

THE SERPENT

Episode Five

Written by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

Blue Amendments - 06/10/19
Pink Amendments - 10/10/19
Yellow Amendments - 14/10/19
Green Amendments - 23/10/19
Double Blue Amendments - 31/10/19
Double Pink Amendments - 28/11/19
Double Yellow Amendments - 10/12/19
Double Green Amendments - 28/02/20

1-4C OMITTED

1-4C

4CA I/E. KNIPPERBERG HOUSE - BANGKOK - DAY 56

4CA

SPLIT-FLAP - 9TH MARCH 1976. BANGKOK, THAILAND.

The full heat of midday. See the house from the garden, shimmering in the glare of the sun.

And see the four people in the shade there - sat, stood, sleepless and smoking. Angela, Remy, Nadine, and --

Herman - he steps out into the glare. Feels the sun beat down on him. Until it's almost unbearable, and he turns back in. Fixes the three others, and --

HERMAN

There'll be a way.

CUT TO:

4CB INT. THE SAFE. 504 KANIT HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 56

4CB

*

From within the crowded confines of the strongbox, see Charles' pensive anger as he peers in. Reaches for a PILE OF PASSPORTS, as --

MARIE-ANDRÉE (O.S.)

Did he take anything?

Charles - standing from the safe. On top of it: that RED BRIEFCASE of his. He rifles through that pile of passports --

CHARLES

Only his passport.

Marie - visibly disturbed by this --

MARIE-ANDRÉE

But it was no use to him. It had your photograph in it.

CHARLES

Unless he changed it...

MARIE-ANDRÉE

Dominique? He wouldn't know how.

CHARLES

Perhaps he had help...

MARIE-ANDRÉE

Perhaps he told someone what he knows.

CHARLES

Who would he tell? He had no friends.

MARIE-ANDRÉE
Except Nadine.

CHARLES
Yes. Except Nadine.

Charles - his eyes darkening. Marie reads his look. Goes to him. They embrace --

MARIE-ANDRÉE
Should we leave? Get out, now?

CHARLES
(considers this, but)
No. Nothing changes. The plan is the plan.

And he puts the passports back in the safe with all the other various valuables in there. Shuts it. Turns to the briefcase and shut that too.

CUT TO:

4D **EXT. FLOATING RESTAURANT. BANGKOK - DAY 56**

4D

Where - across from each other - CHARLES SOBHRAJ and SUDA ROMYEN sit. Suda - the dog, FRANKIE on her lap, currently deciding whether or not she forgives Charles --

CHARLES
Did I not call you, Miss Suda? Did I not write to you?

SUDA
And each time you said you would be home the following week.

CHARLES
Here I am. I kept my word.

Which cuts no ice with her, so --

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Forgive me. If I sound insincere, it is only because I am afraid of what your unhappiness - the unhappiness I caused - might mean for us.

Suda - an eye for this, doesn't believe him for a minute --

SUDA
You're afraid? Alain I don't think you are.

CHARLES
Yes. Why not? The idea of life without Suda is frightening.

And now she laughs --

SUDA

A farang cannot own a business in Thailand. I think this is what truly frightens you. You do not love me. You only need me.

CHARLES

Yes. It's true. I do need you.

Her laughter dries in her throat. He lets it sit there. But then, he produces his ATTACHÉ CASE. Opens it. Neither Suda, nor ourselves, can see what else is within. But --

But he produces - a clean linen garment bag. And a small red jewelry box. Places one hand on the bag --

CHARLES (CONT'D)
I need you for my work.
(the other on the box)
And I need you for my life.
(her curious eyes, so)
Choose.

So she reaches for the linen bag. Sees: WADS OF BANKNOTES.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
I want you to spend it all. I trust
you. But spend it on one consignment.
Speak to the mine. We want only the
very best.
(then)
Put it in your bag, Suda, before the
waiter thinks it's a tip.

SUDA
How did you get so much?

CHARLES
I didn't stay away from you for so
long because I was enjoying myself. I
was working. For us.

SUDA
I think it's too much. For Bangkok.
We'll never sell it...

CHARLES
For Bangkok. But not for Paris.

SUDA
You're going to Paris?

CHARLES
I am going to set up an office there.
From which I will sell gemstones to
Europeans.

SUDA
(suddenly very sad)
Then you are leaving again?

CHARLES
Yes. With Monique.

Lets that land with Suda. Whatever her strength, the hope she
has placed in him is clear. Another beat, until --

CHARLES (CONT'D)
And then I will be coming back.
(her face; the confusion)
Open the box, Suda.

She'd almost forgotten about that little red box. But she
opens it now.

Finds - a RING. A SAPPHIRE SET IN DIAMONDS.

THE RING CHARLES ONCE SOLD TO WIM BLOEM AND LENA DEKKER.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Try it on. Here.

So he reaches across for her hand. And in a daze, she lets him. Left hand. Ring finger. She can't quite believe it --

SUDA
My father. He should [be here]...

CHARLES
But I don't want to marry your father.
(she smiles)
Suda - the business will have offices in Paris. And also in Bangkok.
Monique, as I say, will stay in Europe.
(another)
But my home. Where my heart is. Where I want my love to live - with all our little babies... That will be here. In Bangkok. With you.

CUT TO:

4E

EXT. FLOATING RESTAURANT. STREET/THE COROLLA - DAY 56

4E

Where Ajay leans on the bonnet of the Corolla smoking. Watches as Charles and a beaming Suda emerge. Charles waves a TAXI over for Suda, as, the ring on her finger --

AJAY
You guys! Congratulations!

And he hugs her. Which she doesn't much like. But here is that taxi, and Charles --

CHARLES
Cherie - I hate to ask it, but if I do not take Frankie back to Monique, the world will end.

Suda passes the leash across, and --

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Oh, and, Suda - will you take care of this for me...

He means his briefcase. She queries him --

SUDA
It's your briefcase. Don't you need it?

CHARLES
Not for a few days.
(beat)
It's a small thing. But important to
me.

So she nods, takes it, and he kisses her. Before she climbs in
the taxi, waves, and

is gone. Leaves Charles and Ajay to retreat to the Corolla and stop to smoke. After a moment --

AJAY

Two wives. Isn't one enough trouble,
Alain?

CHARLES

(a shrug; *not at all*)

My father was the same. He had his wife and his family in Delhi. And then he had my mother and I in Saigon.

AJAY

What was that like?

CHARLES

I think the situation worked very well for him.

(beat)

But it's not for you to worry about. You and I will move backwards and forwards as we please. Gems in Bangkok, Money in Paris. More gems. More money. More than you could ever spend, Ajay.

CUT TO:

4F

INT. 504 KANIT HOUSE. MAIN BEDROOM. BANGKOK - DAY 56

4F

Marie-Andrée and Charles - languorous afternoon love-making complete, she cradles Frankie in her arms, and, ***English*** --

MARIE-ANDRÉE

She is fat. Suda has made her a little fat, I think.

CHARLES

She loves the dog.

MARIE-ANDRÉE

It's you she loves.

CHARLES

Marie - who is it I am taking to Paris?

Marie - told. Plays with the dog a little, then --

MARIE-ANDRÉE

When do we leave? How long must we stay here?

CHARLES

To set up the buyers. Find the best price... one month, perhaps two... By
(MORE)

CHARLES (CONT'D)

summer, Marie, we will be in an
apartment on the Place Vendome...

MARIE-ANDRÉE

And we're safe until then? You don't
worry?

CHARLES

Why would I worry? We have been gone
since December. The noise around the
two Dutch has fallen quiet. No one has
come to disturb us in all that time...

MARIE-ANDRÉE

And Dominique?

Charles - he doesn't have an answer for that. Perhaps
somewhere it troubles him too. So --

MARIE-ANDRÉE (CONT'D)

Are his parents still writing to him,
do you think? At the Poste Restante?

And he - going close to her again, kissing her --

CHARLES

That, my Marie, is very clever of you.

CUT TO:

4G

EXT. POSTE RESTANTE. BANGKOK - DAY 56 (SC 4.99A)

4G

The White Corolla. Ajay, Charles and Marie-Andrée climb out.
And head on inside.

CUT TO:

4H

INT. POSTE RESTANTE - BANGKOK - DAY 56 (SC 3.66D)

4H

Charles, Marie, Ajay - moving through. Charles stopping as he
feels Marie's hand on his arm. Shows him where to look.

Here - where NADINE GIRES is reading a letter. Money in her
hands. Charles - a cold smile. A step or two, then --

CHARLES

Hello Nadine.
(her letter)
Good news?

And Nadine - her face.

RUN TITLES:

THE SERPENT.

AND UP ON:

5

INT. DUTCH EMBASSY. BACK OFFICES. BANGKOK - DAY 58

5

SPLIT-FLAP **forward** two days: **MARCH 11TH 1976.**

And HERMAN - tight with worry on his desk-phone --

HERMAN

This is Knippenberg - connect me to
Bangkok Central Division...

SIEMONS (O.S.)

Knippenberg...

Herman looks up - SIEMONS stalking towards him:

SIEMONS (CONT'D)

Got your message - what the hell's
going on?

HERMAN

Janthasin agreed to send the police
into Kanit House: they're calling it a
narcotics raid, so Gautier has no
reason to suspect Nadine - but --

SIEMONS

(bravo!)

Wait - Cloggy - you *did* it!

HERMAN

Paul - *listen*: she was on the phone -
to me - and I think Gautier *heard* her!

SIEMONS

You just said the cops are going --

HERMAN

In two hours!

SIEMONS

What?

HERMAN

(re phone)

I'm trying to reach Janthasin - to beg
him to change it - to move *now*...

SIEMONS

Christ, Knippenberg --

HERMAN

When he arranged the raid nobody
thought Nadine would be trapped there
with those maniacs!

(then)

Please - *go to her* - just until the
police --

SIEMONS

Alright, Dutch...

Siemons - FN PISTOL already in hand: checked, holstered under
his shirt - thrill in his blood --

SIEMONS (CONT'D)

Finally - we do it *my way*.

HERMAN

As soon as I've squared it with
Janthasin, I'll be following right
behind you.

But Siemons has already bolted - as, on the phone:

HERMAN (CONT'D)
I said Bangkok *Central!* HURRY! !

CUT TO:

5A I/E. ROMYEN HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 58

5A

A few LADIES FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD - in Suda's kitchen, talking among themselves, preparing a large meal, looking to where --

Two MINE BOSSES conclude a deal with Suda. She hands them that LINEN BAG OF CASH. And they pass her a LARGE, ROLL-TOP, CANVAS BAG.

One of the bosses produces a few sheets of OFFICIAL-LOOKING PAPERWORK. Both parties sign documents, receipts are STAMPED. Legitimate business is concluded.

Suda takes a moment to reach into the roll-top bag and produce a single, FELT WRAP. It's ONE OF MANY. She opens it. And beams at what she sees. Folds it away.

The Mine Bosses - *Wais* of respect to Suda. And they leave the house. The PHONE RINGS, Suda answers.

SUDA

Hello my darling. Yes. Dinner's at eight... but the guests will be here from seven... They're all desperate to meet you.

Suda - as she speaks to him, she closes the roll-top bag and places it next to Charles' Red Briefcase.

*
*

CUT TO:

5B I/E. 504 KANIT HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 58

5B

CHARLES - on the other end of the line --

CHARLES

It will be a wonderful occasion.
(then)
Suda: do you have it?

SUDA

I have it.

CHARLES

And?

SUDA

I think you will be happy.

CHARLES

Are you?

SUDA

Yes.

CHARLES

Then that's all that matters. I'll see
you later.

He hangs up. Turns to where Ajay leans in from the balcony --

AJAY

All set then?

CHARLES

She's a remarkable young woman.

AJAY

Let me show you another one of
those...

Charles - going to him, out to the BALCONY, gazes down: To where NADINE sits with MARIE-ANDRÉE by the pool - amid the usual gaggle of HIPPY-KIDS with their beer, cheer, dope.

They watch Nadine. She has that CAMERA. Takes a few snaps --

AJAY (CONT'D)

She doesn't stop. Snap, snap, snap. I found her in here yesterday, snooping around. Then she and Remy - they left as soon as it got dark and then she comes back this morning alone... Alain - you know how close she and Dominique were...

CHARLES

I know, Ajay. I see these things.

AJAY

Then we have to fix her, right? Before she spoils everything!

CUT TO:

6

EXT. KANIT HOUSE. SWIMMING POOL. BANGKOK - DAY 58

6

And now we're down here amid the POOL PARTY - with MARIE-ANDRÉE, little FRANKIE and NADINE, keeping her cool, as --

MARIE-ANDRÉE

(French)

*... my God, India... have you been? /
Mon Dieu l'Inde... Tu connais ?*

NADINE

No, I - never... what's it like? / Moi non, mais... c'était comment ?

MARIE-ANDRÉE

It's impossible to describe. But - it changes you, Nadine.. / C'est difficile à décrire mais, Nadine... Ça te transforme.

Nadine - her smile for that, her little joke --

NADINE

Is that good? / En bien ?

But Marie-Andrée lacks for a sense of humour. Just looks at Nadine a little strangely, then --

MARIE-ANDRÉE

But I think I'm through with Asia. / Mais j'en ai assez de l'Asie.

(beat)

Alain is moving the business to Europe. We're going to be moving there. / Alain rapatrie ses affaires en Europe. On va aller s'installer là-bas.

NADINE

*But when? You only just got back. /
Mais quand ? Vous venez à peine
d'arriver.*

MARIE-ANDRÉE

*Oh not for a few months... but that's
where I want to be now. / Oh pas tout
de suite. Dans quelques mois. Mais
c'est là-bas que j'ai envie de vivre
maintenant.*

(beat)

*He's taking me to meet his mother. /
Il va me présenter sa mère.*

AJAY (O.S.)
Mai Tais!

AJAY with a tray of DRINKS: one to MARIE-ANDRÉE, one to CHARLES now emerging behind him...

AJAY (CONT'D)
This one's for you.

And to NADINE - doing her utmost to hold her nerve. She takes it with a faint smile. Stares at it: *is it spiked...?* Marie-

Andrée - suddenly stricken with the same fear: a look to Charles, who gives away *nothing* --

CHARLES
(a toast)
To friends.

Only Nadine hesitates to drink...

NADINE
It's just a little early for me...

MARIE-ANDRÉE
Don't drink if you don't feel like --

CHARLES
They're very good, Nadine. And Ajay
went to the trouble. *Tchin tchin!*

Nadine - reeling - eyes on her... No escape - and Marie-Andrée powerless... So Nadine puts the glass to her lips... DRINKS.

CUT TO:

6aA OMITTED

6aA

6A INT. DUTCH EMBASSY. BACK OFFICES. BANGKOK - DAY 58
(CONTINUOUS)

6A

HERMAN - sweat streaming with anxiety, on the PHONE --

ANGELA (PHONE)
Herman - Remy's going out of his
mind...

HERMAN
He's not the only one...

ANGELA (PHONE)
Herman she's his wife!

But here is LAWANA - mouthing urgently at him --

LAWANA
Major General Janthasin...

HERMAN
Angela I have to go.

ANGELA (PHONE)
Herman!

Herman's off the line though and hitting a button on his phone and --

HERMAN
Major General... Thank you...!

CUT TO:

6B INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. JANTHASIN'S OFFICE - DAY 58 6B
(CONTINUOUS)

MAJOR GENERAL JANTHASIN - his own full urgency --

JANTHASIN
Knippenberg - a man in your position
ought to understand limited resources
stretched to breaking...

BACK TO:

6C INT. DUTCH EMBASSY. BACK OFFICES. BANGKOK - DAY 58 6C
(CONTINUOUS)

HERMAN
Major General - with the greatest
respect, sir - I do: but a woman's
life is in danger. Please: you have to
act now!

CUT TO:

7 MOVED TO 8A 7

8 EXT. KANIT HOUSE. SWIMMING POOL. BANGKOK - DAY 58 8

NADINE - staring at her half-empty glass, grateful for every
moment it does not seem to be drugged. Looking on, as --

Ajay - great grin on his face, playing to this audience of
Nadine, Marie-Andrée, and various other Hangers-on --

AJAY
Just watch...
(taps his head)
Everything's in the mind, man.

And he winds up, draws back a FIST and - WHUMP: unloads a
MIGHTY PUNCH to Charles's STOMACH --

Charles - who does not flinch, nor move an inch. All in the
mind, man: the hippies look on with awe...

Nadine - her own smile a rictus, but --

CHARLES

Nadine. You want to try.

NADINE

No, Alain, I don't want to punch you.

Marie-Andrée - her fear only growing as to what he intends --

MARIE-ANDRÉE

Alain, no - she doesn't want to. Don't force her.

Charles - a look flicked to Ajay, off which --

AJAY

Hey Monique. We should go.

Nadine - redoubled alarm --

NADINE

...go?! Where are you going...?

CHARLES

Monique has a new dress being made she wants to try on, and I want Ajay to collect two new suits from my tailor.

Nadine - pleading eyes at Marie --

NADINE

(French)

But - no - when will you - how long will you be gone...? / Mais... non... Quand est-ce que... Vous partez pour combien de temps ?

MARIE-ANDRÉE

(French)

I don't know - with the traffic, and... Maybe I should [stay] -- / Je ne sais pas. Avec la circulation et... Peut-être que je devrais...

Ajay - at Marie-Andrée's shoulder --

AJAY

Come on, Monique.

But she goes close to Charles, quiet, urgent --

MARIE-ANDRÉE

Please: she's my friend. / S'il te plait, c'est mon amie.

Charles - hand on her shoulder --

CHARLES

Nadine is going to be fine. / Tout va bien se passer pour Nadine, t'en fais pas.

Marie-Andrée holds his look. A moment. He smiles... And she forces herself to believe him.

And so turns away with Ajay and to Nadine's intense PANIC, they move away to where the cars are parked, climb in the Corolla and leave Kanit House...

Leave Nadine to Charles. Who smiles, holds his arms open --

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Try. / Vas-y, essaye.

Nadine - trying to laugh it away now --

NADINE
Alain! Come on. No. / Alain ! S'il te plait, arrête

CHARLES
(a step)
Try. You want to try. / Vas-y, je te dis.

NADINE
You're a crazy man / T'es complètement taré Alain.

CHARLES
(low)
*I don't think you understand. You will do exactly as I say. You want to try.
/ Je crois que t'as pas bien compris.
Tu vas faire exactement ce que je te dis. Vas-y, essaye.*

CUT TO:

8A **I/E. CAR (MOVING). BANGKOK - DAY 58**

8A

PAUL SIEMONS at the wheel - roaring down the street...
SCREECHES round a corner --

SIEMONS
SHIT!! / MERDE!!

SLAMS THE BRAKES: the road heaving with TRAFFIC at a standstill. Siemons twists to look behind: yanks the gear-shift - then with a tyre-squeal REVERSES --

Narrowly missing an ONCOMING CAR: its horn BLARES...

Siemons flips a FINGER - spins away for another route.

CUT TO:

8B **EXT. KANIT HOUSE. SWIMMING POOL. BANGKOK - DAY 58**

8B

Mechanically, hating every moment, NADINE gathers herself to strike Charles --

NADINE
Alright. I'll try.

CHARLES grounds himself. A look to the various folk still gathered to watch --

CHARLES
Very well.

A moment. Then Nadine throws a limp JAB to Charles's stomach -- which GLANCES OFF.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Harder.

Nadine - looking for a friend in the crowd. Finds none --

NADINE
No, Alain.

CHARLES
HARDER.

Nadine - the relentless heat makes the world a dreamlike shimmer. But she PUNCHES AGAIN - but Charles's tensed muscles are STONE: she YELPS at the IMPACT on her wrist.

Somewhere among the Onlookers, people LAUGH.

But Charles crouches to her, **English** now for the group --

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Are you alright, Nadine?

NADINE
I think I - I might've sprained it -
I'll go up for some ice.

CHARLES
No.

He takes Nadine's wrist, massages it with his thumbs --

CHARLES (CONT'D)
I find it hard to understand Dominique didn't say a thing to you. You were so close... / Tu vois, il y a un truc qui m'échappe. Dominique ne t'as rien dit à toi. Pourtant vous étiez si proches.

NADINE
I told you. I've heard nothing from him, Alain. / Je te l'ai déjà dit Alain. J'ai eu aucune nouvelle de lui.

CHARLES
No passport, no money... We were his only friends in Bangkok. It's so hard to understand how he left, never mind why. / Il avait pas de passeport, pas d'argent... On était ses seuls amis à
(MORE)

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Double Yellow Amendments (10/12/19)

CHARLES (CONT'D)

*Bangkok. J'ai du mal à comprendre
comment il a fait pour partir, encore
moins pourquoi.*

Eyes on her: Nadine fighting FEAR - *what does he know...?* But
she holds her nerve, forces a weak SMILE:

NADINE

...we all miss him, Alain. / Il nous
manque à tous, Alain.

Charles gazes at her unreadably...

CHARLES

Yes. Yes we do. / Oui, bien sûr qu'il
nous manque.

(back to English)

Now... is that better, Nadine?

To Nadine's surprise, in fact it is... But:

NADINE

...I think some ice might --

CHARLES

Let me show you why it hurt. First
make a fist - a real fist.

(clenching his own fist)

Squeeze airtight, wrap your thumb -
like this, you see? And when you
strike, use your hip. Like --

WHOOMP - With a small pivot Charles DRILLS HIS FIST into
Nadine's gut: she gasps, crumples - CAN'T BREATHE...

For a split moment Charles placidly watches her agony.

The Onlookers - sudden, deep shock and fear --

A HIPPY KID

Hey man, that ain't cool.

But Charles only need to look at him for the kid to retreat.

NADINE - still heaving for breath as Charles crouches to her --

CHARLES

I'm sorry - I thought you'd tensed...

Nadine - too weak to answer. His eyes, **French** again. Quiet --

CHARLES (CONT'D)

*You see, Nadine - I know you helped
Dominique... But who is now going to
help you? / Tu vois Nadine,... je sais
que tu as aidé Dominique... Mais toi,
qui est-ce qui va t'aider ?*

CUT TO:

8C **I/E. CAR. STREET. BANGKOK - DAY 58**

8C

PAUL SIEMONS seethes - boxed impotently amid more GRIDLOCK.
Slams the HORN - barking in Belgian:

SIEMONS

MOVE!

He cranes to see any break in the traffic... No - only
vehicles growling static into distance. So decides: *fuck it* --

CUT TO:

8D **EXT. STREET. BANGKOK - DAY 58**

8D

SIEMONS leaps from the car - abandoning it - then SPRINTING
through the paralysis of traffic and the choking heat.

CUT TO:

9 **MOVED TO 6A**

9

10-11 **OMITTED**

10-11

11aA **INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. JANTHASIN'S OFFICE - DAY 58** 11aA

Janthasin - his will not to be brooked, *Thai* --

JANTHASIN

*That's right, Captain. As many men as
you can gather. But it must happen
now.*

CUT TO:

11A **INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. OFFICE. BANGKOK - DAY 58** 11A

A hive of HARRIED COPS - amongst whom: CAPTAIN CHUPONG -
grizzled, 40s - on the phone... [All Thai:]

CHUPONG

Understood, sir.

Hangs up, screws out his cigarette - turns, barking loud:

CHUPONG (CONT'D)
Green unit! New orders!

CUT TO:

12

EXT. KANIT HOUSE. SWIMMING POOL. BANGKOK - DAY 58

12

NADINE's still catching her breath - CHARLES's reptile eyes on her: taking her arm, gentle coercion...

CHARLES

You should come up with me - rest a while out of the heat...

HIPPY (O.S.)

Hey, who's the square?

Nadine - eyes swimming across the courtyard to see --

PAUL SIEMONS - stalking into the courtyard - As with superhuman effort Nadine finds enough air to BELLOW:

NADINE

PAUL!

Siemons' eyes snap to her - to Charles beside her: hand moving to the PISTOL under his shirt --

But Nadine has driven herself up; crosses fast to Siemons:

NADINE (CONT'D)

Quelle surprise!

An embrace, two cheek-kisses: he feels her TREMBLING. [French:]

SIEMONS

(whisper)

Are you alright? / Ça va ?

NADINE

(also hissing low)

They're not here! / Ils ne sont pas là!

SIEMONS

(eyes on Charles)

I can see him! / Je le vois.

NADINE

No - just - Follow, okay? / Non.

Juste... Suis moi, ok ?

(louder, brightly)

Remy will be back very soon - come inside and wait. / Rémy ne va pas tarder. Viens l'attendre à l'intérieur.

CHARLES (O.S.)

NADINE...

Charles - calling out across the pool. Nadine forces a smile. And now in English:

NADINE

This is Paul - he works with Remy.

CHARLES

Join us, Paul?

Siemons - for the briefest moment eyes locked with Charles's:

SIEMONS

...I don't like the heat.

CUT TO:

13

INT. KANIT HOUSE. NADINE AND REMY'S APARTMENT - DAY 58

13

NADINE - locking the door behind her and SIEMONS -- [French:]

NADINE

...oh, thank God... / ...Dieu merci...

SHAKING: panic and fear finally allowed release...

SIEMONS

*The police are coming - understand?
Herman is telling them - now. / La
police arrive, tu comprends? Herman
est en train de leur parler, là tout
de suite.*

NADINE

*No! I told you - they're not here! /
Non ! Je t'ai dit : Ils sont pas là !*

SIEMONS

*Who? The other two? So what - the cops
can take Gautier and -- / Qui ça ? Les
deux autres ? Les flics n'ont qu'à
embarquer Gauthier...*

NADINE

*NO! They must arrest the three - all
three! Or we're not safe - Remy and I!
/ Non ! Il faut qu'ils les arrêtent
tous les trois ! Sinon on risque notre
vie, Rémy et moi.*

Siemons - processing this, unsure how to proceed...

CUT TO:

14

OMITTED

14

14A **EXT. DUTCH EMBASSY. BANGKOK - DAY 58**

14A

HERMAN - about to get in the car with YOTIN --

LAWANA (O.S.)
Mr Knippenberg - wait!!

LAWANA - sprinting across the grounds to him:

HERMAN
I cannot wait, Lawana! I have to get
to Kanit House --

LAWANA
Telephone - Mr Siemons - very urgent!

CUT TO:

15 **INT. DUTCH EMBASSY. BACK OFFICES. BANGKOK - DAY 58**

15

HERMAN on the phone:

HERMAN
She said *what...?* Is she out of her --

He sees VAN DONGEN - prowling from his office - looking darkly
over at Herman's strangely intense manner... Herman hisses:

HERMAN (CONT'D)
Alright Paul! I'll do it!

He kills the line: a glance at Van Dongen - and a butter-
wouldn't-melt smile as Herman pretends to focus on some
PAPERWORK... Looks up: Van Dongen's gone --

Herman already jabbing a number on the phone --

CUT TO:

16 **EXT. KANIT HOUSE. SWIMMING POOL. BANGKOK - DAY 58**

16

NADINE - stalking back towards CHARLES. And he, once more
English for the group still hanging out down here...

CHARLES
Nadine! Feeling better?

NADINE
Oh, you don't punch that hard.

And her face - the resilience, the courage --

NADINE (CONT'D)
And what do you think you're doing,
hmm!? We're friends. Friends don't
punch each other, Alain!

And she pushes him. Once, twice, hard in the chest --

NADINE (CONT'D)

You know what I think? I think you're
a bully.

Charles for a moment - he's staggered by this. No one pulls
this shit with him. But he grabs at her wrists. Pulls her
close. But she's not to be daunted. Squares to him --

NADINE (CONT'D)

What? What will you do?

A beat. Another. All those eyes watching. And then he releases
her. Finds his smile.

NADINE (CONT'D)

Now. I want to swim.

And she removes her clothes to reveal her bathing costume.
Moves to the pool. Takes a breath. And dives in.

CUT TO:

16A INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. JANTHASIN'S OFFICE - DAY 58 16A

JANTHASIN

Knippenberg - you'll forgive my confusion. First you want my men to go in as soon as possible, now you want them to wait...

CUT TO:

17 INT. DUTCH EMBASSY. BACK OFFICES. BANGKOK - DAY 58
(CONTINUOUS) 17

HERMAN - anxious on the phone once more to JANTHASIN:

HERMAN

Please sir. I'll explain everything in due course. Only - make them wait. I beg you.

Silence. Silence. Silence.

CUT TO:

18-19 OMITTED

18-19

20 EXT. STREET. BANGKOK - DAY 58

20

UNMARKED POLICE CARS thunder through traffic...

CUT TO:

21 I/E. POLICE CAR (MOVING). BANGKOK - DAY 58

21

CHUPONG staring ahead as they speed towards Kanit House... The RADIO crackles to life: Chupong snatches it up [in Thai] --

CHUPONG

Chupong.

RADIO DISPATCH

Captain - the Major General for you...

CUT TO:

22 EXT. STREET. BANGKOK - DAY 58

22

The cars abruptly pull to a HALT.

CUT TO:

23 OMITTED

23

24 EXT. KANIT HOUSE. SWIMMING POOL. BANGKOK - DAY 58

24

NADINE in the pool - swimming her lengths. Slow, elegant. Swimming, swimming. Back and forth.

WATCHED by CHARLES... WATCHED by SIEMONS from the walkway: hand resting on the PISTOL, tucked ready...

CUT TO:

25 EXT. KANIT HOUSE. SWIMMING POOL (UNDERWATER) - DAY 58

25

NADINE submerged, floating, otherworldly... Distantly - the alien echo of VOICES: a REFRACTED MOAN... Her NAME...

CUT TO:

26 EXT. KANIT HOUSE. SWIMMING POOL. BANGKOK - DAY 58

26

The world erupts back into clarity as NADINE surfaces --

MARIE-ANDRÉE (O.S.)

Nadine!

Nadine rubs water from her eyes - to see that MARIE-ANDRÉE and AJAY are back with SHOPPING, all smiles... Marie-Andrée perhaps relieved that Nadine remains alive. Nadine climbs out:

NADINE
I'm so pleased you're back!

Marie-Andrée - warmed by Nadine's apparent enthusiasm --

CUT TO:

27

EXT. KANIT HOUSE. NADINE AND REMY'S APARTMENT/WALKWAY - DAY 58

SIEMONS - seeing Marie-Andrée and AJAY return - and now bolting back into the apartment --

CUT TO:

28

INT. DUTCH EMBASSY. BACK OFFICES. BANGKOK - DAY 58

28

The telephone RINGS - HERMAN LURCHES for it.

CUT TO:

29

OMITTED

29

30

EXT. STREET. BANGKOK - DAY 58

30

The UNMARKED POLICE-CARS - silently awaiting their signal...

CUT TO:

31

I/E. POLICE CAR. BANGKOK - DAY 58

31

CHUPONG - on the radio to dispatch [Thai]:

CHUPONG
Received. GREEN UNIT - GO.

The COP at the wheel guns the engine - and FLOORS IT.

CUT TO:

32

EXT. 504 KANIT HOUSE. BALCONY. BANGKOK - DAY 58

32

CHARLES stands on the balcony, gazes out over the city: pulsing neon, queasy heat - people, traffic, commerce...

Something in his awareness shifts imperceptibly - like a wolf's pricked ear...

FOUR CARS growling down the street... PULLING UP OUTSIDE --

CUT TO:

33

INT. 504 KANIT HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 58

33

CHARLES - moving in fast. MARIE-ANDRÉE and AJAY - they feel the difference in his energy.

They watch as he moves to where he hides the key to the safe in that light fitting. Removes it.

AJAY

Alain, what's -

But Charles only stalks back to the window...

CUT TO:

34

INT. 504 KANIT HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 58

34

CHARLES HURLS THE KEY OUT OF THE WINDOW NEAR THE SAFE --

CUT TO:

35

EXT. KANIT HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 58

35

CHUPONG and his SQUAD pile from the cars into the building.

From the balcony, Nadine and Siemons watch. Nadine has a towel around her. Both of them - sagging with relief.

CUT TO:

36

INT. 504 KANIT HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 58

36

MARIE-ANDRÉE and AJAY - confused, afraid. Watching as Charles finds a PASSPORT, flips it open, checks the ID page - grabs a few RINGS, his ROLEX, a SILVER MONEY CLIP loaded with CASH.

Turns back to them, slipping his Rolex on to his wrist --

CHARLES

Something is about to happen. You must listen to me. So long as you do everything I tell you, there is nothing whatsoever to fear.

His two frightened children - ready for instruction --

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Cherie - all of your jewelry. Put it on...

Marie-Andrée - nodding. Going through to her dressing table. That bracelet, a necklace, earrings. Anything she can find.

Charles - with Ajay --

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Give me your hand.

On to his fingers, he places two or three HEAVY RINGS. Puts that CLIP OF CASH in his pocket.

Looks up to where Marie now re-enters. Smiles for them both --

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Trust me.

CUT TO:

37

EXT. 504 KANIT HOUSE. WALKWAY. BANGKOK - DAY 58

37

CHUPONG signals to one of his COPS: now --

CUT TO:

38

INT. 504 KANIT HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 58

38

WHAM - the door is KICKED IN - and the POLICE RUSH INSIDE.

CHARLES, AJAY, MARIE-ANDRÉE: no resistance as they're SEIZED -
but Marie looks NAUSEOUS with panic --

CUT TO:

39 **EXT. KANIT HOUSE. NADINE AND REMY'S APARTMENT - DAY 58** 39

NADINE and SIEMONS watch from the doorway: POLICE up at 504
like flies on carrion; Nadine flooded with relief...

CUT TO:

40 **INT. 504 KANIT HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 58** 40

POLICE turn over cushions, open cupboards in a SEARCH. One of
them shows CHUPONG the sum of what he's unearthed...

A few packs of PRESCRIPTION DRUGS but no contraband
whatsoever. Chupong shakes his head. Glances at a scrap of
paper in his hand - the MAP DRAWN BY NADINE...

TWO COPS try fruitlessly to force open the SAFE. Chupong
scrunches the map, patience worn thin; barks at the safe-cops:

CHUPONG

(Thai)

Take the whole damn thing.

CHARLES, AJAY, MARIE-ANDRÉE; cuffed and prone on the floor...

Charles's gaze drifts to the scrunched map on the floor:
handwriting in French; an arrow marked **LE COFFRE** to THE
SAFE... Then his eyes connect with Marie-Andrée:

She looks frightened, drowning, desperate... He offers a calm
smile - mouths to her... [French:]

CHARLES

Trust me.

FADE OUT.

41-46 **OMITTED**

41-46

47

INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. BANGKOK - DAY 58

47

MARIE-ANDRÉE staring towards us - stricken, as --

THAI VOICE (O.S.)
Possessions.

At the side is a table with a POSSESSIONS TRAY.

MARIE-ANDRÉE
(confused)
I - I don't have any --

THAI VOICE (O.S.)
Jewellery.

And so she starts to take it off. Necklace, bracelet, earrings. The Cops watch them fall into the tray.

CUT TO:

AJAY - staring also ahead as --

CU: his rings, that cash - into a TRAY...

CUT TO:

CHARLES - a benign gaze towards us...

CU: A ROLEX placed in his TRAY: that wristwatch he grabbed from the safe...

WIDER: As Charles continues to deposit his possessions into the tray. GOLD CUFFLINKS, another FAT WAD OF CASH...

Charles - dark eyes scanning, appraising every cop.

CUT TO:

47A

EXT. KNIPPENBERG HOUSE - BANGKOK - DAY 58

47A

Siemons' car - pulling into the drive. Here - Herman and Angela watching as --

Remy sprints from the house for Nadine. Nadine who climbs out of the car and falls into his arms. **French** --

NADINE
Remy...

REMY
Don't even think about telling me not to be fucking furious with you.

NADINE

Don't be furious with me.

REMY

Okay.

And they laugh and sink to their knees and hold each other.

CUT TO:

48

INT. KNIPPENBERG HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 58

48

GLASSES CHINK - between REMY, NADINE, ANGELA, HERMAN, SIEMONS--

REMY

A toast!

SIEMONS

That better not be Dutch plonk.

HERMAN

Remy chose it. You don't like it, you
can shoot him.

Remy smiles, arms tightly round Nadine: his face at her neck,
breathing her in... [French:]

REMY

*I beg you - no more Mata Hari. Ok? /
Par pitié, arrête de te prendre pour
Mata Hari. Ok?*

NADINE

*I think maybe... I'd like to be a
quiet housewife again. / Tu sais, je
crois que... J'aimerais bien redevenir
une gentille femme au foyer.*

Smiles: she kisses him - as Siemons fixes Herman:

SIEMONS

It pains me to say it, Cloggy... but
there might be a little more to you
than I thought.

A GRIN - as --

REMY

You two - You're... Starsky and Dutch.

He GUFFAWS, delighted with this. Nadine - infinite tolerance.

NADINE

...thank God you can cook.

Angela, meanwhile - eyes shining at Herman:

ANGELA

I've always known exactly what there
is to you, Cloggy... And it doesn't
pain me to say it at all.

A moment... And then Herman folds her tight in his arms.

HERMAN

...this "Cloggy" thing - might be
paining *me* a little...

As Angela beams, kisses him...

SIEMONS

Maybe you should brace yourself, pain-
wise.

(off Herman's look)

You got your man. But Van Dongen
doesn't strike me as the type to pin a
gold star. Throwing you out on your
ass, however...

ANGELA

Paul, come on... He - why would he?
After all Herman's done --

SIEMONS

Well, yeah. Exactly.

Herman - suddenly weighing this, uncertain. Siemons shrugs,
breathes smoke through a crooked smile:

SIEMONS (CONT'D)

What the hell do I know about gold
stars or asses anyway. We have
drinking to do.

CUT TO:

49

INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 58

49

CHARLES - at a table, A U.S. PASSPORT placed before him...

CHARLES

I'm sure he can explain everything
himself when he returns.

Across from CHUPONG. A JUNIOR COP stands on guard by the door.

CHUPONG

But he did not say *when* he'd return?

CHARLES

Four months, maybe six... I gathered
he travels widely, and often.

(then)

I wish I could be of more help, sir.
But... I would stake the life of my
own mother on it: Mr Gautier is a gem
dealer - not a drug dealer.

A moment. Chupong sighs; gathers the passports.

CUT TO:

50

INT. KNIPPERBERG HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 58

50

Light falling outside. And NADINE - exhaustion beginning to take hold, nudging REMY...

NADINE

I think it's time we went home.

REMY

Not before I taste that armagnac. Get it open, Knippenberg...

Remy's drunk. They're all pretty drunk - but HERMAN has no objection to drinking more: crosses to fetch the BOTTLE.

KANNIKA (O.S.)
Excuse me...

KANNIKA - the maid - has entered quietly: anxious as she approaches ANGELA. In Thai:

ANGELA
Yes, Kannika? / Wa ngai ja kannika

KANNIKA
Telephone call for Mr Knippenberg... /
Sai korng khun Knippenberg ka

CUT TO:

51 OMITTED

51

51A OMITTED

51A

51B INT. KNIPPENBERG HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 58 (CONTINUOUS)

51B

ANGELA - looking over amid the merriment of the dining room to the hallway...

To HERMAN on the phone - seeming STRICKEN. Angela slips from the table... Stands by the end of the hall as Herman hangs up. For a moment he just stares at the phone: UNMOORED...

ANGELA
...darling. What is it?

He looks at her with drowning eyes, as --

CUT TO:

52 INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. OFFICE. BANGKOK - NIGHT 58 52

CHUPONG - addressing HERMAN and SIEMONS across his messy desk:

CHUPONG

Nobody denies it is Mr Gautier's
apartment. But there was no Mr Gautier
there.

Herman - from his BRIEFCASE, lays down a number of THE
PHOTOGRAPHS THAT NADINE TOOK. Here's Charles. So --

HERMAN

This man. You didn't find this man at
the apartments?

Chupong - a look for the pair of them, then --

CHUPONG

He is an American citizen. David Gore.

Siemons and Herman - utter ASTONISHMENT as they stare at the PASSPORT now presented to them by CAPTAIN CHUPONG --

ECU: THE ID PAGE OF US CITIZEN DAVID ALLEN GORE... Except the photograph bears not the face of Gore, but of CHARLES.

CHUPONG (CONT'D)

As you see.

SIEMONS

Jesus Christ...

HERMAN

Captain Chupong, I'm not sure you...
This man is Alain Gautier.

CHUPONG

This man's name is Mr Gore. And like his two friends, he is a foreign tourist staying at Mr Gautier's residence in his absence. I've no basis to hold any of them.

HERMAN

Captain. Please: he is just using Gore's name.

CHUPONG

And the only person who can testify to that is --

(checks file)

Madame Gires - whose co-operation you have insisted must not be revealed. But yet whose word I must believe against the testimony of the two other residents of 504 Kanit House who say, yes, this man's name is David Allen Gore.

SIEMONS

And you believe their bullshit?

CHUPONG

(re passport)

I follow evidence.

A moment. Herman feeling something like vertigo.

HERMAN

...if I could speak to Major General Janthasin -

CHUPONG

The Major General has placed me in charge of this investigation. Me.

HERMAN

Then please understand - the passport is a *forgery*. Look at the last few places Gore's been, contact the police there, you'll discover he - the *real* Gore - he must have been robbed or worse...

CHUPONG

Mr Knippenberg... Where would you suggest I begin that little hunt?

He thrusts the passport before them, flips the pages... EVERY PAGE a mosaic of COLOURED BORDER STAMPS: this passport has travelled the world and back with no graspable order.

SIEMONS

...shit...

Herman once more thrusts the photo of Charles at him:

HERMAN

This man *is* Alain Gautier.
(the Gore Passport)

And this is what he *does*: he robs, kills... he changes his identity the way you and I might change our *underwear*.

(new tack)

Please - have you checked the contents of his safe...

CHUPONG

We do not know what is in the safe. We cannot open it - without the presence of its owner, Mr Gautier.

A stunned beat: Herman and Siemons - both speechless at this MC Escher staircase of judicial logic. Siemons has a black glint in his eye, a boiling in his blood. This clear to --

HERMAN

(a warning)

Paul...

SIEMONS

I'd like to speak to a policeman --

HERMAN

Paul. Please....

SIEMONS (CONT'D)

A real policeman. IS THERE A REAL POLICEMAN IN THIS STINKING SQUAT-POT?

HERMAN

PAUL...

SIEMONS

WHAT?

Every cop in the room stunned and staring. Hissing it:

HERMAN

Get out. Let me handle it.

Eyes locked hard...

SIEMONS

Sure. That always works.

Snatching up his jacket, yanking out his smokes...

SIEMONS (CONT'D)

...to hell with these *connards*.

Herman - APPALLED as he stalks out. A moment: the room resumes its business. Herman tries to re-engage a shocked Chupong.

HERMAN

I apologise, Captain. The Belgians are... a hot-headed people...

(his own temper brittle)

Have you *asked* - the man who says he is Gore about the murders?

Chupong gazes at the frustrated *farang* before him. Takes out some smokes, offers them. Herman frankly needs one. Chupong lights them both: draws hard, and sighs an apologetic plume.

CHUPONG

Mr Knippenberg... You think I am being unhelpful. Let me help you understand.
(beat)

We entered Mr Gautier's apartment on a narcotics raid. We did not expect to find such contraband - but to find the man Gautier himself and evidence of his crimes as described by you and Madame Gires. We found neither.

Herman - struggling hard to keep his cool:

HERMAN

How long will you keep them?

CHUPONG

Their release papers are already being prepared.

HERMAN

No. Please...

Herman swallows. Mind burning. Scrambling for purchase...

HERMAN (CONT'D)

Captain... The Major General himself ordered the arrests of these suspects. For you to release them within barely two hours would reflect poorly on his judgement, don't you think?

Chupong - eyeing Herman. Perhaps not so immune. So --

HERMAN (CONT'D)

You are - rightly - an ambitious man. So I ask you: imagine if I am proved right. Imagine Janthasin's embarrassment. Particularly once I have comprehensively described to him the - conversation you and I are having right now. The offer I am making to you to please: hold them.
(beat)

Believe me - I know what it is to have a superior officer who wants my head on a plate.

Chupong stares at him in bleak amazement.

CUT TO:

Pouring rain beyond the steps - on which SIEMONS stands, cigarette clamped in his teeth, staring incredulous --

SIEMONS

10am?! How the hell are you going to prove he's Gautier by 10am?

-- At HERMAN, before him.

HERMAN

It's as long as I could force out of
him, alright? We have to do *something*!

SIEMONS

"We"? I'm *done*.

HERMAN

NO. I - I have an *idea* --

SIEMONS

Yeah? You've also got an asshole you
can shove it up.

Herman blinks at him.

HERMAN

Paul - please, just... Maybe we *can't*
prove he's Gautier - but we *can* prove
he's lying about who he *is*.

(then)

The American passport is *fake* - and
the *Americans* will know it... And once
they do, he won't be walking out --

SIEMONS

Don't you *get it*, Knippenberg? Nadine
said Gautier knew people in the police
- a *Colonel*, for Christ sake!

HERMAN

I don't give a *shit* how many Police
Colonels he knows --

SIEMONS

(over him)

You stamped your righteous little
clogs at dealing with Gautier *my way* -
and for God only knows what reasons I
rolled over like a milkmaid... And now
- they're going to let him go.

HERMAN

No! Will you just --

SIEMONS

You don't get a gold star, Knippenberg
- you get top bill as Bangkok's latest
clown show.

HERMAN

WILL YOU FUCKING LISTEN TO ME?!

Siemons stares at him. Then throws his spent smoke, turns -
and walks away into the torrential downpour.

HERMAN (CONT'D)

Paul! PAUL --

But he's gone. Herman - stunned, his mind flailing for his next move...

He darts back inside the building, as we --

CUT TO:

54

INT. PAYPHONE. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. BANGKOK - NIGHT 58 54

HERMAN - on the phone in the lobby with GILBERT REDLAND:

REDLAND (PHONE)
Jesus, Knippenberg... You sure know
how to make a man lose his appetite.

HERMAN
Redland, I - I didn't know who else to-

REDLAND (PHONE)
Good - because anyone else'd think
you'd lost your goddamn mind. But this
situation of yours... I got a weird
little wonder it's connected to
something that landed on my desk and
won't get the hell off it.

(then)
The lot behind Soi 9. Thirty minutes.

He hangs up. Herman's BUOYED - darts to the roadside --

HERMAN
Taxi!

But as he calls out the nearby TAXI accepts ANOTHER FARE.
Herman CURSES - scans for another... Sees NONE. A moment. Then
he dashes back to the PAYPHONE --

TIME CUT:

Herman now on the phone to --

ANGELA (PHONE)
Herman - you're not making any --

HERMAN (PHONE)
I'm - I'll explain, but I --
(sheepish as hell)
I need you to come pick me up.

FADE OUT.

58

INT. ROMYEN HOUSE. BANGKOK - NIGHT 58 (LATER)

58

Dinner gone cold in front of a few embarrassed RELATIVES who
are now being shown out of the house by a mortified ROMYEN. *

His goodbyes said, he turns back in to do what he can to
console an inconsolable SUDA -- [All Thai:] *

SUDA

It has to be some stupid mistake...

(then)

*Drugs, papa?! Alain doesn't touch
drugs! He barely even drinks!*

She's verging on hysteria; he's struggling to process -
turning back in embarrassment to their guests as --

SUDA (CONT'D)

Can't you help?!

ROMYEN

*Suda - I... Help?! Are you mad?! I am
a Traffic Sergeant!*

(beat)

*And even if I was the Major General
himself, I would never --*

Suda - collapsing on him --

SUDA

*But it's not true, Papa! It's not
true...!*

FADE OUT.

59-62A **OMITTED**

59-62A

62B **EXT. PARKING LOT. BANGKOK - NIGHT 58**

62B

The rain still coming down. ANGELA's car pulls into a deserted lot off the Soi...

ANGELA

Herman... Paul's helped you all along--

HERMAN

Has he?

HERMAN - brittle beside her as she parks up:

HERMAN (CONT'D)

Or has he sworn, bellowed, complained,
and waved his gun about like he's back
in the fucking Congo?

ANGELA

Well maybe if even *he's* afraid of who
Gautier might know in the police --

HERMAN

Afraid? Angela... Paul Siemons is no
coward - he's just a bitter old cynic
who drank away his beliefs in... in
decency, justice, *order*...

(then)

But I will not stop believing.

A moment. Angela's concern in no way assuaged...

ANOTHER CAR gives a FLASH of lights - rolls around toward
theirs, parks up alongside, driver window to driver window.

Down comes the window. Reveals a man we encountered in Ep 2:
US attaché GILBERT REDLAND.

His face deeply surprised to find the other window wound down
to reveal: Angela --

ANGELA

Good evening, Mr. Redland.

CUT TO:

62C

I/E. ANGELA'S CAR. BANGKOK - NIGHT 58 (MOMENTS LATER)

62C

CLOSE: ON PHOTOGRAPHS - the smiling face of...

REDLAND (O.S.)

Teresa Knowlton. 21, out of California.

Redland - hunched uncomfortably in the back seat as HERMAN
stares at these photos --

REDLAND (CONT'D)

Whereabouts unknown for five months -
and counting.

Herman - lost in the image of Teresa: that youth and hope... A
leaden knot sinks through the core of him.

HERMAN

...I haven't heard her name. I can't tell you if she met Alain Gautier. But if she did... I can tell you she's precisely whom he destroys.

(beat)

Just like - I'm certain of it - the other American, whose passport he's using now.

A moment. Redland lights a smoke, appraising Herman...

REDLAND

What gives, Knippenberg? You're the last man in Bangkok I'd expect to play gumshoe - unless it was The Case of The Missing Pencil.

Angela - a look for Herman, then --

ANGELA

You're missing an American. We were missing two Dutch. Until Herman found them.

HERMAN

Alright, Angela.

ANGELA

They were set alight while they were still in each other's arms, Mr. Redland.

REDLAND

And you think - this man...

HERMAN

I don't think it. I know it.

Redland - hand through his hair. What's he got himself into --

REDLAND

Jesus Christ. Join the diplomatic corps, they said. See the world. It's like the marine corps, they said - except with good restaurants instead of napalm.

CUT TO:

63-66 OMITTED

63-66

67

OMITTED

67

68-70 OMITTED

68-70

71 INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. BANGKOK - DAY 59

71

SPLIT-FLAP rolls forward one day: **MARCH 12TH 1976.**

CAPTAIN CHUPONG fails to mask irritation as REDLAND inspects the GORE PASSPORT: HERMAN looks on, yearning for his verdict.

Redland rubs the pages between his fingers; stares at the ID page: *DAVID ALAN GORE...*

REDLAND

If it's a fake, it's a damn good one.

Herman's heart sinks; Chupong's eyes flash with triumph. But Redland fixes Chupong as he hands back the passport:

REDLAND (CONT'D)

I want to talk to him.

CUT TO:

72 INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 59

72

CHARLES - in the hot-seat, alone in here but for the COP standing sentry by the closed door.

The door and the cop are behind Charles - who sits facing forward, very still, coolly waiting.

CUT TO:

73

INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. HALL/INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 59 73

REDLAND

You ought to sit in on this.

HERMAN - absorbing that from REDLAND as they approach the door with a JUNIOR COP. He unlocks, opens it - motions to enter...

But Herman pauses. Stares into the room: at THE BACK OF CHARLES at the table...

REDLAND (CONT'D)

Knippenberg...?

HERMAN

(to the cop)

...close the door. Please.

The cop blinks at him - *Christ, these farangs* - but obliges. Redland - nonplussed as Herman takes him aside...

HERMAN (CONT'D)

You should do it alone.

(then)

Better I... stay in the shadows.

(motions to the room)

If he knows of me, ever finds a connection from me to Nadine...

(weak smile)

Plus... I'm no interrogator.

REDLAND

And what the hell am I - Columbo?

But Herman isn't shifting. Redland sighs. To the cop:

REDLAND (CONT'D)

Open it.

The cop obeys, OPENS THE DOOR - and as Redland enters...

Herman again stares at the black-haired faceless rear of CHARLES'S HEAD: black hole torn in the fabric of the world...

The door is CLOSED. Herman remains in place - weighing, and not fully understanding, the decision he has just made.

CUT TO:

74

INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 59

74

CHARLES sits neatly at the table opposite REDLAND.

REDLAND

Hell of a mix-up, huh? Let's hope they catch up with the real Gautier and put this to bed, huh?

Charles - speaking throughout with an AMERICAN ACCENT:

CHARLES

Oh, I find it hard to believe he's done anything wrong either.

REDLAND

(a shrug)

Well, you met him. He didn't strike you as a - you know, drug dealer?

CHARLES

Like I said to the Captain out there. He seemed a - a fine man. Generous, charming. We should all hope to be such a man of the world.

Redland regards him... Trying hard to cover how out of his element he is here:

REDLAND

Before I head back to the Embassy - maybe you could help me out... We've had a missing person report. Young woman, out here on vacation - name of Teresa. Teresa Knowlton.

He slides PHOTOGRAPHS before Charles,

REDLAND (CONT'D)

You haven't crossed paths by any chance? Thought maybe, Americans far from home might find each other...

Charles stares at the photos: not a flicker of recognition.

CHARLES

I'm afraid not.

Redland swallows. Forces a smile - as once more he gazes at the ID page of the GORE PASSPORT: *David Alan Gore; Place of Birth - Iowa, USA...*

REDLAND

From Iowa, huh...?

CHARLES

Yes.

REDLAND

It's just - your accent. Not exactly
Mid-Western.

A moment. Charles - that unreadable smile...

CHARLES

...I spent a lot of time with my
grandparents in Puerto Rico.

CUT TO:

75

INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. OFFICE. BANGKOK - DAY 59

75

HERMAN - pacing, smoking: CHUPONG eyeing him balefully...

They both look up as REDLAND enters:

HERMAN

He's lying - isn't he?

REDLAND

I... I don't know.

HERMAN

(crestfallen)

Redland --

REDLAND

At least I went in the goddamn room!

Herman - stung by the truth of that... As Chupong wearily
hopes this might finally be over...

HERMAN

Wait. Try the woman.

REDLAND

No! You try her!

Herman - obvious he's not going to. So --

REDLAND (CONT'D)

Jesus. Okay!

CUT TO:

75A

INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. CELL. BANGKOK - DAY 59

75A

MARIE-ANDRÉE - hunched on the edge of the cot, sucking the
life out of a cigarette held in a trembling hand: a MOUND OF
BUTTS on the floor...

CLANG - she jumps as the DOOR heaves open: her eyes WIDEN --

MARIE-ANDRÉE

Alain!

Leaping for CHARLES as he enters - that Junior Cop closing the door behind him as Charles folds her in his arms... [French:]

CHARLES

My heart... / Mon cœur...

He can feel her whole body SHAKING --

CHARLES (CONT'D)
(a whisper)
...do not be afraid. / ...N'aie pas
peur.

MARIE-ANDRÉE
*I am afraid! I am not a criminal! /
J'ai peur! Je suis pas une criminelle!*

She battles back tears, clings to him.

CHARLES
*No, my love, no... / Non, mon amour,
bien sûr que non.*

He takes her face in his hands:

CHARLES (CONT'D)
*Remember who you are - who you truly
are... And who we are together. How
far we have travelled, my heart -
across borders and beyond rules... How
high we have soared. There are no
limits for us. No laws that can touch
us, no bars which can cage us... /
Rappelle-toi qui tu es - rappelle-toi
qui tu es vraiment... Qui nous sommes,
toi et moi. Ensemble. On est allés si
loin, mon amour - on a franchi les
frontières, bravé tous les
interdits...toujours plus haut. Rien ne
peut nous arrêter. Aucune loi, aucune
cellule.*

(beat)

*Do you trust me? / Tu me fais
confiance?*

She holds his eyes: blazing into hers - owning her... Until
she gives a small NOD. He smiles.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
*Then you will see that this is true. /
Alors tu verras que c'est vrai.*

He backs away, KNOCKS on the door --

It OPENS for him - and he slips back out.

CUT TO:

MARIE-ANDRÉE

The *American* embassy....?

REDLAND

Yes, ma'am - your friend in the next cell, Mr Gore - he's entitled to consular advice during this... mix-up.

He smiles. She tries to. Redland's pulling out PHOTOGRAPHS.

REDLAND (CONT'D)

But while I'm here - I wanted to ask about a missing person. We're a little worried, you see...

Placing the photographs of Teresa Knowlton before her.

REDLAND (CONT'D)

Teresa. As her grandma tells it, she'd been through the wringer back in California - came east to join a monastery, of all things.

(beat)

Except - in five months nobody's heard a whisper from her. And I can't tell a weeping old lady where her beloved grand-daughter is. Because all I know is she never made it to any monastery.

She stares at the photograph of Teresa...

REDLAND (CONT'D)

...gonna get your fingers burnt.

She blinks at him - then realises he means her CIGARETTE - smouldered down to the butt with a column of ash while she's stared at the photo. She jams into the ashtray.

MARIE-ANDRÉE

I've never seen her before in my life.

Marie-Andrée suddenly realises she is still staring at the photo. She blinks, almost recoils from it - from herself - and shoves them back towards Redland.

REDLAND

...I appreciate your time, ma'am.

CUT TO:

77

EXT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. BANGKOK - DAY 59

77

REDLAND with HERMAN - stalking to their cars:

REDLAND

Something here isn't right. Something here stinks to hell.

HERMAN

Can't you make Chupong hold them?

REDLAND

I don't have the authority. And if I did, I wouldn't have the grounds...

He holds the GORE PASSPORT in his hand:

REDLAND (CONT'D)

Not until this passport's examined.

HERMAN

It *has* to be before 10 --

REDLAND
Knippenberg... I'll do what I can.

He gets in his car, leaves Herman once more adrift.

CUT TO:

78-80B OMITTED

78-80B

81

I/E. ROMYEN HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 59

81

SUDA - smoking anxiously out on the porch, considers the beautiful ring on her finger. As the PHONE starts ringing. So she bolts inside. Rips the hand-piece out of its cradle --

CHARLES (O.S.)
Suda. My darling...

CUT TO:

81A

INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. BANGKOK - DAY 59 (CONTINUOUS)

81A

Overseen by that Junior Cop - Charles leant over a payphone.

SUDA (O.S.)
Alain! What's happening!? Are you -

CHARLES

Hush, Suda. It's only a misunderstanding. There is a man from the Dutch Embassy who has been telling very bad lies about me. But everything is being straightened out...

*
*
*

(then)
Cherie - I need to ask you something...

BACK TO:

81B

INT. ROMYEN HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 59 (CONTINUOUS)

81B

SUDA
What, Alain?

CHARLES (PHONE)
Darling - did you keep my briefcase with you?

*
*

SUDA
Yes!

CHARLES (PHONE)
It's not at the shop?

SUDA
No. I have it here.

CHARLES (PHONE)
Then you are just as brilliant as I always believed.

(beat)
My darling - I will see you before you know it.

And then he's hung up. Leaves her there.

CUT TO:

81C **I/E. ROMYEN HOUSE. YARD - DAY 59**

81C

Suda - moving to her HIDING PLACE. Opens it to reveal that ROLL-TOP BAG (full of GEMS) and that ATTACHÉ CASE.

She considers the case for a moment or two. Examines those two combination locks. Turns the dials on them. But no luck. So she puts it back again.

BACK TO:

81D **INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. BANGKOK - DAY 59 (CONTINUOUS)**

Charles - pacing down those corridors. Behind him: that Junior Cop. Charles' face though: indomitable.

CUT TO:

82 **INT. DUTCH EMBASSY. BACK OFFICES. BANGKOK - DAY 59**

82

HERMAN - at his desk, failing to focus on paperwork, willing the phone to ring... IT RINGS. He snatches it up --

HERMAN
Knippenberg --

REDLAND (PHONE)
Redland. I'm heading to Central Division to take Gautier.

(Herman - wide-eyed)

I put out a wire to every US embassy on the continent - and guess what? *Mr David Alan Gore* was drugged and robbed in Hong Kong. He's alive, thank Christ. And gave a full description of his assailants to the embassy there... You did good, Herman. You did good.

CUT TO:

WIDE: across the floor, watch Herman. Stands from his desk --

HERMAN
(calls it out)
Lawana!

Lawana - looking up. Goes to Herman. Herman who is so entirely delighted he doesn't care who can hear him, or for any embarrassment. He grabs Lawana, beams, and way too loud --

HERMAN (CONT'D)
We got him!!

CUT TO:

83

I/E. KNIPPERBERG HOUSE. BANGKOK - DAY 59

83

ANGELA, NADINE and REMY - their own fierce anxiety - looking up as --

HERMAN approaches - BUOYED WITH VICTORY.

HERMAN

Gilbert Redland found the real David
Alan Gore. It's everything we need.
(grin for Nadine and Remy)
You two can go home.

THE RELIEF OF IT - crashing like a gorgeous wave... And then
Nadine wraps Herman in an enormous hug.

CUT TO:

84

EXT. KNIPPERBERG HOUSE. GARDEN. BANGKOK - NIGHT 59

84

HERMAN and ANGELA - glasses of cold white wine in hot dusk...
Herman gazes at the water-lilies; she senses pre-occupation:

ANGELA

Thought you'd be more... *jubilant*.

HERMAN

I - I am... It's just - I keep
thinking about Gautier there in the
interview room and...

He trails off. A moment. Then --

ANGELA

Why you didn't go in?

He blinks at her.

HERMAN

Well, I...
(yes)
No - I mean, it just wouldn't have
been... I had to be respectful of -
protocol... and Van Dongen would never
have permitted...

He meets her look - a little indignant:

HERMAN (CONT'D)

What? You think I was - *afraid*...?

ANGELA

No. Not that. I think you...

She's trying to find the words --

HERMAN

What, *Angela-tje*?

It isn't a challenge: he wants her to help him understand
himself. So --

ANGELA

I think that a part of you wanted very much to stand before him, look upon him. Take the full measure of what you've been hunting - the awful puzzle you've been seeking to solve...

(beat)

But he is not a puzzle. He is a man - and one capable of... such *darkness*...

(MORE)

(beat)

And there is another part of you which
saw that. No longer a puzzle, but a
killer, flesh and blood, in front of
you.

HERMAN

...I wasn't afraid.

ANGELA

No. It was the bravest part of you
which refused to allow his darkness to
touch you any further.

Herman - deep appreciation... As --

KANNIKA (O.S.)

Mr Knippenberg...

KANNIKA hovering in the doorway.

CUT TO:

86

INT. KANIT HOUSE. NADINE AND REMY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 59

86

NADINE - anxious, clutching the phone:

HERMAN (PHONE)

Nadine?

NADINE

I'm sorry Herman - but... I was looking at the sunset and... In the apartment - Alain's apartment - there's a light in there. Torchlight, I think.

HERMAN (PHONE)

Nadine, it's ok. It'll be the police. Or the Americans - doing the kind of search the Thais should've done in the first place.

NADINE

...you're sure?

HERMAN (PHONE)

I am. It's over.

CUT TO:

87 **OMITTED**

87

88 **INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. BANGKOK - NIGHT 59**

88

REDLAND - flanked by two OTHER MEN - stalk into the building.

CUT TO:

89 **INT. KANIT HOUSE. NADINE AND REMY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 59**

89

REMY smiles for NADINE [French]:

REMY

I knew it was nothing. I'm going to take a shower. / C'est rien. J'en étais sûr. Je vais prendre une douche.

CUT TO:

89A **INT. KNIPPENBERG HOUSE. BANGKOK - NIGHT 59**

89A

Herman, Angela - getting ready for bed. Brushing their teeth. There's a relaxed, quotidian seduction about it. Looks, smiles. Peaceful anticipation. But --

KANNIKA (O.S.)

Excuse me. Mr. Knippenberg, Mrs. Knippenberg - I'm sorry, but... Telephone again. Mr Redland.

Herman - the word: Redland. Immediately fears the worst.

CUT TO:

91

EXT. KANIT HOUSE. NADINE AND REMY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 59

91

NADINE in the doorway: from within, the sound of Remy singing merrily to himself in the shower... But her attention is on: the window of Apartment 504 and that TORCHLIGHT FLICKERING

A moth drawn to flame: she finds herself, almost involuntarily, walking towards the stairs - and ASCENDS.

CUT TO:

92

INT. KNIPPENBERG HOUSE. HALLWAY. BANGKOK - NIGHT 59

92

HERMAN takes up the phone --

HERMAN

Gilbert?

Herman - interrupted - his smile dying --

CUT TO:

93

INT. KANIT HOUSE. NADINE AND REMY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT 59

93

REMY comes out of the bathroom in a towel: [French:]

REMY

*How about you help me dry... Nadine? /
Et si tu m'aides un peu à me sécher...
Nadine ?*

CUT TO:

94

EXT. 504 KANIT HOUSE. BANGKOK - NIGHT 59

94

NADINE approaches the door: IT IS AJAR. She begins to PUSH --

CUT TO:

95

OMITTED

95

95A

INT. 504 KANIT HOUSE. MAIN ROOM. BANGKOK - NIGHT 59

95A

NADINE creeps inside... And her heart stops - at the sight of--

AJAY. Scrambling to stuff CAMERAS, TAPE-PLAYERS - anything portable and saleable - into a BAG...

In his hands right now: Marie-Andrée's ROSARY BEADS as he realises he's being watched - and turns with a SMILE --

AJAY

Hi Nadine.

Nadine - raw vertigo, the world upended...

NADINE

...I - I thought you --

AJAY

Thought we were what? In *jail*, Nadine?
Tut-tut. You don't know Alain at all,
do you?

That ROSARY - twisted around his fist, the crucifix in Nadine's petrified face --

AJAY (CONT'D)

We saw the map you drew, Nadine. For your new *Dutch* friend...?

Nadine - *how does he know this shit?*

AJAY (CONT'D)

That's right. We know he was at the police station. We know he is a bit in love with Alain... but if you think a nasty little government-man can touch Alain. You ought to think again. Because Alain might touch *him*.

(beat)

How could you two-time us like that, Nadine? We won't forget it. And we'll be watching you. To make sure you don't forget it either!

The menace hangs. Nadine is PARALYSED... But Ajay has already moved past her - and is GONE.

CUT TO:

96

OMITTED

96

96A

INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. OFFICE. BANGKOK - NIGHT 59 96A

HERMAN bursts in - finds REDLAND, tight with fury:

HERMAN

How is this possible?!

CUT TO:

96B **INT. ROMYEN HOUSE. BANGKOK - NIGHT 59**

96B

A much smaller affair now. Suda - eating quietly, casting an anxious look to her father, Romyen, who in turn looks with icy distrust to the guest that sits in between them: CHARLES.

[Thai:]

*
*
*

SUDA

*Papa. The police made a mistake. They
apologised to Alain. You're being rude
- and you're upsetting me...*

Charles - he doesn't need to speak Thai to understand what's going on here. But he reaches across. Lays his hand on Suda's arm, and --

CHARLES

Suda. Please. I don't take offence.
Your father is right to feel the way
her does...

But then - eyes on her RING:

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Darling - wait, let me...
(peers closer)
One of the claws has bent.

SUDA

I can't see --

CHARLES

I can. Slip it off a moment - I'll fix
it. I want it to be perfect.

She obeys with a smile, hands it to him.

CUT TO:

96C

INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION - BANGKOK - NIGHT 59

96C

Like a clap of thunder, flanked by two UNIFORMED MEN, Major General Janthasin comes storming down the central staircase.

Everywhere men stop. Salute. As, ***Thai*** --

JANTHASIN

Where is Chupong!?

CUT TO:

97

INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. OFFICE. BANGKOK - NIGHT 59

97

REDLAND and JANTHASIN looming over CHUPONG - HERMAN reeling...

REDLAND

What I'm finding tough to understand,
Major General, is what Chupong here
calls an administrative error.

CHUPONG

I will discover who was responsible --

JANTHASIN

Yes, Captain - you will.

OTHER COPS milling around - gawking at the showdown...

Some of those FACES - familiar from Central Division. From Charles's initial arrest; processing; interrogation... And the JUNIOR COP who took Redland and Herman to the interview room.

HERMAN

The safe - they still have the *safe*!

(to Janthasin)

My reports say that the safe is where
he keeps all the documentation of
those he robs from...

CHUPONG

We have the safe, but we cannot --

JANTHASIN

The safe will be opened. Now.

CUT TO:

97A-10 OMITTED

97A-100

101

INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. EVIDENCE ROOM - NIGHT 59

101

HERMAN, REDLAND, JANTHASIN - watching as a THAI POLICE SPECIALIST powers up a DRILL, brings the whining bit to the SAFE LOCK: angry SPARKS of metal on metal as --

CUT TO:

101A

MERGED INTO 96B

101A

102 INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. OFFICE - NIGHT 59 102

THE JUNIOR COP sits at his desk, opens a drawer: rummages amid old papers and detritus...

CUT TO:

103 MOVED TO 101A 103

104 INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. EVIDENCE ROOM - NIGHT 59 104

ECU: The DRILL penetrating the SAFE --

CUT TO:

105 I/E. ROMYEN HOUSE. YARD. BANGKOK - NIGHT 59 105

CHARLES closes the door - crosses to that Hiding Place. Withdraws that Roll-Top Bag. And his Attaché Case.

Checks the Roll-Top Bag. Those FELT WRAPS and the GLITTERING GEMSTONES within. Attention now to the case: he unlocks the COMBINATION... *

And stares into it with satisfaction... It is full of the PASSPORTS and TRAVELERS CHEQUES and various VALUABLES that he once kept in his safe. *

He closes the case, clips it shut - then slings that Roll Top bag over his shoulder... *

Then moves to the window, opens it - and SLIPS OUT OF IT. *

CUT TO: *

106 INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. EVIDENCE ROOM - NIGHT 59 106

The lock has been destroyed: the SAFE DOOR is OPENED --

CUT TO:

107 MERGED INTO 105 107

108 **INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. EVIDENCE ROOM - NIGHT 59** 108

HERMAN - staring with drowning eyes...

REDLAND (O.S.)

...you gotta be kidding me...

Into the EMPTY SAFE.

CUT TO:

109 MERGED INTO 105 109

110 INT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. OFFICE - NIGHT 59 110

The JUNIOR COP glances up from his desk-drawer - checks nobody's looking... Then pulls from its place of secretion at the bottom of the drawer - a LARGE STUFFED ENVELOPE...

Peers into it, with a SMILE at the contents:

The ROLEX WATCH we saw on Charles' wrist much earlier, along with Marie-Andrée's BRACELET, some of those RINGS, and that SILVER MONEY CLIP OF CASH.

CUT TO:

111 MERGED INTO 105 111

112 I/E. COROLLA. BANGKOK - NIGHT 59 112

Charles - moving catlike through the night to where the Corolla waits for him. Beside, leant on the hood, smoking in the sodium glow of the street lights: MARIE-ANDRÉE.

At the sight of him, she extinguishes her cigarette. Moves to him. The briefest of kisses before they get in to the car.

Charles - behind the wheel, throws the bags in back. Then turns to Marie to take her hand. And onto her finger SLIDES that SAPPHIRE RING.

The affirmation of this. His ring on her finger.

And so they kiss, rapturously, before Charles engages the engine and they drive away into the night.

113 **EXT. BANGKOK CENTRAL DIVISION. BANGKOK - NIGHT 59** 113

HERMAN lurches from the building. Unsteady on his feet - leans on the wall for support. The city pulsing all around: heat, traffic, ceaseless cavort...

He gulps for air, strains for calm... But his face: ghost pale, eyes red-rimmed, quivering with nausea...

The face of a man in whom something has been broken.

-end-