

Production Company:
Dead Zone Production Corp.

THE DEAD ZONE

"THE HUNTING PARTY"

Production #20-4020

Written by

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Directed by

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DEAD ZONE: "The Hunting Party" - CAST & SETS - 8/12/05 - YELLOW i.

THE DEAD ZONE

"THE HUNTING PARTY"

CAST

JOHNNY SMITH		MARSHALL FROST	*
WALT BANNERMAN		ENGINEER PHIL	
BRUCE LEWIS			
DEPUTY ROSCOE (OR DEPUTY)	*	KENDRA CROWE	*
GREG STILLSON		VICE PRESIDENT ERIC DANBURY	
MALCOLM JANUS		THE WOLF	
		MEDICAL EXAMINER/DR. WENTZ	
		FEMALE LAB TECH	
		SECRETARY	
		NATIONAL GUARDSMEN	
		CAMERAMAN	
		PARAMEDIC (1 LINE ONLY)	
		MALE NEWS ANCHOR	
		NEWS ANCHOR JULIE	*

NON-SPEAKING

MASKED ASSAILANTS/COMMANDOS

COALITION BOARD MEMBERS, JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN & SECURITY GUARDS

ELDERLY APARTMENT BUILDING MAINTENANCE MAN

"PHONE COMPANY" MEN (#1, #2 & #3)

HOMELESS MAN, PARK PEDESTRIANS & YOUNG COUPLE

PARAMEDICS/EMERGENCY PERSONNEL, GUARDSMEN, REPORTERS, CAMERAMEN & FBI

OTHER PLAID-CLAD HUNTERS & SECRET SERVICE AGENTS *

THE DEAD ZONE

"THE HUNTING PARTY"

SETS

INTERIORS

SMITH HOUSE
KITCHEN
LIVING ROOM

SHERIFF'S STATION
WALT'S OFFICE

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE *
MORGUE/COLD STORAGE
M.E.'S OFFICE *

PIRATE WEBCAST STUDIO
ENGINEERING BOOTH

N.D. LOCATION/PHONE

FROST'S TRAILER

COALITION HEADQUARTERS *
ENTRANCE
OUTER OFFICE
BOARD ROOM

KENDRA'S FAKE APARTMENT
BATHROOM

VEHICLES

JOHNNY'S RANGE ROVER

WALT'S CRUISER

KENDRA'S LATE MODEL SPORTS CAR

MILITARY CHOPPER, CONVOY OF BLACK SUBURBANS, EMERGENCY VEHICLES,
FBI SEDANS, MEDIA VANS & NATIONAL GUARD TRUCKS

EXTERIORS

INDUSTRIAL PARK

TRAILER PARK

ANDERSON PARK

BOSTON (ESTABLISHING)

MOUNTAIN ROADS

BRIAR HILL HUNTING LODGE *
AERIAL
CRIME SCENE PERIMETER
STAGING AREA
WOODS

OFFICE BUILDING

ANIMALS

DOGS

*

THE DEAD ZONE

"HUNTING PARTY"

TEASER

FADE IN:

CLOSE ON a COMPUTER MONITOR as a MARSHALL FROST rants from behind a desk. Frost is in his late 30's, rumped with wild hair and a decisively 'fuck you' attitude.

FROST

I have documentation confirming Eric Danbury's involvement in not one, but two multinational companies that profited from the current 'conflict' in the Middle East.

1 INT. PIRATE WEB-CAST STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

1

Frost's eyes burn with intensity as he rants in front of a video camera. His engineer, PHIL, checks the camera, then steps back into the adjoining room which is separated by a large picture window.

FROST

You're monitoring the Evening Frost, the first truly independent political webcast *of the people, by the people, and for the people*. I'm Marshall Frost and we're talking about my favorite subject, the raping of the American ideal.

Frost wipes the sweat from his brow.

FROST

It's not too late to take this country back from the power hungry, right wing conservatives who stole it. Fight back. Make the ultimate sacrifice. Blood for blood. Life for life. Let's take an email.

Frost checks his monitor.

INSERT COMPUTER MONITOR

Phil has typed in; CAROL FROM BRIDGEWATER.

(CONTINUED)

FROST

Carol from Bridgewater asks, '*What kind of American are you?*'

(laughs)

Uh-oh. I'm in trouble now.

(reading)

'If you don't like livin' in this country, why don't you get the hell out! Go to Iraq! You make me sick!'

(beat)

Ouch.

ON MONITOR IN NEXT ROOM

We see Frost as he appears on the computer screen on Phil's desk.

FROST

(amused)

Is she still online, Phil? She's gone? Did she post her picture on the website? No? Too bad, she sounds kind'a hot.

(Wolf howl sound-effect)

Hear that, Carol, honey-baby-sweetie? That's the wolf. And you, my misinformed little love slave, are one of the sheep!

RESUME STUDIO

As Frost gets revved up.

FROST

When are we gonna kick this '*love it or leave it*' mind set and realize the answer is self sacrifice? I'm talkin' blood and guts. Takin' one or givin' one for the cause. Which brings me back to my good friend, Vice President Danbury.

(Booing sound cart)

Seems old Danny boy is also under investigation for embezzlement, bribery and forgery. I've been pretty tough on this guy the past few months and I intend to keep it up. Eric Danbury is exactly the enemy our founding fathers were trying to protect us from... a tyrant driven by arrogance, ego and greed.

Phil begins to gesture at him through the window that he has a phone call. He gets on his computer and begins typing.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

FROST

(continues his rant)

I'm tellin' ya somethin', if this was a Third World country, this criminal would be takin' out and shot! And I'd be first in line to pull the trigger.

(GUN SHOT sound effect)

God, if it were only that easy.

Frost notices something on his monitor.

INSERT MONITOR

'The Wolf is on line three.'

FROST (CONT'D)

(back to camera)

Let's take one last break. This is the Evening Frost.

Frost is quickly up and out of his chair as he lights a smoke and grabs the phone.

FROST

Marshall Frost.

2 INT. ND LOCATION - PHONE - NIGHT

2

All we SEE is a COMPUTER MONITOR, and TIGHT SHOTS of the MAN'S MOUTH, his HANDS, the BACK OF HIS HEAD, stuff that doesn't give away his identity. THE CONVERSATION IS INTER-CUT.

WOLF

A wisp of knowledge can be an infinitely slippery slope.

FROST

Mister Wolf. It's been almost a week. You said you'd have more dirt on Danbury.

WOLF

This will be the last time we speak for awhile.

*

*

FROST

Why? I've honored our agreement. I never mentioned you as my source.

WOLF

Powerful feathers have been ruffled. It's no longer safe.

*

(CONTINUED)

2

CONTINUED:

2

FROST

Safe? I'm the guy with his neck
stuck out! Look, I'm trying to help
you here, but I can't do it alone.

(silence)

Hello?

WOLF

Danbury is the tip of the iceberg.
I'll contact you when it's safe.

*

FROST

Wait. What should I...

CLICK.

FROST

(frustrated)

Sonofabitch.

Frost snubs out his smoke and opens the door leading into
the other room.

3

INT. ENGINEERING BOOTH - CONTINUOUS

3

The room is empty. Scarce lighting casts deep shadow pockets.

INSERT - CONTROL MONITOR

It's off-line.

RESUME ON FROST

Even more upset.

FROST

Goddamn it, Phil.

Taking a mindless step backwards, he stumbles over something
and goes down.

NEW ANGLE - FROST ON THE GROUND

gathering himself, he raises a palm into view and realizes
it's covered in blood. His eyes dart left...

REVEALING - PHIL

Dead. His eyes wide, a single bullet wound in the center of
his forehead.

Frost can barely breath, when a SOUND steals his focus; he
looks back, just as the butt of a pistol swings through FRAME;

(CONTINUED)

3

CONTINUED:

3

connecting with a sickening THUD. Frost collapses;
unconscious.

As the UNIDENTIFIED ASSAILANT steps to the computer and logs
in, then sends an email message. He writes, **THE FIRST STONE
HAS BEEN CAST. WELCOME TO THE REVOLUTION.**

A GLOVED HAND hits SEND.

REFLECTION IN MIRROR

Even though it's dark, we get the faintest glimpse of a FIGURE
WEARING A DARK SKI MASK.

BRUCE (V.O.)

Hand me the modem cable.

4

INT. SMITH HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOVING ACROSS

4

a debris field of computer packing material; Styrofoam,
plastic wrap, wire ties, empty cardboard boxes. We FIND
JOHNNY holding up a tangle of peripheral cables. Finally,
Bruce reaches over and takes the correct cable from him...

Crossing to a fancy desktop system taking shape on the table.

JOHNNY

You're just mad because I got a brand
new computer. For free!

BRUCE

What's that all about anyway? You
win the grand prize in a magazine
sweepstakes you don't even remember
entering?

JOHNNY

What can I say, I'm a lucky guy.

BRUCE

You're lucky I was still here to
help put it together. Because I
catch a plane out in one hour.

JOHNNY

Mom must be excited to have her little
boy home for her birthday.

BRUCE

She'd be even more excited if you
came with me.

(CONTINUED)

4

CONTINUED:

4

JOHNNY

I've got that thing with J.J., besides I want to hang out and surf the net on my free computer. Did I mention that this thing was... free?

BRUCE

On second thought, I'm glad you're not coming. Okay, let's fire it up.

He hits the power button, as the computer whirs to life, then it suddenly emits an audible warning; the cost effective equivalent to You've got mail!

BRUCE

That's strange.

JOHNNY

What?

BRUCE

You've got an email message, but we haven't set up your address yet.

JOHNNY

It's probably some come on from the company...

Johnny double clicks as the message appears...

ON SCREEN - THE CRYPTIC MESSAGE

THE FIRST STONE HAS BEEN CAST. WELCOME TO THE REVOLUTION.

Johnny touches the mouse again, *WHOOSH!*

5

VISION - CONTINUOUS

5

We are sucked into the modem line, transformed into electrical current; pure energy zooming at breakneck speed across an endless maze of circuitry. FLASH!

6

INT. STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

6

Another computer terminal. ON SCREEN the final words of the cryptic message are typed out. The pointer moves; MAIL SENT.

REVEAL THE SENDER

Observer Johnny watches as the ASSAILANT, dressed all in black; gloved and wearing a ski mask steps silently out of the darkness, as PHIL sits at his monitor.

Frost is visible through the portal on the phone...

(CONTINUED)

DEAD ZONE: "The Hunting Party" - TEASER - 8/9/05 - PINK 7.

6

CONTINUED:

6

ASSAILANT

Hey.

Phil TURNS,

PHIL

What are you doing here?

Thwack! One precision shot fired into the forehead, as Phil tumbles forward out of his chair. The Shooter sits at the terminal and types, **THE FIRST STONE HAS BEEN CAST. WELCOME TO THE REVOLUTION.** Then hits SEND. WHOOSH!

7

OMITTED

7

8

RESUME KITCHEN - ON JOHNNY

8

Johnny jolts out of the vision. Bruce sees it.

BRUCE

What's wrong?

SHOT PUSHES TIGHT on Johnny's face.

JOHNNY

(bothered)

I think my luck just ran out.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

9 EXT. INDUSTRIAL PARK - EVENING 9

A desolate landscape of identical concrete structures; virtually abandoned at this hour. A powerful beam of light dances across the facades...

WALT (O.S.)

According to the license, the web-cast is generated from this industrial complex. Seems Frost is a major paranoid, moves the broadcast every couple months.

10 INT. WALT'S CRUISER - CONTINUOUS 10

Walt drives, using his free hand to operate the spotlight. Johnny rides shotgun.

JOHNNY

What else do you know about him?

WALT

Fancies himself some kind of a gonzo journalist. Drugs and guns. Lately he's been in the papers for his one-man crusade against Vice President Danbury.

SPOTLIGHT POV - DARK FIGURE

The light suddenly finds a FIGURE walking in the shadows. He looks back and we see it's Marshall Frost. He seems confused and terrified.

WALT

Speak of the devil.

JOHNNY

And the devil appears.

WALT

(through a loud speaker)
This is Sheriff Bannerman! Stay where you are!

Frost hesitates, then takes off up a small passage between two buildings.

11 INT. CRUISER - CONTINUOUS

11

Walt drops the hand mic.

WALT
(frustrated)
Don't run. Hang on.

He punches the gas as the cruiser tears around the corner and roars towards the far side of the complex.

FAR SIDE OF COMPLEX

Walt's car fishtails around the far end of the building, as Frost dashes out from between buildings.

WALT/JOHNNY'S POV - FROST

As he runs, glancing back over his shoulder. He's obviously in a panic.

WIDER SHOT

As Walt uses the car to cut Frost off, then he jumps out of the car and backs him into a corner, his flash light in Frost's eyes.

FROST
Don't kill me! I didn't see anything!

Walt lowers the light as Frost finally sees who they are.

FROST
(beat, emotional)
Phil. They killed my engineer.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER - MOVING WITH

12

Walt, Johnny and Frost as they approach the outer door.

FROST
I tripped over something and that's when I found his body. He'd been shot through the head.

JOHNNY
That's the way I saw it.

FROST
(confused)
You saw it? Who the hell are you?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

WALT
Nevermind. Both of you just stay
behind me.

Walt draws his gun and ENTERS the building.

13 INT. ENGINEERING BOOTH - MOMENTS LATER

13

Walt flips on the lights. The floor is spotless. No Phil.
No blood. No sign of anything.

WALT
You sure this is where he was?

FROST
Yeah, I'm sure. The body was right
here. There was blood. It was all
over my hand.

He shows his open palms; clean.

FROST
(realizes)
They must have cleaned it off. After
I was knocked out.

Walt and Johnny exchange a look, as...

FROST
(defensive)
I'm not crazy.

WALT
Relax. We believe you.

FROST
I can take a Goddamn lie detect...
(taken aback)
You believe me?

JOHNNY
The shooter came in through here.
He was dressed in dark fatigues and
wore a black ski mask. It was quick,
professional.

FROST
Who the hell are you?

WALT
His name is John Smith.

(CONTINUED)

FROST

Smith. The psychic who was stalking
Greg Stillson?

Johnny ignores the comment.

JOHNNY

The killer could have shot you, but
he didn't. Any idea why?

FROST

No.

WALT

What was your engineer's last name.
I need to talk to his family.

FROST

He didn't have any family. No friends
I know of. He was a fan, just showed
up one day about a year ago and never
left. He was a good guy.

WALT

I'll get CSU to sweep the place. If
there's anything here, we'll find
it.

FROST

What about me?

WALT

Go home. I'll be in touch.

FROST

Sure.

Frost stumbles slightly. He's too drunk and too woozy to
drive.

JOHNNY

I'll drive him home.

FROST

No offense, but I'd prefer the guy
with the big gun.

WALT

(pointed)
Wait in the car.

Frost drops his car keys in Walt's hand and walks away.

WALT

I can have a deputy take him.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2) 13

JOHNNY
Something isn't right here. I'll
see what I can pick up, then catch a
cab home.

Johnny walks away, as Walt looks around...

14 EXT. TRAILER PARK - EVENING 14

A dilapidated double-wide trailer. Johnny and Frost step up
to the front door.

FROST
Listen, why don't you go in first.

JOHNNY
I doubt they'd let you live, just to
kill you again a few hours later.

FROST
That makes sense.
(beat)
Go first anyway.

Johnny shakes his head and ENTERS the trailer.

15 INT. FROST'S TRAILER - CONTINUOUS 15

The inside is as unsavory as the exterior. Endless stacks
of books and papers occupy the cramped space. A spattering
of spent liquor bottles and beer cans.

JOHNNY
All clear. Can you think of
anybody...

FROST
Shhh! They might be listening.

He switches on the stereo and blasts MUSIC. He digs into a
stack of papers and looks back.

FROST
You can go now!

Johnny turns the MUSIC OFF.

JOHNNY
Tell me about Mister Wolf?

FROST
How do you know...? You're psychic.

Frost relents, making himself a drink.

(CONTINUED)

FROST

He first called the show about four months ago. Said he had sensitive information concerning Vice President Danbury. I thought he was just another whack job.

JOHNNY

He wasn't?

FROST

Next day, I found a package on the front seat of my car. Danbury's CIA file. Names, dates, the whole enchilada. Documentation linking him to a half dozen illegal or, at the very least, unethical situations. I was going to have copies made and sent to every major newspaper.

JOHNNY

You didn't?

FROST

The file vanished. I had it long enough to read and then it was gone.

JOHNNY

That's when you went after the Vice President on your show?

FROST

Wolf started calling me once a week. Dropping information about Danbury's personal and political life. I have an obligation to my audience. People need to know they have a criminal in the White House.

JOHNNY

How can you be sure it's all true?

FROST

Because of the silence.

JOHNNY

The silence?

FROST

Four months I've been pounding Danbury on the web, in all that time do you know how many denials have been issued? Zero! Nada! Zilch!

JOHNNY

Maybe he just doesn't want to give you any credibility?

FROST

Yeah, maybe. Or maybe I'm right on the money.

JOHNNY

Who do you think he is? Wolf.

FROST

I've narrowed it down to two possibilities... State Department or NSA. Wherever he is, he's got his nose in deep.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

How am I supposed to sleep with all this noise?

Johnny and Frost both TURN towards the bedroom door, REVEALING...

KENDRA CROWE (35)

a statuesque blonde in nothing but an open silk robe, bra and panties. She's in tremendous physical condition. She takes a deep drag off her cigarette, pursing lips painted in cherry red lipstick.

FROST

What are you doing here?

KENDRA

My neighbors are having a party and I needed someplace quiet to crash.

(re: Johnny)

Who's your friend?

FROST

John Smith. Kendra Crowe. Kendra was just leaving.

KENDRA

Hello.

JOHNNY

(uncomfortable)

Hi.

She slides up to Frost and runs her hand across his chest.

KENDRA

Baby, you seem wired. Did you take
your medicine?

FROST

I'm in no mood. I need to think.
(to Johnny)
That means both of you.

Kendra snuffs out her cigarette in a nearby ashtray.

KENDRA

Fine.

She disappears into the bedroom.

FROST

The front door!

KENDRA (O.S.)

I'm getting my stuff!

Johnny pulls out his cell phone and dials. Frost reacts,
horrified; knocking it away.

FROST

What the hell do you think you're
doing?

JOHNNY

Calling a cab.

FROST

Not from here you aren't. Microwaves
are traceable. Don't you know
anything?

Before Johnny can respond, a partially dressed Kendra
reappears looking for her shoes.

KENDRA

I need to have my head examined. I
come all the way out to this dump
and for what? To get the cold
shoulder from a computer geek.

JOHNNY

I hate to bother you, but would you
mind...

She reads his question.

KENDRA

Come on.

15 CONTINUED: (4)

15

Frost grabs her and kisses her.

FROST

I ever tell you how sexy you are
when you're angry?

KENDRA

Screw you!

She blows out the front door. Johnny exits.

16 INT. KENDRA'S CAR - LATER

16

Kendra drives. Johnny tries to inconspicuously study her.

KENDRA

Go ahead and ask. What's a girl
that looks like me doing with a guy
like Marshall Frost?

JOHNNY

It is a little curious.

KENDRA

We have a... business arrangement.

JOHNNY

Oh.
(suddenly gets it)
Oh!

KENDRA

It's not like that. I mean, I don't
sleep with him or anything. Mitch
hates being alone, especially since
his wife left him.

JOHNNY

When was that?

KENDRA

Almost a year. Took his little girl.
Nearly destroyed him. Mostly I listen
to him rant about the world.

JOHNNY

Do you think he's dangerous?

She seems taken aback by the question,

KENDRA

I think Mitch Frost believes
everything he says.

(CONTINUED)

16

CONTINUED:

16

JOHNNY

This is me on the corner.

She pulls over. Johnny opens his door and steps out.

KENDRA

Yes.

JOHNNY

Excuse me?

KENDRA

You asked me if I thought Frost is dangerous. The answer is yes.

The late model sports car tears away up the street.

17

INT. SMITH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOVING WITH JOHNNY

17

He walks in and clicks the television ON. *WHOOSH!*

As the NATIONAL NEWS is on.

NEWS ANCHOR

Tonight, a nation mourns, as the White House has now confirmed reports that Vice President Eric Danbury is dead.

Johnny freezes; stunned.

NEWS ANCHOR

As reported, it appears that a lone gunman was able to breach security and shoot the Vice President once in the head. Details remain extremely sketchy.

A photo of ERIC DANBURY: July 11, 1955 - August, 26, 2006.

NEWS ANCHOR (O.S.)

Once again, Vice President Eric Danbury, dead at the age of fifty-one.

18

OMITTED

18

19

RESUME ON JOHNNY

19

his finger still on the power button.

JOHNNY

(to himself)

August 26. Day after tomorrow.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

20 INT. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - OUTER OFFICE - MOVING WITH WALT 20
as he weaves through, heading for his office...

WALT

I made a call to the Secret Service
and they took the information.

JOHNNY

That's it? A phone call?

WALT

Do you have any idea how many death
threats the White House gets every
year?

JOHNNY

It isn't a threat. The Vice President
is going to be assassinated some
time in the next 48 hours.

WALT

Where? How? By who?

JOHNNY

I don't know.

WALT

That's the problem. Truth is, I'm
not exactly high on the FBI's
credibility list. Not after what
happened out at that commune.

JOHNNY

That wasn't your fault.

ROSCOE approaches, presenting Walt with a manila folder.

ROSCOE

Forensics report from the Webcast
studio.

Walt takes the folder, scanning the contents.

WALT

CSU didn't find anything. Not a
hair, not a trace of blood.

Johnny just stares at him.

(CONTINUED)

20

CONTINUED:

20

WALT

John, I believe you. But if we want anybody else to take it seriously, we're going to need something solid to give them.

Johnny considers the challenge, then heads for the door.

WALT

Where are you going?

JOHNNY

To find Frost.

WALT

John, there's something you should know about him before you go.

Johnny stops at the door and looks back,

21

INT. FROST'S TRAILER - SHORT TIME LATER

21

Frost is asleep on the couch, as someone grabs the blanket and yanks it, spilling him hard onto the floor.

FROST

What the fu....

He looks up to FIND Johnny staring down at him.

JOHNNY

(angry)

Why didn't you tell me you were stalking Eric Danbury?

Frost struggles to his feet.

FROST

What are you talking about?

JOHNNY

Don't play stupid with me, I saw copies of the police reports. You crashed your car through the front gate of his house. The police found a 38-caliber pistol under the front seat of your car. Shall I continue?

FROST

Whatever floats your boat.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

JOHNNY

You spent 6 months in a psychiatric hospital. 2 months in isolation under a suicide watch.

FROST

I had issues and I dealt with them. Why does all this matter so much to you anyway?

JOHNNY

(blurts it out)

It matters because in the next 36 hours someone is going to kill Vice President Danbury!

Frost seems stunned, then begins to laugh.

FROST

And they think I'm crazy!
(off Johnny's look)
You're serious?
(beat)
What? You think it's me?

Frost begins searching for a cigarette.

JOHNNY

You've got the resumé.

FROST

Look, I've made some mistakes and I paid for them. I lost my wife and my daughter, both of which I'm trying to get back. If you think I'd do anything to jeopardize that, you need to take another look into your crystal ball or whatever it is you do.

Johnny can tell he's sincere. Frost fingers an empty pack of cigarettes.

FROST

You don't have a cigarette, do you?

JOHNNY

I don't smoke.

He continues searching, as Johnny notices the partially smoked cigarette that Kendra snuffed out the night before.

JOHNNY

Here.

(CONTINUED)

DEAD ZONE: "The Hunting Party" - ACT TWO - 8/9/05 - PINK 21.

21 CONTINUED: (2) 21

Johnny picks up the cigarette smeared with lipstick. WHOOSH!

22 OMITTED 22
THRU 24 THRU 24
24

25 VISION - OFFICE BUILDING - DAY - CLOSE ON 25

Occupied Jimmy Choo stilettos's gliding across polished marble. We TRAVEL UP a pair of shapely legs, to REVEAL...

KENDRA CROWE

now a completely different animal; sporting a tailored pantsuit, her hair pulled neatly back, carrying a leather attaché. Moving with purpose through an ornate corridor, right past Observer Johnny as she flashes her credentials to a GUARD.

Cleared, she continues on, drawing the leering stares of a delegation of JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN.

KENDRA
(effortless Japanese)
Sohwa naranai desho.

Snubbed, the businessmen react. Kendra grins with satisfaction, slipping through a doorway. Observer Johnny comes up from behind, pausing to read the door placard: COALITION FOR A BETTER AMERICA.

26 INT. COALITION OUTER OFFICE - CONTINUOUS 26

A SECRETARY looks up from her desk, acknowledging Kendra.

KENDRA
Is the man available?

SECRETARY
He's expecting you.

Reaching beneath her desk...

INSERT - UNDERNEATH THE DESK

She presses a hidden button; unlocking the door. Buzz!

BACK TO SCENE - ON KENDRA

passing through a substantial door marked: PRIVATE. WHOOSH!

27 RESUME - INT. FROST'S TRAILER - ON JOHNNY

27

coming out of the vision.

JOHNNY

How did you meet Kendra Crowe?

FROST

What?

JOHNNY

Crowe. How did you meet her?

FROST

She was recommended.

JOHNNY

By who?

FROST

(thinking)

Phil. Phil recommended her.

Something continues to gnaw at Johnny.

JOHNNY

Do you know where she lives?

28 INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER

28

Frost leads Johnny past numbered apartment doors.

FROST

No offense, Smith, but your radar's on the fritz. Kendra may not be the sharpest tool in the shed, but she isn't a liar.

JOHNNY

She dates strange men for money. I think she's whoever she needs to be.

They WALK PAST an open utility closet where an elderly looking MAINTENANCE MAN is working. There's a huge key ring full of keys sticking out of the door knob of the open closet door.

FROST

This is it.

Frost KNOCKS... he KNOCKS again.

Johnny steps quietly up to the open closet door, retrieves the key ring and steps back to where Frost is standing. He finds the labeled key and unlocks the apartment door.

29 INT. KENDRA'S APARTMENT - DAY 29

Johnny and Frost ENTER. The apartment is fully furnished; casual country. Dirty plates in the sink, fresh cut flowers, and open newspapers give it a comfy, lived-in feel.

FROST

What are we looking for anyway?

JOHNNY

I'm not sure.

Johnny begins touching things, then he picks up a half glass of water off the breakfast table, WHOOSH!

30 MOVE, MATCH, MORPH 30

Someone fills the glass with water, but it's not Kendra. Instead it's a MAN (#1) in a dark blue jumpsuit; a partially concealed earpiece visible. He sets the glass on the table. Observer Johnny watches curiously...

Another, almost identical MAN (#2), passes by with a stack of newspapers; spreading them out to appear read. A third MAN (#3) carries a box through FRAME; Johnny follows...

31 BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 31

The man unloads the box under Johnny's gaze; a worn toothbrush goes on the counter, prescription bottles into the medicine cabinet, a depleted shampoo bottle into the shower and even a few loose strands of hair in the drain. No detail overlooked in this elaborate set dressing. WHOOSH!

32 RESUME - INT. KENDRA'S APARTMENT 32

Johnny flashes out of the vision, surveying his faux surroundings with a fresh perspective.

JOHNNY

It's a set-up.

FROST

What?

JOHNNY

The apartment. It's been created to simulate reality.

FROST

That's crazy. I know this girl. We've spent quality time together. Here.

(CONTINUED)

He crosses to an armoire covered with framed photographs.

FROST
Pictures of her family. This is her
father, Hank.

He picks up a framed picture.

INSERT - PHOTOGRAPH

A middle-age man in a wheelchair.

FROST (O.S.)
He was injured in Vietnam. A great
guy.

RESUME JOHNNY AND FROST

Johnny takes the frame, WHOOSH!

JOHNNY
You've met him?

FROST
Uh, no, not in person.

Johnny turns the frame over and opens it from the back. He slips out the picture, which we now realize is actually a page cut out of a magazine. He unfolds the page as we see that the picture is actually part of a national advertisement for electric wheelchairs. The man is simply an actor/spokesman for the product.

FROST
(stunned)
I don't understand.

Frost grabs a few other pictures and tears them out of their frames. They're all fake. Magazine ads meant to fool.

The phone suddenly RINGS. They share a look. Frost slowly lifts the receiver to his ear...

FROST
Hello? -- Uh-huh. Yeah. Okay.

He offers the phone to Johnny.

FROST
It's for you.

He hands the phone to over to Johnny...

INTERCUTTING WITH:

33 E.C.U. - WOLF'S MOUTH

33

talking into the mouth piece.

WOLF

This is truly an honor, Mister Smith.

JOHNNY

Who is this?

WOLF

You can call me The Wolf.

JOHNNY

What do you want?

WOLF

We need to talk. Go to Anderson Park. Bring Mister Frost with you.

JOHNNY

How will I know you?

WOLF

Go to the water fountain. If you're as good as they say, you'll find me.

Click. Dial tone.

34 EXT. ANDERSON PARK - DAY

34

A filthy HOMELESS MAN washes himself in a public water fountain; his hair, his face, his neck. Johnny and Frost wait behind him, finally Frost has had enough.

FROST

Ok, this is a drinking fountain, not a bath house!

He grabs the guy and pushes him aside.

HOMELESS MAN

Cleanliness is next to Godliness.

Frost pulls out a few dollars and sticks them in the guy's top pocket.

FROST

Yeah? Here, buy yourself some after shave and you're on your way to Heaven!

The guy ambles away, as Johnny steps up to the fountain, *WHOOSH!*

35 MOVE, MATCH, MORPH

35

Into a high-speed collage of a dozen or so PEDESTRIANS sipping from the fountain. The final individual is a man, late thirties with chiseled features and a military haircut; wearing a black and gray jogging suit -- this is WOLF.

WOLF

Mister Smith.

36 RESUME

36

Johnny flashes out of the vision and scans the park.

JOHNNY'S POV - WOLF

Warming up for a run under a large shade tree.

JOHNNY

He's here.

FROST

Where?

Johnny heads off across the park with Frost quickly following.

37 SHADE TREE - WOLF

37

Preparing for a run. He never looks directly at them.

WOLF

Sit on the bench. Don't turn around.
Don't make eye contact.

Johnny and Frost sit.

JOHNNY

How did you know we were at Crowe's apartment? How did you know her phone number?

WOLF

It's in my best interest to know a great many things.

JOHNNY

Who is she really?

WOLF

A puppet. A pawn on a chess board.

FROST

Why was she sent to me?

(CONTINUED)

WOLF

You're both missing the big picture.

JOHNNY

The Vice President.

A YOUNG COUPLE pushing a baby stroller moves past them, then...

WOLF

It's deeper than one man.

JOHNNY

Who's behind it?

WOLF

Let's just say it involves political and industrial elements.

JOHNNY

Big business.

WOLF

If you consider formulating foreign policy, controlling global currency and unleashing the American war machine as big business, then you've got some idea of what's at stake.

FROST

Rich white guys trying to rule the world through chaos.

WOLF

On the contrary, these individuals operate through precision and efficiency. Everything is a means to an end. Even a seemingly insignificant magazine sweepstakes.

Johnny can't help but glance back at him for a second, then...

JOHNNY

You're saying some evil organization of power hungry billionaires sent me a home computer?

WOLF

There are no coincidences. Everyone plays a role. You, of all people, should realize that.

The idea strikes Johnny hard.

JOHNNY

What about the Vice President? What's his role?

WOLF

Every crusade needs a martyr.

FROST

We talking about the Bible now?

WOLF

Only in terms of scope and consequence. These people believe that out of chaos comes order, catastrophe is salvation and only through annihilation can there be rebirth.

JOHNNY

(hushed disbelief)
Armageddon.

WOLF

Now you understand.

JOHNNY

How do we stop it?

WOLF

I'm not here to stop it. I'm here to put it on the record. To place it in proper historical context. Nobody can stop it.

His attention suddenly shifts...

WOLF'S P.O.V. - WALT AND ROSCOE

Approaching from the far side of the park.

WOLF

backing away from the bench.

WOLF

The first stone has been cast. The revolution is underway.

He takes off.

JOHNNY

Wait!

38 WE TRACK THE FOOT CHASE

38

Through the crowded park, as Wolf is suddenly blind-sided by a dark-haired WOMAN; the impact jarring both of them.

Wolf shakes it off and sprints away, as the Woman vanishes into the crowd. Wolf suddenly slows, his gait growing strained, until he STOPS, TURNS to face Johnny and COLLAPSES.

Johnny rushes to where he's lying and kneels. Wolf's eyes are slightly open as he struggles to breath.

JOHNNY

Who did this? Please, before it's too late.

Wolf, clearly dying, grabs Johnny by the arm. WHOOSH!

39 VISION - SCENE REWIND

39

A portion of the chase replayed from FIRST-PERSON PERSPECTIVE. Johnny is Wolf as he COLLIDES WITH THE DARK-HAIRED WOMAN, everything slows. Johnny/Wolf looks down, and WINCES as...

E.C.U. - SLOW MOTION - THE WOMAN'S HAND

covertly jabbing a pressurized syringe into his side.

JOHNNY/WOLF

As he looks back up at the woman and realizes it's actually Kendra Crowe wearing a dark wig. She MOVES AWAY through the crowd of people... WHOOSH!

40 RESUME JOHNNY AND WOLF

40

Johnny flashes out of the vision as Walt, Roscoe and Frost arrive.

JOHNNY

(looks up)

He's dead. They killed him.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

41 INT. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE - MORGUE - SEVERAL HOURS 41
LATER

Walt and Johnny talk with the medical examiner, DR. WENTZ.

WENTZ

Preliminary tests indicate the victim had a high concentration of serotonin in the brain stem.

JOHNNY

From the injection?

WENTZ

Normally, I'd say it could be a combination of serotonergic medications... but not in this case. The initial ToxScreen came back negative across the board.

WALT

So how did he die?

WENTZ

Off the record. I'd say his brain was turned off.

(beat)

The only problem is there's nothing I'm aware of that could do that to a human being in such a short period of time. At least nothing anyone is supposed to know about.

WALT

Meaning?

WENTZ

(uneasy)

I've read about tests conducted by the military. Experimental chemical agents meant for use on the battlefield.

JOHNNY

You think that's what killed this man?

WENTZ

Let me show you something...

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: 41

The Medical Examiner pulls open a particular drawer... Empty!
Wolf's body is gone.

42 MAIN OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER - THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE 42

Walt, Johnny and the Medical Examiner stand over the desk of
a young, female LAB TECH.

LAB TECH

(nervous)

There were two men. They said they
were from the FBI and that they were
supposed to pick up the body.

WALT

They showed you proper ID?

LAB TECH

Yes sir.

She presents the paperwork. Walt scans the document.

JOHNNY

These guys really clean up after
themselves.

WALT

And we've got nothing again.

WENTZ

That's not completely true.

He retrieves an envelope and hands it to Walt.

WENTZ

I always do a set of polaroids, just
in case. I'll be in my office when
you're finished.

Wentz and his Assistant exit, leaving Johnny and Walt alone
to go over the pictures. Walt flips through the photos.

JOHNNY

First they kill Frost's engineer and
now Wolf, and they do it right in
front of us. Why?

WALT

I've seen this before.

Walt hands him one particular picture.

42 CONTINUED:

42

WALT

That tattoo. I've seen that design before.

INSERT PHOTO

A CLOSE-UP of an elaborate tattoo covering the inside of Wolf's forearm; an ornate dragon, wrapped around a sword.

WALT

I think it's military. I'll make a few calls.

(beat)

John, if this Wolf character was telling the truth, we could all be in danger.

JOHNNY

They could have killed me anytime they wanted, but they haven't. I know this sounds crazy, but I think they want us to know. It's like they're daring us to stop them.

As Walt considers the thought...

43 EXT. MORGUE - MOMENTS LATER

43

Frost paces, clearly on edge. Johnny steps outside.

FROST

Where the hell have you been?

JOHNNY

There were... complications.

FROST

Complications? What does... Forget it. I don't even want to know. In fact, I don't want to know anything.

JOHNNY

Giving up?

FROST

You saw what they did to Phil. To that poor sonofabitch in the park. What are we supposed to do?

JOHNNY

We're supposed to fight back. Isn't that what you're always telling people?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

43

CONTINUED:

43

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

*The little guy can make a difference.
Our voices will be heard. Was that
real, or was it just part of the
show?*

FROST

There was a time...

(beat)

It's every man for himself. See ya'
in the history books.

He walks away, leaving Johnny on his own.

44

INT. FROST'S TRAILER - LATER

44

The door flies open. A clearly intoxicated Frost, half bottle of booze in hand, and another tucked under his arm as he stumbles in.

FROST

Honey, I'm home!

(beat)

That's right, they're all gone.

Off balance, he barely makes it to the kitchen as he flips on the light and heads for the refrigerator.

FROST

Ice cubes. I need many, many ice
cubes.

He grabs a bag of ice from the freezer, TURNS and FREEZES.

FROST

Hello.

He awkwardly dumps the bottles and the ice into the sink and MOVES to the far counter, REVEALING...

RIFLE ON THE COUNTER

A high-powered M-24 SNIPER RIFLE.

Frost curiously studies the weapon, then picks it up. A beat of uncertainty before raising the scope to his eye...

FROST'S P.O.V. - THROUGH THE SCOPE

moving across the trailer's furnishings; the crosshairs dancing over the refrigerator, the television, the couch... then everything goes DARK.

(CONTINUED)

44

CONTINUED:

44

RESUME SCENE

Frost lifts his eye from the scope and SEES...

A MASKED COMMANDO

A SOLDIER, cloaked in black commando gear and a black ski mask standing directly in front of him.

FROST
(even drunk he knows
this is bad, low)
Damn.

As ANOTHER SOLDIER, grabs Frost around the neck from behind and quickly chokes him unconscious. The Soldier in front takes the weapon from him as he drops to the floor.

A THIRD SOLDIER helps lift and carry Frost's body away.

Soldier 1, wearing gloves, carefully bags the sniper rifle leaving no prints and not disturbing the ones left by Frost. And then he's gone.

45

INT. SHERIFF'S STATION - SAME TIME

45

Johnny ENTERS, as Walt meets him. Walt seems edgier than usual.

JOHNNY
What was so important we couldn't
talk on the phone?

WALT
Let's go in my office.

46

WALT'S OFFICE

46

Walt locks the door behind him and lowers the shade.

WALT
I talked to a friend of mine. We
were in the Marines together, then
he went to work in Washington for
the Army.

JOHNNY
And?

WALT
I sent him a picture of the tattoo.
And he sent me something back. This
is classified.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WALT (CONT'D)

I only got it because I saved this
guy's ass once, and I swore that I'd
burn it after I was done.

JOHNNY

What is it?

Walt slides a b/w, 8x10 photograph across the desk.

WALT

Turns out I was right. The tattoo
was the symbol for a low profile
Ranger unit. The team officially
disbanded in 1997 after some secret
missions in Afghanistan. Our dead
man in the park is front left.

INSERT - PHOTOGRAPH

About ten soldiers in full camouflage and carrying numerous
weapons and instruments of destruction. We ZOOM TIGHT on
the man front left, as we recognize him as The Wolf. He's a
bit younger, but it's definitely the same man.

RESUME JOHNNY AND WALT

Walt is clearly uneasy.

JOHNNY

What kind of unit was this?

WALT

The kind nobody talks about.

JOHNNY

If Wolf was just a soldier, how could
he know the things he told Frost?
He had to be getting information
from....

Suddenly Johnny's expression shifts as he stops speaking.

JOHNNY

(low, ominous)
My God.

WALT

What?

JOHNNY

I recognize a few more faces here.

Johnny lays the photo between them on the desk.

(CONTINUED)

INSERT PHOTOGRAPH

E.C. MOVING across the faces, left to right as we HOLD TIGHT on the lone FEMALE in the unit. It's Kendra Crowe.

JOHNNY (O.S.)

The female, front center. That's Crowe, the woman I met at Frost's trailer. The one who killed Wolf.

WALT (O.S.)

Who else?

JOHNNY (O.S.)

The guy at the far end. Frost's dead engineer.

The SHOT MOVES ACROSS as we SEE PHIL, the dead computer tech.

WALT (O.S.)

Just when you thought you were confused.

RESUME WALT AND JOHNNY

The power of the revelations heavy on their faces.

JOHNNY

It gets worse. The man in the very back. The one holding the hunting knife.

INSERT PHOTOGRAPH

The CAMERA MOVES UP across the faces and settles on the unit's commanding officer, MALCOLM JANUS. He holds a large hunting knife in his hand and wears a creepy grin.

JOHNNY (V.O.)

His name is Malcolm Janus. He's Greg Stillson's top advisor.

RESUME JOHNNY AND WALT

Johnny turns away to gather his thoughts,

WALT

Stillson? You don't think he's involved in this thing, do you?

Johnny suddenly grabs his jacket off the couch and heads for the door.

WALT

Where are you going?

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED: (3)

46

JOHNNY

I think I know where to find Janus.
I'll call you later.

Johnny exits. Walt picks up the photo, lights a match and sets the photograph on fire. Once it's burning, he drops it into the waste can.

INSERT PHOTOGRAPH

CLOSE-UP as the fire burns away the FACES of CROWE, PHIL and WOLF. The SHOT PUSHES TIGHTER on JANUS' face as the flames eventually burn away his image.

DISSOLVE TO:

47 EXT. BOSTON - DAY - ESTABLISHING

47

A seemingly tranquil day in New England.

48 INT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS - MOVING WITH

48

Johnny, as he powers through the same marble hallway seen in his earlier Kendra Crowe vision.

He slips past a distracted SECURITY GUARD, passing through the doorway marked: COALITION FOR A BETTER AMERICA.

49 INT. COALITION OUTER OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

49

The now familiar secretary looks up from her computer.

SECRETARY

Can I help you?

JOHNNY

I want to see Janus.

SECRETARY

There's no one here by that name.

JOHNNY

Lady, I don't have time for this.

Johnny reaches over and activates the door release buzzer. He blows through the inner office door...

SECRETARY

(on the phone)
Security.

50 INT. BOARD ROOM - SAME TIME

50

Johnny bursts into the empty conference room. He quickly closes the door and locks it.

Johnny MOVES CAUTIOUSLY around the conference table, trailing his hand along the backs of the lush leather chairs, ending at the head position. As he touches the back of the chair, WHOOSH!

51 MATCH, MOVE, MORPH

51

Bodies materialize around him, filling the empty chairs; 4 or 5 older MEN in suits. Distinguished. Severe. This is the BOARD MEETING that's not on anyone's day planner.

Across the expanse of the table, GREG STILLSON occupies the chair directly in front of Johnny.

STILLSON

I'm not sure I'm comfortable with this idea.

The chair at the far end of the table swivels slowly around to REVEAL MALCOLM JANUS. He carries no knife, but he's just seems just as deadly...

JANUS

Not comfortable? We've invested a great deal of money and effort into you Congressman. Tremendous sacrifices have been made and will continue to be made in order for you to realize your place in history.

STILLSON

(with politician ease)

I appreciate everything you've done. Concerning my father and... my wife.

JANUS

You're appreciation is neither expected or required. Your commitment is all we ask, all we've ever required.

(beat, lost in himself)

There's a storm coming. The winds of change are howling. And when they strike, our great nation will ascend from the rubble and once again become the beacon of power and dignity by which all other civilizations will be judged.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

JANUS (CONT'D)

The question is are you the man to stand above the rest? The voice that will lead us from the darkness into the light? Are you? Can you be? Can you?

An eerie silence hangs over the room; tension palpable. Everything Stillson has ever dreamed about is at his feet for the taking. The door opens and the secretary enters...

SECRETARY

(to Janus)

Excuse me, sir, the Vice Presidential party has left Andrews. We expect wheels on the ground in less than an hour.

JANUS

It's time, Congressman. What will it be?

Stillson seems slightly uneasy under the scrutiny of those gathered, as he finally rises from his chair.

STILLSON

This is for my country. My people.

SECRETARY

Right this way, Congressman.

Stillson follows the woman to the door.

JANUS

Happy hunting, sir.

Janus watches as Stillson walks out. WHOOSH!

52 RESUME SCENE - INT. BOARD ROOM - ON JOHNNY

52

as the puzzle picture begins to take shape, TWO SECURITY GUARDS suddenly bust the doors OPEN. As they rush in and grab Johnny, the Secretary comes in behind them.

JOHNNY

Wait! You don't understand what's happening!

SECRETARY

Remove him from the building.

The Guards strong arm Johnny out of the room.

(CONTINUED)

JOHNNY

You won't get away with this! I
know what you're doing!

SECRETARY

(cold as ice)
Good-bye, Mister Smith.

She gives him that creepy smile, as Johnny realize just how
deep and twisted this thing really is...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

53 EXT. TRAILER PARK - DAY - ESTABLISHING 53

Johnny's Ranger Rover parked out front.

JOHNNY (O.S.)
(intense)
Frost?! Open the Goddamn door!

54 INT. FROST'S TRAILER - CONTINUOUS 54

Johnny opens the door and ENTERS. There's nobody here. He disappears into the bedroom, then returns. He checks out the kitchen.

THE KITCHEN

Johnny notices the mostly melted bag of ice and whiskey bottles in the sink. He reaches down and picks up the half full bottle, as WHOOSH!

55 VISION - INT. FROST'S TRAILER - EARLIER 55

Frost holds the sniper rifle to his eye, aiming it. Observer Johnny circles around him, taking in the startling image.

Then Frost is assaulted and carried out of the trailer. The rifle wrapped and taken away. WHOOSH!

56 RESUME SCENE 56

Johnny flashes out as he HEARS someone at the front door...

INSERT - THE DOORKNOB

slowly turning.

BACK TO JOHNNY

reacting; ducking down below the counter. Johnny slides open a kitchen drawer and takes out a steak knife. He knows if Janus wants him dead, he'll have to fight.

Then approaching FOOTSTEPS; closer and closer until they are right over him. He takes a deep breath then rises quickly, the knife poised to attack, as we REVEAL...

WALT

his pistol drawn and ready to fire.

(CONTINUED)

WALT

(startled)

Jesus! I almost blew your damn head off! I've been trying to call you for the past 2 hours.

JOHNNY

I went to Boston and forgot my phone.

WALT

Where's Frost?

JOHNNY

They took him.

WALT

Who?

JOHNNY

Some guys in military uniforms. What are you doing here?

WALT

Feds got an anonymous tip that Frost was planning to shoot the Vice President.

JOHNNY

What?

WALT

The Secret Service issued a warrant for his arrest.

JOHNNY

(realizes)

Janus. I tracked him to an office building in Boston. Organization called '*The Coalition For A Better America*'.

WALT

Catchy name.

JOHNNY

I managed to get into their conference room and I had a vision of Janus and Greg Stillson. It was clear something was going down involving the Vice President.

WALT

Where does Frost fit in to all of this?

(CONTINUED)

DEAD ZONE: "The Hunting Party" - ACT FOUR - 8/9/05 - PINK 43.

56 CONTINUED: (2) 56

PUSHING TIGHT on Johnny's face as he struggles to put things together in his head...

57 MEMORY FLASH - EXT. ANDERSON PARK - DAY 57

Johnny's conversation with Wolf.

WOLF

Nothing is random. Every piece is connected. Everyone plays a role. You, of all people, should know that.

58 OMITTED 58

59 MEMORY FLASHES - VARIOUS LOCATIONS 59

JOHNNY

...you crashed your car through the front gate of his house. The police found a 38-caliber pistol under the front seat of your car.

59A FLASH! 59A

JOHNNY

6 months in a psychiatric hospital.
2 months in isolation under a suicide watch.

59B FLASH! FROST'S KITCHEN 59B

As Frost holds the sniper rifle in the shooting position.

59C FLASH! 59C

As the Masked Soldier carefully bags the rifle.

60 RESUME JOHNNY 60

As he finally realizes what's actually happening.

JOHNNY

Frost is the patsy. It's Oswald all over again.

WALT

Oswald?

JOHNNY

Don't you see?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

They found the guy to fit the crime
and then built the conspiracy around
him. They knew Frost had already
threatened Danbury. That he had a
history of mental illness. All they
needed to do was connect the dots.

WALT

They must have known you'd see all
this eventually?

Johnny FLASHES BACK to help put it together in his mind.

61 MEMORY FLASH!

61

WOLF

Everything is a means to an end...
Even a seemingly insignificant
magazine sweepstakes.

62 RESUME JOHNNY

62

Realizing he's been played from the very beginning.

JOHNNY

They brought me here as a witness.
Why not? They knew I couldn't prove
anything.

(beat)

It's a *coup d'etat* and it starts
with killing the Vice President.

Walt's cell phone RINGS, as he answers...

WALT

Bannerman. -- You sure? No, keep
this line open.

(hangs up)

Air Force Two landed in Bangor 4
hours ago.

JOHNNY

Danbury is here?

WALT

Briar Hill for an unscheduled hunting
trip.

Johnny can hardly believe what he's hearing, as...

63 MEMORY FLASH! JANUS' LAST WORDS TO GREG STILLSON 63

JANUS
Happy hunting, sir.

64 RESUME JOHNNY AND WALT 64

Everything fits.

JOHNNY
They're going to kill Danbury in the woods.

WALT
I'll drive.

They take off.

65 EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - LATER 65

Walt's cruiser, lights flashing, races along the two-lane backwoods highway; kicking up a cloud of debris...

66 INT. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - OUTER OFFICE - ON ROSCOE 66

Talking over the shortwave radio...

ROSCOE
I tried everyone... FBI, State Police, even the National Guard. Lines are blocked and everything's locked down. Something big is happening up there.

INTERCUTTING WITH:

67 INT. WALT'S CRUISER - SAME TIME 67

Walt on his radio.

WALT
Keep trying. The second you get anyone on the phone, I wanna' know.

He replaces the handset and looks over at Johnny in the passenger seat, staring off; preoccupied.

JOHNNY
Everything that's happened to me for the past five years has led to this.

WALT
We're gonna' stop them, John.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

WALT (CONT'D)

Whoever these people are, they made a big mistake when they decided to come to Maine.

JOHNNY

(staring off)

That's just it. These people don't make mistakes. Not ever.

The implication hangs in the air, as they HEAR the tremendous ROAR above them.

JOHNNY'S POV - MILITARY CHOPPER

As a large military chopper soars past them heading from the mountains.

RESUME JOHNNY AND WALT

As a convoy of BLACK SUBURBANS race past them on the road heading in the opposite direction.

JOHNNY

We're too late. It's done.

68 EXT. BRIAR HILL HUNTING LODGE - AERIAL SHOT - ESTABLISHING

68

The area is besieged with ambulances, FBI sedans, media vans, National Guard trucks; a virtual war zone teaming with an army of EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL.

69 EXT. CRIME SCENE PERIMETER/INT. CRUISER - CONTINUOUS

69

Johnny and Walt snake their way (in the cruiser) through a gathering of REPORTERS and CAMERAMEN clamoring for position behind crowd control barriers. Walt stops a CAMERAMAN...

WALT

What's going on?

CAMERAMAN

Some nut shot the Vice President. They airlifted him out a few minutes ago.

JOHNNY

What was his condition?

CAMERAMAN

I don't know. He took one in the head. It's Kennedy all over again.

(CONTINUED)

WALT

Anybody else hurt?

CAMERAMAN

Stillson. They say he got shot and then killed the bad guy.

JOHNNY

Any idea who the shooter was?

CAMERAMAN

Beats me. This place is about to become a zoo.

The guy takes off, as Walt looks at Johnny. They both know in their hearts who the alleged killer is.

WALT

We should go back. Contact the FBI and tell them everything.

JOHNNY

Without evidence. They'd throw us out.

(determined)

I'm staying here. I need to know. I need to see it for myself.

Johnny quickly OPENS the car door.

WALT

John, wait!

It's too late. He's already disappeared into the crowd.

An ambulance sits unattended. Johnny emerges from the rear, now wearing an EMT jump suit and a baseball cap; carrying a silver tank of oxygen. He keeps his head down as he approaches a young National Guardsman, the last line of defense between him and the truth.

GUARDSMAN

Nobody goes in!

JOHNNY

They just radioed up that they need another tank of oxygen for Congressman Stillson.

GUARDSMAN

I have orders.

JOHNNY

(thinking on his feet)

I don't know what your name is, but
if a United States Congressman dies
because you didn't let me do my job,
I promise you that everybody in the
world will know it by dinner tonight.

The young Guardsman folds under the pressure.

GUARDSMAN

Okay, go.

Johnny heads inside the crime scene perimeter. Investigators
everywhere. Dogs. Secret Service. FBI. Utter chaos.

NEW ANGLE

A team of PARAMEDICS appear, guiding an occupied gurney
towards Johnny... it's Stillson; bloodied and bandaged, an
IV in his arm.

JOHNNY

They said you guys might need another
tank.

PARAMEDIC

What we need is two more hands.

JOHNNY

I'm your man.

Johnny falls in line, taking hold of one of the guide rails.
Stillson, barely conscious, suddenly recognizes Johnny.
He's been given morphine for pain and is a bit out of it.

STILLSON

(groggy)

I got him, Smith. I shot the bastard.

Johnny touches his arm... *WHOOSH!*

*An entourage of men dressed in plaid gear, all carrying
hunting rifles, navigate the lush vegetation. Danbury is up
front, flanked by two SECRET SERVICE AGENTS. They are dressed
to fit in, but their dark sunglasses and earpieces give them
away. Stillson brings up the rear.*

Observer Johnny paces the group. Danbury looks back...

DANBURY

Greg, get on up here. Can't get in the action if you're not on the front line.

Stillson obliges, falling in next to him.

STILLSON

Thank you, sir.

DANBURY

Call me Doc.

STILLSON

Yes, sir. I mean, Doc.

We can read Stillson's nervousness.

DANBURY

First time in the big woods?

STILLSON

No, sir. I used to hunt with my father when I was a boy.

DANBURY

Bear? Elk?

STILLSON

Squirrels.

Danbury hesitates then begins to laugh.

DANBURY

Squirrels. You boys hear that? We got us an honest-to-God squirrel hunter!

The other men laugh, as Stillson musters a smile, clearly uncomfortable and nervous. If Stillson had any reservations about this man dying, it all went away when he was laughed at.

STILLSON

Shame about Senator Jennings missing the trip.

DANBURY

That'll teach the old coot to order his steaks rare. Besides, if he hadn't got sick, you wouldn't be here, right?

STILLSON

Right.

CONTINUED: (2)

A sudden STIRRING in the bushes draws their attention.

*DANBURY
Look alive, boys.*

The assembled level their rifles, aiming at the roost.

STILLSON

raises the sight to his eye. A glint of light assaults his peripheral, drawing his gaze hard right...

WHOOSH PAN to reveal a lone FIGURE one hundred yards off, standing in a clearing pointing a sniper rifle our way.

Stillson, as scripted, reacts.

*STILLSON
Mr. Vice President!*

SLOW MOTION

BANG! A high velocity projectile tears through the neck of a secret service agent, traveling straight through him... striking Danbury in the head, splattering Stillson with a hailstorm of blood.

BANG! A 2nd SHOT grazes Stillson's left shoulder. He recoils, but doesn't go down.

NEW ANGLE - STILLSON

Using his remaining strength, he shifts his rifle into position, aims at the assailant and fires! WHOOSH!

BACK TO REALITY - JOHNNY

Releases his grip as Stillson closes his eyes. Johnny steps away from the gurney as Stillson is loaded into the ambulance. Rattled, Johnny TURNS and notices another gurney; this one occupied by a full body bag.

BACK TO JOHNNY

stepping over the body. Reaching out, slowly unzipping the bag to REVEAL... Marshall Frost!

Johnny reacts, wounded; stung by his failure to protect.

CLOSE ON HIS TREMBLING HAND

moving to Frost's chest. WHOOSH!

73 VISION - SNIPER'S POV - THROUGH A SCOPE

73

The hunting party preparing to ambush the wild turkeys. The crosshairs dance across faces... Stillson, then Danbury; a clean head shot obscured by a Secret Service Agent. The solution, shoot through him. BANG!

THE SNIPER

It's Johnny, wearing military camouflage and his face painted in black streaks. He shifts the rifle, aims, and fires again. BANG!

SNIPER JOHNNY'S P.O.V. - THROUGH THE SCOPE

Stillson, wounded, his rifle pointed our way. BANG!

SLOW MOTION - CLOSE ON THE ROUND

mid-flight, displacing air... the SHOT sails high and wide, missing completely.

RESUME ON SNIPER JOHNNY

dropping to the ground. He crawls quickly behind some cover and throws back some branches to REVEAL MARSHALL FROST. He's already dead from what appears to be a gaping chest wound.

Johnny, wearing gloves, quickly slips the rifle into Frost's hand, then...

He straddles the body, a beat to review his handiwork; perhaps something more. He slowly leans in and kisses Frost on the forehead as he pulls back, we now SEE the sniper's true identity is KENDRA CROWE.

Observer Johnny now watches helplessly as she scrambles away into the thick forest, leaving Frost behind as the perfect patsy. An army of Secret Service Men descend on the area, as FRANTIC VOICES echo through the tree tops. WHOOSH!

74 BACK TO REALITY

74

Johnny stares down at Frost's lifeless body; verging on an emotional break as he FLASHES BACK on...

75 MEMORY FLASH!

75

Frost looks back at Johnny.

FROST

*It's every man for himself. See you
in the history books.*

*

76 RESUME JOHNNY 76

He zips up the bag, and walks away, blending into the residual madness of the crime scene.

77 INT. SMITH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - THAT EVENING 77

Johnny enters; exhausted. Defeated. He eases himself onto the couch, remotely turning on the television...

78 ON TELEVISION 78

A MALE/FEMALE NEWS TEAM delivers the tragic news...

MALE NEWS ANCHOR

The White House has now confirmed that surgeons were unable to revive Vice President Danbury. The official time of death 3:47PM.

A photo of STILLSON comes up...

FEMALE NEWS ANCHOR

The condition of Maine Congressman Greg Stillson, wounded in the attack, has now been raised to stable. The President is calling Stillson an American hero as the charismatic young leader returned fire in defense of the Vice President, killing the lone gunman with a single shot. The assassin has been officially identified as controversial media personality, Marshall Frost. Frost, who had a history of mental health problems, often attacked the Vice President on his weekly webcast. It's too early to speculate, but early word out of Washington pegs Stillson as a likely candidate to fill the now vacant Vice Presidency.

*

*

*

Johnny can hardly believe what he's hearing.

MALE NEWS ANCHOR

Like you said, Julie, it's too early to know which way the political winds may blow, but if there was an election held tomorrow, I do believe Greg Stillson might be elected President.

78 CONTINUED: 78

CLICK! The television goes BLACK.

79 JOHNNY 79

His face wrought with emotion. He closes his eyes...

JANUS'S VOICE
From his lips to God's ear.

Janus steps out of the darkness like a phantom.

JOHNNY
You did this. You murdered the Vice
President.

JANUS
I prefer to see it as a liberation.
The freedom to usher in new
perspectives of leadership. *

JOHNNY
You're insane.

JANUS
Again, I believe we'll have to agree
to disagree.

JOHNNY
Why let me in on it? You knew I'd
see the truth. *

JANUS
I thought I made that clear in our
last conversation.

JOHNNY
(remembering)
The third ruler in the Kingdom.

JANUS
Technically, you'd be number two,
but everything's negotiable.

JOHNNY
Those people that you killed, they
were your soldiers. Did you offer
them a chance to negotiate their
lives? *

The question seems to strike a nerve with Janus.

JANUS
Their mission was to serve the greater
good of the unit.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JANUS (CONT'D)

In that respect, they died heroes.
We should all be thankful to pass
with such dignity.

JOHNNY

Dignity? Is that what it took to
poison Miranda Ellis on her wedding
day? Or was she just more collateral
damage on your way to the White House?

JANUS

We have philosophical differences, I
accept that, but at the core we both
desire the same things. A safe and
powerful land in which to raise our
children and build our future. You've
seen what we can accomplish without
you, imagine the things we could do
together.

JOHNNY

Are you suggesting this was all some
kind of audition for my benefit?

JANUS

Not an audition. A preview. The
opening act of the greatest drama
ever conceived by a man. An epic
tale born of victory and penned in
blood. You simply need to decide on
which side of the curtain you'll
stand.

JOHNNY

And if I turn away?

JANUS

(cold)

You won't need psychic powers to see
that future. There won't be one.

(stepping to the door)

Think it over, John, it's almost
show time.

Janus vanishes into the darkness. As Johnny is left to ponder *
the implication of his threat.

FADE OUT.

THE END