

A COLD FAREWELL

By

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A brick wall fades into view, a casting shadow looms of a silhouette of a man wearing a fedora. The shadow of the man raises a cigarette and we see a puff of smoke.

Across the screen the title A COLD FAREWELL fades into view

The screen goes black and our story begins...

EXT. DAY. STILL SHOT OF CITY BUILDINGS

TITLE CARD APPEARS: "CHICAGO, 1955"

INT. CLOSE UP OF OFFICE DOOR WITH STENCILED LETTERING:

The door reads: **R. STANCER PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR**. Rick Stancer, tall well built, opens the door and walks into the waiting room of his office.

INT. OFFICE WAITING ROOM

In the waiting room a young woman looks up from her desk. She is pretty and wears glasses. The woman is **Dorrie**, Rick's secretary, she stands up and takes his hat and hangs it on the hook of a nearby coat stand.

DORRIE

(At Rick)

You're late as usual, Boss...
That's bad for business.

RICK

(Looking at the empty waiting
room)

There's no business if we don't
have clients.

DORRIE

Not so fast. There's a man waiting
for you in your office.

Rick looks over at the other side of office at a door stenciled: **PRIVATE**. Rick frowns and we see his right hand reach down to his holstered .38 special revolver.

RICK

(Suspiciously asking)

Did he give you a name?

(CONTINUED)

DORRIE

(Noticing Rick cradling his
weapon)

No... but he said he knows you...
from the war.

Rick walks over to the door and Dorrie doesn't need to be told to stay behind him. Rick puts his left hand on the doorknob and opens it carefully. We have a POV of the inside of Rick's private office and on the opposite side of a large desk sits a man wearing a wool cap and a leather jacket.

The man turns around and flashes Rick a big smile, an unlit cigarette hangs from the corner of his mouth. This is **Jeremiah Carter** and Rick instantly recognizes him.

INT. RICK STANCER'S PRIVATE OFFICE

JERAMIAH

(Standing to greet Rick)

Private Rick Stancer! How ya doin'
you old dog?

Rick comes in and gives Jeremiah a hearty hand shake (no hug) and is smiling at his friend.

RICK

Jeremiah! I haven't seen you since
we finished Germany...

Rick turns to Dorrie and she enters the office.

RICK

(At Dorrie)

Dorrie, this is Jeremiah Carter. We
served together in Europe. I've
told you about him... This man
saved my life.

Dorrie and Jeremiah pleasantly shake hands.

DORRIE

Pleasure to meet you, Mr. Carter.

JERAMIAH

(To Rick and Dorrie)

Hey, I'm sorry I came unannounced,
I know I should have made an
appointment but, ya see, I wanted
to surprise you, Rick...

(CONTINUED)

RICK

Well this is a surprise. (At Dorrie) Would you excuse us, Dorrie. (At Jeramiah) Have a seat.

Dorrie leaves the office, Rick moves around to his chair behind his desk, Jeramiah sits back on the chair across from the desk. They are now sitting face to face and Rick reaches over to light Jeramiah's cigarette with his gold lighter. Rick sits down and lights his own cigarette.

JERAMIAH

(Inhaling his smoke)

Thanks... I was admiring your war trophies while I was waiting...

Jeramiah nods over at the office wall decorated with a few framed photos. On a shelf sits a *German war helmet* and a *Nazi SS dagger*; they are war memorabilia. Rick looks at it too.

RICK

I can't keep that stuff at home... (Rick changes the subject) Anyways what are you doing in Chicago?

JERAMIAH

Work... I'm a truck driver for Sears Roebuck. I usually do runs across the country for days at a time. But I live here now. (Jeramiah changes the subject too) Hey, this detective gig of yours, you make good scratch from it?

RICK

I make a few bucks. How'd you find me?

JERAMIAH

I looked you up in the phone book. Imagine my surprise when you had an ad as private investigator. I thought you were going to be a beat cop again after the war...

RICK

And you thought of dropping by for a reunion between two old soldiers?

Jeramiah puts out his cigarette on a nearby ashtray.

(CONTINUED)

JERAMIAH

No... Ya see... I sorta need a favor...

RICK

Is it money?

JERAMIAH

No. I make a pretty good buck myself. (Hesitating) It's my wife, Rick....

RICK

(Raising his eyebrows)
You're married... Congratulations.

JERAMIAH

(Shaking his head slightly)
Marriage is not all wine and roses, unfortunately... I think she's seeing someone else...

RICK

(Letting his instincts work)
Seeing someone else?...For days at a time while you're away driving a truck..?

JERAMIAH

My wife is a great gal, Rick. Perfect for a lug like me. I don't have any real reason to think... I'm just not so sure, understand?

RICK

(Inhaling his cigarette)
Jeremiah... My work deals with this sort of suspicion all the time. I speak from experience. Believe me...These things happen...

JERAMIAH

I know that... Ya see... I...

RICK

(Sparing his friend from admitting it)
....You have your own thing on the side....

JERAMIAH

(Embarrassed)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JERAMIAH (cont'd)

All that traveling... It's nothing serious with me. But my wife... I don't know...

RICK

(Making a point)

If you can't blame the man then you shouldn't blame the woman... Do you love your wife, Jeramiah?

JERAMIAH

(Straightening up)

Of course I do, with all my heart.

RICK

Then let it go...

JERAMIAH

It's a matter of pride, ya Understand?

Rick thinks for a moment and puts out his cigarette. He gets it and won't say NO to a friend, especially Jeramiah Carter.

RICK

What would you want me to do?

JERAMIAH

I'm leaving for a long haul to California tonight. I'll be away for a week at best... I thought maybe you can follow her.

RICK

(He has it figured)

Follow her and see if she meets anybody you might know?

JERAMIAH

(Realizing Rick understands)

Yeah... You get it...

RICK

(Leaning forward)

Jeramiah? What are you going to do if *it is* someone you know?

JERAMIAH

(Reassuring)

Rick, I'm not going to do anything crazy. I'm not like that. I just want to know and I'll let it stand

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JERAMIAH (cont'd)
at that... I love her, Rick, I mean
it.

Rick looks over at the war memorabilia on his wall and specifically at a framed photo of a group of guys, soldiers all gathered round a tank. It is a war photo from 1944. Among the men are Rick and Jeramiah, ten years earlier, young looking. It stirs Rick to make his decision.

RICK
(Giving in)
I'll keep an eye on her while
you're away, Jeramiah.

The two men both rise from their chairs and they shake hands from across the desk. Again it is a hearty shake and Jeramiah is all smile. Rick not so much.

JERAMIAH
Thanks. Rick. I really appreciate
it. (Reaches into his jacket pocket
and takes out a folded piece of
paper) This is my address.

INT. OFFICE WAITING ROOM

Rick and Jeramiah walk together into the waiting room where Dorrie is. She stands up and watches the two men as they continue their talk.

JERAMIAH
(At Rick)
So I'll check back with you when I
get back from my route. Is that
okay with you?

RICK
Sure thing. Have a good journey to
California.

JERAMIAH
Charge me anything you want, Rick.
I'm not hurting for money.

RICK
Don't worry about that. And
Jeramiah?

JERAMIAH
(Stopping)
Yeah?

(CONTINUED)

RICK
What's your wife's name?

JERAMIAH
Oh yeah... It's Tatianna.

RICK
(Raising his eyebrows)
Tatianna? Is that a Russian name?

JERAMIAH
It is... I met her soon after you left Germany. I was still in the U.S. Occupation Zone translating for the brass and she was on the Russian Zone doing the same. She was part of the staff for the Soviet Military Administration.

RICK
It must have been difficult bringing her into the country after the war?

JERAMIAH
Not really. But it took a long time. She's pretty well settled now, a real Americanized woman if I don't say so myself. (Looks over at Dorrie) Anyhow, lovely meeting you, Miss. (He shakes her hand and then looks back at Rick) And I'll talk to you later, Rick.

RICK
(At Jeramiah as he moves to exit the office waiting room)
Goodbye, Jeramiah. It was good seeing you again...

Jeramiah opens the door but doesn't step out right away. Instead he stops and turns back to look at Rick.

JERAMIAH
Hey, Rick.... You ever think about the war... About what we went through?

RICK
Yeah... Some times...

The two men share a look that causes Jeramiah to glance down to the floor.

(CONTINUED)

JERAMIAH

Ever wake up in the middle of the night... Like after having a bad dream...?

RICK

(Hesitating but understanding)
All the time... But I'm getting used to it...

JERAMIAH

(Nodding his head)
Me...? Not so much...

Jeramiah leaves the office. He closes the door behind him and Dorrie and Rick are in the office waiting room alone.

DORRIE

(At Rick standing beside him)
So that was the famous Jeramiah Carter, huh? If I had known that was him I would have treated him like King George the 6th.

RICK

Yeah...To bad he acts like a repressed Othello.

DORRIE

Repressed Othello? He thinks his wife is fooling around?

RICK

That's what he thinks.

DORRIE

What kind of a woman would do that to a war hero like him.

RICK

(Unfolding the piece of paper)
I don't know... But she's Russian...

A POV shot of Rick looking down at the unfolded paper which reads: **1450 W Hamilton Apt 3B - Tatianna Carter**. The POV shot then rises up (in a continuous shot) and we are now outdoors looking at an apartment building with a courtyard entrance on a quiet city avenue.

EXT. DAY. APARTMENT BUILDING OF 1450 W HAMILTON

Outside the apartment building sits Rick inside his car, a 1950 Chevy Delux Business Coupe, and is observing the streets. Through his POV he spots a thin, elegantly dressed blond woman walking towards the apartment building's courtyard.

From this distance Rick watches as the woman collects the mail from a row of marked mailboxes before entering the building.

Rick get out of his car and walks to the mailbox to look at which mailbox the woman had used. He sees she used the mailbox for Apt 3B. He now knows what **Tatianna Carter** looks like.

TRANSITION SHOT: THE LONG SHOT OF RICK BY THE MAILBOX GOES FROM DAYTIME TO NIGHTTIME.

EXT. NIGHT. APARTMENT BUILDING OF 1450 W HAMILTON

The area of the building is now dark and shadows are everywhere. Lamp posts shine lights on some spots of the street. We then see the blond woman, Tatianna, now dressed in dark clothing and a hat leaving the building and stroll down the avenue.

Without her knowing a figure steps out from the shadows... It's Rick who begins to follow her.

EXT. NIGHT. CHICAGO STREETS, .

We see the woman walking down several Chicago streets, traffic driving by, she passes some people along her way. Rick is close behind but keeping his distance.

Tatianna turns into a dark alley. Rick stops for a moment and carefully turns into the alley.

EXT. NIGHT. DARK ALLEY

Rick is keeping close to the walls of the alley and peaks from a corner of a building; we see what he sees.

From yards away Tatianna is speaking to a **Man in a White Hat**. The Man in a White Hat is speaking to her sternly and with a thick accent but we can't make out what he is saying. Tatianna is cowering, she is clearly agitated by the man's aggressiveness.

(CONTINUED)

SHOT: POV OF FIGURE WALKING TOWARDS RICK

From behind an unknowing Rick a **Huge Man** creeps up quietly towards him. Rick suddenly takes notice just as the Huge Man jumps at him.

We then see Tatianna and the Man in a White Hat turn after hearing a loud crash of the scuffle at the end of the alley...

Rick come out from the end of the alley and he has the Huge Man that attacked him in an arm lock pushing him forward towards Tatianna and the Man in a White Hat.

At that moment Man in a White Hat takes out a gun from his coat and grabs Tatianna holding her to his side and shoving the gun to her stomach, he is now using Tatianna as a shield.

MAN IN A WHITE HAT
(At Rick and speaking in a
Russian accent)
Who are you?

Rick is holding the Huge Man and can see Tatianna is helpless and afraid.

RICK
(At Man in a White Hat)
I'm Uncle Sam...Let the woman go!

MAN IN A WHITE HAT
(Tilting his head at Tatianna)
How do you know her?

Rick mercilessly throws the Huge Man unto the ground with a tremendous shove. Before the Huge Man hits the pavement Rick has his .38 Special Revolver out and pointed straight at the Man in a White Hat. The Huge Man now crawls on the ground.

RICK
She's my sister, Pal, and I don't like the company she keeps. (He cocks his weapon) Now let her go or I put a bullet right between your eyes.

The Man in the White Hat thinks things out. He looks at his comrade, the Huge Man, crawling to him and Tatianna. He slowly lets Tatianna go and keeping his gun on Rick showing as much as he can he doesn't want a fight.

Tatianna walks carefully towards Rick.

(CONTINUED)

RICK

(At Tatianna)

Get behind me, Miss. Don't get in
the way of my aim.

MAN IN A WHITE HAT

(At Tatianna)

Remember what we discussed,
Tatianna... (He looks at the Huge
Man still on the ground) Get up you
fool!

Man in a White Hat pulls up Huge Man from the ground. Huge Man gives Rick a vengeful glare. The two men then step back and turn, running down the alley and disappearing into the shadows. Rick and Tatianna are now alone in the alley.

RICK

(To Tatianna, holding her)

Are you okay.

TATIANNA

(Trembling and speaking in a
light accent)

Yes... I'm... I'm just....

RICK

(Looking down the alley)

Let's get out of here... They won't
be back.

They leave the alley.

EXT. NIGHT. APARTMENT BUILDING OF 1450 W HAMILTON

We see Rick and Tatianna returning to the apartment building.

INT. NIGHT. APARTMENT OF TATIANNA AND JERAMIAH CARTER

The door opens of the small, sparsely home of Tatianna and Jeramiah Carter. Rick and Tatianna both enter and Tatianna quickly takes her hat off and sits down on a small couch. Rick moves towards a small table with a decanter of liquor to pour some into a small glass. He brings it over to her.

RICK

(Handing her the drink)

Here, drink this. It'll calm you.

(CONTINUED)

TATIANNA
(Sipping the drink)
Who are you? (She looks up at Rick)

RICK
(Standing over her)
First tell me who those men were in
the alley?

TATIANNA
I don't know who those men were...
I was walking home and... they were
robbing me.... You saw the gun...

Rick takes off his hat and moves over to sit on a small
chair next to the couch. He crosses his legs and lights up a
cigarette.

RICK
They weren't robbing you. Those men
know you... They're Russian and so
are you...The man in the white hat?
he called you by name...

Tatianna straightens up, she gulps down her drink.

TATIANNA
Who are you?

RICK
My name is Rick Stancer. I'm an old
friend of your husband.

TATIANNA
You know Jeramiah?

RICK
We served in the war together.
Before he left town he asked me to
watch over you.

TATIANNA
Watch over me?

RICK
He worries about you... Which means
I worry about you... I'm doing him
a favor while he's in California...

TATIANNA
(Her ears prick up)
Jeramiah is in California?

(CONTINUED)

RICK

That's where he told me he was going. He said he was making a delivery for Sears Roebuck as a truck driver.

TATIANNA

When did you see him?

RICK

This morning. I take it you haven't seen him for awhile...

TATIANNA

He's been hiding...

RICK

...From those men?

TATIANNA

(Giving in and pouring herself another drink)

Those men... Jeramiah owes them money. He's been hiding because he can't pay them back.

RICK

How much is he in for?

TATIANNA

Over two thousand dollars... My husband gambles.

RICK

So those men you met at the alley were Bookies? (Shaking his head) Russian bookies?

TATIANNA

Yes... I went to meet them and to pay as much as I could so Jeramiah can come home... I love my husband, Mr. Stancer, I'd do anything for him...

RICK

That shouldn't mean getting yourself killed for your husband's mistakes. He's moistaken too thinking you're fooling around behind his back...

(CONTINUED)

TATIANNA
(Surprised)
What?

RICK
(Standing up)
I see now Jeramiah has been keeping
a few details from me...

TATIANNA
I don't understand...

RICK
I'm a private investigator...
Jeremiah hired me to spy on you but
now I'm thinking he really wanted
me to protect you...

TATIANNA
He didn't know what I was doing...

RICK
(He is thinking)
Perhaps it's better if we talk to
the police. I have a friend on the
force, Sargent Merle Burrows, he
can help you....

At that moment Tatianna rises up and places her hands on his
shoulders. Rick is seriously studying her reaction.

TATIANNA
(Pleading)
No! Please no! We can't involve the
police. You said you are a private
investigator you can protect me...

RICK
(Taking her hands gently off
him)
What else is Jeramiah involved in?
This can't just be about owing
money to bookies, there's something
else going on.

TATIANNA
I swear I don't know. Please I just
need looking after. If you know
Jeramiah like you say you do then
you wouldn't have said yes to him
when he came to see you...

Rick considers this for a moment and gives in.

(CONTINUED)

RICK

Alright. Do you have anyone you can stay with tonight? A friend or neighbor?

TATIANNA

No... I don't know anyone really. It's just me and Jeramiah.

RICK

Go and pack a bag. I'll take you to a safe place.

Tatianna moves away from Rick and he watches her leave the small living room down a short hall.

Rick moves over to the end of the room to a wall where a rotary telephone sits on a small mantle. He picks up the phone and talks into the receiver.

RICK

(Lighting up a cigarette)
Operator.., give the 5th precinct police station. (Inhaling a deep drag of smoke) Yes, get me Sgt. Burrows. Tell him this is Rick Stancer...

INT. 5TH DISTRICT POLICE STATION. DESK OF SARGENT MERLE BURROWS.

Sgt. Merle Burrows is sitting at his police desk wearing a rumpled shirt and loosened tie, his dark coat hanging behind his chair. He picks his desk phone.

SGT. BURROWS

(Annoyed and tired)
What trouble are you in now, Rick?

RICK

Nothing yet. I need your help with something.

SGT. BURROWS

Of course you do... You should have stayed a cop so you'd stop bothering me all the time...

RICK

Do you know of any Russian bookies causing trouble around town, collecting on markers and getting rough about it?

(CONTINUED)

SGT. BURROWS

(Frowning)

Russian bookies? Come on, Rick, you know the bookies in town are mostly WOPS.

RICK

I'm with a dame, says her husband owes Russians money from gambling. I got a look at 'em and they didn't act like bookies to me. Wanted to be sure...

SGT. BURROWS

So if they're not bookies what are they?

RICK

Part of something bigger...

From the short hallway behind Rick we see Tatianna... She's listening in on Rick talking to Sgt. Burrows. She quickly and quietly moves through the apartment and into another room, Rick doesn't realize this, he continues speaking with the Sargent.

SGT. BURROWS

I'll ask around. See if anyone on the street has been dealing with any Russians lately. If I make a connection I'll be sure to call you.

RICK

If you can't reach me at home call the service or get in touch with Dorrie...

Rick hangs up the phone and walks across the living room to the short hallway where Tatianna had gone to pack her bag. On his way to the room he puts out his cigarette on an ashtray.

We see Rick going into the short hallway.

INT. TATIANNA'S AND JERAMIAH'S BEDROOM

Rick enters the bedroom and he sees it is empty, Tatianna is not inside. He sees a small open suitcase sitting on the bed. Rick gets beside the bed and we see that he has noticed a framed photograph next to the side end table beneath a lamp. He picks up the frame.

(CONTINUED)

POV: THE FRAME IS OF TATIANNA AND JERAMIAH, THE PHOTO IS BLACK AND WHITE AND THEY ARE SIDE BY SIDE SMILING IN A FOREIGN SETTING; JERAMIAH IS IN A U.S. UNIFORM, TATIANNA IS IN A RUSSIAN JUMPSUIT.

Rick puts down the frame and leaves the bedroom.

INT. KITCHEN

We are inside the kitchen of Tatianna's and Jeramiah's apartment and we are seeing a close up Tatianna's hand just as she is hanging up a wall mounted telephone receiver. Just at that very moment Rick comes through the doorway. He walks in.

RICK
(At Tatianna)
I told you to pack a bag.

Tatianna is just taking out a frying pan from a cabinet above the sink. A couple of feet away from her is the wall mounted telephone which Rick does see. In the kitchen is a small table with two chairs.

TATIANNA
(Putting the frying pan on the stove)
I've been without supper all night.
Have you had anything to eat, Mr. Stancer?

RICK
We shouldn't waste time...

TATIANNA
Sit down, Mr. Stancer... You need to eat... We need to eat.

Tatianna opens another cabinet and takes out a liquor bottle and two short glasses. She places it all on the table and she turns to begin preparing a meal.

Rick can see that he won't get Tatianna to do anything else. So he pulls out the table chair and sits down, opening the bottle of liquor and pouring himself, and her, a drink.

RICK
Call me Rick...

FADE TO AN HOUR LATER

INT. KITCHEN

We see an overhead shot of the kitchen table with Rick and Tatianna sitting across from each other. We see the remnants of a well eaten meal, with empty dishes sorted on the table's surface. Rick has his jacket off and it is resting on the back of his chair. There are two cups of coffee with saucers besides the two people. Rick is nursing in his hand a short glass of booze.

Rick is in the middle of telling a story. Tatianna is listening intently.

RICK

...We were flying through Nazi occupied France, part of the 82nd Airborne Division wave of C-47's carrying paratroopers on D-Day. Almost immediately all our warbirds took heavy fire...

FLASHBACK: D-DAY. EXT. NIGHT. C-47 PARATROOPER TRANSPORT PLANE

We transition into a black screen and then a flash of activity that goes on and off. We see silhouettes of C-47 war planes flying across the screen, dozens of them and the sound of explosions, flank, bursting all around the flying machines.

We hear Rick's voice continuing the story...

RICK

(Narrating)

...We were waiting for the order to jump when our cabin was shot to ribbons...

INT. CABIN OF C-47 PARATROOPER TRANSPORT PLANE

Inside are a row of paratroopers all standing and lines up with their hooks on the cord ready to make the jump and awaiting the command.

Among the paratroopers is a younger version of Rick Stancer looking nervous and scared.

Suddenly tracer rounds shoot up from the bottom of the transport plane's cabin hitting several of the paratroopers dead where they were once standing.

(CONTINUED)

RICK
(Narrating)
*... I was knocked out of my feet
and our plane started to nose
dive...*

EXT. NIGHT. C-47 PARATROOPER TRANSPORT PLANE

The C-47 transport plane begins to fall from the sky, it's engines on fire and passing through dozens of paratroopers now freely falling to the ground, their parachutes fully deployed.

INT. CABIN OF C-47 PARATROOPER TRANSPORT PLANE

We see Rick struggling to get up but he is surrounded by dead bodies of his fellow soldiers shot by the rounds.

RICK
(Narrating)
*...No matter what I tried I
couldn't get up... And then I heard
a voice through all that sound...*

POV SHOT: RICK SEES A MAN FIGURE COMING TOWARDS HIM IN THE PLANE'S CABIN. FLASHES OF EXPLOSIONS BRIGHTEN THE FACE OF THE FIGURE. THE MAN IS A YOUNGER VERSION OF JERAMIAH CARTER, HIS HAND IS STRETCHED OUT.

JERAMIAH
(At Rick)
Grab my hand.

We see young soldier Rick and young soldier Jeramiah clasping hands. Rick gets lifted up and they both transverse the cabin of the falling plane reaching the chute door.

RICK
(Narrating)
*...Next thing I knew I was in the
sky...*

We see both soldier Rick and soldier Jeramiah parachuting and landing on the ground. Then we see them on the ground hidden by shadows and kneeling out of sight of the enemy.

RICK
(Narrating)
*...We were separated from our
company. Jeramiah and I were the
only two that survived our
transport...*

EXT. NIGHT. GROUNDS OF NAZI OCCUPIED FRANCE.

We see soldier Jeramiah placing a hand on soldier Rick who is looking scared, uncertain and nervous.

RICK
(Narrating)
...I was a wreck. But Jeramiah was looking out for me. We were miles away from our drop zone...

We see the silhouette figures of the two soldiers walking through open fields of the French countryside with the sun rising in the distance and sounds of explosions going off in the distance.

RICK
(Narrating)
...We were walking for hours trying to get to our rendezvous... But the whole area was surrounded by Nazi soldiers...

We cut to a shot of three Nazi soldiers on patrol, out in the open. The scene pans to a row of trees where we see soldier Rick and soldier Jeramiah well hidden.

INT. NIGHT. KITCHEN

We cut back to Rick and Tatianna in the kitchen. Rick has just gulped some booze from his glass. Tatianna raises her coffee cup to the her lips.

TATIANNA
(Mentioning to Rick)
Jeramiah doesn't tell me about the war, of what he went through...There is a story about him?

RICK
(Waiting a moment)
...It's what he did that made him famous throughout our unit...

FLASHBACK: EXT. DAY. GROUNDS OF NAZI OCCUPIED FRANCE.

We fade back to the open fields of the French country. We are now looking at a dilapidated wooden cabin surrounded by some trees. By the side of the cabin is a water well. The whole area looks uninhabited.

(CONTINUED)

RICK
(Narrating)
*...Jeramiah and I found an
abandoned cabin. We went inside to
rest awhile...*

INT. DAY. ABANDONED CABIN

Soldier Rick and soldier Jeramiah are inside the cabin sitting low on the floor resting. Soldier Rick takes out a cigarette and is about to light it when soldier Jeramiah stops him...

JERAMIAH
Hold it, Rick. Someone's outside.

Soldier Jeramiah looks out the broken glass window and he sees three Nazi soldiers approaching the cabin... We then see soldier Jeramiah giving soldier Rick instructions.

RICK
(Narrating)
*...Jeramiah told me to go out the
back and to get clear and make
contact with the first company I
could find...*

We then see soldier Jeramiah crawling under a wooden bench that sticks out from the wall, the space underneath is long and deep enough with space for a man. Soldier Rick sees this and runs out the back of the cabin.

RICK
(Narrating)
*...I thought he was being a fool
but I did what he said...*

Soldier Rick runs into the forest tree beside the cabin and disappears, leaving soldier Jeramiah behind...

INT. DAY. ABANDONED CABIN

Inside the cabin we see the three Nazi soldiers sitting around, drinking and smoking...

RICK
(Narrating)
*...Those Nazis spent hours inside
the cabin, maintaing a perimeter of
the area. All the while Jeramiah
was hiding right under their noses.*

(CONTINUED)

We see the legs of the Nazi soldiers passing through the floor of the cabin and the around the bench soldier Jeramiah is hiding under. He is lying still and not making a sound...

RICK
(Narrating)
*...He was as quiet as a mouse and
he listened on their every word...*

We see what soldier Jeramiah sees and hear what he hears as the three Nazi soldiers are looking and pointing at a map...

RICK
(Narrating)
...They never knew he was hiding...

INT. NIGHT. KITCHEN

We cut back to Tatianna and Rick in the kitchen. Rick has his head lowered, smoking and drinking. Tatianna is intently taking in the story.

TATIANNA
(To Rick)
What happened to you?

RICK
I found another unit hours later
and pleaded with the commanding
officer to come back with me to the
cabin to retrieve Jeramiah...

FLASHBACK: EXT. DAY. GROUNDS OF NAZI OCCUPIED FRANCE.

We cut to soldier Rick in a wide shot conversing with a commanding officer who is shaking his head 'no'. There are several other soldiers around.

RICK
(Narrating)
*No matter what I said Command
wasn't about to risk sending a unit
back for him... I was ordered to
blend in with the rest of the men
and move out to the rallying
point...*

We then see soldier Rick walking in formation with the combat unit. He then stops and turns around and starts running back to the forest, back to the cabin...

(CONTINUED)

RICK
(Narrating)
*...As far as everyone was concerned
Jeramiah was dead. But not me. I
went back... I had to...*

EXT. DAY. ABANDONED CABIN

Wide shot of the wooden cabin. Soldier Rick can be seen approaching it behind brush.

INT. DAY. ABANDONED CABIN

Inside the cabin the three Nazi soldiers take notice of someone outside and they grab their weapons and smoothly leave the cabin. One of the soldiers places the map from before into his pocket.

RICK
(Narrating)
...I was outnumbered and alone.

EXT. DAY. ABANDONED CABIN

Soldier Rick is taking cover by the water well next to the cabin and immediately the Nazi soldiers fire shots into the direction of the well.

Soldier Rick cowers and tries to fire back but can't, bullet rounds riddle the stone off the well around him.

One of the Nazi soldiers comes around the vantage point of the well and has his rifle dead on soldier Rick.

RICK
(Narrating)
...I was a dead man...

Suddenly the Nazi soldier about to shoot soldier Rick is cut down, his body falling down to the ground.

On the steps of the cabin the 2nd Nazi soldier turns slightly when he is shot in the back, he too falls dead.

The last Nazi soldier turns and standing before him is soldier Jeramiah, his weapon at the ready and a smirk on his face. The Nazi soldier is shot right between the eyes.

Soldier Rick sticks his head out and stands. He looks over at soldier Jeramiah who is all smiles.

(CONTINUED)

JERAMIAH

(Walking towards Rick)

Private Rick Stancer! How ya doin'
you old dog?

We have a close up of soldier Jeramiah's hand reaching into the pocket of the dead Nazi and taking out the map. He stands beside soldier Rick and they start walking away from the cabin. Before they do soldier Rick reaches down and takes from the dead Nazi his SS Dagger (The one in Rick's office).

RICK

(Narrating)

*I took a dagger with me that
day...but Jeramiah took the real
prize...*

EXT. DAY. GROUNDS OF NAZI OCCUPIED FRANCE

The two soldiers are now with their unit and soldier Jeramiah is speaking with a commanding officer and showing him the Nazi map.

RICK

(Narrating)

*...Because Jeramiah spoke German he
understood what the Nazis had said
in the cabin and could read what
was on the map. He brought back
intelligence of where enemy units
were posted miles ahead of where we
were... The intelligence made him
vital to command...*

We then see soldier Rick and Jeramiah walking past some fellow soldiers all smiling at them looking as if they are cheering them on.

RICK

(Narrating)

*...But what made your husband a
hero was the fact he hid in a cabin
with three Nazis and they never had
a clue...*

The flashback ends with a shot of American soldiers traversing the open lands of France on D-Day plus 2.

INT. NIGHT. KITCHEN

We are back in the Kitchen with Rick and Tatianna. It looks as if Rick has drunk the whole bottle.

TATIANNA
 (To Rick and being
 sympathetic)
 He saved your life...

RICK
 Twice... But if you ask Jeramiah he
 would say we all saved each others
 lives... We served with all kinds
 of good men... Good men... But I
 wouldn't be here if it weren't for
 him...

TATIANNA
 And so you both finished the war...

RICK
 (Sounding drunk)
 President Truman finished the war
 when he dropped the bomb...

TATIANNA
 Jeramiah told me the story... When
 he and I first met when the allies
 divided Germany. We were working as
 translators... But since then he's
 been distant, we don't talk...

At that moment Tatianna puts her hand on top of Rick's hand that is holding the almost empty glass of booze. Rick reaction is to wait a moment, look at Tatianna's eyes and drink the last bit of liquor.

RICK
 Marriage is difficult...But
 drinking is easier...

Rick gulps down the drink and stands up, he puts on his jacket. He looks down at Tatianna, despite having drunk all night he has a grasp of all his senses...maybe.

RICK
 (To Tatianna)
 Pack your bag and get ready to
 leave.

(CONTINUED)

TATIANNA
(Getting up)
Where are you taking me?

RICK
I'm taking you to my secretary's
place. You can stay there until
things smooth over... Dorrie won't
like it but she's about to get a
bonus.

EXT. NIGHT. APARTMENT BUILDING OF 1450 W HAMILTON

Rick and Tatianna are now moving across the courtyard, their forms hidden slightly by shadows and fully seen with the bright lamp posts. From a distance someone, a dark figure, begins to follow them.

Rick has his arm around Tatianna's arm while she is carrying her suitcase, they are pacing at a fast rate.

TATIANNA
(While walking and at Rick)
Are you alright?

RICK
Yeah... I just drank too much
that's all... My car is over
here...

The couple approach Rick's parked Chevy Delux and he opens the passenger side door, gets the suitcase in and makes way for Tatianna who gets in. He closes the door and just as Rick is about to go around to the driver's side we hear a voice from the darkness.

VOICE
Hey, Mack? gotta light?

Before Rick has a chance to turn around to the voice behind him we see him get hit hard by a right upper cut to the jaw from a great big figure of a man. Rick falls to the ground knocked out cold.

SHOT: THE SCREEN FADES TO BLACK AND WE FADE BACK TO A SHOT OF RICK WAKING UP.

INT. DAY. MANSION SITTING ROOM

Rick is waking up from the knockout and the drunkenness. He finds himself sitting upright on an antique chair in a room elegantly decorated. He has his hat on and he rubs his chin still feeling the pain from the punch. Rick reaches to his side holster and, of course, his gun is gone. But at least he has his cigarettes and takes one out, along with his lighter.

Just then the man who knocked him out (**Motto**) comes into the room. Rick sees him and they stare at one another. Rick stands up and walks with confidence to Motto. He is within a foot from Motto's face (Motto is a foot taller) and Rick lights up his cigarette, blows smoke into Motto's face and holds up his lighter.

RICK
(At Motto)
Yeah... I do have a light.

They keep staring at each other. Rick is ready for a fight.

RICK
Now, I was with a young lady. And
I'm giving you a second of kindness
before you tell me where she is...
Understand me, Mutt?

From a good distance we hear an echoing voice. Rick turns and sees a fat well dressed man, balding and wearing rim glasses, walking towards him from a long hallway. Shadows obscuring him until he enters the sitting room. This is **Alfred Green**.

ALFRED GREEN
Mrs. Carter is perfectly safe, Mr.
Stancer, I can reassure you of
that. My man, Mr. Motto, does take
liberties... but not without my
specific instructions.

Rick straightens up. He watches as Alfred Green moves over to a small table where he picks up a cup of coffee on a saucer plate. The fat man sits down on a chair, his giant belly sticking out.

RICK
(At Motto)
Motto, huh? So that's who you
are...(Then at Alfred Green) And
who might you be?

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED GREEN

I...am Alfred Green. And you know who I am, Mr. Stancer.

RICK

(Puffing at his cigarette)

I do... The whole city knows who you are. You own all of the North Shore... From a poor man's point of view you're a rich and powerful man.

ALFRED GREEN

I'm a man who doesn't like making appointments with men sticking their noses into my business... Especially private detectives without clients.

RICK

(Smirking)

That's not entirely true, I do have a client; Jeramiah Carter. Ever heard of him?

Alfred Green smiles back and motions to Motto to fix Rick a drink.

ALFRED GREEN

(To Rick)

Sit down Mr. Stancer. I'd offer you a morning coffee but I believe you would prefer something stronger...

RICK

(At Motto)

Bourbon, no ice, a double...

Motto gives Rick a dirty look and goes to get the drink.

Rick walks across the room and sits across Alfred Green on the chair opposite him. They are now facing one another.

ALFRED GREEN

You are aware that Mr. Jeramiah Carter is hiding?

RICK

It's beginning to look that way...

ALFRED GREEN

Do you know where he's is?

(CONTINUED)

RICK

No... He told me he was driving to California, but that was obviously a lie. He's pretty good at hiding. He could be right under your nose and you'll never know it.

ALFRED GREEN

Meaning he'll never be found, despite any efforts to find him.

RICK

Which makes me wonder... For being such a popular guy why is he keeping a low profile?

Just then Motto hands Rick his drink and Rick swings it in him in one swift gulp. Alfred Green sees this and is annoyed.

ALFRED GREEN

Because Mr. Carter is hiding from me...

RICK

That's funny, he's keeping out of sight from a couple of Russians too. It seems he owes them two thousand dollars...

ALFRED GREEN

(Still drinking his coffee)
Mr. Carter doesn't owe any money to Russians.

RICK

(Lighting up another cigarette)
Then let me fill in some blanks, you can tell me when I've gotten anything wrong. (With confidence)
Jeremiah Carter stole something from you, something of significant importance for a rich and powerful man like you. He's giving you a price you can certainly meet but whatever he's got is valuable enough for the Russians to pay more for it. And now there's a race between you and our former allies to find him... How wrong am I?

Alfred Green nods at Motto who leaves the room...

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED GREEN

You are frustratingly correct on both fronts, Mr. Stancer.

RICK

And so the question is what are you going to do about it?

ALFRED GREEN

No... The real question is what will Mr. Carter do now...

Just then Motto returns to the room. With him is Tatianna who is led in by the arm. Rick takes notice and rises from his chair. Tatianna is motioned to a couch and Motto pushes her to sit.

RICK

(At Tatianna)

Have you been hurt?

TATIANNA

(Shaking her head)

No. I'm sorry, Rick...

RICK

It's alright, honey. (Turning to Alfred Green)

Alfred Green gets up from his chair and walks over to Tatianna.

ALFRED GREEN

It is not within my nature to harm the wives of men who trifle with me, Mr. Stancer. But I will maintain assurances so I get what I want.

RICK

(Angry)

You should keep the little lady out of this, Green... For your sake.

ALFRED GREEN

(At Rick and placing his hand on Tatianna's shoulder)

For her sake, Mr. Stancer, I would hope you will use your acquaintance with the lovely Mrs. Carter as an incentive to get Mr. Carter to return my property.

(CONTINUED)

RICK

What makes you think Jeramiah will ever come back?

ALFRED GREEN

He loves his wife doesn't he?

Rick and Tatianna look at each other. They have no choice.

RICK

(At Alfred Green)

Do I have your word she won't be harmed?

ALFRED GREEN

I am not that nefarious. But I can assure you I will make certain Mrs. Tatianna Carter will never be seen again if you even remotely attempt to involve the police.

RICK

What exactly is this property Jeramiah has of yours?

ALFRED GREEN

You already know enough of my business, you needn't concern yourself with anymore... Bring me Mr. Carter and I'll let his wife go.

Alfred Green nods at Motto and walks across the sitting room and down the long hallway. As he does this his voice echos out one last command to Motto...

ALFRED GREEN

(At Motto)

Return his weapon to him!

Motto reaches into his waist band and takes out Rick's .38 special. He throws it across the room for Rick to catch. Rick can tell it is empty of bullets. He gives Tatianna a reassuring look (*Everything will be alright*) and makes his way out the sitting room where Motto remains with Tatianna.

Rick exits the room and a slender man in a suit and wearing a driver's cap meets him directly. This is **Green's Driver**.

GREEN'S DRIVER

(Holding a set of car keys)

Mr. Stancer? Your car is parked outside. (Then handing him a folded

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GREEN'S DRIVER (cont'd)
piece of paper) And you are to
contact this number with any
information.

Green's Driver hands Rick his car keys and the piece of paper and ushers him outside.

EXT. DAY. ALFRED GREEN'S MANSION

We see Rick strolling out of Alfred Green's mansion and heading for his car.

INT. DAY. RICK'S CHEVY DELUX CAR

Rick is driving. The look on his face is tense and full of frustration. He pulls up to his office building and turns off the motor and keeps his grip on the steering wheel. Rick closes his eyes hard. We start to hear the sounds of mortars, explosions and gunshots... He is flashbacking to the war and he is visibly disturbed. But he snaps out of it and gets out of the car...

INT. DAY. OFFICE WAITING ROOM

Rick opens the door to his office waiting room and Dorrie, sitting at her desk, reacts to his entrance. He is seemingly ignoring her.

DORRIE
Where have you been? No one's seen
you for hours!

RICK
Have I gotten any messages?

DORRIE
(Annoyed)
Sgt. Burrows. He's been trying to
reach you all morning...

Rick walks past Dorrie and opens his private office door.

RICK
Get him on the line...

Rick goes straight into his office and closes the door.
Dorrie rolls her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

DORRIE
(Sarcastically and picking up
her phone)
Well good morning to you too...

INT. DAY. RICK STANCER'S PRIVATE OFFICE

Rick is pouring himself a drink. He's taking his hat off. He sits back and takes a gulp and begins to think. In his head he is picturing Motto, Alfred Green's henchman. The menacing face is stirring memories in Rick's mind.

RICK
(Saying outloud)
Where have I seen you before,
Motto...?

A buzzer on Rick's desk phone goes off and Rick picks up the receiver.

RICK
(Onto phone)
Burrows? Yeah, it's me...

INT. DAY. 5TH DISTRICT POLICE STATION. DESK OF SARGENT MERLE BURROWS.

Sgt. Merle Burrows is sitting at his desk, he is holding his desk phone receiver to his ear speaking with Rick.

SGT. BURROWS
(Onto phone with Rick)
Where you been, you idiot. Dorrie's
been worried and so have I...

RICK
Did you get anything on the
Russians?

SGT. BURROWS
Cutting right to the chase, huh?
Alright. Like we thought there
aren't any Russian bookies but
there is a lot of diplomatic
Russians all over town...

RICK
...Diplomatic Russians?

(CONTINUED)

SGT. BURROWS

Yeah. Did you know they have an Embassy in town? Even with the Red Scare happening in Washington and Joe McCarthy hunting American communists they still have the gall to walk on our streets like they own the joint.

RICK

They did fight a war with us...

SGT. BURROWS

Yeah, but there's not much trust between us anymore, especially after they tested an A-Bomb in 49'. We've been in a what they call a 'cold war' ever since....

RICK

So?

SGT. BURROWS

...So a cold war means spies and secrets. Since a couple of nights ago there's been a high presence of Russians from the embassy milling the streets, spotted in places they usually don't go to. They're not bothering anybody but it appears as if...

RICK

(Finishing the sentence)

...As if they're looking for someone.

SGT. BURROWS

That's right? Tell me, Rick, how does this play with what you're working on?

RICK

(Frustrated)

I'm still figuring it out. Thanks, Burrows. I owe you one...

SGT. BURROWS

Hey, Rick... Are you in any trouble?

(CONTINUED)

RICK
The usual stuff...

SGT. BURROWS
I'll bring flowers to your funeral.
Good luck, soldier.

INT. DAY. RICK STANCER'S PRIVATE OFFICE

Rick leans back on his chair, throwing the receiver on his desk... He looks defeated... Suddenly he leans forwards; he's remembering something. He grabs his hat and bolts out of his chair.

The shot remains on the empty chair and he hear Rick shouting at Dorrie.

RICK
(Off screen)
Dorrie, I'll be back soon... And
don't worry...!

WE FADE TO A SMALL BUILDING THAT SAYS GYM IN BIG BOLD LETTERS ABOVE THE DOORS.

EXT. DAY. BOXING GYM BUILDING

Rick is standing by the entrance of the Boxing Gym. He paces beside the wall of the building, to a row of tattered boxing match posters. He see him studying the collage of posters plastered atop posters of prior and current scheduled matches.

RICK'S POV: HIS EYE IS PASSING THROUGH SEVERAL POSTERS.

Rick is looking for something specific. There are posters that advertise for "FIGHTIN' MO vs. LONDON JACK", "SCAWLIN' MICK vs. BIG BLUE BOB". Finally Rick finds what his was searching for and we see what he sees.

There, on the corner of an old tattered poster is an image of Alfred Green's henchman, Motto, posing in a boxer's stance under the banner heading: "MOTTO vs. TARATOV".

RICK
(Saying outloud)
You were quite the boxer in your
day, Motto...

(CONTINUED)

Rick tears off the corner of the tattered poster and holds it in his hand. He then sees the image of the other boxer; Taratov, besides that of Motto. It is a familiar face to Rick.

RICK
(Again outloud)
...And so were you Mr. Taratov...

FLASHBACK: WE QUICKLY CUT TO AN EARLIER SCENE.

EXT. NIGHT. DARK ALLEY

The flashback is of Rick mercilessly throwing to the ground the Huge Man with the Man in the White Hat in the alley where Rick rescued Tatianna. The Huge Man thrown to the ground was **Taratov**.

EXT. DAY. BOXING GYM BUILDING

Rick turns and goes into the Boxing Gym Building.

INT. DAY. BOXING GYM

The Boxing Gym is a sea of activity. Young men in gear using jumping ropes, the dumb bell and medicine balls, some are sparring on the main floor.

Rick is speaking to a **Trainer**; a big burly man chomping on a cigar and speaking with a Polish accent. They are at the foot of a boxing ring and a couple of fighters are sparring on the canvas. The trainer is looking at the ripped corner of poster.

TRAINER
(Answering Rick)
...Yeah! Motto and Taratov... I
knew them. They fought way back,
maybe ten years, but no more...

RICK
(Taking back the paper)
Who sponsored them?

TRAINER
I never seen him in person, but his
last name was Green. Like the
color, ya know?

(CONTINUED)

RICK
Alfred Green?

TRAINER
Don't know first name, only last.
Green! He was rich guy...made lots
of money from his boxers...

RICK
Taratov is Russian. Did Green
sponsor lots of Russians?

TRAINER
(Laughing)
Oh! He only sponsored Russians,
only Russians. Right after the war,
only Russians. No men from my land,
no Polish men! Especially Jews. He
hate them...

RICK
(Nodding)
Thanks, buddy.

Rick reaches into his pocket and gives the Trainer a ten dollar bill. The burly trainer takes it. Rick starts to walk away and the trainer turns his attention at the two sparing boxers in the ring. The trainer starts shouting instructions at one of them:

TRAINER
(Shouting at one of the
boxers)
What are you doin'? Keep up your
arms! Can't you see he's hiding his
punches!

Rick turns around just to see the two sparing boxers in the ring.

TRAINER
He's hiding his punches! You got to
be ready! You don't know when he's
gonna use them on you! He can be
hiding all the time and you never
know...!

Rick stops cold in his tracks... He's realizes something after listening to what the Trainer is saying. We look straight at him and he opens his eyes wide. He now knows... He now knows... Rick bolts out of the Gym.

INT. NIGHT. OFFICE WAITING ROOM

We can see the silhouettes of Dorrie and Rick through the stenciled door of STANCER INVESTIGATIONS, their movements show that they are deep in discussion.

We cut inside the waiting room, Dorrie and Rick are face to face. Dorrie is visibly concerned with what she just discussed with her boss.

DORRIE

(At Rick, shaking her head)
 ...I don't know, Boss. I don't think it's a good idea... Why don't you just go to the police? Have them help you, especially with this....

RICK

(Holstering his gun)
 Can't risk them hurting Tatianna...

DORRIE

(Worried)
 It's too dangerous.

RICK

Just head on down and do exactly as I said... I'll be alright.

DORRIE

You don't even know where Carter is yet. Wait until he contacts you...

RICK

(Rick places a reassuring hand on Dorrie's shoulder)
 Go on, Dorrie... Please.

Dorrie lets out a heavy sigh and leaves the office waiting room. Rick remains and he takes out the piece of paper given to him by Green's Driver and dials the desk telephone.

INT. NIGHT. MANSION SITTING ROOM

The telephone in the sitting room rings. Within the shot we can see Alfred Green sitting and reading a newspaper. Just to his side, sitting crossed leg in the couch is Tatianna. Standing behind her is Motto.

Green's Driver steps into scene to answer the phone.

(CONTINUED)

GREEN'S DRIVER
(Answering the telephone)
Yes?... Just a moment.

Green's Driver crosses the room with the telephone at hand.
He hands the receiver to Alfred Green.

ALFRED GREEN
(At Rick)
Mr. Stancer?

RICK
(At Alfred Green)
I have him. I'll bring him to you
tonight. Tell me where to meet and
we'll be there...

ALFRED GREEN
No, Mr. Stancer. I'll have my
driver collect you. Be outside your
office within the hour and wait for
him.

RICK
Alright... One hour.

ALFRED GREEN
Don't attempt any tricks, Mr.
Stancer. I am in no mood to
tolerate tricks this evening.

INT. NIGHT. OFFICE WAITING ROOM

Rick hears a click from the other end of the line. He hangs
up too. He then turns to his private office...

INT. NIGHT. RICK STANCER'S PRIVATE OFFICE

Rick walks into his private office and he lights up a
cigarette letting it dangle in his mouth. He paces to the
side wall where he had mounted on a shelf his war
memorabilia; specifically the *German war helmet* sitting
besides the *Nazi SS dagger*.

We then watch as Rick closes his eyes and picks up the
helmet. He looks underneath it...

He then takes out a small metal cylinder hidden inside the
helmet. Rick examines the object and is damned if he knows
what it is. He notices it has a cap and he lifts it off with
his thumb nail.

(CONTINUED)

Moving to his desk Rick switches on a lamp and he rolls across it the contents of the cylinder. It's a roll of very small film with something on it. Rick opens a drawer and takes out a magnifying glass, a big one, and he looks through it.

We see a series of images on the film; schematics and diagrams, well drawn with straight lines and mathematical equations written sparingly throughout. There are dozens of these blueprint drawing of what looks like a vessel.

We end the scene with an overhead shot of Rick who has found what Jeramiah Carter, his friend, hid in his office the day before. He has found Alfred Green's property.

SCREENS CUTS TO ALFRED GREEN'S MANSION

EXT. NIGHT. FRONT OF ALFRED GREEN'S MANSION, OUTDOORS

A Mercedes Benz 300 luxury car pulls up to the entrance of Alfred Green's mansion. Green's Driver stays in the car waiting. From behind the car, which we see through the shot of the driver sitting, a *dark figure quickly zooms* by.

We then glide into a close up of the trunk of the Mercedes Benz and we see that the trunk is closing by itself.

Green's Driver feels the shift in weight of the car and becomes suspicious but then he is distracted by who comes down from the Mansion's entrance.

Stepping out of the entrance is Alfred Green, Tatianna Carter, walking beside him, and Motto close behind. Green's Driver steps out and opens the door. Tatianna steps in first and Alfred Green is about to board, Motto goes round to the front passenger seat.

ALFRED GREEN

(To his Driver)

Take us all to the location first
and then pick up Mr. Stancer and
Mr. Carter. Bring them immediately
to me.

GREEN'S DRIVER

(Closing the door as soon as
Alfred Green is inside the
car)

Yes, Sir...

We then see the Mercedes Benz drive on out of the driveway.

SCREENS FADES AND CUTS TO CITY STREET.

EXT. NIGHT. CITY STREET OUTSIDE RICK'S OFFICE BUILDING

Rick is waiting outside the main entrance of his office building. His hands in his pocket and smoking a cigarette, letting the crowds of people on the street walk past him. Green's Driver pulls up in front of Rick in the Mercedes Benz. Rick doesn't waste time and opens the back side door to let himself in. Just before he enters though the backseat Rick looks across the street.

Across the street we see Dorrie inside a Chicago Yellow Cab. She's been watching Rick waiting to be picked up.

INT. NIGHT. INSIDE GREEN'S MERCEDES BENZ

Rick sits himself down on the backseat and Green's Driver throws him a blindfold.

GREEN'S DRIVER

(At Rick)

Mr. Green wants you to put this on.
No exceptions...

Rick begins to tie the blindfold over his eyes.

GREEN'S DRIVER

...Shouldn't there be someone else
with you?

RICK

(Sarcastically)

Shouldn't you be driving me
somewhere....?

Green's Driver shakes his head and starts pulling into traffic.

INT. NIGHT. INSIDE CHICAGO YELLOW CAB

Across the street Dorrie speaks to the Taxi Cab Driver.

DORRIE

(At Taxi Cab Driver)

Okay, follow that car (pointing at
it) and keep your distance. There's
a twenty dollar tip in it for you
if you don't lose them...

TAXI CAB DRIVER

(Nodding)

No problem...

(CONTINUED)

WE SEE AN OVERHEAD SHOT OF THE YELLOW TAXI CAB FOLLOWING THE MERCEDES BENZ. THE SHOT RISES TO THE CITY SCAPE OF CHICAGO ALL THE WAY TO FOCUS ON A FULL MOON. IN THE SAME SHOT THE SCREENS PULLS DOWN TO ANOTHER LOCATION.

EXT. NIGHT. ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE

Headlights cascade across a sign hanging from a chained link fence: KEEP OUT - PRIVATE PROPERTY.

A decrepit abandoned industrial warehouse stands quiet along rows of overgrown weeds. A sign above in giant letters says: IMPERIAL METALWORKS.

The Mercedes Benz, with Rick inside, pulls up to a side door entrance. Standing at the doorway is Motto holding a gun. He opens the back door and pulls Rick, still blindfolded, out and guides him into the warehouse. The Mercedes Benz drives over to the side of the building.

A good distance away Dorrie, in the Yellow Taxi Cab, has seen Rick being taken inside. She turns to the Taxi Cab Driver.

DORRIE
(At Taxi Cab Driver)
Alright... Take me to the nearest
payphone fast...

The Yellow Taxi Cab disappears.

INT. NIGHT. ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE

The inside of the abandoned warehouse dwells in shadows. Its foreboding walls peeling of paint and exposed pipes and high hanging chains. Rick and Motto are underneath an iron gangway.

Motto removes Rick's gun, places it into his waistband, and gives him a quick pat down. Rick's blindfold is then removed and Motto pushes him to walk along a long open space towards a light coming through a door slightly open.

As he walks Rick scopes the place out.

INT. NIGHT. RECORDS ROOM IN WAREHOUSE

The room is large and filled with metal cabinets and old office furniture with large drafting tables. The floor is scattered with loose sheets of papers and cardboard boxes.

There is only a center light and there are shadows everywhere, the area is not well lite.

At the center of the room stands Alfred Green with his hands clasped behind him. Tatianna sits beside him on an old office chair with a frightened look on her face. She and Alfred Green see the doorway before them open and Rick entering with Motto right behind him, the gun propped up at the detective.

Tatianna leaps from her chair and embraces Rick in one swift motion.

TATIANNA

(At Rick, her head on his chest)

Oh, Rick! (She steps back and looks around) Where's Jeramiah?

RICK

(At Tatianna)

Have they hurt you?

ALFRED GREEN

(Stepping up and asking Motto)

Was he alone?

Motto nods a 'yes'. Rick gets a push on his back towards Alfred Green by Motto. The detective has some explaining to do. The fat man is angry.

RICK

(At Alfred Green)

Nice place you have here, Green. You must own it... Not very luxurious if you don't mind me saying.

ALFRED GREEN

I never go to places I don't own, Mr. Stancer... Now! Where is Jeramiah Carter! Wherever he is he had better have my property!

RICK

(Sternly)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RICK (cont'd)
 First, let the lady go. Have your
 driver take her back to my
 office...

ALFRED GREEN
 I will do no such thing. I WON'T!
 (Moving away) Perhaps what I will
 do is show the seriousness of my
 frustration and have Motto shoot
 Mrs. Carter here! In front of you!

Alfred Green moves behind Motto who is still holding the gun
 and barks a command at the ex-boxer.

ALFRED GREEN
 (To Motto)
 Mr. Motto. Shoot Mrs. Carter
 between the eyes.

The distance between Rick and Tatianna is too long for Rick
 to take the bullet for her. Motto extends his right arm
 pointing the gun directly at her. Tatianna is horrified.

TATIANNA
 (At Rick)
 Rick! Rick! Do something...

RICK
 (Looking at Motto)
 He won't shoot you...

TATIANNA
 (Pleading with Rick)
 If you know where Jeramiah is tell
 them!

ALFRED GREEN
 Motto will do as I command. (At
 Motto)Shoot her now!

At that moment Rick, with a confidence, steps right in the
 line of fire of Motto's gun. Motto seems a bit shocked and
 he even turns his head at Alfred Green to say without
 saying; *"What should I do?"*

Rick steps closer to Motto who steps back...

RICK
 (At Motto, looking his in the
 eyes)
 You won't shoot a woman, would you,
 Motto? You're a lot of things; a
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RICK (cont'd)
lackey, a servant...a kidnapper!
But you were also a pretty good
boxer... Once...

Motto stops and you see his entire body fill with rage...

RICK
Even now when you have that gun
pointed at me you don't want to use
it. No! You want to use your fists.
It's what you'd rather use...

Alfred Green can now see that Rick is intimidating Motto in a fight. He can see Motto is about to throw down.

ALFRED GREEN
(Angry at Motto)
Motto!

RICK
(At Motto)
Go on! Pull the trigger you coward!
You failure!

Suddenly Motto, furiously, throws the gun out across the dirty floor (It slides). He throws a punch at Rick, a punch he's ready for, and he dodges it but the next fist he throws makes contact against the detective's face. Rick falls back but is still standing (His hat is knocked off). Rick gets in a punch himself. The two men are now in a full on fist fight.

The two men continue grappling, attempting to get the upper hand. Motto is an expert boxer and Rick clearly is getting beaten. Rick throws a few gut punches yet Motto keeps standing.

Alfred Green is in disbelief. He scans the floor for the gun Motto threw away. Tatianna also scans the floor and sees the gun where it rested. Being closer to it she runs and picks it up pointing it at Alfred Green.

Alfred Green stands there open mouthed and Tatianna moves closer to him. Meanwhile Rick and Motto are still fighting knocking things down. Tatianna stares at Alfred Green and it seems she and Rick are now safe.... Except...

Alfred Green nods at Tatianna and motions her to point the gun at Motto and Rick.

ALFRED GREEN
(Commanding Tatianna)
Shoot them... Shoot them both...

The words "shoot them" stops the two men from their fight. Rick is on his knees yet Motto is still in a fighting stance. Motto turns to Tatianna and he moves fast to try and get the gun away from her. Tatianna shoots the gun hitting Motto who's now in total shock yet still moving towards her. She fires again and finally a third time. The lifeless body of Mr. Motto falls to the filthy floor.

Rick, in total exhaustion, sees Tatianna holding the smoking gun. His face is bloodied and he wipes his mouth with his hands. Crawling to where his hat is Rick retrieves it and puts it on crooked.

RICK
(At Alfred Green)
Well, Mr. Green... What do we do now? Now that Jeramiah Carter and his wife hold all the cards...

A frown builds up on Alfred Green's fat face.

Tatianna moves slightly closer to Rick but still keeps a distance and continuing to point the gun at Alfred Green.

TATIANNA
We're safe now, Rick. We can leave and search for Jeramiah together...

RICK
(At Tatianna)
Stop playing, Sweetheart... You and Green have been cozy from the very start.

TATIANNA
No...No, Rick... I...

RICK
Last night in the alley...with the Russians. You were there meeting them to negotiate on behalf of your real boss (He nods to Alfred Green).

Tatianna gives Rick a look of disbelief and the look then turns into one of morbid discontent. The scared act has disappeared and the ultra-vixen cat that she is is fully out. She then points the gun at Rick.

(CONTINUED)

Alfred Green puts his hands into his pockets and calmly stands besides Tatianna. He is still in control of the situation for the time being.

ALFRED GREEN

(To Rick)

You may want to be very careful, Mr. Stancer. Mrs. Carter has three bullets left in her gun but she only needs the one to be rid of you.

RICK

(Facing Alfred Green)

You sponsored Russian boxers to get them into this country soon after the war, Green... One of those boxers was named Taratov. I bet he's a spy, an agent for the other side of this cold war we're fighting...

ALFRED GREEN

I'm for any side of a war that will bring me a profit, no matter who is doing the fighting...

RICK

Which is where Jeramiah Carter comes in... He remained in Germany translating for the Allies and so did you, Tatianna (Now looking at her). But you were a spy, trained to recruit and when you met Jeramiah he showed great potential for sharing secrets to your fellow comrades.

TATIANNA

It wasn't all about that... It was a real love story, Jeramiah and I...

RICK

Oh, I bet it was. But love stories aside you and Jeramiah worked not only for Mother Russia but for Mr. Alfred Green here. (Looking at the fat man) And you hired both of them to steal something from our country, something they want. But Jeramiah got smart. He held on to it and asked for the highest price from both sides.

(CONTINUED)

ALFRED GREEN

A very frustrating set of events...

RICK

It's a good thing Tatianna stayed loyal to you, even after her husband went into hiding.

ALFRED GREEN

We were truly hoping our little ruse would get you to bring Mr. Carter to us... An old army friend can be useful in these circumstances...

RICK

(Rubbing his aching chin)

Unless the woman stays more loyal to the man she loves than to her boss...

Alfred Green has the look of confusion. Tatianna doesn't change the way she looks.

ALFRED GREEN

(At Tatianna)

What does he mean?

RICK

(Answering for Tatianna)

You see... Jeramiah Carter coming to see me was part of a plan to back stab you, Green... He knew I wouldn't refuse a favor from him. The man saved my life after all...

TATIANNA

(Sarcastically)

...Twice...

RICK

(Continuing)

She and Jeramiah figured if I got involved then they can use me in a set up for your murder.

ALFRED GREEN

(Confused and a little scared)

What?

RICK

Put it together, Green. You're a smart man. You and I crossing

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RICK (cont'd)
swords. It was all part of a plan
by them to steal your property and
get rid of you... With me as the
fall guy for your death.

ALFRED GREEN
(Figuring it out)
Impossible.

RICK
Of course not... Jeramiah hiding,
that was part of the plan too. You
see he has a talent. Just like in
France during the war, when he
stayed hidden in a cabin surrounded
by Nazis right under their noses...
He can stay as quiet as a mouse,
you'd never know he was in the same
room as you... Isn't that right,
Jeramiah?

The room remains silent for a split second, a lifetime
before the sound of a footstep creaking the warehouse floor.
Rick, Tatianna and Alfred Green turn to look at a corner
completely encased with dark shadows. From the darkness and
into the light emerges the smirking face of Jeramiah Carter.

Alfred Green is struck down with the realization he's been
played all this time.

ALFRED GREEN
(At Jeramiah)
You? You... You've been hiding here
the whole time?

JERAMIAH
(At Alfred Green and moving
towards them)
Here... At your mansion... I was in
the trunk of your car when your
driver dropped you off... I hid
wherever I could to stay one step
ahead of you, Green...

ALFRED GREEN
(At Tatianna)
And you've known all along?

Tatianna moves to her husband's side, her gun now on Rick
and Alfred Green.

(CONTINUED)

TATIANNA

(Answering Alfred Green)

Rick guessed all of it right...
Once we were all in the same room
together we could make it look as
if you both fought and killed one
another. That way the police will
stay busy wondering why a private
detective would kill such a
powerful business man...

RICK

...And you two lovebirds can deal
with the Russians in peace, maybe
even cut your ties with them all
together and live out a nice happy
life free of the spy game.

TATIANNA

...And no will ever know what could
have driven you to kill each other
for...

RICK

I don't even know... All this
conspiracy? For what exactly?

JERAMIAH

(Smirking at Rick)

Oh, come on, Rick. Knowing you I
bet you already found it by now...

TATIANNA

(To Jeramiah)

He didn't bring it. Motto searched
him before he was brought here.

JERAMIAH

No... He brought it...

Jeramiah moves across the room, past Rick and Alfred Green still at the mercy of Tatianna's aim. He kneels down to the lifeless body of Motto. Jeramiah pulls out Rick's .38 special from the dead man's wristband and unclasps the bullet chamber. The six bullet chamber shows the caliber rounds inside their slots, except in one of the slots is a darker thing; a small metal cylinder instead of a bullet.

Jeramiah rises and turns, emptying the bullets into the floor and letting the metal cylinder unto his hand. He holds up the object for all to see.

We see Tatianna gaze at it wantingly....

(CONTINUED)

RICK

What is it?

ALFRED GREEN

(Holding his head down)

The future, Mr. Stancer.
Microfilm... The Russians would pay
a fortune worthy of the Kremlin for
what's on that...

Jeremiah moves over to Tatianna directly behind her. He speaks at Rick.

JERAMIAH

(Mockingly)

Did you know that Uncle Sam wants
to go to the moon, Rick? (Holding
the cylinder up) This will get the
Russkies up there before us...

RICK

(Angrily)

For money, Jeremiah? For money
you're willing to betray your
country?

JERAMIAH

(Calmly)

Rick... I betrayed my country a
long time ago... Before any of
this... And I'm just tired of
looking over my shoulder.

TATIANNA

(From behind Jeremiah)

Let's finish this...

JERAMIAH

(Giving Rick a sad look)

Yeah... Let's finish this...

At that instant Tatianna turns her aim away from Rick and Alfred Green and to the temple of Jeremiah's head. Rick sees this and in a desperate attempt to save his old friend he leaps at Jeremiah.

RICK

No!

Tatianna pulls the trigger, a puff of white smoke comes off the barrel and blood splatters from Jeremiah's head, staining the peeling walls.

(CONTINUED)

Jeramiah's limp body falls unto Rick's arms, the small metal cylinder falls from the now dead man's hand and rolls to the floor. Alfred Green is so desperate for it that he runs towards it. Rick thinks fast, reacts fast. He pushes Jeramiah's body forward and unto Tatianna who is knocked down. Rick grabs her wrist and wrestles the gun out of her hand letting her drop to the floor with her husband landing on top of her.

Alfred Green's massive body reaches the cylinder and picks it up fast. He darts fast towards the exit of the Records Room. Rick, in a kneeling position, takes aim and shoots at the fleeing fat man. He shoots once and again. The bullets hit the walls close to Alfred Green but the man disappears out the door.

Rick doesn't go after the man. He turns to where Tatianna is struggling to get Jeramiah's body off of her. She manages to pull him off and she crawls up in a panic...

TATIANNA

He's getting away! Don't let him escape! We have to go after him!

Rick drops the empty gun and in a fit of anger grabs Tatianna and gets her on her feet. He is holding her arms and shaking her. She's almost in hysterics.

RICK

(At Tatianna, in a rage)
It's over, Tatianna! Stop! It's over!

TATIANNA

(Pleading)
Green has the microfilm! He's getting way! We can go after him!

RICK

Enough!

TATIANNA

We have to go after him, Rick! I know people who can help us...!

Blood now covers Tatianna's dress and it makes Rick look down at Jeramiah's dead body. He is exhausted and defeated. He forces Tatianna to turn and keeps a grip on her arms. He makes her look at her husband.

RICK

(Angry)
Look at what you've done... He didn't deserve this... He was a
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RICK (cont'd)
good man! Regardless of what he did
he was still your husband... He
saved my life... He was my friend
and you... You...!

Rick turns her again to face him. He looks as if he's ready to strangle Tatianna. She is terrified and amazed at his rage... Rick closes his eyes and begins to calm down... In the distance we start hearing the sounds of police sirens...

EXT. NIGHT. ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE

From the side door entrance of the abandoned warehouse comes out Alfred Green. As soon as he steps out we see approaching police vehicles with sirens blaring lighting up the dark night. He sees them and he runs away, scanning the yard for his Merceded Benz. He takes off looking for it.

The police vehicles, three of them, stop directly at the side door entrance and their doors open. Officers run out.

INT. NIGHT. ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE

Sgt. Merle Burrows and several police officers enter the abandoned warehouse. Once inside Sgt. Burrows sees Rick approaching through the long open area. Rick is holstering his gun and Tatianna Carter is walking beside him, he is holding her by the arm and her dress is still covered in Jeramiah's blood. Sgt. Burrows can tell Rick has been in a battle.

SGT. BURROWS
(Calling out to Rick)
You alright, Rick? I got here as
fast as I could.

RICK
(Lighting a cigarette)
Yeah.. I'm alright.

Rick then pushes Tatianna over to the Sargent. Sgt. Burrows takes ahold of her and looks her over.

SGT. BURROWS
Who's this?

RICK
Her name is Tatianna Carter. She's
responsible for the two dead bodies
you'll find down the hall. You're
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RICK (cont'd)
gonna want to let the Department of
Defense know you have her in
custody.

SGT. BURROWS
Why?

RICK
She's a spy... A cold war spy.

Sgt. Burrows gives Rick a look. At that moment we see Dorrie come through the door of the warehouse. She runs passed all the officers to the almost limp Rick. She gives him a hug and helps him keep his balance. He places his arms around her shoulder.

SGT. BURROWS
(At Dorrie, annoyed)
Ah, Dorrie, I told you to wait in
the car.

DORRIE
(Ignoring Sgt. Burrows and
speaking to Rick)
Are you hurt, Boss? I called the
Sargent right after I followed you
in the taxi.

RICK
(At Dorrie, wincing in pain)
Thank you for doing exactly as I
asked, Dorrie.

Sgt. Burrows begins to pull Tatianna away.

SGT. BURROWS
(At Tatianna)
Okay, Miss. Don't be a problem.

As they are about to move Tatianna stops and looks over to Rick. They share a look.

TATIANNA
(At Rick)
Help me, Rick... Please... You can
help me...

RICK
(After a moment)
No, Tatianna... It's a different
kind a world now...

(CONTINUED)

The sargent leads her away. Rick and Dorrie, still holding him up start making their way to the exit of the warehouse.

DORRIE

None of this turned out the way you wanted...

RICK

No, honey... It certainly didn't.

DORRIE

What about Alfred Green? Did he get away?

RICK

Did you make the other call I told you to do?

DORRIE

To a man named Taratov at the Russian Embassy? Yeah. I called there first before I call Sgt. Burrows just like you told me... But they said they didn't have a man by that name there.

RICK

...But you still told them where I was?

DORRIE

Yes...

RICK

Then don't worry, Dorrie. Alfred Green didn't get away... Not in this Cold War...

They both walk through the warehouse door and out into the open night.

EXT. NIGHT. OPEN FIELD OF THE ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE.

Alfred Green is breathing heavily after running what seems like miles. He is looking behind him, scared the police is right at his tail. He then stops and sees a familiar sight: his Mercedes Benz car. He waves at it and the car switches on it's headlights and drives towards him. Alfred Green doesn't waste time, once it is close he opens the back door and jumps straight inside into the back seat.

INT. BACK SEAT OF MERCEDED BENZ

ALFRED GREEN

(In a commanding voice to his driver)

Get me out of here fast!

The car accelerates jerking the fat man straight back unto the seat and causing him to almost drop the small metal cylinder of microfilm he is holding in his hand.

ALFRED GREEN

(Angry at his driver)

Be careful you idiot! Drive discreetly...

Suddenly Alfred Green looks to his left and notices someone beside him in the back seat. Staring right at him is the body of Green's Driver, dead, shot in the head.

Alfred Green reacts in shock and looks over to who is driving his car. There, in the drivers seat is Taratov looking at the fat man through the rear view mirror. Rising up from the passenger side seat is the Man in the White Hat. The Man in the White Hat raises a gun, taking perfect aim, at Alfred Green who is only seconds away from death.

We see a final look at the fat face of Alfred Green.

We then see the Mercedes Benz driving away and the sound of the gunshot with a flash coming from the inside of the vehicle.

EXT. NIGHT. ABANDONED INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE

Rick Stancer turns his head, as if reacting to the sound of the gunshot. Dorrie is by his side. He lowers his head and the private detective strolls away bidding a cold farewell to another case.

THE END