get over here.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGH-WALLED ESTATE -LATER

Jack exits the Olds. He pulls himself up the eight-foot stone wall and looks over into the thin woods.

Jack drops over onto the property with a thud. He gets to his feet and skirts sideways through the tree cover.

(CONTINUED)

43.

CONTINUED:

Unbeknownst to Jack, on the ground, a photoelectric

sensor flashes from green to red.

Jack slides his way along the trees, looking beyond a flat expanse of lawn to the far mansion.

JACK'S POV

Twenty exposed yards to the guest house.

BACK TO SCENE :

He heads over.

INT. GUEST HOUSE HALLWAY -JACK

He crosses the hall, slips through another door, and hears MUSIC.

INT. HIDDEN CAMERA ROOM -SAME TIME

Jack slides in behind and stares at TWO CAMERAMAN smoking a joint and filming something we can't see. TOM PETTY plays on the cheap RADIO in the b.g.

CAMERAMAN #1

I heard he's some bigshot C.E.O.

CAMERAMAN #2

Global Web-something. We're goin' worldwide here.

CAMERAMAN #1

Not with that cock.

CAMERAMAN #2

All the more reason to ante up.

Jack moves to get a better angle and now sees the action.

TWO-WAY MIRROR POV

Jodie takes the Chinese businessman to the wall-length mirror, undresses him, and gives a wink to the mirror.

INT. HIDDEN CAMERA ROOM

The two men bust up laughing.

(CONTINUED)

44.

CONTINUED:

CAMERAMAN #1

Jodie's so fucking classic.

CAMERAMAN #2

Yeah, but I don't wanna see her fucking face. I want his.

Christ. Wanna bet twenty bucks this Chinese fuck leaves his socks on?

CAMERAMAN #1

Let's go fifty.

EXT. HIGH-WALLED ESTATE -JACK

Again moving through the tree cover. Jack closes in on the mansion. He catches his jacket on a branch and regards the damage.

JACK :

Son of a -

He stops and looks to the ground. Another photoelectric sensor near his feet. He bends down and looks to the light. It's red. Jack looks up suddenly -

A gust of FIRE blows him back into a tree. Small flames lick at the branches.

JACK'S POV

Big Mike the driver wields a FLAMETHROWER. Cyrus laughs, pistol in hand.

CYRUS :

Holy shit! That thing is fucking insanity!

BACK TO SCENE:

Jack looks up, eyelashes charred.

CYRUS :

Hit him again!

Big Mike does it again and Jack dives face-first to the ground, barely escaping the flame.

Cyrus points his gun and lights a clove cigarette from a flaming branch.

(CONTINUED)

45.

CONTINUED:

CYRUS :

Lose the .45. Nice and fuckin' easy. Just like the shampoo.

Jack opens his jacket. Nothing.

CYRUS :

The ankle then.

(as Jack looks confused)

What am I, a fuckin' dipshit!

Downstairs!

Jack shows his ankles. Nothing again.

CYRUS :

I guess you're the dipshit. All right. Go ahead, Mike.

Big Mike sets down the flamethrower, walks over, and unloads on Jack. Punch after punch after punch. Jack finally crashes to his knees.

Big Mike turns and sees Cyrus walking away. He turns back to Jack, and Jack kicks him square in the kneecap. The man buckles in agony. Jack kicks again to the same area and Big Mike falls to the ground, screaming.

Jack quickly grabs Mike's gun, pulls him as a shield, and faces off with Cyrus. Cyrus knows how to drop it.

CYRUS :

He was just gonna smack you around and put you in the car. Jesus Christ.

Jack walks over to Cyrus and gets in his face.

JACK :

Something tells me you designed this getup. Give me the lowdown.

The cameras, the photoelectric sensors, the entire configuration.

Beat. Jack casually slips Mike's gun into Cyrus's mouth.

JACK :

If at first you don't succeed...

CYRUS:

(mumbling)

There's cameras on the front, rear, and sides. Sensors behind almost every oak tree.

(CONTINUED)

46.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

How many in all?

CYRUS :

Four cameras, six sensors.

Jack looks towards the back of the estate.

JACK'S DISTANT POV

A service elevator.

JACK:

pulls Cyrus closer and gives him a vicious charlie horse with his knee. Cyrus falls to the ground, wailing, holding his thigh in bitter pain.

JACK'S POV

Forty yards exposed to the mansion.

JACK:

times the sweep of the mounted video camera. It crosses his path and Jack breaks into a run behind the lens.

INT. SECURITY ROOM -BANK OF MONITORS

The guard doesn't pick up Jack's crossing.

INT. MANSION -STAIRWELL

VOICES ECHO close by. Jack looks around the beautiful house with appreciation. He knocks on a door and there's no response, so he opens it.

EXT. EXTRAVAGANT OFFICE -JACK'S POV

SCANS the wall.

JACK :

appreciating the Van Gogh, Renoir, and Henry Matisse.

(CONTINUED)

47.

CONTINUED:

He examines the aged wood of the desk and feels the silk material of the curtains. He then sees a Picasso in the corner and shakes his head.

JACK :

Pablo, you fooled them all, you fraud.

INT. HALLWAY -CONTINUOUS ACTION

Jack heads upstairs and out into a long, painting-lined upper corridor. A hydraulic THUMP upstairs stops him.

A DING marks the opening of an ELEVATOR DOOR and he freezes.

Cyrus limps out of the service elevator, pain-stricken.
Jack gives him some distance before he follows.

INT. MAHOGANY-PANELED GAME ROOM -POKER TABLE

In a black, band-collared shirt, a DEALER dishes cards to five wealthy MEN. Ten other party goers converse, drink, and gamble in the b.g.

Cyrus enters and approaches JEREMY KINNEAR, 50s, turtleneck and jacket. Jeremy stops fiddling with his vast pile of chips as Cyrus whispers in his ear.

JEREMY :

(an English accent)

So where is he now?

CYRUS :

Somewhere in the fucking house.

Jeremy sees Jack appear from behind Cyrus. He smiles.

JEREMY :

See what it's like these days, Mr.

Carter? You just can't get the material.

Cyrus stares at Jack, ready to kill.

JEREMY :

Please... sit down.

Jack nods and joins Jeremy at the poker table.

CYRUS :

Hey, motherfucker.

(CONTINUED)

48.

CONTINUED:

JEREMY :

Hey, Cyrus! Piss off!

Cyrus stares at Jack and exits the room.

JEREMY :

Sometimes I think I'll just retire. Buy an island in the Bahamas and let somebody else employ these degenerate fucks.

JACK :

I'm sorry, but... I don't think
I'm as famous as you.

JEREMY :

Oh, on the contrary, Mr. Carter.
Jeremy Kinnear.

JACK :

(shaking hands)

Call me Jack.

GERALDINE (O.S.)

What are you having to drink,
Jack?

They both turn, mesmerized by her beauty.

JACK :

Bourbon. Please.

GERALDINE :

Jack Daniels, Maker's Mark -

JACK :

That's it.

She nods, turns and makes her way over to the bar. Jack
carefully watches her backside.

JEREMY :

You like that, don't you?

JACK :

No. It's terrible.

JEREMY :

Geraldine's the future of CD Rom.

The Ginger Lynn of the 21st
Century. Loves talking dirty.

JACK :

Haven't had the pleasure yet.

(CONTINUED)

49.

CONTINUED:

Jeremy laughs and makes a mental note. She looks over and locks eyes with Jack.

JEREMY :

I stole her away from Brumby and signed her to a two-year contract.

JACK :

Brumby?

JEREMY:

(smiling)

You know Cliff Brumby. Has that wonderful bar for a front?

Jack is somewhat taken aback by this news.

JACK :

Everyone here's a filmmaker.

HARRY (O.S.)

I thought we were going to play cards here, Jeremy.

JEREMY :

Oh, Harry. Jack, I don't want to be rude but Harry has brought a shitload of money with him.

JACK :

You can't be rude if money's involved.

Jeremy laughs as Geraldine hands Jack his drink.

JACK :

Thank you.

GERALDINE :

You're welcome.

Jeremy checks his hand and smiles at the dealer.

JEREMY :

Oh, I think I'll stay as I am.

The other three players immediately fold. It's just Jeremy and Harry.

HARRY (MAN)

You're bluffing.

(CONTINUED)

50.

CONTINUED:

JEREMY :

That's what you pay to find out.

Right, Jack?

JACK :

If he can afford it.

Jeremy smiles. Harry looks to Jack.

HARRY :

Will you be leaving soon?

JACK :

Soon. When you've lost all your money. Won't be long.

HARRY :

Think you're pretty smart, don't you?

JACK :

Only comparatively.

Jeremy laughs in earnest.

JEREMY :

No offense, Harry, but you wouldn't stand much of a shot against Jack at the tables.

Jack's one of the best poker players in the world.

HARRY :

I'm sure.

JEREMY :

It's true.

HARRY :

I've never heard of him.

JEREMY :

That's because he's not stupid enough to enter those bloody Texas Hold 'Em tournaments.

HARRY :

I like those tournaments.

(CONTINUED)

51.

CONTINUED:

JEREMY:

Of course you do, Harry.

Anyway... Caesar's, Mirage, the MGM Grand... they used Jack as a shill to go against the Japs and camel jockeys who flew in on a whim.

ANOTHER PLAYER (MAN)

What's a shill?

Jeremy and Jack exchange smirks. The duo understand that all of them are easy prey.

JEREMY:

A shill is a bloke that casinos bring in to keep high stake games going strong. You see, casinos want games to go on as long as possible so they can grab a bigger cut since there is no house. They especially loved Jack because he used his own money.

(after a long stare-off)

But then one day he got stupid.

He marked an ace with a dirty fingernail, the cameras picked it up, and Jack got banned from Nevada for life.

Jack smiles and reflects on his past.

DEALER :

Holy shit. Is that true?

JEREMY :

If you believe the rumors.
The table stares at him for a good five seconds. Jack sips his drink, speechless.

HARRY:

Okay! On that note, I'll raise five hundred.

JEREMY:

All right. If you want to play that way, Harry.
Jeremy throws out a huge stack of chips.

HARRY :

What the hell's that?
(CONTINUED)
52.

CONTINUED:

JEREMY :

See your thousand, raise nine.

HARRY:

Ten grand? You're not gonna see me?

JEREMY:

(smiling)
No, Harry.
Harry's finally forced into thinking.

JEREMY :

How'd you fare at the track, Jack?

JACK :

Not bad.

JEREMY :

I bet.
Harry reluctantly pushes nine thousand to the pile.

HARRY :

All right. I'll see you.

JEREMY :

Calling my bluff, are you, Har?

HARRY :

That's right.

Harry's three queens to Jeremy's straight.

JEREMY :

I haven't won with a straight,
have I? Tell me you're pulling my
leg. What about that, Jack? Old
Harry thought I was having him on.

HARRY :

Shut up.

Jack downs his bourbon and stands.

JEREMY :

Going so soon, are you, Jack?

JACK :

Things to do, people to see.

(pointing at Harry)

I told you it wouldn't take long.

(CONTINUED)

53.

CONTINUED:

HARRY :

Fuck off.

Jack exits. Jeremy pushes back his chair and follows.

INT. BEAUTIFUL HALLWAY -GRANDIOSE CANYON VIEW

Jack looks through the windows in appreciation.

JACK :

So this is how you pay the rent?

You take innocent girls and turn

them into soup.

JEREMY :

Well, I'm sure Geraldine will be delighted to know she's been tagged as 'innocent.'

(smiling, after a beat)

Actually, adult videos are no longer my bread and butter, as it is with Brumby. But it does, as you say, 'pay the rent.'

JACK :

At the expense of corn-fed girls who've been fondled by their fathers all their lives.

JEREMY :

And whose misery do you benefit from, Jack?

(after a long beat)

Compared to the likes of Cliff Brumby, I'm a lamb. He's got some bloody sick bastards over there. Fisting. Animals. Sado-Masochistic shit with little girls...

(as Jack is silent)

I'm not purporting to be noble. It just happens there's more money down other avenues. Like CD Roms. And the Internet.

Jack nods as they make their way down the elegant stairwell.

(CONTINUED)

54.

CONTINUED:

JEREMY :

I'm sorry about your brother, Jack. That's why you're here, I presume?

(no answer)

Well, if there's any truth to your suspicions, I wish you luck.

Just... be careful. Your status might not hold as well with the uncivilized.

JACK :

I appreciate your concern.

They walk out the giant doors.

EXT. MANSION -CONTINUOUS ACTION

Cyrus sees Jack and limps towards him, ready to kill.

CYRUS :

I didn't fucking like that.

JACK :

Ahhh, you'll live, Cyrus.

CYRUS :

Big Mike didn't like it, either.

JACK:

Really? All the girls together, huh?

JEREMY (O.S.)

Cyrus, back the hell off. Hey, Jack?

Jack turns from the exit and faces Jeremy. Jeremy takes hold of the flamethrower.

JEREMY :

Don't misinterpret my sympathy for weakness. The next time you barge onto my property unannounced, I won't take note of your grief.

I'll take that flamethrower and torch you to a fucking stake like Joan of Arc.

Jack nods and exits through the gate. Jeremy watches his exit and turns to Cyrus.

(CONTINUED)

55.

CONTINUED:

JEREMY :

You're a goddamn bloody idiot.

CUT TO:

EXT. VALLEY SUBURB HOUSE -NIGHT

Jack retires the Oldsmobile to Gloria's garage.

INT. FOYER -JACK

He enters to pleasant kitchen aromas.

JACK :

Hello!?

GLORIA (O.S.)

I'm in here!

INT. KITCHEN -BEAUTIFUL GLORIA

She is a far cry from her earlier appearance. Jack appears and watches her cook dinner.

JACK :

You look nice.

Gloria turns back and smiles.

GLORIA :

Are you hungry?

JACK :

Feels like I haven't eaten in years.

GLORIA :

Good. Make us a drink, will you?

She watches Jack go to the bar.

GLORIA :

Nice to drive those old classics once in a while, isn't it? See what a real car can do.

JACK :

The cliché holds true.

(CONTINUED)

56.

CONTINUED:

GLORIA:

(smiling)

'They don't make 'em like they
used to.'

Jack grabs their drinks and makes his way over.

JACK :

Any word from Doreen?

GLORIA :

I thought you dropped her off at
the Brumby's?

JACK :

Who?

GLORIA :

You saw them. From the funeral.
Doreen's friends with their
daughter Michelle.

JACK :

I dropped her off at Brumby's
house? Why didn't you say
something?

GLORIA :

About what?

JACK :

He's a pornographer, Gloria!

GLORIA :

Jesus Christ, Jack! He's not
involved in that shit anymore! He
helped save our home and gave
Frank a job! We were going to
lose this house and Cliff loaned
us the money to save it!
Jack's look is interrupted by his CELL PHONE.

JACK :

Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. BATHROOM -NIGHT

Geraldine smiles lasciviously as Jack answers. She relaxes in a bubble bath.

(CONTINUED)

57.

CONTINUED:

GERALDINE :

You still thinking about me?

Jack looks at Gloria as she goes back to chopping vegetables. He exits the kitchen.

INT. HALLWAY -TIGHT ON JACK

Safely out of Gloria's ear, he speaks into the receiver.

JACK :

(realizing it's her)

How'd you get this number?

GERALDINE :

I've been thinking about you all day.

JACK :

Well, this isn't a good time.

GERALDINE :

But I'm all wet.

Jack stops, paralyzed.

INT. KITCHEN -SINK

Water is running but no one is there.

PAN QUICKLY TO Gloria. She stands in the door well and listens, out of sight.

WIDER :

JACK :

Where are you?

GERALDINE :

The beach. Costa Rica. Covered in oil. I want to see you.

Gloria looks at Jack and heads upstairs.

JACK :

You can't.

Jack hangs up and follows her.

58.

INT. GLORIA'S BEDROOM -TIGHT ON GLORIA
WIDER as Jack enters to find her crying.

GLORIA :

Do you have to do that here?

JACK :

Do what here?

GLORIA :

You know what.

JACK :

Don't start with me, Gloria.

GLORIA :

Don't start what with you?

JACK :

Don't start passing judgment!

GLORIA :

Fuck you, Jack! Don't feed me
that now that he's gone! You know
how good I was to him!

The two continue with a bizarre and erotic moment. After
a few seconds, Jack breaks the stare and looks down.

GLORIA :

Can't you please just sympathize
with me for one minute? Please...
just sympathize with me. What I'm
going through right now.

JACK :

Gloria. Let go of my hand.
She looks at him, longing.

GLORIA :

You don't have any idea. The pain

I feel right now.
Jack musters the willpower.

JACK :

Please.

After a long moment, she lets go of his hand.
Just then, Jack's CELL PHONE RINGS. Gloria stares as
Jack lets it keep ringing.

(CONTINUED)

59.

CONTINUED:

GLORIA :

Go on. Answer it.
Jack finally does, irritated.

JACK :

What?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. HALF MOON -PHONE BOOTH -TIGHT ON AJIT THE BUSBOY
He whispers into the receiver.

AJIT :

Mr. Carter, this is Ajit.

JACK :

Who?

AJIT :

Ajit. From the Half Moon. Eddie
told me to ring you.

JACK :

Sure, kid, what is it?

AJIT :

There are a few men here looking
for you, Mr. Carter, and -
(abruptly)

I must go.

Ajit hangs up.

Jack turns back to Gloria, but she's in the bathroom.

Jack looks at the door, thinks to himself and heads downstairs.

INT. HOME OFFICE

He thinks to himself and finally pulls the .45 and nine millimeter from his hanging bag.

CUT TO:

INT. HALF MOON -EVENING

The place is filling up. Jack stands before Eddie. Ajit and two waitresses work in the b.g.

(CONTINUED)

60.

CONTINUED:

EDDIE :

Lad's name was Thorpe.

JACK :

Thorpey?

EDDIE :

Said you were old chums. Wanted to know where you were stayin'.

JACK:

'Old chums.' Interesting choice of words.

EDDIE:

That's what I figured. I played dumb.

JACK:

(nodding)

Did you have any luck with the camera?

Eddie motions for Jack to follow him.

EDDIE :

Come see for yourself.

INT. TINY'S OFFICE -SMALL STACK OF VIDEOTAPES

Jack ENTERS with Eddie.

INT. OFFICE -LATER

Snow on the TV turns to a black and white image of the empty bar at the Half Moon.

Jack watches, his interest suddenly growing.

EDDIE :

This is the evenin' he was killed.

I went through it twice already.

TIGHT ON GRAINY SCREEN

In partial darkness, you can see figures moving around, but that's all.

61.

WIDER:

JACK :

Can't see anything. It's too dark.

EDDIE :

Yeah, that's what happens when you buy security cameras at the Swap Meet.

JACK :

Yeah, well, can you find someone who can improve the clarity?

EDDIE :

I can prob'ly sniff someone out.

JACK :

Good man.

Jack gives Eddie a pat on the back. The two smile.

EDDIE :

Frank told me all your fishing stories. The one where you were nabbed for stealing from lobster traps. Up by Paradise Cove.

JACK :

We couldn't come home empty-handed.

(smiling, shaking his

head)

That was my first time in jail.

EDDIE:

(laughing)

You took the blame for that, too,
didn't you?

JACK :

I tried. I saw the cops storming
the pier so I dropped Frank off
the side of the boat. He hid
behind this buoy for two hours and
got away. But then what does Mr.
Honor Roll do? Tells our dad. He
took Frank straight to jail and
make the cops keep us both
overnight.

The two share a laugh. Suddenly --
Ajit bursts back in the door.

(CONTINUED)

62.

CONTINUED:

EDDIE :

What is it?

AJIT :

They're back.

INT. HALF MOON -STEADY ON JACK

He moves through the bar on a mission.

EXT. HALF MOON BACK ALLEY -JACK'S DOORWAY POV

A white Mercedes parked diagonally. The back seat window
behind the driver goes down, and a bald MAN WITH GLASSES
sticks his head out.

MAN WITH GLASSES

Jack?

QUICKLY TO JACK:

Ajit and Eddie stand deep in the b.g.

JACK :

Tried using your name at Hollywood

Park today, Thorpey. They almost
threw me out.

THORPEY (MAN WITH GLASSES)

I'd like a word with you, Jack.

JACK :

That's nice.

THORPEY :

It's important.

JACK :

Fine. You stay in the car. I'll
come out and listen.

Jack stops at a safe distance.

THORPEY :

I've been asked to give you this.

Thorpey has a ticket envelope. Jack cautiously grabs it.

JACK :

Hope I warrant first class.

(CONTINUED)

63.

CONTINUED:

THORPEY :

You got it. American Airlines.

Nonstop back to the Big Apple.

JACK :

That's mighty generous of someone.

Who do I have to thank?

THORPEY :

You can thank me. Hop in and

we'll give you a lift to L.A.X.

JACK :

What happens if I miss this
flight?

THORPEY:

(smiling)

What're you doin', Jackson?

Nailing the old broad again?

The FAT DRIVER grows impatient. Jack grows angry.

FAT DRIVER :

Let's stop fucking around.

THORPEY :

Get in the fucking car, Jack.

Seemingly compliant, Jack nods. He then rips the ticket and throws it at the Mercedes.

JACK :

I've never been big on planes.

FAT DRIVER :

You stupid shit.

The Fat Driver moves to get out. Jack violently kicks the door, smashing the driver's head through the door window. Knocked out cold, his foot floors the gas.

The CAR BATTERS into a retaining wall. The man in the front seat ejects through the windshield and bounces off the hood in a shower of glass.

From the back seat, a bodyguard bounds out. Jack charges. The bodyguard reaches for his gun and Jack hammers a fist into his sternum. Bodyguard buckles to his knees and FIRES a stray SHOT. Jack kicks the gun into some bushes.

(CONTINUED)

64.

CONTINUED:

Thorpey tries to escape but Ajit trips him and he falls forward onto his chest. Thorpey looks up and goes for his pistol.

THORPEY :

You little raghead fuck.

Ajit turns and runs. Thorpey FIRES OFF THREE SHOTS as Ajit dives safely behind a trash dumpster.

Thorpey takes off on foot and Jack moves to aid Ajit.

JACK :

You okay, kid?

Jack shakes him out of his shock. Finally -

AJIT :

Go kill that sonofabitch.

Jack quickly goes after him.

EXT. VENTURA BLVD. -CONTINUOUS ACTION

Thorpey hauls ass down the sidewalk. Jack follows, .45 at the ready. Thorpey gauges a break in traffic and darts into the street.

Caught by surprise, Jack follows. A Pink Dot delivery car jumps the curb to miss him and smacks a parked car. Thorpey races into incoming traffic. CARS SCREECH to a halt and collide. Jack capitalizes and bounds after. They snake through a maze of stopped cars, Jack hot on Thorpey's tail -

A car door flies open. Jack drops with a thud.

GUY IN CAR :

Hey, asshole! Stay outta the -

He stops and ducks back inside as Jack rises, gun raised.

Jack continues onto the far sidewalk.

Thorpey dodges pedestrians, approaching a patio setting.

Jack pounds onward.

Thorpey pinballs through patio tables. Bumping chairs.

Spilling hot coffee. Bohemian patrons cry out. A man stands up, yells after Thorpey. Jack dodges him and knocks over a table.

Thorpey disappears into a store. Jack follows.

65.

INT. BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO -CONTINUOUS ACTION

Jack enters to the sounds of THEFT PROTECTION DEVICES and confused employees.

SHOTS RING OUT from the comedy section. Jack ducks behind the counter. WINDOWS SHATTER, people scream.

Jack scrambles through an aisle towards the rear. He straightens and crosses into -

Another aisle. Jack pans the gun both ways. No Thorpey.

Jack looks at a frightened woman on the floor. Using only her eyes, she directs Jack farther over. ANOTHER SHOT blows past as Jack moves into an empty aisle.

Out of bullets, Thorpey runs down the back corridor and through the exit door at the end. Jack follows.

An employee stands amongst a scattering of tapes, shaking

in his newly-pissed pants. Jack pushes out the door.

EXT. ALLEY -SAME TIME

Thorpey tosses the gun and disappears around the corner.

Jack sees this and pursues.

EXT. STREET -SAME TIME

Thorpey heads in a new direction: across the street and between two buildings.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB ALLEY -ROPED-OFF ENTRANCE

Three wasted older men smoke and talk in rapid French.

Thirty more trying to get the doorman's attention.

Thorpey weasels past all of them, amazingly unseen.

Jack makes his way over and is immediately pulled back by a bouncer. Mistake. Without hesitation, Jack fists his esophagus and the Bouncer falls to his knees. Jack gives him a "don't fucking ever grab me" look and enters.

People in line take advantage and steal inside.

INT. CROWDED NIGHTCLUB -JACK'S POV

He makes his way THROUGH a thousand patrons throbbing to TECHNO MUSIC. No sign of Thorpey. An EFFEMINATE GUY sidles to Jack.

66.

ANOTHER ANGLE:

EFFEMINATE MAN :

Are you -

JACK :

No.

Jack ignores the man's wounded look, looks to his left, and spots Thorpey moving into another room.

INT. LOUNGE -COUCH ROOM -SAME TIME

Jack dodges the drug-induced patrons and opens the door to a booze storage closet.

QUICKLY TO Thorpey. He sits on a case of Scotch, out of breath.

JACK:

It seems you're out of shape,
Thorpey.

THORPEY :

Jesus Christ!

Jack calmly sits right next to him. Finally -

JACK :

Who killed Frank?

THORPEY :

I don't know.

Jack elbows Thorpey hard in the gut.

JACK :

Lie to me again and I'll put your
brains in a snifter.

THORPEY :

I swear to God, Jack, I don't
know!

JACK :

Who's picking up the tab then?

Suddenly, the BOUNCERS storm inside. Jack stares
upwards, crazed.

BOUNCER :

You're outta here, fuckhole.

(CONTINUED)

67.

CONTINUED:

The first Bouncer grabs Jack and hits him in the same
exact location. Once again, the Bouncer drops like a
sack of potatoes.

Another guy rushes Jack. This time, Jack grabs an arm,
turns and breaks it at the elbow. The man screams as
Jack turns back to Thorpey.

He just stands there frozen, a Jim Beam bottle at the
ready. Gently, Thorpey sets it down.

EXT. CLUB -BACK ALLEY

Police commotion in the street b.g. Jack exits with
Thorpey in tow.

JACK :

Heel, Thorpey, before I snap your
neck.

CUT TO:

EXT. HALF MOON -JACK'S POV

He spots police officers, ambulances, and a fire truck at the far end of the alley. Ajit spots Jack near a trash bin, slips away from a non-attentive officer and makes his way over.

TIGHT ON THORPEY

Thorpey makes eye-contact with the back seat bodyguard as he gets nursed by a paramedic. The guard knows there's a problem and prepares himself to follow.

JACK (O.S.)

Don't you have a place around here?

QUICKLY TO Ajit. He looks ready to kill Thorpey.

AJIT :

Yes. Come with me.

CUT TO:

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING -NIGHT

Jack and Thorpey follow Ajit up some stairs to a door.

(CONTINUED)

68.

CONTINUED:

AJIT :

I told you it was close by.

Ajit goes inside and the two men follow.

INT. SMALL APARTMENT -CONTINUOUS ACTION

Paintings and artifacts of Hinduism. Various swords and scimitars are displayed on the wall. Decorated by someone who takes his culture very seriously.

Ajit puts on some funky, yet disturbing, BHANGARA MUSIC.

Jack takes it all in as Ajit walks into the kitchen.

Ajit returns with a dicing knife. He walks up to Thorpey and stabs him viciously in the arm.

AJIT :

You shoot at me, you die!

Thorpey wails as Jack restrains the young man.

JACK :

Jesus Christ! Calm down, kid.

Calm down. You calm?

Ajit nods and smiles.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BEDROOM -TIGHT ON THORPEY -LATER

Hands tied and arm bleeding, he sits in a chair with a pathetic expression. The MUSIC BLARES loud in the b.g.

THORPEY :

It was some guy your brother knew closely! He...!

Jack removes his .45 and Thorpey knows he's serious.

THORPEY :

I can't remember his name! It's B-something! Black guy, tough face, white wife!

Jack gives him a long "don't fuck me" look.

THORPEY :

I'm telling you the fucking truth here, Jack! Jesus Christ! He owns a bar --!

(CONTINUED)

69.

CONTINUED:

Jack knocks Thorpey out and turns towards Ajit.

JACK :

Do you have a gun here?

AJIT :

No, but we have a few swords.

Ajit points to the scimitar display.

JACK :

No, that's not good enough.

AJIT :

You'd be surprised.

Jack reluctantly gives Ajit his ankle handgun. The Heckler and Koch 9mm.

JACK :

All right. This is an H and K P
7. The safety's in the handgrip
here. If you have to fire, give
this a squeeze first.

AJIT :

Gladly.

Thorpey doesn't look so happy. Ajit does.

CUT TO:

INT. OLDSMOBILE -JACK'S POV -NIGHT

The house where he dropped Doreen off earlier. Dark
green Suburban now in the drive. Two shadowy figures
move away from the upstairs curtains.

STEADY ON JACK:

He exits, draws his gun and walks towards the house,
always with purpose. He goes through the side gate and
around to the back.

EXT. BACK YARD PATIO -JACK'S WINDOW POV

He watches Cliff Brumby hurriedly put on his shoes. He
and his wife Susan appear to be having some kind of an
argument as they storm out the door. Jack follows them.
70.

EXT. FRONT DRIVEWAY -DARK GREEN SUBURBAN

It flies back in reverse and SCREECHES down the street.
Jack quickly jumps in the Olds.

INT. OLDSMOBILE -MOVING

Hot on the tail of the speeding Suburban. It climbs a
freeway on-ramp. Jack accelerates and follows.

CUT QUICKLY TO:

EXT. AJIT APARTMENT COMPLEX -NIGHT

The back seat bouncer, whom Thorpey made eye-contact with
earlier, makes his way up Ajit's stairwell.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY 60 -MIDNIGHT

Pitch black outside. The Olds follows the Suburban at a
distance.

CUT QUICKLY TO:

INT. AJIT BEDROOM -TIGHT ON AJIT

He clasps Jack's 9mm, despite being asleep in his chair.

PAN QUICKLY TO Thorpey. Wide-eyed, he watches the boy snooze.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. OLDSMOBILE -JACK'S POV

The Suburban taillights plow through the darkness. A sign on the right reads: "PALM SPRINGS -5 MILES."

JACK:

checks his speedometer. The needle wavers at 90 MPH. Jack looks up and the Suburban is gone.

Then he sees it:

makes a right. Jack quickly cuts over.

CUT QUICKLY TO:

71.

INT. AJIT BEDROOM -THORPEY

He is freed of his ropes by the back seat bodyguard. Bodyguard signals for Thorpey to quietly exit behind him. Thorpey presses his wound, winces and shakes his head. Instead of escaping, he creeps towards Ajit and the gun.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. STREET -SAME TIME

Jack follows the Suburban on a series of turns. The Suburban enters through an electric gate. The gate closes shut and the Olds barely makes it through.

CUT QUICKLY TO:

INT. AJIT APARTMENT -THORPEY

He holds onto his breath as the FLOOR CREAKS. Ajit stirs. Thorpey looks up and brightens: On a nearby wall is a long, curved scimitar. Thorpey moves for the sword and pulls it from the wall. Ajit awakens. Thorpey whirls, sword high. Ajit blinks, raises the 9mm. Thorpey brings the sword down -

TIGHT ON GUN :

It clatters to the floor in a spray of blood. Ajit's high-pitched SCREAM.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. COMMUNITY STREET -DOZENS OF CARS

Both sides of the street are decorated with cars. LOUD MUSIC ECHOES throughout the entire neighborhood.

JACK'S POV

He NOTICES a crowded house part in the distance. The Suburban slams its brakes in front of the party. Brumby storms into the house, Susan in tow.

72.

INT. LARGE PALM SPRINGS HOUSE -POOL PARTY

A diverse ethnic crowd. A DJ BLARES HIP-HOP MUSIC. High school teens dance, drink, smoke, swim and make out.

TIGHT ON BRUMBY AND SUSAN

They stare from the door-well.

SUSAN :

Oh, my God...

BRUMBY :

Jesus fucking wept!

Brumby makes his way through the mayhem.

SUSAN :

Honey!

BRUMBY :

Where's my daughter?! Michelle

Brumby, you best show yourself!

He grabs a DRUNK KID.

BRUMBY :

I know you! Where's my daughter?!

DRUNK KID :

Oh, ah, I think she's in the poolhouse.

BRUMBY :

The poolhouse!

DRUNK KID :

With Jimmy.

BRUMBY:

With Jimmy!

He storms out back, presumably to strangle Jimmy.

PAN QUICKLY TO the front door. Jack takes a conspicuous path into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN -KEG

Three testosterone-pumped boys surround it. They look at Jack, pretty much like they want to kill him.

(CONTINUED)

73.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

I'm looking for Mr. Brumby. Did you see where he went? They just stare.

JACK :

Did he go upstairs? No response. After a long beat -

JACK :

Wait. I know. I'm supposed to be scared. Jack smiles, grabs a cup, and fills himself a beer.

JACK:

(taking a sip)
Sorry, but... I ain't your ordinary white guy. Jack looks around the party. Finally -
YOUNG PUNK #1 (O.S.)
He ain't here, Cracker. Jack faces the young men.

JACK :

Come again? (off no response)
Do us all a favor. Stay in school. Jack smiles and leaves them dumbfounded.

INT. STAIRCASE -JACK'S POV

He makes his way through the insanity. He peeks inside a room, only to find a couple intertwined.

INT. MASTER BEDROOM -TIGHT ON DOREEN

A YOUNG MAN sits next to her, in full scam mode.

YOUNG MAN :

I dig you a lot, Doreen. I think
I've kinda like, made it clear,
haven't I?

She nods as he touches her hair. She moves slightly.

(CONTINUED)

74.

CONTINUED:

YOUNG MAN :

And I want you to know that I'm
like, here for you. I fuckin'
can't imagine what I'd do if my
old man kicked it.

He moves in for the kiss. She pulls back.

YOUNG MAN :

Jesus, Doreen.

DOREEN :

I'm sorry.

Doreen exits, leaving him to guess where he went wrong.

EXT. BATHROOM -TIGHT ON DOREEN

She stares into the mirror and cries.

INT. STAIRWELL -SAME TIME

A group of people cavort on the stairwell. A miserable
Doreen moves through them.

DOREEN :

Any of you guys driving back
tonight?

BOY :

Sorry, Doreen.

DOREEN :

Lisa, are you heading back?

JACK (O.S.)

I am.

PAN DOWN TO Jack. He stands below the stairwell. He
offers an assuring smile.

EXT. STREET -OLDS

Jack opens the door. Doreen gets inside and lies down.
She closes her eyes and goes to sleep.

JACK :

Just rest here for a few minutes
and I'll be right back.

Everything's going to be just
fine, Doreen.

(CONTINUED)

75.

CONTINUED:

YOUNG PUNK #1 (O.S.)

Fine, my ass, motherfu-

Jack whirls and disarms the kid from the kitchen before
he can even finish the word "motherfucker." He raises
the gun at the kid and his two friends.

JACK :

Run.

They scatter across the lawn.

INT. LIVING ROOM -CROWD

Brumby drags his daughter Michelle to the DJ table.

MICHELLE :

Daddy! You said I could invite
people out here!

BRUMBY :

People! Not your whole damn
school!

He pushes the DJ aside, scratching the record. Everyone
stops. He grabs the microphone.

BRUMBY :

Get the hell out of my house!

CUT TO:

INT. EMPTY BRUMBY HOUSE -LATER

A drunk kid holds onto the staircase rail. Susan and
Michelle try to help him. Brumby isn't so caring.

BRUMBY :

You think you're special? Flee.

MICHELLE :

He's too drunk, Daddy.

BRUMBY :

He's not drunk. He's just tired!

SUSAN :

Honey, he can't drive. He's gonna hafta stay the night.

(CONTINUED)

76.

CONTINUED:

BRUMBY :

Not in this house! Take the golf cart and dump his ass on the McGee's front lawn up the street.

Susan and Michelle help the kid through the door and into the garage, leaving Brumby just standing there.

He assesses the damage and stifles a curse.

BRUMBY POV:

Framed by the light, Jack stands in the door well.

JACK :

Getting me over to the Half Moon and taking the low road was a smart move.

BACK TO SCENE:

BRUMBY :

What are you doing here?

QUICKLY TO BRUMBY

Pissed as all hell, he approaches.

BRUMBY :

I asked you a fuckin' question, man. You following me?

JACK :

What did he have on you?

BRUMBY :

Excuse me but... has everybody
lost their fucking minds tonight?!
It's two o'clock in the goddamn
morning!

Jack punches Brumby in the stomach and he falls to his
knees, out of breath.

JACK :

You had him killed, didn't you?

BRUMBY :

Who?! Frank!? Are you out of
your fucking mind, man?!

(CONTINUED)

77.

CONTINUED:

JACK:

Had a little run-in with your boy
Thorpey earlier tonight.

BRUMBY :

My boy who?

Jack puts his piece to Brumby's head.

BRUMBY:

Goddamit, Jack, let's talk about
this! Who's Thorpey?!
Jack's face is a blank mask.

BRUMBY :

Who's Thorpey, goddamit!?

(as Jack looks
hesitant)

A lot of fuckers want me dead,
see! So read between the lines
here! If you off me because some
guy told you, that's the oldest
trick in the book! His hands stay
clean, they sit back and watch,

and we're both fucked! What were you doing?! Were you interrogating him?! Did he not give me up directly?! Please, Jack, don't shoot! He's buying time! Frank was my only true and loyal friend and I miss him more than you will ever know! That's the truth!
Tears form in both their eyes.

BRUMBY :

On my daughter, Jack! Please!
Jack thinks to himself and finally lowers the gun.
Brumby breathes a sigh of relief.

BRUMBY:

Fuck you for pulling this shit in my house. Next time you wanna question my loyalty to someone, just shoot and ask for forgiveness later.

(after a long beat)

You've been played, man. And I'm the motherfucking sucker. Now get out.

(CONTINUED)

78.

CONTINUED:

Jack stares at him, turns and exits.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DINER -DARKNESS

Jack makes a call but no one answers. He sighs and walks back inside.

INT. DINER -PLATE OF FOOD

WIDER as Doreen sits across from it with a disgusted look on her face. The WAITRESS refills Doreen's coffee.

JACK :

(to the Waitress)

We gotta get out of here.

WAITRESS :

I'll get your check.

DOREEN :

What the hell is that?
Jack eats in the meantime.

JACK :

Those are egg whites, that's
steamed spinach, and that there's
a grilled chicken breast.

DOREEN :

Egg white and spinach? Please
tell me you're joking.

JACK :

What do you mean?

DOREEN :

It's four o'clock in the morning.
You're supposed to be having a
sourdough bacon cheeseburger.

JACK :

No no no. I don't eat red meat.

DOREEN :

You don't eat red meat? What kind
of man are you?
(CONTINUED)
79.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

A smart one. Don't you watch
'Oprah'?
Doreen looks at Jack and smiles.

DOREEN :

You should move back out here.

JACK :

Los Angeles? No thank you.

DOREEN :

What? You got a lot of friends
back in New York?

JACK :

No. That's not it all.
(after a long beat)
You can't get a drink past two...
girls call each other 'dude'..
flip-flops are considered
fashion -

DOREEN :

It's a part of our culture.

JACK :

Your culture is Wolfgang Puck.
You don't even have seasons.

DOREEN :

You mean sweating like a pig in
the summer and freezing your tits
off in the winter?
The two laugh.

JACK :

It's called a White Christmas.
F.A.O. Schwartz, ice skating in
Rockefeller Plaza, snowballs...

DOREEN :

When have you ever gone ice
skating? I'd pay money to see
that one.
The two share a laugh.

DOREEN :

What do you do for a living?
Jack looks over to the Waitress and taps his watch.

(CONTINUED)

80.

CONTINUED:

DOREEN :

(waiting for answer)
Uncle Jack?

JACK :

What did your dad tell you?

DOREEN :

Nothing. I wasn't allowed to ask
about you.

JACK :

Well, there you go then.

DOREEN :

My mom says you're a compulsive
gambler.

JACK :

You're only compulsive when you
lose.

DOREEN :

So you make a lot of money?

JACK :

Enough.

DOREEN :

More than a million?
(no response)
More than two million?

JACK :

Doreen, didn't your dad teach you
it's impolite to ask about
someone's income?

DOREEN :

Yes, but... I'm curious how you do
it. I mean, like, what's the
process?

JACK :

You don't want to hear this,
Doreen.

DOREEN :

Yes, I do. Come on. Tell me.

The Waitress finally drops off the check and Jack pulls out his money roll. Doreen stares at it in disbelief but doesn't say anything.

(CONTINUED)

81.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

Do you know what a 'bookie' is?
(as she nods)

Well, the way it works is I have an 800 number people can call if they want to place a bet. Rather than using names, they are designated a personal code. The people then call message recorders, which are set up in an empty apartment, and the person leaves a message saying their code, who they want and for how much. My people retrieve the messages and I bankroll it. Pretty simple.

DOREEN :

So you never go to the apartment?

JACK :

Never.

DOREEN :

So you never get your hands dirty?

JACK :

Almost never. I've had a few brushes. But don't tell your

mother.

Doreen sips her coffee as Jack takes another bite.

DOREEN :

Have you ever killed anyone?

JACK :

Why would you ask me that? Come on, we have to go.

Jack stands and Doreen walks with him.

STEADY ON the two as they make their way outside.

DOREEN :

Answer me.

JACK :

No, I've never killed anyone.

Everyone seems to pay up.

DOREEN :

Would you ever kill anyone?

The two exit the diner.

82.

EXT. OLDS

Jack opens her door. Doreen looks serious. Jack smiles and shakes her head.

JACK:

Our father instilled something in your Dad and I. He used to say the only way to keep the devil away from your door is to always offer others a second chance. So far I've been fortunate. Now get in.

She gets in the Olds and Jack slams the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT -DAYBREAK

The Oldsmobile slices west on the highway, back to L.A.

INT. OLDSMOBILE -JACK AND DOREEN

Doreen can only stare at him.

DOREEN :

You're so much like him. Your mannerisms, your facial expressions...

(as Jack smiles)

The fact that neither of you will step foot on an airplane.

(as Jack looks over)

He told me and my mom all about that one. How you guys held hands... how you dropped five thousand feet before the pilot pulled you out of it. I think I would've killed myself.

JACK :

It was the worst feeling in the world, being helpless like that. Having to rely on someone you can't see.

DOREEN :

You don't see the train conductor.

JACK :

Yes, but I'm on the ground.

(CONTINUED)

83.

CONTINUED:

She nods, laughs, and glances east to catch the first rays of sunlight. After a long moment of silence -

DOREEN :

I don't think he died accidentally.

JACK :

What? Why do you say that?

Doreen is silent. Jack pulls over to the side of the road and throws the Olds into "Park."

JACK :

Doreen, tell me why you think that. Does this have anything to

do with your mother?

Doreen stares at him, shakes her head and tears form.

DOREEN :

I don't know. I just do.

She breaks into tears. Jack slides over in the seat and consoles her.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GLORIA' GARAGE

The door automatically closes. Jack carries a sleeping Doreen to the front door.

INT. DOREEN'S BEDROOM -TIGHT ON JACK

He tucks Doreen in and watches her sleep. He turns to a CREAK behind him.

QUICKLY TO Gloria. A sexy nightie and a baseball bat.

GLORIA:

(angry)

Have yourself a good time last night?

JACK :

(smirking)

I even brought a girl home.

Gloria looks to the bed and sees Doreen. She puts the bat down and sits beside her.

(CONTINUED)

84.

CONTINUED:

GLORIA :

Is she okay?

JACK :

She's just tired.

Gloria caresses her face and kisses her. Jack and Gloria make their way out of the room.

INT. HALLWAY -JACK AND GLORIA

They stand face-to-face and whisper.

JACK :

I have this feeling you're not

being entirely honest with me.

GLORIA :

What do you mean?

JACK :

What was he into that you haven't told me about yet?

GLORIA :

Who? Frank?

JACK :

Yes. There was something he was hiding, Gloria. And I think you might know what it is.

GLORIA :

Oh, I do. You know what? Get the hell outta here. What are you saying? That I was involved in killing my husband!

JACK :

You know I didn't mean it like that!

GLORIA :

Well, that's what it sounded like!

JACK :

I know. And I'm sorry. I just...

GLORIA :

You know, I think it's about time for you to leave, Jack.

(CONTINUED)

85.

CONTINUED:

Jack locks eyes with Gloria. After a long stare-off, he nods his head.

JACK :

Would you mind if I cleaned myself
up first? I've got blood on me.

(as she looks
skeptical)

I'll be outta here in ten minutes.

(as she finally nods)

Thank you.

Jack makes his way into the bathroom.

GLORIA :

No, that shower's clogged. You'll
have to use mine.

INT. GLORIA'S BEDROOM -JACK

Towel around waist, he passes Gloria on his way into the
bathroom. She watches him close the door behind him and
looks at his folded pile of clothes and holsters.

INT. BATHROOM -JACK

turns on the shower faucet. As steam starts to billow,
he stares into his reflection in the glass door.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAY VOLVO -EARLY MORNING

The car speeds through a yellow light.

INT. VOLVO -SAME TIME

Two unseen men head down the street. The gloved
passenger produces a .357 Magnum and spins on a silencer.

INT. BATHROOM -JACK

steps into shower.

INT. VOLVO -SAME TIME

Hands discharge the magazine and shove shells into it.
86.

INT. BATHROOM -SHOWER

Jack soaps up.

EXT. GLORIA'S VALLEY SUBURB HOUSE -CONTINUOUS ACTION

The Volvo pulls parallel to the house and the still
unseen men now put on black ski masks.

STEADY ON PASSENGER

He steals across the lawn, gun ready. At the front door,
he presses the silencer tip to the LOCK and SHATTERS it.
He creeps inside.

INT. BATHROOM -SHOWER

Jack wets his hair.

INT. DOREEN'S BEDROOM -SKI MASK POV

The man studies Doreen sleeping. He decides against

taking her out and heads for the stairs.

INT. BATHROOM -TIGHT ON JACK

He lathers his hair.

INT. GLORIA'S BEDROOM -TIGHT ON GLORIA

She opens her eyes and sees the ski-masked man. Her scream is quickly stifled with a gloved hand.

INT. SHOWER -MIRROR

Jack stops washing his hair, thinking he heard something.

INT. GLORIA'S BEDROOM -TIGHT ON SKI MASK

He points his gun in Gloria's face. He warns her to be quiet, yanks her up by the hair, and heads for the bathroom. Gloria suddenly understands...

GLORIA :

Jack!!!

The man violently pistol whips Gloria twice to the face and she falls to the floor, bleeding and unconscious.

(CONTINUED)

87.

CONTINUED:

He steps over Jack's clothes and kicks in the bathroom door.

INT. BATHROOM -SAME TIME

Ski mask FIRES GUNSHOTS into the RUNNING SHOWER. GLASS SHATTERS and steam pours out into the room, revealing... an empty shower stall.

To the left is an open window.

INT. BATHROOM WINDOW -SKI MASK POV

A wet and naked Jack recovers from his two-story fall and turns to the back of the house. Ski mask FIRES off FIVE ROUNDS, forcing Jack to the front.

Ski mask ducks back inside the window.

EXT. FRONT OF HOUSE -SKI MASK DRIVER POV

Jack turns the corner and Driver FIRES SHOTS through the passenger window. Jack instinctively turns back to the other side.

INT. DOREEN'S BEDROOM -TIGHT ON DOREEN

She screams and hides behind the bed.

EXT. SIDE OF HOUSE -STEADY ON JACK

He quickly looks up to the bathroom window. Nothing now. Shampoo running into his eyes, he makes a break for the office.

EXT. REAR OF HOUSE -OFFICE WINDOW

Jack whirls a potted palmetto through the sliding glass doors and enters.

INT. OFFICE -SAME TIME

He looks to the closet and remembers that his clothes and gun are upstairs. Ignoring FOOTSTEPS, Jack reaches into the sofa bed, pumps the shotgun and whirls it toward the door.

(CONTINUED)

88.

CONTINUED:

Ski Mask turns the corner and FIRES SHOTS.

The two bullets take out a lamp and a desk drawer.

Jack BLASTS TWICE and the wall explodes in a shower of plaster. The man retreats. Jack pumps, FIRES, and follows in a fit of frenzy.

EXT. STREET -FRONT DOOR POV

Ski mask runs for the CAR, dives through the open door, and the driver SCREECHES off.

A bare-ass Jack aims and FIRES multiple SHOTS at the car until it disappears.

He walks back inside the house as neighbors freak out.

INT. DOREEN'S BEDROOM -TIGHT ON DOREEN

She's under the bed, terrified.

JACK (O.S.)

Doreen!

She peeks out. Jack peers in from the hall.

JACK :

You okay?

DOREEN :

I think so.

JACK :

Okay. Call an ambulance.

She starts to crawl from the bed, confused.

INT. BEDROOM/BATHROOM -STEADY ON JACK

Towel now around his waist, he enters to find Gloria on the carpet, her face covered in blood. Jack appears at her side and elevates her head.

JACK :

I'm here, Gloria.

Jack towels the blood from her features.

JACK :

You're safe now.

(CONTINUED)

89.

CONTINUED:

Hand over her mouth, Doreen appears in the doorway.

JACK :

Did you call an ambulance?

Doreen's in shock.

JACK :

I'll do it. You crouch down here
and hold her head, just like this.

Doreen?!

She snaps out of it.

JACK :

I need you right now.

Doreen does as she's told and Jack grabs his clothes to
make his way downstairs.

DOREEN :

Wait... you better hide your
stuff.

He gives her a look and remembers his holsters.

TIGHT ON DOREEN:

She turns back to her mother and a grim possibility dawns
on her. Not both in one week.

CUT TO:

EXT. GLORIA'S HOUSE -AMBULANCE

Two PARAMEDICs hurry Gloria up into the emergency
vehicle. Doreen gets inside.

DOREEN :

What hospital are we going to?

PARAMEDIC :

Tarzana Medical.

She looks out to the driveway. Now dressed in a pinstripe Hugo Boss suit, Jack stands with two uniform police and looks to Doreen.

JACK :

I'll see you there.

(CONTINUED)

90.

CONTINUED:

As the ambulance speeds away, the cops escort Jack to a squad car.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INVESTIGATION ROOM -EARLY MORNING

A black DETECTIVE RAYMER sits with Jack at a table.

RAYMER :

Two men in ski masks shoot up your brother's home, put his widow in the hospital and you don't have the slightest clue as to why?
Jack turns from the two-way mirror.

JACK :

Look, Detective...

RAYMER :

Raymer.

JACK :

I'm sorry I can't give you motive as to who wants my brains blown out.

RAYMER :

So why the twelve gauge?

JACK :

I was exercising my Constitutional right. How's that?

Detective Raymer shakes his head and tosses him a manila envelope.

RAYMER :

Open it. Courtesy of the Palm Springs police department. Maybe you'll have a change of heart.

Jack dumps out the envelope.

TIGHT ON POLICE POLAROIDS

Graphic, bloody angles of Cliff Brumby and Susan in bed.

Shot to pieces.

(CONTINUED)

91.

CONTINUED:

RAYMER :

Eleven slugs were pulled from them. All from a .357. Matched the ones we pulled from your brother's house... matched the one we pulled out of your brother. Jack locks eyes with Raymer.

JACK :

They had a daughter.

RAYMER :

Michelle. Yes. She's down the hall with our shrink. You know her?

JACK :

She's a friend of the family.

RAYMER :

Yeah, well, now hers is dead. Palm Springs police found her passed out, naked in a golf cart with some kid.

JACK :

Did she see anything?

RAYMER :

Yes, as a matter of fact, a gray, late model Volvo.

Jack stares at Raymer and goes through the photos.
Raymer looks to the mirror, pulls out his card and places
it in front of Jack.

RAYMER :

Get a sudden hunch? You can get
me on any of those numbers.
Anytime.

Jack nods and puts the card in his pocket. Raymer exits.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM -POV

Someone watches a stone-faced Jack sift through the
Polaroids. At a side door, two more detectives appear.
92.

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM -SAME TIME

Jack looks up from the pictures. From the funeral,
Detectives Simpkins and Voorhees now enter.

SIMPKINS :

You were at Brumby's house just a
few hours before the murders took
place.

JACK :

Yes, we've already been through
that. Look, my only crime is
firing a shotgun to protect my
family.
Beat.

SIMPKINS :

Why did you go to Jeremy Kinnear's
house yesterday?
Jack is silent. After a long beat -

SIMPKINS :

I think we're in agreement that
the circumstances surrounding your
brother's death were unusual,
but -

JACK :

--Unusual?

VOORHEES :

In any case, it's our job to worry about it. Not yours.

SIMPKINS :

And from where I'm standing... you need to start looking out for number one.

Simpkins lifts a file folder.

SIMPKINS :

FBI faxed over the dirty on you. Pretty extensive investigation they got going.

(after a beat)

You're smart, Jack, I'll give you that. But the feds... they're patient. And patience always prevails against the 'career criminal.' Federal prosecutors win 97 percent of their cases?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

93.

CONTINUED:

SIMPKINS (CONT'D)

Why? Patience. They don't go into a courtroom half-cocked like Marcia Clark. When you lose -

VOORHEES :

(quickly interjecting)

And you will...

SIMPKINS :

... you'll be sent to a federal prison like Marion or Lewisberg and do 85 percent of a federal sentence. That's mandatory.

VOORHEES :

Big Brother doesn't risk taxpayer money on your recidivist ass.

SIMPKINS :

No appeal. No time for good behavior. Life as you know it will end that day.

Knowing he's not getting much more from this particular inquiry, Simpkins shuts off the cassette recorder.

SIMPKINS :

Can I offer some real advice? Not as a cop, but as a husband and a father?

(as Jack nods)

You've got a lot to lose.

Whatever you're thinking, do yourself a favor and don't.

JACK :

That's your impression of advice?

SIMPKINS :

The attempt on your life signifies you're poking a sleeping bear.

Doesn't take a park ranger to know that bear will eventually bite.

VOORHEES :

So let us do our job and stay out of the fucking way.

CUT TO:

94.

EXT. POLICE STATION -MORNING

A silver Porsche Boxster waits for an exhausted Jack.

The tinted driver's window slides down to reveal...

Geraldine.

GERALDINE :

Come on and let's go for a ride.

Jack looks skeptical.

GERALDINE :

Trust me on this one, honey.

INT. PORSCHE -MOVING

He stares at her as she SCREECHES away.

JACK :

How'd you know I was going to be here?

GERALDINE :

Don't you know? I'm your fairy godmother.

She takes his hand and places it on the gearshift. Jack looks over and sees she's wearing a very short skirt. Her sculpted legs scissor the accelerator and clutch. Jack shifts for her into second gear.

JACK :

Take me to Tarzana Medical.

GERALDINE :

Afterwards.

Geraldine drops the clutch. Jack shifts into third.

GERALDINE :

I want you to kiss me, Jack. Down here.

She slides her skirt up with a lascivious smile.

CUT TO:

EXT. VALLEY VIEW CONDO COMPLEX -DAY

The Boxster arrives at the gate.

95.

INT. PORSCHE -GATE CLICKER

Geraldine returns it to her sun visor and grins at Jack.

She wets her luscious lips. He moves toward her, but instead he reaches up and hits the clicker button.

She watches, stunned, as the gate slides back closed.

GERALDINE :

What are you doing?

JACK :

How did you come to pick me up at the station?

GERALDINE :

What do you mean? I hear things.

JACK :

Great. Then hear this. Tarzana.
Medical. Center.
She shakes her head and throws it into reverse.

CUT TO:

EXT. TARZANA MEDICAL CENTER -LOADING ZONE
The Porsche stops. Jack tugs the keys from the ignition.

JACK :

You've had plenty of time to make
something up. Who told you I was
at the police station?

GERALDINE :

You're not serious.

JACK :

I figure I had some kind of gang
bang waiting for me in your
apartment.

GERALDINE:

(smiling in disbelief)
Gimme my keys and get the fuck
outta here!

JACK :

I hope you come out of this
smelling clean, Geraldine. I
really do.

GERALDINE :

Get out.
(CONTINUED)
96.

CONTINUED:

A hospital security GUARD looks inside the Porsche.

GUARD :

Everything okay, miss?
Jack gives Geraldine her keys and exits the car.

GERALDINE :

I called your cell phone and a Detective Raymer answered. Does that make any sense, asshole?
Geraldine SCREECHES off. Jack watches, feeling slightly stupid.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -GLORIA

Still unconscious. Doreen sits bedside and watches a doctor monitor vital signs.

DOCTOR (O.S.)

Minor concussion. We'll keep a good eye on her and she'll be out of here by morning.

PULL BACK to reveal: Jack, watching from an observation window with a DOCTOR.

JACK :

Are you going to be monitoring her?

DOCTOR :

No, I'm going on my fifteenth hour. But I'll make sure she's looked after closely.

JACK :

Good man.

INT. GLORIA HOSPITAL ROOM -DOREEN

Jack puts his hand on Doreen's shoulder and whispers.

JACK :

How you doing, soldier?

DOREEN :

It's gonna be another hour before the anesthesia even wears off.

(CONTINUED)

97.

CONTINUED:

JACK:

(nodding)

I'm going back to the house to collect my stuff. Want to come?

Doreen doesn't have to say a word: she's staying.

Jack's proud look is interrupted by his CELL PHONE. He knows it isn't good news. It RINGS ominously.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. TARZANA MEDICAL CENTER

Jack storms out and searches the parking lot for a cab. He fails to find one, but spies:

In a trenchcoat, the Doctor who treated Gloria climbs into a big new S-class Mercedes.

EXT. MERCEDES -DOCTOR

Weary, he puts the car in reverse, looks to his left, and starts to back up. PULL BACK to reveal: Jack's reflection off the side mirror. The Doctor rolls down his window.

JACK :

I hate to trouble you, Doctor...

CUT TO:

EXT. AJIT APARTMENT COMPLEX -LATER

Jack and the Doctor pull up in the black Mercedes. Eddie stands outside, smoking a cigarette with a hot stare.

EDDIE :

You're a blithering moron, y'know that?

JACK :

Yes.

The Doctor gives Eddie a confused nod as Jack escorts him up the stairs. Eddie follows.

EDDIE :

You gave him a pistol for fucksake.

(CONTINUED)

98.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

I thought it'd protect him.

EDDIE :

How very fuckin' American of you!

They enter and close the door behind them.

INT. AJIT BEDROOM -LATER

The Doctor tends to Ajit, prone in bed, with a stump arm bandaged at his wrist. Nearby, family members stare at Jack from a bean bag, ready to kill. Eddie stands deep in the b.g.

The Doctor gives Jack a reassuring nod. Jack ignores the family and sits at Ajit's side. Ajit puts his free hand on Jack's shoulder.

CUT TO:

EXT. EDDIE'S OLD VOLKSWAGEN -MOVING

Eddie drives Jack. They sit silently. Eddie stops in front of Gloria's house and the parked Oldsmobile.

EDDIE :

I presume all this has something to do with Frank.

Jack nods. Eddie understands.

JACK :

If that's the case, you still interested in that security tape?

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT (LITTLE VIETNAM) -OLDS

Jack parks before a very foreign storefront.

INT. ELECTRONICS SHOP (VIETNAMESE FAMILY STORE)

The Vietnamese owner stacks coffee mugs on a counter.

INT. BACK OFFICE -TEENAGER

LAO, a hardcore Vietnamese gang member, sits at the computer.

(CONTINUED)

99.

CONTINUED:

The tape plays on an adjacent television. Jack stares at the large monitor.

JACK :

He's looking at something down on the bar. Right there. What is that? A cocktail napkin?

Lao nods and rewinds the image: Frank looks at the "napkin" on the bar.

JACK :

Can you isolate it and blow it up on this thing?

Lao nods, his fingers dancing on the keys. On screen a blue box isolates the image and blows it up. Again.

Jack nods and just then, the palm-sized object comes into view. It's not a napkin.

JACK :

It looks like a little mirror.

One last time. Jack stares closely at the screen.

LAO :

No... it's round. It's a compact disc.

After a few seconds of deep thought, Jack stares at the kid with distinct revelation.

JACK :

Or a C.D.-Rom.

LAO :

(nodding)

Or a C.D.-Rom.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. JUNKYARD LOT -STEADY ON JACK

He moves with purpose, the Operator and Bronson the Rottweiler follow closely behind.

JACK'S POV

The stripped Mustang.

100.

BACK TO SCENE:

Jack goes to the trunk and opens the trunk. He ejects the disc drive to the compact disc player. Inside, a

Rolling Stones CD, Sinatra and blank disc with no inscription. Jack grabs it and SLAMS the TRUNK.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNKYARD OFFICE -TIGHT ON OPERATOR

He holds open his office door and Jack enters by himself. He nods and the Operator closes the door.

INT. OFFICE -JACK

He sits at the Operator's computer terminal, places the disc in the ROM player, and boots it up with the mouse.

TIGHT ON COMPUTER SCREEN

INT. LIMOUSINE INTERIOR -GRAINY POV

Geraldine sits back and addresses us.

GERALDINE (V.O.)

Welcome again. It's your favorite slut-bitch-whore, back for another round of Pussy Potluck.

INTERCUT WITH:

JACK'S EYES ONLY

GERALDINE (V.O.)

For those of you not in the know, this is where I go to an all-ages club here in the L.A. area... and take some unsuspecting toy home to sample my fine ass.

She then slips a vial in one of two champagne flutes.

GERALDINE :

Are you hooked yet?

She then leans in and the screen GOES TO SNOW for a few seconds. A passage of time.

Then... she comes back to closeup.

(CONTINUED)

101.

CONTINUED:

GERALDINE (V.O.)

(whispers)

Check out this sweet young thing.

Geraldine allows us to see someone climb into the limo.

We can almost see Jack's heart sink to his stomach.

Geraldine's "victim" sits looking at the velvet ceiling.

It's Doreen.

GERALDINE (V.O.)

Are... you attracted to me?

DOREEN (V.O.)

You're beautiful.

GERALDINE (V.O.)

Would you like to kiss me?

Geraldine senses Doreen's shyness and anxiety.

GERALDINE (V.O.)

It's okay. Maybe you want something to drink first?

Geraldine hands Doreen the drugged champagne flute. A quick toast and Doreen tilts back her glass -

QUICK FLASH -INT. KINNEAR'S GUEST HOUSE -BLACKMAIL

ROOM:

An all-too familiar setting.

Where Jack observed the blondes and Chinese businessman.

Geraldine lies half-naked on the king-size bed.

GERALDINE :

Come let mommy take care of you.

Doreen plops down. Drugged beyond coherence, beyond the grasp of what's to happen. Geraldine plants one on her.

This is tearing Jack apart.

Geraldine breaks the kiss and starts to undress the girl.

DOREEN :

Is thisssss...?

(CONTINUED)

102.

CONTINUED:

GERALDINE :

(a creepy smile)

Homework, child.

Suddenly Cyrus appears, wearing only a predator's grin.

CYRUS :

I've been waiting.

Aggressively, Cyrus undresses and moves to Doreen.

EXT. JUNKYARD OFFICE -OPERATOR POV

He sneaks a glance at what Jack is watching.

TIGHT ON OPERATOR

Off the window's reflection, we see the man's shocked expression.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. VENTURA BOULEVARD -LATER

The Olds weaves through traffic. CARS noisily SWERVE to avoid him.

INT. OLDS -MOVING

Jack doesn't care. He's numb with hurt.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM -VANITY MIRROR

In underwear and a bra, Geraldine straightens her hair with a curling iron.

Jack stands in the doorwell, the .45 dangling from his hand. The sight of Geraldine disgusts him.

JACK :

Tell me about the girl.

She meets his hard gaze off the mirror. In an attempt of composure, she shifts the subject.

GERALDINE :

How'd you get in here?

(CONTINUED)

103.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

The young girl on the disc with you.

Jack slowly makes his way over to her.

JACK :

Do you know her name?

GERALDINE :

(terrified)

Her first name. Doreen.

JACK :

You don't know her last name?

Geraldine hesitates before she shakes her head.

JACK :

You lying whore!

Jack yanks her back by the hair and lifts the curling iron. She screams.

JACK :

I'm only going to say this once...

I can be very cruel. I'm going to ask you questions, you're going to answer them. You follow a question with a question? You get burned like this.

Jack takes the curling iron to the soft spot of her neck and she screams in agony. He tightens his grip and restrains her.

JACK :

As far as I'm concerned, you just drugged and raped my niece. My tolerance is exhausted. Doesn't matter if you're a man or a woman at this point.

(then)

How did Frank get the disc?

GERALDINE :

I gave it to him!

Jack loosens his grip on her. Tears form in her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

104.

CONTINUED:

GERALDINE :

I didn't know it was his daughter!

I thought she was just another girl looking to break in the business! When guys find out what I do, they try to bang me off the bat. Tell their friends they fucked a porn star. But not your brother. He was sweet to me. He was real. So when I found out how

young Doreen was... and who she was... I couldn't live with myself.

JACK :

So you gave it to him?

GERALDINE :

I wanted to... I was hoping...
(exploding in tears)
I didn't think he would go to the cops!

JACK :

What did you think!? That he'd watch his daughter get raped and do nothing?!

GERALDINE :

I don't know what the hell I was thinking! Maybe I thought he could save his daughter from heading down the same path I did. I don't know!

JACK :

Who found her!?
She balks. Jack moves the iron closer.

GERALDINE :

Cyrus did! Jesus Christ! One of those teen clubs. You met Cyrus. The younger, the better.

JACK :

Who else was there?

GERALDINE :

Just me, Cyrus and Mike.

JACK :

So those two killed Frank.

(CONTINUED)

105.

CONTINUED:

GERALDINE :

No.

JACK :

Do you want to be dead, Geraldine?

GERALDINE :

We were playing together all night, the night he was killed! It couldn't have been them! Jack thinks to himself and closes his eyes.

JACK :

Oh my God.

GERALDINE :

What?

JACK :

Nothing. Did Jeremy know that Frank was my brother?
(as Geraldine nods)
What did he say?

GERALDINE :

Good.
This hits Jack like a sledgehammer. Jack nods.

JACK :

Where does Cyrus live?

GERALDINE :

I don't know.
(as Jack shakes her)
The only time I've seen him outside of Jeremy's is at Big Mike's!
Jack takes a moment and pushes a towel on her.

JACK :

Finish getting dressed.

CUT TO:

EXT. UPSTAIRS APARTMENT -GERALDINE

Shorts, sandals, blouse. With the coast clear, Jack pushes her outside. She locks the front door behind her, Jack looks off the balcony.

106.

JACK'S POV

Up the street, behind the Olds, is a familiar black sedan.

BACK TO SCENE:

He grabs Geraldine's keys and moves her to the elevator. The elevator's lights ascend. Jack yanks Geraldine into the stairwell.

The elevator opens and Detective Voorhees and Simpkins march to Geraldine's door.

VOORHEES :

(knocking)

Police! Open up!

INT. DOWNSTAIRS GARAGE -BOXTER PORSCHE

Jack pulls out and hauls ass down the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET -PORSCHE

Jack and Geraldine pull up to an apartment complex.

GERALDINE :

(pointing)

That's it. Number 402.

Jack pulls up short and exits. He walks around to the passenger side and yanks her out of the car.

He practically pulls her across the lawn and up to the main entrance.

INT. APARTMENT -TIGHT ON BIG MIKE

He makes a sandwich in shorts and knee brace. You can hear Madden and Summerall announce the football game on the b.g. TELEVISION.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY -FRONT DOOR

Jack motions for Geraldine to knock and she does.

GERALDINE :

Hello! Mike!

107.

INT. APARTMENT -TIGHT ON BIG MIKE

He grabs a 9mm with silencer and looks through the peephole.

PEEPHOLE POV:

Geraldine always looks ready for action.

GERALDINE :

Open up, Mike. I need to see you,
honey.

TIGHT ON BIG MIKE

He grins like he's going to get laid.

BIG MIKE :

Just a second, Geraldine.

He spruces himself in the mirror, leaves the gun on the counter, and opens the door.

BIG MIKE'S POV

Geraldine offers a dry smile. Jack darts forward.

BACK TO SCENE:

Big Mike tries to slam the door but Jack wedges his foot inside.

Big Mike holds him off as best as possible. He looks back to the gun on the counter and stretches for it. He can't reach it. He lets go of the door and grabs the gun.

Jack barges through and grabs Big Mike's hand just in time to re-direct the barrel.

SILENT GUNSHOTS FIRE right into Geraldine's chest. She's blown back by the sheer force.

Jack and Big Mike wrestle over control of the gun, falling back into the kitchen.

Big Mike is winning the battle. The gun starts dropping down to Jack's head.

Then, Jack grabs Mike's sandwich knife off the counter. Jack jams the knife into Mike's bad knee and he screams.

(CONTINUED)

108.

CONTINUED:

Jack then takes control of the gun and points it in Big Mike's painstricken face. Mike steps back into the

living room.

JACK :

Don't you know it's twenty years
for even getting caught with a
silencer?

BIG MIKE :

I swear! I didn't do anything!

JACK :

Haven't heard that one for about
ten minutes now.
Big Mike looks terrified.

BIG MIKE :

Please, man! Put the gun down!

JACK :

You do know why I'm here, right?
Big Mike nods slightly.

BIG MIKE :

I knew your brother from the Half
Moon. But I wasn't there the
night he was killed.

JACK :

Of course you weren't.

BIG MIKE :

Ask Geraldine!
They both back to the door. She lies in the doorway,
dead.

JACK :

She doesn't appear to be too
reliable a witness. Where's your
buddy Cyrus?

BIG MIKE :

I don't know.

JACK :

How about this? Tell me where he is, and I won't shoot you.

Jack sets the 9mm on a table. Big Mike brightens.

(CONTINUED)

109.

CONTINUED:

BIG MIKE :

He's over at Kinnear's. The guest house, probably.

Jack puts on his gloves, grabs the knife, and walks towards Big Mike.

BIG MIKE :

Come on, man!

JACK :

Come on? You watched my niece get raped, right?

BIG MIKE :

But you said --!

JACK :

I said 'I wouldn't shoot you.'

BIG MIKE :

For Chrissake! I didn't kill him!

JACK :

I know you didn't, Mike!

Jack stabs Big Mike in the chest and pulls the knife out. The large man screams, near death.

JACK :

I know!

Jack stabs him again, this time leaving the knife in there. A gurgle of blood escapes from Big Mike's lips as he rolls on the floor.

Jack turns, grabs the 9mm/silencer and heads for the door. He then stops in his tracks, turns back around, and takes Mike's chauffeur hat with him. He puts it on, stares at himself in the mirror, and steps over

Geraldine.

She lies in the doorwell in a bloody heap, her lifeless eyes still open.

JACK :

It could have been nice, I guess.

CUT TO:

EXT. AJIT APARTMENT -OLDSMOBILE

Jack writes an address down on a piece of paper.

110.

TIGHT ON ADDRESS

It reads, "204 Hellman Street."

BACK TO SCENE:

Jack folds it, sticks it inside the lockbox of cash from the track, and walks up to the apartment.

INT. AJIT APARTMENT -UNCLE RAKESH

He sits with Ajit. Together, they open the lockbox and smiles drape across their faces.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -JACK

He sits bedside in the chair that Doreen occupied earlier and stares at a sleeping Gloria. Jack looks guilty.

Suddenly, her eyes open. The two lock eyes.

GLORIA :

I'm sorry, I...

(suddenly realizing)

You're not staying.

Jack shakes his head. After a painfully-long moment -JACK

It's time.

GLORIA:

What about our vacation? It could be our second chance.

Her WORDS REVERBERATE in Jack's ear... as if the devil was on his doorstep.

JACK :

Gloria... there never should've been a first chance.

Gloria nods, but with tears in her eyes.

JACK :

Don't forget me.

GLORIA :

How? Every time I look at
Doreen...

Jack takes a long moment to compose himself.

(CONTINUED)

111.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

Don't do it, Gloria.

GLORIA :

Don't do what?

JACK :

Don't tell her.

(after a long
beat)

Doreen belonged to Frank.

GLORIA :

Okay. I won't.

JACK :

Promise me you won't.

GLORIA :

I promise.

Jack kisses her on the forehead, pulls a letter from his
jacket, and leaves it on the chair.

GLORIA :

What is that?

JACK :

It's for Doreen.

Gloria still looks after him as he exits.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY -SAME TIME

Jack walks down the corridor, fighting emotion.

DOREEN (O.S.)

Hey!

Doreen stands there, a Coke and a bag of potato chips.
The two make their way towards one another.

DOREEN :

I was getting nauseous.
Jack studies her for a moment.

JACK :

Doreen... I'm taking a little
trip.

DOREEN :

Now?
(CONTINUED)
112.

CONTINUED:

Jack nods.

DOREEN :

Will you be coming back?
He shakes his head.

DOREEN :

Why not?
Jack thinks to himself and shrugs.

JACK :

Keep a tight watch on your mom.

DOREEN :

I will.
Jack looks deep into her eyes. Slowly, he moves his hand
through her hair. She smiles. A different attitude.

DOREEN:

Try and come back... if you can.

JACK:

(a sad smile)
Keep me cold a double peanut
butter and chocolate on a sugar

cone.

DOREEN :

I will.

They hug.

DOREEN :

Good-bye, Uncle Jack. Take care.

JACK :

Good-bye, Doreen.

She watches him all the way until he turns the corner.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JEREMY'S MANSION -AFTERNOON

The Olds drives by the entrance and Jack sees a security guard wave a Range Rover through the gates.

Dozens of cars in the driveway, Jeremy is apparently having a party.

Jack pulls around the far corner, parks, and puts on the hat. He stares at himself in the rearview and exits.

113.

EXT. MANSION -WALL

Jack climbs over it and makes his way over to a large oak tree. He disconnects the photoelectric sensor and heads for the guest house.

INT. SECURITY ROOM -BANK OF MONITORS

The guard watching has no idea.

INT. JEREMY'S MANSION -PARTY

The FOOTBALL GAME PLAYS ON TWO BIG-SCREEN TVs. Guests dressed to the nines drink, mingle, and barely pay attention.

CUT TO:

INT. SUBURBAN HOME -DAY

A beautiful MOM breast feeds her newborn baby.

Suddenly, the CORDLESS PHONE RINGS and she walks over to answer it.

MOM :

Hello? Yes? Just a minute.

STEADY ON Mom. She walks through the kitchen and out through the back yard. She then goes into the garage located in the far back, still nursing her baby.

INT. BACK GARAGE -GRAY VOLVO

A man does some mechanical work underneath it.

MOM :

Baby, someone's on the phone for you.

The husband reaches out and grabs the cordless.

INT. KINNEAR'S OFFICE -TIGHT ON JEREMY

He's on the phone, at the end of his rope. He looks out the window with the same pair of Nikon binoculars from the track. Nothing.

(CONTINUED)

114.

CONTINUED:

JEREMY :

What's the word on the fucking disc?!

(after a beat)

Well, where the hell is it? Rest easy?!

Jeremy listens to the man and puts down the binoculars.

JEREMY :

I don't care if you took care of his bloody brother! Act like a professional and finish the fucking job! Unless your lovely new homemaker wants a new photo album.

CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO ROOM -CAMERAMAN #1/#2 FROM EARLIER

They work the camera like they are setting up a particular shot.

Suddenly, Cameraman #1 looks over. Terrified, he hits #2 to try and get his attention.

CAMERAMAN #2

What?

The man looks over. The two men stare, horrified.

TIGHT ON JACK:

He stands there, points the GUN, and RATTLES OFF FOUR

SHOTS.

INT. CONNECTING BEDROOM -TIGHT ON CYRUS

He smokes a clove and stares toward the Cameramen.

CYRUS :

The problem isn't Jodie. It's your goddamn laziness. Try and understand... the object is for them to take control of her. We don't want them claiming fucking entrapment. But at the same time, I need to see their faces.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

115.

CONTINUED:

CYRUS (CONT'D)

So that means if she's doin' him doggie over here, you two are going to have to quietly move the camera.

Cyrus puts out his clove and approaches the mirror.

CYRUS :

We can't even use that fucking zipperhead because of you two.

From behind the mirror, a DISTORTED NOISE. A TAPPING.

CYRUS :

Are you guys still there?

The TAPPING RESUMES. Cyrus looks to the two-way mirror and sees it wobble and waver.

The mirror begins to curl, boil and melt.

CYRUS :

What the fuck?

Finally, a giant TONGUE OF FLAME EXPLODES through. Cyrus flies back into the bed.

Jack steps through the melted mirror.

CYRUS :

Jesus fucking Christ!

Jack says nothing. And suddenly, Cyrus knows he's going

to die. After a few seconds, he smiles, defiantly.

CYRUS :

I guess you never bothered to ask her, did you?

JACK :

What's that?

CYRUS :

Whether or not she enjoyed it?

Jack unleashes a torrent of fire. Cyrus writhes as he burns beyond recognition.

CUT TO:

116.

EXT. MIDDLE-CLASS HOUSE -TIGHT ON THORPEY

He arrives home and enters past an address plate that reads "204."

THORPEY :

Anybody home?!

Confused, Thorpey goes into the kitchen and pours himself a glass of milk.

THORPEY:

Hello?!

He turns into another room.

Standing there, a sword in his lone hand, is Ajit.

THORPEY :

Son of a bitch.

He turns around to find -

Six Punjabi men. All armed with swords.

Ajit steps forward and puts the sword through Thorpey's back and out through the front.

BACK TO ADDRESS PLATE

as Ajit and the other men continue the devastation. The address number was from the letter Jack wrote him.

CUT TO:

INT. MANSION -PARTY

People drink, joke and watch football.

INT. OFFICE -JEREMY

enters. He walks to the Van Gogh painting, pulls it off, and reveals a safe.

JACK (O.S.)

I would've guessed the Picasso.

QUICKLY TO JACK

Still donning the hat, he points the gun at Jeremy.

(CONTINUED)

117.

CONTINUED:

JACK :

Go ahead and open the safe, Jeremy. Let's see what you got in there.

JEREMY :

Jack, come on, put down the gun.

JACK :

Open it.
Jeremy does the combination and opens it.

TIGHT ON SAFE:

Jack looks in and pulls out five manila envelopes, leaving the money behind.
Jack flips through them and looks up.

JACK :

You got everyone in your back pocket, don't you?
Jeremy shoots a glance to his desk and thinks about it.

JACK :

Go ahead. Reach for the gun. It might just save you the humiliation.

JEREMY :

Come on, Jack. Put it down.

JACK :

You can't go around recruiting little girls, Jeremy.

JEREMY :

I'm sorry it happened, Jack. But I didn't recruit anyone. And once I discovered her age, I immediately put a halt on it. I didn't get to where I am by being stupid.

JACK :

Emotionally, physically, sexually... she'll never be the same.

(CONTINUED)

118.

CONTINUED:

JEREMY :

Please. Just put the gun away and let's talk about this. As gentleman.

JACK :

As gentlemen? You killed my brother.

JEREMY :

Hold on a second. I didn't kill anyone.

JACK :

What does it matter if you actually pulled the trigger or not? You had the most to lose. You might not have gotten your hands dirty, but you picked up the bill.

Jeremy's feeling of total helplessness is obvious.

JEREMY :

It's clear you're going to be pigheaded and not listen to anything I have to say!

JACK :

Don't need to. As a poker player,
you of all people know that
everything is in the eyes.

Jack locks the office door and gestures to the corner.

JACK :

Get over there and face the wall.

JEREMY :

What can I do to convince you,
Jack?

JACK :

You can do what I say.

JEREMY :

Fine.

(moving to the corner)

You want me to put on a 'dunce'
cap?

JACK :

No. Just get down on your knees.

(CONTINUED)

119.

CONTINUED:

JEREMY :

Jack, c'mon! You're not this
stupid!

JACK:

Get down on your knees!

Jeremy drops to his knees and whines.

JACK :

Now I want you to picture
something, Jeremy. Visualize,
since that's what you're best at.

Jack stares at the back of Jeremy's balding head.

JACK :

Imagine watching your little girl... your everything... on a computer screen. On it, you see her... drugged out of her mind... forced to engage in sex acts too hideous to mention. Now imagine it being done by people you know. Your supposed friends... who come into your bar all the time. And you know they can kill you. But you don't care. So at the first opportunity, justice in your guts -

JEREMY :

--drive to the cops rather than listen to reason!

JACK :

Because there is no reason!
There's nothing to discuss!
(softening)
Except when you stop at that red light, you feel this...
Jack presses the gun muzzle to the back of Jeremy's head.
Jeremy starts to cry.
O.S --The SCREAMS of "Fire!" There's a warning KNOCK on the door but it quickly disappears.

JACK :

And there's no mistaking what it is... what's going to happen. You know in the pit of your stomach... you are going to die.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

120.

CONTINUED:

JACK (CONT'D)

And that you have failed to defend the person who needed you most.
Can you imagine having that

feeling?

JEREMY :

Jack, please, I beg you!

JACK :

Too late, Jeremy.

JEREMY :

I'll give you everything I have!

JACK :

It would never be enough. Time to die... motherfucker.

TIGHT ON JACK:

He PULLS the TRIGGER and Jeremy's body falls to the floor. Silence.

Jack turns away with the envelopes and exits the office.

EXT. MANSION -JACK

slips out as the party goers watch the guest house burn down to the ground. SIRENS ECHO from a distance.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE STATION -LATER

An officer drops the manila envelope down on a desk.

TIGHT ON DETECTIVE RAYMER

The first detective to question Jack.

RAYMER :

(to the officer)

Hey? What is this?

The man shrugs and walks away.

The outside of the envelope reads "Det. Raymer --LAPD."

He opens the envelope and looks through the 8x10 photos.

(CONTINUED)

121.

CONTINUED:

RAYMER :

Holy shit.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. NICE HOUSE -LATE NIGHT

Raymer walks up to it with four uniformed officers behind him. The Mom from earlier answers the door, half-asleep.

MOM :

Pete? What's going on?

RAYMER :

We need to see Scott, Susan.

MALE (O.S.)

Honey, who is it?

MOM :

It's Pete Raymer, baby. Is everything okay?

INT. HOUSE -TIGHT ON DETECTIVE SIMPKINS

He stares at his wife and looks back to the garage.

SIMPKINS :

Oh God. Tell him he can't come in.

MOM :

Why not, baby?!

SIMPKINS :

Just do it.

RAYMER :

I've got a search warrant,
Detective!

Simpkins runs towards the back of the house.

RAYMER :

He's moving!

The Officers storm the house as Mom screams, terrified.

DISSOLVE TO:

122.

INT. BAR -TIGHT ON TELEVISION

A reporter speaks over Detectives Voorhees and Simpkins as they stand before a judge in prison garb.

On the news, they show the gray Volvo. The .357 Magnum.

The 8x10 photos of Simpkins with Jodie and Geraldine

(their faces blurred out, of course.) Stills of Kinnear, Big Mike, Cyrus, and finally, Frank.

A reporter does a "standup" to the camera in front of L.A. County Prison.

REPORTER (V.O.)

And tonight, the two veteran officers remain behind bars without bail. Reporting live from outside L.A. County Prison, Jennifer Stiles, Action News.

PULL BACK to reveal: Jack sitting at the bar.

JACK :

(to the bartender)

Maker's Mark, please.

BARTENDER :

Neat or on the rocks?

JACK :

Come on, junior. You don't drink Maker's Mark on the rocks. You put it in a snifter.

BARTENDER :

(smiling)

Whatever you say, sir.

Doreen walks up with a bag of stuff, sits beside him and smiles.

DOREEN :

Are you nervous?

JACK :

(sarcastically)

No, no, not at all.

Doreen smiles and puts her arm around him.

DOREEN :

We're going to be fine.

JACK :

(nodding)

Did you talk to your mom?

(CONTINUED)

123.

CONTINUED:

DOREEN :

Yeah.

JACK :

What did she say?

DOREEN :

Have a great time, I love you, see
you in a week, yada yada yada.

The Bartender delivers the snifter and Jack downs it with
one gulp. She knows he's scared to death.

DOREEN :

Uncle Jack. Thousands of planes
fly every single day, in every
country, all across the world.

How often do you hear about one
crashing? Come on.

JACK :

You're right.

(gesturing to the bag)

What'd you get?

She smiles and opens the bag.

DOREEN :

All right. We got ear plugs and
gum in case your ears start to
pop. I got us specially-designed
pillows that you can blow up...
and I got magazines. Bazaar for
me, GQ for you.

JACK :

Don't they have pillows on the
plane?

DOREEN :

Yeah, but they suck. And who

knows whose head was on them
before yours.

JACK :

All right. Do you want a Coke or
something before we go?

DOREEN :

They got 'em on the flight.
C'mon, Uncle Jack! We're
boarding! No more stalling!

(CONTINUED)

124.

CONTINUED:

Jack takes a deep breath, leaves a twenty on the bar, and
walks off with Doreen.

BARTENDER :

Thank you, sir.

INT. FLIGHT GATE -JACK AND DOREEN

They head through the crowd. She grabs his hand and
smiles, excited.

DOREEN :

I've never flown first class
before.

JACK :

Doesn't matter where you are if
you crash.

DOREEN :

You're going to be fine, Uncle
Jack! Before you know it, we'll
be ice skating at Rockefeller
Plaza.

The two laugh, walk past everyone flying coach, and hand
over their tickets. Slowly, but surely, they disappear
down the ramp and get on the plane.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END: