

NINE BODIES IN A MEXICAN MORGUE

Episode One: Dead Reckoning

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EXT. MEXICAN DESERT - DAY 9, 14:30

1

ROLLING CAPTION: JUNE 2023

CAPTION: DAY NINE

Solar flare. Sand. Cactuses. The Mexican desert stretches out towards the distant mountains, empty and endlessly threatening. Nothing moves here apart from the breeze rippling the sand.

No. There is something. Spitting a dust cloud behind it, an old PICK-UP TRUCK follows a long, straight road through the middle of nowhere. A man and a woman inside.

EMILIO, the driver, is Mexican. 20s. He's a hired hand, used to obeying orders. Tense, silent, he has prison time written all over him. The woman in the passenger seat - CORA - makes an odd companion. In her mid-40s, Mexican American, effortlessly beautiful, HARD AS NAILS. She's asleep.

The dirt road gets rocky as the truck continues through the desert. Inside, CORA is shaken awake. She opens her eyes as the truck comes to a stop, off the road.

EMILIO
(bad English)
Señora. We arrive.

CORA
What time is it?

EMILIO
Two thirty.

CORA
(surprised)
You did well.

She looks out towards something we can't yet see.

CORA (CONT'D)
OK. Check the engine.

EMILIO
Engine's good.

CORA
So why have we stopped?

He's not sure what he means.

CORA (CONT'D)
Emilio, why would two tourists who have gone for a drive park their car in the goddam desert? Go check the engine.

A pause. EMILIO gets it. Nods. He opens the door and climbs out. Meanwhile, CORA picks up a pair of serious BINOCULARS, trains them on something. Focuses...

2

EXT. LOS TRIOS MILITARY BASE - DAY 9, 14:30

2

CORA'S POV.

Lost, in the middle of nowhere, a small MILITARY OUTPOST. A defence against drug smuggling, illegal immigrants, coyotes. It's squared in by a wire fence and there's an armed entry point with a barrier and guard hut.

A couple of dozen SOLDIERS kill time here. Doing the best they can, but faced with an almost impossible task. There are living quarters. Communications. A medical centre. A morgue.

Not much going on as a hot, dusty morning folds into a hot, dusty afternoon.

CORA looks from the entry point to a couple of SOLDIERS, who are doing maintenance on a clapped-out OFF-ROAD 4X4, the colour peeled off by the sun.

ANOTHER ANGLE. A SOLDIER checking his automatic weapon.

ANOTHER ANGLE. Two SOLDIERS sitting in the sun, smoking and playing cards.

CORA brings up the binoculars and looks at a window. A FIGURE glimpsed, looking out.

3

INT. OFFICE, LOS TRIOS MILITARY BASE - DAY 9, 14:30

3

Unaware that he's being watched, a young CAPITAN PRIMERO is staring out of the window. He's clean-shaven, nervous, in his shirt with the sleeves rolled up. He wants to do the right thing but he's aware that he's out of his depth. He's new to the job and his name is GABRIEL VEGA.

Right now, he's waiting for the arrival of a helicopter, scanning the sky. It should have been here an hour ago. He goes to his desk. Thinks. Snatches up a phone and dials.

4

INT. RADIO ROOM, LOS TRIOS MILITARY BASE - DAY 9, 14:30

4

Two SOLDIERS surrounded by dusty surveillance equipment and radios. Both smoking cigarettes. The air is full of cigarette smoke.

One - the radio operator - wearing headphones. The other is IGNACIO LÓPEZ, second-in-command (SUBTENIENTE). 40s but looks older. A decent man hiding from life, from wives, from children. He's found his own philosophy, lost in this forgotten outpost.

LÓPEZ answers the phone. SPANISH DIALOGUE TRANSLATED IN BRACKETS AND SUBTITLED.

VEGA (O.S.)
¿Novedades?

VEGA (O.S.)
(Anything?)

LÓPEZ
No, señor. Seguimos esperando.

LÓPEZ
(No, sir. We're still waiting.)

VEGA (O.S.)
Ya van mucho tiempo .
Deberíamos volverles a
llamar.

VEGA (O.S.)
(It's been too long. Maybe we
should call them again.)

LÓPEZ
Si hay algún problema, ellos
nos llaman.

LÓPEZ
(If there's a problem,
they'll call us.)

VEGA (O.S.)
Avísame...

VEGA (O.S.)
(Let me know...)

LÓPEZ can't hide his disdain. Of course he will.

LÓPEZ
Sí, señor.

LÓPEZ
(Yes, sir.)

OPERATOR
¡Momento!

OPERATOR
(Hold on!)

There's a CRACKLE in his headphones and a voice. We barely hear the words.

GUZMAN (O.S.)
Base. Aquí Tango 393. Tenemos
contacto visual con la pista,
entrando a 1,000. Autorizado
para aterrizar...

GUZMAN (O.S.)
(Base. This is Tango 393. We
have visual with highway,
coming in at 1,000. Cleared
for touchdown...)

OPERATOR
Te escuchamos, Tango 393.
¿Cuántos a bordo?

OPERATOR
(We have you, Tango 393. How
many on board?)

GUZMAN (O.S.)
Tenemos nueve.

GUZMAN (O.S.)
(We have nine.)

LÓPEZ
(to the OPERATOR)
¿Sin sobrevivientes?

LÓPEZ
(to the OPERATOR)
(But no survivors?)

OPERATOR
(on RADIO)
¿No hay sobrevivientes?

OPERATOR
(on RADIO)
(*No survivors?*)

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A pause. Then... the crackling voice.

GUZMAN (O.S.)
Ninguno.

GUZMAN (O.S.)
(None.)

4A

EXT. MEXICAN DESERT - DAY 9, 14:30

4A

CORA and EMILIO as before. CORA is still scanning the horizon but hasn't spotted the helicopter.

CORA
You hear something?

EMILIO
(listens)
There's nothing.

CORA
No, Emilio. There's sand and there
are flies and - oh look - there's a
buzzard. Just no fucking
helicopter.
(to herself)
Where are they?

5

OMITTED CONTENT MOVED TO SC 6

5

6

EXT. COURTYARD, LOS TRIOS MILITARY BASE - DAY 9, 14:30

6

VEGA and LÓPEZ emerge from a door into the grounds of a busy military base. VEGA is now in full military uniform. They walk and talk. SPANISH DIALOGUE TRANSLATED IN BRACKETS AND SUBTITLED.

LÓPEZ
Alguien debió quedar vivo.

LÓPEZ
(There must have been someone left alive.)

VEGA
¿Por qué dice eso?

VEGA
(Why do you say that?)

LÓPEZ
Los hallaron en un pozo.
Puestos en fila. Eso nos dijeron.

LÓPEZ
(They were found in a pit. They were lined up. That's what we were told.)

VEGA
¿Y?

VEGA
(So?)

LÓPEZ
¿Y? ¿Quién los puso ahí?

LÓPEZ
(So who put them there?)

VEGA annoyed with himself for not seeing that.

VEGA
¿Nosotros por qué? ¿Por qué acá?

VEGA
(Why us? Why here?)

LÓPEZ
Tenemos las instalaciones.

LÓPEZ
(We have the facilities.)

VEGA
¿Instalaciones? Aparte de los ladrillos cayendo de las paredes y los asbestos en el techo, no tenemos nada.

VEGA
(Facilities? We have nothing except bricks falling off the walls and asbestos in the roof.)

LÓPEZ
Lo vas a extrañar cuando nos vayamos.

LÓPEZ
(You'll miss it when we leave.)

VEGA
Deberían haberlos llevado a Monterrey.

VEGA
(They should have taken them to Monterrey.)

LÓPEZ
Nosotros estamos más cerca.

LÓPEZ
(We're nearer.)

VEGA

No. No quieren que nadie se entere de esto. Al menos no hasta que sepan de lo qué se trata.

VEGA

(No. They don't want anyone to know about this. Not until they know what they're dealing with.)

VEGA notices CORA's car.

VEGA (CONT'D)

¿Ves eso?

VEGA (CONT'D)

(You see that?)

LÓPEZ looks at the car. CORA is sitting (without the binoculars) in the front. EMILIO is still examining he engine.

LÓPEZ

(uninterested)

¿Qué?

LÓPEZ

(uninterested)

(What?)

VEGA

Ese coche. ¿Qué hacen aquí?

VEGA

(That car. What are they doing here?)

LÓPEZ

Parece que se les descompuso.

LÓPEZ

(Looks like they've broken down.)

VEGA

Qué oportuno.

VEGA

(Odd timing.)

LÓPEZ

El tiempo se detiene. Amanece y anochece. Todo sigue igual.

LÓPEZ

(There is no time out here. Sun goes up. Sun goes down. It's all the same.)

7

EXT. MEXICAN DESERT - DAY 9, 14:30

7

EMILIO is pretending to examine the engine, the HOOD raised. He looks upwards as something stirs the sand, whipping it up. At the same time, we hear the WHUMP of an approaching HELICOPTER.

In the front seat, CORA hears the sound.

CORA

Emilio...!

EMILIO looks round.

CORA (CONT'D)

It's here.

ANOTHER ANGLE. A Mexican army HEAVY TRANSPORT HELICOPTER appears in the sky, crossing the highway on its way to the base. Registration: T-393.

The HELICOPTER swings round and touches down.

8

EXT. LOS TRIOS MILITARY BASE - DAY 9, 14:30

8

Lots of activity around the HELICOPTER. Two JEEPS and a VAN drive out to meet it.

ANOTHER ANGLE. SUBTENIENTE LÓPEZ and CAPITAN VEGA turn a corner and walk towards the landing site. SPANISH DIALOGUE TRANSLATED IN BRACKETS AND SUBTITLED.

VEGA
No sabemos nada de esa gente. (We know nothing about these people.)

LÓPEZ
Uno era un piloto . Otro tripulante . Los demás eran pasajeros. (One was the pilot. One was cabin staff. The others were passengers.)

VEGA
No hay nombres . Ni identificaciones. (We have no names. No IDs.)

LÓPEZ
Esta es una copia del manifiesto. (This is a copy of the manifest.)

LÓPEZ hands VEGA a sheet of paper.

LÓPEZ (CONT'D)
Aero Alux , vuelo CBZ 517. Salió de la Ciudad de Guatemala hace ocho días, con rumbo a Houston en una aerolínea mexicana , de propiedad americana , registrada en Miami. (Aero Alux. Flight CBZ 517. It left Guatemala City eight days ago on route to Houston. It's a Mexican airline, American-owned, registered in Miami.)

VEGA
¿Ocho días? (Eight days?)

LÓPEZ
Sí, señor. Ahí han estado todo ese tiempo. (Yes, sir. That's how long they've been out there.)

VEGA hands the paper back.

VEGA
Eso no sirve . Ni siquiera sabemos cómo murieron. (This tells us nothing. We don't even know how they died.)

LÓPEZ
No fue por estrellarse. (It wasn't the crash.)

VEGA looks puzzled.

9

EXT. MEXICAN DESERT - DAY 9, 14:30

9

CORA watches from her pick-up truck as the bodies are unloaded onto stretchers.

EMILIO

Where they take them?

CORA

They're taking them to dinner.

EMILIO looks puzzled.

CORA (CONT'D)

Where would you put nine bodies, Emilio? Why do you think they brought them to this dump? They're going in the morgue.

CORA lowers the binoculars. OUT ON HER FACE as she plans her next move.

EMILIO

What do we do?

CORA

We wait.

OPENING TITLES. EPISODE ONE: DEAD RECKONING

10

EXT. MEXICAN SKY - DAY 1, 14:30

10

AERO ALUX FLIGHT CBZ 517 makes its way - a silver arrow across a huge blue sky.

CAPTION: EIGHT DAYS EARLIER.

11

INT/EXT. CABIN, AIRCRAFT - DAY 1, 14:30

11

A FLIGHT ATTENDANT - BEATRIZ - makes her way down the narrow cabin of the small commercial plane - perhaps a BEECHCRAFT KING AIR TURBOPROP. Eleven seats. 2,000 mile range.

There are EIGHT PASSENGERS (not seven, as LÓPEZ said earlier).

The FLIGHT ATTENDANT (BEATRIZ) stops between DAN MACLEAN and his wife, AMY - separated by the aisle. They're NEWLYWEDS. DAN is a Californian: handsome, neat, attentive - but somehow too good to be true. AMY is late 20s, Asian-American, privileged, very wealthy - but also troubled, anxious. Marrying DAN was her big rebellion.

BEATRIZ

Can I get you something?

DAN
(to AMY)
You want something, honey?

AMY
Just some water please.

BEATRIZ
Sparkling?

AMY
Yes. Thank you. No ice or lemon.

As BEATRIZ pours the water, AMY glances out of the window.

AMY (CONT'D)
Shouldn't we be there by now?

BEATRIZ
I don't think it can be too much further.

AMY glances out of the window.

AMY
I don't see anything. It's just trees.

DAN
(reassuring)
Amy...

AMY
Shouldn't we be over the sea?

DAN
Not necessarily.

BEATRIZ
Sometimes the pilot chooses an alternative route to avoid weather conditions.

AMY
(to BEATRIZ)
It's been four hours.
(to DAN)
It's a three hour flight.

BEATRIZ smiles and serves the water.

BEATRIZ
Let me finish this and I'll talk to the pilot. I'm sure he'll make an announcement soon.

DAN
Nothing for me. I'm OK.

BEATRIZ moves up the aisle. Next along are TRAVIS and LISA DAVIES. Both from Texas. He's 50, overweight, heart problems. She's a few years younger, also overweight, weathered. Smarter than she looks.

TRAVIS
Can you get me a beer?

BEATRIZ
Sure. Camello or Lingos?

TRAVIS
So what's wrong with American?

BEATRIZ
We're out of American.

TRAVIS
(scowling)
Well give me Camello then.

BEATRIZ hands him a bottle and a glass, moves on.

LISA
That's your third.

TRAVIS
Who's counting?

LISA
Who do you think?

ANOTHER ANGLE. Near the front of the plane is KEVIN ANDERSON: from Jacksonville, Florida. White, 50s, dark hair, tanned, wearing glasses, suit, a little out-of-shape. He's nervous. He glances at his watch, wanting the flight to be over.

Sitting opposite him - SONJA - no surname. English, 30s. An international photographer working for a charity. Or so she says. Strong, independent, attractive. But she's not in this country for fun. She has demons chasing her and she's looking for an escape...

KEVIN notices her looking at him.

KEVIN
I hate flying.

SONJA
I can see that.

KEVIN
I never know which is worse. A little plane like this or a Boeing Triple Seven. Three hundred passengers.

SONJA

Law of gravity. They both come down
at the same speed.

KEVIN

(nervous)

Thanks.

In the row in front, ZACK ELLIS has heard this. He's African American, 30s, smart, capable, steely-edged. Mirrored sunglasses clipped into his top pocket. He's either going to be the star of this show or the main villain. He's used to taking control. He turns round and smiles at SONJA.

SONJA

Just saying!

ZACK turns back and looks out of the window. And now he's worried too. The plane is flying VERY LOW.

12

INT/EXT. COCKPIT, AIRCRAFT - DAY 1, 14:30

12

But he's not as worried as the pilot, OCTAVIO FUENTES. About 28, dark-haired, Guatemalan and very good looking. He's been running scared all his life but right now he's terrified. He has charts and ledgers spread out around him. A sense of chaos. We can hear a faint, intermittent BUZZING behind the noise of the engines.

OCTAVIO is on the radio.

OCTAVIO

San Antonio Ground. This is Aero
Alux flight Charlie Bravo Zulu 517.
Are you receiving me? Over?

OCTAVIO tries a different wavelength.

OCTAVIO (CONT'D)

This is Aero Alux flight Charlie
Bravo Zulu 517. Mayday. Does anyone
read me?

Nothing. OCTAVIO glances at his instruments.

OCTAVIO'S POV. The fuel gauge is showing empty. A red light is flashing. That's what the BUZZING SOUND is.

NO FUEL.

OCTAVIO knows he has very little time. Still flying, he fumbles for his CELLPHONE. Presses the button to record a message. SPANISH DIALOGUE TRANSLATED IN BRACKETS AND SUBTITLED.

OCTAVIO (CONT'D)
Cordelia , mi vida. Soy yo,
Octavio. No sé dónde estoy.
Intenté encontrar una pista,
pero nada...

OCTAVIO (CONT'D)
(Cordelia , my love. It's me,
Octavio. I don't know where I
am. I tried to raise an
airfield but I got
nothing...)

13 **INT. CABIN, AIRCRAFT - DAY 1, 14:30**

13

The FLIGHT ATTENDANT (BEATRIZ) smiles and leans directly towards the CAMERA. The EYE CONTACT should feel unnerving. Her smile a little skeletal.

BEATRIZ
What can I get you?

14 **EXT. MEXICAN SKY - DAY 1, 15:00**

14

The plane continues to fly across the Mexican rainforest. We hear the sound of the ENGINE. Then, quite suddenly, the engine stops. SILENCE.

Then, quite suddenly, almost elegantly, it falls out of the sky and disappears through the canopy.

15 **INT. COCKPIT, AIRCRAFT - DAY 1, 15:00**

15

THE CRASH - seen from OCTAVIO'S POV.

ALL OF THIS HAPPENS IN TOTAL SILENCE. It's like something out of a nightmare.

Helpless behind the controls. Papers and maps flying. A tunnel of GREEN TERROR as branches and leaves thrash at the window, everything shuddering. The GLASS shatters. The front of the plane CRUMPLES. The controls SHORT CIRCUIT.

THEN...

SMASH! AN EXPLOSION OF SOUND as a BRANCH smashes through the window, destroying equipment and pinning OCTAVIO in his seat, causing massive internal injuries. The plane comes to a halt.

16 **EXT. PLANE WRECKAGE, JUNGLE - DAY 1, 15:00**

16

No flames. No smoke. Silence. The plane is damaged but intact. Maybe one wing broken.

17 **INT. CABIN, AIRCRAFT - DAY 1, 15:00**

17

The EIGHT PASSENGERS had all adopted the 'brace' position. Now they're recovering slowly.

CLOSE ON: ZACK ELLIS . He recovers from what has just happened.

ZACK
(quietly)
Shit...!

He looks around and sees the (horribly) dead FLIGHT ATTENDANT (BEATRIZ) sprawled out on the floor with her head at an impossible angle, eyes staring. It's a horrific image.

ZACK (CONT'D)
(more emphatically)
Shit!

18 **EXT. PLANE WRECKAGE, JUNGLE - DAY 1, 15:00**

18

The PLANE still sitting there. Smoke begins to trickle out from underneath.

19 **INT. CABIN, AIRCRAFT - DAY 1, 15:00**

19

KEVIN ANDERSON is trying to get his seatbelt to unlock and having a total meltdown when it won't.

KEVIN
Help me! Help me, someone!

Suddenly SONJA is there.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
I can't get this undone.

SONJA
Here. It's all right. Let me do it.

She leans over and unlocks the seatbelt. It's jammed. She pulls it free.

KEVIN
Thanks! Thank you...

SONJA
It's OK.

KEVIN
I thought I was...

SONJA
You're fine. You need to get up.

Almost tearful, KEVIN allows SONJA to help him out of the seat.

Behind them, LISA and TRAVIS are recovering from the shock. TRAVIS struggling for breath.

TRAVIS
(in pain)
Lisa!

LISA
Travis? Oh my God...

TRAVIS
Pills...!

He has heart problems. LISA desperately searches in her handbag.

LISA
I can't find them!

ANOTHER ANGLE reveals CARLOS, who has picked up a bottle of pills that have rolled under his seat.

CARLOS
These...?

CARLOS GARCÍA MÉNDEZ is 27. Mexican. Built like a dancer - very strong and muscular. Slightly childlike. We will learn that he is a LUCHADOR.

LISA hesitates for just half a minute. She's not someone who associates with Mexicans - or anyone outside America. But this isn't the time. She takes the pills.

LISA
Thank you.

LISA snatches the pills and gives one to TRAVIS.

LISA (CONT'D)
Here. Take this...

LISA realises.

LISA (CONT'D)
I need water!

CARLOS
I have some.

He hands her a bottle. LISA helps TRAVIS take his pill.

LISA
(concerned)
Travis...

TRAVIS
What happened?

LISA
We're OK. That's all that matters.
We're OK. Thank God!

20

EXT. PLANE WRECKAGE, JUNGLE - DAY 1, 15:00

20

SMOKE is seeping out from underneath the carriage. We see the AERO ALUX logo. A TONGUE OF FLAME licks the air.

21

INT. CABIN, AIRCRAFT - DAY 1, 15:00

21

On DAN and AMY.

DAN

Are you OK?

AMY

(panicking)

I don't know. I don't know. What happened?

DAN

We came down. We crashed. Are you hurt?

AMY

My neck hurts.

DAN

It's whiplash. It's nothing. Here. Let me.

DAN massages her neck.

DAN (CONT'D)

Is that better?

AMY realises she isn't hurt but won't admit it.

AMY

I don't know...

DAN

Just take it easy, OK? We'll get you out of here.

AMY looks out of the window, on the edge of panic.

AMY

I don't know where we are. Where are we?

DAN

We're safe. We're alive. That's all that matters.

AMY smiles weakly. ZACK takes charge. Stands up. Addresses all the PASSENGERS.

ZACK

Is everyone OK? Is anyone hurt?

LISA
I need to get my husband out of
here. He needs air.

ZACK
OK.
(to SONJA, referencing
himself and KEVIN)
Can you get the door open - and
we'll check on the pilot?

SONJA
Sure. What about...?

SONJA kneels beside the FLIGHT ATTENDANT (BEATRIZ).

KEVIN
There's nothing you can do for her.
Cervical fracture.

ZACK
(for SONJA)
Broken neck.

KEVIN moves forward and we follow him into the cockpit.

22

INT. COCKPIT, AIRCRAFT - DAY 1, 15:00

22

KEVIN sees the pilot, OCTAVIO. He looks dead. A lot of blood,
pinned to his seat by branches. He feels for a PULSE in the
pilot's neck.

Suddenly ZACK is there.

ZACK
How is he?

KEVIN
Still breathing. But it's bad.

KEVIN releases his grip.

23

INT. CABIN, AIRCRAFT - DAY 1, 15:00

23

DAN sniffs the air.

DAN
You smell something?

LISA
(loud)
We're on fire!

Everyone begins to panic, getting out of their seats, trying
to stand up.

CARLOS GARCÍA MÉNDEZ also smells the burning. He remembers something. His eyes widen.

CARLOS
Puta madre...

CARLOS
(Mother fucker...)

Faster than anyone, he's up and running, pushing past SONJA as he rushes for the door. KEVIN and ZACK have just come out of the cockpit.

KEVIN
Hey!

CARLOS pushes the door open and jumps out. Everyone is panicking but ZACK tries to keep things calm.

ZACK
Let's move...

TRAVIS is struggling to get to his feet, panicking.

SONJA
(to TRAVIS)
Calm down. You don't need to panic.
The tanks are empty. That's why we crashed.

LISA
How do you know?

ZACK
(overhearing)
If we had fuel, this whole thing
would have already blown.

24 **EXT. PLANE WRECKAGE, JUNGLE - DAY 1, 15:00**

24

CARLOS has hit the ground. He runs round the side of the plane. LARGER FLAMES appear near the wing, next to the CARGO HATCH.

25 **INT. CABIN, AIRCRAFT - DAY 1, 15:00**

25

ZACK still in charge, trying to keep everyone calm. Calls to the others.

ZACK
OK. We need to move out of here.
Now! Anyone need any help?

LISA
Travis...

TRAVIS
I'm OK. I can manage. Just go...

LISA

Don't be so dumb! You think I'd go without you? Here...

LISA helps TRAVIS out of his seat. DAN helps AMY.

DAN

Come on.

Suddenly FLAMES leap up at the window. AMY screams.

AMY

We're on fire!

DAN

Jesus.

There's MORE AND MORE SMOKE. SONJA grabs a FIRE EXTINGUISHER and heads for the door. As she goes, she calls out:

SONJA

Get the pilot!

ZACK

(to KEVIN)

Come with me.

The FLAMES look out-of-control and KEVIN is scared.

KEVIN

No...

ZACK

(shocked)

You want to leave him?

KEVIN fights his panic. He knows he has to do the right thing.

KEVIN

No.

They go back into the COCKPIT. Behind them, AMY, DAN, and TRAVIS helped by LISA make their way down the aisle.

26

EXT. PLANE WRECKAGE, JUNGLE - DAY 1, 15:00

26

The FLAMES are shooting up. CARLOS doesn't want to get burned. But nor can he leave his luggage where it is. He hesitates. Feels the heat. He's going to get burned but he can't stop himself. He leans into the flames and opens the CARGO DOOR.

SMOKE everywhere. This is insane. Choking, CARLOS searches through the luggage, trying to find his own case, turning over everyone else's. FLAMES shoot up around him.

CLOSE ON FIRE EXTINGUISHER: A CLOUD OF CO2 explodes out of the nozzle, filling the screen.

ANOTHER ANGLE: SONJA is holding it, directing the CO2 into the cargo hold. The CLOUD OF CO2 puts out the flames.

A beat. Then CARLOS emerges clutching his precious case and covered in WHITE POWDER from the extinguisher. He's lucky he wasn't killed.

SONJA
You're not serious!

CARLOS makes no reply.

SONJA (CONT'D)
What's in there that's so important to you? You could have got killed.

CARLOS wipes powder from his eyes. He doesn't want to tell her.

CARLOS
My things.

27 OMITTED CONTENT MOVED TO SC26 27

28 OMITTED CONTENT MOVED TO SC26 28

29 EXT. PLANE WRECKAGE, JUNGLE - DAY 1, 15:30 29

LATER. The flames are out. The plane is scorched and broken. The survivors: ZACK, KEVIN, SONJA, CARLOS, TRAVIS, LISA, DAN, AMY.

OCTAVIO is lying on the grass. KEVIN monitoring his pulse.

ZACK
How is he?

KEVIN
He's stable.

ZACK gives him a withering look - quietly hostile, angry he wanted to leave OCTAVIO behind. KEVIN is guilty.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
Look. Back there. I wasn't going to leave him...

ZACK
(unconvinced)
Sure.

KEVIN

I panicked. I wasn't thinking straight.

ZACK

Whatever you say.

ANOTHER ANGLE. A short distance away, CARLOS unzips his case and checks the contents, making sure nobody sees.

ANOTHER ANGLE. LISA is sitting next to TRAVIS.

LISA

How are you feeling?

TRAVIS

I'm OK. You don't need to worry about me.

LISA

The day I stop worrying about you, one of us will be underground. Here.

She hands him a bottle of water. TRAVIS drinks.

TRAVIS

Shouldn't we be rationing this?

LISA

How long do you think we're gonna be here?

(Beat)

They'll be on their way for us already.

TRAVIS

Who?

LISA

Houston Airport. The FAA. CIA.

(irritated)

I don't know. Someone.

She looks around.

LISA (CONT'D)

You have any idea where we are?

TRAVIS

Yeah. At a guess I'd say we're about two miles up shit creek. You got a signal on your cell?

LISA

(looks)

No.

TRAVIS
Without a paddle.

LISA thinks - then takes back the water.

LISA
That's enough!

TRAVIS looks at her fondly.

30

INT. CABIN, AIRCRAFT - DAY 1, 16:00

30

SONJA is covering the dead FLIGHT ATTENDANT with a blanket as ZACK and KEVIN climb in.

SONJA
What are we going to do with her?

ZACK
We can't leave her here.

KEVIN
It's already cooling off for the evening. But tomorrow... in the heat... maggots... bugs. We need to get her out of here.

SONJA
How are the others?

ZACK
Better than her. I'm Zack, by the way.

SONJA
Sonja.

KEVIN
Kevin.

ZACK
(to SONJA)
Travelling alone.

SONJA
(cool - putdown)
Yes. I've been doing it since I was twelve.

ZACK smiles.

ZACK
So - you got any idea where we might be?

SONJA

Hard to say. If you want a guess, I'd say we're in the northern part of Mexico. Maybe the El Cielo Biosphere. That's about six hundred square miles of mountain and rain forest.

KEVIN

Also known as the middle of nowhere.

A beat.

ZACK

Let's get out her out of here.

He and KEVIN pick up the dead FLIGHT ATTENDANT.

31

EXT. PLANE WRECKAGE, JUNGLE - DAY 1, 16:00

31

AMY is lying in DAN's arms. He's giving her another neck rub.

DAN

Keep breathing.

AMY

I am.

DAN

You know what I mean. Stay relaxed.

AMY

How can I stay relaxed? We were nearly killed!

DAN

But we survived, didn't we. You and me. We're still here.

(Beat)

The worst is over, Amy. We're OK.

AMY sees ZACK and KEVIN come out of the plane, carrying the dead FLIGHT ATTENDANT.

AMY

Not all of us.

AMY and DAN stare. DAN puts an arm around her, making her look away.

DAN

Don't. You don't want to see that.

AMY

(tearful)

It's horrible.

DAN

I'm just glad you're not hurt. If you'd been hurt, I don't know what I'd have done.

AMY

Do you mean that?

DAN

Of course I do. Of course I do!

A pause. He's still holding her.

DAN (CONT'D)

You've got to think of this as an adventure, Amy. One day we'll tell our kids about this. "Lost in the Jungle." With Dan and Amy Maclean.

AMY

Amy Maclean...

DAN

It's your name now, Amy. You're going to have to get used to it.

DAN can sense that AMY is uneasy. Distant from him.

DAN (CONT'D)

I'm going to look after you. I told you that when I married you. We're going to be together for always.

But AMY is not so sure. And right then, she senses something. Hears something. She glances...

AMY'S POV. And somewhere in the undergrowth, something moves. It could just be the WIND blowing. But there's definitely something there.

BACK ON AMY AND DAN. She's startled. He's worried about her.

ANGLE ON LISA with TRAVIS. She sees ZACK and KEVIN come out of the plane with the dead FLIGHT ATTENDANT (under a tarpaulin from the plane).

LISA

Wait here.

TRAVIS

(ironic)

I'm going nowhere.

LISA goes into the plane.

32

INT. CABIN, AIRCRAFT - DAY 1, 16:00

32

LISA enters the plane to find SONJA seemingly helping herself to food and drink.

LISA
What are you doing?

SONJA turns and sees LISA.

LISA (CONT'D)
Helping yourself?

SONJA
No, actually. I was seeing how much we had. How about you?

LISA
The same. I don't know how long we're going to be here for but it's gonna be night soon. We need to think what we're going to eat.

SONJA
It was meant to be a three hour flight, Guatemala City to Houston, so they weren't getting ready for a six-course dinner. There are nine fruit plates and six salad plates. A few sandwiches. Cookies and chocolate. The plane will have its own water tanks - if only for the toilet.

LISA
We can't drink that.

SONJA
We may have no choice. It depends how quickly they find us.

LISA
They'll already know we haven't arrived. They'll be here before sunset.

SONJA
(doubtful)
I hope you're right.

LISA
We'll be on satellite. They're already on their way.
(Beat)
I'm Lisa, by the way.

SONJA is reluctant to say too much about herself.

SONJA

Sonja. How's your husband?

LISA

He's fine. He had a heart thing last year. Gave us all a scare but he got over it.

SONJA

I'm glad.

LISA looks at the food (including 15 bottles of water).

LISA

He hates salad.

33

EXT. BODY CLEARING, JUNGLE - DAY 1, 16:30

33

There's an area of jungle, close to the plane but out of sight, with a natural pit which will become a mass grave as the series continues.

The FLIGHT ATTENDANT is the first occupant. ZACK and KEVIN lay her on a bed of leaves, still covered in the tarpaulin. One arm hangs out - a horrible reminder of what's underneath.

KEVIN

You want to say something?

ZACK

What do you want me to say, Kevin?

KEVIN

I was thinking, maybe... a prayer?

ZACK

You think God's watching over us right now?

KEVIN

I don't know.

ZACK

If God was watching over us, He'd have kept us in the air.

CARLOS appears, out of breath.

CARLOS

You need to come.

ZACK

What is it?

CARLOS

The pilot.

34

EXT. PLANE WRECKAGE, JUNGLE - DAY 1, 16:30

34

CARLOS has brought ZACK and KEVIN back to the place where OCTAVIO is lying, close to the plane. He's conscious now but his condition is worse. He's sweating and struggling for breath.

AMY is trying to give him water. DAN watching.

ZACK

How long has he been like this?

DAN

He had chest pains and he couldn't breathe. I told Carlos to fetch you.

ZACK

(gritted teeth)

Not much I can do for him...

He turns his attention to OCTAVIO who's bloody and in a bad way. SPANISH DIALOGUE TRANSLATION IN BRACKETS.

ZACK (CONT'D)

Can you hear me?

(beat)

¿Me escucha?

ZACK (CONT'D)

(Can you hear me?)

OCTAVIO

(in English)

Yes.

ZACK

What's your name?

OCTAVIO

(with difficulty)

Octavio.

ZACK

Octavio. OK. Listen to me. Can you tell us what happened?

OCTAVIO

No my fault!

ZACK

Nobody's blaming you.

OCTAVIO

No my fault!

OCTAVIO is looking past ZACK.

ZACK

Why did we crash?

OCTAVIO

GPS...

ZACK

What about it?

OCTAVIO

GPS fail. I try... dead reckoning.

KEVIN

What does that mean?

ZACK

(ignoring him)

You were using maps - right? But you couldn't see.

OCTAVIO

Cloud...

OCTAVIO has a rattling cough. There's blood on his lips. He can't breath. ZACK holds his nerve.

ZACK

Did you manage to radio for help?
Does anyone know where we are? Do you have an ELT?

Nothing more from OCTAVIO. He's barely conscious.

SONJA and LISA come out of the plane and join the group. We finally have everyone together.

SONJA

What's going on?

DAN

Pilot's in a bad way.

KEVIN is still focused on ZACK trying to get information out of OCTAVIO.

KEVIN

You're not going to do any good interrogating him. You can see for yourself. He's sick.

ZACK

You're a doctor. You can deal with him.

KEVIN

Who told you I was a doctor?

ZACK

You did. On the plane. The moment you saw the flight attendant, you said she had a cervical fracture.

(MORE)

ZACK (CONT'D)

That's doctor's language. Anyone else would say she had a broken neck.

KEVIN

Are you a detective?

ZACK

(amused)

No. I work in insurance.

KEVIN

Well, I've got bad news. I'm not a doctor.

A pause.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I was.

ZACK

Right.

ZACK addresses the company.

ZACK (CONT'D)

Any of you others happen to be a doctor or a nurse?

Silence.

ZACK (CONT'D)

Right then. A retired doctor is all we've got.

(to KEVIN)

What's your diagnosis?

Suddenly, reluctantly, KEVIN gives a professional opinion.

KEVIN

He's got multiple lacerations and a fractured left arm. These may or may not be life-threatening. But the chest pain, shortness of breath and the enlarged jugular vein... They all point to a pneumothorax, by which I mean a collapsed lung.

ZACK

Will it kill him?

KEVIN

It could. Depends how much air there is, trapped between the lung and the chest wall. Too much and it'll lead to a cardiovascular collapse - and that's it.

SONJA

But you can operate.

KEVIN

No, I can't. A pneumothorax may kill him but an emergency thoracotomy performed in the middle of the jungle with no anaesthetic and no equipment certainly will.

ZACK

There's a first aid kit on the plane.

KEVIN

Have you looked inside an aircraft first aid kit, Mr Insurance Man? Aspirin. Atropine. Tapes and bandages. You cut your finger or you've got a headache, that's fine. But this man needs his chest cut open and his lungs re-inflated.

DAN

You can try.

KEVIN

If I try, I'll kill him. And I won't do that.

Suddenly everyone is looking at KEVIN.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I can't. The answer's no.

35

EXT. MEXICAN JUNGLE - DAY 1, 17:30

35

About an hour later. The SUN is closing towards a massive ESCARPMENT that overshadows the jungle, about half a mile away.

36

EXT. CAMPSITE, JUNGLE - DAY 1, 17:30

36

The survivors are sitting in a rough circle, near the plane. ZACK, SONJA, KEVIN, DAN & AMY, TRAVIS & LISA, CARLOS. OCTAVIO unconscious, stretched out nearby.

They are isolated, very alone in the middle of the jungle. Mosquitoes and other insects buzzing around them. Heat, humidity. The ESCARPMENT looms in the background. Tall and perhaps threatening.

ZACK

It looks like we're going to be here for a while...

AMY

How long?

ZACK

Certainly tonight. Maybe longer. I don't know. But it might help if we all knew a little bit about each other.

SONJA

Why would we want to do that?

ZACK

I'm not making it compulsory.

A pause. Nobody wants to start.

ZACK (CONT'D)

OK. I'll go first.

Beat.

ZACK (CONT'D)

My name's Zack Ellis. I was working in Guatemala - I'm an insurance investigator. People, businesses, make claims. I check 'em out. I was on my way home from a job... a fire in a depot.

KEVIN

Was it started deliberately?

ZACK

Well, the CCTV and the alarm system were down and someone had moved fifty gallons of gasoline into the repackaging area, so I guess it could have happened that way.

KEVIN

So maybe someone brought the plane down to stop you reporting.

ZACK

A bit late. I already did. I was on my way to Dallas via Houston. I'm not married. No kids. I have a dog called Randy. He's being looked after by my neighbour - and he's the only one who'll be missing me.

AMY

What kind of dog?

ZACK

German Shepherd. Rescue.

AMY

Maybe you could say I was rescued too.

A glance at DAN.

AMY (CONT'D)

I'm Amy Maclean. That's the name I'm getting used to because I got married five weeks ago in Vegas. This is my knight in shining armour. My husband, Dan.

DAN

Hi.

AMY

We went on honeymoon in Mexico, then Belize, then over to Guatemala and then, I guess, we got the wrong plane home.

DAN

I'm the luckiest man in the world. Maybe not the choice of flight. But choosing you...

He takes her hand.

DAN (CONT'D)

And I'm going to look after you. I promise.

Is he telling the truth? DAN hasn't said anything about himself. He has a lot to hide.

TRAVIS and LISA are next up.

TRAVIS

I'm Travis Davies. And this here's my wife, Lisa. You ever stay in a Roadio Inn - that's R-O-A-D - Roadio, then I'm happy to say you've been one of our customers and I hope you had a great night's sleep.

LISA

Better than we're gonna get out here, anyway.

TRAVIS

We have a chain of motels across Kansas, Oklahoma - and you have a MAGA sticker in the back of your car, we'll give you a ten percent discount.

KEVIN

You serious?

TRAVIS

(not understanding)

Yeah, ten percent.

LISA

It's something we started after the 2020 election...

TRAVIS

...the stolen election...

LISA

...and we've stuck with it ever since. But we're open to everyone.

SONJA

What were you doing in Guatemala?

LISA

Vacation. How about you, honey? You're from England. Is that right?

SONJA

How did you guess?

(Beat)

Yeah - I'm from London.

LISA

So what are you doing out here?

SONJA has secrets she's not ready to share.

SONJA

Just travelling. I was in Chiapas - on the Guatemalan border. Then I dropped down to Guatemala City.

DAN

You work?

SONJA

(hostile)

Why are you asking me these questions? Why do you want to know?

DAN

Hey. Hold it! Steady. Looks like we're going to be stuck together for a while. We might as well get to know each other. Where's the harm in that?

SONJA

Maybe I came out here because I don't want people to "know" me.

(MORE)

SONJA (CONT'D)

I don't want to answer any questions. Are you OK with that?

DAN

(taken aback)

Sure.

LISA

(to TRAVIS - wry)

Definitely English.

KEVIN

I don't mind talking.

A pause. KEVIN steps in to take the heat off SONJA.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I've already told you about me. My name is Kevin Anderson. I used to be a doctor but that didn't work out so now I buy and sell medical equipment. That's why I was on that flight.

TRAVIS

You were selling stuff?

KEVIN

No. Buying. The Guatemalans make thermometers, face masks, artery forceps, a lot of surgical stuff. It's good quality and very low price.

ZACK

I'm afraid our pilot is in no shape to join in, but his name is Octavio and I guess he's local, from Guatemala City. And the way things are, he may not make it through the night.

This is a dig at KEVIN. DAN turns to CARLOS.

DAN

That just leaves you.

CARLOS

Carlos. Luchador.

TRAVIS

(sarcastic)

Is that it?

CARLOS

What else do you want me to say?

TRAVIS

Luchador . I don't even know what that means.

CARLOS

Lucha Libre. Mexican wrestling. You don't know what that means? You've never heard of El Santo or Gory Guerrero?

(sniffs)

You have baseball and NFL. You have guns and Superman and Batman but Lucha Libre is all of those things and more. It is our blood!

TRAVIS

Christ, ok. I only asked.

ZACK

You on your way to a fight?

CARLOS

In three days' time, yes. A big fight. The biggest. For six months now I've been training, day and night, preparing, making myself ready. Everything in my life has been leading to it.

TRAVIS

(ironic)

Hope you make it.

AMY

We're not going to be here for three days!

ZACK

We may be in more trouble than we think.

A pause.

ZACK (CONT'D)

We can't use our cellphones. None of us has a signal. Is that right?

A pause. They nod.

ZACK (CONT'D)

When the plane came down, it should have set off its ELT - that's the Emergency Locator Transmitter - which would allow the FAA to track us. But for all we know it could have broken in the crash.

LISA
How do we find out?

ZACK
We find out if nobody comes.

A pause.

PROPERTY OF ELEVENTH HOUR FILMS

ZACK (CONT'D)

Octavio wasn't able to say much when I spoke to him but he told me the GPS system had failed which meant he had to fly the old-fashioned way, with maps and compass. They call it Dead Reackoning.

KEVIN

Except we're the ones who end up dead.

ZACK

That depends. He was obviously above the clouds when this started and he came down to get his bearings. That's why we were flying so low. Somehow he'd gone too far to the west. He should have been above the sea - the Gulf of Mexico. Instead, he'd doubled back west and he was over the rain forest.

TRAVIS

Why didn't he tell us?

ZACK

"This is your captain speaking. I don't know where the hell I am"? I'm not sure that would have gone down too well. Anyway, he had another problem. He was out of gas.

AMY

How do you know?

ZACK

The props stopped turning a minute before we came down. Didn't you hear 'em? And when the plane hit the ground there was a fire but we didn't blow up. We were lucky, in a way, that the tanks were empty.

DAN

Do we have any idea where we are?

ZACK

We have maps. We can try and work it out in the morning.

TRAVIS

So where do we sleep until then?

AMY

We should go in the plane.

SONJA

You can do that if you want - but I think you'd be better off outside.

ZACK

The weather's dry. I don't think there's too much to be worried about in the Mexican jungle.

DAN

Snakes?

CARLOS

Snakes. Spiders, maybe.

ZACK

But they're more scared of us than we are of them.

DAN

That's what you say - but I don't like anything that bites.

ZACK

The main body of the plane is still intact. It'll be stuffy in there but you can sleep inside if it makes you feel more comfortable. The rest of us can salvage cushions, blankets... whatever.

KEVIN

You're doing a lot of talking, Zack. But here's a question for you. Who put you in charge?

ZACK

Well, Kevin, I asked you to do one thing and you decided not to do it and Octavio is over there maybe dying so I don't feel like I'm in charge at all. But if you want to take over, that's fine. Maybe it'll inspire you to get off your ass and help...

KEVIN

(angry)

I told you. There's nothing I can do to help!

ZACK

Why not try?

KEVIN

Because it'll kill him! Is that what you want?

ZACK
He's dying anyway!

PROPERTY OF ELEVENTH HOUR FILMS

SONJA

That's enough!

A pause.

SONJA (CONT'D)

Things are bad enough anyway. We can't fall out with each other.

LISA (O.S.)

She's right.

Everyone turns to look at LISA.

LISA (CONT'D)

Maybe we should be talking about supplies. If what Zack is talking about is right, we could be here for a while. Now, I don't know if anyone saw a lake or a river on our way down, but I've taken a look and we have fifteen bottles of water which is not going to be adequate for nine people - not for very long, especially if it gets hot. Food? Tonight we have salad and fruit. A few sandwiches. We might as well eat 'em as they're not going to last long with the fridge out of action. After that, we're gonna have to find our own food.

AMY

You're talking like we're going to be here for ever.

DAN

That's not what she's saying. It's just that if we want to get through this, we've got to plan for the worst.

TRAVIS

How about beer... wine?

LISA

Alcohol dehydrates you, Travis. You know that. It won't help.

TRAVIS

Sure it won't help but it might feel like it does.

AMY

(to DAN)

I'm hungry now.

DAN
(to EVERYONE)
Let's eat.

37 **EXT. MEXICAN JUNGLE - DAY 1, 18:00**

37

The SUN is setting behind the escarpment. There's about another hour or two of light.

38 **EXT. CAMPSITE, JUNGLE - DAY 1, 18:00**

38

They've built a campfire. ZACK, SONJA, KEVIN, DAN, AMY, CARLOS and TRAVIS are sitting while LISA doles out small amounts of food. OCTAVIO asleep. TRAVIS gets his salad portion.

DAN
This it?

LISA
We've got to make it last.

DAN looks at his and hands it to AMY.

DAN
Here. You have mine.

SONJA next to ZACK. She examines the escarpment.

SONJA
You think we could get a signal up there?

ZACK
It's higher than you think.
(Beat)
Worth trying.

LISA
Here...

LISA unscrews a bottle of tablets and hands one to TRAVIS.

TRAVIS
Thanks.

KEVIN
What are those?

LISA
Beta blockers.

KEVIN
(to TRAVIS)
You have heart issues?

TRAVIS

I had a minor heart attack six months ago - and I ain't never heard the end of that.

KEVIN

You take those daily?

TRAVIS

Yeah. And nitroglycerine.

ZACK

How many have you got left?

LISA is still holding the bottle.

LISA

Six days.

TRAVIS smiles and pats her hand.

TRAVIS

More than enough.

OCTAVIO coughs. A terrible sound. A death rattle.

AMY

What are we going to do about him?

SONJA

You heard what Kevin said. There's nothing we can do.

AMY

But we can't just leave him there. Coughing like that. I can't sleep out here and listen to him all night.

DAN

Amy...

AMY

No! It's wrong. We're not even trying to help him.

AMY gets off and walks away.

DAN

Amy...

DAN gets up.

DAN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. She's...

He hurries after her.

Another terrible, rattling cough from OCTAVIO, then a wheezing intake as he struggles for air.

KEVIN can't take any more. Suddenly he's business-like.

KEVIN

All right. I'm going to need boiling water. Half a gallon of boiling water. Bandages, antiseptic cream. You'll find them all in the first aid kit inside the plane. If there's a bottle of vodka, bring that too. We've got about an hour of sunlight so let's move.

SONJA

I'm on it.

She hurries into the plane.

KEVIN

(to ZACK)

We'll do this outside. There are more bugs and insects but also more light.

(to the OTHERS)

I have a few things with me but I'm going to need a heavy knife. A blade at least six inches. Sharp.

TRAVIS looks to LISA. She nods. TRAVIS takes out a serious lethal HUNTING KNIFE and passes it across to ZACK.

TRAVIS

You can have this.

ZACK

You need this to run a motel?

TRAVIS

Maybe.

ZACK

I wouldn't like to meet the guests.

TRAVIS ignores him. SONJA comes back out of the plane carrying a FIRST AID KIT.

SONJA

Here. I found this.

KEVIN

(to ZACK)

You're going to be my tech.

ZACK

Sure.

KEVIN
So wash your hands.

LISA
(quietly to TRAVIS)
There goes the drinking water!

KEVIN
And you got any clean clothes in
your luggage, put them on.

39

EXT. NEAR CAMPSITE, JUNGLE - DAY 1, 18:30

39

LATER. OCTAVIO has been moved to an area close to the
campsite but over to one side.

The sky turning red. KEVIN, ZACK and SONJA. Ready for the
surgery. A pan of BOILING WATER on a fire. TRAVIS' KNIFE in
the water. An unconscious OCTAVIO lying on the jungle floor
with his shirt open.

KEVIN opens a small DISPLAY CASE which contains a random
selection of MEDICAL PLIERS, SURGICAL SUTURE and other
equipment.

ZACK
What's all this?

KEVIN
Medical samples. It's what I buy
and sell. No scalpels though. And
no disinfectant.
(to SONJA)
Give me the vodka.

She hands him the bottle. He takes a good pull and swallows.

SONJA
I thought it was for him.

KEVIN
It's for both of us.

He splashes VODKA over OCTAVIO's chest.

KEVIN (CONT'D)
(to ZACK)
And your belt.

ZACK is puzzled. A tourniquet?

KEVIN (CONT'D)
No anaesthetic either.

ZACK takes off his belt and hands it to KEVIN. KEVIN places
it in OCTAVIO's mouth, between his teeth. So he won't bite
off his own tongue.

KEVIN (CONT'D)

This isn't going to be pretty and it may kill him. Just remember. You wanted me to do this. I'm not promising anything.

SONJA

We have to try.

KEVIN

You mean, I have to try. Sure.

KEVIN takes a deep breath. He holds out a hand. He's deliberately making ZACK an active part of this and ZACK knows it. ZACK hands him the knife.

KEVIN drives the KNIFE into OCTAVIO's chest. But that's all we see. OCTAVIO half-cries out. He was only semi-conscious to begin with. Now he passes out.

40

INT. CABIN, AIRCRAFT - SUNSET 1, 19:00

40

DAN and AMY are sitting, his arms around her, inside the broken aircraft. Time has passed.

AMY

This is like some terrible nightmare.

DAN

I'm sorry, Amy.

AMY

It's not your fault.

DAN

I promised I'd look after you and this is where I've brought you.

AMY

I wish I could talk to my dad.

NERVOUSNESS from DAN. AMY's father doesn't know about the marriage. And that could be very dangerous for him.

DAN

I wish you could too!

AMY

He'd kill you!

DAN
Don't say that.

AMY
You don't know him.

DAN
I've read about him and I've seen him on TV. He's a tough guy. Like his daughter. That's why I know you're gonna get out of here.

Time has passed. The emergency lighting inside the aircraft fizzles and goes out.

DAN (CONT'D)
There goes the emergency power.

AMY
This is like some terrible nightmare.

For a second time, the LEAVES RUSTLE, brushing against the WINDOW. Or was it just leaves? AMY gazes into the darkness, suddenly afraid.

DAN
Amy? What is it?

AMY
Didn't you see?

DAN
What?

AMY
There was someone there.

DAN looks out of the window.

DAN
There's no-one.

But DAN is worried.

41

EXT. CAMPSITE, JUNGLE - SUNSET 1, 19:00

41

LISA and TRAVIS are sitting at the bonfire on the other side of the camp, away from the operation. CARLOS, silent and distant, sits opposite.

LISA looks at KEVIN, performing the operation in the distance.

TRAVIS
What are they doing?

LISA
I don't even want to look.

A pause.

LISA (CONT'D)
We have six days.

TRAVIS
What?

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LISA
You know what, Travis. Your pills.

TRAVIS
We've got plenty.

LISA
You know that's not true!

TRAVIS
Back off, Lisa, honey. It's OK. I have pills for six days but you know and I know that I can last a lot longer than that.

LISA
I know no such thing.

TRAVIS
The attack was months ago. I've been fine ever since.

LISA
Because you take the pills.

CARLOS gets up and walks into the trees. Leaves his case behind.

TRAVIS
Where's he going?
(contemptuous)
Our 'Mr Luchador'?

LISA smiles despite herself.

LISA
He doesn't have a lot to say for himself.

TRAVIS
He's a goddamn Latino. He doesn't have the language.

LISA
What's in that case, do you think?
(Beat)
He nearly got himself killed trying to fetch it.

LISA looks left and right. Nobody watching. She tiptoes across the campsite and tries the case. It won't open.

LISA (CONT'D)
(to TRAVIS)
Locked!

42

EXT. NEAR CAMPSITE, JUNGLE - SUNSET 1, 19:00

42

ANOTHER ANGLE. The operation is over. KEVIN is closing the wound with SURGICAL SUTURE. ZACK and SONJA are with him.

ZACK

Lucky you had the thread.

KEVIN

Surgical suture. And I've got plenty. I bought five different samples back from Guatemala.

OCTAVIO is breathing easily.

SONJA

(surprised)

He looks... OK.

KEVIN

It went about as well as I could have hoped - given that I've never done this before. In or out of an operating theatre.

SONJA

You did a great job. He owes you. We all do.

KEVIN

I'm not saying there won't be complications. Post-operative shock. There's a high chance of infection.

(slaps an insect at the side of his neck)

Especially with all these damn mosquitoes. He's still got to get through the night.

ZACK

You've given him a shot. That's all we could have asked.

Grudgingly making the peace between them.

ZACK (CONT'D)

Thanks.

KEVIN looks at his bloody hands.

KEVIN

I need to wash.

SONJA holds out a bottle of water from the plane.

SONJA

Here.

KEVIN is generous with the water. He sees SONJA is concerned.

KEVIN

A river. A lake. We'll find water somewhere.

43

EXT. MEXICAN JUNGLE - NIGHT 1, 21:00

43

WIDE ANGLE. The JUNGLE is a vast, sprawling mass of darkness, shadows, a dense canopy of leaves. A HUGE MOON hangs in the sky but only makes the DARKNESS seem more dangerous, more impenetrable.

The CAMERA ZOOMS in towards the campsite. Now we hear the WHIRR of cicadas, the endless sounds of CREATURES moving. In the distance, the haunting cry of HOWLER MONKEYS.

We arrive at the ROTTING EYEHOLE of some dead animal. ANTS crawling out.

A VENOMOUS SNAKE spits directly at the CAMERA. Some sort of NIGHT BIRD flutters through the leaves.

44

EXT. CAMPSITE, JUNGLE - NIGHT 1, 21:00

44

LISA and TRAVIS, curled up together, covered in blankets. Asleep. A bag with their things - including the BOTTLE OF PILLS - is beside them.

45

INT. CABIN, AIRCRAFT - NIGHT 1, 21:00

45

DAN and AMY are curled up together. But DAN is not asleep. He sits up and looks through the window of the plane. There's an empty SLEEPING AREA. CARLOS' suitcase is where he left it. But CARLOS isn't there.

46

EXT. CLEARING, JUNGLE - NIGHT 1, 21:00

46

CARLOS has taken off his jacket and shirt. Bare-chested, he's doing chin-ups, using the branch of a tree.

ANOTHER ANGLE. Somebody approaches through the jungle, unseen by CARLOS. A sense of danger...

CARLOS does a dozen chin-ups, pushing himself to the limit. As the CAMERA closes in, we see the fanaticism in his eyes.

ANOTHER ANGLE. Someone is watching through the undergrowth. All we see is a SHADOWY SHAPE in the darkness, hidden by foliage. It could be DAN. It could be the same person that AMY heard in Scene 40.

47

EXT. CAMPSITE, JUNGLE - NIGHT 1, 01:00

47

LATER. CLOUDS cutting across the MOON.

A NIGHT BIRD lands in a tree. It is the only witness to what follows.

SOMEONE walks through the camp. We just see a shadow. We hear BOOTS crushing leaves. Impossible to say even if this is a man or a woman.

The figure leans down. A HAND, wearing pilot's gloves, picks up a cushion.

OCTAVIO is asleep. Still recovering from the operation. But his breathing is steady and normal. The KILLER moves towards him.

A PAUSE. Then the KILLER steps into shot, seen in silhouette, looming over the sleeping man. A sense of danger. OCTAVIO opens his eyes. We see his FEAR. He knows what is about to happen. He stares in terror.

48

EXT. CAMPSITE, JUNGLE - MORNING 2, 07:00

48

The body of OCTAVIO stares up at the sky with empty eyes. It's the following morning... DAY TWO.

WIDER ANGLE. ZACK, KEVIN, SONJA, TRAVIS, LISA, DAN, AMY and CARLOS surround the body.

KEVIN

I'm sorry. I did warn you.

SONJA

You did what you could.

KEVIN

I don't understand it. There's no sign of infection or internal bleeding. He came through it as well as he could. I was sure he was going to pull through.

ZACK

So what killed him?

LISA

Good question.

LISA has seen something that the others have not noticed.

KEVIN

(to LISA)

You got any ideas?

LISA

How would I know?

KEVIN

My only guess is what I said. Post-operative shock.

(Beat)

Maybe someone should have stayed with him.

DAN

It's a bit late for that now.

ZACK

I didn't hear you volunteer.

KEVIN

No. He's right. He was my patient. It should have been me. Damn!

AMY

We didn't know anything about him. Octavio. He was a pilot. But was he married? Did he have children? And the stewardess? She died too. She didn't even have a name.

SONJA

We don't know anything about any of us.

TRAVIS

Poor bastard. Falls out of the sky. Survives the crash. And now this.

(Beat)

What are we gonna do with him?

AMY

We've got to bury him. We must bury both of them.

KEVIN

Forget that - in this heat.

ZACK

He's right. We'll take them with us.

TRAVIS

If we ever get out of here...

ESTABLISHING SHOT. The ninth day. The HELICOPTER is where it landed. A few SOLDIERS around.

A young, intelligent officer - DANIEL SÁNCHEZ - hands something to SUBTENIENTE LÓPEZ. SPANISH DIALOGUE TRANSLATED IN BRACKETS AND SUBTITLED.

SÁNCHEZ	SÁNCHEZ
Señor...	(Sir...)
LÓPEZ	LÓPEZ
¿Qué?	(What?)
SÁNCHEZ	SÁNCHEZ
Encontramos esto en el avión.	(We found these in the plane.)
A bundle of PASSPORTS. LÓPEZ takes them.	
LÓPEZ	LÓPEZ
Te ves cansado.	(You look done in.)
SÁNCHEZ	SÁNCHEZ
Estuvo feo. Los cuerpos... me dio asco.	(It was bad. The bodies... they made me sick.)
LÓPEZ	LÓPEZ
Hiciste un buen trabajo.	(You did a good job.)
LÓPEZ walks off with the passports.	

50

INT. OFFICE, LOS TRIOS MILITARY BASE - DAY 9, 14:30

50

VEGA examines the passports... USA, Guatemala. We do not see the pictures or names inside. On the other side of the room, LÓPEZ lights a cigarette. VEGA looks up from the desk. Annoyed. SPANISH DIALOGUE TRANSLATED IN BRACKETS AND SUBTITLED.

VEGA	VEGA
No deberías fumar aquí adentro.	(You shouldn't smoke in here.)
LÓPEZ	LÓPEZ
¿Entonces dónde quiere que fume, señor?	(Where would you like me to smoke, sir?)
VEGA	VEGA
¡Ya sabes qué quiero decir!	(You know what I mean!)
VEGA gives in.	
VEGA (CONT'D)	VEGA (CONT'D)
¡Dame uno!	(Give me one of those!)
LÓPEZ offers him a cigarette. VEGA puts the passports down, takes the cigarette, lights it.	
VEGA (CONT'D)	VEGA (CONT'D)
¿De dónde los sacaste?	(Where did you get these?)

LÓPEZ
Sánchez los encontró.

LÓPEZ
(*Sánchez found them.*)

VEGA
¿Dónde?

VEGA
(*Where?*)

LÓPEZ
(a shrug)
En la selva. En el avión.

LÓPEZ
(a shrug)
(*In the jungle. In the plane.*)

VEGA
Es buen chavo.

VEGA
(*He's a good kid.*)

LÓPEZ
¿Y cómo es que lo enviaron
para acá?

LÓPEZ
(*So how come he got sent here?*)

VEGA
Tenemos nombres.

VEGA
(*We have names.*)

LÓPEZ
Tenemos más que eso.

LÓPEZ
(*We have more than that.*)

LÓPEZ counts the passports onto the CAPITAN's desk.

LÓPEZ (CONT'D)
Uno, dos, tres, cuatro,
cinco, seis, siete, ocho,
nueve, diez. Diez pasaportes.

LÓPEZ (CONT'D)
(*One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. Ten passports.*)

VEGA
Sí...

VEGA
(*Yes...*)

LÓPEZ
Sabemos que había ocho
pasajeros a bordo del vuelo
CBZ 517 de Aero Alux en el
Aeropuerto Internacional La
Aurora en Guatemala.

LÓPEZ
(*We know that there were eight passengers who boarded Aero Alux Flight CBZ 517 at the Aurora Inter-national airport in Guatemala.*)

VEGA
Sí. Más un piloto y una
asistente de vuelo.

VEGA
(*Yes. Plus one pilot and one flight attendant.*)

LÓPEZ
Diez en el vuelo y diez
pasaportes.

LÓPEZ
(*Ten of them on the flight and ten passports.*)

VEGA
(realising)
Pero solo nueve cuerpos en la
morgue.

VEGA
(realising)
(*But only nine bodies in the morgue.*)

A pause. Then the inevitable conclusion.

LÓPEZ
Nos falta alguien.

LÓPEZ
(*Somebody's missing.*)

51

INT. MORGUE, LOS TRIOS MILITARY BASE - DAY 9, 14:30

51

Nine bodies in BODY BAGS - stretched out neatly on silver gurneys. Nine bodies in a Mexican morgue.

END OF EPISODE ONE

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