

ZUMA'S DIAMONDS

written by

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Blood Diamonds

SUPER: KAKATA - LIBERIA

FADE IN:

EXT. MARGIBI COUNTY - NIGHT

PARAMILITARIES do battle with LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT FORCES.

Drones control the skies above, while in the leafy terrain, the rattle of heavy machine gun fire and whistling of surface to air missiles are fired into clusters of SOLDIERS from both sides of enemy lines.

CUT TO:

OVER BLACK. MONOGAGA BEACH - IVORY COAST

FADE IN:

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 as he stares through binoculars.

His POV: Athletically built DANIEL 20's - His indigenous diamond digger and wears a small rucksack as he sprints for his life through the dry terrain while chased by ARMED GOVERNMENT FORCES.

He shimmies to avoid the rapid gunfire and makes it to a waiting open top JEEP with its engine purring.

ALFONSE CRAVEN (Aka AL) - A tall, slim, white haired Afrikan (40's) encourages him as his indigenous DRIVER prepares to race away.

AL
(beckons)
Quick! Jump on!

Vehicles with ARMED SOLDIERS join the extended chase.

They take POP SHOTS as Daniel dives head first into the back of the jeep and lies down.

BACK TO SCENE.

Gerald Carter brings his SNIPER RIFLE into play and takes aim.

His POV: The Soldier behind the wheel in the first of the TWO VEHICLES.

FIRST BANG!

CU: The Soldier's head spatters like a melon as he loses the steering wheel and flies out of the vehicle.

The vehicle JACKKNIFES, then crashes into the second vehicle. The remaining occupants lie badly cut and injured.

SECOND BANG!

An injured SOLDIER is knocked off his feet with a gaping HOLE in his back.

The Jeep races through the DUST CLOUD leaving a trail in its wake with Daniel face down in the back.

An awesome looking GENERAL with a large round head, dressed in full army REGALIA scans the beach for targets.

INTERCUT:

Gerald Carter and the General acknowledge one another through their BINOCULARS.

The General nods his head knowingly.

Gerald Carter quickly moves out of sight.

END INTERCUT.

EXT. DIAMOND MINE - DAY

GENERAL -
(grits teeth)
English bastard.

He brings his CELLPHONE to ear and calls ZUMA - the interior minister.

GENERAL /
(stomps furiously)
Zuma, they've stolen diamonds
from the mine.

ZUMA V.O

Kenyan's?

GENERAL

No. I saw Gerald Carter. He's killed a number of my men from a yacht off the coast using a sniper rifle.

ZUMA V.O

Are you sure it was him?

GENERAL

Yes.

ZUMA VO

OK. See if you can get the diamonds back. And I'll decide what to do about Gerald Carter.

EXT. JEEP - DAY

Daniel sits up and pants as he wipes the dust from his eyes. Al turns around and grins as his indigenous DRIVER focuses his eyes on the bumpy road ahead.

AL

(to Daniel)

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

Daniel shakes his head in abstinence.

AL /

You could outrun cheetahs my boy.

Daniel opens his rucksack and passes him a handful of large ROUGH DIAMONDS.

DANIEL

No more. This is the last time.

AL

Sure, but can you find me someone else who can run as fast as you?

DANIEL

No. The General saw my face. I'm dead if I return to this place.

AL

What about the coup, man?

DANIEL

I don't care about it. Just drop me at the border. I will make my way from there.

AL

You sure, Danny boy?

DANIEL

I'll take my chances.

(pauses)

I cannot support the paramilitaries any longer.

AL

Why not, man? We're fuckin' winning, Danny. These stones will buy us at least fifty more drones.

(turns his head)

Here. Take this.

Al hands him a brown package.

CU: AFRICAN FRANCS in large denominations.

DANIEL

They butchered everybody in my father's village, just because they gave some soldiers water to drink.

AL

(sighs)

I'm sorry to hear that, man. Bastards!

(to Driver)

OK. Go to the border.

INT. INTERIOR MINISTER'S OFFICE

Bespectacled ZUMA (55) sits behind a polished desk. He speaks on the phone.

ZUMA

Get me the British Embassy.

Silence as he waits momentarily.

INTERCUT:

Zuma and the British Ambassador JAMES FOX.

He waters flowers in his well maintained garden.

FOX

How may I help you, Zuma?

ZUMA

You have a problem.

FOX

What's this about, exactly?

ZUMA

Gerald Carter has stolen a number of our diamonds and murdered many of my soldiers.

James Fox stops in his tracks.

FOX

You what?! Do you have any proof of this outrage?

ZUMA

He was spotted off the Monogaga Beach by my General. I'm led to believe that he is purchasing our diamonds to support the ongoing coup d'etat in Liberia.

FOX

Can you substantiate that?

ZUMA

He was spotted firing off a sniper rifle from a sailing yacht as my soldiers pursued a diamond thief who'd stolen them from one of our mines.

FOX

That's a shocking allegation, Zuma.

ZUMA

Well, it's true. We have enjoyed good relations with your country, James. I just hope this doesn't cause you embarrassment when the media get to hear of it.

FOX

I'll certainly look into it. But I would refrain from doing anything in haste, Zuma.

ZUMA

Then tell Gerald Carter not to visit my country in future. I cannot guarantee his safety.

FOX

I will let him know. And I am deeply sorry if this turns out to be true, Zuma. I will do everything in my power to see the diamonds are returned to your country.

EXT. ABOARD YACHT - CONT'D

Gerald Carter is joined on deck by British Embassy Liaison Officer DUNCAN MEYER (40's).

CARTER

Alfonse will meet us with the stones.

DUNCAN

I'll prepare the sails.

He prepares for sail.

EXT. BORDER WITH LIBERIA - DAY

Daniel carefully approaches the hefty uniformed BORDER GUARD. He produces ID while he waits to be let through.

The Border Guard walks inside a small hut and checks his ID momentarily before he approaches.

GUARD

Why you travel on foot. Where is your vehicle?

DANIEL

I broke down five kilometres back there. Flat tyre. No spare.

GUARD

(disbelievingly)

Car keys.

DANIEL

(tuts)

I left them in the ignition. I won't be back, so... you can have it. It's a white Nissan. It's yours if you can find it.

GUARD

(grins)

You can pass.

He lets him through.

Beat.

Daniel's POV: A small shanty township in the distance.

He sits down and pulls off his prosthetic right ARM to reveal a ten carat ROUGH DIAMOND. He gazes at it and grins.

DANIEL -

Oh Lord, thank you.

He gets to his feet and continues his journey towards the township.

EXT. HARBOUR - DAY

Al pulls up alongside the yacht in the jeep. He jumps out of the vehicle. He clutches a pouch.

He is quickly met by Gerald Carter. They greet with a handshake, then exchange packages.

CARTER

That was a close shave, Al.

AL

I know, He's quit.

CARTER

Have you a replacement?

AL

Not yet.

CARTER

Not good.

AL

I admire your equilibrium, Gerald. But it's time you realised these diggers risk their lives just to get us these stones.

CARTER

Ah! Money is the root of all evil, Alfonse. You should know that better than anyone. You're propping up the coup d'etat with the cash you get... which makes me wonder what your real motives are.

AL

Drones, if that's what you're wondering, Gerald. I supply drones.

CARTER

And where are you getting them?

AL

If you really must know, North Korea.

CARTER

(scowls)

You're playing a dangerous game, Alfonse.

AL

I know. But it'll all be worth it, you just wait and see.

CARTER

What are you getting out of this, exactly?

AL

Destabilisation helps my partners to secure gold and base metal contracts which have been in decline since the Liberian's undercut us.

CARTER

Is the South African Government aware of what you're up to?

AL

Not exactly. But our investors are fully aware. Our Government would never interfere in Liberia's social and domestic problems, especially with SADC looking over their shoulders.

CARTER

Just keep my name out of it.

AL

You mustn't come back, Gerald. If they find out it's a British politician who's stealing their wealth your Government'll be toast.

CARTER

That's why I don't want my name bandied about in your circle of buyers.

AL

Then don't come back.

CARTER

(points finger)

Maybe you should stay away, Alfonse. I'm only interested in stones. Personally, I don't give a rat's arse what you do with the money as long as you keep my name to yourself.

AL

The political system in Liberia is corrupt. They're in no position to fight us. We're winning!

CARTER

That's not the opinion of my Government. You're opening a hornets nest. It's you who needs to tread carefully. You can make enemies here as quick as you can make allies.

AL

Those fighters rely on my support. It's not just business you know. These people get nothing in return for their country's wealth.

CARTER

Whatever. Just keep my name out of it, right?

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

INT. GERALD CARTER'S STUDY - DAY

Phone rings as he sits behind a solid oak desk. He picks up the receiver to the CHIEF WHIP.

CARTER

Carter.

CHIEF WHIP V.O

Gerald, the PM wants to speak to you most urgently.

CARTER

Do you know what it's regarding?

CHIEF WHIP V.O

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

CARTER

Oh that. I'll be there first thing.

He slams the phone receiver down.

CARTER / -

Fuck it!

He picks up the handset and dials another number.

Bleep then connection.

CARTER /

(on phone)

I'm back - Yes, everything's
hunky dory - You'll have them
tomorrow - They're being checked
as we speak - Ciao.

He replaces the handset then lights a cigar as his French mistress CARLA (40's) enters with a tray of tea and a loving smile.

She sits upon his knee and throws her arms around his neck.

CARLA

Have you been a naughty boy?

She kisses his neck.

INT. ALFONSE'S VILLA - NIGHT

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

INT. HOLDING ROOM - NIGHT

Tied to a chair, A melancholic small framed DIGGER sits battered, bruised and bloodied.

Unforgiving SOLDIERS stand directly behind him. The General sits behind a messy desk with a DAGGER and a PISTOL in front of him.

GENERAL

(to Digger)

Where's your friend Daniel?

(clears throat)

You should answer quickly if you
want to go back to your village
in one piece.

THE DIGGER

(splutters)

Please...

GENERAL

(fuming)

WHERE IS DANIEL?!

THE DIGGER

Please... I don't know...

GENERAL

Who is the Afrikan with white hair?

THE DIGGER

(shakes head)

Afrikan?

GENERAL

You know who I am talking about!

THE DIGGER

I only saw him once.

GENERAL

Take me to him.

THE DIGGER

I don't know...

He signals to a Soldier to take action.

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

THE DIGGER

OK! OK! OK!

GENERAL

Take us to him now.

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

GENERAL /

Fetch him some water, then find him a patch. After all, we are not barbarians.

The General exits as the Soldiers shuffle about.

INT. AL'S VILLA - NIGHT

Al chilaxes on a colourful bean bag and smokes a spliff.

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

AL

Carter has the fakes. He won't be back.

ALEX

So what's your price?

AL

What's the price of a heartbeat, Alex? And if you know the answer to that you're a better man than I am.

ALEX

You're not getting all sentimental on me now, are you? I've not flown all this way for an education in emotional idealism. You know how much I hate this fuckin' hot climate. Give me the cold weather any day.

(wipes forehead)

Got anything cold to drink? I feel like I've just eaten a fucking vindaloo in a sauna.

Al chuckles and gets up. He goes to the freezer and grabs a couple of ice cold beers.

AL

Here. This should do the trick.

He hands one to Alex.

AL /

Anyway, in US dollars - ninety-five. That should help me towards a few more drones.

Alex guzzles the bottled beer.

ALEX

(discards bottle)

Another? It's good.

AL

Sure.

He gets him another beer from the freezer.

ALEX

The money'll be in your account
when the stones are in my hotel
safe.

They shake on it.

AL

Great. Now let's go to a party.

Alex gets to his feet.

ALEX

Who's throwing?

AL

The Interior Minister's throwing
a garden party for his daughter's
birthday.

ALEX

And he invited you?

AL

No, of course not. Daisy, her
girlfriend did. I've never met
the poor girl, or him for that
matter.

Al puts the diamonds inside a WALL SAFE behind a sliding
bookcase.

ALEX

(jovially)

I hope they're still there when
we get back, Al.

AL

They will be. If not I'll sell
you my personal stash from my
safe in Jo'burg.

INT. DIAMOND MERCHANT - 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's wrong?

JEWELLER

You've been duped I'm afraid,
Gerald. These are worthless.
They're fakes.

CARTER

(livid)

That's impossible!

JEWELLER

They're synthetic. Covered in
shit to make them look authentic,
Gerald.

CARTER

(grits teeth)

I'll kill him! Bastard!

JEWELLER

Take a look. But it won't make
any difference.

Carter uses the eyeglass to check them over.

JEWELLER / O.S

Zirconia Dioxide.

CARTER

He'll pay for this.

He grabs the fake stones and storms out.

INT. 10 DOWNING STREET - LIT

The greying PRIME MINISTER (50's) sits behind a desk. Gerald
Carter sits opposite.

PM

Now, I want to hear about your
trip to the Ivory Coast. What
happened while you were there,
Gerald?

CARTER

(sighs)

Not too much really. I did a bit of fishing with Duncan and purchased some fake stones from a South Afrikan diamond merchant.

PM

You mean to say you were duped by this Afrikan?

CARTER

Yes. After Duncan Meyer invited me on his yacht for a bit of sea fishing, I met up with a chap whose name is Alfonse Craven. I purchased some uncut diamonds believing them to be genuine... obviously I was had. I plan to get my money back when I return next week.

PM

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

CARTER

Communique?

PM

Yes. Now what's going on, Gerald? Are you assisting with that coup d'etat?

CARTER

Absolutely not, Prime Minister. But I do have a sneaky feeling that the Afrikan is propping up the paramilitaries with the cash I handed him for the fake stones.

PM

How much, exactly?

CARTER

Two-fifty K.

PM

Well, serves you right for being a fool! What made you trust him?

CARTER

Duncan has had some dealings with him in the past. He introduced me to him and quite frankly I was convinced by him.

PM

Well, for your information, he is supporting the paramilitaries. The question that keeps nagging me is whether you knew that from the beginning?

CARTER

(shakes head)

No.

PM

So tell me the truth. What really happened while you were out there? Who shot those soldiers, Gerald? And please don't insult my intelligence because I will find out one way or another.

CARTER

Alfonse Craven is the only person who can answer that, Prime Minister. I really couldn't tell you.

PM

You do realise what will happen to you if the press discover you're purchasing conflict diamonds... whether they are fake or not? I'll be forced to expel you from the Party.

CARTER

I realise that, Prime Minister.

PM

Good.

EXT. ZUMA'S GARDEN SOIREE - NIGHT

African Rumba rings out as AFFLUENT GUESTS mingle.

Al introduces Alex to a trio of sophisticated WOMEN dressed in colourful gowns which includes brunette DAISY (30's).

MONIQUE (29) is tall and shapely, and of a darker pigment, with long, straight silky black hair and penetrating light green eyes, and a small button nose.

DAISY

(To Al)

Ah! You managed to come, Alfonse.

She greets him with a kiss on the cheek.

AL

Yep. That's right.

DAISY

So who's your handsome friend?

AL

Alex. He's from the United States.

She brushes his cheek with her lips.

DAISY

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

ALEX

(overcome)

It's a pleasure to meet you, Monique. And a very happy birthday to you.

He kisses her cheek.

MONIQUE

(chuckles)

Oh. I love your aftershave, Alex. What is it?

ALEX

Dior Sauvage.

MONIQUE

So sweet.

She puts her arm around his neck and stealthily squeezes his crotch.

ALEX

(aback)

Ah. Wooh.

MONIQUE

(grins)

It's great to meet you.

AL

(interjects)

I'll fetch us some drinks.

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

ALEX

So how's it feel to be the daughter of the interior minister?

MONIQUE

(Chuckles)

Oh Zuma isn't that bad. Would you like to meet him?

ALEX

Sure, but not just yet. I'm still getting to know his daughter.

MONIQUE

Of course.

ALEX

What's the punishment if I asked his daughter out for a date?

MONIQUE

(laughs)

You are old fashioned, aren't you?

ALEX

I'm just starting.

MONIQUE

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

ALEX

In that case...

MONIQUE

Would you care to ask, then?

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

AL

You two didn't waste any time getting to know one another, did you?

ALEX

(grins knowingly)

Nope.

They lift a cocktail from the tray and drink.

INT. ALEX'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Fiesty Monique and Alex go at it, during a passionate session of intense lovemaking.

INT. LIGHT AIRCRAFT - DAY

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

His POV: A large 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

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

The aircarft's engine roars, before it takes off again.

DUNCAN

Gerald. Good to see. I heard.

CARTER

I'm not a happy man, Duncan.

DUNCAN

We're just about to fix some lunch. Have you eaten?

CARTER

No. I'm starving. I could eat an elephant.

JULIA

(chuckles)

Good... that's what we've got for lunch.

CARTER

Not funny, Julia. Not the mood I'm in, anyhow.

INT/EXT. AL'S VILLA - SUNSET

BEDROOM.

Al and Daisy lie next to one another asleep.

COURTYARD.

The General and four of his Soldiers roll up outside in a jeep.

They close the engine then climb out of the vehicle. They ready their weapons as they march towards the veranda that leads to the front entrance.

The General quietly pushes the door open then enters with two Soldiers. They make their way through the lounge towards-

BEDROOM - CONT'D

Sound asleep, Al has his head stuck into Daisy's bosom.

EXT. THE HILLS - SUNSET

Gerald Carter sits in the passenger seat of a an open top jeep as he clutches a sniper rifle. Duncan Meyer sits behind the wheel as they approach the villa.

Gerald Carter gets up and looks through binoculars.

His POV: A parked ARMY JEEP and TWO SOLDIER'S.

Back to scene.

BEDROOM - CONT'D.

The General reaches across the bed and grabs Al by the scruff, then drags him through the villa as Daisy screams and runs out of the villa naked.

COURTYARD- CONT'D

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

GENERAL

Where are my diamonds?

Al looks up at him in horror.

AL

I don't have 'em.

GENERAL

You have five seconds to tell me where they are, or you die right here?

BACK TO:

THE HILLS - CONT'D

The jeep has stopped while Carter focus his sniper rifle upon the General's head.

Duncan grabs a rifle and also focuses his lens on one of the Soldiers standing close by.

CU: General's fat skull.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

The General drops to the floor with a gaping hole in the side of his head as three Soldiers also take a hit. The remaining Soldier drops his rifle and legs it.

CARTER O.S

Drive down there, quickly.

They race towards the villa.

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

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

THUMP!

He takes him down at speed as an ensuing car chase begins.

CARTER

(to Duncan)

After him!

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

Gerald Carter jumps out of the vehicle in a rage. He points his rifle at Al who throws up his arms as he sits behind the wheel.

CARTER

Get out of that fucking jeep, you piece of shit!

AL

(cowers)

OK. OK. Guilty as charged. I'm sorry.

CARTER

The fuck you are, you ponce! I just saved you a trip to hell!

AL

I know. I know... and I'm really sorry, Gerald, I apologise.

CARTER

Where are my stones, you thieving bastard?!

AL

I don't have 'em anymore.

CARTER

You what?!

AL

The Yank pays me double what you pay me, Gerald. You can't blame me for that. You'd do the same if you were me.

CARTER

Get them back.

AL

Actually, he doesn't have them just yet.

CARTER

Meaning what?

AL

Technically he owns 'em. They're still in my safe.

CARTER

They're mine, you imbecile! You ripped me off!

AL

OK. OK. Just don't rush me, please...

CARTER

Either I get my stones, or I'll kill you. You choose what it is, Alfonse, because I am not in the mood for any of your bollocks!

AL

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

CARTER

How many times have I saved your arse, goddammit?!

AL

I know, Gerald, and I'm grateful to you, but-

CARTER

-I want my stones now!

AL

(acquiesces)

Oh, c'mon then.

He jumps back inside the army jeep. Gerald Carter jumps in next to him.

CARTER

Follow us, Duncan. If he makes one wrong manoeuvre ram the vehicle.

DUNCAN
 Rightyo, Gerald.

They head back towards the villa.

The jeeps pull up. They step over the bloodied cadavers as they enter.

Beat.

Al makes his way towards the sliding bookcase with Gerald Carter following. Duncan checks that they're alone.

AL
 (to Carter)
 Turn around.

Gerald Carter turns his head. Al opens the safe.

CU: A FIREARM. CASH, PASSPORT and a POUCH containing diamonds.

He grabs the pouch and hands it to Gerald Carter.

AL /
 They're all there. You can check them if you want.

Gerald Carter closely inspects the Stones with an eyeglass.

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

Duncan appears from the bedroom.

DUNCAN
 All clear.

AL
 (rumintaes)
 Shit! Daisy. She's gone!

He rushes out of the villa in search for her.

INT. ZUMA'S STUDY - DAY

Alex Raynor and Zuma are seated opposite one another.

ZUMA

I know the Afrikan has been paying diggers to steal diamonds from the mine to prop up the coup d'etat in Liberia. I also know that Gerald Carter has purchased them from him after four of my soldiers were killed.

ALEX

(sighs knowingly)

I had no idea, I swear. I-

ZUMA

-You shouldn't lie to me, Mister Alex Raynor. We are not fools. This sort of treachery has been happening since the mines were opened many years ago.

ALEX

I never thought to ask him how he acquired them.

ZUMA

Stop it! We all know where diamonds come from.

ALEX

(shakes head)

Look... I'm stepping back. I'm just a jeweller who purchases gems from whoever wants to sell them to me.

ZUMA

So why do you come to me?

ALEX

I wanted to ask for your permission to take Monique back to the States with me.

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 her own answer.

ALEX

I love her.

ZUMA

You and many others.

ALEX

Oh, I didn't know.

ZUMA

Oh I believe you. But I have an offer for you to think about first.

He gets to his feet and pours two glasses of Brandy. He hands one to Alex.

ALEX

I see.

ZUMA

I need you to do something for me and my country. You would be highly regarded should you carry it out.

ALEX

What is it?

ZUMA

Gerald Carter. He's a British politician. I want him dead. He must die, before I let you indulge Monique with your American culture and possibly her hand.

ALEX

But why me? I'm not an assassin.

ZUMA

Politics, Mister Alex Raynor. We receive a substantial aid package from the British each and every year. My hands are tied. We cannot be seen to have a grievance with the British. And we are not sure how much his Government knows about his dishonourable private life.

ALEX

I cannot do it I'm afraid. I'm not the right person for that sort of thing.

ZUMA

It has to be carried out on British terra firma. That way, there'll be nothing to link his murder to our country.

ALEX

Do I have a choice?

ZUMA

You do. But if you want to carry on seeing my daughter, I would suggest that 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 start.

ZUMA

I know the Afrikan introduced you to Monique at my soirée. I also know she has spent everyday at your hotel with you since.

ALEX

(submits)

Oh, I swear-

ZUMA

-It's okay. I sent her to Dubai early this morning. She will return at my discretion.

(grins)

Just see to it that Gerald Carter never returns to the Ivory Coast and your relationship with my daughter will blossom.

ALEX

Fine.

ZUMA

Please do not fail me, Mister Alex Raynor. I would expect to hear of his death within the week.

ALEX

(displeased)

Fine.

EXT. LIBERIAN ARMY BASE - DAY

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

CUT TO:

INT. MARY'S CHALET - DAY

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

DANIEL

Where did you put my diamond?

MARY

I buried it. It's under the orange tree.

DANIEL

Did the soldiers come asking questions while I was gone?

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 going to leave tonight.

(eats)

They will come once they find out that I crossed the border.

MARY

Where will we go, Daniel?

DANIEL

Kenya. A brother knows someone who will buy the diamond. He says that he will give us a very good price.

MARY

Do you trust him?

DANIEL

Yes. We worked together in the mines last year. He is a church minister now.

MARY

OK. I will get my things ready.

DANIEL

Good.

INT/EXT. AL'S VILLA - NIGHT

Al walks towards his jeep dragging two suitcases. He appears to be in a rush as he loads the vehicle with personal goods, before he jumps in and switches on the engine.

A short silence before an explosion.

BOOM!

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

BACK TO:

EXT. MARY'S CHALET - NIGHT

FOUR ARMY VEHICLES pull up outside, before SOLDIERS quickly surround the property.

A higher ranking OFFICER kicks the door in, then enters.

Moments later he exits with his firearm down by his side.

OFFICER

(angrily)

They're gone.

(scowls)

Burn it down. All of them.

The Soldiers begin to torch to 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 can be heard.

INT. IVY RESTAURANT LONDON - NIGHT

Gerald Carter and his wife fine dine with two distinguished COUPLES as they share a round table.

Gerald Carter gets up.

CARTER

Excuse me.

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

CLOAKROOM.

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

His iPhone rings. He answers.

CARTER /

(upbeat)

Hi Duncan. How are things over there?

(listens)

Alfonse?!

(sighs)

Fuck.

(reflects)

I will. And thanks for letting me know.

(pauses)

Jesus!

(sighs)

Serves him right, he was a fuckin' asshole!

Alex exits a cubicle from behind him. He clutches a large ZOMBIE KNIFE.

Gerald Carter catches his reflection and turns to confront him.

CARTER /

Alex Raynor? What are you doing here?

ALEX

Sorry, Gerald. You fucked me over.

CARTER

You what?

ALEX

Zuma says so.

He lunges forward and continuously stabs him in the groin, before he exits.

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

CUT TO:

EXT. LONDON STREET - NIGHT

Alex discards the knife in the River Thames, then hails a passing TAXI.

TAXI DRIVER

Where to gov'nor?

ALEX

Chelsea Bridge Apartments.

He climbs into the back and they drive off.

INTERCUT:

INT. TAXI & HOTEL ROOM

Alex speaks on the phone to Monique. She lies on the bed semi-naked.

MONIQUE

(brightly)

Alex! Where are you calling from?

ALEX

(downbeat)

I'm in London. I'm in a cab on my way back to my apartment.

MONIQUE

Come over to Dubai. You'll love it. It's so chilled.

ALEX

I'd love to, but I'm tied up right now.

MONIQUE

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

ALEX

Oh, he was quite measured actually. He didn't seem to be annoyed.

(pauses)

I meant to ask... why are you there, anyway?

MONIQUE

Didn't my father tell you?

ALEX

No.

MONIQUE
I'm here on business.

ALEX
What kind?

MONIQUE
Diamonds.

ALEX
Conflict Diamonds?

MONIQUE
I'll speak to you about it soon.

ALEX
When will that be exactly?

MONIQUE
When Zuma says so, I'm afraid.

ALEX
I want you back. I miss you.

MONIQUE
I miss you to, Alex. Oh I want
you so much.
(pauses)
Why not ask him?

ALEX
I will. Hopefully at the weekend.

MONIQUE
I miss you.

ALEX
I'll call him.

MONIQUE
OK. Bye my love.

ALEX
Bye sweetheart.

BACK TO:

EXT. RESTAURANT LONDON - NIGHT

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

INT. ZUMA'S PRIVATE RESIDENCE - DAY

Alex enters the large opulent reception and is shown to-
STUDY.

He scans the room and observes a hand painted PORTRAIT of ZUMA in military uniform.

Another PORTRAIT shows him with his arm around his daughter MONIQUE.

Zuma enters wearing a comfy cardigan and greets Alex with a friendly smile.

ZUMA

Take a seat.

ALEX

Thanks.

Alex sits down in one of the two winged armchairs. Zuma sits opposite and brings out a pipe.

ZUMA

Well, what brings you to my home,
Alex Raynor?

ALEX

It's done.

ZUMA

I know.

ALEX

I want Monique back come home by
the weekend. You said-

ZUMA

-I know what I said, Alex.

(lights pipe)

But that was then. Things have
changed since we last spoke.

ALEX
(dismayed)
I don't understand.

ZUMA
You didn't think I would let my daughter develop a meaningful relationship with an assassin, did you?

ALEX
But that was our agreement.

ZUMA
That was before I found out that you are involved in stealing my country's wealth. You've been coercing diggers to steal my diamonds. The price for that in this country is death by firing squad.

ALEX
(aghast)
Hey! You cannot be serious! I've done everything asked of me.

ZUMA
Go! Don't come back!

Alex jumps to his feet and wildly gesticulates his fury.

ALEX
What?! What about our-

ZUMA
-You have two days to leave the Ivory Coast-

ALEX
-That's insane! I thought we had an agreement, Zuma!

Zuma shows him out.

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

ALEX

This is preposterous? Why the change for fuck sake?!

ZUMA

Because Zuma says so.

Alex protests as he is ushered out the door by Zuma.

INT. JOHN F KENNEDY AIRPORT - DAY

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

Monique appears with a huge grin when she spots him. She pulls her luggage on a trolley.

They embrace before he leads her towards the exit and a waiting cab.

INT. TAXI. DAY

He holds her hand as they sit comfortably on the back seat.

ALEX

How was the flight?

MONIQUE

Really comfortable.

ALEX

What did your father say when you told him?

MONIQUE

Don't ask. He's furious.

ALEX

Oh well.

MONIQUE

His language was far too explicit to repeat.

She leans over and kisses him on the cheek.

ALEX

I hear the coup d'etat in Liberia is over.

MONIQUE

Yes, The ceasefire was a success.

ALEX

That's good news.

INT. POINT WEST APARTMENT - DAY

Daniel wears a smart black suit, 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 his expensive four-wheel drive before he climbs inside and starts the engine.

His iPhone vibrates inside his pocket.

CU: Unknown caller.

He brings the phone to ear and listens.

DANIEL

Who is this please?

ZUMA O.S

Daniel?

DANIEL

I said who is this?

ZUMA O.S

It's Zuma, the interior minister from the Cote di Ivoire, Daniel. I just called to wish you well.

DANIEL

How did you get my number?

ZUMA O.S

You will have to pay for your sins, eventually.

He closes the call and checks his rearview mirror.

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

He quickly drives off. The Four Wheel Drive follows him out.

EXT. THOROUGHFARE - DAY

A dangerous ensuing car chase begins through the city as Daniel sticks his toe down on the gas while they tailgate him.

He eventually manages to lose them when they're blocked off and arrested by pursuing armed TRAFFIC POLICE.

INT. ZUMA'S PRIVATE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Zuma speaks on the phone.

ZUMA

Arrested-?! Just find him and
Alex Raynor!

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

INT. ROOM 98. 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 said to
me about what you did?

ALEX

It depends what he said to you.

MONIQUE

That you killed a British
politician named Gerald Carter,
because he was stealing our
diamonds.

ALEX

It's true.

(exhales)

Did he tell you why I killed him?

MONIQUE

No. I didn't ask him.

ALEX

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 Alfonse also stole diamonds from one of our mines. Is that true, Alex?

He looks at her with concern.

ALEX

No, it is not true! Alfonse 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. I want to forget about that. I just want us just enjoy our time together. I want to be with you forever. I want you to have my children and live here in America.

MONIQUE

Why? We hardly know one another really.

ALEX

(imploringly)
Because I love you.

MONIQUE

I'm sorry, Alex, but I can't. My father would never allow it.
(kisses his forehead)
I'm going to take a shower. Can you order some food. I'm famished.

ALEX

Sure.

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 ruminates inside the sheets.

Beat.

A tap at the door. He gets up and slips on a bathrobe, then
opens the door to two suited BLACK DUDE'S wearing shades.

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

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 his body.

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

Beat.

INT. POLICE INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Detective JAMES MILNER (40's) and female Detective PATRICIA
WEBB (30's) sit at a table opposite a tearful Monique.

MILNER

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

MONIQUE

(wipes eyes)

Yes.

MILNER

Then what happened?

MONIQUE

I opened the bathroom door and saw him lying on the floor. He'd been shot several times.

WEBB

How many gunshots did you hear?

MONIQUE

I didn't hear anything. I was in the shower.

MILNER

So you never heard the shots?

MONIQUE

No. I told you that already.

MILNER

What was your relationship with the victim?

MONIQUE

We were close friends.

WEBB

With benefits?

She ignores the question.

MILNER

How well did you know Alex Raynor?

MONIQUE

About three months, or so.

WEBB

How is that?

MONIQUE

We met 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?

WEBB

Who?

MONIQUE

My father. He says that he stole diamonds from my country.

MILNER

And you father is the interior minister, right?

MONIQUE

That's right.

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

Can I ask you bluntly, Monique?

MONIQUE

What?

WEBB

Do you think your father had him killed for stealing diamonds?

A protracted silence as she thinks about her answer.

MONIQUE

Yes, I do.

The Detectives look at one another knowingly.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. MARY'S BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Mary sits at the dining table with her head in her hands. She looks up 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.

DANIEL

I do too. But 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. We will find work.

MARY

Where did you get those passports?

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 /

(on phone)

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

He ends the call then stands in reverie.

Beat.

STREET.

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

Beat.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

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

THE END