

**RUSH HOUR 2**

**BY**

Jeff Nathanson

**EXT. HONG KONG SKYLINE - ESTABLISHING**

A smoky haze dims the blazing sun. Skyscrapers sit like watchtowers over the city, where East meets West for five and a half million people a day.

**EXT. AMERICAN CONSULATE - HONG KONG - DAY**

THE AMERICAN EMBASSY - U.S. and Chinese flags side by side.

HU LI, dark glasses, EXITS and slowly moves toward a STREET VENDOR across the street.

She pays for an order of pork bao; as she takes her first

bite we see:

**THE EXPLOSION BEHIND HER**

TWO OFFICES ON THE SIXTH FLOOR BLOWN OUT - a huge fireball erupting over one side of the embassy.

People panic and run. Hu Li doesn't even flinch. She takes a bite of her pork bao as she casually turns to the stunned street vendor.

**HU LI**

(Chinese, subtitled)

Someone better call the police.

**EXT./INT. LEE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS**

The passenger window rolls down and we see Carter, styling in a Chinese-cut suit. He's holding a Chinese-English dictionary, leaning out the window - giving his best "do me" look to two girls in a convertible.

**CARTER**

(int Chinese)

Deng wa lu yun cai-shen wu.

The HORRIFIED GIRLS speed off, and Carter turns to Lee, who is driving and singing to his radio.

**LEE**

(singing)

...wish they all could be California...  
wish they all could be California  
girls...

Carter ejects the BEACH BOYS CD from the stereo and TOSSES it out of the SUNROOF.

**CARTER**

I warned you about playing that shit  
when I'm in the car.

**LEE**

That was my CD. Don't you ever touch a  
Chinese man's CD.

**CARTER**

Did you see the way those girls drove  
off? I did you a favor.

**LEE**

Those girls drove off because of you.

**CARTER**

All I did was invite them for a drink.

**LEE**

You invited them to get naked and  
sacrifice a small goat.

**CARTER**

(checking Chinese-English  
dictionary)

I said that? Which word was "goat?"

Lee picks up his CD case.

**LEE**

You owe me a copy of the Beach Boys  
Greatest Hits, Volume Two.

**CARTER**

Don't be giving me attitude, Lee. I've  
been here three days and we haven't done  
shit. We haven't been to a club,  
haven't even talked to a girl. I'm on  
vacation, and I want some mu-shu.

**LEE**

Mu-shu? You're hungry?

**CARTER**

Not Mu-shu. Mu-shu. I want to see some  
women. Now stop playing dumb and show  
me the shu!

Carter flips through the dictionary. A CALL COMES in over  
**LEE'S CELL PHONE.**

**INTERCUT**

**INT. SUPERINDENDENT CHIN'S OFFICE - NIGHT**

The following conversation is in Chinese, English subtitles.

**SUPERINDENDENT CHIN**

Lee, there was a bombing at the American  
Embassy. Two American translators were  
killed.

**LEE**

Any leads?

**SUPERINDENDENT CHIN**

(beat)  
We think it's Ricky Tan. If you don't want to take the case, I'll understand.

**LEE**

It's my responsibility.

Lee hangs up the cell phone.

**CARTER**

What was that? Did you just pick up a case? Did we just take another damn case on my vacation?

Lee smiles at Carter.

**LEE**

Of course not. My Superindendent invited us to a club tonight. Big party.

**CARTER**

Don't be messing with me, Lee. I will kick your ass. I'll hit you so hard you'll end up in the Ming Dynasty.

**LEE**

Carter, would I lie to you?

**EXT. RAVEN CLUB - NIGHT**

Carter follows Lee out of the car, the two men making their way to the door of the Raven Club. Carter is combing his hair, getting himself ready for a night on the town, stopping when he spots two hot WOMEN walking into the club.

**CARTER**

That's what I'm talking about. A real Hong Kong night club. You want an Altoid?

**LEE**

No.

**CARTER**

You better take one. Your breath has been a little funky all day. Let me look at you.

Carter looks at Lee. Fixes his collar.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Just relax and don't worry about a thing. I'll hook you up in there. You got condoms?

**LEE**

No.

**CARTER**

Take this. It's a Magnum. You can fold it in half.

Carter dances through the door, Lee follows.

**INT. RAVEN CLUB - NIGHT**

A dark, upscale club that is packed with GANGSTERS, BEAUTIFUL GIRLS and CIVILIANS. Lee and Carter walk in. Lee is trying to keep a low profile as Carter stares up at the stage, where a man sings Karaoke -- the most painful rendition of Michael Jackson's "DON'T STOP 'TILL YOU GET ENOUGH."

**LEE**

I'll meet you at the bar in ten minutes. They don't like tourists in here, so try to blend in.

**CARTER**

Blend in? I'm two feet taller than everyone here. Where you going?

**LEE**

Bathroom.

Lee walks off, trying not to be seen as Carter steps up to the bar, takes a seat next to TWO CHINESE THUGS.

**CARTER**

How you boys doing tonight?

The thugs ignore Carter as he motions to the stage, where the OLD MAN continues to sing.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

That is the worst singing I've ever heard. That sounds like something you'd hear in prison after lights out.

The thugs continue to ignore Carter.

**INT. RAVEN CLUB - BACK HALL - NIGHT**

Lee makes his way down a hallway -- looks through an open

door - sees a private room. Several TRIADS are using hi-tech MACHINES to count stacks of AMERICAN HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS.

**CARTER (V.O.)**

Get closer to my body now. And just love me, till you don't know how...

Lee steps back into shadow -- does a double take as he realizes he's hearing Carter belting out "DON'T STOP 'TILL YOU GET ENOUGH."

**INT. RAVEN CLUB - CONTINUOUS**

A room full of Chinese sitting with their mouths open, watching Carter on the Karaoke stage doing a dead-on Michael Jackson, singing his heart out. Dancing and making eyes at a few of the smitten women who are watching him.

**LEE**

(whispering from side of stage)  
Carter, get off that stage!

**CARTER**

Are you kidding, they love me. I'm a star, Lee. A god to these people!

Carter resumes singing, really getting down. Moonwalking to the EDGE of the STATE where Lee PULLS HIM OFF.

**LEE**

This is a gangster bar, we're here undercover.

**CARTER**

I knew you were lying.

**LEE**

I'm sorry.

**CARTER**

Damn it, why are you ruining my night?  
I'm just starting to have fun.

(beat)

Well fine then, go ahead, pull your badge and do your thing.

**LEE**

No, we're here for information, to find out where a man named Ricky Tan is. We must tread softly and keep our ears open.

**CARTER**

Tread softly? Who taught you how to roost a bar?

**LEE**

Carter, you don't understand. These men are Fu-Cang-Long Triads. Part of the most deadly gang in China.

**CARTER**

Man, are you crazy? You think that scares me? I'm from L.A. We invented gangs. We were having gang wars before anybody even thought about it. We get royalties from other gangs. Now gimme your badge and gun and I'll show you how it's done.

**LEE**

No. You are a civilian. In China, I am Michael Jackson, and you are Toto.

**CARTER**

You mean Tito. We had Toto for dinner last night.

Before Lee can react, Carter has lifted Lee's badge and gun. Carter bounds back on stage, pulls the plug on the music and fires three SHOTS into the ceiling, silencing the bar.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

(Chinese)

Deng wa lu yun, shen wu wattu masu wang lui.

Nobody moves. Strange looks from the crowd. Carter turns to Lee.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

(whispering)

What'd I say?

**LEE**

You just said you're their worst nightmare - and to line their mothers up for a milking.

**CARTER**

Shit. C'mon, get up here and help me out.

Reluctantly, Lee gets on stage. More looks from the Chinese

as Carter speaks, Lee translating.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Okay, all the Triads and ugly women go  
to that side, all fine ass women on this  
side.

Nobody moves. Carter fires two more shots in the ceiling.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Let's try this again. Who here knows  
Ricky Tan, raise your hand.

Nobody moves.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Who here is named Lee? Raise your hand.

Nobody moves.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Now I know you're lying.

The crowd still hasn't moved. Except in the back, where Lee  
spots several GANGSTERS leaving. As Lee runs off stage --

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

(as they run out)

I come back and catch y'all singing  
Michael Jackson and you're all going to  
jail.

**EXT. RAVEN CLUB - NIGHT**

Lee and Carter run into the street, just in time to see HU LI  
and several gangsters round a corner.

**CARTER**

Stop! LAPD!

Lee takes off and chases them on foot.

**EXT. HONG KONG STREET - NIGHT**

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The far end of the street is BLOCKED BY MARKET STALLS. The  
GANGSTERS look around frantically. An apartment building is  
under CONSTRUCTION, massive BAMBOO SCAFFOLDING top to bottom.  
Their only way out is UP.

Lee and Carter dash around the corner to see the gangsters

SWARMING UP THE SCAFFOLDING. Lee wastes no time going after them. With a running start, he JAMS A FOOT on the wall and VAULTS to the BOTTOM RUNG, GRABS HOLD AND SWINGS UP.

**CARTER**

Hang on, Lee. I'm coming.

Carter jumps to grab hold of the scaffolding. NOT EVEN CLOSE. He backs up -- he's gonna take a running start!

ABOVE - LEE REACHES 4 GANGSTERS. They all tear off the LENGTHS OF BAMBOO and square off. The clatter of wood against wood as they beat at each other. Wrestling over his pole, Lee FLINGS TWO of the GANGSTERS over the edge.

BELOW, Carter has hold of the bottom rung, STRAINING MIGHTILY to pull himself up. Just as he gets his chin above the bar... snap! It BREAKS and he drops. Then...

WHAM! WHAM! The two gangsters CRASH LAND ON EITHER side of CARTER. HE takes one look at their pain.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Forget this...

He dashes into the stairwell. ABOVE, the last two GANGSTERS come at Lee. He stomps down, levering up floor boards, which SEE-SAWS them off-balance. With the advantage, he BATTERS them with his bamboo pole and knocks them off. He climbs after the GANGSTER LEADER.

ON HU LI and the GANGSTERS

Coming over the crest of the hill, seeing Carter climbing up the hill.

**EXT. ROOF - CONTINUOUS**

Lee pulls himself up onto the roof, takes a few steps when WHAM! He is clocked by a 16-foot BAMBOO POLE. Lee TOPPLES OVER THE EDGE! We see his adversary for the first time.

**HU LI - AGILE, GORGEOUS...DANGEROUS**

As she steps to the edge... BOOM! The STAIRWELL DOOR FLIES OPEN and CARTER EMERGES. Gun low and ready. Hu Li is gone.

**CARTER**

(out of breath)

Freeze! Nobody move!

Carter goes to the edge and sees Lee hanging on a pole below.

Carter is blind-sided by Hu Li.

She takes one sultry step towards him, then twists her heel and WINDMILLS a HARD KICK that sends Carter FLYING OFF THE ROOF!

He falls along the side of the building. He manages to grab the end of a BAMBOO POLE that juts out from the scaffolding.

**LEE IS RIGHT THERE NEXT TO HIM!**

They're hanging side-by-side, holding on for their lives. Hu Li looks down at them. She has no weapon to finish them off. She turns and runs, disappearing in the night.

**CARTER AND LEE**

holding on with all their strength. The bamboo is starting to bend.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

All I wanted was a little mu-shu.

**LEE**

Try to land on your feet.

Carter looks down at a rancid dumpster below them.

**CARTER**

I can't believe I flew ten-thousand miles for this shit.

The POLE BREAKS

**SUPER THE TITLE:**

**RUSH HOUR 2: REMEMBER THE DRAGON**

**INT. LEE'S UNMARKED POLICE CAR - LATER THAT NIGHT**

Carter and Lee drive through Hong Kong, the two men riding in silence, bruised and covered in garbage.

**CARTER**

You lied to me.

**LEE**

I'm sorry.

**CARTER**

You're sorry. I got somebody's old chopsticks stuck in my ass, so don't

tell me you're sorry. Just take me home.

**LEE**

No time. There was an explosion at the American Embassy today -- two American translators were killed.

Carter takes this in. Can't believe his own bad luck.

**CARTER**

So that Ricky Tan, he's the one who blew up the Embassy?

**EXT. MONASTERY SCHOOL - EARLY MORNING**

Lee and Carter walk into a massive COURTYARD, where thirty 12 year olds are going through their warm up routines.

MASTER FU, 60's, wears a BLACK ROBE as he teaches his kids.

**CARTER**

I'm telling you right now, I'm tired of this shit. There's two billion Chinese - let one of them be your partner.

**LEE**

This won't take long.

Master Fu barks out a barrage of SHAOLIN FIGHTING STANCES.

**MASTER FU**

Dragon kick!

Like well-trained army, the students YELL AND KICK HARD.

**MASTER FU (CONT'D)**

Lotus block!

The students YELL and form an "X" with their arms. Master Fu notices Carter and Lee watching from the back.

**MASTER FU (CONT'D)**

Twisting Tiger!

No response. The students exchange baffled looks.

**MASTER FU (CONT'D (CONT'D))**

(staring straight at Lee)

Twisting Tiger!

Lee may be a big rusty, but he puts on a shit-kicking move

that leaves the students blown away. Lee smiles, basking in the glow...

...until he sees Master Fu's disappointment.

**MASTER FU (CONT'D)**

Didn't I teach you to always arch your back?

**LEE**

(bowing, humbled)  
Yes, Master.

While Lee follows Master Fu, Carter stands in front of the 12 YEAR OLDS, who sit motionless around a fighting circle.

Carter starts stretching his legs, warming up.

**CARTER**

I was watching you kids. My name is Carter, LAPD, and I'm a third degree black belt. At least that's what I tell the girls at the Holiday Health Spa where I work out.

Carter throws a series of QUICK PUNCHES, but the kids have no reaction.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Let me give you kids some tips. The key to Kung Fu is the follow through. Why don't you stand up.

THE KIDS DON'T MOVE, no reaction. Carter continues to throw punches.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Go ahead, kick me, hit me. I'll show you how to block. Come on, stand up, give me your best shot -- try to kick right to my head.

The kids still don't move. Carter, working up a sweat from shadow fighting, takes off his JACKET, DRAPING IT over the HOLY BUDDHA behind him -- a mistake. He swings back around to face the kids and NEVER SEES THE KICK that sends him flying back onto the mat. He looks around and sees ALL of the kids STANDING, in FIGHTING POSITION.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

That's pretty good. Which one of you kids did that?

**INT. COURTYARD PATHWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Lee and Master Fu walking.

**LEE**

I need your help, Master. I'm seeking a man who used to train with you. He's become a killer - the worst kind of animal.

**MASTER FU**

Animals kill only from hunger or fear. The man you seek is lower than a serpent.

(faces Lee)

...he kills for money.

In the b.g., we see the kids leaping acrobatically over Carter from all sides. Carter, frustrated, tries to grab the kids out of the air as they fly by, but they elude him. They disappear O.S.

Lee and Master Fu walk another moment, Master Fu lost in thought.

**MASTER FU (CONT'D)**

He was the best I ever trained, you know.

**LEE**

Ricky Tan?

**MASTER FU**

No. Your father.

(Lee reacts)

Your father and Ricky Tan were my favorite students... and for such awful things to happen as they did --

Lee cuts off Master Fu's reminisces -- he's obviously uncomfortable.

**LEE**

How do I find Ricky Tan?

AGAIN IN THE B.G., Carter and the flying kids go zipping by in the other direction, disappear O.S.

Master Fu pats the SOIL around a struggling plant.

**MASTER FU**

A seeding spends its entire life  
reaching towards Heaven.

**LEE**

I know, Master, but...

**MASTER FU**

The answers you seek can be found in  
Heaven on Earth.

**LEE**

Heaven on Earth? Master, I don't  
understand.

(working it)

A temple, where Heaven is on Earth? A  
mountain, where Earth reaches for the --

**MASTER FU**

It's a massage parlor downtown. "Heaven  
on Earth." You will find your answers  
there.

Lee bows to Master Fu, slowly turns to walk back down the  
pathway.

**MASTER FU (CONT'D)**

Wait! Put a c-note in the jar.

Lee puts a few bills in the jar, heads down a pathway.  
Master Fu walks over and takes the cash.

**MASTER FU (CONT'D)**

Cheap bastard...

**EXT. MONASTERY SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS**

Lee emerges from the path, stops when he sees Carter -- two  
students headlocked under each arm, another two scissor  
locked between his legs, holding another two down with his  
hands, and sitting on the last one.

**CARTER**

And that's how you use the LAPD choke  
hold. Now start practicing and don't  
make me come back here!

**LEE**

Carter...you ready to have some fun!?

**EXT. HEAVEN ON EARTH MESSAGE PARLOR - DAY**

A neon light hangs above the upscale massage parlor.

**LEE**

Just follow my lead and act like a tourist.

**CARTER**

I am a tourist.

**INT. HEAVEN ON EARTH MASSAGE PARLOR - CONTINUOUS**

Lee and Carter walk into an upscale MASSAGE PARLOR and stand in a lobby. SOFT MUSIC is playing.

**HOSTESS**

Good afternoon, gentlemen.

Lee bows, followed by Carter.

**LEE**

(in Chinese)

Hello.

**CARTER**

How you doin'?

**LEE**

My friend is on vacation, from America.  
I want to show him a good time.

**HOSTESS**

Oh, you American?

**CARTER**

That's right.

**HOSTESS**

You bring American money?

**CARTER**

(holding up a Platinum AmEx)  
Never leave home without it.

(to Lee)

Lee, this one's on me. You save your money.

The Hostess takes Carter by the arm, walks over to a HIDDEN SLIDING DOOR - slides it open to reveal TWENTY BEAUTIFUL WOMEN. Carter truly is in Heaven.

**HOSTESS**

You get massage from Chinese girl before?

**CARTER**

No. It's my first time.

**HOSTESS**

You pick any girl for you and your friend.

Carter looks like a kid in a candy store.

**CARTER**

Any girl? Okay. Let's start with that one.

**HOSTESS**

Oh yes, she's very nice.

**CARTER**

She is nice. But I am very tense. I'm gonna need a lot of massages. I'll take that one, too. How you doin', baby? And...that one in pink. She can do my feet.

Lee elbows Carter.

**LEE**

What are you doing?

**CARTER**

She said I could pick any girl I want.

**LEE**

Well, hurry up.

**CARTER**

Hey! You don't break in front of a black man in a buffet line.

**HOSTESS**

(to Lee)

Your friend have big appetite.

(handing ROBES to Lee and Carter)

Please put these on and wait upstairs in the quiet room.

**INT. QUIET ROOM MASSAGE PARLOR - DAY**

TWENTY MEN in SILK ROBES lie in reclining chairs, women massaging their feet and hands. There are BIG SCREEN TV's showing nature films, relaxation music playing in the

background.

Lee and Carter sit in the quiet room dressed in MATCHING PURPLE ROBES. Lee wears SLIPPERS, Carter wears his HIGH TOPS. Carter is enjoying a hand and neck massage at the same time. A WOMAN walks over and hands them each a drink.

**CARTER**

Now I'm on vacation. I knew you'd come through, Lee.

LEE doesn't respond. LEE IS STARING AT SOMEONE ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE ROOM. A man who radiates a unique blend of sophistication and brutality.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

What's wrong?

**LEE**

Over there -- that's Ricky Tan.

**CARTER**

That's Ricky Tan? He's four feet tall. I'll go over with you right now, shake him down.

**LEE**

This is a very dangerous man.

**CARTER**

I'm a dangerous man. You're not gonna ruin my massage because of some midget in a house coat.

**LEE**

I'm calling for back up!

Lee gets up from a chair, hurriedly exits.

Carter looks at RICKY TAN -- sitting quietly in his chair with his LAPTOP COMPUTER on his knees. Carter makes a decision, gets up and walks towards him.

**CARTER**

Ricky Tan, I've been looking all over for you. Get up.

Tan looks up for a moment, a smile.

**RICKY TAN**

I'm busy at the moment.

**CARTER**

I said get on your feet!

**RICKY TAN**

I know you, Detective Carter, right?  
You're Lee's American friend. Enjoying  
your visit?

**CARTER**

I'm Lee's new muscle, his right arm --  
and don't let the robe fool you. This  
is the only color they had left. Now  
get up!

Tan laughs, goes back to his laptop. CARTER GRABS THE LAPTOP  
from Ricky and throws it across the room - SHATTERING IT  
against the wall. Ricky glances at his men who are seated  
around the room waiting to move.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

I told you to get on your feet!

Having heard the commotion, Lee arrives by Carter's side,  
breathless, as Tan looks up, surprised.

**RICKY TAN**

Lee, I've missed you, brother.  
(getting up, giving Lee a hug)  
I heard about the two Americans, I'm so  
sorry, you must be under great pressure.

**LEE**

You must come with me for questioning.

**CARTER**

Let's go. I've got girls and chicken  
and hot oil waiting for me.

**RICKY TAN**

I don't think so...

A nod of Ricky Tan's head, and TEN LARGE MEN in robes and  
towels spring out of reclining chairs -- menacingly facing  
Lee and Carter. A beat...

**CARTER**

I'd like to pay you for that laptop.

**RICKY TAN**

It's no problem. But I must excuse  
myself, inspector.

**CARTER**

That's Chief Inspector, he got promoted.

Tan bows to Lee and Carter.

**RICKY TAN**

Congratulations. And good day.

As Tan starts to exit, Lee and Carter move to intercept him. But they are blocked by TAN'S MEN.

Lee grabs one of the men's towels and pulls it off. The man covers his naked body. Lee is grabbed by one of the other henchmen, but he escapes and begins kicking ass, using the towel and his own robe to block and wrap another man's arms -- blocking, kicking, and punching everything in sight -- all the while managing to keep his privates covered with a towel, his robe, or some other found object.

Carter, meanwhile, uses his quick hands to send several men flying back -- grabbing a towel of one of them.

**CARTER**

(ref: his privates)

Damn! No wonder you're pissed off.

Carter uses the towel like Lee did to block and trap one of the men's punches.

In the middle of fighting, Lee is suddenly exposed -- he flinches to cover himself and is punched from behind. Momentarily stunned, he's lifted from behind -- two men throwing him out the front door.

Carter is also overpowered by two men, who lift him over their shoulders.

**EXT. HONG KONG HIGHWAY - DAY**

Ricky Tan's black limo SCREECHES to a stop. The door flies open and Lee and Carter are TOSSED out onto the highway. Both men are completely naked.

**EXT. HONG KONG POLICE STATION - DAY**

A packed street - Lee and Carter dodging in and out of people. The CAMERA PANS and we see Lee and Carter from behind.

**CARTER**

Goddamn you got a small ass.

**LEE**

Don't look at my ass!

**INT. HONG KONG POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - DAY**

**PANDEMONIUM**

The station is packed with Americans -- FBI AGENTS, SECRET SERVICE... they've set up shop right in the middle of the bullpen.

SUPERINDEPENDENT CHIN is arguing with SPECIAL AGENT STERLING, a 50-year old hard ass who is in charge of this circus.

**SPECIAL AGENT STERLING**

Chin, you have been ordered by the Ministry of Public Security to assist the FBI and Secret Service with our investigation, to provide us with whatever we need. If you have information, it belongs to us.

**SUPERINDEPENDENT CHIN**

This is still Hong Kong.

**SPECIAL AGENT STERLING**

Two Americans have been killed on United States Government property -- this is our investigation.

**SUPERINDEPENDENT CHIN**

Chief Inspector Lee will brief your people...

**SPECIAL AGENT STERLING**

No. He will report to me. Do we understand each other?

SUDDENLY ALL EYES turn as Carter and Lee enter the bullpen. Out of breath, still robed: Lee covering himself with a trash can lid, Carter using a red construction cone.

**SPECIAL AGENT STERLING (CONT'D)**

Who the hell is that?

**SUPERINDEPENDENT CHIN**

(humiliated)

That is...Chief Inspector Lee. The detective in charge of our investigation.

**SPECIAL AGENT STERLING**

Put a diaper on him, Chin. I want to talk to the great Inspector Lee.

**INT. LEE'S OFFICE - DAY**

The shades are down as Lee frantically gets dressed, putting on a suit and fixing his tie. Carter finishes putting on a BLACK CHINESE STYLE SUIT from Lee's closet, then moves for the door.

**LEE**

Where are you going?

**CARTER**

Back to Heaven on Earth. I need my damn passport back. I'm going home.

**LEE**

Fine. Go home. Who needs you.

**CARTER**

Why you mad at me? You needed back-up, so I backed you up. I was about to take out Ricky Tan and those bodyguards.

**LEE**

Stop! I'm sick of your bullshit!

**CARTER**

My bullshit? I'm not the one who goes to a karaoke bar filled with gangsters! I'm not the one who goes to massage parlors to bust crime lords!

**LEE**

It's my job!

**CARTER**

You're pathetic, man. When's the last time you had some fun? When's the last time you took a night off, had a date?

**LEE**

I have plenty of dates.

**CARTER**

Really? When's the last time you had some Mu-shu. Let's hear it, Lee, when was it? Year of the rat?

**LEE**

You would never understand my life.

You're not Chinese.

**CARTER**

And you ain't black!

The two men look at each other for a long BEAT. Lee quickly walks out, slamming the door behind him, leaving Carter half dressed.

**INT. SUPERINDENDENT CHIN'S OFFICE - DAY**

Lee walks in, sees Sterling sitting at Chin's desk. Chin stands in the back.

**SUPERINDENDENT CHIN**

Lee, this is Special Agent Sterling from the United States Secret Service.

**LEE**

The Secret Service? Why?

**STERLING**

What I'm about to tell you cannot leave this room. The men who were killed yesterday were not American translators. They were undercover U.S. customs agents trying to break a Triad smuggling ring. We don't know what they're transporting out of Hong Kong, but whatever it is, it got the agents killed.

**LEE**

How can we help?

**STERLING**

Stay the hell out of our way.

**LEE**

I can get to Ricky Tan.

**STERLING**

We know all about Tan. That's why we're leaving him out there as bait. We think this is a lot bigger than just Ricky Tan and his Fu-Cang-Long Triads.

**INT. LEE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

Carter is on the phone, his feet on Lee's desk. As he talks he opens a drawer, pulls out a wad of cash and pockets it.

**CARTER**

Captain, you're gonna have to speak up.  
I'm on a car phone!

**INT. CAPTAIN DIEL'S OFFICE - LAPD HEADQUARTERS - DAY**

CAPTAIN DIEL sits behind his desk talking on the phone.

**CAPTAIN DIEL**

Is it true, Carter? Are you in Hong Kong right now?

**CARTER**

Hong Kong? I'm not in Hong Kong. I'm in Hollywood -- right at Sunset and Vine, two minutes from the station. How about I pick you up right now and take you to dinner?

**CAPTAIN DIEL**

It's nine-thirty in the morning.

**CARTER**

Did I say dinner? I meant diner. Biscuits and gravy, you love that shit.

**CAPTAIN DIEL**

Do you know what happened yesterday, Carter? I was officially nominated for the Commissioner's post for the LAPD. There was a dinner last night, two hundred LAPD officers were there.

**CARTER**

Two hundred cops? Was Mario Sanchez there? He owes me money.

**CAPTAIN DIEL**

I've waited my whole life for this job, but I don't have a shot in hell of getting it. Do you know why?

**CARTER**

Is it because of the hookers, sir? You tell them there's no crime in being lonely.

**CAPTAIN DIEL**

No, Carter. The reason I'm screwed is because the entire department is about to find out the stolen credit cards we impounded were used to buy two first class upgrades to Hong Kong. And what

the hell is Heaven on Earth?

**CARTER**

Sir, I'm working on a big case over here -- and by the time I get back they're gonna make you Governor. Captain, you there? Hello? Shit!

As Carter walks out the DOOR, he brushes past HU LI, who is standing in the hallway disguised as a FED EX DELIVERY PERSON. Carter checks her out as he exits.

**EXT. STREET - DAY**

CARTER starts walking down the street, making his way past an outdoor BUTCHER MARKET, getting strange looks from locals and tourists alike. He motions to an OLD WOMAN who is selling **LIVE DUCKS, PIGEONS AND CHICKENS**

**CARTER**

How you doing? Can you direct me to the Heaven on Earth massage parlor?

The OLD WOMAN stares at Carter, starts motioning to her CAGES filled with birds.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

No, I don't eat live birds. I like my birds dead and deep fried. You ever been to Popeyes?

The Woman takes out a bird, holds up a HATCHET.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

No, don't do that, I had a big lunch. I'm warning you, I'm a police officer -- just put the blade down and let the bird go.

**INT. HONG KONG POLICE STATION - BULLPEN/LEE'S OFFICE - DAY**

Lee walks out of the Captain's office, heads for his own office - but never gets there.

AN EXPLOSION rips through the second floor of the station. Lee diving for safety as glass and debris shoot over his head. Sheer pandemonium as Lee quickly looks up at his destroyed office, tries to get to his feet.

STUNNED POLICE OFFICERS and DETECTIVES are crowded around Lee's office, looking at the rubble. Lee pushes through the crowd -- it's all smoke and fire. Now way anyone held back

by the heat.

**LEE**

Carter! CARTER!

**EXT. HONG KONG STREET - DAY**

Carter walks down the street holding a CAGE WITH A LIVE RED BIRD inside. He stops a MAN who is sweeping in front of his store.

**CARTER**

How you doing? I'm looking for Heaven  
on Earth.

The man stares at Carter, watches as he pulls out his:

**ENGLISH/CHINESE DICTIONARY**

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Shan-shui cao guo-jiu, pao gai niu tao  
zi.

**MAN**

You wish to spank my sister with a ping  
pong paddle?

**CARTER**

No man, I was just asking...

**MAN**

Wait here. I'll go see if she's awake.

As the man walks into his store, Carter runs off.

Pause.

Carter strolls back INTO FRAME, peering into the store to see  
if it's worth staying...

**INT. HONG KONG POLICE STATION - BULL PEN - DAY**

Lee sits by himself in shock. Superintendent Chin  
approaches.

**LEE**

All he wanted was some mu-shu.

**SUPERINDENDENT CHIN**

Are you okay, Lee?

Beat.

**LEE**

I'm sorry, I have to go.

**EXT. HEAVEN ON EARTH MASSAGE PARLOR - AFTERNOON**

Carter finally makes his way to the massage parlor, moving for the FRONT DOOR when he sees RICKY TAN EXIT. Carter ducks to the side and watches as Ricky climbs into the back of a waiting Daimler.

The Daimler drives off. Carter rushes to the middle of the street with a determined look on his face.

**CARTER**

I'm gonna solve this case myself. Taxi!

Carter flags down a CAB, jumps in the back seat.

**INT. TAXI - EVENING**

The CAB DRIVER turns to Carter, who motions to the limo.

**CARTER**

(loud)

Follow that limo.

The Cab Driver continues to stare at Carter.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

You understand what I'm saying? Follow that car! Where it goes, you go! This is a chase -- we are chasing that limo!

(beat)

We are still parked -- we're not moving! This is the opposite of chasing -- drive the car or I will kill you!

The driver slowly turns, holding out his hand. Carter fishes in his pocket hands the cab driver a wad of cash.

**CAB DRIVER**

Now you speak my language.

**INT. LEE'S CAR - DAY**

Lee drives, misty-eyed. RAP MUSIC playing over the stereo. Lee turns it up, slowly moving his head to the music, in tribute to Carter.

His CELL PHONE rings, he turns down the music.

**INTERCUT --**

**INT. CHIN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

**SUPERINDEPENDENT CHIN**

Lee, we just got a call from the harbor patrol. Ricky Tan is throwing a little party on his boat tonight. Victoria harbor. If you don't want to...

**LEE**

Did you tell Sterling?

**SUPERINDEPENDENT CHIN**

Let him find out on his own. I want the Hong Kong police handling this.

**LEE**

Thank you.

Lee hangs up. A look of intensity. He CRANKS the RAP MUSIC up, a man on a mission.

**EXT. YACHT - HARBOR - NIGHT**

A 190-FOOT YACHT is anchored in Victoria Harbor. Ricky Tan walks along the top deck with HU LI, disappearing into a crowd of people who are partying on the ship.

Carter steps out of the cab.

**CARTER**

Stay here. I'll be right back. You understand?

**CAB DRIVER**

Yes. I understand.

Carter steps out of the cab, which immediately drives off, leaving him alone on the docks.

Carter looks around the dock -- a pull up valet station parking fancy cars, RICH PEOPLE getting on the boat as their names are checked off a list by two DOORMEN.

**INT. YACHT - NIGHT**

A huge PARTY, a live band plays for a crowd of business men, politicians and beautiful women - a who's who of Hong Kong.

CARTER walks up to the front of the boat -- TWO DOORMEN HOLDING clipboards immediately stop him.

**DOORMAN #1**

Invitation, please.

**CARTER**

I'm with the band. I'm the lead singer.

**DOORMAN #1**

The band has been playing over an hour.

**CARTER**

I got held up at a wedding in Tai Koo.  
Ricky here yet, I need to get his  
requests.

As Carter walks past the doorman --

**DOORMAN #1**

Wait.

**CARTER**

Last party all he wanted was Sting --  
not one person danced. Tonight I'm  
doing Superfreak, I don't care what he  
says. Where is he?

**DOORMAN #1**

Mr. Tan is not to be disturbed by the  
help.

Carter turns back to the doorman, grabs him by the collar.

**CARTER**

Help? I'm not the help, man -- I'm the  
star. That's my band up there -- I  
control the mood, the groove, the  
atmosphere.

Carter cuts a smoking DANCE MOVE.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Can you do that?

(man shakes head "no")

That's why you're down here and I'm up  
there. Now this is my party -- don't  
forget it!

Carter walks onto the ship, starts singing to himself.

**EXT. YACHT - HARBOR - CONTINUOUS**

The SHIP'S HORN SOUNDS, the yacht starts to head out to sea.

Lee steps out of his car, sees the yacht is pulling out of the slip. He runs along the side of the boat, has no choice but to jump from the end of the pier, landing hard on the side of the ship, somehow holding onto a PORTHOLE WINDOW. He clings to the yacht, then throws himself toward a hanging LIFEBOAT, climbs up the side and jumps toward the TOP RAIL --

**EXT. YACHT - CONTINUOUS**

As Carter walks through the ship, he grabs a handful of food from a waiter, his eyes searching the crowd, rounds a corner - almost stepping right into HU LI, who's approaching STEVEN REIGN. Steven Reign is in his 50's -- perfectly groomed, impeccably dressed - his looks and bearing say one thing -- money.

He's got the big party smile on, but as Hu Li arrives, Reign's face shifts and his eyes go dead -- the billionaire as sociopath.

Carter steps back, but sees Reign Whisper to Hu Li. Carter hides and turns away as Hu Li instinctively scans the room for signs of trouble. He heads into the main party.

Carter stops walking when he comes upon ISABELLA MOLINA, a stunning brunette, sitting at the bar drinking a glass of champagne. Carter lights her cigarette for her.

**CARTER**

How you doing, baby? My name is Prince Mubutu from Nigeria.

**ISABELLA**

Isabella Molina, from San Juan. That seat is taken.

**CARTER**

(in mangled Spanish)  
San Juan! You must know my good friend Pedro Martinez Hernandez Hector Elizondo.

**ISABELLA**

(in English)  
I don't think so.

**CARTER**

I'm sorry, you looked like you traveled in the best circles. But hey, I understand. Make yourself at home, Isabella. Champagne, caviar, whatever you want. My ship is your ship.

**ISABELLA**

This is your ship?

**CARTER**

That's right. I'm the owner, the  
Captain -- you can call me El Capitan.

**ISABELLA**

El Capitan?

**CARTER**

I don't want to play games with you,  
Isabella. I like you. I can see myself  
with you -- in one of those bathrooms  
over there in about five minutes.

**ISABELLA**

Well, I'm very tempted. It's such a  
beautiful yacht. What's it called?

**CARTER**

Called? What's my ship called?

(he has no idea)

Well...it's called the S.S. Minnow  
Johnson.

**ISABELLA**

The S.S. Minnow Johnson. Funny, the name  
on the back was "Red Dragon."

**CARTER**

Red Dragon? You sure about that?

**ISABELLA**

I'm sure, because this is my friend's  
yacht. And it's his party.

**CARTER**

Your friend's ship?

(looking around)

Oh, man. I must've walked onto the  
wrong yacht. I knew there was a reason  
my keys didn't work.

**STEVEN REIGN**

(taking seat next to Isabella)

Who's your friend?

**ISABELLA**

Somebody who got on the wrong yacht.

**CARTER**

Wait a second. You're Steven Reign?  
You're big time. You own all them big  
hotels. What are you doing in Hong  
Kong?

**STEVEN REIGN**

(ushering away Isabella)  
I'm just in town for the weekend, taking  
in the sights.

**ISABELLA**

Enjoy the party, Mr. Carter.

Carter nods, waves. Steven Reign and Isabella walk away.  
Carter's watching.

**INT. SHIP'S HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Lee makes his way toward a STAIRCASE that is blocked by a  
BODYGUARD. He quickly disarms the guard and grabs him by the  
throat, pushing him against the wall.

**LEE**

Ricky Tan. Where is he?

**BODYGUARD #1**

Who's asking?

**LEE**

The Hong Kong Police. He killed a  
detective today and he's not getting  
away with it. Now where is he?

**CARTER**

Yeah. Tell us! And don't play games or  
we'll kick your lying ass!

Lee slowly turns around and looks at Carter, who is standing  
right behind him.

**LEE**

Carter?

**CARTER**

Who died?

**LEE**

You.

**CARTER**

Detective Yu? Never met him.

**LEE**

Not Yu. You!

**CARTER**

Who?

**LEE**

Do you understand the words that are coming out of my mouth?

**CARTER**

Nobody understands the words that are coming out of your mouth.

**BODYGUARD #1**

Get your hands in the air.

Lee and Carter turn to see FOUR BODYGUARDS standing in front of them with GUNS in hand.

**BODYGUARD #1 (CONT'D)**

Ricky Tan is expecting you.

**INT. RICKY TAN'S YACHT - MAIN CABIN - NIGHT**

It looks like HUGH HEFNER'S BEDROOM complete with ROUND BED and SUNKEN BAR. Ricky Tan sits in front of a big screen satellite TV screaming at the Lakers. Hu Li opens the door and the bodyguards lead Lee into the bedroom.

**RICKY TAN**

Come on, Shaq, hit a damn free-throw!  
You can do it, big guy.

**ON TV**

We see Shaq miss his free throw.

**RICKY TAN (CONT'D)**

Shit! He still doesn't follow through.  
I just lost five grand.

Tan turns off the TV, turns to Lee.

**RICKY TAN (CONT'D)**

Why don't we go on the deck, get some air...and some privacy.  
(to Hu Li)  
Leave us alone.

Hu Li hesitates, upset at being dismissed.

**RICKY TAN (CONT'D)**

(to Lee)

Could you have your partner wait for us outside?

**CARTER**

I ain't his partner, I'm a tourist. I got proof. See, I got a mini-bar key.

**LEE**

(to Carter)

I'll meet you on the main deck in ten minutes.

Carter pulls Lee aside.

**CARTER**

What, leave you alone so he can cap you?

**LEE**

I'm okay, you go.

**CARTER**

Why the hell should you believe him? He had us beat up. Naked. That's nasty shit.

**LEE**

Remember I told you my father was a policeman?

(beat)

Ricky Tan was his partner for ten years.

**CARTER**

(pause)

What the hell is going on here?

No answer. Carter holds Lee's glance for a beat, then turns and walks the other way.

**EXT. RICKY TAN'S YACHT - UPPER DECK - NIGHT**

Tan and Lee reach the upper deck, where they are alone.

**RICKY TAN**

Despite what people suspect...what you suspect --

**LEE**

Don't.

Ricky Tan hears the steel in Lee's voice, acknowledges it.

**RICKY TAN**

... if your father were alive, I would be turning to him now.

(beat)

I didn't blow up the American Embassy, but I believe some of my people did. My enemies are trying to frame me.

(beat)

There is a war going on within the Triads -- and I am going to lose. My name has been written into the book of death.

**LEE**

The police can protect you.

**RICKY TAN**

Nobody can protect me. I'll make a deal with you, Lee. But only iff you'll get me out of Hong Kong.

**LEE**

Tell me why they killed the customs agents.

**RICKY TAN**

There is a ship, in the Hong Kong Harbor...

Hu Li BURSTS onto the deck, flanked by FOUR BODYGUARDS.

Ricky Tan screams something at Hu Li in Chinese. Hu Li screams back as SHE EMPTIES HER GUN INTO RICKY'S CHEST. Tan falls back, over the rail, and into the water.

Lee MOVES TOWARDS HU LI, but the four bodyguards are on Lee, attacking from all sides. Hu Li exits as Lee tries to fight off the bodyguards.

**INT. RICKY TAN'S YACHT - MAIN CABIN - NIGHT**

Reactions from the crowd as GUNSHOTS echo from the deck above.

**INT. SHIP'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Hu Li moves quickly down the hallway, rounding a corner and suddenly goes FLYING, landing flat on her face.

It's Carter, who ran to the sound of the gunshot, and TRIPPED Hu Li with his leg.

**CARTER**

All right, get your hands up.

Hu Li backflips up -- kicking Carter in the head.

**EXT. UPPER DECK - CONTINUOUS**

Lee takes down Bodyguard #1, but is still fighting three on one. A furious exchange of acrobatic blows between Lee and Bodyguard #2.

**INT. SHIP'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Carter and Hu Li face off.

**CARTER**

You wanna piece of me? C'mon, I'll give you a little LAPD ass kickin'.

Hu Li savages Carter with a series of punishing blows.

**INT. UPPER DECK - CONTINUOUS**

Lee manages to defeat Bodyguards #3 and #4. As he catches his breath the sound of a SPEED BOAT starting its engines.

**LEE**

Hu Li!

Lee runs to the rail -- looks down to see a SPEEDBOAT starting to pull away from the ship. Hu Li jumps onboard the moving boat.

Lee starts to turn for the stairs, running down towards the stern.

**EXT. YACHT - STERN - CONTINUOUS**

Lee and Carter run up to the stern at the same time -- watching helplessly as Hu Li gets away in the speed boat.

Carter turns his head, sees --

-- STEVEN REIGN at the other end of the boat, watching Hu Li escape, not at all behaving like a panicky billionaire should during a gangland shooting. Wordlessly, Reign disappears back into the shadows.

**EXT. DOCK - NIGHT**

The yacht is anchored. A few TRIADS led away in handcuffs.

Thrown into PATROL CARS that have surrounded the docks.

Sterling, Chin, Lee and Carter on the dock.

**SPECIAL AGENT STERLING**

Quite a night, Inspector. Ricky Tan was our only bait, and now he's gone. You finally got your revenge - at the expense of a U.S. Government investigation.

**CARTER**

What "revenge" is he talking about?

**SPECIAL AGENT STERLING**

I don't know if the Fu-Cang-Long paid you to get rid of Tan, or whether it was a pure vendetta killing -- but you're off this case. I don't ever want to see you again, you got that?

**CARTER**

Hey, you, Secret Service Man, what are you --

**SPECIAL AGENT STERLING**

Stay out of it, Carter. You're going back to L.A.

**CARTER**

Fine with me.

Sterling walks away disgusted.

**SUPERINDEPENDENT CHIN**

I'm sorry Lee, but my orders are to fully cooperate with the Secret Service.

Lee nods a respectful but bitter acknowledgment. Chin motions for two uniformed Hong Kong police officers to approach.

**SUPERINDEPENDENT CHIN (CONT'D)**

(to police officers)

Escort Detective Carter to the airport --

**LEE**

I'll take him.

**CARTER**

Hell no.

The Hong Kong police officers produce HANDCUFFS. Beat.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

(to Lee)

Fine. But don't expect me to talk to you.

Carter stalks off.

**LEE**

Don't push me, Carter. I'm in no mood for your bullshit.

Carter gets in Lee's face. The two men look like they're about to come to blows.

**CARTER**

What are you gonna do about it, grasshopper?

**LEE**

I'll bitch slap you into Bangkok.

**CARTER**

Give me your best shot, you flat assed mama's boy.

**LEE**

Don't be talking about my mama. Or my ass!

**CARTER**

I heard your mama pulls a rickshaw.

**LEE**

No. She's a school teacher.

**CARTER**

You're not very good at this, are you?

**LEE**

Good at what?

**CARTER**

Forget it.

A long beat while Lee considers what to say.

**LEE**

Five years ago, my father was Chief Inspector working a big international smuggling case.

**CARTER**

Ask me if I give a shit.

Lee waits a beat, then drops the bombshell.

**LEE**

Ricky Tan killed my father.

Carter is suddenly all ears, listening intently now to Lee.

**LEE (CONT'D)**

He found out his partner, Tan, had been working for the Triads all along.

(beat)

Before my father could prove it, he was killed in the line of duty.

**CARTER**

How the hell did Tan get away with it?

**LEE**

All the evidence against him disappeared, the smuggling case was unsolved. Tan resigned and went over to the Triads openly.

**CARTER**

(pause)

This is about your Daddy's death? Hell, Lee, you know my father died on the job. You could have told me...

(realizing)

This is about more than all that, isn't it? This is about your Daddy's last case, right?

Lee's caught, fibs badly.

**LEE**

No, no, that would be crazy --

**CARTER**

You thought the "Customs Agents get blown up" and "smuggling" and "Ricky Tan" and you put it all together and came up with a five year old case. That's why you didn't tell me what we were doing...

**LEE**

I thought you'd think it was crazy.

**CARTER**

**IT IS CRAZY!**

**LEE**

I know. I know. I am sorry.

Lee inclines his head, stiffly, turns and walks toward his car. Carter watches him. Finally he rolls his eyes and yells.

**CARTER**

So are you getting on the plane or not?!

**LEE**

What?

**CARTER**

Come on, we still got time to order the Kosher meal. Always get the kosher meal, they bring it first.

**LEE**

I cannot go to LA...

Carter steps close, and for a second we see the man and the cop beneath the attitude.

**CARTER**

It sounds impossible --

**LEE**

You said --

**CARTER**

-- but if somebody gave me the chance to square up my father's death, I'd go to hell to do it.

Carter turns, walks away without looking back.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

You want to figure out why they killed your Daddy, get on the plane.

**LEE**

Why LA?

**CARTER**

(still not turning)

I guess you're going to have to trust me on this one.

**INT. 747 PASSENGER COMPARTMENT**

Carter and Lee are getting comfortable among all the other passengers, preparing to take off. Lee has a moment of doubt.

**LEE**

I should go back. Ricky Tan mentioned a boat in Hong Kong Harbor...

**CARTER**

Lee, let me introduce you to the Carter Theory of Criminal Investigation: Follow the Rich White Man.

**LEE**

Follow the Rich White Man?

**CARTER**

Almost, but you've got to say "Rich White Man" all run together like it's one word.

**LEE**

Follow the RichWhiteMan...

**CARTER**

Not bad. Now every crime, somewhere, has a rich white man taking his cut. Every single one. Now in our case, we know the rich white man is Steven Reign.

**LEE**

Who?

**CARTER**

Big hotel billionaire. He was on Ricky Tan's boat ordering Hu Li around just before Ricky got smoked.

**LEE**

How do you know he's our man?

**CARTER**

Because when the shooting started he was way too cool. See most white people, when there's shooting, they either hide in a toilet or start screaming high pitched like "Aaaahhh!!! Aaaahh!!!!"

**LEE**

You sound like that all the time.

**CARTER**

Black people keep their cool when the shit goes down.

**LEE**

Maybe. But not like Asians. We never panic.

**CARTER**

Yeah, what about when Godzilla was coming? You people were screaming your asses off.

**LEE**

Just tell me where I can find this Steven Reign.

**CARTER**

The same place you find all RichWhiteMen.  
(a tray arrives)  
Gefilte Fish. Lox and bagel. I love this stuff. Here, try it with a smear.

**BINOCULARS P.O.V. THE REIGN TOWERS HOTEL**

**CUT TO REVEAL --**

Carter standing at a window holding high-powered binoculars.

Lee standing next to him. WE ARE:

**INT. CHEAP HOTEL ROOM - DOWNTOWN LA - NIGHT**

Cartons of Chinese food are all over the sleazy, run down hotel room. The LIGHTS LOW, the curtains open a crack.

**BINOCULARS P.O.V. - THE REIGN HOTEL**

Traveling up the side of the Reign Hotel. Stopping at the penthouse floor - where we see ISABELLA talking with Steven Reign in a hotel room. After a BEAT, Reign walks to the door.

Carter flips the binoculars to Lee, who starts watching.

**CARTER**

Yeah, that's definitely the woman from Ricky Tan's boat, and she's staying in his suite at his hotel, I told you this

would work out. They still just talking?

**LEE**

He just left. Kissed her on the cheek.

**CARTER**

He'll be back soon.

**LEE**

How do you know?

**CARTER**

Look at her. Now, wake me in an hour, I'll take over.

Lee lowers the binoculars, turns to Carter, who is trying to sleep on the bed.

**LEE**

Carter, there's something I have to tell you. You were right about what you said in Hong Kong. All I do is work. Never take a day off. It's all I have right now.

**CARTER**

Hey, I didn't mean to call you pathetic.

**LEE**

The truth is, I haven't had any mu-shu in six months.

**CARTER**

You pull a muscle or something?

**LEE**

My fiancée left me over the summer -- a month before our wedding.

**CARTER**

I'm sorry, Lee. Why did she leave you?

**LEE**

It's a long story.

**CARTER**

Let me guess, she couldn't handle the cop thing -- never knowing if you were dead or alive. I've seen it a million times.

**LEE**

No. It was my singing.

**CARTER**

Excuse me?

**LEE**

She hated my voice. Said it drove her crazy. I sang to her all the time - in bed - in the shower - I thought she liked it. She finally told me it was driving her crazy.

Carter stares at Lee for a long BEAT.

**CARTER**

Lee, maybe it's best if we don't discuss our personal lives. Let's die curious.

LEE LIFTS THE BINOCULARS - turns back to the building.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

What's she doing?

**BINOCULARS P.O.V. - ON ISABELLA**

She walks to the bedroom, where we see her through SHEER CURTAINS. Slowly taking off her coat.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Lee? You okay?

Lee's eyes go wide as Isabella drops her coat and starts to unbutton her blouse.

**LEE**

She's just standing around -- not doing much.

**CARTER**

Just don't fall asleep. Sooner or later something's gonna happen.

**LEE**

I'll try to stay awake. It's so boring.

Isabella starts to remove her blouse. Lee starting to sweat as he watches her undress.

**LEE (CONT'D)**

Slow down, baby.

**CARTER**

What did you say?

**LEE**

Nothing. I said nothing.

Lee lowers his binoculars, steps away from the window.

**LEE (CONT'D)**

Is it hot in here?

**CARTER**

Hot? I'm freezing my ass off.

**LEE**

I'm gonna go in the hall and get a bucket of ice. You want some ice?

**CARTER**

What's going on?

Lee stares at Carter, looks dazed.

**LEE**

She's getting undressed.

**CARTER**

Gimme the binoculars.

**LEE**

No. It's not right.

**CARTER**

Gimme the binoculars or I will shoot you.

Lee hands Carter the binoculars, then turns his back as Carter watches to the window.

**LEE**

What's she doing?

**CARTER**

Oh, sweet glory hallelujah...

**LEE**

I don't want to hear this.

**CARTER**

Skirt just came off. She's in black bra and panties -- Victoria Secret Spring Catalogue, page 27 -- wait a sec -

there's a tattoo on her left thigh... it looks like Snoopy.

**LEE**

Snoopy? I love Snoopy.

**CARTER**

She just took her hair down. Now she's going for the bra -- the clasp is in front -- she's using both hands.

(to Lee)

You better get that ice.

Lee steps in front of Carter, blocking his view.

**LEE**

That's enough. We shouldn't be doing this!

Isabella suddenly drops undressing and walks back to the living room to pick up the PHONE. We see her clearly now in bra and panties.

**CARTER**

This is our job. We took an oath as police officers. If we don't do this, who will? Firemen?

Lee backs off, and Carter steps back to the window. He sees Isabella hang up the phone.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Wait a sec - what the hell is that between her legs?

**LEE**

What?

**CARTER**

She's reaching into her panties -- something is strapped to her leg. Oh, God...please don't let it be a dick.

**LEE**

What is it?

**CARTER**

No, I don't believe this shit -- it's a microphone. Lee, she's wired...

**CLOSE ON ISABELLA**

As she turns to the window. A TAPE RECORDER in hand. She puts the recording device away, walks back into the bedroom and puts on a robe.

**LEE**

I don't understand?

**CARTER**

She's walking back towards the door.

**BINOCULARS P.O.V.**

We see Isabella wearing a robe - standing at the door of her hotel room talking with someone.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

She opened the door. Someone is delivering a package.

**BINOCULARS P.O.V.**

Inside the hotel room WE SEE HU LI handing her a package.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Lee...it's the girl who delivered the package to your office. It's a bomb!

Lee and Carter bolt on the move - sprinting out of the room.

**INT. REIGN TOWERS HOTEL - PENTHOUSE SUITE - NIGHT**

Isabella closes the door. She BRINGS THE BOMB WITH HER as she walks into the bedroom --

**EXT. REIGN TOWERS HOTEL - CONTINUOUS**

Carter and Lee run across the street, heading towards the entrance of the hotel.

**INT. REIGN TOWERS HOTEL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Lee and Carter sprint out the Penthouse Elevators, running down the hallway.

**INT. REIGN TOWERS HOTEL - PENTHOUSE SUITE - CONTINUOUS**

Isabella takes her robe off, glances at the package, picks it up and starts to open it as Lee and Carter come BURSTING THROUGH the BEDROOM DOOR.

**LEE/CARTER**

**NO!**

Carter and Lee stare at Isabella, who stands in bra and panties.

**CARTER**

Damn girl, you fine.

Lee lowers his eyes as Isabella looks at him, grabbing the BOMB, Carter following him as they sprint out the bedroom.

**INT. REIGN TOWERS HOTEL - CONTINUOUS**

Lee and Carter run out the suite - Lee throwing the BOMB toward the END OF THE HALL as he and Carter dive to the floor.

Nothing happens.

Lee looks up, SEES a HOTEL EMPLOYEE pushing a room service CART, about to walk right past the package --

**LEE**

**GET DOWN!!**

Lee and Carter run back to the bomb.

**CARTER**

Pick it up!

**LEE**

It's your turn!

**CARTER**

I don't need a turn!

Carter picks it up, starts running with it through the hall, heading for the elevator.

**LEE**

Throw it!

Carter is about to throw it in, when HE SEES AN OLDER COUPLE **STANDING INSIDE.**

**HOTEL GUESTS**

Do you want us to hold the elevator?

**CARTER**

Get the hell away from here!

Carter is still holding the bomb, doesn't know what to do with it --

**LEE**

Stairs!

Carter throws him the bomb, and Lee runs to the stairs --

**INT. STAIRWELL - NIGHT**

Lee is about to throw the bomb down the stairwell -- when he sees TWO MAIDS WALKING toward him.

**CARTER**

Get out of the building!

Lee looks horrified as he hangs onto the package, has no choice but to throw it back to Carter.

**LEE**

Roof!

**EXT. REIGN TOWERS HOTEL - ROOF - NIGHT**

Lee and Carter burst through the roof door - Carter trying to hold the bomb as far away from himself as possible. He looks over the side for a place to dump it - the streets are filled with PEOPLE AND CARS.

**LEE**

Wait! There's people down there!

**CARTER**

There's people up here!

**LEE**

Get it out of here!

**CARTER**

Take it!

Lee takes the bomb, quickly ROLLS IT across the roof -- Lee and Carter diving to the ground once again as the bomb slides to the center of the roof - COMING TO A STOP RIGHT IN FRONT OF ISABELLA. She's wearing a bathrobe now, clearly pissed off as she slowly bends down and picks up the package.

**ISABELLA**

Get on your feet.

Lee and Carter stand and face Isabella - watch as Isabella begins to open the package.

**CARTER**

I wouldn't do that!!!

**LEE**

It's a bomb.

Isabella opens the package, removing a stack of a HUNDRED **DOLLAR BILLS**.

**ISABELLA**

You see, no bomb. Now stay away before I throw you both in jail for obstruction.

**CARTER**

Throw us in jail? I'm about to bust you right now.

**ISABELLA**

I'm an undercover agent for the United States Secret Service.

**CARTER**

How do we know you're not lying? Let me see your badge.

Isabella opens her bathrobe -- WE SEE a small BADGE pinned to her bra.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Let me see it again?

**LEE**

We can help you. I'm a detective in Hong Kong.

**ISABELLA**

I know who you are, Inspector Lee.

**LEE**

Then you know I'm not walking away from this case.

**CARTER**

Yeah, that's right.

**ISABELLA**

We need to get out of sight. Come down to my suite.

**INT. ISABELLA'S SUITE - LATER**

**ISABELLA**

(she locks the door)  
Look, I've been working this case for  
months now...

**CARTER**

So what's your story?

**ISABELLA**

They think I'm a crooked customs agent.

Lee examines the stack of HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS from Hu Li's  
package. Carter checks out the suite, pocketing some of the  
food from the mini fridge.

**LEE**

Is this a payoff?

**ISABELLA**

No. It's a sample. You guys ever heard  
of the Superbill?

**CARTER**

It's a myth. Some kind of counterfeit.

**ISABELLA**

It's much more than a counterfeit. 14  
out of 15 world banks can't tell the  
difference. The paper is Crane linen  
blend -- and the bills are printed on  
U.S. Intaglio presses.

**CARTER**

How're they getting into the U.S. Mint  
to use the presses?

**ISABELLA**

In 1959, the United States was very  
friendly with the Shah of Iran. We  
wanted his oil, so for the Shah's  
birthday, the government gave him a gift  
-- a U.S. Treasury Intaglio press. The  
only one to ever leave the country.  
Five years ago Ricky Tan bought that  
press on the black market.

**LEE**

Five years ago?!

(beat)

That's right before he left the force.

Lee and Carter exchange looks.

**ISABELLA**

It wasn't hard to spot the fakes until this past year. Then Tan got hold of one of a kind Swiss made hundred dollar plates -- and started making superbills.

**LEE**

(understanding)  
And Hu Li killed him for the plates.

**ISABELLA**

Yes. They've printed and shipped one hundred million dollars, and there's only one way to spot a fake.

Isabella lights a HUNDRED DOLLAR BILL on fire, and it burns **RED**.

**ISABELLA (CONT'D)**

They use an optical transfer ink from India that burns red -- the real ink burns black.

**CARTER**

What the hell are they going to do with a hundred million dollars in funny money?

**ISABELLA**

The real question is, where are the plates? If we can find the plates, we can stop the whole operation.

Isabella thinks for a beat.

**ISABELLA (CONT'D)**

Maybe that's where you can help us. Carter, this is your city, right?

Carter nods.

**ISABELLA (CONT'D)**

And Lee, you know Hu Li and the Triads?

Lee nods.

**ISABELLA (CONT'D)**

Okay, find out where Hu Li's keeping the plates.

(hands Lee a card with a phone number)

Welcome aboard, gentlemen. From this

moment on, you're working for the United States Secret Service.

Isabella opens the door to let Lee and Carter out. They exit quickly, trying to hide their excitement. CAMERA STAYS on Isabella as she takes out her CELL PHONE, punches in a number.

**STERLING (O.S.)**

Sterling.

**ISABELLA**

Lee and Carter are officially out of the Secret Service's way...

**EXT. REIGN TOWERS HOTEL - CONTINUOUS**

Lee and Carter, both wearing dark sunglasses, walk through the street trying their best to look like Secret Service Agents. They approach Carter's parked VETTE.

**CARTER**

Secret Service Agent Carter. This is my calling, Lee.

Give me six months and I'll be in Washington protecting a white guy.

**LEE**

We both know you would never take a bullet for someone else.

**CARTER**

They don't know that. What are they gonna do, try and shoot the President during the interview? I'll bet Isabella can pull some strings. You saw the way she was staring at me.

**LEE**

She never even looked at you.

**CARTER**

You're just jealous 'cos the girl picked me. I'm tall, dark and handsome, you're third world ugly.

**LEE**

I am not third world ugly. Women like me, they think I'm cute. Like Snoopy.

**CARTER**

Snoopy is about six inches taller than

you. I'm sorry, Lee, you never had a chance.

Carter's had the last word, he gets into the Vette. Lee reluctantly gets in, too.

**EXT. CRENSHAW KITCHEN - CHINESE SOUL FOOD RESTAURANT - NIGHT**

Carter's Vette pulls up in front of a hole in the wall.

**INT. CRENSHAW KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

Carter and Lee pass through the restaurant, only two tables are occupied.

**INT. KITCHEN**

Carter and Lee enter the busy kitchen where the OWNER, a BLACK MAN named KENNY, is yelling in Chinese to an over worked waiter. Kenny's wife, a spectacular looking Chinese woman, works the stove. A couple of cute half-black, half Asian kids run around the kitchen.

**CARTER**

Kenny! How you doin'?

Kenny looks up at Carter. A cool, appraising glance.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

How's the action tonight? The house making out okay?

Kenny follows as Carter opens a door to --

**INT. BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

MEN seated around several card tables, playing MAH-JONGG for big money. Lee and Kenny follow Carter inside. It's very smokey and very crowded.

**CARTER**

(to Kenny)

This is where I say I'm LAPD in a loud voice, they all scream and run and shit. Watch. It's real funny.

Kenny grabs Carter's shoulder, pulling him aside.

**KENNY**

Come with me.

**INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS**

Kenny leads Carter and Lee in, closes the door.

**KENNY**

Hear you got your ass kicked in Hong Kong, James.

**CARTER**

What?? Where'd you hear that?

**KENNY**

I got my sources.

**CARTER**

And I got mine, meaning you. Nice how that works out.

(beat)

I'm serious this time, I'm closing this place down.

**KENNY**

James, you see my kids back there? You know how much I'm paying for private school? How can you come in here with this attitude, you being little Chang's godfather?

**CARTER**

Little Chang is gonna have to go visit his daddy in jail if you don't cooperate.

**KENNY**

Jail!? James, you better back off. Badge or no badge, I'll kick your ass.

**CARTER**

I'd like to see you try.

Kenny takes a step back and throws a lightning fast martial arts move. Lee gets in front of Carter to protect him -- countering Kenny's move.

**KENNY**

(to Lee)

We're on, then.

Kenny throws out another precision martial arts sequence -- Lee BLOCKS -- Kenny ends in an advanced fighting stance.

**LEE**

(impressed)  
That's a good Twisting Tiger -- where  
did you learn that?

They switch to Chinese.

**KENNY**

Master Ching taught me.

**LEE**

The Praying Mantis school, in Beijing?

**KENNY**

No. Freddy Ching's, in Crenshaw.

Lee smiles, Carter looks back and forth from Lee to Kenny.

**KENNY (CONT'D)**

What are you doing hanging out with Baby  
Duck?

**LEE**

Baby Duck?

**KENNY**

That's what we all used to call him when  
he was a kid -- cause he was always  
quacking. Never shut up.

**CARTER**

I heard that.

Lee and Kenny laugh.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Look, I need some info and I don't have  
time to play around.

**KENNY**

Is this about the funny money?

**CARTER**

How'd you know?

**KENNY**

You've been asking loud questions in all  
the wrong places all morning. How come  
you always save me for last, James?  
When are you gonna learn. Shit don't  
happen I don't know about.

**CARTER**

So tell me what you know.

**KENNY**

I know Teddy Wu is cranking out a pretty good double sawbuck -- but you knew that too, didn't you?

**CARTER**

Yeah. We already been there. This is big, Kenny. Benjamins. Secret Service calls 'em superbills. Banks can't even tell the difference.

Kenny considers this for a moment.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

What?

**KENNY**

One of my regulars lost fifty thousand dollars at the table here last week. I was about to send my boys down to tune his ass up, when the guy comes in and pays off the whole thing. Including the vig -- brand new sequential hundred dollar bills. I knew something was wrong. Cause this guy's got a regular job, no way he comes up with fifty grand in cash. But I tested the bills, infrared. The whole thing. And they checked out. **100%.**

**LEE**

Do you still have the bills?

**KENNY**

I still have my lunch money from third grade.

**CARTER**

Lemme see 'em.

Kenny pushes a Chinese painting aside to reveal a WALL SAFE. He opens the safe and hands Carter a \$100 bill. Carter checks it out.

**KENNY**

See. It's perfect.

Carter takes out a LIGHTER and holds the flame to it.

**KENNY (CONT'D)**

Whoa, what are you doing?

Kenny's question is answered as the BILL BURNS BRIGHT RED.

**KENNY (CONT'D)**

(pissed off)

I knew it. The guy's name is Zing. He works at the kitchen at Reign Plaza.

**CARTER**

All right, Kenny. Thanks. You're off the hook. For now.

Carter and Lee move for the door.

**KENNY**

You sure you guys don't want to stay and have a bite? My wife's got the best mu shu this side of Compton.

Carter and Lee exchange a look as we CUT TO:

**EXT. REIGN PLAZA - DAY**

Establishing. Carter and Lee park their car and walk inside.

**EXT. REIGN SHIPPING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Carter and Lee enter.

**CARTER**

(to a worker)

We're looking for a guy named Zing. Is he here?

Zing hears Carter, turns and sees them. Then RUNS. Carter and Lee exchange looks and run after him.

**INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

Zing sprints down an employee hallway, through a doorway and down some stairs. Carter and Lee in pursuit.

**EXT. LOADING DOCK PLATFORM - REIGN PLAZA - CONTINUOUS**

Carter and Lee burst out the door at the bottom of the stairway -- coming almost face to face with --

**HU LI**

Who has her gun out. Waiting for them. ISABELLA is standing

near by, and ZING is visible off to the side. An 18-WHEELER in the loading bay is just being shut and locked. A LIMO is parked beside it.

Lee and Carter both assume fighting positions. When most of the other WORKERS pull guns; other TRIAD SOLDIERS step out, putting their guns close on Lee and Carter. They can't blink without getting mowed down.

**HU LI**

(in Chinese)

The great Chief Inspector Lee -- I will be remembered for ridding the Triads of your petulance.

Hu Li savors the moment.

**CARTER**

I hope you just said I have no business being here, 'cos I was just leaving.

Carter starts to leave, and Hu Li trains her gun on him, freezing him in his tracks. Isabella slowly walks several feet, ending up behind Lee as she speaks.

**ISABELLA**

Hu Li, I think there's someone who will want to talk to them first.

Hu Li looks at Isabella, nods an acknowledgement. BANG! Lee falls. Isabella's knocked him out from behind with the butt of her gun.

BANG! Carter drops to one knee as Hu Li POUNDS him across the jaw with her fist.

**CARTER**

...oh, that's a filling right there.  
That's gonna cost you.

Hu Li lunges forward and KICKS Carter, sending him backwards.

**HU LI**

Put them in the truck.

The WORKERS pick up Lee, bring him to the back of the truck.

**CARTER**

I should kill you right now, but I'm gonna let you live, 'cause you're fine, and maybe you can be reformed.

The WORKERS start towards Carter. He holds up his hands.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

No more hitting. I'll get in the truck myself.

As Carter walks towards the truck by Hu Li, they exchange a look of sheer hatred. As soon as he passes by her, Hu Li COLDCOCKS Carter with her gun.

**EXT. LOADING DOCK PLATFORM - DAY**

The eighteen wheeler, the limo and the black Lincoln Town car pull out of the loading dock, headed for the highway.

**EXT. EIGHTEEN WHEELER - DAY**

The truck pulls onto a HIGHWAY, the LIMO close behind it.

**INT. EIGHTEEN WHEELER - TRUCK BED - DAY**

LEE and CARTER are in the back with crates filled with MONEY.

They're both in pain, trying to recover from the head blows. Carter is flexing his battered body.

**LEE**

Are you okay?

**CARTER**

What's the first thing I told you -- never trust nobody. How could you fall for that shit? I knew she was dirty.

**LEE**

She saved our lives.

**CARTER**

For how long? Face it, Lee, she's playing both sides.

Lee looks disappointed.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Look, man I'm sorry. I know you got a thing for her.

**LEE**

Shhh, my head hurts.

**CARTER**

I'm about to be killed and you "Shhh"

me! This wasn't my case, Lee. Ricky Tan didn't kill my father, the Fu-Cang Long are not in South Central. I didn't have to help you.

**LEE**

Why did you help me?

**CARTER**

It doesn't matter.

Lee thinks about this for a BEAT.

**LEE**

I'm not used to having a partner.

**CARTER**

We are not partners. Between your daddy, my daddy, and the beating I just took, as far as I can tell all partners get you is dead.

**LEE**

Well we're not friends.

**CARTER**

You got that right. And we ain't brothers. Maybe we should just end this right here.

**LEE**

Fine with me.

**CARTER**

I won't talk to you, you don't talk to me. We'll die in peace.

**LEE**

See you in the next world.

**A BEAT OF SILENCE**

**CARTER**

I don't believe in reincarnation. So I won't see you in the next world.

**LEE**

Fine.

**CARTER**

I believe in heaven. You people believe in heaven?

**LEE**

Yes. We have heaven.

**CARTER**

Is it the same heaven, or is it a Chinese heaven?

**LEE**

What's a Chinese heaven?

**CARTER**

I thought it might be like those five foot and under basketball leagues. They don't let everybody in.

**LEE**

I think we should stop talking.

**CARTER**

Fine by me.

**ANOTHER BEAT OF SILENCE**

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

You thinking about that girl that dumped you?

**LEE**

No.

**CARTER**

If she was the right girl, you'd be thinking about her.

**LEE**

Mind your own business.

**CARTER**

How was the sex?

**LEE**

There was no sex. She was very traditional. We were waiting until we were married.

**CARTER**

You're kidding. No sex? Nothing? No mu-shu?

**LEE**

No mu-shu.

**CARTER**

What about a little king pao chicken?

**LEE**

No kung pao chicken. Never.

**CARTER**

Steamed dumplings?

**LEE**

Once in a while, steamed dumplings. But only when she was drunk.

**CARTER**

That's rough, man. If I don't get steamed dumplings once a week, I go crazy.

**LEE**

Tell me the truth, Carter. Do you think I have a good voice?

**CARTER**

Are you serious?

**LEE**

Forget it. It doesn't matter.

Lee turns away from Carter.

**CARTER**

As long as you're asking...I think you have a pretty good voice.

**LEE**

I knew it. What does she know. You want me to sing something?

**CARTER**

That depends. How do the Fu-Cang-Long usually kill their victims?

**LEE**

They'll probably torture us first, shock our privates, then put two bullets in our eyes and one in the back of the head.

**CARTER**

Go ahead. Sing your ass off.

Lee clears his voice.

**LEE**

Did you happen to see the most beautiful girl in the world...and if you did, was she crying, crying...hey!

**EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - DAY**

The 18-WHEELER drives by followed by the LIMO.

**INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY**

Hu Li and Isabella sit in the back of one of the limos that is driving behind the truck. Hu Li is on the car phone.

**HU LI**

Don't worry, the plates are safe. Yes, the dragon's been fed.

She HANGS UP and glances at Isabella, who is doing her best to appear completely uninterested.

**EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY**

The LIMO splits off from the 18-WHEELER.

**INT. 18-WHEELER - TRUCK BED - CONTINUOUS**

Carter works at opening one of the crates. Lee steps up, takes a deep breath, searches the crate looking for the sweet spot, and PUNCHES a hole in one of the thick boards. They start prying the crate open.

**CARTER**

Very nice.

**LEE**

It's focus. Every opponent has a weak spot. You ignore everything around you, and put all your energy into one perfect strike.

**CARTER**

I'll remember that next time I'm fighting a box.

Carter opens the crate -- it's filled with SUPERBILLS, about \$1,000,000 worth. He tosses a stack to Lee.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Hello, Benjamin.

**LEE**

Who's Benjamin?

**CARTER**

Benjamin Franklin, he discovered  
electricity.

**LEE**

A Chinese man discovered electricity.

**CARTER**

No Chinese man discovered electricity.

**LEE**

Yes he did. He also invented the  
bicycle.

**CARTER**

Now that I believe.

Carter pockets two stacks of superbills. Lee looks at him.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

You never know. Besides, I always  
wanted to die rich.

The truck lurches.

**LEE**

We're slowing down. This must be it.

**CARTER**

End of the line.

**LEE**

You've been a good friend, James Carter.

**CARTER**

Oh no you don't. Don't you be getting  
corny on me, Lee. I'll kick your ass  
from here to Compton.

**LEE**

You could never kick my ass. You mama's  
boy.

**CARTER**

Don't you talk about my mama.  
(winks at Lee)  
That's more like it.

**EXT. 18-WHEELER - CONTINUOUS**

The truck is parked in the underground loading docks. It's approached by FOUR TRIAD SOLDIERS. Soldier #1 opens the TRUCK'S DOUBLE DOORS to find.

Lee and Carter are gone. Except for boxes of money, the truck bed is EMPTY.

Two soldiers enter the truck bed.

**ANGLE UP TO REVEAL**

Lee and Carter WEDGED up against the CEILING of the truck bed. Above the doors and over the soldiers.

Lee and Carter SWING DOWN in unison -- knocking both soldiers to the ground. In the next instant:

**ON LEE**

still holding on to the door frame -- swings and backflips onto the roof of the truck.

**ON CARTER**

who swings onto the ground -- grabbing one of the guards to use a shield as gunfire erupts.

Lee jumps off the truck, knocking the last guard to the ground. He then grabs the guard Carter is using as a shield and together THEY SWING him into the truck -- KNOCKING DOWN the first two guards.

Carter and Lee slam the back doors SHUT -- bolting them CLOSED and run like hell - scrambling into what looks like the closest way out:

A LARGE OPEN PIPE on the side of the tunnel.

**INT. SEWER TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS**

Lee and Carter run through - it extends out from the underground loading docks.

**LEE**

This way. I see some lights.

Lee and Carter spot a tiny sliver of light coming through a MANHOLE COVER. They start climbing up the metal stairs that lead up to the street.

**EXT. LAS VEGAS BLVD. - DUSK**

The blvd.'s packed with PEOPLE and CARS.

**CLOSE ON**

Lee and Carter coming up from the manhole -- standing together in stunned disbelief as they look out at the LAS VEGAS STRIP. They cover their eyes, blinded by the greatest light show in the world.

**LEE**

Vegas...

**CARTER**

Lee. I just got an idea how someone could launder a hundred million dollars in cash.

They both turn around and come FACE TO FACE WITH:

A TEN-STORY DRAGON. Fire shoots from its nostrils every 60 SECONDS.

**EXT. RED DRAGON HOTEL AND CASINO - NIGHT**

FIRE BALLS BLOW out over the strip as Lee and Carter look up at the RED DRAGON. The HUGE NEON SIGN READS: GRAND OPENING - EVERYBODY'S A WINNER!

Lee and Carter come out of the sewer.

**LEE**

Red Dragon.

**CARTER**

That was the name of Ricky Tan's boat.

Lee and Carter watch as limos pull up to the front of the hotel -- it's like a HOLLYWOOD PREMIERE. The richest of the rich are making their way inside.

**LEE**

Let's go.

**CARTER**

Wait a second. We can't go in like this. Look at this place, we gotta look fly. We gotta Mac out.

**LEE**

What is Mac out?

**CARTER**

Follow me my Asian brother.

Carter and Lee start to walk away.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Just stay down wind, because I think you stepped in some serious rat shit down there.

**EXT. VERSACE BOUTIQUE - NIGHT**

Lee and Carter are walking into the upscale clothing store.

**INT. VERSACE BOUTIQUE - CONTINUOUS**

As they enter, a SALESMAN approaches them.

**SALESMAN**

May I help you gentlemen?

Carter flashes his biggest smile as he pulls out a stack of superbills.

**CARTER**

Black. 42-long. Nothing touches this body but pure silk. And get my partner something from the children's department.

Carter puts his hand on Lee's shoulder.

**SALESMAN**

Would your partner like silk as well? I personally like it when a couple matches.

Carter takes his hand off Lee's shoulder.

**CARTER**

Couple? No, you got it wrong, there's no couple here. Just two single police officers working a very dangerous case.

**LEE**

Yes. We have lots of big men chasing us.

**SALESMAN**

I'm sure all the boys are chasing you two. Don't worry, I'll make you guys

the bell of the ball.

He WINKS as he walks off, and Carter looks at Lee.

**CARTER**

This is the last time I go shopping with you.

**EXT. RED DRAGON - NIGHT**

Lee and Carter enter frame, dressed to kill - perfectly tailored couture Versace suits, gold watches, the whole bit. Le is awkward in "player" guise.

**CARTER**

(whispering)

Remember, Lee, you're a player now. You own the place.

Carter pulls out his ALTOIDS, and he and Lee each take one as they walk through the doors.

**LEE**

I own the place.

**INT. RED DRAGON - CONTINUOUS**

Carter STRUTS through the lobby, Lee doing his best to imitate Carter's pimp and roll. THEY WALK PAST THE GIANT BUDDHA --

**CARTER**

That looks exactly like my Uncle Darrell.

**LEE**

Buddha is the symbol of luck and good fortune.

**CARTER**

Buddha is the symbol for fat and lazy. The man has the biggest tits in Asia.

They are moving through the MAIN ENTRY HALL lined with TERRA COTTA CHINESE SOLDIERS - posed and dressed for battle.

RICKSHAWS and BICYCLES take people through the hotel. The MAIN CASINO is roped off and empty. People crowded around the perimeter - a sign reads:

**SIGN**

\$50,000 buy in -- EVERYBODY'S A WINNER!

The LIGHTS DIM - a spotlight comes on and finds STEVEN REIGN on the balcony overlooking the ENTRANCE.

**STEVEN REIGN**

A thousand years ago, a small, wealthy village in China hired a young Dragon to guard their treasure in a cave, hoping to scare off potential bandits. Their plan worked quite well, until the people of the village started sneaking the Dragon extra food -- hoping to make him bigger and stronger. The Dragon ate so much and grew so big -- that he eventually got stuck inside the cave -- and the treasure was stuck behind him for all eternity.

(beat)

Ladies and gentlemen, I have found that lost treasure. It is here, inside the greatest casino in the world! Welcome to the Red Dragon, where everybody is a winner!

Reign smiles, flips a switch -- the CASINO COMES TO LIFE. Fireworks, bright lights, endless rows of tables, dealers waiting.

A BAND PLAYS on a stage in the casino lounge.

Chinese ACROBATS perform suspended from the ceiling and on the balconies above.

Applause all around as the FLAME shoots out of the dragon's nostrils and the acrobats perform. Carter and Lee walk down the red carpet.

**CARTER**

(to waitress)

Bring us some twelve-year old scotch...

(to a cigarette girl)

Get us a box of your finest cigars.

(to a change girl)

Give me ten dollars in nickels.

**INT. CASINO - NIGHT**

**CLOSE ON**

Dice ROLLING on a craps table.

**CRAPS DEALER**

Winner! Seven!

We see BLACKJACK DEALERS BUSTING - paying out CUSTOMERS.

Hundred dollar slot machines paying out jackpots.

GAMBLERS winning all over the casino. Then going to the main cage and exchanging their chips for SUPERBILLS.

**CARTER**

Look at this place, Lee. The biggest front in the world.

As people pour into the casino, Steven Reign is making his way through the crowd, shaking hands and posing for pictures.

**LEE**

Carter...here comes the rich white man.

**CARTER**

Wait here. I'll handle this.

As Carter walks off, a WOMAN grabs Lee and pulls him onto the dance floor.

**INT. LOUNGE - CONTINUOUS**

The woman spins to face Lee, her face half-hidden under the dance floor lights.

**ISABELLA**

Put your arms around me.

**LEE**

Excuse me?

Isabella grabs him around the waist, pulls him close.

**ISABELLA**

Hold me close. There's cameras everywhere.

An ASIAN BAND sings STRANGERS IN THE NIGHT as Lee tries his best to slow dance. An intimate moment between Isabella and Lee, her face nestled in the crook of his neck, hiding her face.

**LEE**

What's going on?

**ISABELLA**

I need your help.

**LEE**

Last time you needed my help I ended up  
in the back of a truck.

**ISABELLA**

I'm undercover. I had no choice. You  
have to trust me.

Lee starts to get into the music, moving his hips in a slow,  
sensual rhythm.

**ISABELLA (CONT'D)**

You move well.

**LEE**

Just trying to make it look real.

**ISABELLA**

Look over there. That's the eye in the  
sky room.

Lee looks over her shoulder.

**ISABELLA (CONT'D)**

Behind me is the soft count room. We're  
pretty sure the plates are back there.

**LEE**

Why don't you go get them?

**ISABELLA**

If I'm wrong then my cover is blown.

**INT. CASINO - NIGHT**

As Steven Reign makes his way through the casino, Carter  
steps right in front of him, giving him a big hug.

**CARTER**

Stevie, how's it going my man? Somebody  
get a picture, we can use it for a mug  
shot.

**STEVEN REIGN**

Detective Carter, you always seem to  
show up where you don't belong.

**CARTER**

Lemme ask you something, Steven. And I  
want the truth. Is there any way I can

date your daughter? Just dinner and a movie, maybe go listen to some jazz...

**STEVEN REIGN**

Vegas has been my town for 30 years. I crawled out from under the first rock. Do you really think you can intimidate me here?

**CARTER**

You're right, you're a smart guy. Most counterfeiters only get ten cents on the dollar. But this is an even swap. Pure genius.

**STEVEN REIGN**

You play games with me, Detective, and you'll lose every time. Don't forget. The odds are always in favor of the house.

Reign walks off with his men. Carter watches him leave.

**INT. DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT**

Lee is dancing close with Isabella.

**ISABELLA**

The Secret Service almost busted Reign at his casino in Macao, but the place burned down before we could move in.

**LEE**

How do I know I can trust you?

**ISABELLA**

Dip me!

Lee dips her, holds her in his arms for a long BEAT.

**ISABELLA (CONT'D)**

I'm asking for real now -- will you help the Secret Service?

**LEE**

No.

(beat)

But I'll help you.

Lee holds her for a long BEAT, their lips almost touching. He finally lets her go, and she disappears into the crowd. Carter walks up, sees Lee standing alone on the dance floor.

**CARTER**

Lee, what the hell are you doing?

**LEE**

Dancing?

**CARTER**

Dancing? I'm out here trying to strong arm Steven Reign, putting my life on the line, and you're up here dancing with some bimbo. Did she have a friend?

**LEE**

It was Isabella. She says the plates are in the soft count room.

Lee motions to the room, where WE SEE a SECURITY GUARD standing in front of a small door.

**CARTER**

Isabella? Are you crazy, man? She almost got us killed. She's setting you up again!

**LEE**

No. I'm going to find out.

**CARTER**

Wait a second. There's guards all over the place. You'll need a distraction.

Carter looks around the casino.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

I'll go to the craps table, make a big scene. When security comes over, you make your move.

**LEE**

Try to keep them busy for five minutes.

**CARTER**

I'll give it my best shot.

**INT. CASINO - CONTINUOUS**

Carter walks up to a CRAPS TABLE, everyone turning to stare.

**CRAPS DEALER**

Sir, you're aware that we require a fifty-thousand dollar buy in to gamble

here this weekend?

Carter throws a HUNDRED THOUSAND in \$100 BILLS onto the table.

**CARTER**

I saw the sign, I can read. Now gimme a hundred-thousand in chips. And a Diet Coke and some wash-n-dries. Let's move, people, I came to play.

The DEALER pushes 100K worth of CHIPS in front of Carter.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

What the hell is that?

**CRAPS DEALER**

Those are five hundred dollar chips.

**CARTER**

Did you give me five-hundred dollar chips because I'm black?

**CRAPS DEALER**

No, I just assumed...

**CARTER**

You assumed a brother coming in here can only afford five-hundred dollars a roll, is that right? Are you a racist?

**CRAPS DEALER**

No, sir.

**CARTER**

(starting to scream)

Everyone else at the table has thousand dollar chips, but the black man gets the nickel, is that it? Did my people survive two-hundred years of slavery so you could send us back to the cotton fields with five-hundred dollar chips? Do I look like Chicken George to you?

The PIT BOSS gets on his walkie-talkie.

**PIT BOSS**

Floor security, we have a problem at table nine.

**EXT. SOFT COUNT ROOM - NIGHT**

The SECURITY GUARD lowers his walkie-talkie, starts moving towards Carter's table.

**INT. CRAPS TABLE - NIGHT**

TWO SECURITY GUARDS approach Carter's table.

**CARTER**

Answer me one question. How come Ben Vereen isn't performing here at the hotel? Is Ben Vereen not good enough for you people?

**PIT BOSS**

Lionel Ritchie is performing here tonight.

**CARTER**

Lionel Ritchie hasn't been black since the Commodores.

**PIT BOSS**

Sir, you're going to have to calm down.

Carter watches as Lee moves past the guard and makes his way into the soft count room.

**CARTER**

I have a dream, where black people and white people can gamble together without getting different chips!

A BIG CROWD has gathered as the Security Guards try and push their way through. The pit boss picks up the phone, calls upstairs.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Sing with me! "We shall overcome!"

Carter starts clapping, and the confused crowd joins in as the Security Guards move in.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Thank you. Now in the spirit of brotherhood, let's play craps!

**INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT**

Lee walks into the hallway, moving like a cat as he hugs the walls and tries to make his way to the soft count room.

He hears noise, TWO SECURITY GUARDS coming behind him through

the casino door. He has no choice but to crawl over the back of a money cart and hug the top. He lies as still as he can, trying not to be seen -- until he realizes he's staring directly into the EYE IN THE SKY cameras that are in the ceiling.

**WE SEE LEE'S FACE**

as he passes directly under the camera, clearly mouthing the words "oh shit" as he rolls by.

Lee looks to his left, sees the SOFT COUNT ROOM -- a mountain of COUNTERFEIT SUPERBILLS that are waiting to be paid out. On the opposite side, the REAL MONEY is being WHEELED OUT toward a waiting TRUCK that is parked at the back door.

Lee sees two more cameras in the ceiling, knows his cover is blown. He jumps down off the cart, is standing in front of the locked vault. There's no way to get the plates. Isabella has set him up again.

He turns and smiles at the confused SECURITY GUARDS.

**LEE**

Hi. How's it going? You guys have change for a twenty?

The GUARDS make their move. And Lee starts to fight them down the hall, using the cart as a shield as he RAMS into TWO MORE GUARDS, fights them off as he turns the corner toward the casino door -- but he gets slammed to the ground by a right cross.

Hu Li threw the punch, a roll of quarters in her hand as she stands over him with FIVE TRIAD SOLDIERS. She holds a knife to Lee's throat.

**HU LI**

(in Chinese)

Open your mouth.

She puts the small grenade in Lee's mouth, tapes it shut. She holds the detonator in her hand.

**HU LI (CONT'D)**

(continuing in Chinese)

That's a ying-tao grenade, Inspector.  
Please follow me or I'll blow 32 teeth  
into your brain.

**INT. CASINO - CONTINUOUS**

A crowd has gathered behind Carter who is at the table rolling dice, a huge stack of chips in front of him.

**CRAPS DEALER**

Winner six!

**CARTER**

How much is that?

**CRAPS DEALER**

Two-hundred thousand!

**CARTER**

Two-hundred thousand dollars? Who wants a hundred dollars?

Carter turns to the MAN next to him, who wears a traditional AFRICAN ROBE and is standing with a giant blonde escort.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Here, your highness, have a hundred dollars. The Viagra is on me tonight!

**GAMBLER**

(South African accent)

I am not royalty, sir.

**CARTER**

Don't say that, we're all royalty. My great grandmammy was Queen Nephertit -- we probably cousins, man. How much you got on the table?

**GAMBLER**

One million.

**CARTER**

Yeah, we definitely cousins now. Who wants to blow on my hand for luck?

Carter turns to a BIG TEXAN who is standing with a GORGEOUS YOUNG GIRL who is falling out of her dress.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Hey, Marlboro man, you mind if your lady blows on my hand for luck?

**TEXAN**

(embarrassed)

She's not my lady. She's my niece.

**CARTER**

Can I come over for Thanksgiving? Come on, baby, give me some luck.

The GIRL blows on the dice, and Carter stares down at her.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Nice blowing. When's your next birthday, I'll be the cake.

**TEXAN**

Hey, buddy, watch yourself.

**CARTER**

Don't threaten me. I got friends in this town that will bite off your ears. Just sit tight, because I've got the dice and I am on fire!

Carter throws the dice.

**CRAPS DEALER**

Winner, seven!

The table erupts as Carter grabs the dice.

**CARTER**

Let it ride!

**INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT**

The elevator doors OPEN and Lee is led toward the eye in the sky room by Hu Li and the three Triads. As they walk into the room, the Triads remain outside guarding the room.

**INT. EYE IN THE SKY ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

FORTY VIDEO MONITORS show every inch of the hotel. A MAN stands in front of the two-way mirror looking down at the casino, the reflection off the glass obscuring his features.

Lee has the tape around his mouth and his hands tied behind his back as he's led into the room by Hu Li.

**RICKY TAN**

Imagine a business where people hand you money. And you hand them back absolutely nothing.

Ricky Tan - alive and well, turns around and stares at Lee. Isabella is standing next to him. Lee is shocked at the sight of Ricky Tan alive.

**RICKY TAN (CONT'D)**

Now that's a true American dream.  
Thanks to a few pieces of metal and a  
very greed driven US Customs agent.

Ricky Tan walks toward Lee, starts to smile.

**RICKY TAN (CONT'D)**

Look at you, you're ridiculous. You  
know it didn't have to be like this.  
But it's too bad! Like father, like  
son.

Lee stares at Isabella for a BEAT. Hu Li motions to one of  
the monitors.

**HU LI**

(in Chinese)

He's going for the plates.

Ricky Tan looks at one of the MONITORS, sees Steven Reign  
walking down a hallway, about to walk into the PENTHOUSE  
**SUITE.**

**RICKY TAN**

Look at this old fool, what does he  
think he's doing?

Ricky Tan shifts his attention back to Lee.

**RICKY TAN (CONT'D)**

It's almost impossible to find a partner  
that's trustworthy and loyal. Wouldn't  
you agree, Lee?

**ON ANOTHER SCREEN**

We see Carter at the craps table having the time of his life.  
Ricky Tan turns to walk out of the room, motioning to  
Isabella as he goes.

**RICKY TAN (CONT'D)**

Well, at least you will die with honor.  
But choy Gien.

SUBTITLES: "Won't see you again."

**INT. CASINO - CONTINUOUS**

Carter has two racks of chips in front of him, a huge crowd  
surrounding him.

**CRAPS DEALER**

Winner! Four, winner!

**CARTER**

I'm up a hundred and fifty-grand.  
That's a Ferrari. Do they sell those  
here in the gift shop? Somebody cash me  
out!

Several TRIAD SOLDIERS dressed like SECURITY GUARDS approach  
Carter's table.

**PIT BOSS**

Sir, we'd like to escort you to the  
cashier.

**CARTER**

That would be great. Don't want any of  
these rich white people to jump me.

As they walk toward the door marked "VIP ROOM", Carter  
glances at the MEN, knows he's in deep shit.

**INT. EYE IN THE SKY ROOM - NIGHT**

Ricky Tan turns to Hu Li.

**RICKY TAN**

Chai Hu Li.  
("Little Fox")  
Have fun.

Ricky Tan walks out. Hu Li holds the detonator up to Lee,  
plays with the button.

**HU LI**

(in Chinese)  
In a few minutes...you'll beg me to push  
this button.

Hu Li pulls her KNIFE, moves towards Lee. She holds the  
blade to his face. About to cut him. When Isabella pulls  
her gun.

Isabella walks toward Lee, whose hands are still tied behind  
his back. Hu Li clutches the detonator in one hand, her  
knife in the other. She takes a step toward Isabella.

**ISABELLA**

It's time to end this, Inspector.

Isabella cocks the gun, spins back and kicks the detonator

from Hu Li's hand -- slamming her against the wall and sticking the gun under her chin.

**ISABELLA (CONT'D)**

Don't move! United States Secret Service.

Hu Li WHIPS her KNIFE around, catches Isabella across the hand -- the GUN SLIDING across the room near the detonator -- the TWO WOMEN fight around it.

Lee watches them almost step on it - dives to the floor and rolls toward the detonator. He's about to grab it when:

**THE TRIADS OPEN THE DOOR**

They're about to move in.

**HU LI**

Get the detonator!

The Triads go for the detonator -- as Lee gets to his feet, KICKS Hu Li's legs out from under her.

One of the Triads about to pick up the detonator - but Lee gets to him first. He fights with one hand tied behind his back.

Hu Li and Isabella fight it out in the EYE IN THE SKY ROOM.

Lee gets kicked towards the Eye In The Sky WINDOW.

**INT. CASINO - CASHIER**

Two security guards lead Carter away from the table when:

**CRASH!**

An AIRBORNE Lee rockets through the EYE IN THE SKY WINDOW. In a rain of glass, he lands HARD on the casino floor.

The NOISE grabs everyone's attention, including:

**CARTER**

Lee!!

The guards restrain him.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Lemme ask you something. Any of you ever felt \$500,000 before?

He SLAMS THE RACK OF CHIPS ACROSS THEIR FACES -- chips flying as the GUARDS hit the floor.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Doesn't feel so good, does it?

**INT. EYE IN THE SKY ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Hu Li picks up the detonator. WHACK! A heeled foot kicks it from her grasp. Isabella has recovered! The detonator FLIES OUT THE BROKEN WINDOW.

**INT. CASINO - CONTINUOUS**

On his back, Lee watches the detonator SAIL OVER HIS HEAD AND DISAPPEAR into the crowd. It lands on a DRINK CART. Before Lee can get there, a WAITRESS changes trays and carries the detonator on her rounds.

Panicked, Lee searches for the detonator. He JUMPS atop a BLACKJACK TABLE to get a better vantage. He can't see it, but he does see:

**ACROSS THE CASINO**

Carter on top of a CRAPS TABLE, keeping security guards at bay with a croupier stick.

**CARTER**

Black man gets on a hot streak and  
you're all trippin'?

Carter and Lee see each other. They have the same simultaneous thought:

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

(help!)

Lee!

**LEE**

(help!)

**MMMMMM!!!!**

Carter is Lee's only hope to get the bomb out of his mouth. But from here to there, a MASS OF PEOPLE. The quickest way is the HIGH WAY.

Lee leaps from TABLE to TABLE. Scattering playing cards. Reaching the carpeted divide...Lee doesn't stop. He launches off the bent-over back of a high roller -- landing on a RICKSHAW, SURFING IT to the tables on the other side.

Carter looks around for Lee, catches a glimpse of the Eye in the Sky Room. He grins.

**CARTER**

Check it out. Catfight!

POW! He socks a GUARD in the face.

**INT. EYE IN THE SKY ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Isabella and Hu Li are locked in battle. Rolling to the floor, they both see the gun. They scramble over each other to get to it first.

**INT. CASINO - CONTINUOUS**

A security guard CLIMBS on the table to level Carter when Lee arrives. He kicks the guard off and turns to Carter, his plea MUFFLED.

**CARTER**

What the HELL are you doing with tape on your face?

No time to explain -- two more security guards arrive. Kicks and punches fly, but Lee CAN'T GET HIT IN THE MOUTH! He bobs and weaves, holding his hands to Carter to untie them in between swings. Suddenly:

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! GUNSHOTS from the Eye In The Sky Room.

Everyone HITS THE DECK. Carter and Lee dive on to the floor as panic ripples through the Casino. People FLEE for the **EXITS.**

THE WAITRESS DESERTS HER TRAY. It gets knocked over and TIPS on the floor. The DETONATOR LANDS feet away from Carter.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

This can't be good.

Lee's eyes BUG - he sees it too, feet STAMPEDING past it! A high heel misses it by a fraction of an inch. He LUNGES for it, manages to CRADLE it in his taped hands when --

WHAM! He is BUMPED and it FLIES AWAY. The second it hits the floor, it is KICKED, skittering down the red carpet.

ABOVE...the victor emerges in the Eye in the Sky Room. Hu Li STEPS OUT on the PAGODA ROOF and JUMPS DOWN.

The DETONATOR ROLLS right past Hu Li. As she bends to PICK up the detonator, Lee knows he won't get there in time. Horrified, he SCREAMS at CARTER through the tape.

Hu Li lifts the detonator.

Carter finally pulls the TAPE OFF Lee's face.

Lee SPITS the grenade into the air.

**LEE**

(diving on Carter)

Bomb!!!

Hu Li HITS the TRIGGER just as it lands on a roulette table.

**KABOOM!**

The table is BLOWN OFF IT'S FOUNDATION. Chips and cash volcano. Hu Li is blown backwards by the force of the blast. SHEER PANDEMONIUM grips the casino.

**AS THE SMOKE CLEARS**

Carter and Lee peer out from behind a row of slot machines. The place is deserted.

**CARTER**

Why didn't you tell me you had a bomb in your mouth?

**LEE**

I did!

**CARTER**

No you didn't!

**LEE**

Yes I did. I said MMMMMM!

A hand on Carter's arm. THIS IS SERIOUS.

**LEE (CONT'D)**

Ricky Tan is alive.

**CARTER**

What?!?!

**LEE**

We have to get to the Penthouse.

Lee jumps up, SPRINTS toward the elevators at the dragon end

of the casino.

**CARTER**

Hold on!

Carter stuffs his pockets with chips, then races after Lee. But halfway up the carpet. Carter stops. Lee turns to see what is holding him up.

Hu Li SURVIVED the blast and Carter has turned to face her.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

You go after Ricky. I got this.

**LEE**

Carter...

**CARTER**

Just GO!

Lee turns and runs off past the dragon. Unfortunately, FIVE TRIADS block his path. In a flurry of PUNCHES, Lee makes short work of them, and races toward the elevators.

**DEAD CENTER ON THE RED CARPET - HU LI AND CARTER FACE OFF!**

Each readying in their own manner. Hu Li carefully wraps her long hair into a bun on top of her head. Carter stretches, flexes, ready to sting like a bee.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

I'm not gonna hold you back this time just because you're a woman. I'm gonna pretend you're a man.

She pulls off her jacket, prepares to fight him in her undershirt.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

A very beautiful man with a perfect body who I'd like to take to the movies.

She takes a sword from a Terra Cotta statue, SWINGS IT AROUND like a master.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

I may have been absent the day we went over this in karate class.

Quick, Carter reaches for a fighting stick off a Terra Cotta soldier. WHOOSH! She SLICES IT IN HALF. Carter reaches for another. SLICE! She's toying with him.

**INT. ELEVATOR BANK - NIGHT**

Lee's in the elevator as the doors close. SUDDENLY, a HAND cuts through, parting the doors.

It's ISABELLA! A wound on her shoulder.

**LEE**

Are you okay?

**ISABELLA**

I'm fine.

She steps in, too weak and starts to fall. Lee grabs her and holds her in his arms. HE gently helps her down.

**LEE**

I didn't know which side you were on.

**ISABELLA**

Now you know.

DING! The elevator doors open. Isabella holds up a ROOM KEY - the key to the SUITE. Lee takes the key, backs away and steps into the elevator.

**ISABELLA (CONT'D)**

I'll try to get backup. Be careful.

The elevator doors close.

**INT. PENTHOUSE SUITE - CONTINUOUS**

Steven Reign is closing the safe. There are stacks of HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS on his desk, which he's putting in a black bag along with the plates. As he turns around, he comes face-to-face with Ricky Tan.

**RICKY TAN**

American's love to gamble. Don't they, Mr. Reign?

**STEVEN REIGN**

I'm cutting our deal short. I'm leaving.

**RICKY TAN**

And my plates?

**STEVEN REIGN**

They stay with me. I'm sure you won't

have a problem with that.

Reign shows Tan the gun in his belt. Grabs the bag and starts to walk toward the door.

**RICKY TAN**

I enjoyed that little story you told about the Dragon and the treasure. My mother used to tell it to me all the time. Do you know the moral of that story, Mr. Reign?

**STEVEN REIGN**

Greed will imprison us all.

Tan grabs Reign from behind and stabs him with a knife.

**RICKY TAN**

I hate that fortune cookie shit.

Lee BURSTS through the suite door - watches as Reign falls dead to the floor. Ricky takes the black bag off the desk.

**LEE**

Put the plates down.

Ricky Tan looks down at the gun in Reign's belt.

**INT. CASINO - NIGHT**

WHOOSH! Another Terra Cotta fighting stick is in half in Carter's hands.

**CARTER**

Will you STOP?!?!  
(picks up cocktail umbrella)  
What am I supposed to fight you with?

No more toying. Hu Li CHARGES Carter, who GRABS a ROULETTE WHEEL as a MAKESHIFT SHIELD. She SLICES it in HALF! He's got nowhere to hide.

She JABS him with the sword. Carter SCREAMS. Falls back against the table, clutching his chest. Hu Li WINDMILLS, kicking a Terra Cotta soldier on top of Carter, but --

**THWACK!**

The DOUBLE-BLADED BAMBOO POLE in its hand ricochets back and she is PIERCED THROUGH THE SHOULDER with the blade. Staring at Carter in stunned disbelief, she drops to her knees.

Carter walks toward her, considers his options, then KICKS HER IN THE HEAD, knocking her out.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

When are you people gonna learn? Don't mess with the brothas!

WEAK in the KNEES, Carter looks to the SOUND ON HIS CHEST. He reaches through the slice in his jacket. Instead of a hand covered in blood, it comes out with a THICK WAD OF CASH!

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

Thank you, Benjamin!

Carter runs for the elevator.

**INT. PENTHOUSE SUITE - CONTINUOUS**

Lee is walking toward Ricky Tan, the two men circling Reign's body.

**RICKY TAN**

You're just like your father, Lee. All these years hiding behind his badge. I wanted to help him, to share with him, but he was too afraid of change. When you think about it, I didn't really kill him. I just put him out of his misery.

**LEE**

Put the plates down. It's over.

**RICKY TAN**

I don't think it's over. There are casinos all over this country. Let me make you a rich man, Lee. Don't make the same mistake he did.

Ricky glances at the gun in Reign's belt.

**LEE**

If you reach for that gun, I'm going to kill you.

**RICKY TAN**

Don't you remember? I'm already dead.

Ricky makes a play for the gun, but Lee is much too fast, taking the gun and pushing Ricky against the wall just as Carter bursts in the room.

**CARTER**

Hey, Ricky, how's it going man? What's up, Lee?

Lee has the gun pressed to Tan's head. We've never seen him like this before.

**RICKY TAN**

Would you like me to tell you how your father died?

**CARTER**

Lee, you okay?

Lee doesn't respond. He keeps an eye on Ricky.

**RICKY TAN**

He never begged for his life. Or tried to make a deal. All that he asked me, just seconds before I pulled the trigger, was that I promise not to kill you.

Lee's finger is on the trigger -- he wants to pull the trigger but can't.

**CARTER**

Lee, wait a second. It's not worth it, man. He's making you do this.

**LEE**

It's worth it to me.

**RICKY TAN**

Do you have it in you, Lee? Or are you gonna spend the rest of your life hiding like your father?

**CARTER**

C'mon, Lee. He's going to jail. You won, now just put the gun down.

Lee is trying to pull the trigger, but he can't.

**RICKY TAN**

That's what I thought.

Tan takes the black bag and swings it toward Lee -- the plates hit him across the face and knock him down.

**THE GUN IS LOOSE**

Tan reaches for it and is about to pull the trigger when:

Lee and Carter come flying at him TOGETHER. Both KICKING HIM **SQUARE IN THE CHEST.**

Tan falls back, SMASHING THROUGH THE WINDOW. Lee tries to grab Tan's hand, their fingers touch for a split second.

But Tan pulls his hand away and falls 20 STORIES to the street below.

**EXT. STREET - NIGHT**

A TAXI is parked out front. Tan's BODY SLAMS on the roof. **SMASHING THROUGH A SIGN ON TOP THAT READS: "EVERYBODY'S A WINNER!"**

**INT. PENTHOUSE SUITE - NIGHT**

Lee and Carter are looking down at the street, both relieved it's finally over. Carter puts his hand on Lee's shoulder.

**CARTER**

I don't know about you, but I need a wine cooler.

As they turn to the door -- Hu Li is walking toward them, bleeding and half-dead. She has ANOTHER BOMB IN HER HAND. This one twice the size of the one from earlier.

**HU LI**

(in Chinese)

We'll go together, Inspector.

**CARTER**

Please tell me she just asked for a ride to the airport.

Hu Li hits the switch - starts to smile. Lee and Carter turn and RUN for the OPEN WINDOW.

**EXT. BUILDING - NIGHT**

Lee and Carter DIVE OUT THE WINDOW, grab a cable just as the **PENTHOUSE BLOWS!**

The FIREBALL SHOOTS out as they start to slide down the side of the hotel.

**THEY SCREAM AS THE CABLE BREAKS.**

Lee and Carter SWING toward a HUGE "GRAND OPENING" BANNER. They flip under it, do a loop before they SLAM AGAINST THE

**SIGN.**

It's KNOCKED LOOSE and they fall with it toward VEGAS BLVD.

Lee and Carter hang on as they drop to the street. A HUGE TRUCK speeds toward them as they hold on for their lives. The entire STRIP SPEEDING toward them.

**LEE**

I can't believe I flew ten-thousand miles for this shit!!

They lift their feet just as the TRUCK PASSES. The sign dips and they fall straight down into the open sunroof of a LARGE STRETCH LIMO.

**INT. LIMOUSINE - CONTINUOUS**

Lee and Carter land in the back. Slam into their seats and try to catch their breath. The TWO MEN STARTING TO LAUGH when they realize they're alive!

**CARTER**

We made it, man.

**LEE**

No problem.

Lee and Carter look up to see the VERSACE SALESMAN and FOUR OF HIS FRIENDS sitting in the back of the limo staring at them. The BOYS are all drinking champagne and dressed for a night on the town.

**VERSACE SALESMAN**

Well, there is a God after all.

Lee and Carter exchange looks as the limo stops in front of the hotel.

**LIMO DRIVER**

Here we are. The Red Dragon hotel.

In front of the hotel WE SEE FIRE TRUCKS, AMBULANCE, POLICE CARS and Isabella and Sterling arresting TWENTY TRIADS.

**VERSACE SALESMAN**

We're all going gambling and then to see Siegfried and Roy. I hope you two are feeling lucky!

**INT. LAS VEGAS AIRPORT - NIGHT**

Lee is talking with a bandaged Isabella, who is standing with Sterling and several other SECRET SERVICE AGENTS. Lee and Isabella hug goodbye. As she walks off to board her plane, Lee slowly walks back to Carter who is smiling.

**CARTER**

I saw that. She kissed you, didn't she? You played it cool, though. Walking away, never looking back.

**LEE**

She's going home to New York. I need some ice.

Lee and Carter watch as she gets on the plane.

**CARTER**

That your gate down there?

**LEE**

Yes.

**CARTER**

I'm this way. I guess this is goodbye.

**LEE**

I guess so. Thank you, Carter.

**CARTER**

You take care of yourself, Lee.

Carter steps back, BOWS TO LEE. Lee SHAKES CARTER'S HAND like a brother. The two men smile. Turn to walk away.

**LEE**

Carter, wait. There's something I want you to have.

Lee pulls a BADGE from his pocket. Hands it to Carter.

**CARTER**

Your father's badge? No way, man. I can't take this.

**LEE**

It's okay. I can finally let it go.

Carter takes the badge. Smiles.

**CARTER**

In that case, I got something for you. I picked it up at the hotel.

Carter pulls out a WAD OF CASH.

**LEE**

What is this?

**CARTER**

About fifty grand. I won it at the tables.

**LEE**

No, Carter. I can't take this.

**CARTER**

It's okay, I got lots more.

Carter pulls out another wad of cash.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

They owe us, man. That's the least they can do.

**LEE**

This money is evidence.

**CARTER**

Come on, Lee. Stop being a cop for five minutes and live it up. There must be something you want.

Lee looks back toward Isabella.

**LEE**

I always wanted to go to Madison Square Garden. See the Knicks play.

**CARTER**

New York City?

**LEE**

First class.

**CARTER**

The Plaza Hotel?

**LEE**

A little Mu-shu.

**CARTER**

Some Kung-Pao?

They look at each other, smile.

**CARTER (CONT'D)**

I could use a little vacation.

**LEE**

Amen to that, brother.

As Lee and Carter start to walk away together, the MUSIC SWELLS. "WAR" starts to PLAY. They dance their way through a crowd of people, their arms raised as the two friends make their way through the airport.

**END CREDITS**