

DIAGNOSIS MURDER

"Obsession – Part Four"

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. GHOST TOWN – BUILDING – DAY

1

Ron Wagner is standing exactly as we left him, only now he's SWEATSOAKED and surrounded by FBI BOMB DISPOSAL experts, who are working in their HEAVY PROTECTIVE GEAR and behind SHIELDS.

They have now dug up the dirt between Wagner and the explosives... sure enough, there's a wire running from the exposed trigger device underneath Wagner's feet to the explosives. Steve approaches in PROTECTIVE GEAR.

STEVE

There's no sign that ROAR was ever here.

WAGNER

What would you call that?

Wagner motions to the explosives.

STEVE

A distraction.

(then: )

The prison convoy was ambushed.  
Carter Sweeney has escaped.

WAGNER

I see.

(then: )  
He tricked us again, just like  
your Dad said he would.

STEVE  
It's not your fault.

WAGNER  
Somehow, I don't think the bureau  
will see it that way.

STEVE  
What would you have done  
differently?

WAGNER  
I wouldn't step right here.

Wagner glances at the bomb guys. They don't seem to be  
making  
much progress.

(CONTINUED)

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2.

1 CONTINUED:

1

STEVE

You would have done exactly the same thing, and so would I. We couldn't ignore the evidence we had.

WAGNER

Sweeney knew we couldn't.

(then)

How far back you figure he's been playing us?

STEVE

From the moment he offered to help us catch his sister and bring down ROAR.

WAGNER

I think it goes back further –to the bank robbery. Remember how we got here?

STEVE

A ROAR soldier got killed when his gun jammed.

WAGNER

Amanda found bites on his corpse from red ants... just like the ants that are crawling up my leg right now.

Steve looks at Wagner in a new light.

STEVE

That leg right there?

WAGNER

Yes, the leg attached to the foot that's on top of the trigger that leads to the massive bomb.

STEVE

That's got to be uncomfortable.

Wagner gives him a look but Steve presses on.

STEVE

So you think the ROAR soldier got his bites rigging this place with explosives... and that Caitlin intentionally jammed his gun so he'd get killed.

WAGNER

That's what I'm thinking.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

STEVE

If I were you, I'd be thinking  
about that ant on my leg and the  
trigger under your foot.

a Wagner is about to say something he'd probably regret when  
BOMB GUY motions Steve over.

STEVE

Excuse me.

GUY Wagner waits a long moment as Steve confers with the BOMB  
then returns. It's not lost of Wagner that the BOMB SQUAD is  
clearing out... quickly.

STEVE

Okay, you can get off that trigger  
now.

WAGNER

Is that so?

STEVE

So I'm told.

WAGNER

And what's going to happen when I  
take my foot off the trigger.

STEVE

Hopefully, nothing.

WAGNER

You're not sure?

STEVE

I'm pretty sure. They're not sure.

WAGNER

They're not sure?

That's when Steve abruptly shoves Wagner, knocking him off  
the trigger. Wagner glares at Steve in disbelief.

STEVE

Now we're all sure.

Steve tosses him a TOWEL.

STEVE

Dry yourself off, we have a long  
drive back to LA in small car.

Steve walks off, barely suppressing a smile. And on Wagner,  
staring after him, we DISSOLVE TO:

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4.

2 EXT. BBQ BOB'S – DAY

2

on A nondescript storefront. There's a FOR SALE sign tacked up  
the wall. Jesse and Steve gaze at it lovingly. Mark seems a  
little dubious.

MARK  
This is it?

STEVE  
In all its glory.

JESSE  
Four decades of grease, grits, and  
gristle.

MARK  
Sounds appetizing.

STEVE  
Just wait until you smell it.

MARK  
I thought the place was closed.

STEVE  
After forty years, the smells  
never go away. The entire place is  
saturated with Bob's special  
barbecue sauce.

JESSE  
On busy nights, people lick the  
walls while they're waiting for  
their food.

MARK  
And you plan to encourage this?

STEVE  
Not unless we can figure out how  
to charge for it.

They go to the front door. Jesse puts the key in the lock,  
then pauses.

JESSE  
This is it.

STEVE  
I can almost feel the peanut  
shells under my feet.

As Jesse turns the key in the door, Mark jostles the FOR SALE  
sign, revealing another sign underneath: RIBZ, AN AMERICAN  
GRILL.

(CONTINUED)

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5.

2 CONTINUED:

2

MARK

I thought this place was called  
BBQ Bob's.

JESSE

It was -- until Bob remarried.  
Mrs. Bob made some changes.

STEVE

She ran it into the ground in six  
months. That's why we're getting  
in so cheap.

JESSE

Please, some quiet. This is a  
solemn moment.

And with that, he pushes open the door and the three step  
into:

3 INT. BBQ BOB'S – DAY

3

Think  
Sawdust on the floor? Grease on the walls? Vinyl booths?  
again. This is a beautiful space, colorful yet tasteful,  
elegant yet funky, and, dare we say it, hip. Mark smiles – he  
likes this place. Steve and Jesse are in shock.

MARK

This is not what I expected at  
all. It's --

STEVE

Unbelievable.

MARK

Well, yes. After what you led me to believe I thought it would be something --

JESSE

Horrible.

MARK

Right. But this is --

STEVE

An abomination.

That takes Mark aback. He begins to realize that he and the others are not looking at this the same way.

MARK

Are you saying you don't like this?

(CONTINUED)

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6.

3 CONTINUED:

3

JESSE

Do you feel crunching under your feet? Do your hands stick when you touch the tables?

MARK

Should they?

Steve and Jesse share a look. Is Mark completely clueless?

STEVE

I don't know what to do.

JESSE

I do. Weep.

Steve lets out a deep sigh as he turns to his father.

STEVE

Sorry I dragged you all the way down here.

Steve and Jesse head for the door, dejected. Mark can't believe their attitude.

MARK

You wanted me to see this place and tell you if buying it was a good idea. I do.

JESSE

This dump?

MARK

If Bob's secret recipe is as good

as you say, does it really matter  
that the walls are covered with  
paint instead of grease?

Jesse and Steve share a shrug. They're not excited. Mark is.

MARK

I'll admit, when you first told me  
about your plan, I had my doubts.  
But this place is perfect.

STEVE

Uh-huh.

MARK

There's a 14-screen movie theater  
opening up down the block, a  
TechnoCity video and CD warehouse  
going in next door, and two new  
bookstores on either corner.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

MARK (cont'd)

There are going to be lot of  
hungry people around here.

(then)

And they'll all love this place as  
much as I do.

JESSE

I guess someone has to.

MARK

You'd be crazy to walk away.

STEVE

Thanks. But when we asked you down  
here, it wasn't just for advice.

JESSE

We were going to hit you up for a  
loan. For the down payment,  
startup costs.

MARK

So hit me.

STEVE

Nah. This isn't our dream.

JESSE

How can we ask you for money if  
we're not convinced we can make  
the place work?

MARK

Because I am.

STEVE  
Thanks, Dad. But we can't --

MARK  
I insist. What do you need?

He whips out his checkbook. Steve and Jesse turn away and share a grin.

STEVE  
(to Jesse)  
Told you that would work.

They turn back to Mark. But before they can name a figure,  
the door flies open and Ron Wagner comes in.

JESSE  
Welcome to the all-new BBQ Bob's.

(CONTINUED)

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3 CONTINUED: (3) 3

STEVE

Sorry, we're not open for business yet.

WAGNER

No, but Carter Sweeney is.

He holds up a video tape. And off their looks, go:

4 TIGHT ON CARTER SWEENEY 4

as he stares into a video camera.

CARTER

The United Nations shadow government wants you to believe that I am a serial bomber, a mass murderer, and the greatest threat to national security since the CIA introduced AIDS and crack to our cities. Why?

5 INT. BEACH HOUSE – NIGHT 5

Mark watches the tape, fascinated. Steve stands over him, disgusted.

CARTER (ON TV)

Because I know too much. I found out why the so-called traffic helicopters never stop circling over Los Angeles.

STEVE  
How many times are you going to  
watch this thing?

MARK  
Until I understand it.

STEVE  
I understand it. He's nuts.

MARK  
Since when?

STEVE  
The man blew up half of Los  
Angeles to write his father's name  
across the city in map-dots.

MARK  
He's smart, patient, and  
methodical. This is gibberish.

(CONTINUED)

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9.

5 CONTINUED:

5

CARTER (ON TV)

They sold Hong Kong to the  
Communists -- six months later,  
Pakistan has the bomb, half of  
Florida burns, and Mercedes buys  
Chrysler. Coincidence? They'd  
like you to think so.

Mark hits FAST FORWARD. Carter's image whizzes by.

STEVE

Maybe he cracked. He couldn't  
stand losing to you.

MARK

You've got one thing right. He  
can't stand losing.

Mark stops the scan.

CARTER (ON TV)

Why invent Viagra? How else can  
they get you to swallow their mind-  
control drugs?

MARK

But this is an act.

Mark turns off the TV.

STEVE

If he doesn't believe it, why send  
this to the media? Why didn't he  
leave the country and just  
disappear?

MARK

One thing I've learned, everything Carter Sweeney does is part of a larger plan.

STEVE

If you're right, let's hope this one doesn't involve you.

MARK

I'll say. I've already been the victim of one evil conspiracy today.

(off his look)

You and Jesse set me up outside BBQ Bob's.

STEVE

Maybe we exaggerated our disappointment a little...

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

MARK

Maybe you'd already seen the  
inside of the place twice this  
week.

Steve is speechless for a moment, then figures it out.

STEVE

Nothing like a chatty realtor.

MARK

He dropped off some papers --and  
told me how much you and Jesse  
liked the space the first time you  
saw it.

Steve is busted and he knows it. He pulls out his wallet and  
holds the check out to Mark.

STEVE

If you want the money back...

MARK

Oh, no. You don't get out of this  
so easily.

STEVE

What do you want -- half a day's  
interest?

MARK

I want to be a partner.  
(off Steve's  
confusion)  
It's not a loan, it's an

investment.  
The way you guys can sell, I want  
a piece of your business.

Steve beams, delighted.

STEVE  
You've got it. And all the ribs  
you can eat.

He heads for the front door.

MARK  
Where are you going?

STEVE  
I promised Jesse I'd meet him at  
Bob's and work on the menu. He's  
got this ridiculous idea of  
serving salads.

(CONTINUED)

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5 CONTINUED: (3) 5

Mark smiles and clicks on the TV as Steve goes to

6 INT. BEACH HOUSE – ENTRY 6

and sees the FRONT DOOR is WIDE OPEN. Just as he's registering that, AARON VING steps out of hiding beside him and SMASHES HIM in the head with the butt of an automatic weapon. Steve falls to the ground.

HING  
Ding dong. ROAR calling.

7 INT. BEACH HOUSE – LIVING ROOM 7

Mark turns to the sound of footsteps and finds himself facing Caitlin Sweeney. Three ROAR soldiers behind her.

MARK  
What do you want?

CAITLIN  
It's not what I want, it's just what happens.  
We're like matter and anti-matter; when we get too close, someone dies. My father, all those people at your hospital...

She gestures at someone behind her. Ving tosses Steve's unconscious body on the floor. She casually aims her gun at

his head.

CAITLIN  
Your son.

MARK  
No.

CAITLIN  
No?

Mark She gazes idly down at Steve, trying to decide. And now  
knows Steve is safe.

MARK  
That's not what Carter sent you  
here for.

CAITLIN  
Are you so sure?

Mark nods. And he's right. He's won this round, and she  
doesn't like this.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

CAITLIN

Maybe I don't always do what my brother says. Maybe sometimes I get to do what I want.

MARK

Then shoot us both. I'm sure Carter won't mind.

She raises her gun at him. He doesn't flinch. Okay, maybe a little. Oh, how her finger wants to squeeze that trigger. But she can't. She gestures to a ROAR soldier behind Mark, who takes a BLACK CLOTH BAG and slams it down over Mark's head.

And we go to BLACK.

8 INT. DANCE HALL – ROOM – NIGHT

8

Mark is sitting in a chair, his hands cuffed in front of him, the bag still over his head. A HAND suddenly yanks it off... and Mark finds himself squinting into Carter Sweeney's face. Caitlin stands beside him.

CARTER

Funny the way things work out, isn't it?

MARK

You wouldn't happen to have a paperclip and a rubber band?

CARTER

That's what I love about you Mark, you're resourceful. Always

thinking. Did I ever mention how impressed I was with how you saved Amanda's life?

CAITLIN  
MacGyver would be proud.

Mark glares at Caitlin.

MARK  
You killed a lot of innocent people.

CAITLIN  
Not enough. You and your friends survived.

CARTER  
Oh, let's let bygones be bygones.  
It's only going to get in the way  
of our working relationship.

(CONTINUED)

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13.

8 CONTINUED:

8

Mark looks at him incredulously.

MARK

Your bombings and robberies have  
already killed dozens of people.  
You went after my family. And now,  
you think I'll help you?

Carter shrugs and goes to the door.

CARTER

I know you will.

The Sweeneys walk out, closing and bolting the door behind  
them. And on Mark, absorbing the situation, we CUT TO:

9 INT. BEACH HOUSE – NIGHT

9

A FORENSICS TEAM is going over the house. Jesse tends to  
Steve's wounds while Wagner and Amanda look on.

WAGNER

Neighbor saw a black van pull  
away. We got a partial plate, but  
it's probably stolen.

Steve motions to the forensics team.

STEVE

What good are they? We know who  
did this.

WAGNER

But we don't know where they are

now.

STEVE

I don't think they dropped a room key.

AMANDA

You should know better than anyone where a grain of sand or a drop of grease could lead us.

STEVE

By then, my father could be dead.

JESSE

If Carter wanted to kill him, he could have done it right here. He wants him alive.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

AMANDA

Then why did he blow up the hospital with Mark in it?

WAGNER

He didn't. Caitlin did.

(then)

This has always been personal for Carter. He needs to prove to himself that he's smarter than Mark.

JESSE

No, he has to prove it to Mark. And it's no fun if he can't see Mark lose.

STEVE

My Dad won't lose. Carter is no match for him.

WAGNER

We better hope so – because that's all that's keeping Mark alive.

AMANDA

So Carter didn't break out of prison to run – he's got something he wants to do. If he gets away with it, he beats Mark.

STEVE

Then whatever the hell it is, we're going to make sure Carter Sweeney fails.

And on their looks, we CUT TO:

10 INT. ROOM – DAY

10

Mark is still in darkness when the door opens, illuminating him in a harsh glare of sunlight. Carter steps in with two mugs of coffee. He hands Mark one.

CARTER

Have you decided to join our merry band of rogues?

MARK

No.

CARTER

I really need your wisdom and advice. Think how much we could accomplish if we worked together.

(CONTINUED)

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15.

10 CONTINUED:

10

MARK

Never.

CARTER

Uh-oh. That's not good.

Carter motions to a ROAR soldier, who lifts Mark out of his seat and leads him into

11 INT. DANCE HALL – DAY

11

An abandoned, decrepit club house. The first thing Mark notices is a faded, white arch OUTSIDE THE WINDOW. It reads

CAMP CHAMOKOMEE. This was once a camp resort – it's now the

secret hideaway of ROAR. Soldiers mill about, cleaning their weapons and tending to their equipment. From what we've already seen, we know these aren't all the soldiers. For one thing, Caitlin and Ving aren't there. Carter leads Mark to a TV set, which shows a STOCK SHOT of a CHICKEN CHAMP restaurant.

CARTER

Isn't there anything I can say to change your mind?

(off Mark's stoic look)

What if I told you we offer health benefits?

Carter takes one more look at Mark, shrugs, and picks up a cell phone.

CARTER  
(into phone)  
Do it.

Mark,  
Mark.  
Suddenly the grocery store on screen EXPLODES, startling  
but eliciting smiles from the ROAR folks. Carter turns to

CARTER  
I wonder how many people were in  
that place? It's not quite lunch  
hour, and fried foods aren't as  
popular as they once were.  
Then again, they did just  
introduce a tasty new rotisserie  
chicken.

MARK  
How can you do this?

CARTER  
I'm not, you are.

on  
screen.  
Carter hits a switch on the TV. Now we see another BUILDING

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

CARTER

This one is next, unless you help us. Personally, I'm hoping you hold out a while longer. I love watching things blow up.

MARK

I won't help you hurt any one.

CARTER

That's entirely up to you. Work with us, and you can start saving lives right now.

Carter motions to the TV. Mark sags, defeated.

MARK

What do you want me to do?

Carter clicks off the TV and puts his arm around his good buddy Mark.

CARTER

I need \$100 million in four days and you're going to figure out how to get it.

MARK

How about a ransom demand.

CARTER

No offense, but you're not worth it.  
It also shifts the advantage to the police. It brings us to them.

That's why nine out of 10  
kidnappers get caught picking up  
the money.

MARK

That hadn't occurred to me.

(off Carter's look)

You're a smart man, you don't need  
me to do your thinking for you.

CARTER

I've run out of clever ideas.

Besides, I just love watching you  
work. I always learn so much.

MARK

Why do we only have four days?

Carter shrugs.

(CONTINUED)

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17.

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

CARTER

Makes it more of a challenge,  
wouldn't you say?

MARK

It also matches the pattern of  
your father's bombings.

CARTER

I'm a sentimental guy.

Mark considers the situation, then:

MARK

I'll do it.

we And on Carter's triumphant smile, and Mark's grim resolve,

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FIVE



ACT ONE

FADE IN:

12 INT. CHICKEN CHAMP – DAY

12

Steve is crouching in the rubble, sorting through the debris, when Wagner and Amanda, in her M.E. jacket, approach.

WAGNER

Last I heard, you were off homicide, temporarily assigned to me and the ROAR investigation.

STEVE

I am.

WAGNER

Then what are you doing here?

STEVE

The same thing you are.

AMANDA

He was giving me a ride. He was at the morgue when I got paged.

Steve rises to his feet.

STEVE

I think ROAR did this.

WAGNER

Why?

STEVE

Look around, Ron. This place was bombed.

WAGNER

So what?

STEVE

Caitlin Sweeney blew up Community General, remember?

WAGNER

Because we were in it. Since then, they've been robbing banks.

STEVE

But it appears to be the same explosive device she used.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

WAGNER

A device so common and simple, anyone with a modem, a grudge, and the address of a hardware store could make it.

STEVE

Carter Sweeney terrorized this city with serial bombings. A week after he escapes from jail, they start again.

WAGNER

His bombings were part of a pattern – which he completed.

AMANDA

And his bombs dispersed a wide shrapnel spray of flat-head, brass screws – there's no sign of that here.

STEVE

So he's got a new pattern.

WAGNER

How do you know this wasn't done by a disgruntled employee? A customer who got salmonella? An owner looking for a fat insurance pay-off?

STEVE

It happened less than 12 hours after my father was kidnapped.

WAGNER

So did a car accident at the corner of Santa Monica and La Cienega. Are you going there next?

STEVE

If it might lead me to my father, yes.

AMANDA

Steve, we want to find Mark as much as you do. But you can't go to every crime scene in this city on the slim chance it might be related.

STEVE

That's exactly what I intend to do.

Steve marches off. And on Amanda and Wagner looking after him:

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20.

13 INT. DANCE HALL – NIGHT

13

Mark is staring out the window at the white arch of the old camp as Caitlin and Carter observe him.

CAITLIN

I don't understand what he's doing here.

CARTER

I enjoy his company.

CAITLIN

He's the man who killed our father, have you forgotten that?

CARTER

No.

(then)

I'm making him commit a crime. It goes against everything he believes. Just imagine his pain.

CAITLIN

I'd rather see it. If I slit his throat right now, we can still accomplish what we want.

CARTER

Not what I want.

(then)

Our father didn't die from that lethal injection.

He withered away in a tiny cell, cancer eating his flesh, boredom decaying his mind.

(then)

I'm killing Dr. Sloan from the inside.

VING

A bullet in the brain kills from the inside, too.

Ving joins them.

VING

He's a collaborator. He's working with the occupying forces of the Shadow Government.

CARTER

That makes him useful to us. Think of all the secrets he can reveal.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

VING

We should put his back to the wall  
and execute him as an example to  
the other collaborators.

That's when Mark approaches.

MARK

I know how to do it.

CARTER

I knew you would.

MARK

How much cash do you have here?

CARTER

Ten million dollars.

MARK

We'll need all of it.

CAITLIN

Of course you want it all.

(to Carter)

It's a trick.

VING

He wants to bankrupt the  
revolution.

MARK

You need money to make money.  
Think of it as working capital.  
Besides, the cash will never be

out of your sight.

CARTER

I'm intrigued, doctor. What else will you need?

MARK

A ton of plain paper stock, a truckload of solid steel plating, a dozen acetylene torches, twenty gallons of industrial gray paint and some professional spray guns should get us started.

And on Carter's look, we DISSOLVE TO:

14 14 EXT. HOLLYWOOD PROP VEHICLE CO. – DAY

The lot is filled with interesting PICTURE CARS. Steve ends a conversation with the OWNER, and is walking to the FLATTENED FENCE when Wagner drives up. Wagner gets out of the car, clearly pissed off.

WAGNER  
What am I doing here?

STEVE  
This place rents picture cars to the studios. Fake fire engines, ambulances, that sort of thing. Last night, someone stole a phony armored car.

Wagner turns back to his car.

WAGNER  
Call me when someone steals a real one.

STEVE  
ROAR did this.

Wagner stops, trying hard to control his anger as he turns to face Steve.

WAGNER  
I know you're desperate to find your father. So am I. This is not the way to do it.

STEVE

This is the only way to do it,  
chasing every lead that comes up.

WAGNER

Yes, every lead, not every crime  
that occurs in LA.

(then)

We found the black van, torched in  
a vacant lot. Forensics is going  
over it with a microscope. And  
we're doing a door-to-door in the  
area for witnesses. Maybe we'll  
get a real lead that way.

STEVE

Look at this.

Steve marches into the lot. Wagner reluctantly follows. Steve  
stops at a fake ambulance and points to the lettering on the  
side.

STEVE

What does this say?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

It reads SLOAN MEDICAL. Wagner shakes his head in frustration.

STEVE

The guy who owns this place has been my father's patient for thirty years.

WAGNER

You're reaching, Steve. Anyone could have stolen that truck.

STEVE

He's got a new Mercedes over there. A couple limos. The Batmobile. Why steal a fake armored car?

(then)

Wouldn't it make more sense to steal something that's easily stripped and sold?

Wagner starts to protest, but Steve plows on.

STEVE

Think about it. There must be fifty picture car companies in LA. Why strike this one? Because somehow, some way, Dad sent them here.

WAGNER

That's it. You've lost it. I'm taking you off this case.

Wagner walks away. Steve follows after him.

STEVE

You can't do that.

WAGNER

You're giving me no other choice.  
It was bad enough when you were  
linking every purse snatching to  
ROAR, now you've got Mark getting  
them to send his secret messages.

STEVE

You know how resourceful my father  
can be.

WAGNER

If he isn't dead already.

Wagner stops cold, realizing what he just said in the heat of  
anger. It's too late to take it back, and he knows it.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

WAGNER

At the very least, he's their prisoner. How much influence could he possibly exert over them?

Steve continues on, undeterred by Wagner's words.

STEVE

The LAPD uses this company's vehicles for stake-outs and undercover operations. My father knows that, too.

(then, imploring)

Somehow, Dad got them here. He sent us this message. This may be our only chance to save him. Please, don't let it go.

Wagner considers this for a long moment.

WAGNER

How many times have I argued with Mark and been wrong?

STEVE

I've lost count.

WAGNER

So have I. I'm beginning to feel stupid. Maybe a little of his intuition has rubbed off on you.

(then, giving in)

Okay, you start thinking about what the hell ROAR would want with a phony armored car.

STEVE

Maybe they got tired of stealing money... and have decided to let people just give it to them. I'll start by finding out who moves lots of money in this city.

WAGNER

You do that.

STEVE

What are you going to do?

WAGNER

Get a forensics team down here, see if I can find something to confirm your suspicions.

(CONTINUED)

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14 CONTINUED: (3) 14

STEVE  
Thanks for the ringing vote of  
confidence.

Wagner shrugs and walks on.

WAGNER  
Don't mention it.

And on Steve's look, we CUT TO:

15 EXT. DANCE HALL – DAY 15

Where ROAR soldiers, under Ving's direction, are busily  
WELDING STEEL PLATES into the interior of the fake armored  
truck while OTHER SOLDIERS are repainting the exterior. The  
painters are also putting on some lettering, but we can't  
make out what is being written.

16 INT. DANCE HALL – DAY 16

Other SOLDIERS are cutting PAPER into neat stacks, roughly  
the same dimension as money.

17 ELSEWHERE IN THE DANCE HALL 17

We find CAITLIN watching over several OTHER SOLDIERS as  
they unload STACKS OF MONEY from their hiding place in the  
floor.

She casts a suspicious look towards

18 MARK AND CARTER

18

Who are standing off to one side, watching over the whole operation.

CARTER

I feel like Santa watching over his elves.

MARK

I've never thought of Santa Claus as a deranged psychopath.

CARTER

You think he slides down all those chimney's for the milk and cookies? If people wanted him in their house, they'd unlock the front door.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

CARTER (cont'd)

(then)

He's a fat pedophile who hides out in the North Pole, where we have no extradition treaty and there's no one to enforce it even if we did.

MARK

Is there any one or any thing you don't hate?

Carter looks at Mark and smiles.

CARTER

Admit it, you're having fun.  
That's what's really bothering you.

MARK

You forced me into this.

CARTER

C'mon, how often do you get to mastermind the theft of \$100 million?

MARK

I'm getting no pleasure out of this.

CARTER

Of course you are.

Mark ignores the comment and glances at his watch.

MARK

Tell your people to hurry up --  
we're already three hours behind  
schedule.

CARTER

What do you expect? They're  
revolutionaries, not craftsmen.  
Most of them aren't even high  
school graduates.

(then, low)

It's a good thing you don't have  
to read an instruction manual to  
use a gun.

MARK

If you have so little respect for  
them, what are you doing here?

CARTER

I believe fervently in their cause.

(CONTINUED)

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18 CONTINUED: (2) 18

him, Carter smiles and walks away. And on Mark looking after  
we CUT TO:

19 INT. POLICE STATION – DAY 19

Steve is at his desk as Wagner walks up.

STEVE

I called the Federal Reserve and  
asked them who moves a lot of  
money around LA.

WAGNER

Who does?

STEVE

They do. In fact, this afternoon  
they're taking \$100 million in old  
cash out to their Palmdale  
facility to be burned.

WAGNER

We'll be there when the armored  
car shows up, and I'll arrange for  
an armed escort to Palmdale.

Steve rises, holstering his gun and getting his jacket.

STEVE

Just like that – no questions, no  
doubts?

WAGNER

I have faith in your professional judgement.

STEVE

Uh-huh.

(then)

Find something good at the picture car place?

WAGNER

Caitlin Sweeney's fingerprint.

STEVE

That is good.

And on Steve and Wagner rushing out, we CUT TO:

20 20 EXT. FEDERAL RESERVE – LOADING DOCK – DAY

stop As Wagner's car pulls up. Two OTHER FBI SEDANS come to a stop behind him.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

Wagner, Steve and the HEAVILY ARMED FBI AGENTS emerge and converge on AN ARMORED CAR, which is being loaded with PACKETS OF SHRINK-WRAPPED CASH, under the watchful gaze of ARMED TREASURY AGENTS. Wagner and Steve approach the UNIFORMED, ARMORED CAR OFFICERS. Wagner flashes his ID.

WAGNER

FBI.

(then)

Let me see some ID.

The officers take their LAMINATED PHOTO IDS off shirts and hand them to Wagner. Steve goes to the armored car and checks it out, then goes to the front window and checks the VIN on the dash.

21 HIS POV – THE DASH

21

And the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) plate.

22 BACK TO SCENE

22

Steve compares the numbers to a LIST from his pocket.

23 THE LIST – HIS POV

23

It's from the SECURITY COMPANY. The VIN number matches  
the one  
on the sheet.

24 EXT. FEDERAL RESERVE – LOADING DOCK – DAY  
24

As Steve joins Wagner.

STEVE  
The armored car checks out.

WAGNER  
So do the drivers. But that  
doesn't mean ROAR won't try to  
hijack them on the way.

Wagner turns to the FBI ESCORTS, making eye contact with  
AGENT  
RYBECK.

WAGNER  
Stick close to the armored car and  
don't leave until every dollar is  
burned.

RYBECK  
You got it, sir.

(CONTINUED)

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24 CONTINUED: 24

Steve and Wagner head back to their car.

WAGNER  
So what's the next likely target?

STEVE  
The Stadium, receipts from today's  
game.

WAGNER  
Let's go.

They drive off, leaving the armored car surrounded by  
enough  
fire power to repel a small army, we CUT TO:

25 EXT. PALMDALE FACILITY – LOADING DOCK – DAY  
25

As the ARMORED CAR rolls in under FBI ESCORT. The  
Armored car  
is immediately greeted by ARMED TREASURY GUARDS and  
FACILITY  
PERSONNEL, who are there to unload the truck. The GUARDS  
and  
AGENTS move into position to protect the truck. The  
ARMORED  
CAR GUARDS emerge, open up their truck, and as the  
FACILITY  
PERSONNEL begin unloading the CASH, we CUT TO:

26 INT. GARAGE – DAY 26

to  
As Wagner's car pulls up beside AN ARMORED CAR, identical  
the one we just saw. In fact, it's from the SAME SECURITY  
COMPANY. POLICE OFFICERS are all over the scene, as is a  
FORENSICS TEAM. Wagner and Steve get out and approach a  
world-  
weary POLICE OFFICER, SGT. ESPOSITO.

WAGNER  
What happened?

ESPOSITO  
You're gonna love this.

As Esposito answers, Steve wanders away and glances into  
the  
cab of the armored car.

ESPOSITO  
They were boxed in by two vans on  
the road. A guy in the lead van  
aimed a rocket launcher at them,  
made 'em drive in here. The  
robbers put hoods over the guards  
heads, bound and gagged them, left  
them on the floor.

WAGNER  
How much was taken?

Esposito smiles.

(CONTINUED)

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30.

26 CONTINUED:

26

ESPOSITO

That's the best part. The morons  
robbed an empty armored car. They  
got away with nothing.

Steve returns.

STEVE

Not exactly. They stripped the VIN  
tag off the dash.

Esposito snorts derisively.

ESPOSITO

Big score. They also empty the ash  
trays?

STEVE

(to Wagner)

Look at the guards.

Steve motions to the ARMORED CAR GUARDS. Wagner  
follows

Steve's gaze to:

27 THE ARMORED CAR GUARDS

27

who are giving their statements to POLICE OFFICERS. We  
PUSH IN  
on the Security Officers' shirts... something is missing.

STEVE'S VOICE

Where are their ID badges?

As Wagner, realization dawning, turns back to Esposito.

WAGNER

They were on their way to the  
Federal Reserve, weren't they?

ESPOSITO

The morons got 'em going the wrong  
direction.

WAGNER

Damn!

Wagner whips out his cell phone and dials. Esposito looks  
on,  
confused. Why are they so upset?

(CONTINUED)

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31.

28 CONTINUED:

28

WAGNER  
(into phone)  
This is Wagner. Where are you?

INTERCUT WITH:

29 EXT. PALMDALE FACILITY – DAY

29

TIGHT on AGENT RYBECK as he speaks into his cell phone.

RYBECK  
Palmdale. Delivery was made  
without incident. The armored car  
left a half hour ago.

Wagner winces, another failure.

WAGNER  
Where's the money?

RYBECK  
Going up in flames, sir.

WAGNER  
Are you certain?

RYBECK  
We're watching them do it, just  
like you ordered.

Steve has a sudden realization. He grabs the phone from  
Wagner.

STEVE

Stop them. Don't let them burn  
another dollar. We're on our way.

And on Esposito's bewildered look, we CUT TO:

30 EXT. PALMDALE FACILITY – DAY

30

Steve rushes up to a pallet of shrink-wrapped money. He  
grabs  
one of the packets and tears it open as Wagner and AGENT  
RYBECK look on.

31 THE SHRINK-WRAPPED MONEY – STEVE'S POV

31

As he flips through the bills. The first few bills are WORN  
HUNDREDS... but the rest are just DISTRESSED COLORED  
PAPER.

32 BACK TO SCENE

32

Steve tosses Wagner the stack. Rybeck is in shock. He turns  
to  
Wagner for explanation and vindication.

RYBECK

But.. but.. how?

(then)

We saw the truck being loaded with  
the cash. They were in our sight  
the whole way here. And they left  
here empty.

STEVE

That was a phony armored car.  
Somehow they managed to switch the  
money in transit.

WAGNER

The press is going to love this.  
ROAR stole \$100 million while  
under FBI escort. My escort.

STEVE

And if we'd called ten minutes  
later, we never could have proved  
it... the only evidence would have  
burned.

WAGNER

It was a nice career while it  
lasted.

(then)

This was slick.

STEVE

Yes, it was.

(then)

Efficient, bloodless, and almost undetectable.

(then)

Not ROAR's style at all. Or Sweeney's. They like to shoot things up, scare people, make a big show out of it.

Steve glances again at the fake money, then back at Wagner.

A

knowing smile grows on Steve's face.

STEVE

But if my father were to steal \$100 million, I bet this is how he'd do it.

And on Wagner's look, we FADE OUT.

END OF ACT SIX

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

33 EXT. DANCE HALL – DAY

33

The ARMORED CAR comes up. As soon as the trucks come to a stop, soldiers open the rear doors of the armored car, revealing it is indeed, EMPTY. Carter, Mark, Ving, and Caitlin approach the rear of the truck.

34 INT. ARMORED CAR – THEIR POV

34

That's when a HIDDEN DOOR opens in the roof of the truck and two SWEATY SOLDIERS drop from their cramped hiding places. The two men then REMOVE THE FALSE WALLS that LINE THE INTERIOR OF THE TRUCK, revealing THE REAL CASH STACKED like insulation in the hidden space.

35 BACK TO SCENE

35

As the soldiers begin unpacking the money, Carter claps Mark on the back and smiles at his sister and Ving.

CARTER

Now do you see why we needed the good doctor? I could never have

come up with something this clever.

(then)

Steal a phony armored car,  
retrofit it with false walls, fill  
the hidden spaces with fake cash,  
and then switch the counterfeit  
with the real money.

VING

Showing up at the Federal Reserve  
and just taking it would have been  
a lot easier.

CARTER

And bloodier and riskier.

VING

We're not cowards.

CARTER

Be that as it may, he came through  
for us - just like I said he would.

VING

He lost our \$10 million -- just  
like I said he would.

(CONTINUED)

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34.

35 CONTINUED:

35

Carter sighs heavily, losing his patience.

CARTER

Let me explain the mathematics to you. We made a profit of \$90 million – that's nearly ten times what we had.

VING

Tell that to Otto Burtson.

CARTER

Who?

VING

Our comrade.

(off Carter's blank look)

The soldier who died in the bank for that money.

CARTER

When the New Order takes over, you can build him a statue.

Ving would like to shoot Carter where he stands. Instead, Caitlin cozies up to him.

CAITLIN

This was a victory. The day of wrath is almost here.

VING

It's already here.

He shrugs her off and gets in Mark's face.

VING

For him.

(to Carter)

We're going to execute the  
traitor. Right now.

Carter meets Mark's gaze, then shrugs.

CARTER

(to Ving)

Go for it.

MARK

I'm more valuable to you alive  
than dead.

CAITLIN

You were.

(CONTINUED)

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35.

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

Ving takes out his gun and motions to the wall.

VING  
Over there.

Mark doesn't move. Instead, he meets Carter's gaze. Ving  
has no patience for this crap. He puts the gun to Mark's temple.

VING  
Fine. Here will do.

Mark thinks, there's got to be a way. Ving is about to  
squeeze the trigger when:

MARK  
I want to confess.

They all look at him, shocked.

MARK  
I've collaborated with the U.N.  
shadow government, and I'm  
prepared to admit it publicly.

And as Carter, Caitlin, and Ving exchange looks, we CUT TO:

36 INT. DANCE HALL – LATER

36

Mark stands against the wall... about to be shot. Only as the  
ANGLE WIDENS we learn it's not with a gun, but with a  
CAMCORDER, which Caitlin is setting up on a tripod. Ving  
paces, never taking his gun off Mark. Carter observes it all,

amused.

CARTER

You're going to be famous, Mark.  
The first member of the corrupt,  
intellectual elite to admit the  
existence of the global conspiracy.

VING

It's almost worth keeping you  
alive for.

CAITLIN

(to Mark)

You'll tell the American people  
how the shadow government has been  
conspiring to steal their liberty.

CARTER

I'm sure Mark knows what to say.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

MARK

Black helicopters, alien autopsies, liberals. I think I've got the gist of it.

CARTER

And then you'll sneak in a few words that won't mean anything to me or my comrades, but will give your son all the information he needs to track us down.

Mark tries to hide it, but he's been caught.

CARTER

(to Caitlin)

Something about that just doesn't feel good.

That's when a SOLDIER comes over, carrying HASTILY,  
HAND- SCRAWLED CUE CARDS on RAGGED PIECES OF CARDBOARD.

CARTER

That's why you'll be reading a script that Ving, our resident revolutionary philosopher, has written for you.

Ving glares at Carter – he knows there's an insult in there somewhere.

MARK

If I'm reading off cue cards, everybody will know it's not a

sincere confession.

Ving cocks his gun and puts it to Mark's head.

VING

Then you better work on your  
delivery.

Ving motions to Caitlin to begin and then steps out of the way. Mark squints at the first cue card, trying to make out the words.

MARK

America is called a tree pastry...

Ving jabs him with the gun. Mark holds up his hands, then slowly reaches into his pocket, takes out his glasses, and puts them on. He turns back to the cue card. Now he can  
read  
it.

MARK

America is called a free country...

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37.

37 TIGHT ON MARK

37

on a videotape.

MARK (ON TV)

...but that freedom is a lie. Your lives are controlled by a secret elite that is working to take away those last few rights you have left.

38 INT. FBI CONFERENCE ROOM – DAY

38

Steve, Amanda, Jesse, and Wagner watch Mark on TV. Amanda and Jesse are shocked, but Steve just stares at the screen, concentrating.

MARK (ON TV)

I know, because I am part of that elite.

WAGNER

This was delivered to every TV and radio station in the area. It's already hit the networks.

JESSE

I can't believe this.

AMANDA

Don't worry, neither will anyone else.

MARK (ON TV)

We took away your jobs and sent

them overseas. We taxed you until you have barely enough money left to survive. We limited your access to weapons by enforcing long waiting periods and background checks just so it would be harder for you to defend yourselves against us. We encouraged the media to destroy the American family with sex, violence, and foul language. And we ordered our Federal storm troopers to smash any patriot brave enough to question what we're doing.

AMANDA

At least now we know Mark's still alive.

JESSE

Or he was.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

WAGNER

Don't worry. With the attention  
this tape is going to get, they'll  
keep him around for a sequel.

MARK (ON TV)

And we did it because you let us.  
Because you were stupid enough to  
believe our lies.

Steve PAUSES the tape.

STEVE

I've watched this thing a dozen  
times, and I still can't see it.

AMANDA

See what?

STEVE

The message.

JESSE

It's pretty clear: government is  
bad and --

STEVE

If Dad knew this tape was going to  
be released to the media, he'd  
make sure to slip something in  
that only we would understand.

JESSE

But he couldn't this time. Listen.

Jesse hits PLAY. The TAPE continues.

MARK (ON TV)

Throughout history, a few brave souls have tried to tell you the truth. Jim Jones, David Koresh, and scores of others. But we in the elite silenced them.

Jesse PAUSES the tape again.

JESSE

That's not the way Mark talks. He's obviously reading a prepared speech.

AMANDA

And judging by the way he keeps looking off to the left, I'd guess he's reading it off cue cards.

(CONTINUED)

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39.

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

That's it. Steve's got it. He turns to Wagner.

STEVE

How fast can you get this tape enhanced?

WAGNER

Tell me what we're looking at and I'll let you know.

STEVE

My father has presbyopia, he needs glasses to read what's right in front of him.

WAGNER

(getting it)

So why is he wearing them to read cards someone's holding up across the room?

Steve taps Mark's glasses on the FROZEN IMAGE ON SCREEN.  
There's a REFLECTION on Mark's glasses.

STEVE

Because there's something he wants us to see.

And on their understanding:

39 EXT. DANCE HALL – ESTABLISHING – DAY

39

The ROAR stronghold, with the arch way leading to the  
deserted  
Camp Chamokomee across the road.

40 INT. DANCE HALL – DAY

40

Caitlin and Ving are up against a wall, necking passionately.

VING  
We're so close.

CAITLIN  
I don't think it's possible to get  
any closer than we have. But it  
might be fun to try.

VING  
I mean to the revolution. To the  
new world order.  
(then: )  
Today we have the money, soon we  
will have the weapons. The next  
century can be ours.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

CAITLIN

So why am I the only one who still  
feels like celebrating?

VING

You know how I feel about you.

He has a hard time saying this, but.

VING

The revolution is more important  
than anything that exists between  
a man and a woman. or a brother  
and a sister.

She steps away from him, eyeing him suspiciously.

CAITLIN

What are you talking about?

VING

Your brother is a threat to the  
new world order. He's risking  
everything so he can toy with that  
pathetic old man.

CAITLIN

My brother used him to get us \$90  
million.

VING

We didn't need Carter for that. We  
don't need him for anything.

(then: )

The only reason he's free and

alive is... you.

CAITLIN

How many banks over how many years would we have had to rob to get that much money? How many of our comrades would have died in the struggle? Carter did it in a day, and not a single soldier had to sacrifice his life.

VING

The struggle and the sacrifice is what the revolution is all about. Each battle would have strengthened our resolve and awakened the populace to our cause.

CAITLIN

Or killed the revolution before it even started.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

She gets close to Ving, starts kissing him again.

CAITLIN  
Do you trust me?

VING  
Yes.

CAITLIN  
Can you be sure?

She suddenly whips out a knife from behind her back and  
puts it to his throat.

CAITLIN  
I could have killed you the moment  
my brother was free. I could have  
killed you any time. You know why  
I haven't?

She kisses him hard against the lips, but leaves the knife  
against his throat.

CAITLIN  
Because I am yours.

She turns the knife against her own throat and presses the  
point against her skin.

CAITLIN  
Say the word and I'll give you my  
life right now. Say the word, and  
I'll give you my brother's.

He takes the knife from her hand and drops it on the floor.  
And as they embrace passionately, we DISSOLVE TO:

41 EXT. DANCE HALL - DAY

41

Ving and his men are packing up a TRUCK with CASH as  
Carter approaches. Caitlin stands beside Ving.

CARTER  
Going somewhere?

VING  
The others in the movement are  
gathering in Utah for us. You're  
leaving in twenty minutes with  
half the cash. I'll follow  
tomorrow after we've wiped out any  
trace of us here.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

CARTER

You expect me to drive a truck loaded with \$50 million in stolen cash across two state borders?

VING

I can't risk losing all the money if we get caught in a fire-fight on the way.

Carter shoots an incredulous look at his sister. She looks impassively back at him.

CARTER

And what if I'm stopped? Did you think of that? I'm a wanted fugitive. My face has been all over television. I won't do it.

Carter starts to go. Caitlin pulls out a gun and puts it to the back of her brother's head. He freezes. Ving steps up to Carter and speaks very softly:

VING

You'll do what I tell you to do. And if it means dying for ROAR, you'll do that gladly or you'll do it right here.

She COCKS the trigger of the gun. Carter nods slowly.

CARTER

Load the truck. I'll go.

She lowers her gun and releases the hammer. Carter walks away, clearly shaken. Caitlin turns to Ving, who gives her an approving look.

VING  
There's something I want you to do  
for me.

And on his look, we go to:

42 INT. DANCE HALL – DAY

42

Carter is standing in a corner when Caitlin comes up behind him. Carter tenses.

CAITLIN  
You may be my brother, but Aaron  
Ving is my leader. Your orders are  
to take that money to Utah. My  
orders are to go with you. and  
make sure you do as you're told.

(CONTINUED)

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43.

42 CONTINUED:

42

Carter, his back to his sister, smiles.

CARTER

Can't imagine why the government  
hasn't fallen yet.

And on her suppressed smile suddenly breaking free, we  
CUT TO:

43 INT. FBI CONFERENCE ROOM – DAY

43

As Wagner comes in, carrying a file.

WAGNER

There are some people you should  
never take hostage.

Steve, Amanda, and Jesse rise to meet him.

WAGNER

You want to hurt Mark Sloan, put  
a bullet in his head. Otherwise,  
he's going to find a way to make  
your life miserable.

STEVE

You found something on the  
videotape?

WAGNER

Exactly where you said it would  
be, in the reflection on his  
glasses.

He opens the file and pulls out three COLOR ENLARGEMENTS. They all peer at them.

JESSE  
I see the camcorder.

AMANDA  
And the light, sure. But what's that?

She points to a DARK SPOT on the image.

WAGNER  
Exactly what I wondered. So we enhanced the video a little more.

He pulls out another enlargement. It shows the faded CAMP CHAMOKOMEE arch outside the window.

STEVE  
It's Camp Chamokomee...

(CONTINUED)

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44.

43 CONTINUED:

43

WAGNER

Problem is, we can't find any such place.

STEVE

That's because it went under 30 years ago. It's up near Big Bear Lake. Looks to me like Dad is being held in the old dance hall.

JESSE

How can you tell?

STEVE

You never forget where you got your first kiss. Mine was there, standing right outside that window.

WAGNER

We can be up there by chopper in 20 minutes.

And as they whip into gear:

44 EXT. DANCE HALL – DAY

44

Mark The Sweeney's truck is loaded with money and ready to go. stands by the remaining \$50 million, which is piled up on a pallet. Carter joins him.

CARTER

It has been a thrill working with you. I can't tell you how much I

admire your ingenuity.

MARK

If I was that ingenious, I would have figured out a way to escape by now.

CARTER

Don't be so hard on yourself. You made a complex robbery seem easy. But what's truly amazing is how well you can improvise.

Carter leans close, lowering his voice to a whisper.

CARTER

I especially liked the way you used your glasses to capture the reflection of Camp Chamokomee.

And on Mark, staring at him in shock.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

MARK  
You knew?

CARTER  
And let me say, I was mighty  
impressed. Very quick thinking.

MARK  
Then why did you let me get away  
with it?

Before Carter can answer, Mark figures it out for himself.

MARK  
The robbery was the whole point  
from the beginning. ROAR was just  
your cover.

Mark glances at Ving, who is getting a big, deep-tongue,  
body-pressed-against-body good-bye kiss from Caitlin.

MARK  
But they don't know that, do they?

Carter gives him a look.

CARTER  
They think George Washington was  
named after the state.

MARK  
They are going to take the fall  
for everything. That's why you are  
leaving them with half the money.

You want the police to show up...  
you want a bloody shootout.

CARTER

A shoot-out isn't really going to  
cut it.

(then, low)

That's why I've wired the entire  
place to blow up when the police  
storm in.

And on Carter's look, and Mark's shock, we FADE OUT.

END OF ACT SEVEN

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

45 EXT. DANCE HALL – DAY

45

Mark is still reeling from what Carter has told him.

MARK

The building is booby-trapped with explosives.

CARTER

I had to do something to keep myself occupied while they were robbing banks.

MARK

The blast will kill everyone and burn up all the money... except, of course, for you and your \$50 million. You'll get away with everything.

CARTER

It's so hard to relax, even on a tropical beach with millions in the bank, if you're an international fugitive. This should cut down on the stress.

Mark glances over at Caitlin and Ving, breaking their kiss.

MARK

What's to stop me from telling him

everything?

CARTER

Nothing at all. Don't spare a single detail. I'm sure he'll believe whatever the oracle of the shadow government has to say.

Caitlin joins them.

CAITLIN

Time to go, our chaise lounges are waiting.

She climbs into the driver's seat of the truck.

CARTER

Good-bye, doctor.

Carter picks up a packet of money from the ROAR pile and hands it to Mark.

(CONTINUED)

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45 CONTINUED: 45

CARTER  
Don't spend it all in one place.

HALL  
Carter climbs into the passenger side of the truck. Caitlin starts the engine. Two ROAR soldiers open the BIG DANCE DOORS.

46 MARK 46

takes a quick look around.

47 HIS POV – 47

No one is paying any attention to him for the moment.

48 MARK 48

quickly SHOVES THE PACKET OF MONEY deep into one of the TRUCK'S TWO TAILPIPES. He straightens up just as:

49 WIDE ANGLE 49

out  
The truck drives off, Carter giving him a backhanded wave the passenger window. Mark immediately goes to VING.

MARK  
The Sweeneys have set you up.  
They've rigged this entire place  
with explosives. They want you to

die in a shoot-out with the police.

to Ving pulls out a gun and aims it at Mark's head, then turns  
a soldier.

VING

Get the video camera. I want the  
world to see his execution.

He turns back to Mark.

VING

Inside.

Mark starts to walk, Ving behind him, gun aimed at his head.  
And we CUT TO:

50 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

50

We HEAVILY ARMED FBI AGENTS prepare to move into position.  
find Wagner and Steve strapping on their bullet- proof vests  
and checking their weapons.

(CONTINUED)

"Obsession – Part Four" 7/22/98 GREEN

48.

50 CONTINUED:

50

WAGNER

How do you want to play this?

STEVE

It's your operation.

WAGNER

It's your father.

Steve studies the lay of the land, then:

STEVE

Quietly surround the place. Make  
sure they aren't expecting us...  
and then hit them hard and fast.

Wagner nods and motions his men to move out down the  
road. And  
we CUT TO:

51 INT. DANCE HALL – DAY

51

Mark reaches the wall. Ving stops a few yards away. A  
soldier  
sets up the tripod and camera.

VING

Turn around.

Mark turns around slowly. Ving aims the gun at him.

MARK

You're doing exactly what the  
Sweeneys want you to do. They

never shared your beliefs, they  
were using you.

Ving snickers derisively.

VING

You got that backwards, pops. I  
was using them – I got the girl  
and \$100 million.

MARK

The Sweeneys got away with half of  
it. What you have will burn with  
the rest of us. You're going to  
die so they can sip margaritas on  
an island somewhere.

VING

(to soldier)

Is the camera ready?

The soldier nods.

(CONTINUED)

"Obsession – Part Four" 7/22/98 GREEN

49.

51 CONTINUED:

51

VING  
Let's do it.

He gets into a firing stance.

VING  
You have been found guilty of  
collaborating with the occupying  
forces of the United Nations  
Shadow government.

52 VING'S POV

52

Mark is back against the wall, a WINDOW to one side of him.

VING  
The penalty is death.

He's about to fire when a FIGURE moves outside the window.  
Ving pivots and FIRES – BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! – shattering the  
glass. Mark hits the floor.

53 EXT. DANCE HALL – DAY

53

man An AGENT goes down. Steve and Wagner rush up to him. The  
is okay...his VEST torn where the bullets hit.

WAGNER  
So much for surprise.

STEVE  
Move in!

The agents close in on the dance hall, BATTERING RAMS and WEAPONS poised for action.

54 INT. DANCE HALL – DAY

54

the  
and  
yells

Ving picks Mark up, slams him against the wall, and shoves gun under his chin. Ving's men scramble for their weapons take up positions all around the dance hall. One of them yells to him:

SOLDIER #1  
It's the Feds. They're everywhere.

VING  
Open fire!

The SOLDIERS start firing. Two OTHERS prepare to use THE ROCKET LAUNCHER.

"Obsession – Part Four" 7/22/98 GREEN 50.

55 EXT. DANCE HALL – DAY 55

The FBI AGENTS return fire. It's a FIREFIGHT. Steve, Wagner, and TEAM OF AGENTS with a BATTERING RAM reach the side of the building. Steve motions a few yards away.

56 STEVE'S POV 56

There's a door about twenty yards away.

57 BACK TO SCENE 57

And as the agents move in a running crouch, under a HAIL OF GUNFIRE, towards the door, we CUT TO:

58 INT. DANCE HALL – DAY 58

Ving looks at the soldier with the camcorder.

VING  
Keep it on.  
(to Mark)  
This is where we make our stand.  
History will mark this as the  
battle that started the war.

MARK  
No one will ever know what really  
happened today – because you will  
all be dead.

VING

Then we'll be martyrs.

MARK  
You'll be silenced.

That gets Ving's attention. As the SOUND OF GUNFIRE  
increases,  
Mark continues:

MARK  
We both know the media is  
controlled by the global uber-  
government.

VING  
So you admit it exists.  
(to soldier)  
Are you getting all this?

The soldier nods. Mark continues.

(CONTINUED)

"Obsession – Part Four" 7/22/98 GREEN

51.

58 CONTINUED:

58

MARK

The people will never know what happened here today. Once again, the truth will be suppressed... and the conspiracy will continue.

(then)

But there is a way to beat them.

Ving risks a glance out the window.

59 HIS POV

59

of There are a lot of WELL ARMED AGENTS out there. the sound  
HELICOPTERS overhead. it doesn't look good.

60 BACK TO SCENE

60

Ving meets Mark's gaze. In the background, the soldiers with the rocket launcher are ready to fire.

VING

How?

MARK

Live.

(then)

Let them arrest you. Then they will have to put you on trial. It could last for months... with daily, gavel-to-gavel coverage on Court TV.

Ving is wavering, but he isn't sold yet.

MARK

A martyr can't do Larry King.

That does it. Ving turns around and calls out to his men.

VING

Cease fire. Drop your weapons.  
We're surrendering.

They look at him in shock. Ving raises his gun.

VING

I'll execute anyone who disobeys  
me.

And as they drop their weapons, we CUT TO:

"Obsession – Part Four" 7/22/98 GREEN

52.

61 EXT. DANCE HALL – DAY

61

to Wagner, Steve and the men are at the door. They are about  
go at it with the BATTERING RAM.

STEVE

On my count. One... Two..

They are about to rush forward when:

MARK (O.S.)

Stay back!

Steve stops the agents, just as they are about to ram the  
door. He calls out tentatively.

STEVE

Dad?

Mark replies from behind the door.

MARK

I'm safe and I'm free, Steve. ROAR  
is laying down their weapons and  
surrendering.

Steve and Wagner share an astonished look.

MARK

Keep your men from coming in.

62 INT. DANCE HALL – DAY

62

As Mark talks, he's feeling around the door way for a booby-  
trap.

MARK  
The entire building is rigged to  
explode.

He finds it... a THIN FILAMENT which he points out to Ving.  
Together, they follow the filament to:

63 THEIR POV

63

A CABINET which Mark opens to reveal is FILLED WITH  
PLASTIQUE!

64 BACK TO SCENE

64

Ving is stunned. Mark carefully unhooks the filament and,  
keeping it taut, hands it to Ving.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

MARK  
(to Ving)  
Release the tension and we all die.  
(to outside)  
I'm opening the door.

Mark opens the door and is greeted by A HALF DOZEN GUN MUZZLES. Steve motions them to lower their guns.

MARK  
Be careful, I'm sure there are  
more booby-traps.

Mark steps aside and Wagner leads in the team, past a frozen Ving, who can't take his eyes off the taut filament in his hand. Mark and Steve embrace.

MARK  
I knew you'd find me.

STEVE  
I knew you'd tell me how.

WAGNER  
Where are the Sweeneys?

MARK  
They drove away in a truck an hour ago.

WAGNER  
We are close to three freeways,  
two airports, a thousand garages  
and warehouses... They could be

any where by now.

MARK  
It shouldn't be too hard to find  
them.

And on Mark's enigmatic smile, we CUT TO:

65 EXT. ROAD – DAY

65

The Sweeney's truck is off on the side of the road,  
ENVELOPED  
IN SMOKE, surrounded by FBI VEHICLES.

Mark and Steve stand nearby, watching as an FBI SEDAN  
comes  
towards them from the opposite direction, makes a SHARP  
U-TURN  
and comes to a stop beside them. Wagner is at the wheel,  
CARTER AND CAITLIN are in the backseat, handcuffed.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

WAGNER

Found them two miles up the road, hitch-hiking, looking for someone to car-jack. Their pockets were stuffed with cash.

Mark can't suppress a smile as he leans into the car. Carter is furious and humiliated.

CARTER

How did you do it?

MARK

As you were leaving, I shoved some money into one of your tail-pipes. That's what made the truck stall... then the packet must have caught fire or something.

CARTER

That's it? Just a spur-of-the moment thing?

MARK

Some times simple is a whole lot better than clever.

CARTER

I'll remember that.

Mark turns around and walks away, putting his arm around Steve's shoulder as they go.

MARK

We better find him a high security

prison.

And on Steve's smile, we DISSOLVE TO:

66 INT. BBQ BOB'S - DAY

66

Mark and Susan by the kitchen door as Jesse comes out.

JESSE

Two more minutes until you taste  
the best ribs this side of Kansas  
City.

SUSAN

You said that an hour ago.

JESSE

And I meant it -- until I noticed  
Steve forgot to turn on the oven.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

MARK

Is it too late to get my money  
back?

JESSE

Don't worry, we're interviewing  
professional chefs tomorrow.

MARK

I was wondering how you two would  
manage to run this place and still  
keep your day jobs.

JESSE

We're going to let the pros handle  
everything -- except the sauce, of  
course. That remains our secret.

(to Susan)

Have I told you about the sauce?  
It can --

SUSAN

-- char the tastebuds off my  
tongue and sear the lining of my  
stomach.

MARK

I think you told her.

SUSAN

He also told me not to eat all day  
today, so I'd have a big appetite.

(to Jesse)

Good news. It worked. Really well.

She shoots him a look. He gets it.

JESSE  
I'll go check on the ribs.

And as he disappears into the kitchen, go:

67 INT. DARK CORNER OF BBQ BOB'S – DAY  
67

Where Amanda and Wagner sit glumly, staring straight ahead.

WAGNER  
Nice place.

AMANDA  
Very.

WAGNER  
It's good when things work out for people.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

AMANDA

When they get what they've always  
wanted.

WAGNER

And then find out they still want  
it.

A moment of glum silence.

WAGNER

There's something I've got to say.

AMANDA

Me, too.

WAGNER

You first.

She sighs, then:

AMANDA

The past few months, everything  
that's happened...

(she tries again)

I love being with you, I'm happy  
in Virginia...

WAGNER

But this is your home.

AMANDA

I didn't realize how much it meant  
to me until I almost lost it all.

(then)  
Besides, we're pretty good at long-  
distance relationships, aren't we?

WAGNER  
The best.

He takes her hand.

AMANDA  
So, what did you want to tell me?

WAGNER  
It's not important.

AMANDA  
It is to me.

He squirms, not wanting to say this now. But:

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: (2)

67

WAGNER

I've been re-assigned. It's a very high-profile position, FBI liason with Interpol's worldwide terrorism unit.

AMANDA

That's great.

WAGNER

The assignment is for six months. In London.

She pulls her hand away, suddenly furious.

AMANDA

You mean, you persuade me to move to Virginia, and then you take off to Europe for half a year.

WAGNER

But you're moving back here...

AMANDA

Did you know that when you accepted this assignment?

WAGNER

Well...

AMANDA

This is so typical. There's only one thing I can even think to say to you.

WAGNER  
What's that?

AMANDA  
I'll miss you.

It takes him a moment, then he breaks into a grin. He and Amanda kiss and we go back to the:

68 KITCHEN DOOR

68

where Jesse emerges again, beaming.

JESSE  
Ladies and gentlemen, the new management of BBQ Bob's is proud to announce that dinner is served.

The door swings open and Steve comes out carrying a heaping tray of ribs. Mark, Susan, and Jesse each take a rib.

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

68

STEVE

Careful, Dad, these are the extra  
spicy --

But Mark has already taken a bite out of one. His face falls  
as he feels the inside of his mouth burning away. He grabs a  
glass of water and chugs it down. Jesse bites one, too. It's  
even hotter than he remembered. He turns to Susan, who's  
about  
to take a bite. He snatches it away.

JESSE

I think Steve was a little  
enthusiastic with the cayenne.

STEVE

I followed the recipe. Pretty much.

JESSE

The mild ones will be out soon.

Susan snatches the rib and takes a bite. They all watch her  
expectantly. But she just grins.

SUSAN

I've had skim milk that was  
spicier.

(off Jesse's crushed  
look)

But I love skim milk.

That's when Wagner and Amanda come up.

AMANDA

I didn't realize this was a self-

serve restaurant.

She and Wagner both take ribs. Everyone digs in. Mark watches, his "family" back together again. And on his warm smile, we:

FADE OUT.

THE END