

Abstract

DEADLY CAMPAIGN

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

This is a feature length screenplay. A terrible flu like epidemic has broken out in the country. Bryan, a fresh young intern reporter, is on his first assignment with a major Washington newspaper. Bryan is teamed up with Alex, an abrasive veteran reporter, to report on the governmental response to the viral outbreak. Meanwhile, a Senator's wife recently dies and appears as another fatal casualty from the unexpected disease threatening the country. During their investigation, they stumble upon a dangerous conspiracy that immediately threatens many more lives including their own.



DEADLY CAMPAIGN

A Thesis

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of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts

by

LeeFredrick Bowen

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EXT: WASHINGTON, DC - FRIDAY NIGHT

Sarah Remick is driving through downtown around 9pm.

INT: SARAH REMICK'S SUV

Sarah Remick is in her mid-30s. Sarah is wearing gloves and a small medical mask on the lower half of her face. She turns right onto DuPont Street.

EXT: WASHINGTON, DC – DUPONT STREET

Sarah drives up to a man named Henry standing on the sidewalk. Henry is in his late twenties. He gets into the vehicle quickly and is also wearing gloves and a mask over the bottom half of his face.

INT: SARAH REMICK'S SUV

SARAH REMICK

Hi, Henry

HENRY

Hey, ok drive.

SARAH REMICK

Drive? Where to?

HENRY

It doesn't matter. Just...take me to Union Station.

SARAH REMICK

Alright

After she drives off, Henry goes into his coat and pulls out a folder full of documents and a small disk in a case.

HENRY

I wasn't sure if you could see me tonight on such short notice.

SARAH REMICK

I was finishing up some paperwork at the office.

HENRY

Where's your husband tonight?



SARAH REMICK

Scott's finishing up with some late meetings tonight but should be home soon. What have you learned? I'm assuming that you did find something disturbing.

HENRY

We discovered that this concerns you both.

SARAH REMICK

Who are we?

HENRY

Me and another coworker, who'd rather not be named

SARAH REMICK

I almost didn't answer your phone call, because I didn't recognize the number.

HENRY

I had to call you from a pay phone.

SARAH REMICK

Why?

HENRY

It's likely that others are monitoring us.

SARAH REMICK

Who, the press?

HENRY

Ugh...I wish.

SARAH REMICK

You seem frightened.

HENRY

We have to be careful with who we can trust with this information. That's why I wanted to give you the information personally.

SARAH REMICK

What are we involved in?

HENRY

I managed to pull a few files from Annex Pharmaceutical's database. I'm not sure when they'll discover what I did.

SARAH REMICK

Wait a second, I never asked you to do anything illegal.

HENRY

You need to look over it now. I printed out some of the information as a hard copy, but the rest is on the disk. Pull over here, and let me out.

EXT: UNION STATION

Sarah Remick's SUV pulls to the side near Union Station. A dark Buick is pulling over unnoticed behind them amongst the traffic.

INT: DARK BUICK

There are two occupants inside the vehicle. The driver remains unseen and is taking photographs of the SUV. The passenger is a muscular built Mexican man in his mid 30s. An interior light cuts on inside the SUV.

MEXICAN MAN

If he leaves the car, I'll follow him.

INT: SARAH REMICK'S SUV

Sarah is reading some of the documents.

SARAH REMICK

I can't believe what I'm seeing. This can't be true.

HENRY

I know how you feel. My co-worker stumbled on to it last night and told me this morning. We managed to get our hands on some of the proof today. We need to act on this quickly.

SARAH REMICK

I'm not exactly sure where to start? I'll definitely have to talk with Scott first about this.

HENRY

I wonder how he'll take it.

SARAH REMICK

About what?

HENRY

The data you've got. What else?

SARAH REMICK

Oh...

HENRY

He's going to have to be careful. It's possible there are people working with him that know about this already.

SARAH REMICK

You think he's being set up?

HENRY

And you as well

SARAH REMICK

I'm still having trouble believing...

HENRY

Just go home and finish reading the files. The two of you decide on how you wish to proceed with the authorities. Whatever action you decide to take, I'll be with you. I'll have to remain in hiding for the time being. Good luck.

Henry quickly opens the door and exits to rush into Union Station. The Mexican man exits his vehicle quickly to follow. Sarah notices immediately through the rearview mirror the Mexican man running after Henry and then notices the vehicle he exited has US Government tags. She quickly grabs her cell phone and turns off the interior light. She makes an urgent call.

SARAH REMICK

Come on Henry, pick up. Pick up Henry, please.

The call eventually goes to Henry's voicemail, "You have reached the cell phone number for Henry Laughlin. Please leave a message after the tone."

SARAH REMICK

Henry, I just saw a guy jump out of a governmental vehicle behind us. He's coming after you. Call me immediately and let me know if you're ok or if you need me to do something. They're two of them. I'm being watched by the other one. Again, call me as soon as you get this message.

Sarah hangs up her phone. She begins to drive off as the dark Buick follows.

MOVING

We see a montage of Sarah Remick driving through downtown with the dark Buick following her and images of Henry being watched by the Mexican man who followed him onto the subway.

INT: SARAH REMICK'S SUV

Sarah is on her cell phone. She gets a voice mail.

VOICEMAIL

Hello this is Scott, I can't come to the phone right now...

Sarah hangs up and makes another call to 911.

AUTOMATED OPERATOR

Due to the Bentax outbreak, we are experiencing a high volume of emergency calls. If your call is related to this situation, please press one. If not, please stay on the line for the next available operator.

Sarah approaches a traffic light that just turned red. She accelerates rapidly to cross the intersection which causes a vehicle passing through to swerve to a halt with a number of cars stopping as well. She successfully crosses, but the dark Buick must stop when the intersection is blocked with stopped traffic.

AUTOMATED OPERATOR

All lines are still currently busy. Please continue to stay on the line...

Sarah hangs up and makes another call and reaches another voicemail.

VOICEMAIL

Hey, can't come to the phone right now. All beautiful females can please leave a message.

There is a beep for leaving the voicemail.

SARAH REMICK

This isn't a good time for you to be strung out drunk somewhere. I may need to talk to you about something while I'm still trying to sort some of the details out, so get back to me ASAP. I'm headed for the hotel.

Sarah hangs up the phone. She approaches a hotel called the Webster Hotel and pulls quickly into the main entrance with valet parking. She turns her keys over to the valet and rushes out of the car and into the lobby carrying her purse and the envelope full of documents.

INT: SUBWAY - DC

Henry exits the train as the Mexican man is still following him unnoticed. Henry walks towards the exit but stops to look at the front page of the Washington Column on a newsstand. He turns to look behind him and the Mexican man pretends to be

disinterested in him. Henry looks back at the paper as the headlines read *BENTAX ATTACK HAS KILLED 100 DC CITIZENS*. Henry suddenly pulls out his phone when it vibrates and reads *1 Missed Call*. He continues to exit the subway and starts to activate his voicemail, but it says, *No Service*.

INT: WEBSTER HOTEL – LOBBY

Sarah is writing a note on a pad at the front desk. She looks at the doorway as if expecting someone. Guests are entering and exiting the building. The Hotel Agent hands Sarah an envelope.

HOTEL AGENT

Here you are Mrs. Remick. We'll charge it to your room.

She puts the disk and the note inside the envelope and seals it. She then addresses it.

SARAH REMICK

When will this reach the in-town address?

HOTEL AGENT

It'll go out tomorrow and should arrive first thing Monday morning.

SARAH REMICK

Good.

She hands him the envelope and walks towards the elevator.

INT: DARK BUICK

As he is driving through the streets, the unknown occupant pulls out a cell phone. We see a small tattoo just below his right bottom wrist. It can be seen more clearly as his sleeve drops down from putting the cell phone up to his ear. The tattoo is a symbol of a thin oval with a dagger running through it.

UNKNOWN MALE VOICE

What's your progress?

EXT: ALLEYWAY

Henry is on the ground dead behind a trash dumpster. The Mexican man is standing over him taking his wallet and cell phone off from him that is currently ringing.

MEXICAN MAN

Everything's fine here. Do you want to leave the body here?

UNKNOWN MALE VOICE

No, I'll be there shortly once I've finished up with things from my end.

INT: WEBSTER HOTEL – HALLWAY

Sarah Remick walks towards her room on her cell phone and we hear Henry's voicemail again.

SARAH REMICK

Henry, I've mailed the disk off to a friend of mine for safekeeping. Please give me a call back when you can.

She hangs up. She uses her key to unlock her room. She enters the room and shuts the door behind her with the displayed room number 1818.

EXT: WEBSTER HOTEL

We see down on the street the dark Buick parked. When Sarah's window light turns on, the unknown occupant in the vehicle opens the door and exits.

INT: SUBWAY CAR – TWO DAYS LATER

Bryan Miller, a 20-year old man is sitting in a crowded car wearing a mask and a pair of gloves while reading the Washington Column. Majority of other individuals on the subway car are wearing masks as well. Bryan is highlighting with his pen and marking notes on some of the lines in one particular article entitled, "American Health Care For Better or For Worse?" When the train stops, he gets off.

MOVING

INT: METRO STATION

He walks towards the exit of the subway station. His phone vibrates, and he notices that he has a missed call that reads, "Mom." He dials his cell phone as exits the subway.

EXT: DOWNTOWN DC

Almost all individuals are walking with masks, bandannas, or scarves wrapped around the bottom half of their faces. Bryan only notices in particular an individual walking with a gas mask over his face.

BRYAN

Hey Mom, I saw that you called.

INT: DR. MILLER'S OFFICE

Dr. Miller, an early 40s woman, is sitting behind her desk with a stack of folders in front of her.

DR. MILLER  
I did, where were you?

BRYAN  
I just got off the metro.

DR. MILLER  
Are you nervous?

BRYAN  
No!

DR. MILLER  
Bryan...

BRYAN  
Well, maybe a little.

DR. MILLER  
I just wanted to call and wish you a good first day. I know you'll do great.

BRYAN  
Thanks Mom, but I'm sure they won't have me doing anything important.

DR. MILLER  
What do you mean? You're a brilliant kid and a great reporter. They would be fools not to notice it.

BRYAN  
I'm a journalist, Mom. A reporter is someone who just rehashes events. I actually want to tell a story.

DR. MILLER  
What's the difference?

BRYAN  
The difference is between the front page and the want ads, Mom.

DR. MILLER  
I see.

BRYAN

Do you want people to compare you to a dentist?

DR. MILLER

I guess you're old enough now to be entitled to your own professional pet peeves.  
You've got your sanitizer?

BRYAN

Yes Mom, they're in my pocket.

DR. MILLER

Well, you have a good day sweetheart. I love you.

BRYAN

I love you too, Mom.

EXT: THE WASHINGTON COLUMN – MAIN ENTRANCE

Bryan walks into the Washington Column Building. People without gloves are using handkerchiefs to grab door handles, their sleeves, or a newspaper.

INT: THE WASHINGTON COLUMN – LOBBY

Security is also wearing masks and sterile gloves. Security is holding up the line to the elevators by requiring all employees and visitors to spray and sanitize their hands with industrial products. Medical personnel are checking individuals' pulse rates to see if they show any signs of illness or infection.

INT: THE WASHINGTON COLUMN - MAIN NEWS ROOM

Bryan is being escorted by a middle-age receptionist among the chaos in the room. Multiple televisions are running on multiple news stations. Bryan is escorted to a seat outside the main editor's office.

RECEPTIONIST

Please have a seat here.

Bryan has a seat while she knocks on the editor's door. Bryan looks around at all the commotion. People are on the phones and working on their computers in cubicles, as some run across the room carrying envelopes or making copies. Every desk has multiple copies of articles taped to their cubicle wall and you see a small bottle of hand sanitizer mainly on every person's desk. The receptionist comes back out.

RECEPTIONIST

Mr. Simon will be with you when he gets off the phone. Can I get you something?



BRYAN  
No, thank you.

RECEPTIONIST  
All right then. You have good day.

BRYAN  
You, too

Bryan sits back and looks up at one of the TV screens facing him. He sees visual shots of Capital Hill and then a funeral procession coming from a large Catholic church. Among the white noise, he is able to separate the sound of the specific news report.

INT: ON TELEVISION

REPORTER  
The Bentax Virus continues to panic the nation. The Bentax Virus exhibits no apparent warning signs or early symptoms prior to a fatal attack. Health professionals are convinced that mandatory yearly vaccinations are the best option for eradication. During a brief press report after his wife's funeral, Senator Remick remains committed to re-doubling his efforts on his Health Care Plan.

Senator Scott Remick is in his late 30's and appears on the screen to speak with the press.

SENATOR REMCK  
Although, I won't deny that I suffer dearly at the loss of my wife. The pain of her death only fuels the motivation I have to make my efforts become reality. She would not want me to give up, but would want me to make sure that all Americans in this country have adequate and quality health care coverage and protection from harm. And I will continue to have her support within my heart, knowing I intend to finish what we set out to do together. Her death like so many other loyal Americans that have died from this virus, must not be in vain.

REPORTER  
Senator Remick's health care proposals have been the cause for considerable debate, not just in Congress but primarily in the Democratic Party. He is considered a strong candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in the next few months. Senator Remick's proposals are currying strong favor on Capital Hill as many Americans want to ensure that additional outbreaks don't occur...In related news, a small plane crashed in Texas with a single fatality. The pilot died during flight from a Bentax's attack. Officials are now requiring all pilots to be tested before each flight in order to ensure safety with....

Bryan notices that Mr. Simon has just gotten off the phone and walks out of his office. Bryan stands up to shake his hand.

MR. SIMON

I apologize for the wait. Now you are....

BRYAN

Bryan Miller, sir.

MR. SIMON

You're my new courier?

BRYAN

Ahh...No sir, I am from College Journalist National. I'm the winner of this year's contest for your internship.

MR. SIMON

Internship?

BRYAN

Yes sir, there were a few presses that I could choose from, the Washington Column, the Princeton Review, but I chose this one...

MR. SIMON

(Shouting)

Ariel! Ariel! Where's Ariel!

A stocky woman comes rushing up with coffee.

ARIEL

Yes! You don't have to yell.

Mr. Simon takes the coffee away from her and takes a sip.

Ariel

That was mine.

MR. SIMON

Do you know anything about an internship with...What was it that you said, son?

BRYAN

College Journalist National, I'm their first contest winner.

ARIEL

Yes, I placed the forms on your desk earlier this year. You signed it and forgot about it, just like you usually do.

MR. SIMON

Well alright then, Bryan this is Ariel, my executive assistant. Without her I wouldn't be able to keep myself sane without a decent cup of coffee in the morning.

ARIEL

Pleased to meet you.

BRYAN

You too

ARIEL

What college are you attending?

BRYAN

I'm at Stanford.

ARIEL

And you hope to one day become a reporter with the Washington Column.

BRYAN

Journalist!

ARIEL

Yeah, that's what I said.

BRYAN

Well...ah...never mind. I do hope to work here after I graduate.

MR. SIMON

Well, if you do good work with us maybe you will. Ariel, what intern spaces do we have available?

ARIEL

None sir

MR. SIMON

None?

ARIEL

We are fully staffed, sir.

MR. SIMON

I see. There must be some place we can put him.

ARIEL

I hate to rush you chief, but you've got a conference call that should be coming in any minute.

Mr. Simon looks at his Blackberry.

MR. SIMON

Oh God, you are right.

Alex, a mid-30s journalist, walks by them in a black suit and carrying a large bag with a laptop inside it.

ALEX

See you tomorrow, chief.

MR. SIMON

Alex, where are you headed?

ALEX

I'm headed to the burial, chief. Afterwards, I've got the interview with the Senator, and then attending his Health Care Forum. Later tonight, I'm going to try to get drunk and then get laid. I'll see you next time with a hangover.

MR. SIMON

I see you're not feeling too well. I know that you're very close with the Remick family.

ALEX

Yeah, we were in college together. So this is not just another story.

MR. SIMON

Hey, take Bryson here with you. He can go ahead and see what it's like out there, and I'll feel better if someone's watching over you.

ALEX

Bryson who?

ARIEL

Bryan here is a college contest winner, and he goes to Stanford.

MR. SIMON

He can learn a lot from you.

ALEX

With all due respect sir, there's no way in hell I'm babysitting tonight. How old are you kid?

BRYAN  
I'm 20.

ALEX  
Well hell, he's not even legal yet.

ARIEL  
I'm sure that's never stopped you before.

ALEX  
I really feel like getting drunk tonight.

Mr. Simon's phone starts ringing.

ARIEL  
Chief, your conference call.

Ariel rushes to the phone.

MR. SIMON  
All the more reason I want Bryan with you. He can be your designated driver. It's only for today, Alex. Thank you for doing it.

Mr. Simon goes into the office. Alex walks off and Bryan follows.

MOVING

INT: ELEVATOR

ALEX  
What year are you kid?

BRYAN  
I'm a junior.

ALEX  
Where you from?

BRYAN  
Baltimore

ALEX  
Good! So you're pretty familiar with Washington.

BRYAN  
Yeah, I've been here a few times.

The elevator opens.

ALEX

Ok, that's enough of elevator small talk.

INT: CAR GARAGE

Alex takes the lead towards the vehicles.

ALEX

Let's get down to the basics. You're old enough and smart enough to know not to piss me off and you'll do what I say, so no need to go over that. You look like a fit kid, so I expect you to keep up. If you know anything about politics, then you know what a big deal this interview is and how you should thank God for the rest of your life for getting this opportunity. Senator Remick will most likely become our next President.

BRYAN

Yes sir, I've read your recent articles....

ALEX

Another thing, I'm an asshole no doubt but don't call me sir... You can call me Alex. You can speak your mind kid. Just know that I don't care about what you think.

BRYAN

Well Alex, I'll definitely do anything you say but don't call me kid.

Alex turns to him and looks at him in the eye.

ALEX

You catch on quickly. Good, but since I might never remember your name, I'll just call you, Bro.

BRYAN

That's ok, Alex.

ALEX

Alright then, Bro

They get into a classic Mustang, and Alex drives off quickly.

BRYAN

Where are we headed?

ALEX  
Arlington Cemetery

BRYAN  
I'm not dressed for a funeral.

ALEX  
It's only a burial. They had the funeral yesterday. Besides, you're not important enough for anyone to give a damn about how you look. Just stay in the back. Nobody's going to notice you.

EXT: ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Alex is among the other crowd of mourners. Senator Remick stands with his relatives. Bryan is watching from the distance as they are paying their final respects. Bryan notices another man watching the funeral from a distance. The man is in his mid-fifties. When the older man notices that Bryan is staring at him, he walks away. The crowd begins to disperse and people walk up to Senator Remick to hug him and give their condolences. Alex does the same and gives the Senator a hug. Everyone heads to their vehicles, and Alex walks back towards Bryan. Alex takes out his pad and starts to write down notes as he approaches Bryan. Bryan notices that Alex is teary as he is writing his notes. Alex looks up to Bryan after he finishes.

BRYAN  
What are you writing?

ALEX  
News doesn't take time to grieve, Bro. We're heading over to the Senator's residence for an exclusive interview. She was my friend, but I have a deadline to meet and the Senator still has a campaign to run.

BRYAN  
I understand.

ALEX  
No you don't, but I thought you should hear the reason anyway. You can't learn from school and books on how politics really work.

BRYAN  
What do you mean?

ALEX  
Who wrote your recommendation letter for Stanford?

BRYAN  
Governor Hunt.

ALEX  
How do you know him?

BRYAN  
My mother knows him.

ALEX  
They use to date?

BRYAN  
No, she's a surgeon. She worked with him once on an Insurance Project.

ALEX  
What sort of Insurance Project?

BRYAN  
I don't know. I never asked. She just got the letter for me.

ALEX  
And that was all that mattered to you, that you got what you wanted. That's a part of politics.

BRYAN  
I guess so.

ALEX  
Just sit back and watch me conduct the interview. Don't say anything.

INT: SENATOR REMICK TOWNHOUSE – LIBRARY

Senator Remick is sitting across from Alex and Bryan.

ALEX  
Are you still proceeding with all the original plans for the forum tonight?

SENATOR REMICK  
I know it seems short notice after my wife's death, but I know how important it was for her to see that I move forward with the campaign.

ALEX  
The way she died must make you even more determined to have your Health Care Plan approved by Congress.



SENATOR REMICK

This proves that all persons should have yearly vaccinations. And shows that even those who have the best medical coverage need the best medical care. It's senseless to have any loss of life in this fashion, especially when we have the capabilities in this country to prevent it.

ALEX

Well, let me please say, speaking as a friend and on behalf of the Washington Column, that we are sorry for your loss. I'm personally sorrowful that I couldn't make the funeral.

SENATOR REMICK

I appreciate that, Alex. Sarah and I enjoyed reading your articles. Even the ones that depicted us in a negative light, but we would laugh about it later. I've saved a program from the funeral for you and for your references. It's on that table over there.

ALEX

Thank you!

Turns to Bryan

Can you grab that for me?

Bryan walks over to the table and picks up the program that is facing down on the table. He turns around to walk back over towards Alex and flips the program over to see the picture of Sarah Remick.

ALEX

Senator, I have a few additional questions just to wrap everything up. I'm sure you've heard of the rumors that your wife was cheating on you?

SENATOR REMICK

Yes, I have.

ALEX

It's just that Mrs. Remick's body was discovered in a hotel room at the Webster Hotel, room number 1818 is that correct?

SENATOR REMICK

Yes, she's booked the hotel for our entire stay in Washington while Congress is in session. Housekeeping found her on the hotel floor Saturday morning.

ALEX

The desk clerk has on file of issuing two keys to the room, but only one key was actually found at the scene, correct?

SENATOR REMICK

That information was conveyed in the police report, but that doesn't mean anything. She could have lost the other key, and it could be somewhere in this house.

ALEX

Senator Remick, do you believe your wife was cheating on you?

SENATOR REMICK

No, I don't.

ALEX

Police speculate that she may have contracted the virus from whomever she may have been meeting with that night.

SENATOR REMICK

Well I think that's absurd. This virus could have been contracted through a number of different scenarios.

ALEX

Nevertheless, why would she have her own hotel room without your knowledge?

SENATOR REMICK

I think there are some questions that can't be answered Alex. But one thing I am sure about. My wife was a loyal and faithful woman.

ALEX

Going back on your Health Care Plan, it's evident that when you first announced this plan over a year and a half-ago, it was highly scrutinized by the Republicans and also members of your own party. Even when your wife was a member of Congress she voted against it in the house. Although the recent Bentax outbreak has created significant support, there are still some politicians that wonder how you will find the funds to pay for mandatory annual vaccinations.

SENATOR REMICK

It's much lighter on the taxpayers than anything the Republicans can come up with.

ALEX

Republicans believe the US government cannot afford the burden.

SENATOR REMICK

We are discussing with the primary firm Annex Pharmaceuticals about a discounted deal to help alleviate the financial burden. We will work with them in assisting and coordinating with the U.S. government in transporting the vaccinations as a means for them to justify the discounted cost with their shareholders.

ALEX

Republican Senator Mason quotes, "I cannot see how the Democrats could support Remick's campaign even with the current crisis. It is not entirely feasible and will surely fail." What's your response to this Senator?

SENATOR REMICK

My response is simple. Let the voters decide for themselves what they want.

ALEX

The voters may only care about the ends rather than the means.

SENATOR REMICK

Point well taken, that's why you have to have a good campaign manager that knows how to educate as well as promote. It's very important to Benson to see that all the information is conveyed clearly and precisely to all my supporters.

ALEX

I'm sure it's hard for you to hear this but poll numbers recently went up in your favor since your wife's death.

SENATOR REMICK

Aside from appreciating the sympathies for my loss, the fact remains that it's only a temporary response. But the loss of my wife will continue to stick with me always.

ALEX

Senator, your wife's death appears to be convincing the public how important medical care is for everyone. Even among wealthy families. It may not be temporary.

SENATOR REMICK

She would have wanted something good to come from her death.

Benson, a clean looking mid-thirties man, and Angelia Thompson, a beautiful young woman, walk into the living room.

BENSON

I apologize for the interruption Senator, but we must get you to the hill for session.

SENATOR REMICK

Thank you Benson, Alex have you met Benson, my new campaign manager?

ALEX

No, I can't say we've formally been introduced.

BENSON

Briefly and just once, at the press conference from when the Senator announced declaring his candidacy for the White House.

ALEX

Oh yes, I do remember. It's good to see you again.

BENSON

I've always been an admirer of your work. I'm looking forward to future correspondences about our campaign.

ALEX

Thank you, I appreciate that.

SENATOR REMICK

I'm sorry that I don't have much more time for your interview. This is Angelia, my executive assistant to me and Benson. Angelia's sharp, and she can cover all the minor details that you need to cover.

ALEX

Please to meet you, I'm Alex and this is Bryan.

BRYAN

Hi

ALEX

Thank you Senator, I look forward to our next talk.

Senator Remick walks up to Alex and grabs his hand to shake it while putting his other hand on Alex's shoulder.

SENATOR REMICK

We should definitely catch up with dinner sometime when all of this is over, Alex.

ALEX

I'd like that, Scott.

SENATOR REMICK

Good day, gentlemen.

Senator Remick and Benson exits. Angelia takes the seat that Senator Remick was sitting on while Alex and Bryan take their original seats.

ANGELIA

Ok, what else do we need to cover?

ALEX

Oh, just a few more questions. How long have you been with the Senator?

ANGELIA

In my current position, this is only my third month, but I've volunteered and interned with his office for over a year before I started.

ALEX

Recent college grad, huh?

ANGELIA

Yes, I went to Georgetown.

ALEX

(To Alex)

I'm impressed.

BRYAN

Good school.

ALEX

What did you major in?

ANGELIA

I double majored in Political Science and Media Studies.

ALEX

Wow, I bet you graduated top of your class?

ANGELIA

Why does it matter? I thought we're covering the Senator.

ALEX

Oh...I've got what I need for now on the Senator. Now I'm more interested in you.

ANGELIA

Well, I'm neither interesting nor interested in being interviewed, so if you would excuse me Mr. Stevens.

She stands up.

ALEX

Oh... Please call me Alex. You make me feel old by calling me, Mr. Stevens.

ANGELIA

Well, then, it still suits you.

ALEX

Ouch...You've got some spunk for a rookie to the game.

ANGELIA

The Senator will be hosting a forum to discuss the further details of his Health Care plan at the Hoover Conference Center. You're welcome to attend. Good day gentlemen.

Angelia walks out.

ALEX

If only I had a little more energy left in me.

BRYAN

Isn't she a little young for you?

ALEX

You want her for yourself.

BRYAN

I don't think she's interested in either of us.

ALEX

You wouldn't be against the idea.

BRYAN

Well, I wouldn't exactly frown upon it, if that's what you're getting at.

ALEX

It's what I'm getting at. Come on, let's get out of here. I know a place across the street from the conference center we can grab a drink, and it's been a shitty weekend.

MOVING

They start to exit the townhouse. There are workers cleaning and repainting significant portions of the townhouse.

BRYAN

You must have been very close to Mrs. Remick?

ALEX

I was hoping not to lose anyone to this outbreak.

BRYAN

How close were you to her?

ALEX

We used to be a couple in college, and the Senator was my best friend at the time. That's how they met.

BRYAN

Man, it must have been weird when she was dating the Senator after you.

ALEX

Nope, that was happening at the same time.

EXT: REMICK'S TOWNHOUSE – FRONT STEPS

Bryan stops for a moment as Alex continues to walk down the steps towards his car. Bryan then continues walking down the steps, and the Mexican man is dressed as a painter and is coming up the steps with some equipment. Bryan bumps into him and a few of the painter's materials fall on the steps.

MEXICAN MAN

(Under his breath)

Shit...

Bryan picks up some of the materials, and Alex is at his vehicle door lighting up a cigarette. Bryan gathers as much materials as he could and hands them back to the Mexican Man.

BRYAN

Sorry... I'm sorry about that.

The Mexican Man doesn't say anything further and grabs the materials and heads further up the steps. Bryan heads to the car towards the passenger side and talks over the roof to Alex.

BRYAN

Are you saying that both the Senator and his wife went behind your back and had an affair?

ALEX

They were not the Senator and the Senator's wife at the time.

BRYAN

But still...

ALEX

Needless to say, my friendship with Scott wasn't quite the same afterwards. Eventually, I got over it. I somehow developed a continued friendship with Sarah though. It was Sarah that got me and Scott to even start talking to each other again. Besides, I would have been a shitty husband to her anyway since I was a shitty boyfriend. So I don't blame her, and I don't blame him. She was a great girl. Now she's gone. I don't believe

ALEX CONTINUED:

she was cheating on him. I would have known about it, but I had to ask the questions. It's been a shitty weekend. On top of that, some asshole stole my cell phone out of my pocket earlier last week in a club. (Takes his cell phone out and shows it) I just got a new one this morning. I upgraded, but I can't figure the damn thing out. I haven't gotten one phone call since I got the damn thing. Tomorrow, I'm going to stop by the cell store and ask for my old phone back, let's go.

Alex throws down his cigarette and they jump in the car and take off.

INT: BAR

Alex and Bryan are at the bar counter as Alex is taking down shots. Bryan is drinking a soda. Alex picks up his new phone he has placed on the counter in front of him.

BRYAN

Did you always know you wanted to be a journalist?

ALEX

Actually, I started out as a theatre major.

BRYAN

Really?

ALEX

I got kicked out of the program. I kept missing practices.

BRYAN

Why?

ALEX

First it was women, and then it was hangovers, and finally both. I couldn't memorize my lines worth a damn. But I knew how to write a damn good story, even when I was drunk.

So, I became a journalist. I hate this thing and all the shit I don't need. What ever happened to just making a damn phone call. What about you? Why do you want to be a journalist?

BRYAN

I've always been fascinated with news.

ALEX

Then why not become an anchor man?



BRYAN

Writing gives you the ability to shape people's thoughts and opinions, and that's the power to change the world. I didn't just want to report the facts. I wanted to be in the thick of things. I've actually modeled much of my writings after you.

ALEX

Really?

BRYAN

Yeah, you don't know how excited I was to get assigned to you. This is exactly what I was hoping for when I chose the Washington Column.

ALEX

(Shouting)

How the hell do I check voicemail, damn it?

Everyone in the bar looks over towards Alex and Bryan's direction.

ALEX

Here, you figure this out. I've got to take a leak and maybe a shit.

Alex hands the phone to Bryan and leaves the bar to head for the restrooms. Alex leaves his bag on his stool.

INT: MEN'S RESTROOM

Alex slightly stumbles to the urinal as a man walks out. We then see only the backside of another man that walks in the door. When he begins to use the urinal beside Alex, we see that it is the Mexican Man. The Mexican Man reaches in his pocket and pulls out a syringe.

INT: THE BAR

Bryan is still sipping his soda and watching CNN from one of the television screens. On CNN, a reporter is in front of the Hoover Conference Center as guests are walking in for the forum. Bryan begins to go through Alex's phone of all the different menus and applications.

BRYAN

Alex, you idiot, and you've got the phone on silent. God, 12 missed calls and 8 voice messages.

Bryan goes through the inbox of missed calls that list some random women's names, the Washington Column, the cell phone provider, Mr. Simon, and Sarah Remick. Bryan stops on the highlighted name Sarah Remick. He clicks on it to show the time and date

of the call is this past Friday at around 9:21pm. Angelia walks ups and places her purse on the counter next to Byran.

ANGELIA

Can I get a bottle of water? She takes out a cigarette and begins to light it.

BARTENDER

Sorry, no smoking.

ANGELIA

Ah...Damn.

BRYAN

Hey, how's it going? Remember me from earlier?

ANGELIA

Yeah, I remember you. You're Mr. Steven's assistant right?

BRYAN

Actually, I'm a journalist as well.

ANGELIA

Well that's funny. I don't usually see journalists pairing up.

BRYAN

Well, I'm an intern really. But I'm also a writer and one of the editors for Stanford's student newspaper.

ANGELIA

Stanford huh...Good school

BRYAN

Yeah, I love it. How was Georgetown?

ANGELIA

It was ok. I've got a shit load of student loans, but it helped me make a lot of connections.

BRYAN

Aren't you supposed to be at the forum?

ANGELIA

I was trying to escape for a few minutes to have a badly needed cigarette. I can't really be seen smoking with the rest of the Senator's staff when we are trying to promote his Health Care Plan, but I forgot about the new no smoking laws.

BRYAN  
Ahh...I see.

ANGELIA  
I assume you're in the area to cover it?

BRYAN  
Yeah, Alex went to the restroom. We should be going over there pretty soon.

She puts her cigarette back in her purse and grabs the bottle of water from the counter as she puts down two dollars.

ANGELIA  
Well, I'll see you over there then.

She starts to walk out. Bryan quickly rushes towards her.

BRYAN  
Hey, I was wondering, if you'll have time after the program to grab some coffee.

ANGELIA  
Oh, I don't know. It's been a long day.

BRYAN  
Come on. You look like you could use an extended break.

ANGELIA  
Alright, I'll see how I'm feeling later...

She goes in her purse.

ANGELIA  
Here's my card, call me an hour after the forum.

BRYAN  
Great, you'll definitely be hearing from me.

She walks out. Bryan puts the card in his wallet. He walks back to the counter and looks over towards the restroom and then the clock on the wall near the TV. He grabs Alex's bag and heads to the restroom. Before he walks in, he notices a cracked back door leading to the outside. He continues into the bathroom. One of the stalls is occupied and no one else is inside. Bryan knocks on the occupied stall's door.

BRYAN  
Hey Alex, are you ok? Don't we need to get going soon?

No one answers. The stall doors are too long to quickly peak under, but we can tell that someone is in the stall. The door is not locked, and he begins to push it back.

BRYAN

Alex...are you alive in there?

Once the door is pushed back, it reveals the Mexican man. He still has his pants on but sitting on the toilet with his head back and with his eyes and mouth open. He is clearly dead.

INT: THE BAR

Only a few police are questioning patrons of the establishment. But mainly a medical extraction team is quarantining the establishment as they wear protective suits and masks. One officer is talking to the bartender with a mask around his face. The coroners carry the body out past Bryan who is also wearing a mask and getting his blood tested by a medical EMT as he is talking with Detective Cox, who is overweight and over fifty years old while wearing a mask around his face.

DETECTIVE COX

Are you sure you didn't see anyone else coming out of the john before you went in?

BRYAN

No, I was just going to check up on my partner, but I didn't see him inside.

DETECTIVE COX

By partner, you mean....

BRYAN

We work together. We're journalists.

DETECTIVE

Reporters?

BRYAN

Ah yeah...Well, not me, I'm just an intern for the Washington Column.

DETECTIVE

Who's your partner?

BRYAN

Alex Stevens

DETECTIVE

Yeah, I think I've heard of him. What brought you two here?

BRYAN

We were covering Senator Remick's Health Care Forum across the street. We stopped here for a drink.

DETECTIVE

And where is Mr. Stevens now?

BRYAN

I don't know. I hadn't seen him since he left to go to the bathroom.

DETECTIVE

Did you actually see Mr. Stevens enter the bathroom?

BRYAN

Well, not exactly.

DETECTIVE

What about the deceased? Did you ever see him enter the bathroom?

BRYAN

No, but I've seen him before

DETECTIVE

At this bar?

BRYAN

No, earlier, at Senator Remick's house after our interview. He was there painting it with other painters.

DETECTIVE

Probably an illegal that's working for day labor, probably not even vaccinated. You know it his damn kind that sneaks over here and bring in these diseases in the first place, nasty bastard. The Senator's wife probably caught it from him by getting a little taste on the side if you know what I mean.

The Detective lets out this nasty cough into the very dingy mask that he is wearing.

EMT

You're clean.

BRYAN

Thank you.

The EMT bandages him up and puts away his equipment.

DETECTIVE

You didn't see him at the bar or at one of the tables coming in? I mean it's not a big place; you sure you didn't see him with anyone?

BRYAN

No, I really wasn't paying that much attention.

DETECTIVE

Well that's understandable. He's got no I.D. so he'll have to be labeled a John Doe. His kind is everywhere these days.

BRYAN

I'm a little worried about what's happened, officer. I think we need to talk with the Senator. I also wonder what could have happened to my partner Alex Stevens.

DETECTIVE

I wouldn't worry about it. I'll send a virus alert to the Senator's house about the painters. There doesn't appear to be any signs of a struggle, and I didn't see any initial wounds on the deceased. It's a classic Bentax attack. We'll have the body autopsied for confirmation. Your partner may have simply left without you noticing. He may have already headed over to that program you'd mentioned. He may have left before John Doe here entered the restroom. If he's like me, he went home with some sexy broad. He'll likely turn up tomorrow. If anything else comes up, here's my contact card. I'll be in touch, if I have any further questions.

Detective Cox coughs again and hands him his card.

DETECTIVE

Ah...I think I'm getting the flu. I've got to get home.

Detective Cox leaves. Bryan places the card in his wallet and walks out the front door of the bar still carrying Alex's bag with him.

EXT: THE BAR - SIDEWALK

There is a lot of traffic as people are leaving from the conference center across the street. A black limousine drives away from the center. Bryan sees Angelia walking away from the exiting crowd while digging in her purse. Bryan rushes across the street towards her. Angelia pulls out a cigarette and begins to light it.

BRYAN

(Shouting)  
Angelia

She quickly pulls the cigarette out of her mouth and hides it behind her as she turns towards him.

ANGELIA

Ohhhh...Bryan I'm glad it's you. I thought you were one of the reporters. I'm ready for that coffee.

BRYAN

I was wondering if you'd seen Alex.

ANGELIA

No, he didn't show up. It'll cost him. The Senator was going to do another exclusive with him afterwards. So where were you guys?

She lights the cigarette and starts to smoke it.

BRYAN

I don't know.

ANGELIA

You don't know where you were? Are you wasted already?

BRYAN

Oh no, I don't know where Alex is. I've lost him.

ANGELIA

Where did you leave him last?

He looks at her.

ANGELIA

Sorry, it's a classic line. Hey you're an intern, and I'm an assistant. These things happen to us. I'll buy you a coffee to make you feel better. I know a place not far from here. Did you drive?

BRYAN

No... (He turns quickly around) no...the car is gone too.

ANGELIA

Don't worry about it, I drove.

She pulls out her keys and starts walking towards one of the cars parked on the street.

ANGELIA

Hop in. Just excuse the mess.

She walks to the driver side door and presses a button on her key chain to automatically unlock the doors. Bryan walks towards the passenger side.

ANGELIA

Just move those folders out of your way. You can toss them in the back seat along with your bag.

Bryan looks at the bag around his shoulder. He slowly takes it from around his neck and gets into the car. He puts the bag on his lap.

INT: ANGELIA'S CAR

ANGELIA

Alright, do you have any gas money?

BRYAN

Huh...Oh, yeah.....

ANGELIA

Bryan, I'm kidding. Just relax. You're acting like someone died.

INT: DINER

The waitress brings Angelia and Bryan a cup of coffee at their booth during their conversation.

ANGELIA

I can see why you would like to be a journalist.

BRYAN

How about you, what are you hoping to become?

ANGELIA

I want to go to law school.

BRYAN

At Georgetown?

ANGELIA

Possibly, I got accepted in the spring, but this opportunity came up with the Senator, and so, I postponed it. I didn't want to pass up the opportunity to work this closely on a national campaign. Plus, I could use the cash to pay down as much student loan debt



before going off to law school to get even more debt. The connections I make now could write my ticket.

BRYAN

Your parents can't help pay your tuition?

ANGELIA

No, my mother died from cancer when I was fifteen. And my father drives a cab in DC. What about you? Are you paying your way through school?

BRYAN

No, I'm fortunate. I come from a family of doctors.

ANGELIA

Doctors, wow.

BRYAN

Well, my Dad has his PhD in Literature, and my mom is a surgeon. Both of them work for John Hopkins.

ANGELIA

Wow, impressive. Are you the only child?

BRYAN

No, I've got a little sister that just started high school. What about you?

ANGELIA

I'm an only child. Are you close with your parents?

BRYAN

Yeah, I'd say so.

ANGELIA

Closer to your dad?

BRYAN

You'd think so since he's into literature, and I'm into journalism, but we've different opinions when it comes to politics. For example, we didn't see eye to eye on this new Health Care Plan of Senator Remick's.

ANGELIA

How so?

BRYAN

He supports it. Says if people are forced to get yearly shots, people wouldn't be at risk as much from getting sick, but my mom and I are on the same page. My Dad is passionate about everything. My little sister is like that too. But Mom and I are more practical about everything. We take a step back and ask is the cost worth the result after looking at all the facts. We feel Senator Remick's plan wouldn't produce the significant results to warrant the cost involved. There is no way to ensure you'll get everybody and so there's no way to ensure that there wouldn't be another outbreak. I'm sorry, no offense.

ANGELIA

None taken, that's interesting. You'd think your dad would listen to your mom more since she's a medical doctor.

BRYAN

Well, she keeps quiet and just lets him go on. That's the best thing you can do. Mom mainly talks to me about politics and stays out of the line of fire.

ANGELIA

That's smart of her, staying out of trouble. I wish I took that advice for myself, but I tend to get myself into trouble.

BRYAN

Well, at least you know that I'm not trouble.

ANGELIA

That still remains to be seen. I see why you got assigned to Alex. Until recently, most of his articles bashed Senator Remick's Health Care Plan. Now, he seems to not be taking any stance, offering more of an objective viewpoint.

BRYAN

I noticed that too. It's been that way since the outbreak started. I didn't get the chance to ask him about why the sudden change.

ANGELIA

Maybe he doesn't want his opinion to interfere with the campaign at this point, and just wishes to state the facts.

BRYAN

I thought I heard you say you majored in media studies in college.

Angelia pauses right after she takes a sip of coffee and looks at Bryan

ANGELIA

What does that have to do with anything?

BRYAN

A journalist doesn't care about not interfering. We're supposed to influence opinions as journalists. Only reporters simply state the facts.

ANGELIA

Well I wasn't studying to become a journalist.

BRYAN

Well, I just figured you still would know it.

ANGELIA

Well what suddenly makes an accomplished journalist like Alex suddenly forget himself?

BRYAN

Maybe the outbreak has everyone nervous and scared, with so many deaths, and now with the death of the Senator's wife; people don't want to debate the issues anymore. They just want to feel safe. But I still couldn't see a journalist like Alex conceding to the public opinions. I was reading his article this morning, and I had highlighted points to ask him about. However, I got so caught up with being the new kid, that I hadn't drawn up the nerve to ask him yet.

ANGELIA

Well let's ask him now. Give him a call and find out where he is.

BRYAN

I can't. I've got his phone. I'll make sure I'll ask him at work tomorrow, along with asking him why he left me behind with a corpse.

ANGELIA

A corpse?

BRYAN

I'll have to tell you later.

ANGELIA

You do that, because if you would excuse me, I have to go to the ladies room.

Bryan starts to laugh

ANGELIA

Why are you laughing?

BRYAN

Irony, just go ahead. I'll tell you later.

Angelia grabs her purse and heads to the restroom. Bryan takes another sip of his coffee. He takes out Alex's phone and stares into the inbox again. He calls the voicemail but it is requesting a password access to all voicemails. He turns to his side and stares at Alex's bag next to him. He puts the phone back into his pocket and opens the bag. Bryan pulls out an opened envelope and Sarah Remick's obituary. The only other item in the bag is Alex's laptop. The envelope is addressed to Alex at the Washington Column with no return address. Bryan looks inside it and pulls out a handwritten note that says, "Keep this on you at all times. I'll have to explain everything later if I don't see you before." The note is written on a piece of paper that has at the top "Webster Hotel." Bryan starts to check the smaller side pockets of the bag. He finds a Webster Hotel key card. Angelia walks back from the bathroom and Bryan puts all of the items back into the bag.

ANGELIA  
Something wrong?

BRYAN  
Oh...no, I'm just thinking about a story I have to work on for tomorrow.

ANGELIA  
Well, I won't mind getting a bottle of red wine and we can mope about our problems with work for the rest of the night. What do you say? Would you care to join me? You can finish the story you started about dead bodies or something, but let me warn you, there will be no funny business, at least not on the first date.

BRYAN  
I'd love to but I've got to get some sleep and wake up early in the morning.

ANGELIA  
Wow, as soon as I said no sex, you're now suddenly tired.

BRYAN  
Huh...Oh, no....It's not like that.

Angelia laughs.

ANGELIA  
Loosen up, I understand. It was fun. We must do this again sometime, and we'll definitely let alcohol be involved.

BRYAN  
Sure, but I'm only twenty.

ANGELIA  
God, just a boy, well I'm not. So you can just let me do all the drinking.

BRYAN  
Sure, we better get going.

ANGELIA  
Alright

EXT: WEBSTER HOTEL

Angelia's car pulls up to the entrance of the hotel.

ANGELIA  
Are you sure this is where you want to be dropped off.

BRYAN  
Yeah, I wanted to ask the hotel staff some questions for the story. So, I booked a room here.

ANGELIA  
An intern's salary must pay pretty good to afford a room at this hotel.

BRYAN  
The office is covering it.

ANGELIA  
Well, you have a good night then Bryan.

BRYAN  
You too

Bryan manages to get a small kiss goodnight from Angelia. He gets out of the car, and she drives off. Bryan opens the bag and pulls out the key.

INT: WHITE UNMARKED VAN

From the position across the street, we see through the lens of a camera of multiple shots of Bryan going into Alex's bag and pulling out the hotel key. Bryan walks inside the hotel.

INT: WEBSTER HOTEL - LOBBY

Bryan walks into the lobby and looks around. A hotel employee walks up to him.

HOTEL EMPLOYEE  
Can I help you with something sir?

BRYAN

Ahh...Yeah, I'm just trying to find the elevator...again...and go up to my room.

HOTEL EMPLOYEE

The elevator is around the corner there, to your left.

BRYAN

Thank you very much.

HOTEL EMPLOYEE

Thank you, sir.

Bryan walks to the elevator and looks at the key card.

INT: WEBSTER HOTEL – 18<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR

Bryan gets off the elevator and walks up the hallway. He proceeds to room 1818. By this time, it is around 1:00am at night with no one in the hallways. He puts the key card in and the light goes from red to green. He takes it out and stands for a few seconds, then slowly starts to open the door.

INT: WEBSTER HOTEL – ROOM 1818

The room is set up as a mini suite, fairly large sized with a small couch area and the main area of the bedroom. There is a small bar and kitchenette and a fairly large bathroom with the lights turned on. Bryan walks into the bathroom and turns around to be instantly startled by a figure standing near the doorway. The figure reaches for his inside pocket as Bryan is frozen in fear. The stranger pulls out what looks like a pistol in the shadows and when he flips on the main light he is really holding his wallet and ID.

BENSON

Don't be concerned sir.

BRYAN

Mr. Benson? What are you doing here?

BENSON

Actually, I am FBI agent Benson, working undercover. Would you please have a seat there?

Bryan cautiously takes the edge of the couch and places the bag on his lap.

BENSON

I'm sure you have all sorts of questions going through your mind right now. I'm not sure if anything I'm going to say will ease your worries, but I'll get right to the point. You have stumbled into an investigation that threatens National Security, which involves Mr. Alex Stevens.

BRYAN

Whoa, wait. What are you talking about? What the hell is going on here?

BENSON

The agency believes that Mr. Alex Stevens is a suspect involved in obtaining classified governmental documents regarding the experimentation and study of the creation of biogenic weapons. We think he obtained this information through his connection with Sarah Remick recently. We believe that he is planning on selling this information with a number of foreign contacts that he has formed connections with through his reporting work in the Middle-East.

BRYAN

How were they able to obtain and transport this governmental information?

BENSON

It is possible that there is corruption going on within the highest levels of the government. We're still trying to sort out all the players involved.

BRYAN

Do you believe this includes the Senator?

BENSON

We're still gathering the information. At this time, the Senator is unaware of our investigation, and it must remain the same with Mr. Stevens.

BYRAN

I understand. Thank you for informing me.

BENSON

Actually, we could use your help in obtaining some of the final information we need to make our arrests.

BRYAN

What could you possibly need from me?

BENSON

We haven't been able to determine exactly what information Mr. Stevens has in his possession or what additional information he needs. The initial information was stolen from a private company that wants it back badly and they're willing to kill for it.

BRYAN

Can't you go on his computer and pull up some deleted information or check his phone records?

BENSON

His main contact only communicates with him through random pay phones around the city.

BRYAN

Do you need me to wear a wire?

BENSON

No, just get us as much information when you can and we can handle the rest.

BRYAN

I don't even know where Alex is.

BENSON

He'll turn up. It's possible he'll come to this very room tonight.

BRYAN

Did he kill Sarah Remick?

BENSON

It's best just to focus on the specific task you've been given. We'll piece everything together.

BRYAN

How can I play stupid?

BENSON

What's important is that he doesn't suspect that you've been in contact with us. He won't consider you a threat to his plans and will use you to assist them.

BRYAN

You want me to help a possible criminal or traitor?

BENSON

We need to play it through.

BRYAN

I still can't believe all of this.



BENSON

Here's my card. I'll be in touch. If this is any incentive, the FBI will give you an exclusive on the story once we make our arrests.

Bryan reluctantly takes the card and places it in his pocket. Benson exits the room. Bryan falls back on the bed and just stares up at the ceiling.

INT: ROOM 1818 - 5:00am

Bryan is asleep on the bed still fully dressed and with the bag on his mid-section of his stomach. We hear the lock accessed and the room door opens. An unknown figure cuts the overhead light off making it very dark aside from the bathroom light. He approaches Bryan slowly near the bed and passes him to head for the bathroom. He turns back towards the bed and hovers over Bryan. A hand reaches for the bag and starts to slowly take it from him and Bryan immediately awakens. Bryan is so startled that he grabs the bag and pulls back off the bed and tries to grab the table lamp to protect him.

ALEX

It's ok Bro...calm down it's just me.

Bryan cuts on the nearest lamp and sees that it is Alex. He still holds on to the lamp like a weapon.

ALEX

Bro it's me ok, just calm down.

Bryan calms down.

ALEX

I'm sorry I scared you. I was just reaching for my bag. I didn't want to wake you.

Alex reaches his hand out for the bag, but Bryan keeps it just out of his reach.

BRYAN

Where the hell have you been?

ALEX

It's a long story, Bro. Can I have my bag first?

Bryan reluctantly gives it to him. Alex sits on the bed and starts to search through the bag. He pulls out his cell phone and starts to access the inbox and the voicemail. He calls the voicemail and begins to listen to it. Bryan watches Alex listening to the voicemail. Before Alex hangs up, we can hear the voice of Sarah Remick finishing out the message, "so get back to me ASAP. I'm headed for the hotel." Then the system voice

says, "Message left Friday at 9:21pm." Alex puts the phone down and just sits and stares.

BRYAN  
What is it?

ALEX  
I'm not sure.

BRYAN  
Alex, what is going on? Why do you have an access key to Sarah Remick's hotel room?

ALEX  
Shhh....I'm trying to figure this out.

Alex stands up and walks away from the bed towards the window and looks out. He is looking out towards a clear view of the D.C. skyline and the Capital Building that is illuminated brightly among the dark buildings. Alex goes in his pocket and pulls out a used and small syringe and looks at it. He turns around to Bryan.

Bryan tightens his grip on the lamp unnoticed.

ALEX  
Your mom is a doctor right?

BRYAN  
Yes.

ALEX  
Here in D.C.?

BRYAN  
No, in Baltimore at John Hopkins

ALEX  
Even better, they should have all the necessary equipment in their own research labs.

BRYAN  
What equipment?

Alex walks towards Bryan who starts to back up a little.

ALEX  
I need you to take me to see your mother.

BRYAN  
What? Now?

ALEX  
Yes.

BRYAN  
Wait... You still haven't told me what all this is about. Why do you have a key to the room?

ALEX  
Sarah gave it to me.

BRYAN  
You were the one she was having an affair with.

ALEX  
Of course not you idiot. This is where we would exchange information.

BRYAN  
What information?

ALEX  
Political information for her and Scott's campaign efforts and she would give me some of the latest Capital Hill gossip to follow up on.

BYRAN  
And you needed a hotel room for that?

ALEX  
It's the easiest way to avoid someone spying on us.

BRYAN  
Alex, one minute you're taking shots in the bar and then the next you'd disappeared and left me to find some dead guy in the bathroom.

ALEX  
Bryan, I wish I knew all the answers, but I don't have them yet. But I can tell you this, someone wants me dead, and I don't know why. The Hispanic guy you found in the bathroom attacked me. He was trying to get his hands on this.

Takes a small disk out of his pocket and hands it to Bryan.

BYRAN  
What's on it?

ALEX

I don't know. I just got it this morning, and I hadn't any time to review it.

BRYAN

Well let's look at it now.

ALEX

Can't, it was damaged in the struggle.

BRYAN

How did you kill him?

He holds up the syringe.

ALEX

I managed to stick him with it during the struggle. Thank God for the few years I was in the military. I'm not sure what's in it, but he started collapsing instantly.

BRYAN

Why didn't you report this and wait for the police?

ALEX

The police wouldn't know what to do about it. Think about this Bryan; this has got to be a professional hit. There's no telling who could be involved. All I know is it has got to be someone high up if they have the means to stage it so that it appeared I'd died from a Bentax attack. That is why we need to see your mother right away. I need her to confirm my theory and identify the contents inside this needle.

BRYAN

She's not a researcher.

ALEX

I understand that, but I'm sure she knows someone who does and they can do the tests for her. I can't run the risk of going to any of my people.

BRYAN

Ok, then let's go ahead and get going.

INT: JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERISTY – SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Bryan's mother is walking towards her office with a bag and a cup of coffee. She slows down as she sees Bryan and Alex standing in front of her door.

DR. MILLER

Bryan, what on earth are you doing here this early?

She goes up to him and gives him and hug.

BRYAN

I needed to see you. Mom, this is Alex Stevens, Alex, my mother, Dr. Alice Miller.

ALEX

Pleased to meet you Dr. Miller.

DR. MILLER

Well it's good to meet you too. I've heard a lot about you from Bryan. He has been a big admirer of your work and so have I.

ALEX

Well, I've only known Bryan for a short time, but I can see a lot a great potential from the boy. No doubt he'll make an excellent journalist.

DR. MILLER

That's sweet.

BRYAN

Mom, can we see you in your office about something?

DR. MILLER

Well of course, come right in.

She opens the door and they enter.

INT: DR. MILLER'S OFFICE

DR. MILLER

Have a seat.

Bryan and Dr. Miller take a seat on the couch and Alex takes a seat on the chair.

BRYAN

Mom, we need your help with a story.

DR. MILLER

Sure thing, you want to interview me about the new Healthcare Plan?

BRYAN

No...it's not that. We need you to get some research for us.

DR. MILLER

What sort of research?

Bryan looks over at Alex, and Alex takes out the syringe and puts it on the table in between them.

DR. MILLER  
I'm not following you.

BRYAN  
We need to have the contents inside the syringe analyzed to tell us what's in it.

DR. MILLER  
So, you don't know?

ALEX  
We have an idea but we're not sure.

DR. MILLER  
Where did you get it?

Alex and Bryan look at each other

BRYAN  
We found it.

DR. MILLER  
Where?

BRYAN  
Outside, somewhere

DR. MILLER  
Outside somewhere, Bryan could you have even tried to come up with a better lie before you got here.

BRYAN  
Mom, I really need your help with this.

She picks up the syringe.

DR. MILLER  
I'll have some of my people take a look at it.

BRYAN  
Thanks Mom. I really appreciate it.

He hugs and kisses her on the cheek.

DR. MILLER

Ok...I'll call you with the results when they're available.

All three stand.

ALEX

Thank you very much for your help Dr. Miller.

They shake hands again.

DR. MILLER

Well this must be a pretty important story if you're involved, Mr. Stevens, and my son rarely asks for help. The lab should give you a preliminary analysis sometime today. It will take a few days to confirm their initial findings.

ALEX

We just need to get an idea of what we're dealing with for now.

BRYAN

Alright, I'll talk with you later Mom.

He hugs her goodbye.

EXT: JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY – PARKING LOT

Alex and Bryan are walking to Alex's Mustang.

ALEX

We're going to stop by the Washington Coroner's Office.

BRYAN

What for?

ALEX

I want to talk with them about Sarah. I got some suspicions about the night she died.

BRYAN

What suspicions?

ALEX

I received a phone call from her the night she died. She sounded like she was in trouble.

BRYAN

Don't you think we need to contact the authorities, the secret service, or maybe the FBI?

ALEX

Not until I find out what we're dealing with first. There's no telling how deep this will get.

Both of them get into the car and they drive off

INT: THE D.C. CORONER'S OFFICE

Dr. Rinaldi, an older man in his 60's, walks up to Alex and Bryan in the hallway carrying a folder.

DR. RINALDI

Alex, it's been a long time since you've come to visit me.

They shake hands.

ALEX

I've been working the political beat these days. I rarely do homicides.

DR. RINALDI

Still, you could call and we can grab a drink every now and again.

ALEX

You're still not my type, Doc.

DR. RINALDI

It always pains me to hear you say that, but you still turn me on anyway...Now who is this fine young man.

ALEX

This is Bryan. Now him you can fuck.

DR. RINALDI

Thank you.

BRYAN

Huhhh....

ALEX

Keep your ass cheeks together Bro. I'm just fucking with you?

DR. RINALDI

If only he could say that and mean it.

ALEX

Is that the information I called you about?



DR. RINALDI

Yes, it wasn't easy to get a hold of it without arousing suspicion. It may have been a recent death but she was a high profile case, and I only deal in homicides. Fortunately, working here for as long as I have, no one can really keep anything from you.

ALEX

What have you got?

Dr. Rinaldi opens the file.

DR. RINALDI

Well not much, the body wasn't brought here. Death was pronounced at the scene by the arriving coroner. The body was taken directly to Foster's Funeral home when it left the hotel.

BRYAN

Is that normal? I thought all bodies had to undergo some sort of autopsy?

DR. RINALDI

Only if there is reason that the deceased was murdered, or the cause of death cannot be determined. But with the Bentax outbreak, no one questioned what happened.

ALEX

So if someone wanted to murder someone, this would be good time to do it.

DR. RINALDI

Of course not you bastard; it would be very difficult to kill someone by trying to mimic the death by sickness or natural causes. The scene can't show any signs of a struggle or forced entry.

ALEX

The Senator didn't wish to request an autopsy?

DR. RINALDI

Apparently not; here is a signed statement by him refusing the request for an autopsy. If the family didn't want it and the police hadn't ordered it, then we couldn't enforce it.

BRYAN

It seems strange not to request an autopsy just to be sure.

DR. RINALDI

It can happen. Maybe the Senator was afraid that we would discover that she was having an affair on top of catching the illness. Some people are just too afraid of knowing certain information.

ALEX

Still, I wonder. Dr. Rinaldi, if you examine a body carefully enough, could you locate a needle mark if someone was injected with something?

DR. RINALDI

It would be difficult, but not impossible if I know to look for it.

BRYAN

What are you thinking?

ALEX

Dr. Rinaldi, if someone was injected with something to make it appear they died of a virus, and did it deliberately for this purpose, could you tell if they were or were not actually infected and killed by some other toxin or chemical agent?

DR. RINALDI

It would require a full autopsy to determine the true cause of death. We would also need to locate the needle entry point; we can measure the bleeding response from the injected area to determine if it correlates with the time of death.

ALEX

I want you to see if you can determine that with a corpse that should have come in last night. He would probably be a John Doe, Hispanic guy.

DR. RINALDI

Now you're beginning to ask for a lot. I've got many more important cases to work on aside from a John Doe junky.

ALEX

I'll make it worth your while.

DR. RINALDI

How?

ALEX

I know a guy that can get you tickets to see the Lion King on ice.

DR. RINALDI

Hmmmm.....Alright, let's see if I can find him and get back to you.

ALEX  
Thanks Doc.

INT: THE WASHINGTON COLUMN - NEWS ROOM

Alex and Bryan walk off the elevator and head towards Alex's desk. Mr. Simon walks around the corner with them heading in the same general direction towards his office.

MR. SIMON  
Well hey guys, I trust you had an interesting night together.

ALEX  
You can say that sir.

MR. SIMON  
And what about you Brent?

BRYAN  
I think we've got a story sir.

MR. SIMON  
Excellent, I'm glad Alex is teaching you the ropes, usual deadline for the Senator's forum and interview Stevens.

Mr. Simon walks onward into his office.

ALEX  
Yes sir. Come on Bro! I've got a bottle of Jack Daniels hidden in my desk, and I need to get to it.

They walk over to Alex's desk. Alex pulls out a bottle from way in the back of his drawer and takes a few swigs straight from the bottle and is not terribly concerned at the moment who is watching.

BRYAN  
So what are we doing here?

ALEX  
Waiting and writing, writing and waiting.

BRYAN  
Waiting for what?

ALEX  
Your Momma!

BRYAN

What?

ALEX

Your Mom is supposed to call us with the preliminary lab reports or for the Doc to call us after he examines the Mexican; whoever calls first is the winner.

BRYAN

Well in the mean time what are we writing?

ALEX

Everything for now, but Mr. Simon is only getting the interview we had with the Senator from yesterday by the deadline.

BRYAN

Do you believe the Senator is involved in all of this?

ALEX

I don't know. I just find it hard to believe that Scott would be capable of such things and why. What could he be hiding? One thing's for certain, it's got to have something to do with him. He could be helping to cover up a conspiracy within the government and somehow Sarah got caught up in it.

BRYAN

Then again, maybe all of that is happening by just coincidence.

ALEX

You want to be a journalist, Bro? There's no such thing as coincidences.

Ariel walks to them carrying an envelope.

ARIEL

For Christ sakes Alex, at least put the bottle away when you're not drinking it.

ALEX

What is it, Ariel?

ARIEL

Are you wearing the same clothes you wore the day before?

ALEX

Ariel, I'm not in the mood today. Please, what the fuck do you want?

ARIEL

The front desk said this just came for you. Some guy dropped it off and marked it confidential and urgent

She puts the envelope on the table and walks off. Alex takes it, opens it. It's a handwritten note that Alex reads.

BRYAN  
What is it?

Alex hands the note to Bryan.

BRYAN  
“I need to see you immediately. I know that Sarah Remick has been murdered. Meet me in the back garden of Robert E. Lee’s house around visiting hours from 2:00pm-3:00pm in Arlington Cemetery and come alone.” Who do you think this is from?

ALEX  
I have no idea, but I intend to find out. Stay here, Bro. I’ll be back shortly.

Alex stands up to leave.

BRYAN  
Are you sure you don’t need me to come with you?

ALEX  
It says come alone, Bro.

BRYAN  
Well yeah, but Arlington Cemetery is a big place with a lot of tourists. I can remain unnoticed while you meet the guy and be there as back up if you need it.

ALEX  
Back up. Bro, I don’t think you’ve ever been in a fight in your entire life.

BRYAN  
That’s not true.

ALEX  
I don’t count grade school.

BRYAN  
I was on my high school wrestling team.

Alex laughs and starts to walk away.

ALEX

Stay here kid. I've got it covered. You can help me out by starting the write up on that interview we did yesterday on the Senator. The chief hates it when I'm late. I want to pleasantly surprise him this time.

Alex walks off towards the elevator. Bryan walks towards the steps unnoticed. We see him heading out of the building and towards the nearest metro station. Bryan takes out a business card from his pocket and begins dialing his cell phone.

BRYAN

Hello, Agent Benson. I think I have an update for you.

EXT: ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY - DAY

Alex is standing directly behind Robert E. Lee's house in the back garden area. He is pacing and looking around as visitors walk by.

INT: ROBERT E. LEE'S HOUSE – SECOND FLOOR

Bryan is at one of the open windows, staring at Alex. Alex is not aware that Bryan is watching him. Benson approaches Bryan from behind and places his hand on Bryan's left shoulder. Bryan is startled.

BENSON

Relax kid, what do you see out there?

BRYAN

Alex is out in the garden waiting, but I don't see anyone else with him. Where are your men?

BENSON

Don't worry. We have enough agents in the area. If his partner shows, they're not getting away from us.

Benson's cell phone rings, and he answers it.

BENSON

Yeah? Our target hasn't shown up yet. We'll hold position here until he does.

Benson gets off his phone and stares out of the window with Bryan.

EXT: ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Alex's cell phone rings, and he answers it.

ALEX  
Hello.

UNKNOWN CALLER

Proceed to the second row of gravestones, located down the steps at the back of the garden. There is a gravestone with the name Major Tanner Norton. It is the eighth gravestone to the left of the stairway. You'll see a small potted plant. Look inside it. I'll call you back in five-minutes.

The Unknown Caller abruptly hangs up. Alex proceeds to the back gravesites.

INT: ROBERT E. LEE'S HOUSE

BRYAN  
He's leaving. We should follow him.

BENSON  
Stick close to me, kid.

Benson and Bryan exit the building.

MOVING

EXT: ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Alex reaches the gravestone marked Major Tanner Norton. There is a small potted plant on the stone. Alex looks around to see if anyone is watching him. He picks up the potted plant and begins digging through the dirt. He pulls out a small case wrapped in plastic. Alex's phone rings again. He answers.

ALEX  
Yeah?

UNKNOWN CALLER

Just take a look at the information on the disk. I'll call again later.

The Unknown Caller abruptly hangs up again. Alex looks around again to see if anyone is watching him. He takes the dirty plastic off the case and looks at it. There are no markings on the case. He opens the case to look at the actual circular disk. There are no markings on the disk either. He closes the case and puts it in his pocket.

MOVING

Bryan heads back down the steps towards the streets for his car. Benson and Bryan are watching Alex from behind a tree. Benson is just getting off of his cell phone.

BENSON

He's placed something in his pocket. I need you to get back to the office and find out what he's got. Get back to me as soon as you find out. We still need to locate his co-conspirator.

BRYAN

Are you sure you're not mistaken about Alex?

BENSON

Mr. Stevens is a threat to national security and many Americans' lives could be at stake.

BRYAN

Alright

BENSON

You should go now. Metro rail should be able to get you back before he does.

Bryan takes off down the steps.

INT: WASHINGTON COLUMN - DAY

Alex walks over to his desk, and Bryan is already there waiting for him.

BRYAN

Have you got it?

ALEX

Yes.

Alex takes a seat at his desk, pulls the disk out of his pocket and the casing. He then inserts the disk in his computer to view it. Bryan is in the chair beside of him.

BRYAN

So everything went ok?

ALEX

Yep. Although not as I expected.

BRYAN

Well this internship is certainly not what I expected.

ALEX

There's only one file on this entire disk entitled, "Accounts Payable." It looks like banking transactions, but they appear to be from various companies. I don't recognize any of them.



BRYAN

Click on one of them.

ALEX

Alright, we'll click on White Oaks Inc. There is a transfer of twenty-five thousand dollars from their account into a campaign fund belonging to Scotty L. Remick.

BRYAN

For Senator Remick, is that normal?

ALEX

Well it certainly isn't cheap but it isn't anything to raise an eyebrow over. This is a reasonable amount from a major donor.

BRYAN

Click on another transaction.

ALEX

Ok, let's look at Newton's Goods and Services. They made a contribution to Senator Remick's campaign fund in the amount of thirty-five thousand dollars. The Henley Corporation contributed twenty-eight thousand dollars. The rest of these are similar amounts.

BRYAN

All of these are transactions to Senator Remick's campaign account. What could someone be telling us about the Senator?

ALEX

I'm not sure. There's really nothing suspicious about any of this. Contributions like these are expected and vital to running a successful national campaign. From this list, there doesn't appear to be any one company whose contribution significantly exceeds the other. Unless, wait a second here. Now this is weird.

BRYAN

What?

ALEX

The dates, you see the dates?

BRYAN

What's significant about them?

ALEX

This spreadsheet has these contributions grouped by dates. They go as far back as January of last year.

BRYAN

What's so special about that?

ALEX

Senator Remick didn't announce his candidacy for the presidency until late March. Why would random companies make such huge contributions to his campaign fund before he announces his candidacy?

BRYAN

What do you think it means?

ALEX

Maybe if we do some digging on some of these companies, we'll discover something interesting.

Alex prints out the list of all the banking transactions.

ALEX

(Shouting)

ARIEL! ARIEL!

Ariel comes over and Alex takes out the disk and places it back in the case. After Ariel walks over, Alex hands her the printed list.

ARIEL

What's this?

ALEX

I need you to do something for me. Please coordinate with the Security Exchange Commission and the U.S. Dept of Treasury to find out if the companies on that sheet really exist. If they do, I need names of CEOs and contact information.

ARIEL

Perhaps your hangover has made you a little confused. I'm the Chief's assistant, not yours.

ALEX

The chief wants a story by the deadline. Do you want me to tell him that you were unable to help me with that?

ARIEL

You're such an asshole.

Ariel walks off.

ALEX  
My life depends on this, you know.

ARIEL  
(Shouting)  
Fuck you.

BRYAN  
So what do we do now, just wait?

ALEX  
Hell no, we pay a little trip to the Senator's office and ask him a few more questions.

EXT: CAPITAL HILL - DAY

MOVING

Alex and Bryan are walking away from the parked mustang and heading towards the Senate Building.

ALEX  
Hey Bro, I need to ask you something. It has been bugging me in the car.

BRYAN  
What is it?

ALEX  
When I came back from Arlington today, how did you know that I had something?

BRYAN  
What do you mean?

ALEX  
When I came back to my desk this afternoon, you asked "Have you got it?" How did you know that I had actually gotten something?

BRYAN  
I didn't. I just guessed.

ALEX  
But the way you said it, you just seemed like you already knew.

Bryan doesn't respond

ALEX

Don't worry about it Bro. It's the investigator inside of me. I pick apart everything. The thought popped into my head. That's stupid isn't it?

BRYAN

Yeah, how could I have known you've found anything?

Alex looks intensely at Bryan as they are walking.

ALEX

You're right.

Alex laughs but it doesn't seem like genuine laughter.

ALEX

I'm just picking at you Bro. It's been quite a day.

INT: SENATOR REMICK'S RECEPTIONIST AREA - DAY

Alex and Bryan are sitting on the couch. Angelia walks out of the Senator's office.

ANGELIA

Bryan!

Bryan stands up quickly, while Alex stands up casually.

BRYAN

Angelia, how are you doing?

ANGELIA

Fine, you don't bother to even call a girl the next day.

Alex nudges Bryan to smile and winks at him.

BRYAN

Oh no, things have just been crazy today. I was going to call you eventually.

ANGELIA

I see that you've finally found Mr. Stevens.

ALEX

Where's the Senator, sweetheart?

ANGELIA

Coming back from session, and I'm afraid his schedule is already tight today. So he cannot meet with any reporters.

ALEX  
This is important.

ANGELIA  
I'm sure you have a deadline to meet. You're welcome to pass your questions on to me.  
I'll see to it that you'll get a prompt response.

ALEX  
Listen, I don't need some wet behind the lipstick cutie telling me when...

ANGELIA  
I don't know who you think you're talking to but...

BRYAN  
Guys, calm down.

ALEX  
I've known the man for...

BRYAN  
(Raising his voice)  
Alex! Shut up! Angelia, it's extremely important that we get five-minutes alone with the  
Senator, just five minutes.

ANGELIA  
Bryan, I'm not in a powerful position to make demands on the Senator's time. Benson  
wouldn't like it.

BRYAN  
Then please distract him long enough to give us the time we need with the Senator. I beg  
you. It's extremely important.

ANGELIA  
Alright, I'll have to think of something quick. Go ahead into the Senator's office. He  
should be arriving shortly.

MOVING

INT: SENATOR REMICK'S OFFICE

Alex and Bryan look around the Senator's office. Bryan looks at a few photos on the  
wall of the Senator with a few famous diplomats and celebrities. Alex is looking at a fish  
tank inside the office.

ALEX  
I've got to hand it to you, Bro. You've got guts.

BRYAN  
For getting us inside the office?

ALEX  
No, for telling me to shut my trap, you remind me of myself sometimes. Maybe I'm  
rubbing off on you?

BRYAN  
Maybe I am on you?

ALEX  
You don't have the guts to at least tell me the truth.

BRYAN  
What do you mean?

ALEX  
How did you know I found the disk rather than someone handing it to me?

Bryan just stares and slowly tries to respond, but Senator Remick walks through the door  
and pauses for a moment when he sees them.

SENATOR REMICK  
Gentlemen, can I help you with something?

ALEX  
Actually, Scott you can. Please have a seat.

The Senator hesitantly takes a chair near his couch. Alex takes a seat on the couch, while  
Bryan remains standing.

SENATOR REMICK  
Alright Alex, what's this all about?

ALEX  
I was hoping you would tell me.

SENATOR REMICK  
Tell you what?

ALEX  
I haven't got the slightest idea. The only thing I know for sure is that you're involved.

SENATOR REMICK  
Involved in what exactly?

ALEX

Across the street from your campaign program last night, someone tried to kill me inside the john.

SENATOR REMICK

And I'm supposed to bear some responsibility for that because you pissed off some drunken asshole, while being one yourself. Please Alex, I've got a great deal of things to handle at the moment, and we're not exactly close friends anymore.

ALEX

And whose fault is that?

SENATOR REMICK

Is that what this is about? You're still mad about Sarah dumping you for me. Well, from what I can recall, you weren't exactly faithful to her while you two were together. So whose fault is that?

ALEX

I didn't come here to argue about old times.

SENATOR REMICK

So what did you come here to argue about?

ALEX

To find out what you're hiding. The man that tried to kill me last night, we recognized him from your house earlier that day. He was a Mexican painter at your house.

SENATOR REMICK

Was?

ALEX

I took care of it.

SENATOR REMICK

Are you serious? I mean really? Are you serious? Is this your evidence of some sort of connection? A Mexican painter, and this is not to be taken offensively, whom I wouldn't recognize among many other Mexican painters, tried to kill you, and suddenly you believe that I what? Had him execute you, and for what reason?

ALEX

I'm not saying you were involved directly. What I am asking you, if there is anything, you are involved in that would arouse any suspicion? If you like, you can say it off the record.

SENATOR REMICK

Such as?

ALEX

Campaign contributors, have you checked all their backgrounds?

SENATOR REMICK

Meaning what?

ALEX

Meaning that you are not accepting campaign contributions from drug lords or terrorists are you? Are the contributors legit?

SENATOR REMICK

I don't have to sit here and justify myself to you. You have no legal jurisdiction over my campaign funding.

There's a knock at the door.

SENATOR REMICK

Come in.

Benson enters the room, and turns to stare at Bryan for a moment before he speaks to the Senator.

BENSON

Excuse me Senator, but I wasn't aware that you had an appointment.

SENATOR REMICK

It's nothing serious. These men are now leaving.

ALEX

Thank you, Senator.

BRYAN

Thank you, sir.

Both Alex and Bryan walk out.

MOVING

INT: THE SENATE BUILDING

Alex and Bryan are walking through the hallways.

BRYAN

Why didn't you say something about the disk?



ALEX

I didn't want him to know everything we know. I just wanted to see if he's hiding something.

BRYAN

Well, is he?

ALEX

I may have known Scott for a long time, but this time I'm not so sure about him. It doesn't take me long to figure a person out, like for example, getting back to the other matter.

Alex stops them and looks at Bryan.

ALEX

How did you know I found the disk?

BRYAN

I uhh...I uhh...followed you.

ALEX

Why?

BRYAN

I couldn't stand being left out of the loop. I guess it's the investigator inside of me.

ANGELIA

(Shouting)

Bryan!

Angelia comes walking up to them.

ANGELIA

How did your five minutes go?

ALEX

It went well; thank you for your help.

Alex's phone starts to ring.

ALEX

Excuse me. I've got to take this.

Alex walks off to talk on his cell phone.

BRYAN

Yes, thanks again for your help. You seem to always be around when I really need you lately.

ANGELIA

Well you can just think of me as your guardian angel.

BRYAN

Hey, when this story is over, I'll like to have dinner sometime.

ANGELIA

An actual date; why wait until the story is over? What are you guys working on?

BRYAN

I'm not even sure yet, but it's huge.

ANGELIA

Is this why you needed to speak with the Senator?

BRYAN

Well...

ANGELIA

Does it involve him in some way?

BRYAN

I don't want to say anything right now.

ANGELIA

Hey, if it involves the Senator, I should know about it. After all, I stuck my neck out for you to see him today.

BRYAN

I promise that when I figure out what's going on, I'll let you know. In the meantime, I'll call you for dinner.

Alex gets off the phone.

ALEX

Bro, we gotta go.

Alex rushes off.

BRYAN

I'll call you.

Bryan rushes to follow Alex from behind.

MOVING

EXT: CAPITAL HILL

Alex and Bryan are heading to the car from the Senate Building.

BRYAN  
Who was on the phone?

ALEX  
That was Ariel. She managed to trace one of the front companies to an actual source. Annex Pharmaceuticals, located here in D.C, and get this; they are responsible for the creation and distribution of the Bentax vaccinations.

BRYAN  
Is that where we're headed next?

ALEX  
I'm having her schedule an appointment for an interview now. We'll try to meet with someone there.

INT: ANNEX PHARMACEUTICAL - LOBBY - DAY

Alex and Bryan walk up to the security counter.

SECURITY GUARD  
Can I help you with something?

ALEX  
Yes, we're from the Washington Column and have an appointment with one of your representatives for a tour and interview.

SECURITY GUARD  
Yes, our CEO Mr. Parker is going to meet with you. If you two can wait for a moment, I'll contact his secretary to let him know that you have arrived.

BRYAN  
Wow, the CEO.

MOVING

INT: HALLWAY

Alex and Bryan are walking through with Mr. Parker.

MR. PARKER

We are the leading company in biomedical engineering and the largest distributor of medicines.

BRYAN

Do you guys actually make the medicines in this facility?

MR. PARKER

We have our main research lab located here onsite. However, we also have research labs located throughout the world.

ALEX

May we tour one of them?

MR. PARKER

Sure.

INT: LABORATORY AREA

Mr. Parker is taking Alex and Bryan through the outside walkways of the actual labs. You are able to see inside the labs through the glass walls where scientists and additional staff are working with test tubes and medical equipment in protective suits.

MR. PARKER

And this is where we created many of our medical breakthroughs of new medicines for HIV, Cancer, and Bentax.

BRYAN

How close are you guys in developing a totally curable vaccine for Bentax?

MR. PARKER

Extremely close and near completion; we just need to get approval from the FDA for distribution. I don't expect any problems with the support from Congress.

ALEX

Who're your competitors?

MR. PARKER

We compete with a number of companies regarding treatments for many diseases. However, we're the first and the only company to develop a workable vaccine for the Bentax outbreak. We're the only medical company that has developed a workable vaccine through the testing phase, and it should be ready soon for patent.

ALEX

I'm sure that makes your stockholders very happy.

MR. PARKER

In this economy, it's nice to still have job security.

INT: MAIN LAB AREA

MR. PARKER

Well gentlemen, I'm sure that you have seen and gotten enough for your story. I'll escort you to the exit this way.

ALEX

Yeah, that's fine.

Alex's phone starts to vibrate when they begin to walk out.

ALEX

Hello!

UNKNOWN CALLER

What are you doing in the building?

ALEX

What do you mean? Are you here?

Mr. Parker overhears Alex's phone conversation.

UNKNOWN CALLER

Do you have any idea of the danger you are putting yourself in when they see you in the building.

ALEX

Where are you?

UNKNOWN CALLER

Meet me at 10pm in the back parking lot tonight. Go to parking lot G near the east entrance. I'll show you everything then.

The Unknown Caller hangs up abruptly.

BRYAN

Who was that?

ALEX

Just a friend of mine

BRYAN  
What did he want?

ALEX  
Shhh...

Mr. Parker pretends to ignore their conversation as they continue walking towards the main entrance.

INT: LOBBY

Mr. Parker escorts them back to the front security counter.

MR. PARKER  
I enjoyed your visit.

ALEX  
Thank you for the interview and the tour.

Mr. Parker shakes both of their hands.

MR. PARKER  
I look forward to reading it. What's the title again?

ALEX  
*New medicines in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

MR. PARKER  
Well, I hope you portray us in a positive light.

Mr. Parker walks off. Alex and Bryan head towards the front exit.

ALEX  
It appears that this company is involved in something dangerous.

BRYAN  
That wouldn't surprise anyone, considering the amount of chemicals and fluids they experiment with.

ALEX  
My friend says we're still in danger. They must be watching us.

BRYAN  
Through surveillance cameras?

ALEX

I don't know. I still need more information.

EXT: PARKING LOT

Alex and Bryan are heading for the car. Bryan takes out his phone and sees that he has a missed call.

BRYAN

Mom called.

Bryan calls her back.

BRYAN

Hey Mom.

DR. MILLER

Bryan, how are you? Are you feeling ok?

BRYAN

Yes, I'm fine. Have you guys finished your tests?

DR. MILLER

The preliminary reports show something disturbing.

BRYAN

What?

DR. MILLER

Bentax

BRYAN

You mean the virus, Bentax?

DR. MILLER

Yes, a highly concentrated form of the virus but nevertheless, it's Bentax alright. There's no doubt about it. There's a huge uproar around here. They're quarantining the lab area and requiring all of us to undergo blood testing. I've been questioned on where I found the syringe.

BRYAN

What did you say to them?

DR. MILLER

I told them I found the syringe in a trash can outside of the hospital. So now they're going to place the whole campus under lock down.

BRYAN

Did they believe you?

DR. MILLER

I wouldn't, but fortunately I've got a few colleagues around here that trust me. They've alerted the Department of Health, but they're going to want better answers. The viral compound appears inert until it actually interacts with blood cells. It also has some other strange properties. The compound appears to have been manufactured.

BRYAN

Manufactured? You mean someone is using the virus to create some sort of bio-weapon?

DR. MILLER

No, what I'm saying is that the virus itself was manufactured. The compound in the syringe is an earlier form of Bentax. The unusual properties are keeping the viral agent inactive until it injects in a host. Once injected, it must mutate as it interacts with a person's bloodstream, but this particular form isn't contagious. This leaves me to believe someone eventually manipulated it to inject into a host and created the actual virus.

BRYAN

Why would someone want to create another kind of flu?

DR. MILLER

To create an epidemic obviously, we're going to have a lot of people on this Bryan. And once the health authorities arrive, I'm going to get a lot more questions. I need you to tell me what's really going on.

BRYAN

Mom, I can't say for sure right now. I promise that I'll get back to you. I've got to go Mom.

DR. MILLER

Bryan...

BRYAN

I'll call you later.

Bryan hangs up the phone when they reach the car.



BRYAN

It's Bentax. Someone created Bentax. The compound she has is just an earlier form of the killing agent but not the actual virus. Someone used this earlier form to create a virus.

ALEX

This is starting to make much more sense. We have Annex Pharmaceuticals who is not only a major bioengineering company for the vaccinations against Bentax, but also a secret contributor to Senator Remick's campaign fund.

BRYAN

Who is trying to win an election with a Health Care plan requiring all citizens to get yearly vaccinations...

ALEX

This wasn't popular for his campaign before the outbreak and now since the outbreak...

BRYAN

His campaign has become much more popular. So our saviors for this disease....

ALEX

Is also the fucking cause of it.

BRYAN

What are we going to do now? How do we expose them?

ALEX

We already have the proof of the campaign contributions for the Senator, but we don't have direct proof of them actually creating the disease.

BRYAN

Unless we find it inside the lab ourselves, maybe we should contact the authorities. Like the FBI, and get them to raid the lab.

ALEX

They'll need a warrant to do that.

BRYAN

Call your friend. This has to be what he has been leading us to. He can contact the FBI and help them get the warrant.

ALEX

If he thought he could do that, he would have done it already. There's a reason why he hasn't contacted the authorities. We'll have to go in ourselves and get the evidence.

BRYAN

How? We're not doctors or scientists Alex. How would we even know what we are even looking for?

ALEX

My friend wants us to meet him here tonight. I think he'll have all that figured out for us.

BRYAN

The place has got to be locked up tight. Do you think we'll make it past all of the security?

ALEX

We'll find out.

EXT: STARBUCKS

Bryan walks up to the entrance. He looks across the street and sees FBI headquarters and then goes inside.

INT: STARBUCKS

Bryan approaches the counter to place an order.

BRYAN

Just one cup of coffee and one small white hot chocolate

STARBUCKS CASHIER

That'll be \$3.11

Bryan pays the cashier. He turns around and sees Benson sitting at one of the tables reading the Washington Column. Bryan walks over and sits across from him.

BENSON

How goes everything?

BRYAN

Me and Alex are going to break into Annex Pharmaceuticals tonight. He says he's getting evidence to take back to the authorities and stop them from further spreading the virus to the rest of the population.

BENSON

Don't believe him. He's getting the materials he needs to make a trade with his foreign friends.

BRYAN

I still don't see why I shouldn't. I don't see any indications that he is plotting to do anything else. He seems just as confused about everything as I am.

BENSON

Look, he's manipulating you. But it's ok. We'll be there to stop him and the others.

BRYAN

Alex has made every effort to uncover facts about this story.

BENSON

Because he needs them for his own purposes. It's all staged kid. You can't trust him, especially, tonight.

BRYAN

Which means what?

BENSON

Which means tonight you have worn out your usefulness with him.

BRYAN

Perfect.

BENSON

You'll need to be careful. There maybe a number of unknowns targeting you.

BRYAN

If only I went hunting growing up. Then maybe I could at least know how to shoot a gun.

BENSON

Your duty is still the same kid. Nothing has changed. We'll be there tonight. We've got your back. Tonight is the night we're going to take them all down.

BRYAN

We have to stop them.

BENSON

Let us worry about stopping them. You get us the information, and we'll take care of the rest. And when all of this is over, you'll have one hell of a story.

A Starbuck's attendant calls out Bryan's order.

BENSON

You need to be getting back before the coffee gets cold.

Bryan walks up to the counter and takes the drinks and leaves.

INT: WASHINGTON COLUMN

Bryan walks in and carries the drinks to Alex's desk. He places Alex's cup of coffee on his desk. Alex is typing up notes. Bryan takes a seat next to him.

BRYAN  
Typing up the story?

ALEX  
Oh yes, I want this baby ready to go for the presses first thing tomorrow.

BRYAN  
You seem excited.

ALEX  
Aren't you a journalist, Bro? Hey, I know it's been hell, but it's been exciting. That's what I love about this job.

BRYAN  
I just thought you would be a little upset about the Senator. You two are old friends and it looks like he may be directly involved in all of this. Doesn't that bother you?

ALEX  
Of course it does, and writing this story is my way of fighting back and seeking retribution for many hardworking Americans that died from this disease.

BRYAN  
You sound so patriotic.

ALEX  
I'm a patriot. Aren't you? Aren't we all?

BRYAN  
I'd like to think so.

EXT: ANNEX PHARMECUTICALS - PARKING LOT G - NIGHT

Alex and Bryan are sitting in the car. Alex pulls out his camera and looks over it to make sure that it's working properly.

BRYAN  
You have enough battery power?

ALEX

Who do you think you're talking to? Of course, I do.

BRYAN

Sorry, I'm just nervous that's all.

ALEX

And just a little excited?

BRYAN

Well, actually, yeah that too.

ALEX

And that's your high.

BRYAN

Someone's coming.

Another vehicle approaches and parks next to them. As the older man gets out of his vehicle, so do Alex and Bryan.

ALEX

So we finally meet.

DR. MOORELAND

Yes.

BRYAN

I saw you at the Senator's wife's burial.

DR. MOORELAND

Yes, I saw you too.

ALEX

So who are you?

DR. MOORELAND

I'm Dr. Mooreland. I'm one of the scientists working here. I had to be careful when contacting you since Henry Laughlin, one of my lab technicians, disappeared on the same night of Sarah Remick's death.

ALEX

What was he doing that night?

DR. MOORELAND

Sarah Remick asked him a few days earlier to assist her in some research about the vaccinations Annex was creating for the Bentax virus. She thought this information would be useful to her husband's campaign.

ALEX

Why did she go to Henry?

DR. MOORELAND

I can't be sure, but I believe they were intimate at one point in time.

BRYAN

They were having an affair.

ALEX

That's not possible. I would have known about it.

DR. MOORELAND

Nevertheless, she requested his help personally. I'm one of his supervisors and discovered that he was tapping into classified information. When I confronted him on it, he informed me of what he was asked to do, which is strictly against our policies.

ALEX

And so you reported him?

DR. MOORELAND

No, but I was going to.

BRYAN

What stopped you?

DR. MOORELAND

Before I reported him, I reviewed the information he was downloading in order to give a full report and discovered it for myself.

ALEX

Discovered what?

DR. MOORELAND

That the company I had been working with for nearly thirty-years is responsible for the deadly outbreak we've been trying to eradicate.

BRYAN

Are you one of the people responsible for creating Bentax?

DR. MOORELAND

I guess you could say that. It was some of my research that helped to create the disease.  
I swear. I had no idea that it was being used in this fashion.

ALEX

What was in the files that made you certain?

DR. MOORELAND

The files contained the creation of the vaccine, I'd noticed some familiarities with the Bentax virus from an experiment I worked on a couple of years ago. We were trying to synthesize a new medicine to attack cancer cells. When we tested it on mice, our research showed that even though it would kill the cancer, it also created a viral side effect which proved fatal. The compound killed the host by attacking the blood cells. We managed to create a vaccine antidote to protect us in case of a contamination and then discontinued the project.

ALEX

You didn't notice this sooner?

DR. MOORELAND

I remained with the Cancer Department and have not been looking over any Bentax research until recently.

BRYAN

Why haven't you contacted the authorities about any of this by now?

DR. MOORELAND

I wasn't sure whom to trust.

ALEX

So you thought you can put your trust in me?

DR. MOORELAND

I didn't approach you first. I told Henry to go directly to Mrs. Remick first. I should have never let him go alone. I was afraid.

ALEX

So what now?

DR. MOORELAND

We go in and get the materials we need and head straight for FBI headquarters.

ALEX

Wait a second, you expect me to carry dangerous viral infected syringes into FBI headquarters?

DR. MOORELAND

There are containers inside that will keep everyone perfectly protected, but I must go in with you to circumvent the security protocols and extract them.

ALEX

Stay here Bro, and keep watch out.

Dr. Mooreland and Alex heads towards the east entrance. Dr. Moorland puts in the codes for the door combination to unlock it. Alex and Dr. Mooreland enter the building. Bryan takes out his cell phone and makes a call.

BRYAN

Agent Benson, they're inside.

INT: ANNEX PHARMACEUTICALS - NIGHT

MOVING

Dr. Mooreland and Alex go through a number of back doors and hallways to finally reach the main laboratory.

INT: MAIN LABORATORY

Dr. Mooreland and Alex enter the main laboratory and see a big refrigeration vault which requires a thumb print. Dr. Mooreland places his thumb on the security pad. The refrigeration vault unlocks. Dr. Mooreland grabs a container which is like a suitcase next to the unit. He opens the vault. Dr. Mooreland grabs some sort of tongs to pick the small bottles of compound up and place them securely inside the case. Alex is taking pictures the whole time of Dr. Mooreland's movements and around the facility itself. Dr. Mooreland grabs at least five small bottles of the compound, locks the case and closes the refrigeration vault. The two of them exit the laboratory.

EXT: PARKING LOT G

Bryan is back inside Alex's car watching the east entrance. Suddenly, he is startled by a knock on the glass window. Bryan sees that it is Benson and gets out of the car.

BENSON  
Are you ok?

BRYAN  
Yes.

BENSON  
Don't worry kid, we've got you covered.



BRYAN

Where are your other agents?

BENSON

They are in position. They won't move in until my signal.

Benson makes a phone call on his cell phone. When he puts the cell phone up to his ear, Bryan notices a small tattoo on his wrist. It is the same circular tattoo from the unknown occupant who followed Sarah Remick on Friday night.

BENSON

We have them inside. Ok, I'll see you soon.

BRYAN

Who were you speaking with?

BENSON

That was my supervisor. I was just giving him an update.

BRYAN

I still have my doubts about all of this.

BENSON

Trust me. Your involvement has been more than helpful to us.

BRYAN

They're coming out.

Dr. Mooreland and Alex are exiting the east entrance and heading towards the vehicles. Benson reaches inside his jacket and pulls out his hand gun and draws it towards Dr. Mooreland and Alex.

AGENT BENSON

(Shouting)

FBI, down on the ground, drop the case, and put your hands in the air.

DR. MOORELAND

Oh no...

ALEX

What the hell is going on? Benson, what the hell are you doing with a gun?

BRYAN

Just do as he says. They've got you surrounded

BENSON  
(Shouting)

I said down on the ground now. I'm not going to say it again.

Dr. Mooreland and Alex get down on their knees and raise their hands, while Dr. Mooreland is still holding the case.

BENSON  
Put down the case, sir.

Dr. Mooreland puts the case down next to him.

BENSON  
Hands back in the air

Dr. Mooreland puts his hands back up. Benson walks over with his gun still pointed and grabs the case from them. He steps backwards toward the cars. Bryan is looking around.

BRYAN  
Where are the others?

Benson ignores Bryan's question and places the case on the hood of Alex's Mustang. He carefully opens it with one hand while using the other to keep the gun pointed. He checks it and looks inside. He closes the case and holds it next to his side.

ALEX  
So just who are you really?

BENSON  
FBI

DR. MOORELAND  
You're not FBI, I've seen you before. Here at Annex three years ago as a security guard.

BRYAN  
What's he talking about?

ALEX  
He's saying that this guy is the enemy Bro, and he's not really FBI.

BRYAN  
That's not true. Is it?

ALEX  
Then where are the other agents and authorities?

BRYAN  
Yeah, where are the others?

Benson has a slight smirk on his face when he turns to look at Bryan. Benson slightly moves backwards to position his weapon to cover all three of them.

BENSON  
Ok, kid. Down on the ground

BRYAN  
Huh?

BENSON  
(Raises his voice)  
Down on the ground, now!

Bryan gets down on his knees.

BENSON  
Hands in the air

Bryan puts his hands in the air.

BRYAN  
Oh my God.

BENSON  
Sorry kid, I knew you were hoping to write a great story. It would have been a hell of a story.

They all notice a black car approaching them.

BENSON  
Good, now we can get on with it.

Mr. Parker gets out of the driver's side. He walks up to Benson and is carrying a duffle bag.

MR. PARKER  
Oh...Benson, must you have them out here in the parking lot for anyone to drive by and see. Let's get these people inside.

BENSON  
What about running into any security?

MR. PARKER

I've already taken care of it. Nobody's working tonight.

BENSON

Ok, on your feet.

Bryan, Alex, and Dr. Mooreland stand up and all of them move towards the east entrance.

INT: MAIN LABORATORY

Mr. Parker is holding Benson's gun on them while Benson is finishing tying up all three of them with the materials from Mr. Parker's duffle bag.

MR. PARKER

I just want to say, that I hate to have to do any of this. I don't even like guns. Normally, I'm not as hands on, but we recently became a bit understaffed.

ALEX

The Mexican?

MR. PARKER

As you call him

BRYAN

Are you planning to kill us?

MR. PARKER

I'm not a killer.

Benson walks back over to the duffle bag and pulls out some small explosive charges and begins placing them in key positions around the facility near oxygen tanks, and other flammable chemicals.

MR. PARKER

But that's not saying much for your situation.

Benson places one near them.

BENSON

Don't worry kid. At least you get to die a hero.

ALEX

I've written about all of this. There are documents of the Senator's campaign funds, proof that Bentax was created, witnesses who know....

MR. PARKER

Yes, you've put me in quite a difficult position. Fortunately, that information was placed as a contingency to use the Senator as our scapegoat. We can now pin it all on the Senator and a few eager scientists. The reporters though, just got caught up in the middle. I'm very sorry about that.

ALEX

Save your apologies.

BRYAN

I'm going to die.

ALEX

You better be damned glad that I'm tied up right now because before you could even kill me, I would have made sure that I had ripped your throat out.

Benson approaches Mr. Parker.

BENSON

We're all set sir. Charges are set to explode for a five-minute countdown as soon as I press the remote detonator.

MR. PARKER

Excellent, I believe you can handle it from here.

Mr. Parker hands Benson back his gun.

BENSON

Yes sir.

MR. PARKER

I want you as far away from here as soon as possible. We don't need to be anywhere near this place when the police arrive.

BENSON

Don't worry.

Mr. Parker exits the lab. Benson points the gun at them.

BENSON

I'm wondering if I should kill you before this place explodes. But I can't use the revolver. The autopsy will discover it.

DR. MOORELAND

Then just leave us.

BENSON

Oh, don't worry. I've got this (takes out a syringe). There's enough for all three of you.

ALEX

You're not going to stick me with anything without a fight. So you better just shoot me now.

Benson walks behind them. Alex is loosing his rope and is almost free of his bondage.

BENSON

(To Alex)

Don't try it.

ALEX

Shut the fuck up.

BRYANT

Wait.

BENSON

Yeah?

BRYAN

I just wanted to say to Alex, that I'm sorry that I got you into this.

ALEX

Don't worry about it, Bro.

BRYAN

How could I have been so stupid?

BENSON

You can't expect anyone else to answer that for you.

BRYAN

I guess not, but I'm not going to die like a coward.

Bryan stands up and turns to face Benson.

BENSON

What the fuck are you doing? Turn around and get back down.

BRYAN

Put down the syringe.

BENSON

No.

BRYAN

Put it down now.

BENSON

Oh...Are you threatening me?

Benson starts to laugh.

BENSON

Suddenly you've got balls.

Bryan walks slowly towards Benson as Alex is nearly freed from his ropes.

BENSON

I wouldn't come any closer. I wouldn't have any problem killing you.

BRYAN

Well then go right ahead.

Benson moves forward to stab Bryan but Alex breaks free and gains a grip on Benson's wrists. Benson uses his knees to hit Alex in the gut and then punches him. He uses the syringe and stabs Alex in the neck, which causes Alex to fall backwards. Bryan uses his whole body to knock Benson down to the ground. This causes him to fall on his remote detonator which starts the timers and knocks him out for a few seconds. Dr. Mooreland notices that the timer has been set on one of the charges nearest him.

DR. MOORELAND

(Shouting)

The timers have been set. Quick, grab the remote detonator from him.

Alex staggers to his feet and begins to untie Bryan. When Bryan is freed, he immediately runs over to Benson's body to search for the detonator. Alex manages to then untie Dr. Mooreland. Once Bryan puts his hand on the detonator, Benson grabs his wrist and has his gun pointed directly into Bryan's face.

FBI AGENT

(Shouting)

FBI, drop your weapon.

FBI agents appear with rifles from the upper levels. Benson turns his gun towards them and starts shooting. They take cover and Bryan drops to the floor. Benson grabs Bryan and puts the gun to his head.

BENSON  
(Shouting)

Everyone back off, or I'll shoot the kid.

The FBI agents hold their position.

MOVING

Benson heads out to the far exit and drags Bryan along. Bryan tries to stop walking. Benson takes a shot towards the ground.

BENSON

Either you run or I shoot your balls off right here; your choice.

Bryan starts to run with Benson, and they make it out the exit. Alex is beginning to shake. FBI agents are around him and Dr. Mooreland.

SENIOR AGENT STARKS

Are you two ok?

ALEX

The boy, go after the boy.

Senior Agent Starks instructs his men to keep moving. The bombs are now currently counting down at 3 minutes and 42 seconds. Dr. Mooreland is making a quick examination of Alex.

DR. MOORELAND

We've got a huge problem.

SENIOR AGENT STARKS

We need to get you guys out of here.

DR. MOORELAND

No you don't understand, we can't allow this place to explode. This is where the virus was created and there is an actual cure in the laboratory. We have to stop the bomb or we'll lose everything and the virus will continue to spread.

Dr. Mooreland rushes to the refrigeration unit and takes out a small bottle of mysterious fluid. Dr. Mooreland grabs an empty syringe and fills it up with the mysterious fluid. He rushes back over to Alex. Alex's shaking is getting worse.

ALEX

We... have... to...help...Bro...



DR. MOORELAND

We are, but I'm sorry Alex. This will hurt.

Dr. Mooreland stabs Alex's heart. Alex reacts with intense pain.

DR. MOORELAND

Can you deactivate these charges?

SENIOR AGENT STARK

No, we have to get out of here.

DR. MOORELAND

We cannot move him for another ten minutes.

ALEX

Cold...

SENIOR AGENT STARK

What did he say?

ALEX

Freezing...

SENIOR AGENT STARK

We'll get you a blanket once we get you guys out of here.

DR. MOORELAND

No, the detonators, we can stop the timers if we freeze them.

SENIOR AGENT STARK

How the hell can we do that in less than three minutes?

DR. MOORELAND

Quick, grab the fire extinguishers and blast them.

Dr. Mooreland, Senior Agent Starks, and other agents grab their own extinguisher and start blasting each detonator until the timers stop on all of them.

DR. MOORELAND

It's working.

The last timer has stopped at 23 seconds.

EXT: SMALL AIR STRIP - NIGHT

Benson and Bryan are moving towards a small plane in a hanger. He takes Bryan and shoves him to the left side of the plane and climbs in. Benson begins the engine to take off. Police and FBI patrols see the plane's lights while heading towards their location.

INT: PLANE

Bryan continues to try to break free from his bondage.

BENSON

Don't worry, kid. I'll release you, right after take off.

MOVING

The police vehicles try to catch up, but the plane begins to pick up speed and outruns them. Bryan manages to break free from his rope and lunges towards Benson. Bryan is trying to keep Benson from using his gun on him and swirls the plane off course. Benson manages to overpower Bryan's efforts and nearly points the gun towards the position to shoot Bryan's head at point blank range. Bryan looks down and sees another syringe in Benson's pockets and manages to grab it and stabs Benson in the eye with it. This causes him to let go of the joystick and the plane loses control and begins to stumble over. Benson manages to get out of the plane shaking. Full of anger and revenge, he slowly points his weapon at Bryan inside the plane to kill him. One of the vehicles chasing them manages to reach the scene. The car positions itself relative to the plane, and a female figure steps out of the car and points her weapon at Benson.

FEMALE FBI AGENT

(Shouting)

FBI, drop your weapon.

Benson turns his weapon immediately on the Female FBI agent. She opens fire and kills Benson, who drops to the ground. The rest of the vehicles arrive, and we see the Female FBI Agent rushing over towards the plane, still with her weapon drawn. Bryan is being pulled out of the wreckage by the female agent. When his head is cleared of the plane, he sees that the Female FBI Agent is Angelia. Police officers try to assist her.

ANGELIA

I got him guys. Make sure the area is secure.

Angelia helps Bryan towards her car.

ANGELIA

How are you feeling?

BRYAN

I've felt better. How are my friends?

ANGELIA

I haven't checked on them yet. I wanted to make sure you were ok.

BRYAN

So is anyone I've met within the last 48 hours truly who they say they are?

ANGELIA

I'm still your guardian angel.

BRYAN

Yes, that's true.

EXT: PARKING LOT G - NIGHT

Alex is on a gurney and Bryan is on the back edge of the ambulance. They are getting their injuries checked out by medical personnel. Dr. Mooreland, Angelia, and FBI Senior Agent Starks are with them.

ALEX

What about Parker?

ANGELIA

Agents had placed him in custody an hour ago.

ALEX

How long have you been undercover sweetheart?

ANGELIA

Almost a year

BRYAN

You knew what was happening the whole time?

ANGELIA

We didn't have all the facts until tonight.

ALEX

I have the exclusive.

BRYAN

Hey, I was promised the exclusive.

ALEX

By who, the fake FBI agent who tried to kill us?

BRYAN

Sure, he may have been a fake, but I was still promised an exclusive.

ALEX

I have been stabbed.

BRYAN

I was in a plane crash.

ALEX

The plane wasn't even in flight.

BRYAN

My body still aches.

SENIOR AGENT STARKS

Guys, let's get you to the hospital first.

ALEX

That sounds like a great idea.

ALEX

Did you even go to Georgetown sweetheart?

ANGELIA

Let's get you two to the hospital.

INT: WASHINGTON COLUMN – DAY – THREE MONTHS LATER

The TV news report announces that all incidents of the Bentax virus have been cured. Bryan is grabbing his bags near Alex's desk and getting ready to leave. Alex walks up with a cup of coffee.

ALEX

How do feel about this being your last day?

BRYAN

Not so bad, it's going to be weird going back to school and writing stories about tuition hikes and fraternity parties. It's all going to be rather boring really.

ALEX

Nah... You should enjoy college man. Meet a nice girl and even get laid a few times at one of those frat parties. You still haven't seen her?

BRYAN

Not since the night it all went down. I tried asking for her at the bureau, but nobody works there by the name I was giving them.

ALEX

Probably was just her alias.

BRYAN

I don't even know her real name. I thought the chemistry was real at least.

ALEX

Perhaps it was. It's just things are complicated now. You know how it is.

BRYAN

Yeah...Ok Alex, good luck to you. I hope we work together again someday.

They hug.

ALEX

The pleasure is mine Bro. Call me if you need anything.

Bryan walks out the door.

EXT: SIDEWALK – DAY

MOVING

Bryan walks out of the Washington Column building and turns around to look at it. He continues walking and sees a newspaper stand and looks at the front page of the Washington Column newspaper. We see his name in print under an article entitled, *THE DEADLY CAMPAIGN*.

ANGELIA

Good stuff.

Bryan turns around and sees Angelia standing with a Washington Column in her hand.

BRYAN

Angelia, or should I call you something else.

ANGELIA

I don't know. I sort of started liking that name.

BRYAN

I'll call you whatever you want me to call you. I'm still looking forward to our next date.

ANGELIA

You're leaving town today?

BRYAN

My flight leaves in a few hours.

ANGELIA

Want a ride to the airport?

BRYAN

You bet, maybe we can stop and grab something to eat along the way.

ANGELIA

You bet.

Bryan and Angelia walks towards the street to her car.

BRYAN

Let's start over. Hi, I'm Bryan and you are?

They start to laugh. We hear her respond but we don't hear the actual name.

FADE OUT

