

Betrayal

written & created by

John Stone

(c) 2025

Based on "Zuma Says So"

Note- Cont'd / Aside - Off screen *

EXT. MARGIBI COUNTY. LIBERIA - NIGHT

PARAMILITARIES do battle with LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT FORCES.

Loaded drones control the skies while in the leafy terrain the rattle of heavy machine gun fire, and the whistling of surface-to-air missiles fired into clusters of SOLDIERS from both sides of enemy lines fills the air with dread.

OVER BLACK: MONOGAGA BEACH - IVORY COAST

EXT. SAILING YACHT - DAY

Silver haired, distinguished ex army British politician, GERALD CARTER (50's), anxiously paces up and down on deck. A sniper rifle strapped over his shoulder. He stops and looks through binoculars.

His POV: Athletically built DANIEL (20's), an indigenous digger wears a small backpack and sprints barefoot for his life through the dry terrain while pursued by ARMED GOVERNMENT FORCES.

He shimmies and ducks to avoid the rapid gunfire as he makes it to a waiting open top JEEP- its noisy engine rattles.

ALFONSE CRAVEN (Aka AL) - A tall, slim, white haired Afrikan (40's) He waves him on as his nervous black DRIVER prepares to hit the gas.

ALFONSE

(beckons)

Quick! Hurry! Jump on!

Soldiers loyal to Zuma join the extended chase and take POP SHOTS at the jeep. Daniel dives head first onto the back and lies face down.

Back to scene:

Gerald Carter quickly brings his SNIPER RIFLE into play and takes aim at the onward Soldiers in pursuit of the jeep.

His POV: A SOLDIER at the wheel in the first of two open top army vehicles.

BANG!

CU: The Soldier's head spatters like a smashed melon. He loses the steering wheel and is thrown out of the vehicle.

The vehicle JACKKNIFES before the second vehicle crashes into it and spins on its wheels. The remaining occupants are thrown from the vehicle into the landscape.

BOOM!

An explosion and the remaining Soldiers burn to death as they catch fire.

BANG!

Another SOLDIER is thrown forward with a HOLE in his back.

Alfonse's jeep races through a DUST CLOUD and leaves a trail in its wake with Daniel who remains face down in the back, until he looks up at the clear blue sky.

The furious GENERAL with a large head looks through binoculars as he scans the terrain.

INTERCUT:

Gerald Carter and the General eye one another through their binoculars. The General slowly lowers his binoculars and grits his teeth knowingly.

Gerald Carter manoeuvres himself out of sight and goes below deck.

END INTERCUT.

EXT. DIAMOND MINE - CONT'D

GENERAL -
(snarls)
Carter.

He brings his cell phone to ear and makes a call.

GENERAL /
(on phone)
They've stolen diamonds from the mine.

ZUMA *
Who has?

GENERAL

Gerald Carter. I spotted him on his yacht using a sniper rifle to shoot our men. He has killed a number of my soldiers.

ZUMA *

Are you absolutely sure it was Gerald Carter?

GENERAL

Yes, it was him.

ZUMA *

Just get those diamonds back. I'll decide what to do about Gerald Carter.

EXT. ALFONSE'S JEEP - CONT'D

Daniel sits up and wipes the dust from his eyes. Alfonse turns to him and grins. His indigenous DRIVER focuses on the bumpy road ahead.

ALFONSE

(to Daniel)

Whoa! You fuckin' did it, Danny boy! We fuckin' pulled it off, man.

Daniel shakes his head in abstinence.

ALFONSE /

I'm tellin' you bro, you could out run the fuckin' cheetahs, my man.

Daniel passes him a handful of ROUGH DIAMONDS.

DANIEL

This was the last time. No more. I cannot do it no more. They will kill me.

ALFONSE

Can you find us somebody who can run as fast as you, then?

DANIEL

I cannot. They saw my face. I will be dead when they find me. I cannot come back here.

ALFONSE

What about the coup d'etat? We had an agreement, Danny boy.

DANIEL

No! You had an agreement with yourself. I don't care about it. Just drop me at the border. I will make my way from there.

ALFONSE

OK. OK. Chillax, Danny. We're all friends here.

DANIEL

I will take my chances. I have to support my sister. I cannot support the paramilitaries any longer. I am done.

ALFONSE

We're fuckin' winning the war, Danny. These stones will buy us at least five-hundred more drones. Here, take this.

Alfonse hands him a bulging package.

CU: AFRICAN FRANCS in large denominations.

DANIEL

The paramilitaries have butchered everybody in my father's village, just because they gave water to Government soldiers.

ALFONSE

(shakes head)

I'm so sorry to hear that, bro. Bastard savages!

(to Driver)

Head for the border.

The Driver acknowledges with a nod of the head.

INT. INTERIOR MINISTER'S OFFICE

Bespectacled, bald headed ZUMA (55). He sits behind a polished desk with the phone to his ear.

ZUMA

Get me the British Embassy,
immediately.

Silence as he waits momentarily.

INTERCUT:

Zuma and the British Ambassador FOXTON (40's). He waters flowers in a well-maintained garden.

FOXTON

(answers iPhone)

Zuma. What do I owe this
pleasure?

ZUMA

You-have-a-problem, Mr
Ambassador.

FOXTON

What is it, exactly?

ZUMA

Gerald Carter. He has stolen
diamonds from one of our mines.
He has also shot dead eight of my
best soldiers to ensure the
digger got away.

Agape, Foxton lets the water hose fall to the floor, and gives Zuma his full attention.

FOXTON

Do you have proof he was behind
it?

ZUMA

Yes! He was spotted by one of my
generals. He was aboard a yacht
off the Monogaga Beach at the
same time the digger stole the
diamonds. I am led to believe he
is stealing my stones to support
the ongoing coup d'etat.

FOXTON

You will have to substantiate that, Zuma. Will you be able to show us evidence to back up your suspicions? I can't do anything, unless you offer me proof. Words... well, they are just words, as you well know.

ZUMA

He used a sniper rifle as they pursued the indigenous thief on foot.

FOXTON

That's a shocking allegation, Zuma. I promise to look into it for you.

ZUMA

We have good relations with your country, Ambassador. I hope this will not cause any embarrassment when your press agencies gets to hear of this.

FOXTON

I'll certainly speak to him. But I would refrain from doing anything in haste... at least until we have evidence, if you will just do me that favour, Zuma.

ZUMA

You just tell Gerald Carter not to visit my country again. I cannot guarantee his safety.

FOXTON

If he's guilty, it goes without saying. I will let him know what you said. And I am deeply, deeply sorry if this turns out to be true. I will do everything in my power to get those diamonds returned to your country at once.

ZUMA

Good.

Zuma ends the call.

FOXTON -
(dumbfounded)

Shit!

END INTERCUT

EXT. YACHT - CONT'D

Carter is joined on deck by the British Embassy's liaison officer, DUNCAN (40's)

CARTER
Alfonse is going to meet us at
the harbour.

DUNCAN
I'll set the sails.

Carter sits down and calmly sips from a brandy glass as Duncan moves away.

EXT. BORDER WITH LIBERIA - DAY

Daniel carefully approaches a sour faced BORDER GUARD and shows him ID while he waits to pass through.

The Border Guard walks inside a small hut and checks the ID momentarily before he returns.

BORDER GUARD
You travel on foot? Where is your
vehicle?

DANIEL
I got a flat tyre. I had to leave
it. No spare.

BORDER GUARD
(disbelievingly)
Show me the car keys.

DANIEL
(tuts)
They are in the car. I am not
coming back. You can have it. I
don't care. It is a white Nissan.
It is parked one kilometer south
from here.

BORDER GUARD

(grins)

No spare tyre?

DANIEL

No. You will need a spare to drive it if you cannot fix it.

BORDER GUARD

OK. Go.

The border guard hands him back his papers and lets him through.

EXT. WOODLAND - DAY

Daniel stands on a hilltop.

His POV: A small TOWNSHIP appears in the distance.

He sits down, then removes his prosthetic right HAND and turns it over to reveal a large ROUGH DIAMOND concealed inside. He gazes at its beauty and smiles as he looks up at the clear blue sky.

DANIEL

Thank you, Lord.

He gets to his feet, then continues his journey towards the township.

EXT. HARBOUR - DAY

Alfonse pulls up alongside the moored yacht. He jumps out of the jeep with a huge grin spread across his face.

He is quickly met by Carter. They handshake, then exchange packages.

CARTER

That was too close for comfort, Alfonse. You need to tell your digger to be extra careful next time. He almost got himself killed.

ALFONSE

He's not coming back, Gerald.
He's quit.

CARTER

Well, I hope he left you a replacement.

ALFONSE

He said he knows somebody.

CARTER

I hope so, or I'm fucking screwed.

ALFONSE

I admire your enthusiasm, Gerald. But it's time you realised these diggers risk everything to get us these stones.

CARTER

Ah well! Money is the root of all evil, Alfonse, and no one knows that better than you, otherwise you wouldn't be able to prop up that Liberian coup d'etat... which makes me wonder what your real motives are.

(lights cigar)

What is your interest in Liberia?

ALFONSE

To assist the paramilitaries. I supply them with drones.

CARTER

What'd you get out of it?

ALFONSE

Contracts. Huge contracts, Gerald

CARTER

Who supplies you with the drones, then?

ALFONSE

I prefer to keep that under my hat for now.

CARTER

(scowls)

You're playing a very dangerous game, Alfonse. I'd be very careful if I were you. These people are not like you and me. They do not tolerate interference in their politics. They'll feed you to the fucking lions if you get caught with your pants down.

ALFONSE

I know that, Gerald. But it'll all be worth it. You just wait and see.

CARTER

If you say so, Alfonse. But all good things come crashing down in the end. It's all about timing, remember?

ALFONSE

I know. But we are in the process of securing incredible base metal contracts which have been in decline since the Liberians undercut us. They've had us over a barrel for far too long... but not anymore, Gerald. The times, they are a changing.

CARTER

Are the South Africans privy to all this?

ALFONSE

Not exactly. But our investors are fully aware of what we're doing. Our Governments are not interested in Liberia's social and domestic problems, especially with the SADC monitoring the situation.

CARTER

That makes a change.

ALFONSE

Yep.

CARTER

Just keep my name out of any shady deals you invest in. I don't want my name connected with Liberia.

ALFONSE

Then don't come back here, Gerald. If they discover that a British politician is stealing their wealth, well...

CARTER

That's exactly why I don't want my name bandied about.

ALFONSE

Then go home, and don't come back.

CARTER

I'm only interested in purchasing stones. Personally, I don't give a rat's arse what you do with the proceeds, just as long as you keep my name out of it.

ALFONSE

The political system in Liberia is corrupt. We're winning, Gerald! We're winning!

CARTER

That's not the general consensus in Blighty. You've opened up a hornets nest my friend. It's you who needs to tread carefully. You can make enemies in Africa quicker than you can make friends.

ALFONSE

They need our support. These people get nothing in return for their country's wealth. They've been shat upon for far too long.

CARTER

Whatever, I'm not empathetic one way or the other. Just keep the diamonds coming, and I will keep you in funds to prop up those paramilitaries, right?

ALFONSE

It's over, Gerald?

CARTER

(aback)

For me, or for everyone?

ALFONSE

You were spotted off the coast. My source at the mine informs me they're looking for you. Take my advice and get out.

CARTER

Shit!

Carter stomps back to his yacht. Alfonse jumps back inside his jeep and starts the engine.

INT. GERALD CARTER'S STUDY - DAY

He sits behind a solid oak desk as the phone rings. He picks up the receiver and brings it to ear.

CARTER

(on phone)

Gerald Carter speaking.

V.O

(male voice tone)

The Prime Minister wants you in his office for 3 p.m today.

CARTER

Can you tell me what it's regarding please?

V.O

A little matter that occurred whilst you were in the Cote d'Ivoire maybe.

CARTER

OK. I'll be there.

He slams the phone receiver down and squirms.

CARTER / -
Fucking hell!

He picks up the phone receiver and taps out another number.

Bleep, then connection.

CARTER /
(on phone)
I'm back- Yes, everything's hunky
dory- You'll have them tomorrow.
They're being cleaned as we
speak- Ciao.

He replaces the handset, then sits back in his chair and lights a cigar.

Sultry Parisian CHRISTINA (40's), appears with a silver tray that houses a pot of tea. She carries a knowing look.

She places the tray down on his desk, then sits on his knee and throws her arms around his neck.

CHRISTINA
Have you been a naughty boy
again, Gerald?

He looks her affectionately, then kisses her neck.

INT. ALFONSE'S VILLA - NIGHT

Alfonse sits in a comfy armchair with a bottled beer in hand. He grins as he stares down at a handful of UNCUT DIAMONDS.

INT. HOLDING ROOM - NIGHT

A indigenous DIGGER sits strapped to a chair. His face bruised and bloodied.

Unforgiving SOLDIERS stand directly behind him. The General sits behind a messy desk. A DAGGER and PISTOL sit on the desk in front of him.

GENERAL
(to Digger)
Now, I will not ask you again.
Where is Daniel?

The injured Digger shakes his head as he pleads.

GENERAL /

(clears throat)

You should answer the question if
you want to go back to your
village with your limbs still
attached to your trunk.

DIGGER

(splutters)

I do not know. Please, believe
me. I do not know...

GENERAL

(fumes)

WHERE-IS-DANIEL?

DIGGER

(cries)

Please... I do not know where
Daniel is...

GENERAL

Who is the man with the white
hair?

Digger shakes head.

DIGGER

I do not know any white men?

GENERAL

You do. You know who I am talking
about. Now stop lying to us!

DIGGER

I only saw him once. I do not
know his name.

GENERAL

Take us to him.

DIGGER

I do not know where he is.

General signals to a Soldier to take action.

The Digger screams in agony as his right eye is gouged out
from its socket with a dagger. Blood pours down his face
towards his neck.

DIGGER /
OK! OK! OK! OK!

GENERAL
Take us to him.

He climbs out of his seat and walks around his desk.

GENERAL /
Fetch some water, and find a
patch for his eye. We are not
barbarians.

The General exits. The Soldiers shuffle about.

INT. VILLA - NIGHT

Alfonse slouches on a colourful bean bag and smokes a spliff.

American diamond merchant ALEX RAYNOR (30's), inspects the
diamonds using an eye glass.

ALFONSE
Gerald won't be back.

ALEX
So what's the price for these
little beauties?

ALFONSE
What's the price of a human
heartbeat, Alex? If you can
answer that you're a better man
than me.

ALEX
I hope you're not getting all
sentimental. I've not flown all
this way for a crash course in
emotional idealism. You know how
much I hate this fuckin' climate.
Give me the cold weather any
fuckin' day.
(wipes forehead)
Get me another beer.

Alfonse goes to the freezer and grabs a couple of ice cold
beers.

ALFONSE
Here. Catch.

He lobs one towards Alex. He catches.

ALFONSE /
So, five-hundred US dollars
should cover the price of a few
more drones.

Alex guzzles the bottled beer.

ALEX
(discards bottle)
Another.

ALFONSE
Sure.

He grabs another beer from the freezer and hands it to him.

ALEX
The money will be in your account
when the stones are in my hotel
safe. Deal?

They shake hands.

ALFONSE
Deal! Now let's go party.

Alex gets to his feet.

ALEX
Who's throwing?

ALFONSE
The interior minister. It's his
daughter's birthday, apparently.

ALEX
And he invited you?

ALFONSE
(chuckles)
No, of course not. His daughter's
girlfriend invited me. I've never
met his daughter.

Alfonse stashes the diamonds inside a WALL SAFE, concealed
behind a sliding bookcase.

ALEX

(jovially)

They better be there when we get back.

ALFONSE

I'll sell you my personal stash I have in Jo'burg if they're not.

ALEX

You trust these people not to come here and rob you at gun point?

ALFONSE

No, no. This place is safer than any city I know of. You're more likely to be robbed in Jo'burg, London, or New York.

ALEX

Sounds good to me. Let's go.

INT. DIAMOND MERCHANT'S - LIT

An aged JEWELLER looks through an eyeglass and inspects Carter's stones.

Carter smokes a cigar as he looks on.

The Jeweller looks up at him and shakes his head knowingly.

CARTER

What is it?

JEWELLER

You've been duped, Gerald. These stones are fakes.

CARTER

What? But that's impossible! They can't be fakes!

JEWELLER

They're zirconium dioxide, covered in shit to make them look authentic, Gerald.

CARTER

(grits teeth)

I'll fucking kill him!

JEWELLER

Here. See for yourself.

Carter uses the eyeglass to check the diamonds.

JEWELLER *

*They'll almost be worth as much
as the real thing one day.*

CARTER

I don't give a rats arse what
they'll be worth one day. He'll
fucking pay for this.

He grabs the stones and storms out.

INT. 10 DOWNING STREET - LIT

The PRIME MINISTER (50's), sits behind a desk as Carter
timidly enters.

P.M

Sit down.

(pauses)

Now tell me about your little
trip to the Ivory Coast, Gerald.
I want to know everything that
happened while you were there?

CARTER

(shrugs shoulders)

I went fishing with Duncan... Oh
and I purchased some fake stones
from a cheeky Afrikan con
merchant who decided to rip me
off and replace them with a bunch
of Zirconias.

P.M

You mean to say you were duped
into purchasing fake diamonds,
Gerald?

CARTER

Yes Prime Minister. Duncan invited me on to his yacht for a bit of sea fishing. While I was there I met a chap. He said that he had some conflict diamonds to sell, if I wanted to have a look at them. I did, and purchased some from him, believing them to be fresh out of the ground. Obviously I now know that I was duped. I plan to get my money back quick smart.

P.M

Well, for your information, the British Embassy have received a communique, concerning your activities out there.

CARTER

(aback)

Communique? I don't understand.

P.M

Yes. Tell me what's going on, Gerald? What are you involved with exactly? I really do hope you're not involved with the coup d'etat in Liberia, are you?

CARTER

Absolutely no way, Prime Minister. But I have a feeling the Afrikan who sold me the zirconias might well be.

P.M

Do you have his name?

CARTER

Alfonse. That's all I know.

(pauses)

I think he might be propping up the paramilitaries with the money he accumulates from fake stones.

P.M

How much did you hand over?

CARTER

Two-hundred and fifty K.

P.M

What makes you say think he's supporting the paramilitaries?

CARTER

I overheard him mention something about purchasing drones for them.

P.M

Serves you right for being a fool, Gerald! What made you trust him in the first place?

CARTER

Duncan knows him. He said he was a genuine diamond dealer. How was I to know that he's a conman? After he introduced me I was convinced. He came across as a decent sort of chap.

P.M

The question nagging me is whether you're involved in Liberia's political instabilities.

CARTER

(shakes head)

No! No way, Prime minister. You must be joking.

P.M

So, who shot those soldiers at the diamond mine, Gerald? And please, don't insult my intelligence, because I will find out what happened quicker than you might imagine.

CARTER

Prime Minister, I really couldn't tell you what happened after I left.

P.M

You do realise the consequences of your actions... whether they are fake or otherwise? I might be forced to expel you from the party. I will not tolerate it, Gerald?

CARTER

Yes. I realise that, Prime Minister. But I am totally innocent of anyone getting shot.

P.M

Good to hear. You can go.

CARTER

Thank you, Prime Minister.

EXT. GARDEN SOIREE - NIGHT

An African rumba plays as AFFLUENT GUESTS mingle beneath a coruscating night sky.

Alfonse introduces Alex to a trio of sophisticated WOMEN dressed in colourful dresses. Brunette, DAISY (30's), stands and grins at Alex.

Shapely MONIQUE (29), stands beside her. She has a darker pigment and silky black hair, and penetrating green eyes.

DAISY

(grins)

You managed to make it, Al.

She greets him with a kiss on the cheek.

ALFONSE

We did.

She glances at Alex.

DAISY

So who's your handsome friend?

ALFONSE

This is Alex. He's from the States.

She brushes his cheek with her lips.

DAISY

Alex, meet Monique the interior minister's gorgeous daughter.

ALEX

(coyly)

Pleasure, Monique. And a happy birthday to you.

He kisses her cheek.

MONIQUE

(lightly chuckles)

Hmm. Nice aftershave. What is it?

ALEX

Dior Sauvage, actually. You like it, eh?

MONIQUE

Yes. it is sweet.

She puts her arm around his neck and stealthily brushes his crotch with her long painted fingernails.

ALEX

(gasps)

Woah.

MONIQUE

(whispers)

Good to meet you, Alex.

ALFONSE

(interjects)

I'll fetch us some drinks.

He heads off towards the MARQUEE which contains a cocktail bar.

ALEX

So what's it like to be the daughter of the interior minister, then?

MONIQUE

(wry smile)

Zuma isn't so bad, really. Would you like me to introduce you to him?

ALEX

Sure, just not tonight. I'd like to get to know his daughter first.

MONIQUE

Ha! Very good.

ALEX

What punishment would he be likely to dish out for asking his daughter to come out for dinner with me one night?

MONIQUE

(guffaws)

You're too old fashioned. You'd be surprised. He's not that bad.

ALEX

I'm just out of practice.

MONIQUE

Probably a month in the tower, handcuffed and fed delicious grapes by his deeply interested daughter.

ALEX

In that case...

MONIQUE

(affectionately)

It's a deal.

Alfonse returns with a tray of SPARKLING COCKTAILS. He notices the close interaction between Alex and Monique. He raises a surprised brow and grins.

ALFONSE

You two didn't waste any time getting to know one another I see.

ALEX

(knowingly)

Nope. Sure didn't, Al, all thanks to you.

They lift a cocktail from the tray and toast.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Feisty Monique and Alex go at it during a passionate session of intense lovemaking. She rides. He fully enjoys her physicality.

INT. LIGHT AIRCRAFT - DAY

Carter looks through binoculars as his PILOT flies over the terrain.

His POV: A MANOR HOUSE with a BARN annexed.

CARTER
(points finger)
There. Down there.

The Pilot acknowledges and duly lands the aircraft.

EXT. DUNCAN'S FARMHOUSE - DAY

Carter exits the aircraft with his luggage. He is met on the green by Duncan and his petite Afrikan wife JULIA (40's).

The aircraft engine roars, before it takes off again.

DUNCAN
Gerald, good to see, man.

CARTER
I'm not a happy bunny this time,
Duncan.

DUNCAN
So I see. We're just about to fix
lunch. Have you eaten?

CARTER
No. I'm bloody famished. I could
eat a baby elephant.

JULIA
(chuckles)
Good... cos that's what I've
prepared for us.

CARTER
Ha! Any other time and I'd find
that amusing, Julia. But the mood
I'm in right now...

They march across the green towards the house.

EXT/INT. VILLA - SUNSET

Alphonse and Daisy lie next to one another asleep.

COURTYARD.

The General and four of his Soldiers quietly roll up with the headlights to their jeep switched off.

They close off the engine, then climb out of the vehicle. They ready their weapons as they march towards the veranda.

The General pushes the door open and steps inside with two Soldiers following. They make their way through the lounge towards-

BEDROOM

Alfonse has his head stuck in Daisy's bosom.

EXT. HILLS - SUNSET

Carter sits in the passenger seat of an open top jeep. He clutches a sniper rifle.

Duncan sits behind the wheel as they approach the villa.

Carter gets up and looks through binoculars.

His POV: A parked ARMY JEEP and TWO SOLDIERS stand guard.

BEDROOM:

The General grabs Alfonse by the scruff, then drags him through the villa. Daisy screams and runs out of the villa stark naked.

COURTYARD:

Alfonse is forced down on his knees by the General as he takes out his pistol and digs it into his skull.

GENERAL

Diamonds!

Alfonse looks up at him in horror.

ALFONSE

I-I-I haven't got your diamonds.

GENERAL

Five seconds! Tell me where they are, or you fucking die!

THE HILLS - CONT'D

Carter focuses his sniper rifle at the General's head.

Duncan grabs a rifle from the back and focuses his lens on the Soldiers.

CU: General's large skull.

BANG!

The General's skull opens up as he collapses to the ground.

BANG!

SOLDIER#1 Falls down.

BANG!

SOLDIER#2 Falls down.

BANG!

SOLDIER#3 crouches behind the jeep and aims his automatic weapon up at the hills.

BANG!

He takes a hit to the chest and collapses.

The remaining SOLDIER runs off.

CARTER (PRELAP)

Drive.

They race towards the villa.

In deep shock Alfonse climbs to his feet, then quickly jumps inside the army jeep and drives off at speed.

CARTER / *

After him!

Alfonse closes in on the fleeting Soldier as he sprints for his life.

THUMP!

Alfonse takes him down at speed as an ensuing car chase through the hills begins between Carter and Alfonse.

CARTER / *

(to Duncan)

Don't let him get away!

A precarious chase across the terrain, until they finally catch up with Alfonse and force his vehicle to a stop.

Carter jumps out of the vehicle in a fit of rage. He points his rifle at Alfonse who throws up his arms in despair.

CARTER /

Get out of that fuckin' jeep, you thieving gobshite!

ALFONSE

(cowers)

OK-OK. Guilty as charged. I'm sorry. I apologise. I made a mistake.

CARTER

The fuck you are, you snivelling ponce! I just saved you a trip to purgatory! You owe me double drubs.

ALFONSE

I know-I know... and I'm really sorry, Gerald. I apologize sincerely. I really don't know what I was thinking. You wouldn't have been out of pocket.

CARTER

What do you mean?

ALFONSE

Zirconias are worth thirty bucks a carat. You would've at least broken even.

CARTER

(furrowed brow)

Where are my stones, you thieving bastard?

ALFONSE

They're gone. I don't have them anymore.

CARTER

You better have! Your life depends on it.

ALFONSE

The Yank offered me double what you pay me, Gerald. You can't blame me. You'd do the same if you were in my shoes.

CARTER

No I would not! I want them back.

ALFONSE

Actually, I s'pose we can-

CARTER

Suppose what?

ALFONSE

Technically they're yours. They're in my safe back at the villa.

CARTER

Not technically! They are mine, you imbecile! You ripped me off!

ALFONSE

OK-OK. Just don't rush me, Gerald.

CARTER

I am really not in the mood for this bollocks, Alfonse!

ALFONSE

Oh c'mon, Gerald. I'm in an awkward position.

CARTER

You will be if I don't get what I came back for, goddammit?!

ALFONSE

I know-I know.

CARTER

I want my stones, now!

ALFONSE

(sighs)

C'mon then.

Carter jumps behind the wheel of the jeep. Alfonse takes the seat next to him. Duncan sits in the rear.

CARTER

Duncan. If he makes one wrong manoeuvre shoot him.

DUNCAN

It'll be a pleasure, Gerald.

OVERHEAD SHOT: They drive back towards the villa.

They pull up, then exit the vehicle, before they step over the bloodied cadavers of the General and his three Soldiers.

CARTER

What a mess.

They enter the villa and Alfonse makes his way towards the sliding bookcase with Carter looking over his shoulder.

Duncan checks the villa.

Alfonse covers the safe dial with his cupped hand.

ALFONSE

(to Carter)

Turn around then.

Carter turns his head. Alfonse opens the safe.

CU: A FIREARM. CASH. PASSPORT. POUCH containing the diamonds. He grabs the pouch and hands it to Carter.

ALFONSE (CONT'D)

They're all there. Check them if you want.

Gerald Carter closely inspects the Stones with an eyeglass.

CARTER

I never had you down as a thief. I should call you Alponce.

ALFONSE

I was thinking of the coup.

CARTER

If you ever pull a stunt like that on me again, you and I are done. There'll be no second chances. You have no idea the embarrassment you have caused me... not to mention time and money.

ALFONSE

I'm sorry.

CARTER

Now I know why you told me not to
come back here?

Duncan appears from the bedroom.

DUNCAN

All clear.

ALFONSE

(realises)

Shit! Daisy! She's gone!

He rushes out of the villa.

INT. ZUMA'S STUDY - DAY

Alex Raynor sits in a comfy armchair. Zuma stands by the
window that looks down upon a landscaped garden.

ZUMA

I know a friend of yours has been
stealing diamonds from my mines.
I also happen to know he is
rewarding these wayward diggers
to steal our wealth so he can
prop up the ongoing coup d'etat
in Liberia. And I know that
Gerald Carter has purchased some
of these diamonds from him,
because he shot four of my
soldiers dead from a yacht off
the coastline.

ALEX

(sighs knowingly)

I had no idea.

ZUMA

You shouldn't lie to me, Mister
Alex Raynor. We are not fools.
White people do not have
jurisdiction over our
intelligence. Treachery has been
happening since the mines have
been in existence.

ALEX

I never asked how he acquired them.

ZUMA

Oh stop it! We all know where diamonds come from, do we not?

ALEX

Well, in that case I'm stepping back. I'm a jeweller, not a thief. My business is to purchase gems from whoever wants to sell them to me. I don't ask questions where they come from.

ZUMA

So why do you come to me? I cannot betray my country and sell you the diamonds that prop up paramilitaries across the border.

ALEX

Actually, that's not the reason I came to see you. I came here to ask for your permission to take Monique back to the States with me when I travel back tomorrow?

ZUMA

But why do you ask me? She's a big girl now. She can make up her own mind what she wants to do with her life. She can give you an answer herself.

ALEX

I'm asking out of respect for you, Zuma. And to tell you that I love her very much.

ZUMA

(chuckles)

You and many others.

ALEX

(aback)

Oh.

ZUMA

I want to make you an offer before you fly home.

He pours two glasses of Brandy. He hands one to Alex.

ALEX

An offer?

ZUMA

I need you to do something for me, and for my country. You will be highly rewarded should you carry out this little favour.

ALEX

What is it?

ZUMA

Do you know Gerald Carter?

ALEX

Not personally. But I know who he is, if that's what you mean.

ZUMA

It is, and he's a thorn in my side. He is also a British spy. I want him to disappear altogether. I want him gone before I give you and Monique my blessing. I simply cannot encourage her to indulge American culture, and possibly, even marriage to an American without something in return. Not that I have anything against your country. I do not. It is your greed I do not subscribe to. The right to bear arms costs lives. People are more valuable than your country permits with its constitutional laws from the past.

ALEX

(aback)

I'm not an assassin, Zuma.

ZUMA

We receive a substantial aid package from the British Government annually. My hands are tied. My country cannot be seen to have a grievance with the British. And we are not sure how much the Government knows about Carter's dishonourable private life, or if they even care what he is up to.

ALEX

I'm sorry, I can't. I'm not the right person you should be asking. I'm just a diamond merchant. I'm not a hit man, Zuma.

(pauses)

Besides, do I have a choice?

ZUMA

If you want to carry on seeing my daughter, you do. I would suggest you do as I ask, particularly as you are now privy to my request.

ALEX

(sighs deeply)

But I wouldn't even know where to begin.

ZUMA

You will carry it out on British terra firma. That way there'll be nothing to link his murder to my country.

ALEX

You expect me to go to the UK to kill a politician?

ZUMA

Yes. I know the white haired Afrikan introduced you to Monique at her soirée. I also know she has spent every night at your hotel since.

ALEX

(submits)

I swear-

ZUMA

She left for Dubai this afternoon. She will return at my discretion.

ALEX

She didn't mention anything to me about going to Dubai.

ZUMA

Just see to it that Gerald Carter never returns to the Ivory Coast if you want your relationship with my daughter to flourish.

ALEX

Right. Fine.

ZUMA

And do not fail me, Mister Alex Raynor. I expect to hear of his death within one week.

ALEX

(displeased)

You will.

EXT. LIBERIAN ARMY BASE - DAY

DRONES and other HEAVY WEAPONRY unloaded from large containers are taken to a storage facility inside the huge area where FIGHTER JETS, TANKS and MISSILE LAUNCHERS are stored.

INT. CHALET - DAY

Daniel sits at a table with a plate of rice and beans. His frail sister MARY (30's) stands at a sink unit behind him and washes clothes.

DANIEL

Where did you bury it?

MARY

Under the orange tree.

DANIEL

Did the soldiers come while I was away?

MARY

No. And please do not go back there, Daniel. They will kill you. You are all I have left.

DANIEL

I know. We are leaving tonight.

(eats)

They will come when they find out I have crossed the border.

MARY

Where will we go?

DANIEL

Kenya. A brother knows a man who will buy my diamond. He says that he will give us a very good price for it.

MARY

Do you trust his word?

DANIEL

Yes. We worked together last year. He is a church minister now. I trust him.

MARY

OK. I will get my things ready.

DANIEL

Good.

INT/EXT. ALFONSE'S VILLA - NIGHT

Alfonse rushes towards his jeep. He drags two suitcases and loads the vehicle with personal goods, before he jumps in and switches on the engine.

A short silence.

BOOM!

He becomes a human FIREBALL as he is ejected from his seat with the jeep aflame.

EXT. MARY'S CHALET - NIGHT

A number of open jeeps pull up. SOLDIERS quickly surround the property.

A high ranking OFFICER kicks the door in, then enters. Moments later he exits with his firearm down by his side.

OFFICER

(angrily)

Burn it down. All of them.

The Soldiers begin to torch all the Chalets in the township as people run screaming from their dwellings.

EXT. LIBERIAN TERRAIN - NIGHT

Fires burn as Paramilitaries continue to do battle with Government Forces who use helicopter gunships to control the skies above. The rattle of machine gun fire rings out amidst the flames.

EXT. LIGHT AIRCRAFT - DAY

Carter says his goodbyes to Duncan and Julia before he enters the helicopter, then flies off.

INT. PORT BOUET AIRPORT - DAY

Alex Raynor sits in the departure lounge and waits to board his flight to London.

INT. ZUMA'S STUDY - NIGHT

An angry Zuma sits at his desk with phone to ear.

ZUMA

He has been here all this time
and you could not find him-? What
about the diamonds-? Gone-?

(pauses)

Burn it down, then find Duncan
and kill him.

He slams the phone down and grits his teeth.

EXT. DUNCAN'S FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Duncan and Julia exit the house and load their vehicle with cases before they drive off.

INT. IVY RESTAURANT. LONDON - NIGHT

Carter and his wife fine dine at a round table with two other distinguished COUPLES (60's)

Gerald Carter gets up throws his napkin down on the table.

CARTER

Excuse me. I need to use the
cloakroom.

He leaves the table and walks down a narrow staircase towards the-

CLOAKROOM.

He unzips his fly and uses the urinal, then turns to wash his hands at the sink unit.

His iPhone rings. He takes it out of his pocket and answers the call.

CARTER /

(on phone)

Duncan. What's up-? What-?! Fuck!
No-! I certainly won't- Jesus
Christ-! Well, serves him right-
I warned him, didn't I-? OK. Stay
safe and I'll speak to you soon-
Ciao for now.

Alex quietly appears from inside a cubicle behind him. He clutches a large KNIFE.

Carter catches his reflection in the mirror and quickly spins around to confront him.

CARTER /

What are you doing here?

ALEX

Sorry Gerald. But you fucked me
over. Time to pay the piper.

CARTER

You what?

ALEX

Zuma says so.

He lunges forward and continuously stabs Carter in the groin, before he exits. Carter attempts to stay on his feet but collapses to the floor.

CU: Carter lies in a pool of blood. His eyes bulge, his mouth wide open.

EXT. LONDON EMBANKMENT - NIGHT

Alex discards the knife in the River Thames, then sends a message on his phone to Zuma.

ALEX (MESSAGE)

It's done.

He hails a TAXI.

TAXI DRIVER

Where to gov'nor?

ALEX

Chelsea Bridge Apartments.

He climbs into the back and they drive off.

INTERCUT:

Alex speaks on the phone to Monique. She lies on a bed wearing black lace panties only.

MONIQUE

(surprised)

Alex! Where are you calling from?

ALEX

(downbeat)

London, actually. I'm in a taxi on my way back to my apartment.

MONIQUE

Can you come to Dubai? You'll love it here. It's amazing. It's so chilled out.

ALEX

I'd love to, Monique. But I'm tied up.

MONIQUE

I know you spoke to my father. He called me. What did he say to you?

ALEX

Oh, he was quite measured about the whole thing actually. He didn't seem too annoyed. Anyway, I meant to ask, what are you doing there?

MONIQUE

Didn't my father tell you?

ALEX

Nope.

MONIQUE

I'm here to oversee a business transaction with the Sheikh.

ALEX

What kinda business transaction?

MONIQUE

Diamonds, you fool. What else?

ALEX

Diamonds?

MONIQUE

We'll speak about it later.

ALEX

When will that be?

MONIQUE

When Zuma says so, I'm afraid.

ALEX

I need you. I miss you.

She slides her hand between her legs.

MONIQUE

You miss the sex.

ALEX

No!

MONIQUE

I miss you to. I want you so much. My vagina aches for your penis inside me.

She plays with herself.

ALEX

(chuckles)

Oh, stop it.

MONIQUE

Why don't you ask him?

ALEX

I'm going to.

MONIQUE

I want you inside me right now.

He listens as she pants down the phone while she makes herself cum.

ALEX

I'll call him right away.

MONIQUE

OK. Bye, my love.

ALEX

Bye sweetheart.

END INTERCUT.

ALEX /

Driver, I've changed my mind.

Take me to the Hilton Park Lane.

TAXI DRIVER

Sure.

EXT. RESTAURANT LONDON - NIGHT

A CROWD gathers as PAPARAZZI flash their cameras when Carter is brought out in a BODY BAG, then placed inside an unmarked vehicle.

INT. RENDEZVOUS CASINO - NIGHT

Alex plays roulette and places all his chips down on RED 7.

The CROUPIER spins the wheel, then throws the ball as it spins.

The ball bounces around then finally lands on RED 7. Alex throws his arms up in jubilation as his number comes in at 35-1.

ALEX
(excitedly)
Oh my God!

He collects his chips, then leaves the table and cashes them in at the kiosk.

CASHIER
How would you like your winnings
to be paid, Sir?

ALEX
Bank transfer please.

CASHIER
To the same account as before?

ALEX
Yes please.

CASHIER
That'll be thirteen-thousand-
five-hundred sterling in your
account.

ALEX
Thanks.

He waits while she transfers his winnings.

CASHIER
If you would like to check your
account now, it's been confirmed.

ALEX
I will. Good night.

He checks his online bank account and grins as he quietly celebrates his huge win.

INT. CHELSEA BRIDGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alex enters the reception and takes the lift up to the second floor.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

He scans the room for intruders, then pours a brandy and makes himself comfortable on the sofa.

He picks up his laptop computer and makes a video call to Zuma.

VIDEO CALL:

Zuma appears on the screen wearing a comfy cardigan. He greets Alex with a friendly smile.

ZUMA

Alex.

ALEX

Hi. Did you get my message?

Zuma brings out a pipe.

ZUMA

Yes.

ALEX

It's done.

ZUMA

I know.

ALEX

I want Monique to come home this weekend. You did say-

ZUMA

I know what I said, Alex.

(lights pipe)

But that was then. Things have changed since we last chewed over the fat.

ALEX

(dismayed)

I don't understand.

ZUMA

You didn't think I would have my daughter develop a meaningful relationship with a hired assassin, did you?

ALEX

But that was the agreement! We agreed!

ZUMA

It was indeed. That was before I found out that you were involved in stealing my diamonds. You've been coercing my diggers to steal diamonds from me. The price for stealing from the mines is death by firing squad.

ALEX

(aghast)

Hey! C'mon man! You cannot be serious! I've done everything asked of me.

ZUMA

Don't ever come back to my country, or you will die..

Alex jumps to his feet and wildly gesticulates his fury at his laptop.

ALEX

What?! What about our-

ZUMA

And if you go near my daughter again you will regret it.

ALEX

You're insane! We had an agreement!

ZUMA

Leave my daughter alone, or you will see what I am really capable of, Mister Alex Raynor.

ALEX

This is preposterous?! Why, for fuck sake?!

ZUMA

Because Zuma says so.

CU: Blank screen on laptop.

INT. JOHN F KENNEDY AIRPORT - DAY

Alex wears dark shades as he waits at the arrivals lounge.

Monique appears also wearing shades and pulling a trolley case behind her. She bears a huge grin when she spots him.

They embrace, then walk towards the exit to a waiting cab.

INT. TAXI. DAY

He holds her hand tightly as they sit comfortably on the back seat looking into each others eyes..

ALEX

How was your flight?

MONIQUE

Comfortable.

ALEX

How did your father react when you told him?

MONIQUE

He went berserk.

ALEX

really?

MONIQUE

No. But his language was far too colourful to repeat in the back of a cab.

She kisses him on the cheek to confirm her loyalty.

ALEX

Is it true the coup d'etat is over in Liberia?

MONIQUE

Yes. The ceasefire was a success.

ALEX

That's really good news.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Daniel wears a smart black suit, and white shirt and tie as he grabs his briefcase and exits.

INT. UNDERGROUND CAR PARK - DAY

He appears from a lift shaft and key fobs an expensive four wheel drive, before he climbs inside and starts the engine.

His iPhone vibrates inside his pocket. He brings it out and looks at it

CU: Unknown caller.

He brings the phone to ear and listens.

DANIEL

Who is this, please?

ZUMA O.S

Is that Daniel?

DANIEL

I said who is this, please?

ZUMA O.S

It is Zuma, the interior minister from the Ivory Coast, Daniel. I have just called to wish you well in Kenya.

DANIEL

Where did you get this number?

ZUMA O.S

You will pay for your sins, Daniel.

He closes the call and checks his rear-view mirror.

His POV:: A BLACK FOUR WHEEL DRIVE WITH TINTED WINDOWS.

He quickly drives out. The Four Wheel Drive follows.

EXT. THOROUGHFARE - DAY

A frenetic, dangerous ensuing car chase begins through the city as Daniel sticks his toe down on the gas while they pursue his vehicle.

After a significant amount of crashes and pileups, he eventually manages to lose them when they are blocked off and arrested by TRAFFIC POLICE.

INT. ZUMA'S PRIVATE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Zuma speaks on the phone.

ZUMA

Arrested-?! Just find him!

He ends the call and stomps around the room in a fury.

INT. ROOM. NEW YORK HILTON - NIGHT

Alex and Monique make out inside the sheets. She rides him to his conclusion, before they lie back and share a cigarette.

MONIQUE

Is it true what my father says
about you?

ALEX

That depends on what he is saying
about me.

MONIQUE

That you killed Gerald Carter,
because he was stealing our
diamonds.

ALEX

That is true. But did he tell you
why I killed him?

MONIQUE

No. I didn't ask.

ALEX

Your father bribed me. He said if
I wanted to see you again I had
to kill the man who'd been
stealing his diamonds.

MONIQUE

He said that you and Al also stole diamonds from one of our mines. Is that true?

He looks at her with concern.

ALEX

No, it is not true, Monique! Al did that, not me. And I've heard that he was blown to smithereens inside his jeep because of it.

MONIQUE

What about the politician?

ALEX

What about him?

MONIQUE

How did you kill him?

ALEX

Look, Monique, I'm not sure if I like this line of questioning. You're beginning to sound like your father. I just want to forget all about it. I want us enjoy one another. I want us to be together forever. I want you to have my children and live here in America with me. I want your father to see how much we want to be together.

MONIQUE

Why? We hardly know one another.

ALEX

(imploringly)

Because I love you, Monique. Christ! I'm in love with you.

MONIQUE

I'm sorry, Alex, but I can't do this. My father would never allow it. I'm going to take a shower. Can you order some food now. I'm famished.

ALEX

Sure. What do you want me to order?

MONIQUE

Anything. I could eat a horse.

She climbs out of bed naked and enters the bathroom. Alex picks up the phone by the side of the bed.

ALEX

(on phone)

Can I get a pot of coffee and two club sandwiches please-? Room ninety-eight. Thanks.

The shower can be heard running as he lights up another cigarette and lies back on the plump pillows.

Beat.

A tap at the door.

He gets up and slips on a bathrobe, then opens the door to two suited AFRICAN DUDES wearing shades.

SLOW MO: They point their FIREARMS with SILENCER attached as he attempts to close the door in their faces.

They are quicker and force him back inside the room.

ALEX /

NO!!!

Pff! Pff! Pff! Pff!

CU: Alex lies on the floor with a gaping hole to his head, another to his chest as blood pumps out and covers the carpet around him.

The African Dudes quickly disappear.

Monique comes rushing from the bathroom dressed in a bathrobe.

She screams when she sees him lying in a pool of blood.

MONIQUE

(terrified)

ALEX?! ALEX?! OH MY GOD! ALEX?!

HOTEL WAITER appears and attempts to console her as she leans over Alex's dead body and laments.

INT. POLICE INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Detective MILNER and female Detective WEBB sit at a table opposite a tearful Monique.

MILNER

So, let's go over this once again. You were taking a shower when you heard the victim yell the word no, is that right?

MONIQUE

(tearfully)

Yes.

MILNER

Then what happened?

MONIQUE

I opened the bathroom door and saw him lying in a pool of blood.

WEBB

How many gunshots did you hear?

MONIQUE

I didn't hear any. I was taking a shower.

MILNER

So you never heard any shots?

MONIQUE

No. I told you that already.

MILNER

What is your relationship to the victim?

MONIQUE

We're close friends, that's all.

WEBB

(interjects)

Friend with benefits?

She ignores the question.

MILNER

How long have you known the deceased?

MONIQUE

About two months.

WEBB

How and where did you meet?

MONIQUE

In my homeland. At my birthday party.

WEBB

Can you think of any reason why somebody would want to kill him?

MONIQUE

Yes, I can.

MILNER

And what is that?

WEBB

Who?

MONIQUE

I told you, my father! He said that he stole diamonds from one of my country's mines.

MILNER

And your father is the interior minister of the Cote d' Ivoire, right?

MONIQUE

Ivory Coast.

WEBB

Did Alex ever tell you what he was doing in the Ivory Coast?

MONIQUE

Not exactly. I was introduced to him by a friend of a friend.

WEBB

So you believe that your father had him killed for stealing these diamonds, yes?

A protracted silence as she thinks about her answer.

MONIQUE

Yes...

The Detectives look at one another knowingly.

INT/EXT. BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Mary sits at the dining table with her head in her hands. She looks up at Daniel with a worried expression.

Daniel shows her TWO PASSPORTS. One for him, and one for her.

MARY

(sadly)

But I like it here, Daniel. I want to stay here.

DANIEL

If we do not leave right away, we will be killed, Mary.

MARY

But where will we go?

DANIEL

London. Uncle William lives there. He will find us somewhere to live. I will find work.

MARY

Where?

DANIEL

Never mind. We will leave immediately for the airport. Get your things.

MARY

OK.

DANIEL

We will be safer in London.

She gets up from the table and begins to pack. He makes a call.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

(on phone)

I'd like a taxi to the airport
please- Now-? That's fine- The
address is two-one-five Cape
Drive- Thank you.

He ends the call then stands in reverie.

STREET.

They fill the TAXI with their luggage, then climb inside and
drive off.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Daniel and Mary sit with their eyes closed as they head for
the UK.

PILOT O.S

*This is your captain speaking we
will be landing at London
Heathrow in thirty minutes.*

Daniel opens his eyes and looks at Mary. He bears a huge
grin.

FADE OUT.

THE END