INTELLIGENCE

Pilot By
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Based on The Novel "The Dissident"
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EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

Middle of the ocean. Water calm, not a boat in sight. Except a junky old MOTOR YACHT.

EXT. MOTOR YACHT - SAME

The man on the bridge, piloting the yacht, is GABRIEL BLACK, 35, athletic, handsome, sharp eyes and a capable demeanor. He cuts the engines and a plume of black diesel smoke envelopes him for a moment and then disappears in the wind.

He climbs down the ladder and walks easily along the narrow gunnel on the side of the boat, to the broad bow deck. He stands in the center, the boat bobbing gently on the soft waves, and STARES UP AT THE STARS, LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.

After a moment, his HEAD TILTS QUICKLY AND SHARPLY, as if struck by something. Then he stares straight ahead, almost trance-like, and WE SMASHCUT TO:

INT. LOBBY, TAJ MAHAL HOTEL, MUMBAI - DAY (CYBER-RENDERING)

CAMERA GLIDES through a moment FROZEN IN TIME - a THREE DIMENSIONAL SNAPSHOT of the 2008 Mumbai attacks. BODIES are strewn across the floor, MASKED GUNMEN POINT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, a WOMAN squats in a corner, holding her ears in mid-scream, a window has just shattered, GLASS FROZEN IN AIR.

[This “CYBER-RENDERING” will be explained, but to see a visual example of what we’re imagining please CLICK HERE.]

CAMERA continues to glide past these STILL IMAGES, until... A quick glance at a MIRROR and WE SEE MOVEMENT. It’s Gabriel, the only figure moving through the eerie and surreal scene.

He’s searching for something – someone. As he walks, something else begins to happen. The walls deconstruct and in their place we see a DATA STREAM – PHOTOS, NEWSPAPER HEADLINES, TV TALKING HEADS, SURVEILLANCE PHOTOS - all related to the Mumbai attacks.

CLOSE ON GABRIEL’S MOUTH as he whispers...

GABRIEL
Amelia, where are you?

PULL BACK from his lips and WE’RE...
EXT. MOTOR YACHT - NIGHT

Gabriel standing on the bow of the boat.

GABRIEL’S POV - the 3D ENVIRONMENT of the TAJ MAHAL HOTEL LOBBY surrounds him, semi-translucent. He’s somehow creating a virtual space, out here in the middle of the ocean.

Beyond the virtual images, Gabriel also spots an approaching VESSEL on the horizon.

GABRIEL
Not yet... I haven’t found her.

INT. LOBBY, TAJ MAHAL HOTEL, MUMBAI - DAY (CYBER-RENDERING)

Gabriel continues to move through the macabre scene and spots the woman he’s looking for...

GABRIEL
No... Amelia, no.

He approaches the frozen figure of AMELIA HAYTES, a striking, beautiful, Caucasian woman, 30, blue backpack slung over one shoulder, an AUTOMATIC RIFLE in her hands, angrily pointing it at a group of HOSTAGES. Standing next to her is another GUNMAN, the FLAME from his gun barrel suspended in mid-burst. As Gabriel approaches them, WE SEE a rapid DATA STREAM in Gabriel’s POV - THE MAN’S NAME, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN – PAKISTAN – AND HIS INTERNATIONAL RAP SHEET. Gabriel turns back to Amelia and a similar DATA STREAM flashes various images, a CIA ID, and her name.

GABRIEL (CONT’D)
How could you...

WE HEAR a LOUD VOICE of someone speaking over a PA, IN HINDI.

AMPLIFIED VOICE (O.S.)
(subtitled)
Attention, this is the Indian Coast Guard, prepare to be boarded!

CLOSE ON Gabriel, as he TURNS toward the VOICE, the entire hotel lobby falling away, revealing that we’re back on...

EXT. MOTOR YACHT - NIGHT

A large INDIAN COAST GUARD VESSEL looms just thirty meters off the port bow. Gabriel, very calmly, holds his hands up in surrender.
INT. INTERROGATION ROOM, INDIAN COAST GUARD CUTTER – NIGHT

Gabriel is being questioned by an Indian Intelligence Officer named BADRI ADANI.

BADRI ADANI
You are in Indian waters, on a rented boat, with no papers, no passport.

Gabriel doesn’t respond.

BADRI ADANI (CONT’D)
What were you doing twenty miles off shore all by yourself?

Gabriel glances up at the CAMERA pointed at him from above. Switch to CAMERA POV of Gabriel staring at us.

EXT. CORRIDOR, INTERROGATION ROOM – SAME

Outside the door, a similar CAMERA is aimed down the corridor.

CAMERA POV: A FEMALE OFFICER approaches, carrying a CUP OF COFFEE. She types in a series of numbers on the ELECTRIC DOOR LOCK.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM – SAME

Gabriel looks at the door as the final ELECTRONIC BEEP of the door combination signals the CLICK of the door opening. The female officer enters and hands Adani his coffee.

FEMALE OFFICER
(Hindi, subtitled)
We’re pulling into port now.

Adani smiles at her, which Gabriel notices, and she leaves. Adani takes a sip of his coffee and continues...

BADRI ADANI
At eighteen hundred hours, we were alerted to a Level One sigint breach on a highly protected military geosync satellite. We sourced the signal to your vessel, yet we didn’t find any communication equipment on board, let alone with the processing power to break through a Helio-encrypted fire wall. Can you explain that?
GABRIEL
You know, she doesn’t like the attention you give her.

BADRI ADANI
What are you talking about?

GABRIEL
That officer. Abhilasha. She’s married and you make her uncomfortable.

BADRI ADANI
How do you know her name?

GABRIEL
In fact, she’s afraid of you. Why is that, Badri?

BADRI ADANI
I haven’t told you my first name.

Gabriel looks at the SURVEILLANCE CAMERA again.

CAMERA’S POV - LOOKING BACK AT GABRIEL. He’s looking back at himself, through the camera. CUT TO:

10

INT. CORRIDOR, INTERROGATION ROOM - SAME

CAMERA POV of the HALLWAY. Empty.

11

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - SAME

BADRI ADANI
How do you know who I am? Who are you?

Gabriel looks at the door and the LOCK STARTS DIALING. Adani follows Gabriel’s gaze to the door as it CLICKS, but doesn’t open. He walks to the door and opens it, finding no one outside. He suddenly realizes something...

BADRI ADANI (CONT’D)
Did you just do that?

He turns back to Gabriel, but the CHAIR IS EMPTY -- SLAM, Adani crashes against the wall and the last thing he sees are Gabriel’s feet running up the corridor.
INT. CORRIDOR, INDIAN COAST GUARD CUTTER - SAME

Alarms blare as Gabriel runs down another corridor. He reaches a ladder and CLIMBS IT QUICKLY, just as AN INDIAN SAILOR come running toward him. He turns behind him and TWO MORE are coming from that direction. He runs toward the single sailor. The sailor STRIKES, but Gabriel parries the blow, his other fist snapping like gun hammer into the man’s throat. The sailor staggers backward, gasping, as Gabriel heads toward a ladder.

EXT. DECK, INDIAN COAST GUARD CUTTER - CONTINUOUS

The docks of the port pass by on either side as Gabriel emerges onto the deck and RUNS. SAILORS SHOUT behind him. One appears in his path with an AUTOMATIC RIFLE. Gabriel drops behind a turret, a barrage of bullets flying past him and ricocheting off the steel of the vessel.

The gun continues firing from over Gabriel’s shoulder, while twenty sailors come at him from two other directions. Among them is a bleeding and angry Adani, pistol in hand.

Gabriel doesn’t hesitate, running in the only direction available to him - the edge of the deck and the water below.

Bullets swarm as he dives and splashes into the water of the harbour. Adani and the other officers run to the edge of the boat and look down into the murky darkness and see NOTHING.

EXT. FARM ROAD - DAY

A cow lazily lumbers along the side of the road, chewing the tall grass, as a black SUV zooms by.

EXT. PASTURE - DAY

The black SUV leaves a dust trail behind it as it snakes up higher and higher up the hillside. It finally barrels up over the rise, giving us a VIEW of...

A HEAVILY FORTIFIED COMPLEX in the middle of Virginia farm country. The compound is comprised of a dozen buildings, a large array of radar dishes spread out across a green pasture, all surrounded by MILITARY VEHICLES and SOLDIERS with DOGS circling the perimeter barbed-wire fence.

ON SCREEN: U.S. CYBER COMMAND - ANGEL’S BLUFF, VIRGINIA.
MIRRORS slide under the vehicle, while a MILITARY SERGEANT flips through paperwork. He takes two IDs from the DRIVER and knocks on the back window. It opens, REVEALING RILEY O’NEIL. He checks her face against the ID.

SERGEANT
Riley O’Neil? Your driver knows where to take you. There is no wandering inside or outside the facility. No photography, audio recording, cell phone, or portable computing of any kind. You are not to ask any questions or speak to any employees, except for Ms. Strand. Any violations of these rules can result in your immediate arrest. Do you understand everything I’ve just said?

RILEY
Yes, Sergeant.

Before she can say anything else, he steps away and signals to someone to raise the gate. The gate in front of the SUV swings up and the driver pulls slowly through. On each side of the gate are SOLDIERS, M-16s slung over their shoulders.

The sounds of Riley’s footsteps and that of her driver echo down the empty hallway, approaching another guard desk. The double doors behind the desk open and a woman steps out. She’s LILLIAN STRAND, 50. Lillian has strong, attractive features, piercing eyes, conservative suit, and an all-business demeanor.

RILEY
Pleasure to finally meet you, Ms. Strand. I’ve heard a lot ab...

LILLIAN
This way, please.

The driver stays behind, as Riley follows Lillian back through the double doors and into:

It’s a sprawling collection of LAB STATIONS, populated by hundreds of MEN and WOMEN in WHITE COATS.
They pass a section where a woman wearing an EXOSKELETON runs on a treadmill at 40mph, as TECHNICIANS monitor her.

LILLIAN
I understand you have questions.

RILEY
I was ordered to go through months of testing and vetting and nobody will even tell me what the job is.

LILLIAN
That’s because the position itself is Classified Code Word.

Riley expects Lillian to tell her about the job, but Lillian just keeps walking. They pass a lab station where a man with EEG sensors on his head sits quietly reading the newspaper. As he does, the WORDS of the article he’s reading APPEAR ONE BY ONE ON THE MONITOR on the wall.

RILEY
What’s he doing?

LILLIAN
Word Mapping. Ever word has a corresponding brain signal. We’re translating them in real time.

RILEY
Is that even possible?

LILLIAN
What do you know about CyberCom?

RILEY
I know you’re responsible for cyber security for the government.

LILLIAN
CyberCom’s purview includes the development of genetics, robotics, artificial intelligence and nanotechnology, as well as data mining, DeepNet salvage, crypanalysis, and protection of the Global Information Grid. And then there’s Clockwork.

RILEY
Clockwork?

Two ARMED SOLDIERS open a set of double doors for them.
INT. CORRIDOR, CYBERCOM - CONTINUOUS

They walk down a long corridor toward another set of doors.

LILLIAN
Last year, 60 Minutes first aired a story about a quadriplegic who could operate a robotic arm with her mind. The microchip attached to her brain was created right here. But Clockwork took it further than we could ever imagine.

They reach the doors at the other end of the hallway. A small sign says, “CLOCKWORK.” Two more ARMED GUARDS open the doors.

INT. HALLWAY, CLOCKWORK LABORATORY - SAME

They enter a walkway surrounding the glass walls of a round room - THE LAB. A few TECHNICIANS work on equipment surrounding an examination table, on which lies a MAN, the top of his head facing us, so we can’t see him just yet.

LILLIAN
Once we started translating the brain’s signals - phase synchrony, neural integration, proteomics - we realized we could facilitate a direct neural interface that could access the entire electromagnetic spectrum - telephone, internet, radio, satellite...

RILEY
Are you saying you put a computer in a man’s brain?

LILLIAN
I’m saying we created a man who is the first of his kind. An advanced intelligence agent.

Now we see the man on the table. It’s Gabriel. His eyes are closed, as a TECHNICIAN works a computer next to him.

LILLIAN (CONT’D)
We built an agency complex around him - analysts, task teams, field ops. When a situation rises to a certain level of national security, the Director of National Intelligence brings us in.

(MORE)
Gabriel’s been active for six months and since then, we’ve enjoyed an 85% success rate. Included in that success is the thwarting of the Super Bowl bomber.

RILEY
I thought that was CIA?

LILLIAN
You haven’t been cleared to think anything different.

Lillian opens the door and leads Riley into...

INT. CLOCKWORK LAB - CONTINUOUS

Lillian and Riley enter.

RILEY
What are they doing to him?

The technician, AMOS PEMBROKE (29), looks up. Lillian nods that he can answer.

AMOS
Stuxnet Two eradication.

RILEY
Stuxnet? The computer virus?

He looks at Lillian. She nods again.

AMOS
Virus? Please. Stuxnet is the world’s first weaponized cyber worm, a digital cruise missile. We took out Iran’s nuke program first, and now North Korea. Boo-yah. (beat)

Of course, the only way to plant it in an isolated, bunkerized system, four stories underground, was for Gabriel to carry it himself...

(points to Gabriel’s head)

Which is why we’re making sure none of the code burrowed in.

RILEY
Is he under anaesthesia?
GABRIEL
He wishes.
(opens his eyes)
Riley. You’ve changed your hair color.

RILEY
I’m sorry, have we met?

Now we see Riley from GABRIEL’S POV. A facial recognition program draws lines around her face, measuring distance between eyes, etc., as DATA STREAMS, including flashes of TEXT and PHOTOS – are on each side of the screen.

GABRIEL
No, but wow.

RILEY
What does that mean?

GABRIEL
That nude photo you sent to your boyfriend in college. And they’re yours. Nice.

RILEY
Excuse me?

Riley looks at Lillian, who isn’t amused.

GABRIEL
Gotta be careful when you send pictures out there. It’s called Digital Permanence, right Amos?

AMOS
Don’t worry, he can’t print. By the way, I’m Amos Pembroke, Gabriel’s pri-tech.

RILEY
Pri-tech?

AMOS
Primary technician.

GABRIEL
Nobody around here uses more syllables than they have to. You’ll fit right in.

RILEY
Did you just call me stupid?
GABRIEL
Ten-sixty on your SATs?

RILEY
I was a bad test taker. Who the hell do you think you are?

GABRIEL
Whoa, I just found a sealed juvenile record?

LILLIAN
Gabriel, don’t open that file.

GABRIEL
What’s in it? Shoplifting?
(hands up in surrender)
Fine. But tell me, how does the daughter of a surgeon and a chemist become a Secret Service Agent?

In GABRIEL’S POV we FLASH to various images in rapid fire, FAMILY PHOTOS, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, FACEBOOK PAGES. Finally, a quick shot of President OBAMA getting into a limo, RILEY CLOSING THE LIMO DOOR, an earpiece in her ear.

GABRIEL (CONT’D)
Youngest woman ever assigned to presidential detail. That’s the beginning of a storied career. And now what? Follow around a charming devil with a chip in his brain?

RILEY
Impressive. Almost every word of that was accurate.

GABRIEL
Almost? Which word did I get wrong?

RILEY
Charming.

Amos stifles a laugh. Gabriel shoots him a look. Lillian is suddenly very satisfied with her choice in Riley.

RILEY (CONT’D)
(to Lillian)
You should find someone else.

Riley walks out. Lillian glares at Gabriel.

LILLIAN
Nice try.
INT. HALLWAY, CLOCKWORK LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS

Riley walks down the hall. Lillian steps out of the lab, calmly watching her. A moment later, Riley opens the door and an ALARM SOUNDS and the ARMED GUARDS appear. Riley turns back to Lillian, gestures to the guards to stand down. One of them types a code into a wall keypad, the alarm stops. The doors close again, leaving Riley and Lillian in the empty hallway.

LILLIAN
We looked at the best agents from every discipline. Of the top twenty, you’re the only one we brought here.

RILEY
I’m a secret service agent. What could you possibly want me for?

LILLIAN
In that room is the most valuable piece of technology this country’s ever produced. What do I want you for? You’re going to protect it for us.

Off Riley’s look...

END TEASER
ACT ONE

23  EXT. DR. WILLIAM CRISPIN’S HOME, CHESAPEAKE BAY – NIGHT

A secluded home in the thick woods of the Chesapeake Bay.

24  INT. KITCHEN, DR. WILLIAM CRISPIN’S HOME – NIGHT

Standing at the sink, hand washing the dishes, DR. WILLIAM CRISPIN, 70, talks out loud. Nobody else is in the room. Is he insane?

CRISPIN

Albert, when I was at NASA in ’69, we sent an astronaut to the moon. A cell phone today has a million times more computer power than we put on that spacecraft. Technology isn’t revolutionary. It’s evolutionary. Oh, that’s good. I like that.

Crispin opens the refrigerator, takes out a carton of milk and pours a glass for himself and then pours a bowl for the cat who just landed on the kitchen counter. Then, a SOUND.

CRISPIN (CONT’D)

Sounds like our raccoons are back.

Crispin walks to the large window. He can’t see anything outside, only his reflection in the window. He turns off the lights, the outdoors now materializing in the relative darkness.

CRISPIN (CONT’D)

Think I’ll keep you inside tonight.

The CAT SHRIEKS. Crispin quickly turns on a light, revealing... A MASKED MAN WITH A GUN. The CAT RUNS, knocking the glass of milk and a stack of papers to the floor. The glass SHATTERS, shards of glass and a fallen VOICE RECORDER scattering under the refrigerator.

CRISPIN (CONT’D)

Please! Take whatever you want!

The GUNMAN SPEAKS QUIETLY, WITH A CHINESE ACCENT.

MASKED MAN #1

I think we will.
He says something in CHINESE and a SECOND MASKED MAN appears behind Crispin, holding a gun to his head.

25  
EXT. US CYBER COMMAND, ANGEL'S BLUFF - DAY

Establishing the compound.

26  
INT. CDOC, CYBERCOM - SAME

A gleaming, high tech command center called CDOC (pronounced see-dock), which stands for Cyber Defense Operations Center. Walls of monitors, work stations, lots of PERSONNEL.

Riley stands against the wall drinking a cup of coffee. She looks up a set of steel stairs, at the large windows of an office overlooking CDOC. Lillian’s office.

27  
INT. LILLIAN’S OFFICE - SAME

Lillian sits behind her desk arguing with Gabriel.

LILLIAN
What did you think was going to happen after India? That’s the third time you went off-book and almost burned Clockwork to a foreign government. And all for intel you already have.

GABRIEL
The Indian DIA files make no mention of Amelia’s death.

LILLIAN
But they did identify her as one of the attackers.

GABRIEL
That doesn’t mean she turned. CIA had her deep black for two years. For all we know, she was still dark.

LILLIAN
Maybe, maybe not. But thirty-three bodies incinerated in the fire in Mumbai, and she never reported in or showed up on the grid again.

GABRIEL
And that’s evidence?
LILLIAN
If I go to bed at night and there’s no snow on the ground and in the morning I’m shoveling, it snowed.
(beat)
Gabriel, I’m not going to let you bang and burn your own agency in pursuit of this fairy tale you’re clinging to. Whatever became of Amelia, she’s gone. I’m sorry, but it’s time to move on.

GABRIEL
And this secret service agent? That’s how we’re moving on?

LILLIAN
That’s how I’m protecting my investment.

GABRIEL
What is she, then? Body guard, babysitter, chaperone?

LILLIAN
All of the above. Her primary job is to keep you alive.

GABRIEL
That girl?

LILLIAN
That girl’s greatest advocate says she personally thwarted the most elaborate assassination attempt on the president since 9/11.

GABRIEL
And who’s this advocate?

LILLIAN
The president.

Lillian’s phone buzzes. She picks it up.

LILLIAN (PHONE) (CONT’D)
Yes, Elizabeth. What do you mean, he’s here now? Is this on the calendar? Well, send him in.
(hangs up)
Unscheduled visit from the Director of National Intelligence.
The door opens and a SECRETARY lets in DNI OLIVER RUSSELL, 50, and DEPUTY DNI TOM LATHAM.

LILLIAN (CONT’D)
Oliver, Tom. What do we have?

DNI OLIVER RUSSELL
I’m sorry for the surprise, but I didn’t want to use a phone.
(noticing Gabriel)
Gabriel. Good. Glad you’re here. Everybody sit down. Tom?

DEPUTY DNI TOM LATHAM
Kidnapping. High value, low profile.

LILLIAN
You’re both here, so what kind of value are we talking about? Red?

DNI OLIVER RUSSEL
I’d say so. And he’s one of yours. Dr. William Crispin.

Lillian sits back in her chair. Gabriel exhales.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM, CYBERCOM – DAY

A SURVEILLANCE VIDEO plays. Image is grainy, obscured, shot through the trees of Crispin’s home. Two masked gunman drag Crispin out of the house to a waiting white van.

Lillian addresses the room of a DOZEN of her PEOPLE.

LILLIAN
Until he resigned last year, Dr. William Crispin was our top neuroscientist and leading member of the Clockwork team.

Everyone takes that in. Gabriel, Riley, and Amos. Also here are CHRIS JAMESON, by-the-book investigator, and his partner, GONZALO “GONZO” SANCHEZ, scrappy, muscular Latino.

JAMESON
Where’s this video from?

AMOS
An EPA camera-trap intended to monitor the Chesapeake dwarf bat.
GONZO
Has it been scrubbed?

AMOS
As we speak. Masks will make it hard for facial rec. Gabriel?

GABRIEL
Nothing.

AMOS
See? And no audio.

GONZO
What about the van’s plates?

AMOS
We’re trying to dig out a partial.

JAMESON
Did they get his computer?

LILLIAN
FBI swept. No computers found.

AMOS
His computer isn’t a concern. I created the encryption protocol. Twenty-forty Bit. Impregnable.

GABRIEL
Unless they torture him for his password.

Everyone turns to Gabriel. He’s right, of course.

JAMESON
Do we know what’s on that computer?

LILLIAN
No.

JAMESON
If they get in, they could learn about Gabriel.

GONZO
He could be a target already.

GABRIEL
Then it’s good we have Riley to protect me.

Everyone turns to see the woman he’s referring to. Riley.
LILLIAN
Everybody, meet Riley O'Neil.
Introduce yourselves later.
(all business)
Listen up. This one isn’t like any
kidnapping we’ve handled before.
The clock always ticks on the
victim. This time it ticks on us,
too.

With that, everyone is on their feet. Riley, though, follows
Lillian out the door.

INT. CDOC, CYBERCOM - CONTINUOUS

Riley catches up with Lillian, who doesn’t stop. They
continue walking across CDOC and down a long hallway.

RILEY
Ms. Strand. I hope you find Dr.
Crispin, but I put in a call to...

LILLIAN
Your ASAC. Yes, I know.

RILEY
I’m sorry. I’m not a bodyguard.
When the President has an event,
I’ve already done ninety percent of
my work. I can walk through a hotel
lobby blindfolded and know how many
steps it is to every exit. I have
hundreds of support assets,
ambulances, a helicopter on the
pad, and two F-22s standing by. We
don’t make PTZ stops unless it’s
absolutely necessary. You want me
to ride with a belligerent
protectee, with no assets, and
everywhere we go is a potential
threat zone? I can’t do that.

LILLIAN
That’s not your problem. Your
problem is that you think
protecting the president is more
important than this.

RILEY
Because, respectfully, it is more
important than this.
LILLIAN
We got very lucky with Gabriel. When we were looking for a candidate, the criteria wasn’t just to find someone capable. We needed to thread a very rare genetic needle. Let me tell you something about him. When he was a Seal he was alternately shot, cut up, tortured, burned and frozen alive. None of it stopped him. He volunteered for five tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Five. That’s a hero in there.

RILEY
I’m sure he is. But...

LILLIAN
We’re in the middle of a technological arms race, unlike anything we’ve seen since the Soviet nukes. Now, if you knew that every nation on earth was trying to steal our nuclear arsenal, would that be important to you?

RILEY
Yes, obviously, but...

LILLIAN
What do you know about Echelon?

RILEY
It’s a system that develops threat assessments by monitoring electronic communication.

Lillian stops and turns to her.

LILLIAN
Echelon is a hunter. Echelon can find its prey in a jungle so dense that sunlight can’t breach the canopy. Echelon is the most fearsome weapon in human history. (off her look) Riley, Gabriel is Echelon. And protecting him is the most important thing you’ll ever do.

Lillian lets that sink in. And it does. Lillian puts an unexpected hand on Riley’s shoulder, then keeps walking, leaving her standing alone.
Riley drives. Gabriel watches her, but she doesn’t look back.

GABRIEL
So, what’s in that sealed file of yours?

RILEY
I’m surprised you didn’t read it already.

GABRIEL
What am I, an animal?
(beat)
Was it drugs?

She looks at him, then back at the road. She’s not playing.

GABRIEL (CONT’D)
Did you hold up a liquor store?
(still no answer)
Come on, I thought this was the part where we share and bond.

RILEY
Seems more like the part where I find out how much of a pain in the ass you are.

GABRIEL
Wait a sec...

Gabriel’s HEAD TILTS sharply -- something is happening.

RILEY
What’s happening? Are you okay? Should I pull over?

GABRIEL
Hold on...

RILEY
Gabriel?

GABRIEL
The kidnappers are Chinese.

RILEY
Excuse me?

GABRIEL
There’s an audio recording of the kidnapping.
RILEY
What do you mean? Why didn’t you
mention that at the briefing?

GABRIEL
Because I didn’t know it until
thirty seconds ago.

Riley turns the car up the dirty driveway of Crispin’s house.
Gonzo and Jameson wave from a front lawn covered with CRIME
SCENE TAPE and FORENSIC TEAMS.

31

INT. DR. CRISPIN’S HOUSE – SAME

The AUDIO RECORDER sits on the table, playing the recording
of the kidnapping.

CRISPIN (RECORDING)
Albert, when I was at NASA in ‘69,
we sent an astronaut to the moon. A
cell phone today has a million
times more computer power than we
put on that space craft.

PULL BACK - Gabriel and Riley, Jameson and Gonzo stand around
the table listening.

JAMESON
Who’s Albert?

Gonzo points to the cat’s bowl that says ALBERT on it.

RILEY
(to Gabriel)
How did you know?

GABRIEL
Bluetooth. Once I was in range...

JAMESON
Shhh.

CRISPIN (RECORDING)
Technology isn’t revolutionary.
It’s evolutionary.

On the recording we hear ALBERT SHRIEK, GLASS SHATTER...

CRISPIN (RECORDING) (CONT’D)
Please, take whatever you want!

WE HEAR the KIDNAPPER SPEAKING IN CHINESE.
GABRIEL
There it is. Chinese.

GONZO
Mandarin, to be exact.

JAMESON
Gabriel, can you translate?

GABRIEL
He’s saying, Bring the house.

GONZO
Bring the house?

RILEY
Where did you learn to speak Mandarin?

GABRIEL
I didn’t.  
(points to his head) Software.

RILEY
You should get an upgrade. It’s not bring the house. Gong-Ding means house, yes. But it also means safe or vault.

GONZO
Bring the safe.

Gonzo and Jameson are impressed, which annoys Gabriel.

32

INT. CRISPIN LABORATORY - DAY

Gabriel, Riley and Amos sit with NELSON CRISPIN, 35 years old, next to a large window overlooking the Potomac River.

NELSON
What was in the safe? Dad’s computer. We drilled a hole in the back for the wires.

GABRIEL
What was on the computer that warranted that?

NELSON
Nothing compromising. Dad was just paranoid about his memoirs. He’s been dictating them for months.  
(MORE)
NELSON (CONT'D)
He said it’s easier to talk to
Albert, so I made him a recorder.

Nelson takes a deep breath, tries to collect himself.

NELSON (CONT'D)
He is going to be really happy to
see you again, Gabriel. Talks about
you all the time.

That nearly puts Nelson over the edge. Riley looks at Amos,
her eyes telling him to say something.

AMOS
You built the recorder?

NELSON
Yeah, I wanted it to respond to his
voice. Wasn’t hard. I used the
Corona chassis, added a few gigs of
flash, and hacked some code to make
it dump into the computer every
night.

AMOS
That’s why it was sending out the
signal that Gabriel picked up. It
was trying to log in.

GABRIEL
Nelson, is there anything in those
memoirs that someone could use to
build a chip of their own?

NELSON
No way. We know the rules about
black intel.

RILEY
I have a question. If you don’t
mind.

GABRIEL
(minding)
No, go ahead.

RILEY
If there’s nothing compromising on
that computer, and it’s encrypted,
why did it need to be in a safe?

Gabriel looks at Riley. Nelson looks caught.
POV - WE NOW SEE THEM ALL THROUGH THE SCOPE OF A SNIPER RIFLE, SCANNING ACROSS EACH FACE.

EXT. POTOMAC RIVER PARK - SAME

An ICE CREAM TRUCK sits alone in the park along the river bank, across from the high rise buildings on the other side. Inside the ice cream truck is the sniper, his long rifle sticking out through the window. He’s Chinese.

INT. CRISPIN LABORATORY - SAME

Back with Gabriel, Riley, Amos and Nelson.

GABRIEL
You’re angry at your father.

NELSON
Why would I be angry?

RILEY
You’re his lab assistant. He leaves, you’re out, too.

GABRIEL
That’s not why he’s angry. He’s angry about me.

NELSON
What are you talking about?

GABRIEL
Just three weeks ago you sent an email to your dad, “Gabriel is all you talk about. He may be your creation, but he’s not your son.” What happened, Nelson? Did you want the chip in your big brain? Is that what it is?

NELSON
I don’t have the mutation.

GABRIEL
And that burns you up, doesn’t it? Tell us about the Chinese.

NELSON
Chinese? What are you... What’s going on here? Amos?
AMOS
Just tell them the truth, bro.

RILEY
What was in your father’s safe?

INT. SILICON ROOM, SHENZHEN MICROTECH - DAY

OVERHEAD VIEW of a CIRCULAR MAZE. CONCENTRIC CIRCLES emanate from the center. A shiny MONOLITH floats into the frame. The monolith is held by tweezers and we suddenly realize the monolith is a MICROCHIP and the maze is the FINGERPRINT on the end of a finger. The CHIP is placed on the FINGER.

The finger belongs to JIN CONG, a handsome Chinese man in a dark suit. He stares at the chip, holding it up to the light. He turns to Dr. Crispin, framed by two ARMED CHINESE MEN.

CONG
What would your government do to you if they learned you not only made another chip, but you made it even better than the first?

CRISPIN
It probably doesn’t even work.

CONG
How long after the surgery will you know if it’s been a success?

CRISPIN
Surgery? I’m not implanting an untested chip in a live human!

Cong holds up his phone, on it is VIDEO coming from the sniper VIDEOSCOPE pointed at his son’s head.

CONG
That is a live image from a Chinese-made M99 sniper rifle.

INT. CRISPIN LABORATORY - SAME

Gabriel suddenly turns to the window, HE’S PICKING UP THE SIGNAL from the SNIPER RIFLE’S VIDEOSCOPE. He SEES THE ICE CREAM TRUCK OUTSIDE with the SNIPER RIFLE POINTED at them.

GABRIEL
Sniper! Get down!

Gabriel runs. Riley is on her feet.
Gabriel runs out of the building, Riley right behind him, and are immediately greeted by a hail of gunfire from the fleeing truck. Riley dives, knocking Gabriel down. He looks up as it disappears around the corner.

GABRIEL
What the hell is wrong with you?

RILEY
I said wait.

GABRIEL
If you were a man, I’d...

Riley comes right up in his face.

RILEY
Pretend I am!

Gabriel stares her down, then breaks away, walking back inside the building.

END ACT ONE
ACT TWO

INT. OPERATING ROOM, SHENZHEN MICROTECH – DAY

Jin Cong walks Crispin into a room. When he turns the lights on WE SEE it is an OPERATING ROOM.

JIN CONG
Your surgical team has just landed and will be here shortly. We have spared no expense in outfitting this room with everything you will need.

CRISPIN
Everything I’ll need for what? This isn’t some appendectomy. Getting past the histocompatibility complex was a feat in and of itself, but to coax the brain’s chemical neurotransmitters into generating a completely new biochemical language was tantamount to creating a sixth sense. We rewrote the rules of nature. I implore you to explain to your government...

CONG
My government? Beijing is too crippled by so-called reformers to do anything this bold. No, doctor, I’m not doing this on behalf of my government. I intend to take back my government from the cowards who denigrate it.

CRISPIN
The fact remains that this simply won’t work. We discovered that the candidate must possess a very rare genetic mutation called Athens-4U7R. To find such a person...

Cong nods to one of his men, who opens a door, revealing a beautiful, 26-year-old Chinese woman named MEI ZHAO.

CONG
This is Mei Zhao. She possesses the gene mutation, Athens-4U7R.

Crispin is stunned. Cong is satisfied.
INT. INTERROGATION ROOM, CDOC, CYBERCOM - DAY

Nelson sits across a table from Lillian.

LILLIAN
That chip is based on top secret technology and is vital to national security. I’d like to know who has it now.

NELSON
Do you even remember me?

LILLIAN
Of course.

NELSON
All those years I ran his lab, we didn’t have a single conversation.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF INTERROGATION ROOM - SAME

Gabriel, Riley and Amos stand outside the one-way glass, listening to Lillian’s conversation with Nelson.

GABRIEL
It can’t be easy.

RILEY
Your father being kidnapped?

GABRIEL
Your father being a genius. In all that time I spent with them, it never occurred to me what it was doing to Nelson. To him, I got to be Pinocchio, while he was only Gepetto’s assistant.

RILEY
He passed a lie detector.

AMOS
The polygraph is the lowest form of technology. It’s right down there with the self-cleaning toilet.

Riley and Gabriel share an amused look.
NELSON
The chip wasn’t tested, so we don’t know. But, if it is functional, Moore’s Law dictates that it will be significantly faster and more robust than the original.

LILLIAN
What was William planning on doing with the chip?

NELSON
He was going to give it to you.

LILLIAN
Just like that? Why?

NELSON
Loyalty doesn’t always go both ways.

LILLIAN
You think I was disloyal?

NELSON
You could have kept him on.

LILLIAN
He’s 70 years old.

NELSON
Dad’s first invention was a garage door opener. He was eleven. This is the guy you keep.

LILLIAN
I don’t make the rules.

NELSON
And what about me? I’m not seventy. Do you even know what my contribution was to this program?

LILLIAN
The thing I can’t figure out, Nelson, is why you sold out your country. Was it because I insulted your father by letting him go? Or was it because I insulted you, by not inviting you for tea.

Lillian stands and walks out.
Lillian steps out, to find Gabriel, Riley and Amos waiting.

LILLIAN
I don’t feel great about what I just did in there.

RILEY
You have to push his buttons. You have no choice.

GABRIEL
There’s no electronic signpost that he’s lying. No emails, voicemails, nothing.

RILEY
But he also knows to avoid those traps, right?

LILLIAN
He may be angry at us, but I don’t see him putting his father in danger.

Jameson and Gonzo approach.

JAMESON
We got the partial plate off the video. But, it doesn’t come up on any database.

RILEY
What about stolen plates?

GABRIEL
What’s the partial?

JAMESON
Maryland, L-4.

GABRIEL
(worked the chip)
A pair of Maryland plates beginning with L-4 were reported stolen one week ago. The car the plates were taken from was a blue, eighty-eight Chevrolet Caprice, parked on the twenty-three hundred block of Castor Road in Rockville.
RILEY
This is a great party trick. How many white Ford vans are in a twenty mile radius?

GABRIEL
Twenty-seven.

JAMESON
Ours is a ’98 Ford E-Series Extended Cargo 2-Door.

GABRIEL
That narrows it to two vans. One was towed for unpaid parking tickets six weeks ago and still sits in the impound lot. The other is registered to a business called Bullseye Paintball.

JAMESON
The enhancement showed paint splatters on one side.

GABRIEL
Guess where Bullseye Paintball is? (off their looks)
Chinatown.

EXT. PAINTBALL - DAY

It’s an outdoor paintball arena with various areas set up for battle. There’s an old west town, a junkyard, a fake jungle, etc. There’s also a collection of corrugated aluminum buildings.

Riley and Gabriel get out of one car, Gonzo and Jameson out of the other. On the other side of the wooden fences, kids shoot splatters of red and yellow paint at each other.

GONZO
What do we do about all the kids?

RILEY
We have satellite right? Let’s see what’s going on inside these buildings.

JAMESON
Amos says fifteen minutes to get the bird in position.
GONZO
And the tack team is ten minutes out.

GABRIEL
We could look around, not engage.

RILEY
I don’t think that’s a good idea.

GABRIEL
Guys? What do you think?

RILEY
It doesn’t matter what they think. We’re waiting.

Gonzo and Jameson share a look. Gabriel ignores her.

GABRIEL
I’m going to look around.

Gabriel starts walking. Gonzo and Jameson take the cue.

GONZO
We’ll go this way.

Riley, left alone and frustrated, follows Gabriel. As she catches up to him...

RILEY
You think you’re the first protectee that’s given me trouble?

GABRIEL
The F-35 is the most expensive airplane ever built. The first thing they did was throw it in a war zone. This thing in my head may be valuable, but it’s no good to anyone sitting in the hangar.

RILEY
You’re no good to anyone if you’re dead either. We’re going to have to come to some kind of understanding.

GABRIEL
The only thing to understand is that I’m not a machine. You can’t just shut me off.

RILEY
Too bad for your wife.
He turns. She instantly realizes...

RILEY (CONT’D)
God, I’m sorry. I know about your wife, of course. It’s in your file. I forgot...

GABRIEL
You believe what you read? You believe that my wife, a decorated CIA agent, would suddenly fall in love with a blood-loving member of the Lashkar-e-Taiba? Take part in a terrorist attack? Murder innocent civilians?

RILEY
I didn’t know your wife.

GABRIEL
Don’t ever talk about her in the past tense again. She’s not dead.

They reach one of the warehouses. He opens the door.

RILEY
Gabriel...

INT. INDOOR COURSE, BULLSEYE PAINTBALL – CONTINUOUS

All lit with black lights, the paint in here is dayglo, and the music, some kind of Chinese rap, is blaring. Splatters of glow-in-the-dark paint are everywhere.

RILEY
Listen, you don’t have to like me, but this is exactly what Lillian is talking about. And she’s right. Waiting ten minutes won’t change...

SPLAT – she gets hit on the arm with a paintball. Glowing yellow splatter covers her shoulder. A kid cackles and runs.

RILEY (CONT’D)
Great.

GABRIEL
Have you ever been taken, held against your will? I have. And ten minutes can be a lifetime.

They arrive at another door. It has a padlock on it. Gabriel uses the butt of a FIRE EXTINGUISHER to SMASH the lock.
Gabriel and Riley enter a dark and junk-filled garage. All kinds of paint supplies, old paint guns, etc. And in the corner, by the outer door is the WHITE FORD VAN. Jackpot.

They approach it. Look in the windows. Gabriel tries the door, but it’s locked. She walks to a tool bench, grabs a SCREW DRIVER and HAMMER. She shoves the screw driver into the door lock, hammers it, turns it hard and POP. It opens.

GABRIEL
Auto theft?
(off her look)
The sealed file.

RILEY
No.

VOICE
Hey!

SIX CHINESE GANGBANGERS enter. BASEBALL BATS and GUNS. The voice belongs to a thug we will come to know as HUANG FU.

HUANG FU
Who said you could come in here?

RILEY
We’re federal agents.

One of the gangbangers AIMS at GABRIEL and FIRES, but Riley pushes Gabriel aside and FIRES BACK. They all SCATTER.

Gabriel looks at Riley and sees the BLOOD ON HER SHOULDER. She falls backward against the car. He pulls her down to the relative safety of the floor. A gun in one hand, Riley in his other arm, he scans the darkness for the muffled voices of the gangbangers.

GABRIEL
You took a bullet for me? What do you think you’re doing?

RILEY
My job.

She loses consciousness, slumping over into his arms.

END ACT TWO
ACT THREE

INT. GARAGE, BULLSEYE PAINTBALL - EVENING

Pitch-black, gunshots, shouts in Chinese. Gabriel stays down low with an UNCONSCIOUS Riley, putting pressure on her shoulder where she was shot. He talks on a cell phone.

GABRIEL (PHONE)
She’s alive, but I can’t tell if...

Another SHOT is fired, just misses. Gabriel fires back.

GABRIEL (CONT’D)
I need that bird!

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CDOC, CYBERCOM - DAY

Lillian is at the control center. Gabriel is now on speaker.

LILLIAN
Amos, where’s my satellite!

AMOS
Two more minutes.

LILLIAN
He doesn’t need it in two minutes.

AMOS
Moving eighty tons through space. It’s not like ordering a pizza.

LILLIAN
Gabriel, the tack team is on site, evacuating the civilians. How many shooters?

GABRIEL
Seven.

Gabriel SHOOTS into the darkness at a moving shadow.

GABRIEL (CONT’D)
Six.

SHOUTS in Chinese are heard. Through the piles of junk Gabriel can see movement. They’re closing in on him.
Riley’s eyes open, just in time to see a figure charging at them. Her gun still in her hand, she lifts it up and fires, hitting the man in the chest. Gabriel looks down at her.

With Riley’s good arm draped over his shoulder, Gabriel bursts into the now empty indoor range. He tries to get across the large space to the exit, but the gangbangers start shooting at them from behind.

Gabriel looks out at the darkness and then we’re in his pov. He sees a three-dimensional space. The room suddenly appears almost translucent.

Gabriel
I’ve got satellite infrared...

Riley
You can do that?

As he helps her to her feet, intercut with his pov and see the entire space with infrared vision - a 3d environment, like a video game, with red figures hiding behind various obstacles. Gabriel, with Riley’s arm over his shoulder, is able to move them toward the door, while avoiding the bogeys.

Jameson and Gonzo direct the crowd toward the arriving police cars, and flash their badges to the arriving SWAT unit.

Gabriel spots a bogey raising a gun. Gabriel fires - hitting him. They keep moving toward the door. Just as they reach it, the door bursts open and men in tack suits and bayonet lights move in. Jameson and Gonzo rush to Gabriel and Riley.
EXT. BULLSEYE PAINTBALL - SAME

Gabriel and Riley emerge into the fading sunlight and flashing lights and sirens.

GABRIEL
We need a medic!

RILEY
The Romans used to say it’s bad luck not to give something to the person who saves your life. I think twenty dollars should do it.

GABRIEL
You’re not giving me twenty dollars.

RILEY
I saved your life, remember?

GABRIEL
You want me to give you twenty dollars? Did you miss the part where I used my Terminator Vision to get you out of there?

Jameson comes back with the PARAMEDICS.

JAMESON
No sign of Crispin.

GONZO
He’s not here.

Paramedics take Riley on the stretcher as Gabriel points to one of the Chinese GANGBANGERS in handcuffs - Huang Fu.

GABRIEL
That’s the one you want.

GABRIEL’S POV - FACIAL RECOGNITION - MUG SHOTS, DATA STREAM.

JAMESON
He’s the boss?

GABRIEL
No. But he’s connected.

RILEY
To who?

GABRIEL
Chinese MSS.
INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Riley is in the bed, shoulder bandaged, hospital gown on. Lillian, Amos, Gabriel and Gonzo are here, too.

LILLIAN
Jin Cong? Are you sure?

GABRIEL
That gangbanger’s his cousin.

RILEY
Jin Cong is a spy?

GONZO
CIA hunted him for about a decade.

JAMESON
He hasn’t shown up on the grid in five years.

LILLIAN
Now he has. Let’s start working it. Gonzo, Jameson, Amos, you head back. It’s time I put in a call to the Chinese.

Gonzo and Jameson start to leave. Amos, too.

AMOS
Riley, I’m glad you’re okay.

Before she can respond, he gets yanked away by Gonzo.

GABRIEL
Someone has a crush.

RILEY
Lillian, can you help me get my clothes on? I can’t sleep here.

LILLIAN
What’d the doc say?

RILEY
That I’m a big girl. Gabriel, give me a ride?

GABRIEL
I’ll wait in the hall.

When he’s gone...
RILEY
They brought a clean T-shirt for me. It’s in the cabinet.

Lillian realizes she’s not talking Riley out of this. She goes to the cabinet.

RILEY (CONT’D)
What’s the real on Gabriel’s wife?

LILLIAN
Excuse me?

RILEY
You want me to take bullets for him, then I need to know where he’s going to be unpredictable.

LILLIAN
The real is that Amelia Hayes is an enemy of the United States.

RILEY
If that’s true, why would you violate all established protocol by entrusting the man who loves her with the most powerful intelligence weapon on earth?
(remark...)
You don’t believe she’s a traitor, do you? And I bet you don’t even believe she’s dead.

Lillian considers her answer carefully.

LILLIAN
What I believe is irrelevant.
(beat)
Let me be very clear with you, Riley. We have spent billions of dollars creating something that every nation on Earth would go to war to possess. I didn’t bring you here to argue with me. I brought you here to keep it safe.

RILEY
Him. Not it. He’s a human being and she’s his wife. He’s not going to let go of this. Nor should he.

Lillian doesn’t have a response. Maybe she agrees.
A makeshift recovery room, built for one patient only. Mei Zhao is unconscious, her head wrapped in bandages. A Chinese nurse attends to her, while standing at the foot of the bed is a quiet, stoic Jin Cong.

Dr. Crispin is brought in by an armed guard.

CRISPIN
We had many heartbreaking failures that often resulted in exactly what we’re seeing here. This poor girl could wake up in weeks or months, or never. We are meddling in the building blocks of life. And that mystery is still beyond our reach.

Cong produces a BLACK HANDGUN with a PEARL HANDLE, INLAID WITH A DRAGON in one hand.

CONG
Have you ever seen a Canglong handgun before? Canglong means “black dragon.” This is the finest gun made in the world.

CRISPIN
What are you planning on doing with your Black Dragon gun?

Without warning, Cong cracks the gun across Crispin’s forehead, sending him to the floor. He looks up, bleeding.

CONG
Did you sabotage us, doctor?!

CRISPIN
No! Like I said, she might still wake up! We need to give her time!

CONG
You will replace this chip with the original chip, the one that works.

CRISPIN
You don’t have that chip.

CONG
I will shortly.

Cong walks out, leaving Crispin trembling on the floor.
INT. RILEY’S BEDROOM - MORNING

Riley wakes up, feels for her bandaged shoulder. Ouch. She strains to pull herself up out of bed.

INT. LIVING ROOM, RILEY’S HOUSE - MORNING

Riley walks down the stairs and STOPS in her tracks. She’s shocked to see that standing in her living room is Gabriel. He’s walking slowly, MUMBLING TO HIMSELF.

RILEY
Who are you talking to? And what are you doing in my house?

GABRIEL
Lillian told me to stay and keep an eye on you.

He still doesn’t turn to face her. Completely perplexed, she walks down the stairs. There’s nobody here but Gabriel.

GABRIEL’S POV: Though he can see Riley’s living room around him, and Riley walking tentatively toward him, what he sees more clearly is a FROZEN THREE DIMENSIONAL IMAGE OF...

EXT. DR. WILLIAM CRISPIN’S HOME - DAY (CYBER-RENDERING)

A moment frozen in time. We’re outside Crispin’s home. Two Chinese gunmen are dragging Crispin toward the van. Two other gunmen carry the safe. Crispin strains to see over the shoulder of his kidnapper. HE’S STARING DESPERATELY AT THE SAFE. Gabriel walks through the frozen scene, stopping at Crispin’s face. He follows his gaze back to the SAFE.

GABRIEL
(to the frozen Crispin)
That’s not fear on your face, is it? That’s shock.

Gabriel looks back at the safe. Then he looks at the dark edges of the hologram his mind has created. DATA STREAMS are everywhere. Faces flashing, JING CONG, DR. CRISPIN, HIS SON, the MICROCHIP being lowered in Gabriel's brain, documents, the surveillance video, Lillian, Amos...

INT. LIVING ROOM, RILEY’S HOUSE - MORNING

Riley watches Gabriel, completely confused.
RILEY
Are you going to tell me why you’re wandering around my living room like a zombie.

GABRIEL
I’m cyber-rendering.

HIS POV - she walks right through the apparition of the safe.

GABRIEL (CONT’D)
It’s something that the chip does that nobody expected. I can create a virtual snapshot of an event in my mind and then walk through it. But it's more than that. It's like a virtual evidence wall. All the intel I have access to, I can see it. The chip processes it like a computer, but my brain metabolizes it, well, like a brain.

RILEY
You’re doing this right now? What do you see?

GABRIEL
Crispin can’t take his eyes off the safe.

RILEY
Makes sense. It’s important to him.

GABRIEL
It’s not just that. He can’t imagine how they knew to take it.

RILEY
You said you only had access to available intel. We could barely see his face in the surveillance video, so how are you seeing it now?

GABRIEL
The render is sort of a compilation that’s generated by me.

RILEY
So, you’re extrapolating.

GABRIEL
Think of it like a dream. Analyze it like a dream.
RILEY
Your brain is saying that the
single most important question is
who knew what was in that safe? And
the only other person who knew is
Nelson. That’s why Crispin is so
shocked in this cyber-render.

GABRIEL
But, Nelson’s not the only other
one who knew, is he?

Gabriel turns sharply, as the entire RENDER OF THE KIDNAPPING
FALLS AWAY, immediately replaced by another...

INT. NELSON CRISPIN’S OFFICE – DAY (CYBER-RENDERING)

Gabriel stands in Nelson’s office at the moment he told
everyone to get down when he saw the sniper. Riley and Nelson
are on the floor. Gabriel walks over to the rendered version
of himself, also ducking below the window frame. Then Gabriel
looks at Amos, who hasn’t moved. HE STANDS CALMLY,
UNFLINCHING, RIGHT WHERE HE WAS THE WHOLE TIME.

GABRIEL
Why aren’t you scared?

Riley suddenly comes to the same realization...

RILEY
Amos wrote the encryption code.
Twenty-forty bit. Impregnable.

The cyber-render FALLS AWAY, leaving only Riley and Gabriel.

GABRIEL
Call Lillian.

RILEY
I’ll call her from the car.

EXT. RILEY’S HOUSE – CONTINUOUS

They exit and STOP SHORT. Walking up the path, holding a
bouquet of flowers is Amos. Gabriel whips out his GUN.

GABRIEL
You sonofabitch!

AMOS
Sorry, Riley.
RILEY
Why are you apologizing to me?

AMOS
I didn’t intend to involve you. The plan was just to lure Gabriel outside with me at some point.

GABRIEL
Drop the flowers and put your hands in the air. I’m taking you in.

AMOS
You’re not taking me anywhere, Gabriel. I’m the one taking you.

From each side of the porch, CHINESE GUNMEN APPEAR, their GUNS pointed at Gabriel and Riley. Amos shrugs.

END ACT THREE
A gray, blustery day. Lillian walks along the riverbank with a man named SHENG-LI WANG, 50, long white trenchcoat over a perfectly tailored suit.

LILLIAN
Several assets of ours have been taken. As you know, Wang, our two countries have enjoyed a moratorium on this type of behavior.

SHENG-LI WANG
Perhaps you can tell me which of your assets are missing. And are you sure they haven’t defected?

LILLIAN
Where is Jin Cong?

She notices that the name got his attention.

SHENG-LI WANG
Lillian, if your issue is with Jin Cong, your issue is not with us.

LILLIAN
What are you talking about?

SHENG-LI WANG
He is liúmáng.

LILLIAN
Do you expect me to believe that?

SHENG-LI WANG
If you find him I’d like to request you turn him over to us.

LILLIAN
Of course. We’re friends, right?

SHENG-LI WANG
You still don’t believe me, do you?

LILLIAN
Do I believe that Jin Cong, one of your highest ranking officers, has been disavowed?
SHENG-LI WANG
Allow me to put it another way. As you might say in your old west, we would accept Cong dead or alive.

She barely hides her shock at that statement. He puts out a hand to shake, which she takes.

SHENG-LI WANG (CONT’D)
Lillian, we would make an equitable trade.

LILLIAN
It was wonderful to see you again, Wang. As always.

Lillian smiles and walks toward the waiting SUV. As she’s walking she talks.

LILLIAN (CONT’D)
Did you get all that?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. CDOC, CYBERCOM - SAME

Jameson and Gonzo sit in the control room. Lillian’s voice on speaker. We can see her walking across the Washington Mall from different angles on numerous monitors.

JAMESON
Do you believe him?

GONZO
The dead or alive bit was a good sell.

LILLIAN
Where are we with Cong’s cousin?

JAMESON
Nowhere. And Gabriel’s locator is still dark.

GONZO
Why would Gabriel shut down his locator?

JAMESON
He wouldn’t.
GONZO
It would be nearly impossible without a passcode for anyone to hack a triangulated GIS chip and shut it down. And the only other person who knows the code is...

JAMESON
Amos.

LILLIAN
Amos had access to Crispin’s computers, so he would have known he was making another chip and that it was in that safe.

GONZO
And he sold the information to Cong. I can’t believe it. Amos?

LILLIAN
We’ll have time for hand wringing later. Right now we need to focus. Why did they take Gabriel, if they already got away with the new chip?

JAMESON
What if new chip doesn’t work?

LILLIAN
They’d want the only one that does.

Lillian climbs into the back seat of a waiting SUV.

INT. UTILITY ROOM, SHENZHEN MICROTECH- SAME

We’re in some kind of a large janitorial closet. Gabriel slams against the locked door. No use. He looks back at Riley, at a utility sink, running water on a paper towel.

GABRIEL
Do you know how many hours I’ve spent with Amos? Sitting in that lab? All those tests, software updates, diagnostics... you get pretty close to someone.

He PUNCHES the door. He turns and sees Riley sit on a metal chair. She looks down at the plume of blood on her shirt.
GABRIEL (CONT’D)
I’d better take a look at that.
(off her look)
Just the wound. Don’t get excited.

She winces as he peels the top of her shirt back.

GABRIEL (CONT’D)
Stitches are holding, but it
doesn’t look great.

He gently takes the wet paper towel from her and begins to
clean the wound. It stings, but she takes it. He looks
intently at what he’s doing.

RILEY
Did Lillian really tell you to keep
an eye on me last night?

He shrugs.

GABRIEL
You were supposed to be in the
hospital. I couldn’t leave you
alone. Just in case.

She looks at him. He continues cleaning her wound, studiously
avoiding her eyes. They’re close, the moment is intimate.

RILEY
Manslaughter.
(off his look)
I wasn’t convicted, but everyone
agreed to seal the file. It wasn’t
hard to convince them.
(beat)
My parents split when I was ten. My
mother got a boyfriend soon after.
She wasn’t very discriminating. For
the next five years I didn’t do
anything to protect us from him.
Then one day I did.

He’s takes a breath. That wasn’t what he was expecting.

GABRIEL
You’ve been protecting people ever
since.

Maybe she hadn’t thought of that before. Or maybe she had.

RILEY
You know, I wasn’t just hired to
protect you.
GABRIEL
I know. You’re supposed to keep me from looking for Amelia.

RILEY
Yeah, well, hell with that.

They both smile, grateful for the moment, a moment burst by... THE DOOR OPENING. Jin Cong and THREE CHINESE GUARDS enter. Gabriel and Riley are both on their feet.

JIN CONG
So, you’re Gabriel. Are you scanning me right now? What do you see?

GABRIEL
An asshole.

Two of the men grab Gabriel, cuffing his wrists. Riley shouts in Chinese, and one of the guards PUNCHES HER ACROSS THE MOUTH, sending her to the floor. Gabriel tries to break free, but there’s nothing he can do. Cong commands his men and leaves. They drag Gabriel out next.

GABRIEL (CONT’D)
Riley, whatever happens, stay alive. I’m coming back for you.

She watches him disappear, as she’s hoisted into a chair, her mouth and shoulder bleeding, hands pulled tight behind her.

INT. OPERATING ROOM, SHENZHEN MICROTECH – DAY

Gabriel is brought in by the guards and Cong. Crispin, dressed for surgery, turns and when he sees Gabriel he sighs, sadly, Gepetto fearing for his Pinocchio.

CRISPIN
Gabriel...

GABRIEL
Doc, are you okay?

CRISPIN
I’m alive. And you will be, too.

Gabriel now notices the straps on the operating table.

CONG
Doctor, if you attempt subversion, you’ll be shot and I will dig the chip out of his dead skull myself.
He gives a few orders in Chinese and leaves.

CRISPIN
Is Nelson all right?

GABRIEL
He will be.

The guards drag Gabriel to the table and STRAP HIM DOWN.

CRISPIN
Stop! You don’t have to hurt him!

GABRIEL
(an idea)
Do these guys speak English?

CRISPIN
No. Only Cong. He’ll be back soon.
(picks up syringe)
This is Midazolam. It will relax you before the anesthesia. I’m sorry, I don’t see a better option.

GABRIEL
I do.

INT. UTILITY ROOM, SHENZHEN MICROTECH- SAME

Riley is tied to a chair, her shirt bloody. She doesn’t look great. Amos walks in, carrying a cup of water.

AMOS
How are you feeling? I brought you some water.

RILEY
Not interested.

AMOS
I’m the only reason they haven’t killed you yet. I told them you could be turned.

Riley laughs bitterly.

AMOS (CONT’D)
Do you have any idea how much money Cong has? I could pretty much buy a Greek Island if I want. Though, that’s not saying much these days.
(beat)
We don’t have to be enemies, Riley.
(MORE)
AMOS (CONT’D)
We could be friends. Very rich friends.

RILEY
I’ll take that water now.

AMOS
Great. That’s great.

He walks over and holds the water up to her mouth. She drinks it. She looks at him and smiles a thank you. He smiles. And she SPITS THE BLOODY WATER IN HIS FACE.

INT. CDOC, INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Jameson and Gonzo sit across the table from Jin Cong’s cousin, who glares back at him from his tattooed eyes.

JAMESON
You’re hoping to be deported, right? Think your friends back in China will take care of you?

GONZO
That’s not going to happen, pal. Know why? Because nobody will ever know we have you. You’re going to disappear.

A KNOCK on the door. Jameson walks out.

INT. CDOC, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Lillian is waiting in the hallway.

JAMESON
He’s a rock.

LILLIAN
Our friend, Wang, just had his mother arrested for us in Beijing. Let’s see how much of a rock he is now.

She looks in at the hulking frame of Huang Fu.

LILLIAN (CONT’D)
They’re all little boys when Mommy’s in trouble.
Gabriel is unconscious. Crispin looks to the observation room where Cong has just entered. Cong nods to him to begin.

Crispin looks down at Gabriel. The Chinese ANESTHESIOLOGIST prepares the mask to go over Gabriel’s nose and mouth, while a NURSE slides a tray of SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS toward Crispin.

The anesthesiologist lowers the mask onto Gabriel’s face. Crispin looks grave as the nurse hands him a SCALPEL. Then... Gabriel starts CONVULSING. The anesthesiologist freaks, checking his gauges.

**CRISPIN**
(shouting at the anesthesiologist)
What did you give him?!

**CONG**
(shouting)
What’s happening?

**CRISPIN**
He’s in cardiogenic shock!

The anesthesiologist is at a loss. Crispin rips the mask off of Gabriel.

**CRISPIN (CONT’D)**
Gabriel! Gabriel, can you hear me? Help me hold him down!

Cong leaves the observation room, immediately appearing in the operating room with them.

**CONG**
What’s happening? I demand to know what is happening.

**CRISPIN**
I don’t know. I don’t know what they gave him!

Gabriel’s legs are kicking wildly.

**CRISPIN (CONT’D)**
(to anesthesiologist)
Do you have any Naloxone?! Naloxone?! Do you understand me?!
Cong yells to the guards to come help. They each grab a leg as Crispin and the nurse hold their weight on his body to stabilize him. The anesthesiologist prepares a syringe. Then...

Gabriel opens his eyes, looks right at Crispin.

GABRIEL
Now, doc!

Crispin backs off of him quickly, as Gabriel grabs the scalpel and jumps up, plunging it into one guard’s throat, grabbing the gun from his waist, turning and shooting the other guard. In the melee of screams and gunshots, Cong slips out the door.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Gabriel and Crispin run down a hallway, as an ALARM SOUNDS.

Gabriel looks up at a SURVEILLANCE CAMERA.

GABRIEL’S POV - HE CAN SEE HIMSELF through the CAMERA LENS. HE CUTS from CAMERA TO CAMERA THROUGHOUT THE FACILITY. In one room, Cong shouts at his MEN to mobilize; in another hallway ARMED MEN run by; in the processing plant employees in white gowns look at each other in fear; in the room with Mei Zhao unconscious; finally CUTTING TO: Riley, strapped to her chair, Amos PEERING out their door.

GABRIEL
She’s still there.

POV - A SECURITY CAMERA around the corner - ARMED MEN.

GABRIEL (CONT’D)
In here!

He yanks Crispin into a stairwell, as the armed men run by.

INT. CDOC, INTERROGATION ROOM - SAME

A tiny CHINESE WOMAN is on a video monitor in a Chinese jail, talking to camera - to her son, sitting at a table with Lillian, Gonzo and Jameson. The woman is crying as she speaks in Chinese. Her son, Huang Fu, is finally cracking.
LILLIAN
Huang, the Chinese government is
going to make sure your mother
spends the rest of her life in
prison if you don’t tell me where I
can find Jin Cong.

Huang’s mother cries as she pleads with him. His body softens
and he looks up at Lillian and nods.

INT. CYBERCOM HELICOPTER - DAY
72
Lillian in a helicopter as it lifts off the roof of Cybercom.
A FLEET OF CARS and SUVs, their lights flashing, heads out
beneath her.

INT. SURVEILLANCE ROOM - SAME
73
Cong enters as his men point out on one of the monitors, the
armada of vehicles approaching the facility in the distance,
including the chopper in the sky.

INT. RECOVERY ROOM - SAME
74
Cong enters with his men. Mei Zhao is still unconscious.

CONG (SUBTITLE)
We’re not leaving without her.

INT. UTILITY ROOM - SAME
75
The alarm blaring in the background, Amos is at the opened
doors looking each way down the hallway.

AMOS
I don’t know what’s going on.

RILEY
What’s going on is that this is all
about to go sideways on you.

We HEAR a HELICOPTER starting up somewhere above them.

RILEY (CONT’D)
That’s your friend, Cong. Sounds
like he’s leaving without you.

Amos pulls out a GUN and points it at her, his hand is
trembling.
RILEY (CONT’D)
What are you doing, Amos?

AMOS
If you’re dead, you can’t tell them what I did.

RILEY
Are you going to kill Gabriel and Crispin, too?

AMOS
If they’re not already dead, yes.

Out of nowhere a metal chair appears in the air over Amos, smashing him across the back of the head. He sinks to the floor, revealing Gabriel and Crispin standing behind him. Gabriel smiles and drops the chair.

GABRIEL
We’re even.

RILEY
Day’s not over yet.

Gabriel unties her wrists.

GABRIEL
Are you okay?

RILEY
Better than dead.

They all scramble for the door, but Gabriel stops them.

GABRIEL
Wait!

GABRIEL’S POV – from a CAMERA IN THE HALLWAY. A GUARD coming around the corner.

Gabriel goes to the door, turns quickly and FIRES, hitting the guard.

RILEY
How did you know he was out there?

GABRIEL
I’m full of surprises.

(beat)
Seems we’re in a massive industrial park.

(MORE)
GABRIEL (CONT'D)
There’s an underground parking
garage that runs for a mile under
the entire complex. We need to get
down there.

EXT. ROOFTOP - SAME

Mei Zhao, on a stretcher, is wheeled toward a waiting
helicopter, but Lillian’s chopper is circling above.

CHOPPER LOUDSPEAKER
Stand down and drop your weapons!

Cong looks over the side of the building at the twenty
vehicles and their lights surrounding them. Amos appears at
the roof door, his face bloody.

AMOS
Cong!

Cong turns. Amos waves him back.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

Gabriel, Riley and Crispin enter the sprawling parking
garage. They stay low as they move alongside cars, trying the
doors that won’t open. Riley points to the ONSTAR STICKER on
the window of a VOLVO.

RILEY
Can you do something with that?

GABRIEL
(smiles)
I believe I can.

He closes his eyes and a moment later, the door locks pop and
the engine starts.

RILEY
Show off.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

The Volvo peels through the parking garage. They seem to be
home free, until...

About a hundred yards ahead, Jin Cong steps out in front of
them, pointing his gun directly at them.
Then Jin Cong motions to someone we can’t see. It’s Amos and TWO of his MEN carrying the unconscious Mei Zhao, her bandaged head slumped forward.

RILEY
Don’t stop! He has a gun!

CRISPIN
But, she doesn’t! You’ll kill her!
Stop the car!

Gabriel SLAMS ON THE BRAKES, barely stopping before them.

RILEY
I said don’t stop!

She jumps out of the car, gun drawn. Gabriel is already out, his GUN drawn. It’s a standoff with Cong and his men.

AMOS
You’ll notice they’re only pointing their guns at Gabriel. Let’s trade. We take the car, Gabriel lives.

GABRIEL
How about I shoot you instead and whatever happens, happens?

AMOS
You’re not authorized to make that decision and you know it.

CONG
You are not a man, anymore, Mr. Black. You are a piece of very expensive military hardware.

RILEY
Dr. Crispin. Get out of the car slowly.

GABRIEL
What do you think you’re doing?

RILEY
(to Cong)
Take the car. Nobody shoots.

GABRIEL
Not a chance.

RILEY
Gabriel.
He looks at her. He knows she’s right. There’s no choice here. He relents, but doesn’t drop his weapon.

Cong’s men load Mei Zhao into the Volvo, as Amos gets behind the wheel. Cong slowly backs into the passenger seat. Gabriel just can’t let it happen and HE SHOOTS CONG IN THE LEG.

Cong falls to the ground. Gabriel and Riley shoot, killing one of Cong’s men. Amos guns the engine and takes off, as Gabriel and Riley pepper the back of the car with bullets, but it speeds off into the darkness of the parking structure. Gabriel holds his gun on Cong.

**EXT. SHENZHEN MICROTECH - LATER**

Chinese thugs sit on the pavement, their hands cuffed behind their backs. Both Crispin and Riley are being attended to at the ambulance as Lillian and Gabriel approach.

**RILEY**
Any sign of Amos?

**LILLIAN**
No. The garage has twenty-seven exits. They must have slipped out.

**GABRIEL**
We let the chip go.

**CRISPIN**
I’m the one who built it. I’m sorry, Lillian. It was a mistake.

**RILEY**
If anyone is to be blamed, it’s me. I let Amos get away.

**CRISPIN**
You made a choice. I thought it was the prudent one. You’re his protector? Is that how this works?

**LILLIAN**
He’s not very good at following orders.

**CRISPIN**
If we wanted a robot, we would have built one. We wanted a human. And we got one.

That affects all of them – Lillian most of all.
A single lane bridge in the middle of dense forest. TWO PAIRS of headlights emerge from the thick darkness. The TWO SUVs wind their way to the edge of the bridge and stop. At that moment, a pair of HEADLIGHTS IGNITES on the other side of the bridge, from a CAR already waiting.

The SUV doors open and the passengers climb out. Lillian, Gabriel, and Riley from one SUV. From the other, Gonzo and Jameson and a HANDCUFFED prisoner, Jin Cong.

On the other side of the bridge, Sheng-Li Wang steps out of the car, with two CHINESE AGENTS and begins to walk to the center of the bridge.

GABRIEL
Are you going to explain why we’re handing Jin Cong back to the MSS?

LILLIAN
We’re making a trade.

Gabriel and Riley trade perplexed looks as they follow Lillian out to the center of the bridge, where Gonzo and Jameson hand Cong over to Wang’s men. Wang remains.

LILLIAN (CONT’D)
You said you had information. About Amelia Hayes.

Gabriel looks up. Riley, too. They’re shocked.

SHENG-LI WANG
The Pakistanis claim she is alive.

GABRIEL
Where is she?

SHENG-LI WANG
They had her under surveillance as recently as three months ago.

LILLIAN
I need proof, Wang.

SHENG-LI WANG
She boarded a flight from Punjab to Zurich on June 12. I’m sure you can find the video yourself.

(shakes Lillian’s hand)
It’s much better when we’re friends, yes?
Lillian smiles and turns and they all walk back.

GABRIEL
I need to go to Zurich.

LILLIAN
No, you need to go to Nevada.

GABRIEL
Nevada?

LILLIAN
The CIA Drone Command Center is there. They lost one over Afghanistan. They think it was hacked.

GABRIEL
Lillian...

LILLIAN
Nevada, Gabriel. After that, it’s better for both of us if you don’t tell me your travel plans.

GABRIEL
I was just going to say thank you.

LILLIAN
For what? This never happened.

She smiles and keeps walking. Gabriel looks at Riley.

INT. PLANE - SAME

Riley and Gabriel sit on a plane high over the U.S.

RILEY
You okay?

GABRIEL
Yeah.

He reclines his seat and closes his eyes. Without looking over, he hands her a $20 bill.

RILEY
What’s this for?

GABRIEL
The next time.

She smiles and takes it. They sit quietly for a moment.
INT. TENEMENT APARTMENT, CHINATOWN – NIGHT

We GLIDE slowly across the ramshackle apartment past two CHINESE MEN playing cards, past the sofa where we find Amos sleeping and we continue over to the single bed against the peeling wall where Mei Zhao lies, comatose.

MOVE IN on Mei Zhao... closer, closer... until HER EYES OPEN.

END PILOT