

Charlie Wilson's War

screenplay

by

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CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR

Without Main Titles, just the Studio logo, we

FADE IN:

TITLE:

The following is a true story.

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE:

Part I:

A Hot Tub in Vegas

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FANTASY SUITE, CAESAR'S PALACE - NIGHT

We'll get to the hot tub in a second. The first thing we need to know is that there's a large television nearby that's on but that no one's paying attention to. At the moment it's showing a commercial for a shampoo called Gee, Your Hair Smells Terrific. Men are passing women on the street and telling them that, "Gee, your hair smells terrific."

We don't care, 'cause the rest of the room is populated with hot women who'll be having sex with strangers tonight. The sound of the shampoo commercial is easily overtaken by The Fine Young Cannibals. Outside the floor-to-ceiling windows we can see the lights of the Strip and a couple of room service WAITERS are wheeling in another table of booze, ice and glasses.

In the large jacuzzi are PAUL BROWN, 40 and wants to be younger; LIZ WICKERSHAM, a recent Playboy cover model; two STRIPPERS who may or may not be wearing any clothes right now and our star, CHARLIE WILSON.

Joints make their way around the room, as do small mirrors with lines.

PAUL BROWN isn't a real player and CHARLIE knows it, but he'll do his best to humor the guy for LIZ's sake.

BROWN

It'd be like Dallas.

LIZ

That's right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BROWN

Yeah.

CHARLIE

Tell me when to watch, I'll make sure I'm home.

BROWN

You don't think I can make it happen?

CHARLIE

I don't know anything about how any of that works.

BROWN

I do.

LIZ

(to CHARLIE)

You said you'd listen to him, that's why we're here.

CHARLIE

Do they routinely give starring roles on network programs to people who've never acted professionally before?

BROWN

She was just on the fucking cover of Playboy.

CHARLIE

I guess that's the same thing.

LIZ

Would you take this seriously, please. Will you hear the whole pitch and take it seriously?

CHARLIE

I do take it seriously, honey, but can I ask y'all somethin'? What the fuck is Dan Rather wearing right now?

LIZ

What?

CHARLIE

Dan Rather.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE's talking about the TV, which no longer has a shampoo commercial on it but instead that night's edition of 60 Minutes. DAN RATHER's delivering a report from Afghanistan and he's dressed in traditional Afghan tribal clothing.

LIZ

You're watching TV?

CHARLIE

And he hasn't shaved.

LIZ

Who gives a damn?

CHARLIE

(calling to a guy near the TV)

Excuse me, could you turn that up?

LIZ

You said you were gonna take this meeting seriously.

CHARLIE

I am.

(to the GUY)

Excuse me.

The GUY looks at CHARLIE...

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Would you mind turning up the volume on the TV?

GUY

I'm completely high.

CHARLIE

Okay, well, still, if you could just grab that remote, there should be a button that says--Nope you turned it off. That was the power button.

BROWN

Charlie, are we gonna do business?

CHARLIE

Dan Rather's wearing a turban, you don't want to know why?

LIZ

It was a thing from India.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CHARLIE
Afghanistan.
(to the GUY)
There you go, you're on it. Now the
volume.

GUY
Got it.

CHARLIE
'Preciate it.

We're watching and listening to snatches of the 60 Minutes
report--

DAN RATHER
(from TV)
Does he have ammunition for this? He has
three--but does he have ammunition? A lot
ammunition?

CHARLIE
He's talking about the Mujahideen.

BROWN
Priests?

CHARLIE
Mujahideen means freedom fighters.
(beat)
Priests?

BROWN
How the hell am I supposed to know?

CHARLIE
These guys are fighting the Red Army with
sticks and stones.

We'll stay on CHARLIE and the TV while we HEAR LIZ and BROWN
in the background.

LIZ
(to BROWN)
Do you think that instead of my money
coming from my father that I should be a
widow? That I was married to a Washington
power broker who gets killed in an
accident and that that's where I have my
money from and not my father? Or would
that make me seem old?

(CONTINUED)

BROWN

That's interesting, let me think on that for a second.

DAN RATHER

(on TV)

Is he worried about these helicopters back here? I hear that bombing sound in the background.

CHARLIE

(to the TV)

Yes, Danny, he's worried.

LIZ

(to BROWN)

You know what I mean? When I say widow?

BROWN

That your husband died.

LIZ

Yeah.

AFGHAN FIGHTER

(from TV)

Without arms and ammunition, you cannot fight. And no country is providing arms to Mujahideen.

BROWN

You think it would make you seem old?

LIZ

Possibly.

BROWN

Because--

LIZ

Because I was already married to someone who, you know, was now dead.

BROWN

But if he's killed--

LIZ

That's right--

BROWN

In a car crash--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

7.

LIZ

I'm an idiot.

TRANSLATOR

(from TV)

America seems to be asleep. It doesn't seem to realize that if Afghanistan goes-- and the Russians go over the Gulf--that in a very short time it's going to be the turn of the United States as well.

CHARLIE

That's a pretty gloomy fucking way to look at it.

And now one of the two STRIPPERS in the hot tub speaks up--

STRIPPER

Excuse me.

CHARLIE

Yes ma'am.

STRIPPER

We were just wondering what you do for a living?

CHARLIE

I'm not a police officer if that's what you're asking.

STRIPPER #2

No, we just don't see a lot of guys up here who both know about the world and like to party.

CHARLIE

Well I'm a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

STRIPPER #2

I'm sorry?

CHARLIE

I'm a congressman.

STRIPPER

Are you kidding?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

CHARLIE

No I'm totally serious. I'm Charlie Wilson, I represent the Texas 2nd Congressional District. This is Liz Wickersham and this is Paul Brown. What are your names?

STRIPPER

Kelly.

STRIPPER #2

Sapphire.

CHARLIE

Nice to meet you.

STRIPPER

Should you really be in here with strippers and blow?

LIZ

Hey, I'm not a stripper.

STRIPPER

I'm a stripper.

CHARLIE

Yeah, that's a pretty good point, I should probably get goin' anyway.

BROWN

Charlie, I need \$29,000 to make it happen and you know I can make it happen and you know you want in on this.

CHARLIE

Take a ride with me to the airport.

As they get up--

DAN RATHER

--a Holy War against the Soviets. A war, they say, that if they get the weapons from us or anyone else in the free world, they will win.

CUT TO:

INT. LIMO - NIGHT

CHARLIE, LIZ and BROWN in the backseat along with the two strippers, KELLY and SAPPHIRE. There's coke but we never see CHARLIE do any. BROWN's on the car phone.

BROWN

(into phone)

Yeah, I'm with Congressman Charles Wilson and Liz Wickersham.

CHARLIE

(quietly to LIZ)

I wish he wouldn't do that.

BROWN

(into phone)

From Texas.

LIZ

Has there ever been a show about Washington? I don't think there has.

KELLY

Me neither.

BROWN

(into phone)

Thank you.

(to CHARLIE and LIZ)

We got the suite another night. Comped.

DRIVER

Should I go back?

CHARLIE

No.

LIZ

You can't stay another night?

SAPPHIRE

Stay another night.

CHARLIE

I've got a vote.

LIZ

An important one?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIZ

What is it?

CHARLIE

A non-binding resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its authority to support the Boy Scouts of America.

KELLY

Are you fucking kidding me?

CHARLIE

In particular the periodic national and world jamborees.

LIZ

Oh bullshit, stay another night.

CHARLIE

It's very important to one of my colleagues that liberal democrats show up for this vote and this colleague is important to me 'cause he's gonna put a half-million dollar Paper Industry International Hall of Fame in Appleton, Wisconsin.

BROWN

You're making this shit up, this is the kind of thing that could be on the show.

CHARLIE

No they make a lot of paper products in the Wisconsin 8th.

KELLY

And they get a Hall of Fame?

CHARLIE

I guess they're pretty nostalgic about it.

SAPPHIRE

What are they gonna have in it?

CHARLIE

I really don't know.

(to LIZ)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

But what I get is authorizing language stricken from a pilot program in Denver that would prohibit discussing birth control in health education classes and once I do that I can get the liberals and the women to sign a non-binding resolution declaring pretty much anything.

KELLY

Awesome.

CHARLIE

Thanks a lot.

DRIVER

We're here, sir.

CHARLIE

(to KELLY and SAPPHIRE)

It was good meeting you. You both Nevada residents?

KELLY

Yeah.

CHARLIE

Don't forget to vote.

SAPPHIRE

Okay.

CHARLIE

(to LIZ and BROWN)

You guys want to step out with me for a second?

CHARLIE, LIZ and PAUL step out of the car onto--

EXT. LAS VEGAS AIRPORT/PASSENGER DROP-OFF - CONTINUOUS

The DRIVER's hopped out to open the door and to get CHARLIE's bag out of the trunk.

BROWN

Yeah, 'cause once and for all I want to get an answer on this thing 'cause I'm ready to move on it and so is Liz. Since the Playboy cover she's a very hot commodity and I know a lot of people who want to be in the Liz Wickersham business and these people--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE
Paul?

BROWN
Yeah.

CHARLIE
I need you not to talk for a moment,
okay?

BROWN
What.

CHARLIE
First off, I'd appreciate it if you
didn't throw my name around so much
'cause from time to time I use it myself
and I need it in good condition. Second,
I love Liz here a lot and I like lookin'
out for her and due respect but I've
never heard of anyone seeking private
investors for a TV series so I'm gonna
ask around a little but finally, I'm from
Lufkin, Texas. I'm the son of an
accountant for a timber company, I take
home about 700 bucks a week and I pay
alimony, so the idea that I have \$29,000
in the bank is pretty hysterical. But
that said, I love your idea. Lizzie, I'll
call you this week--

LIZ
Okay.

CHARLIE
(handing a tip to the DRIVER)
--and this is for you.

DRIVER
Thank you, sir.

CHARLIE
(quietly to the DRIVER)
You think they're gonna sleep together
tonight?

DRIVER
Sir?

CHARLIE
Don't worry about it.
(to the others)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Hey, that Dan Rather report was something, wasn't it?

LIZ

On India?

CHARLIE

(beat)

Afghanistan. It doesn't matter. Y'all have a good night.

CHARLIE heads into the terminal as we

CUT TO:

EXT./EST. CAPITOL BUILDING - DAY

PRESIDING OFFICER (VO)

All time has expired. The vote now occurs on Final Passage of HR 312--

INT. HOUSE CHAMBER - SAME TIME

MEMBERS are milling around and talking casually to one another. They come and go with AIDES. Very informal.

PRESIDING OFFICER

--Expression of the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the Boy Scouts of America. Members will vote by electronic device.

CHARLIE enters with BONNIE, an aide. We'll start to notice soon that most of Charlie's staffers are women and knockouts. He'll join a line of MEMBERS who are stepping up to cast their votes.

BONNIE

You want me to move the lunch to 12:30?

CHARLIE

If you can do it without making anyone mad at me, if you can't then let's move the thing at the other end and then--

BONNIE

Yeah.

CHARLIE

--call those people and tell 'em--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BONNIE

Right.

CHARLIE

What else?

BONNIE

Larry Liddle's sitting in your office.

CHARLIE

Yeah, that was me, I said he could come in.

BONNIE

He wants to talk to you about a creche.

CHARLIE

A nativity scene?

BONNIE

On public property, the city's making 'em--

CHARLIE

Shit, I thought he was just coming in to say hi.

BONNIE

No.

CHARLIE

Hang on.

CHARLIE slides an ATM-type card into a small box--

BONNIE

What.

CHARLIE

Which way am I voting?

BONNIE

Yes.

CHARLIE

You sure?

BONNIE

Yes.

A young aide, DONNELLY, calls over--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DONNELLY
Congressman.

CHARLIE
Yeah.

DONNELLY
You have a moment?

CHARLIE
Yeah.

DONNELLY
Tip asked me to speak to you.

CHARLIE
Go ahead.

CHARLIE, BONNIE and DONNELLY walk into--

INT. SPEAKER'S LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

It's a plush and well appointed room. On a desk to the side are two machines that are coughing out occasional wire reports from AP and UPI. The reports are collected in baskets underneath the machines and CHARLIE heads right over and starts browsing through the headlines.

DONNELLY
He wanted me to talk to you about John Murtha.

CHARLIE
Sure.

DONNELLY
The investigation is moving closer to the Speaker's office and Tip knew that the moment the prosecutor decided to go after Murtha.

CHARLIE
Well he's there on the videotape. If I was the prosecutor--

DONNELLY
Yeah, he's there on the videotape refusing the money. It's right there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

(from a wire report)

Eastern and Pan Am are gonna lower their fares.

DONNELLY

Yeah, 'cause of the Braniff thing. But if I can get back to the videotape--

CHARLIE

Sure.

DONNELLY

Look he met with two men who he believed had a substantial line of credit that could provide up to a thousand jobs for the District. He didn't break any laws.

CHARLIE

(from a wire report)

This is pretty important. Buckingham Palace has announced that Prince William will not be known at Billy, Bill or Willy.

DONNELLY

Charlie--

CHARLIE

Just William.

DONNELLY

Murtha didn't do anything. He said, on the tape--

CHARLIE

No, he didn't stop there.

DONNELLY

I know.

CHARLIE

He said, this is verbatim, he said to two undercover Federal officers who'd just tried to bribe him, he said, "You know, you just made an offer. It might be that I change my mind someday."

DONNELLY

And you want to know something?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

What?

DONNELLY

I think he was just being polite.
Seriously.

CHARLIE

Really.

DONNELLY

I know it sounds crazy.

CHARLIE

No, no.

DONNELLY

Anyway, Murtha didn't break any laws but
Tip wanted me to ask you if--

CHARLIE

He wants me to take a seat on the Ethics
Committee.

DONNELLY

Yeah.

CHARLIE

Sure.

DONNELLY

I can tell him yes?

CHARLIE

I'll do anything Tip O'Neill asks me to
do.

DONNELLY

I appreciate that, Charlie. And the
Speaker's gonna want to return the favor,
so if anything in the future comes up
that you--

CHARLIE

Yeah, I'd like to be on the Board of the
Directors of the Kennedy Center.

DONNELLY

I'm sorry?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE

Congress appoints people to the Board of
Directors of the Kennedy Center.

DONNELLY

And you want that?

CHARLIE

It's a great place to go on a date and I
can't afford the ticket prices.

DONNELLY

Consider it done.

CHARLIE

He shouldn't have been in the same room
with 'em.

DONNELLY

Who?

CHARLIE

Murtha. He should never have been in the
same damn room.

DONNELLY

Yeah.

CHARLIE

(dismissing him)

Thank you.

DONNELLY

Thank you, Congressman.

DONNELLY exits. CHARLIE continues looking through the wire
reports.

BONNIE

You don't think that's a little crazy?

CHARLIE

Murtha?

BONNIE

Joining the Board of the Kennedy Center
so you can get free tickets to the Royal
Ballet of Belgium.

CHARLIE

Hang on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BONNIE

I mean the office can get you--

CHARLIE

Just a second.

A wire story's caught his attention--

BONNIE

(beat)

What is it?

CHARLIE

An A.P. story from Kabul.

BONNIE

Uzbekistan?

CHARLIE

Afghanistan.

(making a map in the air)

Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq,
Iran, Kuwait, Egypt, Saudi Arabia,
Israel.

BONNIE

What does it say?

CHARLIE

They're gettin' creamed.

BONNIE

We knew that.

CHARLIE

Who's the point man on black approps for
the Defense Sub-Committee?

BONNIE

Jim Van Wagenen.

CHARLIE

Have him come to the office right now,
okay?

BONNIE

Yes sir.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S OUTER OFFICE - DAY

The outer office is filled with what's known around the Hill as Charlie's Angels--the tall, beautiful young women who make up his support staff. In their defense, they seem very efficient.

Waiting in a waiting area are LARRY LIDDLE, early 60's, and his daughter, JANE, late 20's. LARRY has the well-scrubbed look of a man who plays golf at a nice club but used to do muscle work. His daughter, JANE--despite the fact that she doesn't flaunt her sexuality in front of her father--is clearly very attractive. She wears a business suit--jacket and skirt--and keeps her mouth shut.

After a moment...

RECEPTIONIST

The Congressman should be here any moment. He's just coming up from a vote.

LIDDLE

I'm sure it's an important one.

RECEPTIONIST

No, not really. Are you sure I can't get you some coffee or anything?

LIDDLE

No thank you.

JANE

I'm fine.

LIDDLE

Now...

RECEPTIONIST

Yes sir.

LIDDLE

I hope you'll forgive me if I sound like a, what do you call it, like a male chauvinist pig--

RECEPTIONIST

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LIDDLE

But it seems to me, looking around, that it's almost all women working here and that they're all very pretty. Is that common?

RECEPTIONIST

Congressman Wilson has an expression. He says you can teach 'em how to type but you can't teach 'em how to grow tits.

LIDDLE

Well that's charming.

RECEPTIONIST

I didn't offend you with my language, did I?

LIDDLE

No ma'am, but I should tell you that I'm the vice-president of Americans for American Values.

RECEPTIONIST

Well if big tits aren't an American value, I don't know what is.

LIDDLE

This is my daughter.

RECEPTIONIST

Well she would know.

LIDDLE

Now you're offending me.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry.

CHARLIE comes in--

CHARLIE

Larry--

LIDDLE

(standing)
Congressman.

CHARLIE

For five-thousand bucks every two years you get to call me Charlie.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

For ten-thousand you can call me Betty Sue and I'll clean out your garage gutters.

LIDDLE

This is my daughter, Jane.

CHARLIE

I remember Jane. You're a 2L at SMU.

LIDDLE

No sir, she graduated. Passed the bar and now she's got a job working for Ed Bethune.

CHARLIE

Good for you. Welcome to the United States Congress. Your father and I are gonna talk for a second in my office.

JANE

Sure.

CHARLIE

Right this way. Can we get you a drink, Larry?

LIDDLE

It's ten o'clock in the morning.

CHARLIE

In Bangkok it's like midnight yesterday or something, so--

LIDDLE

I'm fine.

They're into--

INT. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE

Coffee, juice--

LIDDLE

No, your girls took care of me.

CHARLIE

Good.

LIDDLE

Charlie--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

This situation with the creche. Tell me about it.

LARRY

Every single year since the world was young, a firehouse in the Township of Nacogdoches has displayed a creche at Christmas time. Now the ACLU has filed suit against the Township for displaying a religious symbol on public property. It's Christmas time, it's a creche. I could understand if we were in fucking Scarsdale, but this is east Texas and I want to know who we're offending except two lawyers from the ACLU.

CHARLIE

That's a terribly interesting and complicated question. Let me suggest this though. A block and a half from the firehouse is a church. First Baptist Church of Nacogdoches and they've got a beautiful rolling lawn in front and you can pick that creche up and put it on church property and everybody goes home happy.

LIDDLE

There's a larger point here.

CHARLIE

I was afraid of that.

LIDDLE

The is a Christian country, Charlie, founded on Christian values and beliefs. We welcome other faiths to worship as they wish, but when you can't put a nativity scene in front of a firehouse at Christmas time in Nacogdoches Township, something's gone terribly wrong.

CHARLIE

Well not really, Larry, 'cause you can move the creche to the church and everything's fine.

LIDDLE

That's not the point.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

Help me with the point.

LIDDLE

I broke ground this morning on a Dairy Queen in Crockett, that's my sixth in your district and it makes me the largest franchiser in the South, Charlie, now lemme tell you somethin'. My stores are open from 6am to 10pm and we don't just serve cakes and cones, we serve burgers, shakes and hot dogs.

CHARLIE

This is related to a Nativity scene in Nacogdoches how?

LIDDLE

I'm saying my stores are part of the community. Police offices eat there and so do teenagers. My employees and my customers find that creche inspirational and no one has received one damn complaint, so I ask you again, whose rights are the ACLU fightin' for?

CHARLIE

I don't know, but there's like nine churches within a six block area of that firehouse, you could always move the creche to one of them and--

LIDDLE

That's not the point.

CHARLIE

Okay, what can I do for you?

LIDDLE

You can intervene in the case against the Creche Committee?

CHARLIE

How?

LIDDLE

You appointed the judge. Pilner.

CHARLIE

I don't appoint judges. I made a recommendation to President Reagan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BONNIE enters with a note that she'll show CHARLIE--

LIDDLE

Well I think--

CHARLIE

Excuse me, President Carter.

LIDDLE

I think you and I both know what that means and--

CHARLIE

I can't call a judge and tell him what to do.

The note says "Jim Van Wagenen"--

LIDDLE

Why?

CHARLIE

'Cause it's against a whole shitload a laws. Excuse me one second while I see a guy out here, okay? By the way, I love Jesus Christ and his mother Mary as much as anybody. About 38 different churches you can move the thing to.

CHARLIE and BONNIE step out into--

INT. OUTER OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

--where JIM VAN WAGENEN, a young STAFFER is waiting. CHARLIE, without losing stride, takes a moment to say--

CHARLIE

How's it goin'?

--to JANE, the good looking lawyer daughter of LARRY LIDDLE before he takes VAN WAGENEN off to the side. CHARLIE's got the Afghanistan A.P. story that he ripped off the wire in the Speaker's Lobby.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Hey, did you see this?

JIM

That's Lederer's A.P. story out of Kabul?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIM

We're reading that story every day now.

CHARLIE

Yeah, well, I guess, I don't know, I'm behind or something. You see Dan Rather last night?

JIM

Yeah.

CHARLIE

Tell me something. What's the Defense Subcommittee's budget for covert ops against the Communists in Afghanistan?

JIM

All in?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

JIM

Five million.

CHARLIE

(pause)

Double it.

JIM

I'm sorry, sir?

CHARLIE

Double it.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Steve Miller's "The Joker" is playing on the radio and CHARLIE's making a couple of drinks at his bar. The apartment is like something out of Love American Style or every teenage boy's fantasy of what his bachelor pad's gonna look like. But once in a while the camera may catch a glimpse of a photo of CHARLIE with President Reagan or President Carter or with Tip O'Neill or Barbara Jordan.

As CHARLIE makes the drinks, which he's good at, he talks to someone OS in the bedroom.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

My commander wrote in a report that I was the best officer he'd ever served with at sea, and the worst officer he'd ever served with in port. You can look it up, I graduated from Annapolis with more demerits than any midshipman in the history of the Naval Academy.

JANE comes out of the bedroom wearing nothing but her blouse and smoking a joint.

JANE

How do you achieve something like that, desert?

CHARLIE

Almost.

JANE

I hope you don't mind, I took off most of my clothes.

CHARLIE

Yeah, no that's great. Come out here, I'm gonna show you the best view in the District.

JANE

(the joint)

You want some of this?

CHARLIE

(his drink)

I've got this.

JANE

I like both.

CHARLIE

That's pretty good news for me.

They've already walked out onto--

EXT. CHARLIE'S TERRACE - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE

(pointing)

The Iwo Jima Memorial. Keep going left and you see Rock Creek Park and the Jefferson Memorial.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Now follow the Arlington Bridge and you
can see the Pentagon.

JANE

The Pentagon.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

JANE

(beat)

I love this song.

(singing along)

"I'm a joker. I'm a smoker. I'm a
midnight toker. I play my music just for
fun..."

(she starts to unbutton her
shirt)

"I'm a picker. I'm a grinner. I'm a
lover, and I'm a sinner..." Now how 'bout
I show you the other best view in the
District.

CHARLIE

You really think you can beat the Iwo
Jima Memorial, huh?

JANE

Yeah.

And now the PHONE RINGS--

CHARLIE

(almost has to laugh at the
timing)

Excuse me one second.

CHARLIE goes back into--

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

--where he picks up the phone--

CHARLIE

(into phone)

Hello.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. JOANNE'S DINING ROOM - SAME TIME

JOANNE HERRING at 45 is sexier than she was when she was 25. At the moment she's got a huge seating chart spread out in front of her on the table and as she speaks to Charlie she'll move a place card or two from here to there, perfecting her seating arrangements for an upcoming party. The camera may catch some of the names of her guests, which would include anyone from Nolan Ryan and Bob Hope to Ann Richards and Imelda Marcos.

JOANNE

That was an extraordinary thing you did today, Charlie.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry, who's this?

JOANNE

It's Joanne.

CHARLIE

Gosh, Joanne, it's great to hear from you. Could I possibly call you back in just a little bit.

JOANNE

Oh sweetie. Is Ronald Reagan in your bedroom right now?

CHARLIE

No.

JOANNE

Then I'm considerably more important than whoever is.

JANE

Who's that?

CHARLIE

(to JANE)

This'll just take a second.

(into phone)

I'm all yours. What did I do that was extraordinary?

JOANNE

"Double it."

JANE

I was told you didn't have a girlfriend.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

(into phone)

What?

JOANNE

"Double it." You joined the side of the angels.

CHARLIE

Shit, Jo, I don't know what you're talkin' about but if I did it'd be classified and I don't know where you're gettin' your information on the Subcommittee--

JOANNE

What do you care, hon?

CHARLIE

What do I--there's national security concern.

JANE

Excuse me.

CHARLIE

(into phone)

Hang on.

JANE

I was told you didn't have a girlfriend.

CHARLIE

(covering the phone)

I don't, this isn't my girlfriend.

JANE

Who is it?

CHARLIE

The sixth wealthiest woman in Houston. Which is still pretty good. This'll just take a second.

(back into phone)

Okay, so--Hi.

JOANNE

Do you know Charles Fawcett?

CHARLIE

No.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOANNE

Do you know Ricky di Portinova?

CHARLIE

No.

JOANNE

Charlie Fawcett's been a passionate advocate for the Mujahideen basically since the day the communists marched through the Kyber Pass. He's made a movie which I think is a beautiful and immutable articulation of the need for American aid to the Afghans.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry, did you say he's made a movie?

JOANNE

Yes. We're gonna run the movie this Friday night after a dinner party at the home of Ricky di Portinova.

CHARLIE

You want me to come to Houston to see a movie?

JOANNE

There'll be whiskey, women and wealthy donors.

CHARLIE

(beat--seriously)

I'm not an asshole, Joanne.

JOANNE

Just the opposite hot stuff. You're a Christian and you're a fucking patriot.

CHARLIE

Well thank you, but I'm also one of 545 members of the Congress and what I did this morning is pretty much all I'm able to do.

JOANNE

Oh baby. You have no idea how much more you're about to do. I'll see you Friday night.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE:

Part II

A Rogue Elephant in the Agency Woods.

INT. GRAVER'S OFFICE - DAY

GRAVER is the Director of European Operations for the CIA but it's not important that we know that just yet. One wall of his office is glass, which looks out onto a large bullpen of support staff.

At the moment, a MAINTENANCE WORKER is putting the finishing touches on a replacement pane of glass.

Sitting across the desk from GRAVER is GUST AVRAKOTOS. GUST's appearance--slightly rumpled jacket and tie, tinted glasses, shoes that have been worn too much--suggests that he's a wholesale liquor distributor rather than what he really is, which is a 20 year veteran of America's intelligence gathering and covert services. One of the Agency's most well connected spies.

GRAVER

Okay. Well. It was hard for you to come in with your hat in your hand, that's not the kind of--the kind of upbringing I guess is the word I'm looking for--it's not the kind of man you are and I understand that. I have no interest in humiliating you or exacting a price. Why don't you just apologize, we'll say it's water under the dam and we'll go about our business.

GUST

(pause)

Excuse me, what the fuck?

GRAVER

(beat)

What.

GUST

What the fuck are you talking about?

GRAVER

Clair George said you were coming in here to apologize.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUST

I'm supposed to come in here so you could apologize to me.

GRAVER

According to whom?

GUST

Clair George.

GRAVER

You told me to go fuck myself, I'm supposed to apologize?

GUST

Also, water goes over a dam and under a bridge you poncy schoolboy.

GRAVER

Clearly there's been a miscommunication between--

MAINTENANCE MAN

Excuse me.

GRAVER

Yes.

MAINTENANCE MAN

Does this look all right?

GRAVER

That's fine.

MAINTENANCE MAN

I can sand down the caulk a little.

GRAVER

Okay.

GUST

I have no fucking idea who this guy is.

GRAVER

He's fixing the glass you broke the last time you were here.

(to the MAINTENANCE MAN)

Could you leave us for just a minute?

MAINTENANCE MAN

Yes sir.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He exits.

GRAVER

You tell me to go fuck myself and you thought I was gonna apologize? You break my window and you thought I was gonna apologize?

GUST

The Helsinki job was mine.

GRAVER

The Helsinki job was not yours. If it was yours, you'd be in Helsinki.

GUST

Alan Wolfe stood in this office--

GRAVER

Alan Wolfe--

GUST

It was on the books.

GRAVER

Alan Wolfe is no longer Director of European Operations. He doesn't make those appointments, I do.

GUST

Promises were made.

GRAVER

Not by me.

GUST

I've been with the company for 24 years, I was posted in Greece for 15-- Papandreou wins that election if I don't help the junta take him prisoner--I've advised and armed the Hellenic army, I've neutralized champions of communism, I've spent the last three years studying Finnish, which should come in handy here in Virginia, and I'm never ever sick at sea. So I want to know why I'm not gonna be your Helsinki Division Chief.

GRAVER

You're coarse.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GUST

Excuse me?

GRAVER

For Helsinki I need someone with diplomatic skills and you don't have them.

GUST

Is that right?

GRAVER

That's right.

GUST

And the 3000 agents Turner fired? Was that because they lacked diplomatic skills as well?

GRAVER

You're referring to Admiral Turner?

GUST

3000 agents. Each and every goddam one of 'em first or second generation Americans. Did they lack the proper diplomatic skills? Or did Turner not think it was a good idea to have spies who could speak the same language as the people we were spying on.

GRAVER

(almost laughing)

You can hardly blame the Director for questioning the loyalty to America of people who are just barely Americans.

GUST

Well now I'd like to take a moment to review the several ways in which you're a douche bag.

GRAVER

Get out of my office before I end your career, asshole.

GUST

Yes sir.

GUST steps out into--

INT. BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

--where he immediately sees the MAINTENANCE MAN nearby and says--

GUST

Excuse me my friend, we're gonna need you again.

--and with that, GUST takes his .44 service revolver from his back and whips the butt against the new window pane, shattering it to the ground.

GRAVER

Shit goddamit!!

GUST

(evenly)

My loyalty?

(beat)

For 24 years people have been trying to kill me, people who know how. You think that's because my dad was a Greek soda pop maker, or you think that's because I'm an American spy? Go fuck yourself you fucking child.

GUST returns the gun to the small of his back. He winks at a SECRETARY, who smiles a little back at him. Then--

GUST (CONT'D)

(calling out)

Sorry everybody! Breaking it a second time was probably unprofessional!

And GUST exits through the silent bullpen as we

CUT TO:

INT. CIA CAFETERIA - DAY

GUST is pushing a lunch tray down the line with his friend, MCGAFFIN.

GUST

There's a woman in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania named Nitsa who thinks she's a witch. She offered to put a curse on Graver for me.

MCGAFFIN

Yeah?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUST

She asked me do I want a professional curse or a health curse. I said a professional curse, 'cause, you know, while I'd like to see Graver get fucked hard and in all the wrong places, I don't wish ill-health should fall on someone.

MCGAFFIN

Yeah.

GUST

I gave her 80 dollars.

MCGAFFIN

(to the cashier)

I've got the meatloaf, my friend's got the tuna salad.

CASHIER

Seven dollars.

GUST

She said, "You want evil to happen to him", I said, "Yes".

MCGAFFIN

(to the CASHIER)

Did you get the brownie?

CASHIER

No sir, I didn't, that's another thirty cents.

GUST

She said you gotta want it bad. I said I do.

MCGAFFIN

(to the CASHIER)

Thank you.

They make their way over to a table--

GUST

She did a thing for about 20 minutes.

MCGAFFIN

With a potion?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GUST

No, just an incantation. Then she said--
(in Greek)
"Teleeosay".
(in English)
It's done.

MCGAFFIN

How long does it take to work?

GUST

She said a health curse is right away but
a professional curse is longer.

(beat)

I'm reading transcripts of phone
conversations between French and German
generals arguing over office space at
NATO HQ. I analyze wire taps out of
Mercury Bay, New Zealand. Historically a
hotbed of anti-American activity.
Nobody'll come near me, I'm in the weeds.

MCGAFFIN

You know a typical agency operative
doesn't walk into his boss's office and
tell him to go fuck himself. Twice.

GUST

I just told you that I paid a witch in
Pennsylvania eighty dollars to put a
curse on William Graver. Do I sound like
a typical agency operative?

MCGAFFIN

No.

GUST

Well then let's assume I'm not.

MCGAFFIN

Listen.

GUST

What.

MCGAFFIN

If you're really not doing anything, why
don't you come upstairs and work with us?

GUST

What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MCGAFFIN
Killing Russians.

A moment...then GUST smiles...

GUST
Yeah?

MCGAFFIN
Yeah.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT./EST. DI PORTINOVA MANSION - NIGHT

A black-tie party is underway. It's a festival of obscene wealth and questionable taste. Outside is a giant marble pool with a gold water slide. White canvas tenting has been constructed to keep mosquitos and normal people out and the tenting is buttoned by chandeliers the size of Hyundais. The whole thing makes Dynasty look like it was shot at a Radisson in San Antonio.

While the camera makes a tour of the grounds and the house, we're listening to a slave auction.

FEMALE AUCTIONEER (VO)
Our next slave girl is a Texas rose named Ashley Rensler. Ashley's pre-law at UT and her three sorority sisters from Delta Delta Delta will wash your car or truck in special outfits they've chosen just for the occasion. So who wants their wheels cleaned clean as a whistle by a 19 year old lawyer and her three friends from tri-delt. Let's start the bidding at \$10,000.

And by now we're in the

INT. BALLROOM - SAME TIME

Where the auction is taking place. The well-dressed guests are drinking, chatting and bidding on the women being presented up front.

CHARLIE stands in the archway with a drink. He's being informally briefed by his aide, BONNIE, who may consult notes from time to time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BONNIE

In high school she was a local sweetheart named Sandy but everyone called her Buckets for reasons I doubt I need to explain to you. In college she asked to be called Sandy, then Sandra, then Saundra with a "U", then Allisandra when she married the Baron Ricky di Portinova, who got his share of the family money and built this house, which Joanne is using tonight for the screening.

CHARLIE

Buckets is now a Baroness?

BONNIE

Yes.

CHARLIE

God help me, Bonnie, I love Texas.

BONNIE

I know you do.

A beautiful young woman, AMBER, steps over to CHARLIE--

AMBER

Congressman Wilson?

CHARLIE

Yes ma'am.

AMBER

My name is Amber Lee Harrison and I'm a gift to you from Mrs. Herring. I'm 23, my father is the president of Austin First National Trust, I'm working on my MBA at Duke and I'm your slave girl.

CHARLIE

(to BONNIE)

You see what I mean?

BONNIE

Yes sir.

CHARLIE

It's a pleasure to meet you, Amber Lee.
How much did you cost?

AMBER

\$12,500.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUTLER
(calling out)
Ladies and Gentlemen, if you would begin
taking your seats outside, the movie will
begin.

AMBER
Shall I escort you, Congressman?

CHARLIE
Absolutely.

CUT TO:

INT. TENT - NIGHT

Where many rows of folding chairs face a large movie screen.
WAITERS continue to pass trays of champagne as GUESTS are
taking seats.

CHARLIE enters with BONNIE and AMBER. A MAN calls out--

MAN
Congressman.

BONNIE
(whispering)
Fred.

CHARLIE
Freddie.

MAN (FRED)
Did I possibly hear right? Have you been
appointed to the Ethics Committee?

CHARLIE
Yes sir.

FRED
This is a joke, right?

CHARLIE
No sir. I like drinking and running
around with women and the Speaker felt we
were under-represented.

JOANNE
(at a microphone)
Would everyone take their seats, please.

BONNIE tries to have a confidential moment with AMBER--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BONNIE

Say, Miss Harrison?

AMBER

Yes.

BONNIE

I'm Bonnie Bach, I'm the Congressman's
Administrative Aide so I hope you don't
mind 'cause I have to ask you: What is it
you do for \$12,500?

AMBER

I don't know, what does he like?

BONNIE

Keeping his job.

CHARLIE

(coming back)

I heard that, both of you, that was
funny.

BONNIE

Look--

AMBER

I'm not a hooker.

CHARLIE

She's a slave girl, there's a difference.

(to AMBER)

There's a difference, right?

AMBER

Sure.

CHARLIE

(to BONNIE)

See?

JOANNE

(from the microphone)

I'm Joanne Herring, thank you so much for
coming.

APPLAUSE...

JOANNE (CONT'D)

And of course we all want to thank Ricky
and Sandy for the use of their beautiful
home.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

APPLAUSE...

JOANNE (CONT'D)

It's been three years since the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. Burning villages, raping women, killing scores of thousands of innocent, humble, peace loving, God loving Afghans, and sending scores of thousands more on a treacherous hike over the Himalayas to seek refuge in Pakistan. Charles Fawcett has made a film--

She's interrupted by APPLAUSE...

JOANNE (CONT'D)

Charlie Fawcett's made a film that tells the story of these people and the urgent need for America and the rest of the world to help them. Here it is.

The lights dim down and the movie begins. From the outset we can see that the production values and filmmaking skill are brutally unsophisticated. There's a NARRATOR and a score lifted from a Hollywood movie. Two AFGHANS on horses are badly dubbed in English.

AFGHAN #1

Commander, what are we going to do? The Russians are resorting to barbaric fighting yet we can't fight back. We have no ammunition, we have no guns. How can we fight without weapons?

AFGHAN #2

How? I'll tell you how.

And the movie screen fills with the title of the film

COURAGE IS OUR WEAPON

BONNIE

(quietly)

Oh dear God.

CHARLIE

Knock it off.

NARRATOR (VO)

During the days of Christmas, 1979, the Russians took a giant and ruthless step toward fulfilling an ancient plan...or, more accurately, a plot.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

NARRATOR (VO) (CONT'D)

One of the most efficient and dreadful
armies swept into Afghanistan. It was
obviously...

And now we begin a SERIES OF DISSOLVES; sound bites and visual
bites that take us through the movie as well as the audience's
reaction to it. We'll see glimpses of the terrible mountain
conditions these people live in and the antiquated guns
they're using to fight.

NARRATOR (VO) (CONT'D)

The Mujahideen rightfully resent being
called rebels. They are loyal patriots
fighting an enemy that has invaded their
country.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LATER

A diamond cuff link gets adjusted while from the screen we
HEAR--

NARRATOR (VO)

...and the Russians made another crucial
mistake. Had they studied this dramatic
history they would've been forewarned
that no invading force, from Genghis Khan
to the British had ever succeeded in...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LATER

A champagne glass is refilled while from the screen we HEAR--

NARRATOR (VO)

During the past three years, 2 million
Afghans have taken the long and dangerous
voyage across the mountains to the safety
of Pakistan.

AFGHAN REFUGEE

We came across many mountains seven days
and nights...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LATER

A cigar is lit while from the screen we HEAR--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

NARRATOR (VO)

Afghanistan occupies a very strategic geopolitical position. A crossroads of routes from Europe to Asia. Various intelligence services have estimated...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LATER

TWO WAITERS whisper to each other while on the screen--

AFGHAN SOLDIER #3

Since we don't have any effective weapons against bulletproof helicopters, they fly just 20 meters, 15 meters.

NARRATOR (VO)

They fly overhead and pick their targets at random, firing 6000 rounds per minute against a single cartridge of the antiquated rifles of the mujahideen. The horror of the Russian gunship...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LATER

We see JOANNE at the side. Her beautifully manicured fingers are absently fondling the diamond encrusted cross she's wearing around her neck. She looks at CHARLIE, who's been watching the film poker-faced.

AFGHAN SOLDIER #2

These Russians are atheists.

AFGHAN SOLDIER #3

No faith. No shame.

AFGHAN SOLDIER #2

If we had weapons, Allah would decide our fate.

MUJAHIDEEN LEADER

We believe in victory. We believe in Allah. This beautiful nation will not be defeated.

AFGHAN SOLDIER #4

I will fight in the last moment of my life, till the last drop of my blood, until the elimination of the Russians.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AFGHAN POLITICIAN

If America is going to help us, now is the time.

NARRATOR (VO)

They can not win this war alone, but they will never lose it. Courage is their weapon.

The music swells and the film ends to great APPLAUSE. A standing ovation.

RICKY, whose full title is Baron Ricky di Portinova and who speaks with a thick Italian accent, tries to get everyone's attention by tapping a champagne glass--

RICKY

Please.

(beat)

Please.

Everyone quiets down.

RICKY (CONT'D)

(pointing to the mansion and the pool and the trappings of wealth and making a proclamation)

Thees! Thees ees not realty!

(pointing to the movie screen)

Thees ees reality!

And everyone breaks into appreciative applause. CHARLIE smiles a little at the spectacle of it as we

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

A magnificent room with thousands of volumes of unread books. CHARLIE is scanning the volumes while BONNIE and AMBER stand by.

CHARLIE

He's got a first edition of Candide. 1759. It was published under the pseudonym, "Dr. Ralph."

(pause)

Here's a copy of Exodus signed by Leon Uris...to Sophia Loren. We'll get to the bottom of that. Monsieur de Pourceaugnac, a comedy in three acts by Moliere.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

This is another first edition. Spine gilt-lettered, marbled end papers...

BONNIE

(pause--to AMBER)

What do you do for \$12,500?

AMBER

Let's see, I'll wash his car but sort of do it like the scene in Cool Hand Luke.

CHARLIE

Good scene.

AMBER

I'll read the sports section out loud to him. I'll be a dinner companion. I can just walk around his apartment with a feather duster.

BONNIE

And dust or just walk around?

AMBER

Just walk around.

BONNIE

'Cause you're a Duke MBA.

AMBER

I have to draw the line.

The library doors open and JOANNE enters.

JOANNE

I'm so sorry for keeping you waiting.

CHARLIE

No problem.

JOANNE

Charlie, look at you, you're the sexiest man in politics.

CHARLIE

Well I think you're the sexiest man in politics, Jo, but thank you.

JOANNE

Girls, would you excuse us please.

AMBER

Yes ma'am.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOANNE

Amber, you say hi to your daddy for me.

AMBER

Sure will.

AMBER exits.

JOANNE

(to BONNIE)

And dear, if you could ask someone for a
Bombay martini up, very dry?

BONNIE

Oh, I'm not...a slave girl, actually, I'm
the Congressman's Administrative Aide.

JOANNE

Oh isn't that wonderful for you.

BONNIE

Yes.

JOANNE

Two olives, please. Tell 'em it's for me,
they'll know.

BONNIE

Certainly.

CHARLIE gives BONNIE a look that says, "Just do it and I'll
make it up to you."

BONNIE exits.

JOANNE

What did you think?

CHARLIE

Of the movie?

JOANNE

Yes.

CHARLIE

Well this isn't exactly my field or
anything, but the production quality
seemed a little amateurish to me. The
sound and the lighting were a little--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOANNE

Yeah I'm not submitting the fucking thing for a Golden Globe nomination, Charlie, you know what I'm talking about.

CHARLIE

By the way, I think Buckets' husband, the Baron, may have boosted Sophia Loren's copy of Exodus.

JOANNE

Charlie--

CHARLIE

I'm a member of the House Sub-Committee for Defense Appropriations, did you think I wasn't aware that the Soviet Union has taken Afghanistan?

JOANNE

Yes, I believe my government is aware but I was wondering what they were thinking of doing about it other than boycotting the Olympics, which I think you'll agree was a fairly impotent response to the greatest national security threat we've faced since the Cuban Missile Crisis.

CHARLIE

Well I don't think making more movies is gonna do the trick either, if that's what you're asking.

JOANNE

It's not. What I'm asking is is exactly how much power do you have as a member of the sub-committee.

CHARLIE

Which one, I'm on two.

JOANNE

Foreign Operations.

CHARLIE

49 other members and I hand out 11 billion in foreign assistance.

JOANNE

And the Defense Sub-Committee?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CHARLIE

Our budget is hidden.

JOANNE

It's also unlimited.

CHARLIE

Yes.

JOANNE

You sit at the vortex of the State Department, the Pentagon and the CIA. You meet in a soundproof room in the Rayburn Building, and you preside over a secret and unlimited budget for the three agencies you would need to conduct a covert war. Isn't that right?

CHARLIE

I also have seats at the Kennedy Center.

JOANNE

Isn't that how you were able to double the CIA budget for black approps in Afghanistan just by saying so?

CHARLIE

Why are you only asking me questions you already know the answers to?

JOANNE

I want to know why Congress is saying one thing and doing nothing.

CHARLIE

Well...tradition mostly.

AMBER steps in with drinks for both JOANNE and CHARLIE on a silver tray.

AMBER

Pardon me.

JOANNE

Thank you.

AMBER

(to CHARLIE)

Jack Daniels on the rocks?

CHARLIE

Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

AMBER exits.

JOANNE

Why's the CIA running a fake war in Afghanistan?

CHARLIE

They're doing everything they can.

JOANNE

They're doing it badly.

CHARLIE

The CIA's arming the Mujahideen, where do you think they're getting their--

JOANNE

They're arming them with 12.7 mm Dish-K machine guns which would be good except the Soviets have specifically armor-plated their Hind helicopters to resist a 12.7 mm shell. We sold Pakistan the F-16's but refused to equip them with "look down, shoot down" radar. Why won't the U.S. give Pakistan's pilots the same equipment we're giving the Israelis. If this were a real war, State would issue a White Paper outlining the Communist threat the way they did in El Salvador. If this were a real war, there'd be a National Bipartisan Commission on Afghanistan headed by Henry Kissinger the way there is for Central America. If this were a real war, Congress would authorize \$24 million for covert operations like you're doing in Nicaragua and if this were a real war, the NSC would dramatically increase the strength of the Mujahideen through direct training and weapons.

CHARLIE

What is it you want me to do, Jo?

JOANNE

I want you to save Afghanistan for the Afghans, deliver such a crushing defeat to the Soviets that communism crumbles, and in so doing, end the Cold War.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

CHARLIE

(pause)

And I'll tell you, I'd do it too, but
I've got this Dairy Queen problem in
Nagadoches--

JOANNE

Come here.

CHARLIE

Hm?

JOANNE

Come here.

CHARLIE takes a few steps toward JOANNE and she meets him
halfway. They're standing very close and as she speaks it
almost seems like she's either going to kiss him or slide her
hand down his pants...

JOANNE (CONT'D)

I know you think of yourself as a drunk
and a fuck up but you're not. You have
such greatness in you. And you're needed
now. I don't care how many women you
sleep with, that's what great men do, and
by the way, pick up the phone and I'll
show up anywhere you say, wearing
anything you like, and I'll fuck you till
you black out. You should believe
everything you've heard about me.

CHARLIE moves away and lights a cigarette.

CHARLIE

What is it exactly you want me to do?

JOANNE

Go to Pakistan and meet with Zia.

CHARLIE

Who's Zia?

JOANNE

Mohammed Zia ul-Haq.

CHARLIE

You want me to meet with the President of
Pakistan?

JOANNE

I've already arranged it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

CHARLIE

You've arranged a meeting between me and the President of Pakistan.

JOANNE

Yes. You're going to Israel next week to see Zvi Rafiah about the Lavi jets, I want you to tack Pakistan on to the end of the trip.

CHARLIE

I've underestimated you.

JOANNE

Yeah don't ever do that again.

CHARLIE

I'm gonna do this for you, Jo, 'cause you saved my ass once with the pro-lifers, 'cause I owe you my seat in Congress, and because that blacking out thing sounded interesting to me, but I gotta tell you, I'm elected by Jews.

JOANNE

How many Jews do you have in your district?

CHARLIE

Zero. But congressmen aren't elected by voters, they're elected by contributors and mine are in New York, Florida and Hollywood because Israel's man on the Hill and I don't know how they're gonna feel about me taking up the cause of Muslims.

JOANNE

Well that's your problem.

CHARLIE

Yes it is.

JOANNE

Go fight this war and win it, Charlie. Everything possible is on the line, including your manhood.

CHARLIE

I was afraid you were gonna say that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

DISSOLVE TO:

TITLE:

Part III

The Israelis Break the
Congressman's Heart and He Falls
for the Muj.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

CHARLIE is having dinner with three Israeli businessmen, one of whom is ZVI RAFIAH. We should notice that CHARLIE's less carefree and more on edge than we've seen him. He's pissed about something but he's holding it in.

ZVI

Israel has no natural resources to export. You've said it yourself, Charlie, all we've got in Israel are brains and you can't support an economy by exporting cello players.

ZVI and the two BUSINESSMEN laugh. CHARLIE doesn't. He just takes a sip of his drink.

TITLE:

Jerusalem

BUSINESSMAN #1

We need a defense industry. This would provide jobs, it would prevent our aerospace talent from leaving for more challenging jobs abroad and it would be a catalyst for developing--

CHARLIE

U.S. military-assistance grants can only be used to purchase American made weapons.

BUSINESSMAN #2

We would be more politically indebted to you than any supporter of Israel in either the Senate or the House.

CHARLIE

We're giving you half a billion dollars for the Lavi jet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUSINESSMAN #1

You don't understand, we want to build the planes.

ZVI

He understands.

BUSINESSMAN #1

The jobs that this would create in the--

CHARLIE

We need jobs too. The guys at General Dynamics and General Electric need jobs too. Boeing, McDonnell Douglas, Lockheed Martin, they like jobs. We're paying for the jets but the contracts are going to American companies, don't be ridiculous. And you're already politically indebted to me.

That wasn't the CHARLIE they know...The table's silent until ZVI gives CHARLIE a friendly pat on the forearm...

ZVI

(pause)

Old friend. What's troubling you tonight?

CHARLIE

I was just there, I just saw it.

ZVI

You were just where?

CHARLIE

Sabra and Shatilla, I just saw it. I thought the press accounts had to be blowing it out of proportion so I went to see it myself. Oh my God, Zvi...what the fuck happened?

ZVI

Exactly what you've been told happened. Lebanese Christians came in and began slaughtering the Palestinians.

CHARLIE

This was supposed to be a surgical strike against the PLO. There are mass graves back there, the place is still on fire. They just told me the body count's up to 900, it's three days and they're still pulling bodies out. 900 civilians.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUSINESSMAN #2

Charlie, terrorists are civilians.

CHARLIE

It can't seem to you like I'm in the mood to fuck around with a technicality, I'm asking you what happened.

BUSINESSMAN #1

Ask the Lebanese.

CHARLIE

I'm asking you.

BUSINESSMAN #1

Why?

CHARLIE

'Cause I was there. The camp is secured on three sides by Israeli soldiers and the fourth side's a wall. There's an Israeli sentry tower 75 yards from where most of the killing took place.

Silence...

ZVI

(in Hebrew to the two

BUSINESSMEN)

Would you leave us for a moment, I want to talk to him alone.

BUSINESSMAN #1

(in Hebrew)

Yeah.

The two BUSINESSMEN get up from the table and disappear to the bar area of the restaurant.

CHARLIE

75 yards away. Your sentries let the Lebanese soldiers in.

(beat)

Didn't they. They watched while it happened.

ZVI

I wasn't there. I do know that the hunt for the PLO isn't a dainty one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE

Do you get that we're the only friend
you've got and it makes it a much tougher
sell when you--

ZVI

Don't lecture me, Charlie.

(pause)

It may seem righteous to you, to me it
just seems childlike.

ZVI takes a drink and a drag off his cigarette.

CHARLIE

You're supposed to be the good guys. I
don't think that's childlike.

ZVI

That's because you have friendly
neighbors to the north and south and
oceans to the east and west. You have one
enemy and you keep an eye on him from
outer space. You'd see the world
differently if your country was smaller,
your people were hated and your borders
surrounded. If some of our enemies want
to kill some of our other enemies, I say
it's one less headache for us. I don't
lose much sleep over dead Palestinians.
And if you lived in my neighborhood for a
week, you wouldn't either.

CHARLIE

(pause)

I'm going to see the President of
Pakistan tomorrow. It's a courtesy
meeting, arranged by one of my
supporters.

ZVI

And you're feeling guilty about that and
that's why you put on this college girl
display tonight?

CHARLIE

He wants more money for the Mujahideen.

ZVI

Very wise. Having your enemies help kill
your enemies.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CHARLIE
Afghanistan isn't our enemy.

ZVI
Well that's just a matter of time. You'll
see who you can talk to about the Lavi
jets?

CHARLIE
Yeah.

ZVI
Good. Let's order dinner.

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

CHARLIE and BONNIE are being silently escorted by two
PAKISTANI STEWARDS.

TITLE:

Presidential Palace

Islamabad, Pakistan

BONNIE
I'll wait here.

STEWARD
Yes.

CHARLIE
Thanks.

BONNIE sits in a chair in the corridor as the STEWARD walks
CHARLIE a few more feet down the hall and opens the doors to--

INT. SOLARIUM - CONTINUOUS

--where ZIA, President of Pakistan, is waiting with a few
AIDES.

STEWARD
(in Punjabi)
Mr. President, this is Congressman
Charles Wilson.

ZIA
Mr. Congressman.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE
Mr. President.

ZIA
Joanne Herring speaks very highly of you.

CHARLIE
Thank you, sir.

ZIA
These are two of my brightest advisors
when it comes to the problem of the
Soviets. Mr. Abdour Rashid and Mr.
Mahmood.

RASHID
How do you do.

CHARLIE
Pleased to meet you.

MAHMOOD
How do you do.

CHARLIE
Pleased to meet you.

ZIA
You must be thirsty, can we get you a
drink?

CHARLIE
(to a nearby BUTLER)
As a matter of fact I'd love one. A glass
of ice and any kind of whiskey. Rye,
Canadian or you can feel free to show me
something new.

There's an awkward moment with the BUTLER...

ZIA
I'm sorry, Congressman, we don't have
alcohol in the Presidential--

CHARLIE
Of course you don't, I apologize. Fruit
juice is fine.

RASHID
(to the BUTLER in Punjabi)
Fruit juice.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

I'll bet a lot of people make that mistake.

ZIA

No.

CHARLIE

Okay.

RASHID

You understand the situation on our border.

CHARLIE

Yes sir, I think I do.

MAHMOOD

You think you do.

CHARLIE

Yes sir.

RASHID

Three-million Afghan refugees are living like poorly treated livestock, another two-million Afghans have fled to Iran.

MAHMOOD

And two-million more angry men is just what the doctor ordered for Iran, wouldn't you say?

RASHID

People are dying by the tens of thousands and the ones that aren't are crossing into Pakistan everyday.

MAHMOOD

Would you like to know how many? One fifth of Afghanistan now lives in Pakistan's Northwestern Frontier Province.

ZIA

So what we were wondering is why the fuck your State Department would send someone here who thinks he understands the problem?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE

(pause)

Well I wasn't sent here by my State Department, Mr. President, I was asked to come here by a friend of yours in Texas. This was a courtesy call.

ZIA

I don't need courtesy, I need airplanes guns and money.

CHARLIE

Well we just doubled the CIA budget for covert ops--

RASHID

From five-million to ten-million.

MAHMOOD

Is that a joke?

CHARLIE

No.

RASHID

Is that meant to be a funny joke?

CHARLIE

No sir.

ZIA

I think what they're saying is that ten-million dollars from the U.S. to fight the Russian Army is such a low figure that it could be mistaken for a joke.

CHARLIE

I understood, sir. The U.S. is eager to assist you.

RASHID

No you're not.

MAHMOOD

You're not.

RASHID

I went to Oxford and I know what that word means. The U.S. is not eager to assist us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CHARLIE

It's my understanding that we offered to sell you F-16's and you didn't want them.

ZIA

Because you refused to sell us the radar.

RASHID

So fuck that.

ZIA

And this is emblematic of American fence-sitting when it comes to fighting the Soviets.

RASHID

So fuck it.

ZIA

You sell us the planes but not the radar. You offer Afghans rifles from the first World War and Soviet gunships are killing everything they can find--people, animals, food supplies--

MAHMOOD

Fuck it.

CHARLIE

Yes.

RASHID

You sell the Israelis the radar. So that's why he says fuck it.

CHARLIE

Again, I understood. Listen, Mr. President, Mr. Mahmood, Mr. Rashid--I'm in a little over my head here. I'm a congressman from Lufkin, Texas, I don't even have seniority. I have a hunch Joanne may have dramatically overstated my power when it comes to...uh, ending Communism. I have a seat on a sub-committee that--look, I'm sure the CIA is working on a solution, both in terms of arms and money. My chairman--

ZIA

The arms and funding should flow through us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

CHARLIE

I'm sorry?

ZIA

That's been part of the problem. The arms and the funding should flow through us. We have experience with warfare of this kind and your CIA has an unimpressive track record.

CHARLIE

I wouldn't say that.

ZIA

They missed 35,000 Russian soldiers walking into Afghanistan.

CHARLIE

Well I don't want to use up any more of your hospitality, so I'll take your message back to--

ZIA

Let me walk you to the door.

CHARLIE

Yes sir.

ZIA takes CHARLIE to the door and stops him there to speak privately...

ZIA

You're a man of many character flaws.

CHARLIE

(pause)

Thank you.

ZIA

I mean I learned about you before you came here. And I learned that you're a man of many character flaws.

CHARLIE

I am.

ZIA

But I learned that you never promise anything you can't deliver. Will you promise one thing to me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

CHARLIE

What's that, Mr. President?

ZIA

Will you go to the Khyber Pass? Right now today. Will you go to the Khyber Pass and see with your eyes what's happening here?

CHARLIE

(pause)

I'll arrange it through the embassy.

ZIA

Thank you, Mr. Congressman.

CHARLIE

Thank you, Mr. President.

The door is opened for CHARLIE and he steps out into--

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

--where the STEWARD accompanies him and the waiting BONNIE back down the hall.

BONNIE

How did it go?

CHARLIE

There were three of them. It was like getting slapped around by a Pakistani vaudeville team. You know you've pretty much hit rock bottom when you've been told you have character flaws by a man who hanged his predecessor in a military coup.

BONNIE

Can we go home now?

CHARLIE

No. We have to make another stop.

BONNIE

Where?

CHARLIE

The Khyber Pass.

BONNIE

Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

Because I said so.

As CHARLIE and BONNIE continue down the hall, we HEAR the sound of low flying helicopters and then the VOICE of a young AFGHAN BOY speaking in Arabic--

AFGHAN BOY

(in Arabic)

I was walking to the well to get water.

CUT TO:

EXT. REFUGEE CAMP/HOSPITAL

It's a beautiful vista, with the Khyber Pass in the background. Unfortunately in the foreground is a huge city of tents and mud huts, interrupted only by large, M.A.S.H.-like hospital tents where it's standing room only.

TRANSLATOR (VO)

I was walking to the well to get water.

The AFGHAN BOY's voice over, as well as that of the TRANSLATOR continue as CHARLIE and BONNIE step out of a truck that was part of a three-truck military motorcade. BONNIE and CHARLIE are accompanied by both MILITARY and CIVILIAN GUIDES.

AFGHAN BOY (VO)

(in Arabic)

I saw something shiny on the ground and it looked like a toy.

TRANSLATOR (VO)

I saw something shiny on the ground and it looked like a toy.

AFGHAN BOY (VO)

I reached down to grab it and when I did it exploded in my hand.

TRANSLATOR (VO)

I reached down to grab it and when I did it exploded in my hand.

AFGHAN BOY (VO)

I should've known. Because only a few weeks ago my five year old sister picked up a piece of candy--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRANSLATOR (VO)

I should've known. Because only a few weeks ago my five year old sister picked up a piece of candy--

AFGHAN BOY (VO)

--and it split her in two.

TRANSLATOR (VO)

--and it split her in two.

And with that they walk into--

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

As bad as you'd expect. VOICES begin to DISSOLVE into one another as we see CHARLIE taking in what's around him, particularly the faces of YOUNG BOYS, each of whom is able to bravely and casually meet CHARLIE's stare.

As CHARLIE and the group are walked slowly through the hospital tent, we continue to HEAR the VOICES of WITNESSES spoken through a TRANSLATOR.

AFGHAN MAN (VO)

(in Arabic)

Something was shaking our houses.

TRANSLATOR (VO)

He says something was shaking their houses.

AFGHAN MAN (VO)

(in Arabic)

We ran outside to see what it was.

TRANSLATOR (VO)

We ran outside to see what it was.

AFGHAN MAN (VO)

(in Arabic)

It was the rotors from the helicopters.

TRANSLATOR (VO)

It was the rotors from the helicopters.

AFGHAN MAN (VO)

And when we ran outside, that's when they opened fire.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRANSLATOR (VO)

And when we ran outside, that's when they opened fire.

AFGHAN DOCTOR (VO)

(not needing translation)

They took 40 villagers. And as an example to the others, they tied them up and piled them like wood. Then poured gasoline over them and--

The group walks out of a flap in the tent and into--

EXT. TENT CITY - CONTINUOUS

--and they begin surveying the nightmare as the VOICES continue dissolving into one another.

REFUGEE (VO)

(not needing translation)

--about 350 people in three small villages near Kandahar. But instead of doing it all at once, they would make the parents watch as they slit the throats of their children.

REFUGEE #2 (VO)

(in Arabic)

They took 14 of us and lined us up against the wall--

TRANSLATOR (VO)

They took 14 of us and lined us up against the wall--

REFUGEE WOMAN (VO)

(not needing translation)

--after we started reciting The Holy Kalima from the Holy Qur'an we--

TRANSLATOR (VO)

--raping women, stabbing the pregnant ones with knives--

REFUGEE #3 (VO)

--the Russians poured a substance on the live bodies which caused instant decomposition.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

At this point, CHARLIE is standing away from the group and staring out at the Khyber Pass off in the distance, an opening in the mountains where for centuries Afghans have been able to see invading forces come into their country.

A REFUGEE WOMAN, from a long distance away, begins running toward CHARLIE and screaming. CHARLIE, lost in his thoughts, doesn't even hear or notice the WOMAN until she's practically on top of him.

She's grabbing at him and screaming, which startled him at first. But almost as soon as this happens, AFGHAN MEN have run over, dragged her off and thrown her to the ground.

CHARLIE

(shouting)

It's all right! I'm fine! She didn't--she didn't do anything, it's all right!

(to the TRANSLATOR)

What was she saying to me?

TRANSLATOR

"You have to kill the Godless ones. Why won't you kill the Godless ones?"

CHARLIE

(shouting to the MEN, who are shouting at the WOMAN)

It's all right!

TRANSLATOR

(explaining)

She shouldn't have touched a man with her hands.

CHARLIE walks away from the shouting to get some space. BONNIE comes over--

BONNIE

You're all right?

CHARLIE

Yeah, I'm all--yeah. Listen, do something for me. I want to go back to the city. I want to see the CIA Station Chief in Islamabad.

BONNIE

Yes sir.

CUT TO:

INT. AMERICAN EMBASSY CORRIDOR - NIGHT

It's an unimpressive place, it could be the administrative wing of an inner-city junior high school.

BONNIE and CHARLIE walk down the corridor to a door marked OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

CHARLIE buzzes a buzzer. An AGENT opens the door.

CHARLIE
I'm Congressman Wilson, the State
Department cabled that I'd be--

AGENT
Sure, c'mon in.

They step into--

INT. CIA OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Nothing much. A bullpen with a couple of AGENTS working late.

AGENT
(calling across the room)
Howard!
(to CHARLIE)
Howard Hart's gonna brief you in the next
room. She'll need to stay here.

BONNIE
You're allowed to speak directly to me.

HART
(calling)
Congressman.

CHARLIE
Yeah.

CHARLIE walks over to HART...

HART
I'm Howard Hart, I'm the Station Chief.

CHARLIE
Charlie Wilson.

HART
I understand you got quite a tour today.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

Yeah.

HART

That can be pretty unsettling.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

HART

Look, normally, a congressional delegation, we'd give them a courtesy briefing on the situation, but as you can see it's pretty late and we don't have a lot of time anyway, so--

CHARLIE

Make time.

HART

Hm?

CHARLIE

(quietly)

Fuck courtesy, Howard, I'm a member of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. I have a plane waiting on a runway for me. I need a full classified briefing and I need it now.

HART hates this and he's not gonna spend a lot of energy hiding that as he works the combination to a lock on a door. He opens it and he and CHARLIE walk into--

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

HART closes the door behind them. There are maps and charts all over the walls.

HART

100,000 Soviet troops in all.

CHARLIE

A hundred-thousand.

HART

The 40th Army is garrisoned in the cities and airports. 7th and 8th infantry Divisions here in Kabul, 18th in Mazer-e-Sharif, 4th Armored--

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE
Anything inside?

HART
I'm sorry?

CHARLIE
Do they control anything inside?

HART
Soviet advisors have appropriated the
Afghan Intel Service and the ministries.

CHARLIE
Which of the ministries?

HART
All of them. Anyway, the 4th Armored
covers Bagram Air Base and the 7th
Armored--

CHARLIE
Why aren't we shooting down the
helicopters?

HART
I'm sorry?

CHARLIE
The helicopters, Howard, why aren't we
giving them something with which to shoot
down the helicopters?

HART
The helicopters are a problem.

CHARLIE
You think?

HART
Congressman--

CHARLIE
They're shooting at Soviet gunships with
Enfield rifles. That's basically what
Davey Crocket used.

HART
Do you want the briefing?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

I want to know why they haven't shot down a helicopter.

HART

The Soviet Hind gunship has been specially armor plated to resist--

CHARLIE

Yeah. I know. So you tell me what you need to shoot 'em down.

HART

What do you mean?

CHARLIE

Tell me what you need.

HART

Do you want this briefing?

CHARLIE

Do you understand that I'm saying tell me what you need and I will go about getting it for you.

HART

I appreciate your generosity, Congressman, but a sudden influx of money and modern weaponry would draw attention.

CHARLIE

(beat)

It...what?

HART

A sudden influx of--

CHARLIE

It would attract attention?

HART

Yes.

CHARLIE

I don't even understand what that--this is the Cold War, everybody knows about it.

HART

Should I continue with the briefing?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE

Have you been to the Khyber Pass? Have you heard these stories?

HART

I'm required to give you a briefing, Congressman. Should I continue?

CHARLIE

No.

(pause)

No. Thank you.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

It's a C-130 military transport plane, which can hold about 300 people but which is virtually empty tonight. Just CHARLIE, BONNIE and maybe 20 other people in the whole cabin. Several miniature liquor bottles sit in front of both CHARLIE and BONNIE as well as what's left of a salad or sandwich.

CHARLIE's been staring out the window into the night. Then he turns and looks at BONNIE sitting next to him. BONNIE just looks back at him...

BONNIE

(pause)

Are you having a mid-life crisis that's starting now, that's starting right this second on the airplane?

CHARLIE

I had a neighbor growing up with a name right out of Charles Dickens. Mr. Hazard. And Mr. Hazard didn't like the neighborhood dogs messing up his flower bed. And one day I heard a whole crowd screaming next door so I ran over to Mr. Hazard's. About 15 people were standing around my dog, Teddy, who was writhing on the ground in very obvious agony. Blood was pouring out of his mouth. My mother was there too, and she wouldn't let me go near the dog 'cause she was afraid he was rabid. Mr. Hazard had ground up some glass and put it in a bowl of dog food and fed it to him.

BONNIE

What did you do?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

I burned his flower bed down. But that wasn't satisfying enough. And I remembered that Mr. Hazard was an elected official, he was head of the Town Council and his re-election every two years was a foregone conclusion. So on Election Day, I drove over to the black section of town, which had never voted in these elections. I was only 13 but I had a farmer's license and I drove over and filled my car with voters, drove 'em to the polling place, waited, and then drove 'em home. And before they got out of the car to vote, I'd say, "I think you should know that Mr. Hazard poisoned my dog." 400 people voted in that election, I drove a 96 of them to the polls. Hazard lost by 16 votes. I knocked on his door and I said that, "Your black constituents have just voted you out of office. Don't kill anymore dogs." And that's how I fell in love with America.

(beat)

What time do we land?

BONNIE

7:30 a.m. in DC.

CHARLIE

I want the CIA in my office at ten. An Assistant Deputy Director or higher. Tell 'em if I don't see someone at ten o'clock I'm gonna start docking their allowance at a rate of one-million dollars a minute.

BONNIE

Yes sir.

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

GUST, McGAFFIN and two other AGENTS are standing around maps that have been spread all over the conference table. They drink coffee and smoke cigarettes.

MCGAFFIN's on the phone but we can't HEAR what he's saying.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AGENT #1

The 5-45's, RPG-2 grenades and 81 mm mortars are coming into Pakistan by air and sea, here and here, and then trucks take 'em to the Afghan border.

AGENT #2

Then we take 'em across on mules, which are running more than we thought?

GUST

The mules?

AGENT #1

They're \$2,400 a piece. Plus we've gotta get 'em checked out.

GUST

For what?

AGENT #2

Diseases. Foot and mouth, plus they have to get their ears cleaned.

GUST

The mules are gettin' better health care than the Afghans.

AGENT #2

Also it's gonna be extra if we want 'em pre-trained.

GUST

To do what?

AGENT #2

Walk over a mountain with ammunition on their back.

GUST

Aren't they born with that instinct? Isn't that something they want to do naturally? And do you think the country of Afghanistan will ever get it together enough to build some fucking roads?!

MCGAFFIN hangs up the phone.

MCGAFFIN

Gust.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GUST

What.

MCGAFFIN

I've got something for you.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S OUTER-OFFICE - DAY

The clock on the wall reads 9:58.

RECEPTIONIST

He should be here any moment.

GUST

Don't worry about me, I'm fine.

We see one of CHARLIE's staffers, JAILBAIT, go into an open office and begin talking to BONNIE. We can't hear their conversation and we're not on them long 'cause after a short moment the front door opens and CHARLIE enters.

CHARLIE

Good morning.

RECEPTIONIST

Good morning, Congressman, welcome back.

STAFFER

Welcome back.

CHARLIE

Suzanne.

STAFFER #2

Welcome back.

CHARLIE

Marla.

(to GUST)

Who are you?

RECEPTIONIST

This is Gust Avrakotos. He's come over from Langley to give you--

CHARLIE

No. I said an Assistant Deputy or higher.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUST

Assistant Deputies don't come to the Hill unless they're gonna testify. I'm the guy you want to talk to, Congressman, I'm on the Afghan desk.

CHARLIE

You're on the Afghan desk.

GUST

Yes.

CHARLIE

Well I wouldn't be too proud of that, I just got back from there.

GUST

I know, that's a helluva flight too. Nine hours flying time against the jet stream, you probably had to stop in Brussels, plus the time difference? I'd be a little grumpy myself.

CHARLIE

I'm not grumpy 'cause of the plane.

GUST

We wanted to give you this--
(handing CHARLIE a bottle of
scotch)
--'cause we know you like single malt.
It's called Talisker and it's mentioned
in a Robert Louis Stevenson poem called
"The Scotsman's Return from Abroad." "The
king 'o drinks, as I conceive it,
Talisker, Islay or Glenlivet."

CHARLIE

Who are you again?

GUST

Gust Avrakotos. CIA.

CHARLIE

(to the RECEPTIONIST)
Have Bonnie come into this meeting.

They walk into--

INT. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

--where CHARLIE closes the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

What's the gift for?

GUST

It's a thank you from the Afghan desk for doubling the budget for the Mujahideen.

CHARLIE

Well thank you.

GUST

It was nothing.

CHARLIE

It's a nice bottle of scotch, it's hard to get.

GUST

No, I meant doubling the budget was nothing. Ten million dollars for covert ops against the Soviet army is meaningless, what are you, an infant?

CHARLIE

Now hang on a second--I can't remember your name.

GUST

Gust Avrakotos.

CHARLIE

Gus Avrakotos?

GUST

Yes.

CHARLIE

Can I call you Gus?

GUST

Well my name is 'Gust' with 'T' but I don't care.

CHARLIE

15 hours ago I offered Howard Hart the keys to the safe. I stood in the office in Islamabad, I said how much do you need, and I got the distinct feeling I was annoying him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GUST

Well Howard Hart's a massive tool, Congressman, he's a cake eater, he's a schoolboy, he's a bad station chief and I don't mean to cast aspersions on a guy but he's gonna get us all killed.

CHARLIE

How does he expect to defeat the Soviets in Afghanistan without--he said a sudden influx of money and--

GUST

Yeah an influx of money and new weaponry would draw--he's not trying to defeat the Soviets.

CHARLIE

What the hell are you talkin' about?

There's a KNOCK on the door and BONNIE lets herself in with a slip of paper and hands it to CHARLIE who reads...

BONNIE

(to GUST)

I'm the Congressman's A.A., Bonnie Bach.

GUST

Gust Avrakotos.

CHARLIE

(off the note)

Gust, I need the room a second.

GUST

Sure.

GUST exits--

CHARLIE

(calling)

Jailbait!

JAILBAIT, Charlie's press secretary enters with another staffer, SUZANNE, who closes the door.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

It's all right, everybody calm down, tell me what's happening.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JAILBAIT

A Justice Department task force that was formed last year to investigate reports of sex between members of the House and their male interns has recently widened to include the use of recreational drugs by senators and congressmen.

SUZANNE

Do you know a guy named Paul Brown?

BONNIE

He doesn't have--don't answer anything right now.

(to JAILBAIT)

Keep going.

CHARLIE

Shit.

JAILBAIT

Paul Brown, under investigation by Federal Prosecutors for fraud--

CHARLIE

He wanted me to invest in a TV show for Liz.

JAILBAIT

He's saying he witnessed you doing cocaine nine times in a Fantasy Suite at Caesar's Palace. Brian Ross at NBC is breaking the story.

CHARLIE

All right. Guys. I was in Las Vegas with Liz and Paul Brown 'cause she wanted me to talk to him about--we were in a hot tub and there was cocaine--I didn't have any. I'd like you to go in the other room and start on a statement. You should get Stu on the phone. All right, it's gonna be all right.

(calling)

Gust!

GUST comes in as the STAFFERS exit--

GUST

Problem?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CHARLIE

No. What do you mean he's not trying to defeat the Soviets?

GUST

He wants to bleed them. Payback for Viet Nam. Make it so they just have to keep sending troops in and keep sending troops in and money until they just go out of their fuckin' minds like we did.

CHARLIE

Are you telling me that U.S. strategy in Afghanistan is to have Arabs keep walking into machine gun fire until the Russians run out of bullets?

GUST

No, that's Howard Hart's strategy, that's not U.S. strategy.

CHARLIE

What's U.S. strategy?

GUST

Strictly speaking we don't have one, but we've been working hard on that.

CHARLIE

Who's we?

GUST

Me and three other guys.

BONNIE pops her head in and motions--

CHARLIE

Yeah.

(to GUST)

Excuse me.

CHARLIE goes out into--

INT. OUTER-OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

--where the STAFFERS read CHARLIE what they've scratched out--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAILBAIT

(reading)

"Representative Charles Wilson has learned he is joining several members of Congress who are under investigation by a Justice Department task force--"

BONNIE

Don't say 'task force' it sounds too important, it sounds like Elliot Ness is running the thing.

CHARLIE

Who is running the thing, who's the prosecutor?

SUZANNE

Rudolph Giuliani. From the Southern District.

BONNIE

You know him?

CHARLIE

No.

SUZANNE

And it's been going on forever, we should say that.

JAILBAIT

"Representative Charles Wilson has learned he is joining several members of Congress who are under investigation by the Justice Department in what is now an 18th month long, wide-ranging examination that has resulted in no convictions."

BONNIE

(dictating)

"Congressman Wilson has not been charged with any crime, nor has he been questioned by authorities. He denies any allegations of illegal or improper behavior and will fully cooperate with the ongoing investigation."

CHARLIE

Run it by Stu.

CHARLIE goes back into--

INT. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

CHARLIE

You and three other guys.

GUST

Yeah.

CHARLIE

Well I'm telling you what I told Hart. I can get you more money. The ten million is a joke? Fine. What do you need?

GUST

It's not quite that simple.

CHARLIE

Why the hell not?!

GUST

'Cause it's a covert operation. When an Afghan freedom fighter gets captured, he can't get captured with an American-made weapon on him 'cause that's how a cold war turns into an actual war and that's something you want to keep a good eye on. Can I smoke?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

GUST

We have to arm the Muj with weapons it looks like they plausibly could have captured themselves.

CHARLIE

(pause)

We need to arm them with Soviet weapons.

GUST

Yeah. And we're gonna need a gun.

BONNIE sticks her head in--

BONNIE

It's Stu.

CHARLIE

(pause--then)

Would you excuse me for a--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUST

Yeah.

GUST exits.

CHARLIE

(to BONNIE)

You should be on this.

BONNIE grabs an extension.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Stu?

(beat)

No, it's gonna be fine. It was a party in Las Vegas, lots of drugs, lots of people I don't know. I was with Liz Wickersham and this guy, Paul Brown who wanted me to invest in a TV show for Liz.

(beat)

I don't know.

(beat)

I don't know, it was gonna be like Dallas set in Washington, Stu, what does it matter?

(beat)

Okay.

CHARLIE and BONNIE hang up--

BONNIE

Will Liz back up your story? That you weren't using?

CHARLIE

It's the truth, Bonnie.

BONNIE

Will Liz back it up?

CHARLIE

Why wouldn't she?

BONNIE

Her picture doesn't get in the paper 'less yours does.

CHARLIE

Put the release out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BONNIE

You know what? You never should have been
in the same fuckin' room.

BONNIE exits...GUST comes back in and closes the door.

CHARLIE

Soviet weapons.

GUST

Or weapons that can be made to look like
Soviet weapons or bought on the black
market.

CHARLIE

You said you need a gun.

GUST

A 20mm canon with a range of 1500
kilometers, high accuracy and kill
probability, armor piercing, mule
portable.

CHARLIE

Mule portable.

GUST

Yeah.

CHARLIE

Is there such a gun?

GUST

The Swiss make one called the Oerlikon.

CHARLIE

It can shoot down a Soviet gunship?

GUST

Yes.

CHARLIE

Now we're gettin' somewhere.

GUST

I want to buy two or three of them, put
'em in the field and see how we do.

CHARLIE

Two or three.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GUST

Yeah.

(beat--quieter)

Listen, Charlie?

CHARLIE

What good does two or three do?

GUST

(beat)

The limo driver.

CHARLIE

Why not buy fifty?

(beat)

What?

GUST

You took a limo from Caesar's to the airport. It's easy enough to track down the driver and hand him a subpoena and ask him if anything was going on in the back seat, so, in terms of covering--

CHARLIE

You were listening at the door?

GUST

I wasn't--

CHARLIE

You were standing at the goddam door and listening?

GUST

No--

CHARLIE

How could you--that's a thick door--you're just standing there and--

GUST

Charlie, I wasn't standing at the door, don't be an idiot, I bugged the bottle. The scotch.

CHARLIE

What?

GUST

Yeah, it's got a little transmitter on it, I've got a thing in my ear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CHARLIE

I don't believe this.

GUST

Look--

CHARLIE

Who the fuck are you?!

GUST

Charlie, Charlie, take it easy. It's a joke, it's a way of breaking the ice. I was gonna tell you about it but then I had to leave the room for a second 'cause, you know, 'cause you were getting indicted.

CHARLIE

I'm not getting indicted. Are there cameras in here? You're gonna try to get me to say something as stupid as John Murtha did?

GUST

That's a little paranoid, Charlie.

CHARLIE

You're right. Could you just take the bug off my scotch bottle now?

GUST

Sure.

CHARLIE settles himself down and gets to what he really wants to talk about...

CHARLIE

(pause)

I saw two kids who'd had their hands blown off when they picked up something shiny.

GUST

Toy bombs. Bombs that look like toys.

CHARLIE

For children to pick up.

GUST

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

CHARLIE
They're raping women.

GUST
Yeah.

CHARLIE
And bayonetting the pregnant ones.

GUST
It's as bad as it can be.

CHARLIE
Then why do you want to buy three
Oerlikons when we should be buying fifty?

GUST
Hm?

CHARLIE
See? You thought you were gonna be the
crazy person in this scene. National
Security Directive 63 says that Soviet
invading forces "will be repelled by any
means necessary." It authorizes the CIA--
that's you--to submit a plan to "build
our own capabilities to project force
into the region" and "to assist other
countries in the region to deter and
diminish internal and external threats to
stability."

GUST
You memorized it?

CHARLIE
The CIA shall submit a plan to be
approved by Congress. Submit me a plan.

GUST
Listen, Charlie, you've had a long
flight, you're under stress, you're under
arrest--

CHARLIE
I'm not under arrest. Would you like a
drink?

GUST
Sure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

CHARLIE

Should we try the scotch or does it
release serin gas when you open it?

GUST

I don't think so but open it over there.

CHARLIE goes to the bar and begins making the drinks...

CHARLIE

How'd a guy like you get into the Agency?

GUST

You mean a street guy.

CHARLIE

You ain't James Bond.

GUST

And you ain't Thomas Jefferson, so let's
call it even.

CHARLIE

Deal.

GUST

Since there's no other reason I should be
here, let's assume it's because I'm very
good at this.

CHARLIE

They have to shoot down the helicopters,
they need at least 50 surface to air--

GUST

That's gonna cost a lot more than ten
million dollars.

CHARLIE

And I say for the fourth time that I can--

GUST

How? How are you gonna get the approval
of Congress when they're saying no to the
Contras which was a request made by the
President.

CHARLIE

Because I sit on the sub-committee for
defense appropriations. And when a black
approp makes it out of our committee, the
full body has to vote on it blind.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

They know the dollar amount but they don't know what it's for. So theoretically, your 10 million dollars can become 200 million without anyone really noticing but the Russians.

GUST

Because Congress wouldn't know what it was voting on.

CHARLIE

That's correct.

GUST

I guess it was only a matter of time before ineptitude could be harnessed for good.

CHARLIE

That's right.

GUST

All you need are the 49 other Committee Members?

CHARLIE

No, all I need is the Chairman.

GUST

Doc Long.

CHARLIE

Doc Long.

GUST

And with Doc's backing, you'll get enough votes from the other Committee Members.

CHARLIE

This is my sixth term in Congress and my greatest legislative achievement is getting re-elected five times. My other achievement is that I hold more IOU's than any member of the House. It helps that I represent the one district in America that doesn't want anything. They want a government contract, an army base, a paper products hall of fame...they want lower taxes and they want to be able to carry a gun. I vote yes a lot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

GUST

Is it possible I'm talking to the one
Member of Congress who can get something
done in Afghanistan?

CHARLIE

You are.

GUST

And you want to buy 50 Oerlikons.

CHARLIE

As well as the ammunition and any
captured Soviet weapons the Israelis and
Egyptians have. Shoulder-mounted grenade
launchers, stingers, AK-47's, money,
training, organization...I'm not
interested in bleeding the Russians,
Gust, I'm interested in killing them
until they leave.

(pause)

Pack a bag. Be ready to fly to Jerusalem
tonight.

DISSOLVE TO:

BLACK

TITLE:

Part IV

The Congressman Takes His
Belly Dancer to the Jihad

FADE IN:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

CHARLIE, GUST, ZVI, and TWO MEN are having lunch in the same
restaurant we were in earlier.

CHARLIE

We need you Zvi, you're gonna be our man
inside the Israeli Parliament.

ZVI

I'm not in the Israeli Parliament.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

That's what gonna make you so effective.

TITLE:

Jerusalem

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Nobody's got your muscle with the Tenth
Knesset, nobody's got your relationship
with the Speaker and we're gonna need
your arm around Menahim when he finds out
we're working with Egypt and the Saudis.

(to GUST)

Tell him.

GUST

Hm?

CHARLIE

Tell him why we need him.

GUST

I'm not saying anything.

CHARLIE

Why not?

GUST

'Cause I don't know who the fuck these
two other guys are.

CHARLIE

They're bodyguards.

GUST

Not ours.

CHARLIE

Jesus.

(to the BODYGUARDS)

Fellas, can I buy you lunch at another
table.

ZVI

(to the BODYGUARDS--in Hebrew)

Go ahead, but keep an eye on the door for
me.

BODYGUARD

(in Hebrew)

Yes sir.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The BODYGUARDS get up and step away...

ZVI

Just to sum this up in a nutshell, you want me to move Israel toward to a partnership with Egypt, Pakistan and Afghanistan?

CHARLIE

And Saudi Arabia.

ZVI

Well a couple a problems I can foresee off the top of my head--

CHARLIE

Look--

ZVI

Charlie--

CHARLIE

I know.

ZVI

Pakistan and Afghanistan don't yet recognize our right to exist!

CHARLIE

Let's calm down.

ZVI

We just got done fighting a war with Egypt, and every person who's ever tried to kill me and my family has been trained in Saudi Arabia.

GUST

That's not entirely true, Zvi, some of them were trained by us.

CHARLIE

(to GUST)

Shut up.

(to ZVI)

He's got a sense of humor that's--it's an acquired, you know--Zvi, look at me. This is the front of the Cold War. It's not in Berlin, it's not in Cuba, it's not in Czechoslovakia, it's in a pile of rocks in Afghanistan. These are the only people who are actually shooting at Russians.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

You and I know we've gotta put Soviet weapons in the hands of the Mujahideen, and you and I know where the largest stockpile of Soviet weapons outside the Soviet Union is.

ZVI

I can't tell you offhand how many and what kinds of weapons we've confiscated.

GUST

I can. You've got 1108 AK-47, AKS-47, AKM, AKMS, AK-74 and AKS-74 assault rifles. You've got 346 Mosin-Nagant bolt-action rifles and 109 RPG-7 anti-tank grenade launchers, 221 Dragunov's, that's the sniper rifle, and the tanks.

ZVI

Which tanks?

CHARLIE

The Soviet T-55's.

ZVI

We don't have any T-55's.

GUST

(showing him)

These are Keyhole-1 satellite photos of a five-wheeled chassis tank, that's not the MK1, that's the T-55 and it and four others are sitting 12 miles from here.

CHARLIE

All in, \$35,500,000.

ZVI

Which you'll be able to appropriate.

CHARLIE

Yes.

ZVI

Without anyone in the press asking about it?

GUST

Good news there, 'cause the press is gonna be busy asking him about a weekend in Vegas and his pending arrest on charges of narcotics possession.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CHARLIE

Gust--

ZVI

Oh shit, Charlie.

CHARLIE

It's fine.

ZVI

Is this true?

GUST

For our purposes it doesn't really matter.

CHARLIE

Thank you.

GUST

I'm just explaining to him that as long as the press sees sex and drugs in your left hand, we can park a battle carrier group behind your right hand and no one's gonna notice.

ZVI

What the hell happened?

CHARLIE

I was in a room with some people and one of them needed to give a name.

ZVI

How many other people are gonna need to give a name?

CHARLIE

I don't know, it really doesn't matter--

ZVI

It does matter.

CHARLIE

It's not germane to--

ZVI

Charlie--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

CHARLIE

--these people who are fighting and dying and getting massacred in their houses. Now for the love of fucking Christ, will you help us help them shoot down these helicopters?

ZVI

(pause)

I love you, Charlie, you're like a son to me. But you're a grown man who still hasn't learned to look both ways before he crosses a fuckin' street.

(beat)

Yes, I'm in.

CHARLIE

Thank you.

ZVI

(pointing at GUST)

I don't like this guy.

CHARLIE

I know how you feel.

ZVI

What happens now?

CHARLIE

You come with us to Cairo.

ZVI

I was hoping you were gonna say that, 'cause I don't have enough trouble staying alive in my own country. This is gonna be run professional?

GUST

Absolutely. We'll be talking to the Deputy Defense Minister while his boss gets a belly dance from a friend of Charlie's.

ZVI

Oh God.

GUST

She's supposed to be good.

CUT TO:

EXT. AIRPORT TARMAC - DAY

A completely unmarked 727 is idling with a stair unit pulled up to the open door. CHARLIE, GUST and ZVI wait at the foot of the stairs with their overnight bags. The BODYGUARDS hover nearby.

A sedan pulls up on the tarmac. A couple of Israeli OFFICIALS hop out and help CAROL SHANNON out of the car with her bag. CAROL is a professional belly dancer. Probably the best in America. She smiles as soon as she see CHARLIE and CHARLIE smiles back and calls--

CHARLIE

(calling)

Carol!

CAROL hurries over and when she reaches CHARLIE, gives him a long kiss.

CAROL

Hi.

CHARLIE

You got in okay?

CAROL

Sure. Great. People met me at all the airports.

CHARLIE

I really appreciate this.

CAROL

Well this is the most exciting opportunity, you know, of my life.

(in his ear)

And you never have to thank me for anything.

ZVI

(extending his hand)

Young lady I'm Zvi Rafiah, I'm an arms dealer.

CAROL

Carol Shannon, very nice to meet you.

CHARLIE

And this is...hm--

(to GUST)

--how do we do this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUST

I'm Gust Avrakotos, I'm with the U.S.
Department of Agriculture, Animal and
Plant Health Inspection Service.

CHARLIE

(to CAROL)

Lemme take your bag.

CHARLIE does and they begin up the stairway. GUST notices that
ZVI is just standing there...

GUST

(to ZVI)

Your body guys don't look so good.

ZVI just looks at him...

GUST (CONT'D)

The last time you were in Egypt, you were
driving a tank, weren't you.

(beat--giving his endorsement)

Okay, you're all right.

They start up the stairs as we

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPLANE - LATER

We're in mid-flight. The plane, which holds 170 people, has
about 11 passengers. ZVI is sitting near the BODYGUARDS.
CHARLIE, GUST, CAROL and BONNIE sit near each other. They've
got drinks and work in front of them.

CHARLIE

You know this is an historic plane. It's
mandated by the Camp David Agreement. One
flight per day between Israel and Egypt.

BONNIE

(the empty plane)

And clearly Israelis and Egyptians alike
have been clamoring to take advantage of
it. Carol, the embassy's sent me a
protocol memo for you.

CAROL

What's that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BONNIE

Do's and don'ts.

(off the memo)

Don't sleep with a man you're not married to, don't be too friendly, don't perform any suggestive moves--

CAROL

What?

BONNIE

--like a pelvic grind, and you can't show your bare arms, legs or mid-section.

CAROL

It's a belly dance. How do I not be suggestive to say nothing of concealing my mid-section?

GUST

Honey, I'd do what they tell you.

CAROL

What'll they do to me.

GUST

They'll arrest you, they're not kidding around.

CAROL

Neither am I. A belly dance is meant to make someone feel powerless over a woman and sexually subjective.

GUST

And that's right up an Islamic man's alley.

CAROL

I dance the way I dance and they can arrest me after I do. Excuse me.

CAROL moves to the back of the plane.

BONNIE

I'll talk to her. Maybe a fishnet body stocking or something.

GUST

Yeah, that won't be sexually provocative.

BONNIE heads of to join CAROL in the back of the plane.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

Her father was a hard line Baptist who didn't allow dancing, and when he'd catch her in her room dancing to the radio he'd hit her. I don't mean he spanked her, he punched her in the face and she was like six. She grew up and studied belly dancing and became an expert. She's danced with the Houston Symphony. Dallas. That's how we're gettin' in the Defense Minister's door, this is a command performance. Anyway, incredibly, she married another hard line Baptist who hit her when she danced. A State Legislator named Joe Shannon.

GUST

What did you do about him?

CHARLIE

Well...I slept with his wife. But not before I rallied the democratic party to the side of his republican opponent and ended his political career.

GUST

Just like Mr. Hazard.

CHARLIE

(beat)

How do you know about that?

GUST

Last night at the hotel. Your girl, Bonnie, she told me about the dog that would bring down the Soviet Union.

CHARLIE

(laughing a little)

That's right. Hazard and Joe Shannon.

(tipping his drink)

Here's to you, you motherfuckers.

CUT TO:

INT. MYSTERY LOUNGE - NIGHT

CAROL is in the middle of her dance with her MUSIC PLAYING. Although there are about a dozen men standing or seated at one of the nightclub type tables, CAROL performs her dance for an audience of one--the DEFENSE MINISTER, who's sitting in the center of the room on what appears to be a large beanbag chair, though we know it's obviously something more expensive.

She pulls off her giant veil that's tied at the hips and then uses the veil to create frames in which she strikes poses. Then she slides the veil around the DEFENSE MINISTER's neck and ignores it.

CHARLIE, GUST and ZVI are sitting with HASSAN, the Egyptian Deputy Defense Minister, at one of several nightclub style tables that have been set up. Several EGYPTIAN BODYGUARDS stand around the perimeter, and Zvi's BODYGUARDS are also present.

TITLE:**Cairo****HASSAN**

Attack one Muslim and you attack all Muslims. The day of judgement shall pass. On that day, God will take the vengeance of our oppressed people who have been driven from their land. Fear God and fear His vengeance upon those who oppress His humble servants who submit to Him in Islam.

CHARLIE

(beat)

Well I'm not sure I understood all of that, but Gust wants to know about the SA-7 Grail surface to air missiles you have. He thinks they may have been stored poorly.

HASSAN

When these weapons help capture a platoon of Russian soldiers, praise Allah, we will saw off their heads and send their cold decaying bodies back to Moscow while their skulls hang in the center of Afghan villages.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

Well...what you do with their skulls is really up to you, but our question is--

HASSAN

The SA-7's were stored properly.

GUST

We don't want 'em, Charlie. They're gonna be corroded and the circuitry's gonna be blown.

HASSAN

That's an extraordinary woman.

CAROL is performing chest isolations and figure eight movements with her hips as the DEFENSE MINISTER grips the veil around his neck.

CHARLIE

The Defense Minister seems to be enjoying it.

HASSAN

What do you mean by that?

CHARLIE

(beat)

Nothing. I didn't--

GUST

He didn't mean anything. You're not gonna unload the SA-7's on us or the SPAAG Anti-Aircraft.

ZVI

Excuse me, but what about the oppression of my people.

HASSAN

What?

CHARLIE

What?

ZVI

You said "Fear God's vengeance upon those who oppress His humble servants who submit to him in Islam". What's your feeling about His servants who submit to Him at the foot of Mount Sinai?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

Do we have to do this now?

ZVI

I'm about to arrange for 35 million dollars worth of guns to be put in the hands of Muslims and I'm wondering who they're ultimately gonna be pointed at.

HASSAN

I meant no disrespect.

ZVI

Really.

And at that moment, CAROL pulls a sabre from its sheath, which makes the DEFENSE MINISTER'S BODYGUARDS jump toward the action--

CHARLIE

(jumping up)

Wait! It's part of the dance! It's part of the dance!

(to HASSAN)

Tell 'em it's part of the dance.

HASSAN

(in Arabic to the BODYGUARDS)

It's all right, it's part of the dance.

CAROL has remained perfectly calm and focused during this, staring straight at the DEFENSE MINISTER. The BODYGUARDS back off and she continues where she left off.

CHARLIE and GUST sit back down...

GUST

You have Soviet-licensed factories that can put out Kalishnikovs at a rate of 50 a week, is that correct?

HASSAN

That's correct.

CAROL has taken the sabre and after wielding it several times over the DEFENSE MINISTER's head, points it directly at his throat. The BODYGUARDS jump--

CHARLIE/GUST

(shouting together)

It's part of the dance!/It's part of the damn dance!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE
Jesus Christ.

GUST
What about city warfare devices?

HASSAN
Like what?

GUST
Bicycle bombs, limpet mines, plastic,
trip, wire mines?

HASSAN
Yes.

GUST
We're gonna want 'em.

HASSAN
Good, because we must show the Russians
the same brutality they've shown the
Afghans. We will set fire to them alive
and dance around them in celebration as
they burn. Killing Russians in any corner
of the earth is the greatest obligation
and the most excellent of ways to gain
nearness to Allah.

ZVI
Well that's a nice bonus for you then.

CHARLIE
Why don't we just enjoy the performance.

And CAROL once again wields the sabre over the DEFENSE
MINISTER's head and points it at his throat.

Everyone in the room tightens a little bit as she slides the
tip of the sword from the man's throat down to his groin. Once
she has it there, she lifts her eyes past the DEFENSE MINISTER
to meet the warrior gaze of his BODYGUARDS and we

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

This is an Air Egypt jet and the cabins are reasonably full.
BONNIE's asleep in her seat. So is CAROL. CHARLIE and GUST
sit next to each other with drinks.

After a moment...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUST

Where I grew up, which is Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, there's a 97 year old woman who thinks she's a witch. And I paid her 80 dollars to put a curse on my Division Chief.

CHARLIE

(pause)

I don't--what?

GUST

She comes from an order of women in ancient Greece who were intermediaries between the lords of the underworld and the gods of Olympus. The Greek Orthodox Church was the first church, it was founded right after the death of Christ, and Nitsa--that's the witch--her incantations don't come from the back of a magazine, they come from the bible. And she treats magic like science and science like superstition. She said she'd get rid of my Division Chief, who wronged me, because "Cursed be he who does the Lord's work remissly, cursed be he who holds back his sword from blood." She was quoting Jeremiah.

CHARLIE

How long has she been like that?

GUST

Like what?

CHARLIE

(beat)

I don't know. Crazy.

GUST

Exactly what difference do you see between Nitsa and the people we're about to go into business with?

CHARLIE

You know there, Sundance, I'm not the one who gave her 80 bucks.

PILOT (VO)

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.
Captain Harrison from the flight deck.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PILOT (VO) (CONT'D)

We'll be beginning our initial decent into Washington's Dulles airport in about...

GUST

I have a briefing set up for you at Langley. We need to talk about who'll get the guns.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

CHARLIE and GUST, along with MCGAFFIN and three other experts listen to a BRIEFER. There's a slide up. A map of Afghanistan with a dozen unconnected shaded areas. The name of each group is inside the shaded areas along with a dollar amount.

BRIEFER

The Mujahideen don't act as a unified resistance, but rather several disparate and uncoordinated guerilla forces.

CHARLIE

Can they be trained to fight as an army?

BRIEFER

Afghanistan's barely a country. No phones or roads outside the cities. It's likely that a villager would live his life without having contact with another village three miles down the road unless he was going to war against them.

MCGAFFIN

The most successful rebels to date are in the Panjshir Valley. They're called the United Front or sometimes the Northern Alliance. We've earmarked them for 10 million in weapons and 10 to 15 CIA Agency advisors for training.

CHARLIE

Do they have a leader?

MCGAFFIN

Ahmad Shah Massoud. He's Tajik so he's not well liked by the Pashtun.

CHARLIE

The Tajik and the Pashtun have a problem with each other?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUST

They say when a Tajik wants to make love to a woman, his first choice is always a Pashtun man.

(silence)

I've been on a lot of airplanes in the last few days and it's funnier in the original Urdu.

BRIEFER

There's also another group we like that's gaining momentum. They're just a couple of years old, they're funded by a wealthy Saudi aristocrat. They observe a fairly radical brand of fundamentalism but they're doing a heck of a job wreaking havoc on the Russians. We'd like to earmark 10 million for them and another 10-15 CIA advisors.

EXPERT #1

What's their name?

BRIEFER

They call themselves The Base. In Arabic that translates to Al Qaeda. All right, this next slide is of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, also a man to watch...

CHARLIE

(quietly to GUST)

I've got everything I need. I'm going to see Doc.

GUST

Good luck.

CUT TO:

INT. DOC LONG'S OFFICE - DAY

DOC is in his 70's with the look and air of a mad professor. He's eating lunch at his desk and he's not necessarily someone you want to watch eat. A plaque sits in his desk:

THE GOLDEN RULE

"Them that's got the gold makes the rules."

CHARLIE stands in front of the desk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

She's not a stripper, actually, she posed for Playboy.

DOC

What's the difference?

CHARLIE

I'm not sure, really, but it doesn't matter.

DOC

Isn't that what every politician says right before they're thrown out of politics?

CHARLIE

I'm not here talking to you about politics.

DOC

Afghanistan, Egypt, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are totalitarian dictatorships that would like to blow the only democracy in the region into the Mediterranean.

CHARLIE

The Israelis are gonna be on board.

DOC

Well Zvi Rafiah's out of his mind.

CHARLIE

Doc--

DOC

These people are draconian thugs and in an evil-and-twisted derby between the Communists and the Fundamentalists, it's six-to-five and pick 'em as far as I'm concerned, so if one of 'em wants to kill the other I pretty much consider it a public service murder.

CHARLIE

You're wrong about that and you know you don't mean it.

DOC

In Pakistan a blind girl is raped and there's a witness.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DOC (CONT'D)

Except in Pakistan you need four witnesses. So the rapist walks away and the blind girl's in prison. You know why?

CHARLIE

Fornication.

DOC

That's right. How much money did you say you want me to give these people again?

CHARLIE

We've been running covert ops through Zia since he took power--

DOC

Which he did by executing his democratically elected predecessor.

CHARLIE

Nonetheless--

DOC

Nonetheless?!

CHARLIE

Yes sir, he is the only one willing to shoulder the risk of directly training and funding the Mujahideen, while Egypt and Saudi Arabia--

DOC

What would the Saudi involvement be?

CHARLIE

Matching any funding from Congress.

DOC

Matching it.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

DOC

So when you say 40 million to me, we're really talking about 80 million.

CHARLIE

Just 40 from us.

DOC

But 80 for them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE

Doc, take a trip with me to the border. See what I've seen. They're farmers and they're children mostly and they're fighting our enemy for us and that should be impossible for America. It should be impossible for America to sit on the bench while little boys and their mothers fight our enemy. All you need to do to change that is to support me in Committee, Mr. Chairman. Come with me to the border.

DOC

I'm sorry, Charlie. Doubling from five to ten million was one thing but this I'm not gonna get behind. You got anything else?

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S OUTER OFFICE - DAY

CHARLIE walks in--

RECEPTIONIST

Good morning, Congressman. I know Jailbait wants to talk to you about--

CHARLIE

Hang on.

He's taken out a small, well-used black phone book from his pocket, flips to a certain page and begins dialing.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. JOANNE'S SWIMMING POOL - SAME TIME

JOANNE appears from out of the water in a bikini and answers the RINGING PHONE--

JOANNE

Hello.

CHARLIE

It's Charlie Wilson.

JOANNE

Tell me what's happening.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

I met with Zia and I'm working with a CIA expert on getting Israeli and Egyptian weapons, plus the Swiss Oerlikon, into the hands of two particular Afghan resistance groups. It all hinges on the money. So listen up. I need you to call Doc Long and whatever it is you did to me, do to him. I'm gonna give you his direct dial number, it's--

JOANNE

I've got it.

JOANNE hangs up and we stay in CHARLIE'S OUTER OFFICE as JAILBAIT steps out--

JAILBAIT

Welcome back.

CHARLIE

Thank you, that's a nice skirt.

JAILBAIT

Thank you. The *Washington Times* wants to know if you've ever been in rehab.

CHARLIE

And you told them...?

JAILBAIT

That you won't go to rehab 'cause they don't serve liquor there.

CHARLIE

And that's why you're the press secretary, boo-boo.

BONNIE

(stepping out)

Charlie, I've got Stu on the phone, can you jump on?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

And by now, CHARLIE's made it into--

INT. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

--where he picks up a phone and hits a button.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

(into phone)

Hey Stu, it me.

(listens)

All right.

(listens)

All right.

(listens)

She's not a stripper, Stu, she posed on
the cover of--

(hanging up)

--what the hell difference does it make?

CHARLIE puts a couple of ice cubes in a glass and pours
himself a drink.

BONNIE comes in.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

They're talking to Liz today.

BONNIE

Yeah. Guiliani subpoenaed the limo
driver.

CHARLIE

Hm. That's what Gust said he would do.

BONNIE

Well the limo driver said he didn't see
anything.

CHARLIE

He didn't see anything.

BONNIE

So Guiliani's subpoenaed every limo
driver between Arlington and Silver
Spring to see if any of them can recall
your using cocaine.

CHARLIE

Hey what made you tell Gust the story
about Teddy?

BONNIE

Who's Teddy?

CHARLIE

My dog when I was a kid. What made you
think to tell him that story?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BONNIE

(beat)

I don't know, I was--

SUZANNE steps in--

SUZANNE

Joanne Herring on the phone.

CHARLIE picks it up--

CHARLIE

(into phone)

It's me.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. JOANNE'S POOL - SAME TIME

JOANNE

(into phone)

We're all leaving in the morning. I'll fly in tonight. Buy me a drink.

CHARLIE

Yes ma'am.

JOANNE

Thank you, Charlie.

They both hang up.

BONNIE

I didn't mean anything by it, sir, it was just--

CHARLIE

No, don't worry about it. We're going to Pakistan again in the morning.

CUT TO:

INT. WASHINGTON NIGHT SPOT - NIGHT

It's late, and CHARLIE, GUST, JOANNE and the women from Charlie's office, including JAILBAIT and SUZANNE but not including BONNIE are sitting around a couple of tables and laughing. They've been drinking a while and they're closing the place.

CHARLIE

Should we get another round? One more?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Everyone happily agrees...

GUST

Say Joanne? Can I call you Joanne?

JOANNE

Yes.

GUST

You'll want to dress considerably more modestly when we're at the border.

JOANNE

Well thank you, but I've been passionately involved with the cause of the Afghans for three years and I've been there many times.

GUST

(pause)

Okay, well then I'll just go fuck myself.

CHARLIE

I knew you two'd hit it off right away.

SUZANNE leans in--

SUZANNE

Congressman, Stu's on the phone. You can take it at the bar.

CHARLIE

Thank you.

CHARLIE heads over to the bar...

JOANNE

(to GUST)

How'd you hook up with Charlie? Were you also passionately involved with cause of the Afghans?

GUST

No, I just wasn't really doing anything else.

CHARLIE

(calling back)

I knew you two'd hit it off.

CHARLIE's gone...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOANNE

I meant how did you get into the CIA?

GUST

I didn't, I'm with the Department of Agriculture.

JOANNE

Food and Plant Division.

GUST

Specifically apple imports.

JOANNE

You don't seem like the type.

GUST

I know.

JOANNE

Where are you from?

GUST

What do you care?

JOANNE

Are you a catholic?

GUST

I'm Greek Orthodox, Mrs. Herring.

JOANNE

That's still Christian.

GUST

Imagine my relief.

JOANNE

What's your problem with me?

GUST

I've found in my business that when people with time on their hands start mixing religion and politics, I start forgetting who I'm supposed to be shooting at.

JOANNE

That would be the apple import business?

GUST

Yes ma'am.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOANNE

I'll have to remember that.

GUST

Please do.

CHARLIE comes back...

CHARLIE

That was Stu. It's over.

(calling to his STAFFERS)

Everybody. That was Stu on the phone.
It's over.

SUZANNE

Liz didn't name you?

CHARLIE

No she did, she said she witnessed me
using coke once in the Cayman Islands.
I'm going home. Jo, Gust, most important
trip of your lives tomorrow morning. Get
some sleep. Good night, everyone.

(to the MANAGER, indicating the
two tables)

Mario, this is all me, okay.

MARIO

Yes sir.

CHARLIE exits...

JOANNE

I don't understand.

SUZANNE

She stayed out of jail without giving him
up.

JOANNE

She did give him up.

SUZANNE

Not within the Justice Department's
Jurisdiction, she didn't. We're back in
business.

JOANNE

(to GUST)

And you don't see God's hand in this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

GUST

I guess reasonable people can disagree
but I don't see God anywhere within miles
of this. On the other hand, if you slept
with me tonight I'll betchya I could
change my mind in a hurry.

JOANNE

Oh you would. I'll see you on the plane.

CUT TO:

EXT. CHARLIE'S CAR - NIGHT

It's a large Lincoln and CHARLIE turns on to the Key Bridge to
cross from D.C. into Virginia. The news is on the radio and
after a report of record rainfall in the planes states is a
report on a Soviet victory in some village in Afghanistan.
Estimates of the number of Afghans killed in the attack.

CHARLIE

(to the radio)

Hang on, boys, the Yanks are comin'.

BAM!--

CHARLIE rear-ends a Honda, sending it into the railing of the
bridge. He SCREECHES on his breaks.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Shit.

CHARLIE looks behind him and throws the car in reverse,
backing himself up to the disabled Honda. He rolls down the
window.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Are you guys all right?

MAN IN CAR

What the hell were you doing?!

CHARLIE

Is anybody hurt?

MAN IN CAR

No thank God, but what the hell were you--

CHARLIE

(to himself)

Shit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He thinks for a quick moment...then hits the gas and peels out and we

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

As CHARLIE comes in the door, clearly shaken. He goes right to a phone and picks it up and we

CUT TO:

INT. BONNIE'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

BONNIE and her DATE are in bed. The DATE is trying to remove BONNIE's bra.

After a moment...

BONNIE
You want me to do it?

DATE
I can get it.

BONNIE
(beat)
It's a clasp.

DATE
I can get it.

The PHONE rings. BONNIE's able to pick it up without moving away from the work her DATE is doing.

BONNIE
(into phone)
Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. CHARLIE'S BALCONY - SAME TIME

CHARLIE's standing out there with the phone.

CHARLIE
It's me. Something's just happened.

BONNIE
I heard from Stu.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

No not that. I was driving home--

BONNIE

What happened.

CHARLIE

I hit a car on the Key Bridge. Everyone's okay but I fled the scene.

BONNIE

What are you talking about? Hang on.

(to the DATE)

Take a break for a second.

CHARLIE

You got a guy there?

BONNIE

Charlie--

CHARLIE

I had nine Manhattans at the restaurant, Bon, I've got a blood-alcohol of who the hell knows what, I've got to close the deal with Doc tomorrow in Pakistan, I have to be able to leave the country, I can't get arrested tonight on a DUI.

BONNIE

Well it's not anymore, it's a hit and run. You drive a car the size of the USS Coral Sea and your plates say "Texas 2".

(to the DATE)

Really, you should stop now.

CHARLIE

Who's the guy?

BONNIE

What does it matter?

CHARLIE

Is he funnier than me?

BONNIE

I'm gonna call Stu.

CHARLIE

We need to figure out a way for me to leave the country in six hours.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BONNIE

By the way, right now? This second? I'm committing misprision of a felony.

CHARLIE

I really don't want to know what you do with your boyfriends.

BONNIE

Look--

CHARLIE

Get me on the plane, Bonnie.

CHARLIE hangs up...he takes a deep breath as he looks out at the DC skyline.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFGHAN REFUGEE CAMP - EVENING

An OFFICIAL PARTY mingles among the REFUGEES.

CHARLIE stands apart...looking out over the Khyber Pass.
JOANNE comes up.

JOANNE

Doc's eating this up.

CHARLIE

Yeah.

JOANNE

Forget about the accident, Charlie, nobody was hurt. You know you need to step outside the minor pitfalls of your own life and look at the larger picture. There's a reason your car didn't flip over, you know what it is?

CHARLIE

My car weighs two tons.

JOANNE

God wanted you to be here.

CHARLIE

When did this start, Joanne?

JOANNE

What.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

Nothing.

JOANNE

You had help getting here today.

CHARLIE

Yes, my committee oversees the budget for the DC Police Department.

JOANNE

You're a prophet.

CHARLIE

Get some help already, would you?

DOC LONG is heading over and calls--

DOC

Charlie!

(coming over with a bullhorn)

Charlie. They want you to say some remarks. I think you should.

CHARLIE

I think you should, Doc.

DOC

Really?

CHARLIE

Yes sir.

DOC

I'm feeling a little emotional from what I've--you know--from what I've seen here.

CHARLIE

That's fine.

DOC turns toward the CROWD--several hundred AFGHANS--and begins speaking into the bullhorn--

DOC

My friends!

JOANNE

(to CHARLIE)

Nice touch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TRANSLATOR
(in ARABIC into his own
bullhorn)
My friends!

DOC
(into bullhorn)
Uh...My son served in Viet Nam.

The TRANSLATOR translates...

DOC (CONT'D)
He was wounded in battle fighting against
the Soviet oppressors.

After the translation, the CROWD goes crazy at the mention of
the "Soviet oppressors".

DOC (CONT'D)
So I'm no stranger...no stranger at all
to the horrors and atrocities of the
Communists!

The place goes crazy after the translation and we start
hearing--

CROWD
Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar!

DOC
As God is my witness today, these Russian
gunships, every last one of them, will be
blown clear out of the sky.

The CROWD is now in a state of religious ecstasy. They're
absolutely coming out of themselves. And the crowd's reaction
has DOC LONG feeling a purpose and a righteousness he's never
felt as his voice grows stronger

DOC (CONT'D)
We will see that you have guns!...We will
see that you have training!

JOANNE grabs CHARLIE and kisses him...

DOC (CONT'D)
I'm a simple man, and this is a simple
matter. Good versus Evil and I say to you
that America will always be on the side
of Good and God will always punish the
wicked! Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar! God
is Great! God is Great!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The place explodes. JOANNE is near tears. GUST leans in to CHARLIE...

GUST

This is gonna all start to get interesting now I think.

DISSOLVE TO:

BLACK

TITLE:

Part V:

Here's To You, You Motherfuckers

FADE IN:

EXT. THE SKY - DAY

We HEAR the staccato chopping of HELICOPTER rotors grow louder until we see three Soviet MI-24 Assault Gunships--one in the lead, two in back--come into view.

INT. SOVIET HELICOPTER - SAME TIME

Two PILOTS sit in tandem while six other RUSSIAN SOLDIERS are seated and armed for combat. The mood is relaxed and jovial. The Russian is subtitled.

PILOT #1

(into radio in RUSSIAN)

Gardeyz, 2 kilometers south-southwest.
Check six.

PILOT #2

(in Russian)

No birds but us. Killing season.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFGHAN VILLAGE - SAME TIME

Villagers are fleeing into their houses from the sound of the approaching helicopters--but not all the villagers. A half-dozen are staying outside as a tarp gets yanked off a huge gun--the Swiss Oerlikon--an anti-aircraft canon. One of them begins shouting instructions to the other five as we

CUT TO:

INT. HELICOPTER - SAME TIME

One of the soldiers in the back lights a cigarette.

PILOT #1

(in Russian)

She says she doesn't think I'm the kind of guy who can be serious, which is ridiculous, 'cause I've had many more serious relationships than she has. Arming Gatling.

GUNNER

(in RUSSIAN)

Roger, fangs out.

PILOT #1

Not many more, necessarily, but at least as many. Arm AT-2C.

PILOT #2

Roger.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFGHAN VILLAGE - SAME TIME

The six MUJ are frantically readying the Oerlikon. This isn't a rehearsal. A gunner straps himself into the gunner straps and shoulder rests, elevating and aiming the gun manually and we

CUT TO:

EXT. THE SKY - SAME TIME

The helicopters--one in front, two in back--approach a mountain pass and begin to lower their altitude.

INT. HELICOPTER - SAME TIME

PILOT #1

(in RUSSIAN)

One kilometer, south-southwest, you can arm your swatters.

GUNNER

(in RUSSIAN)

Roger, arm Swatter ATGM.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PILOT #1
(in RUSSIAN)
Also, define serious relationship. What
does that mean?

CUT TO:

INT. AFGHAN VILLAGE - SAME TIME

The Trunnion Operator raises and lowers the trunnion column on a pedestal mount to accommodate the position of the gunner. VILLAGERS are watching from the cover of their houses.

And now the three helicopters appear from around the side of a mountain. Two loaders prep the barrel of the Oerlikon as we

CUT TO:

INT. HELICOPTER - SAME TIME

PILOT #1
(in Russian)
Monogamous? Is that what she means?

GUNNER
(in Russian)
In range.

CUT TO:

EXT. AFGHAN VILLAGE - SAME TIME

The Slater fixes the tripod mounts, the Range Setter confirms the gyroscopic sight--

HEAD MUJ
(in Arabic)
Fire!

And they shoot off a canon blast as we

CUT TO:

INT. HELICOPTER - SAME TIME

PILOT #1
'Cause if her definition is--

PILOT #2
(suddenly seeing it)
ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE STRAIGHT A--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

~~BLAHM~~--the helicopter's hit and we

CUT TO:

EXT. AFGHAN VILLAGE - SAME TIME

And now the helicopter EXPLODES in a thunderclap and turns the sky into a fireball. The six Mujahideen start SCREAMING and grabbing each other.

The two other helicopters start scrambling as we

CUT TO:

INT. HELICOPTER #2 - SAME TIME

They're in the middle of smoke and we're listening to a frantic Russian voice on the radio--

RADIO VOICE (VO)

(subtitled)

They've got something down there! Get outa there!

PILOT #3

Retreat!

RADIO VOICE (VO)

Get the fuck outa there! Retreat!

CUT TO:

EXT. AFGHAN VILLAGE - SAME TIME

VILLAGERS are coming out of their houses to see a black and orange fire in the distance and two Soviet helicopters retreating in the sky.

It's a pandemonium of celebration. Screaming at the sky, waving their fists, pounding the ground--

VILLAGERS

Allahu Akbar! Allahu Akbar!

CUT TO:

INT. CAPITOL CORRIDOR - DAY

BONNIE is clacking along down the corridor as quickly as she can in her heels. She holds a folded note in her hand that she obviously knows is important. She gets to double doors marked "Speaker's Lobby" and walks into--

INT. SPEAKER'S LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

--which is full of CONGRESSMEN mingling before a vote. She heads straight to CHARLIE and hands him the note. He unfolds it--

We just shot one down.

--Gust

CHARLIE looks at BONNIE, who's smiling at him--

CHARLIE
(pumping his fist)
Yeah!

We start a SERIES OF SHORTS SCENES that are woven together by score, beginning with--

EXT. AFGHAN BRIDGE - DAY

It's a narrow bridge connecting the sides of two mountains. A four truck caravan comes into view and starts across the bridge. And now we see a Soviet flag on the side of each truck.

And now we see three MUJAHIDEEN tucked in a rock crevice. They each have high-powered sniper rifles and have the scopes trained sharply on the first truck in the caravan as it heads to the middle of the bridge.

Then SNAP-SNAP-SNAP--they fire off three shots that disable the first truck and send it screeching to a halt, forcing the three trucks behind it to stop in the middle of the bridge.

Before anyone can figure out what's happening, 40 MUJAHIDEEN appear from nowhere on horseback at both ends of the bridge, each brandishing an AK-47 automatic assault rifle. The horsemen gallop quickly on the either side of the marooned trucks, firing hundreds of rounds into the cloth-covered truck beds, shredding the trucks and the soldiers inside.

Amid frantic Russian radio clatter, RUSSIAN soldiers scramble to get out of the trucks and fight back but they're ripped up pretty easily.

A MUJAHIDEEN watches from his horse as one RUSSIAN soldier runs for his life and then jumps off the bridge, falling about 200 feet to his death.

The MUJ fires his gun in the air--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MUJAHIDEEN
Allahu Akbar!

ALL
Allahu Akbar!

CUT TO:

INT. CIA BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

GUST and his crew, which has now grown from 4 to 14 AGENTS, is being told the good news by an ANALYST in front of a lit map.

ANALYST
...It was the Bamian-led group. They set
an ambush at the Fuladi bridge.

GUST
What'd they get?

ANALYST
Four supply trucks coming out of Bagram
Air Base.

GUST
They hit the Soviet 8th Infantry on
horseback?

ANALYST
Yes sir.

GUST
(beat--to the AGENT next to
him)
These guys are pretty good.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

CHARLIE pours some whiskey over ice as the late night news plays on the TV in the background. In front of him on the coffee table are briefing papers and other kinds of homework.

TV ANCHOR (FROM TV)
...while in Kabul today, Afghan guerillas
launched a devastating rocket attack that
resulted in over a hundred Russian
casualties, prompting the Kremlin to
promise an additional 5-to-10 thousand
Soviet troops to the region. Pentagon
sources--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE
Atta boy, Yuri, keep 'em comin'.

CUT TO:

INT. CIA MEETING ROOM - DAY

GUST, MCGAFFIN and their crowd are around a table with cigarettes and coffee. It's standing room only.

GUST
The Oerlikons are starting to lose their effectiveness.

AGENT
Why?

GUST
Well for one thing, they're leaving a trail the size of I-95 back to the point of fire so they're a hot target if they stay with the gun, if they retreat, they lose it.

AGENT #2
They shot down 20 gunships in three months.

GUST
But 16 were in the first two months. The Russians just changed their altitudes to 3000 feet where the 20mm rounds don't have accuracy.

MCGAFFIN
That's why we want to start 'em on the Stinger, Gust.

GUST
That's an escalation.

MCGAFFIN
It weighs 35 pounds, we can get outa the mule business.

GUST
It's a "fire-and-forget" weapon. Anyone who has a shoulder can hit their target. Are we concerned about that?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUST (CONT'D)

(beat)

Nope? Okay.

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

GUST stands in front of CHARLIE--

GUST

It's called an FIM-92A, or Stinger. It has a range of five miles and a ceiling of 10,000 feet. It can fire off a missile every five seconds.

CHARLIE

Can the Afghan's win without it?

GUST

(beat)

No.

CHARLIE

End of discussion.

CUT TO:

INT. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM - DAY

CHARLIE addresses the 49 other COMMITTEE MEMBERS--

CHARLIE

(off notes)

...An additional 30 million for FIM-92A, or Stinger missiles, bringing the total appropriation to 70 million...

CUT TO:

EXT. PAKISTANI AIRSTRIP - NIGHT

A C-130 cargo plane is being unloaded. Dozens of Arab men are handing off crate after crate, fire brigade style, from the rear ramp of the plane to some trucks that are waiting nearby while we HEAR a news report--

NEWS ANCHOR (VO)

...Reports today out of Afghanistan confirmed that the Mujahideen rebels destroyed 15 Soviet armored vehicles during a fierce two hour...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We can see that on each of the crates, in the exact same spot, something has been quickly and crudely scratched off as one NEWS REPORT bleeds into the next--

NEWS ANCHOR #2 (VO)

...guerillas caused severe electrical shortages when they attacked a hydro-electric plant east of the city. Most homes in the region were left without electricity and Soviet officials declined to comment on...

We moved up the human conveyor belt and into--

INT. CARGO PLANE - CONTINUOUS

And into another news report--

NEWS ANCHOR #3 (VO)

...In the latest in series of damaging offensives waged by Afghan Mujahideen in recent weeks, rebel forces destroyed ten helicopters at the Bagram Air base during a rocket attack yesterday...

--and as we keep moving deeper into the cargo hold of the plane, we can see half a dozen MEN in the very back. They have rocks and they're using the rocks to scrape Israeli flag decals off the crates and we

CUT TO:

INT. STUDY - NIGHT

We're CLOSE on a typewriter as a check is being typed to WILSON FOR CONGRESS. It's for \$50,000. JOANNE takes the check out and signs it as we

CUT TO:

EXT. AFGHANISTAN/OUTSIDE A CAVE - DAY

15 MUJAHIDEEN are gathered in a semi circle. A few of them have stinger missiles on their shoulders and a few other stingers are laying around on the ground. They're being instructed by two CIA AGENTS, who are dressed in Afghan garb and speak through a TRANSLATOR. One particular FIGHTER stands in the middle of the semi-circle being coached.

AGENT

All right, your target's in range.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRANSLATOR
(in Arabic)
Target's in range.

The FIGHTER mounts the stinger on his shoulder, sighting a Soviet armored vehicle on a road about two miles away. He centers the vehicle on the range ring and presses the IFF interrogator switch and listens nervously for a lock.

AGENT
Wait for the twin tones.

FIGHTER
Allahu Akbar.

AGENT
Wait for the--

The FIGHTER fires the missile--too early--and one of the other FIGHTERS rips off his head gear in frustration, revealing that it's GUST. The TRANSLATOR can barely keep up--

GUST
Goddamit, how hard can it be to wait for the twin tones?! You just fired a \$60,000 missile into space, okay? Gimme that.

GUST takes another stinger--

GUST (CONT'D)
It's based on a passive infrared seeker and navigation system. It doesn't matter if the target distance increases or decreases, it'll make its own adjustment. Wait for the twin tones.

GUST fires and then turns around again to address the group--

GUST (CONT'D)
Now technically I'm not supposed to do that.

BLAHN!--the truck explodes two miles in the distance. The FIGHTERS cheer GUST's marksmanship.

GUST (CONT'D)
Thank you.
(to the AGENTS)
Train 'em properly.
(to himself--checking the sky)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GUST (CONT'D)

Where'd that other one go? It's gonna
fall down on my fuckin' head.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT

It's election night and the suite is filled with STAFF,
GUESTS, balloons and whiskey.

As we MOVE past the TELEVISION SCREEN we see that Charlie
Wilson has defeated his Republican opponent, Louis Dugas, Jr.,
113,225 to 77,842.

We find CHARLIE having a quiet phone conversation.

CHARLIE

(into phone)

Thank you.

(beat)

Thank you very much.

(beat)

Well the first thing we're gonna do is
take the covert ops budget from 70 to 100
million.

CUT TO:

INT. DOC LONG'S OFFICE - DAY

CHARLIE makes his case in front of DOC.

CHARLIE

According to CIA estimates, seven out of
every ten times a mujahid fires a
Stinger, a Soviet chopper or plane falls
out of the sky. Each Russian MiG costs 20
million dollars while the Stingers cost
60 to 70 thousand.

DOC

What do you want to do?

CHARLIE

Take it to 250-million.

DOC

Remind me again, where did this thing
start?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHARLIE
Five-million.

CUT TO:

INT. COMMITTEE ROOM - DAY

CHARLIE, DOC and the 49 MEMBERS.

CHARLIE
We've had a lot of good reasons over the last few years to keep increasing the budget for training and weapons, but now I can give you one more. They're winning. We need to add another 200-million this year.

CONGRESSMAN
Taking us to?

CHARLIE
500 million. Matched by the Saudis.

CONGRESSMAN
One billion dollars.

CHARLIE
That's right.

CONGRESSMAN
This will be by far the largest covert action in U.S. history.

CHARLIE
By far.

And now we're done with the SERIES OF SCENES as we

CUT TO:

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A cocktail party is underway and spirits are great. Congressional colleagues of Charlie's mingle with other friends and his usual harem of beautiful women, including JOANNE and CAROL and his office staff. MUSIC plays in the background and JAILBAIT walks through the crowd, telling the guests--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAILBAIT

It's five minutes to seven. It's gonna be on in five minutes. It's five minutes to seven.

We FIND CHARLIE at the bar, being poured a drink by a bartender. He gets a tap on the shoulder and turns around to see JANE, the woman he had up to his place early in the movie.

JANE

You remember me? The second best view in the District.

CHARLIE

(smiles)

Of course I remember you.

JANE

Jane.

CHARLIE

Jane. You still working for Congress?

JANE

Yeah, how 'bout you?

CHARLIE

That's funny.

JANE

You know, I don't know if you're aware, but in the same month that *The Washington Times* called you one of the 25 least consequential members of the House, *Washingtonian Magazine* named you one of the 10 most effective back room dealers on the Hill.

CHARLIE

Sounds like at least one of 'em got their story wrong.

JANE

I'm here with a friend, what's the occasion?

CHARLIE

You'll find out in four and a half minutes.

(he sees someone)

Would you excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JANE

Yes sir.

And CHARLIE heads out to--

EXT. TERRACE - EVENING

--where GUST is standing--cigarette and a drink--reading a set of briefing papers.

CHARLIE

I didn't see you come in.

GUST

Hang on.

CHARLIE

(beat)

There's this girl here named Jane. I met her about three years ago when she--

GUST

DCI got an SR this morning. Pakistani intelligence is telling our six man paramilitary team to stay out of Asadabad for the next 48 hours.

CHARLIE

Why?

GUST

A Cleric named Mohammad Haroon Hamid spoke at the Jalabad Mosque and Madrassa this morning. I'm just looking at the translation of what he said.

(reading)

"The day will come when we will rule America."

CHARLIE

Come inside, it's gonna start.

GUST

(reading)

"The day will come when we will rule Britain and the entire world."

CHARLIE

I think it's a longshot, put down the work.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GUST

(reading)

"Except for the Jews. The Jews will not enjoy a life of tranquillity under our rule because they are treacherous by nature, as they have been throughout history. The day will come when everything will be relieved of the Jews--even the stones and trees which were harmed by them. Listen to the Prophet Muhammad, who tells you about the evil end that awaits Jews. The stones and trees will want the Muslims to finish off every Jew."

CHARLIE

I need the CIA to tell me there are crazy people in the Middle East?

GUST

You need somebody to tell you.

CHARLIE

What's the problem?

GUST

This guy's two sons-in-law are the leaders of the al-Konar arm of the Mujahideen. We gave them 44-million in weapons and supplies and I oversaw their training myself. We might want to be a little more careful about that.

CHARLIE

I don't vet these guys, Sundance.

GUST

No shit, Butch.

CHARLIE

I meant I'm not the one who vets them.

GUST

Guy had 3000 people show up. I don't know of a Klan rally in Mississippi that ever had 3000 people show up.

CHARLIE

So kill him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GUST

That's a good plan, 'cause that definitely wouldn't stir anti-American sentiment. Plus I'm sure he's the only one, once we get him that'll be it.

CHARLIE

Gust--

GUST

No wait, I forgot about his sons-in-law. To say nothing of Joanne's friend, the President of Pakistan, who according to this--

(showing another paper from his packet)

--has been skimming quite a bit of American taxpayer money for, according to this--

(another piece of paper)

--an Islamic bomb.

BONNIE steps out--

BONNIE

Excuse me. It's two minutes and you'll want to keep your voices down guys.

CHARLIE

Thank you.

BONNIE goes back in.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

We done with show and tell.

GUST

One more.

(showing)

This is a two year old report. It's from the Red Cross. They were gathering statements from Afghan refugees regarding Soviet atrocities in their village. This woman said the Russian soldiers came in, gathered them in a semi-circle and you know what they did?

CHARLIE

What.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GUST

The Russians forced them to learn how to read and write.

CHARLIE

Yeah, that's what the communists are, man, a benevolent group of inner-city school teachers.

GUST

Hey, I was fighting communists while you were doing blow off a Playboy Bunny.

BONNIE steps out again--

BONNIE

Fellas, I really need you to keep your voices down.

GUST

Sorry.

CHARLIE

Sorry.

BONNIE goes back in.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

The deadliest, most tyrannical force in the world is leaving. I'd say it was a good day's work and turn off the lights on the way out.

GUST

Well I'd be happy to turn off the lights but there's no electricity in Afghanistan. Or roads. Or schools. You know why that's a problem? Because at this moment over half the population of Afghanistan is under 14 years old. And they're gonna come home from the camps and they're gonna find that their villages have been napalmed and their fathers are dead.

CHARLIE

You want a Marshall Plan for Afghanistan? A covert war to teach 'em how to read and write?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

GUST

Yes. Yes I do. In fact I think we should've said, "Sure we'll give you the guns, but first you have to build some schools. Let's see your 14 year old boys pass general knowledge tests in history and science. When they pass 'em we'll give you the bullets."

CHARLIE

What's more important to the history of the world? Some stirred up Muslims or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the Cold War?

GUST

There's such a thing as unintended consequences, especially when you've been as reckless as we have.

CHARLIE

We haven't been reckless.

GUST

(reading)

"The day will come when we will rule America."

CHARLIE

That guy's snapped.

GUST

The whole fuckin' place has snapped. They pray five times a day to a God who requires more sucking up than a movie star. ~~Their fighters are willing if not~~ eager to die in huge numbers with the expectation that they'll be met in paradise by 70 virgins, who, by the way, I'm not entirely convinced are meant to be women. I'm not worried, though, 'cause I know if Islamic fanaticism ever gets outa hand, Joanne Herring and her friends will rise up to meet it with Christian fanaticism and then we've got ourselves a ball game. And I wouldn't be that concerned except we just sent enough weapons over there to kill everyone on both sides.

CHARLIE

Yeah, and we helped them win a war.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

GUST

They don't get home delivery of *The New York Times*, plus it was covert, so it's unlikely that they're ever gonna know the role we played. What they're gonna be is poor, broken and off-the-charts stupid like no stupid you've ever seen. Their leaders are gonna tell them that we used them to fight our war, they're gonna see us in Israel and they're gonna be mad. I come from this mentality, Charlie. We made it and they didn't and they're gonna think it's our fault. We whipped them into a religious frenzy and--

CHARLIE

Gust--

GUST

--taught 'em how to fuck with the army of a superpower.

(beat)

That's what we did.

(showing the paper again)

So I'm just saying we should be a little more careful.

BONNIE steps out--

BONNIE

It's on.

GUST

Let's go in, show me this girl.

CHARLIE

We did a big thing well, Gust. As well as we could.

GUST

I know. You're all right.

They go step into--

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

--where the music's been turned off and all eyes are on the TV, where the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather is coming on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAN (ON TV--FILE TAPE)
Good evening, I'm Dan Rather. Leading our news, the Marxist regime in Afghanistan is on its own now. The Red Army completed its withdrawal this morning on schedule--

CHEERS erupt throughout the room--

DAN (ON TV) (CONT'D)
--and the Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet occupation force says he never looked back. Barry Peterson has more.

The TV goes to a VO with FOOTAGE of Soviet troops crossing over a bridge.

BARRY (VO)
It was the last hurrah. The final Soviet combat troops crossing the Friendship Bridge on the border between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union--

GUST
(raising his glass to the TV)
And here's to you you motherfuckers.

Everyone in the room CHEERS Gust's sentiment. CHARLIE's standing right next to GUST.

CHARLIE
See? That's the spirit.

GUST
(quietly)
Remember I said this. There's gonna come a day when we're gonna look back and say, "I'd give anything if the whole place was overrun with Godless communists."

BARRY (VO)
...the end of an almost decade long war that cost the Soviets 15,000 lives and billions of dollars.

TITLE:

Epilogue

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - MORNING

A few years have gone by and that's evident from CHARLIE's salt and pepper hair as he makes coffee.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We might also notice that he's wearing a wedding ring. He's dressed for work and talks to his wife, who's getting dressed in the bedroom.

CHARLIE

It was good.

MRS. WILSON

Did you speak?

CHARLIE

No, I just sat and listened.

MRS. WILSON

That's okay.

CHARLIE

I might get up and speak next time.

MRS. WILSON, a beauty, appears in the doorway, slipping on her heels.

MRS. WILSON

You don't have to. You can do whatever you want. What's in the paper?

CHARLIE

Time Warner's proposing to merge its cable operations with AT&T, the President's in Florida and Gary Condit didn't win a lot of new fans with Connie Chung. And the Redskins still suck. Let me ask you this, do I seem as funny to you sober as I was before.

MRS. WILSON

Oh baby. You're married now. Nothing's ever going to seem funny to you ever again.

CHARLIE laughs--

MRS. WILSON (CONT'D)

What else?

CHARLIE

There's a story about--

BOOOOM!--We HEAR a teeth-jarring explosion from the distance. It actually shakes the apartment. CHARLIE jumps when he hears the sound and smashes the glass coffee pot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Shit.

MRS. WILSON

What the hell was that?

CHARLIE

Are you all right? Did I get any glass--

MRS. WILSON

No. What the hell was that?

CHARLIE

It may have been a gas line. I want to go
check across the hall on Mrs.--

MRS. WILSON

Yeah.

CHARLIE heads to the door as MRS. WILSON goes to the terrace
and opens the doors.

CHARLIE only gets a couple of steps out into the hall before
he hears his wife call offscreen--

MRS. WILSON (OS) (CONT'D)

(calling)

Charlie!

CHARLIE comes back in and heads out to--

EXT. TERRACE - CONTINUOUS

He sees it before we do...a huge, thick, rising cloud of
orange/black smoke.

MRS. WILSON

The Pentagon's on fire. Something's on
fire at the Pentagon.

The PHONE starts to RING...

CHARLIE

(evenly)

It was a bomb.

MRS. WILSON

What the hell is going on?

MRS. WILSON picks up the phone--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. WILSON (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hello?

(beat)

Yeah.

(beat)

All right. Stay on the phone.

(to CHARLIE)

It's Gust. He says to turn on the TV.

BLACKOUT

ROLL MAIN TITLES

FINAL FADE OUT