1

HASAN

Yeah Omar's people, blud... they aren't... normal. You dunno who you're dealing with here. If he knew about me talking to you he'd pour petrol down my throat and light it.

JACKSON

(looking through the partition)

We got a deal... you help us locate Omar and we'll sort you out getting back to the UK...

**HASAN** 

But I've never actually seen him.. he directs operations from afar. I know he's in the tunnels in the mountains somewhere... but I don't have a clue...

Blue pulls a knife from his waistband. We think he might just kill Hasan... Hasan looks fearful. But Blue slices open Hasan's shirt, revealing a money belt bursting with local notes.

**BLUE** 

Mate, we've been following you as you drive around from farm to farm, handing out large wads of Omar's money...

HASAN

Yeah but that don't mean I've seen him

**SPANNER** 

You're paying for opium that someone else then drives round and collects.

HASAN

I just do the job I'm told to do.

JACKSON

(calling from the driving seat)

You better decide who's more fright ening.

BLUE

But remember... we're your safe passage out of here... despite you being a silly boy in Syria. So

## BLUE (CONT'D)

Have you seen this woman?

Blue shoves a photo in Hasan's face... it is Dr Bahil.

Cut to TITLES:

## 3 <u>INT. KABUL BARRACKS. BRI GADI ER' S OFFI CE - DAY</u>

3

Brigadier and Sandy standing with Georgie and Kingy. The atmosphere somewhat solemn.

### BRI GADI ER

I've read all your after action reports... remind me what our mission objective was again?

### GEORGIE

Sir, yes... to return Dr Bahil safely back to the hospital...

### BRI GADI ER

Which we would have done had you not alighted the vehicle.

#### GEORGIE

Sir. The protected person got out... I had to follow...

## BRI GADI ER

And when you returned to the vehicle did you not check who was driving, Sergeant Lane?

### GEORGI E

Yes, sir. Well, no sir... I believed it was Poya.

## BRI GADI ER

But it wasn't.

### SANDY

Brigadier, Sergeant Lane hurried Dr Bahil from the back of the compound as a firefight was taking place fifty yards to her left...

### BRI GADI ER

So your team had eyes on the vehicle throughout and no-one noticed the driver was shot, dragged from the vehicle and replaced by an insurgent, Mr Hurst?

SANDY

We... were... when the... coming down the hillside... receiving incoming...

BRI GADI ER

Do you want to know what I think? The life we were supposed to be protecting... at best, in extreme j eopardy.

GEORGI E

Exactly, sir. We need to locate and extract her... Omar's got her and...

BRI GADI ER

I understand your... personal connection to Omar...

GEORGIE

(taken aback)
This is about Dr Bahil...

BRI GADI ER

And it is being dealt with. Thank you, Sergeant Lane.

Georgie salutes and goes, leaving the Brigadier with Sandy and Kingy.

SANDY

Sir, I take full responsibility...

BRI GADI ER

(holding up a hand to silence Sandy) Your father's the chivalrous type too.

Kingy clocks this. The Brigadier clocks Kingy clocking.

BRIGADIER (CONT'D)

4

Thank you, Colour.

Kingy salutes and goes. We follow Kingy out into the corridor.

## 4 <u>INT. KABUL BARRACKS. CORRIDOR - DAY</u>

Kingy sees Georgie is waiting for him

GEORGIE

How's it being dealt with, Kingy?

KI NGY

There's a line of squaddies with rashes outside your office. Deal with that.

GEORGIE

I was thinking...

KI NGY

Please don't.

GEORGI E

But Dr Bahil... what's their plan?

KI NGY

It's being dealt with at the appropriate level... way above your head... which isn't in the game at the moment, Lane. Move.

Kingy thunders off, leaving Georgie frustrated.

## 5 INT. KABUL BARRACKS. BRIGADIER'S OFFICE - DAY

5

The Brigadier pours some water for Sandy.

BRI GADI ER

We're not going to let a ... local difficulty like this derail his son's career.

SANDY

I don't want special treatment... Dr Bahil went missing on my watch...

BRI GADI ER

Special Forces are out looking for her. Send your father my regards and I'll see him at the Regimental Dinner.

The Brigadier nods to dismiss Sandy, who turns and heads out, feeling somewhat humiliated.

## 6 INT. BACK OF LORRY/EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

6

Blue and Spanner are staring menacingly down at Hasan, who is a little fright ened.

BLUE

Think now might be a good time to start talking.

HASAN

I swear I don't know anything.

### **SPANNER**

(tapping photograph) Where is she?

### HASAN

If I knew, I'd tell you. Do you know how big Omar's territory is? It's the entire range of the mountains... and half of Kabul mate, she could be any frigging where. They're not going to tell me where she is, are they!?

Spanner gets a communication through his earpiece, picks up Hasan and lobs him out of the lorry.

### **SPANNER**

We gotta go, boss.

#### **BLUE**

(leaning out of lorry to Hasan)
We'll be back.

The lorry pulls away, leaving Hasan on the ground.

### HASAN

(shouting after them)
How the hell do I get home from here? Tossers!

The lorry disappears.

### 7 INT. KABUL BARRACKS. MALE QUARTERS - DAY

The lads are all lounging around on their beds, reading mags, on their phones, listening to music etc. Prof is on his lapt op.

7

Fingers is on FaceTime to Marie on his iPad.

### FI NGERS

Babes... you don't need all that gear... just hand luggage...

### MARI E

It's my honeymoon! I'll need stuff for evenings... and you can't wear the same thing twice...

### FI NGERS

Trunks and a t-shirt... that's all you need...

Monk throws his pillow at him

MONK

Shut up, you two... I've read the same line nine times now!

FI NŒRS

I gotta go babe... I'll try and call you tonight...

MARI E

(calling)

You alright, Monk?

MONK

Last of the red hot lovers will be with you in 48 hours, babes.

MARI E

Good... I'm starting to miss the goofy twat.

MONK

Yeah... I bet my Doris is missing me an' all.

FI NŒRS

She's missing that boil on her arse mor e.

(to Marie) Love you, Marie.

MARI E

Love you.

MONK

(pl ayf ul)

Love you... no, you put the phone down first...

FI NŒRS

(hangi ng up)

It's all bollocks but it's what you gotta do when you're in love.

M mi comes in, carrying her i Pad.

MM

Can you get wifi here..? It's shite in the girls' block.

MONK

Fingers is hogging it, M mi. Nobody use it tomorrow... I'm Skyping in for my Thumper's birthday...

MM

I'm trying to google Giti... but getting a blank.

MONK

Did you think she was gonna be on Insta?

MM

No. Obviously. Just wanna make sure she's okay... not a sin, is it?

Prof slams shut his laptop, drops it onto the floor and picks up his book. M mi heads across to him

MM (CONT'D)

What you reading, Prof?

**PROF** 

Mrs Dalloway.

MM

Oh, about the cross-dressing nanny... with that fat bloke?

**PROF** 

Are you thinking of Mrs Doubtfire... with Robin Williams?

Everyone gets on with their own stuff. M mi sits down beside Prof and talks quietly.

MM

Prof... are you okay?

**PROF** 

I'm fine... just sometimes I want a bit of peace and quiet.

MM

Like my parents when they're reading... they're teachers too.

Prof looks slightly surprised but tries not to show it.

MM (CONT'D)

(a text buzzes in, she

looks at it)

Fingers, you got your medical... Georgie's ready in five.

FI NŒRS

On it... I'll just put my boots on.

M m heads off as Throbber bursts in with two kit bags.

THROBBER

(si ngi ng)

'Do they know it's Christmas time and... feed the world...'

MONK

What's going on?

THROBBER

Father Christmas is here, that's what's going on, Monk I ad.

He opens his bags, revealing they are crammed full of confectionery... he starts to lob chocolate to everybody. They all start to devour the confectionery.

MONK

(curt)

Where did you get that all from?

THROBBER

You're not the only one with friends in high places, Monk...
(starting to throw everyone chocolate)
I shagged a bird from Bourneville once... it's a real frigging place.

MONK

( mut t er s)

I saved his life... dunno why I bot hered.

Throbber watches as they gorge, feeling very much the hero.

## 8 <u>EXT. KABUL BARRACKS. SANDHURST IN THE SAND - DAY</u>

8

Sandy and Kingy are watching the Afghan National Army training.

SANDY

You knew my father was in the regiment?

KI NGY

Of course.

SANDY

I've never asked for any favours.

KI NGY

Sir.

Kingy says nothing and they walk on in awkward silence. The Brigadier suddenly calls to them

BRI GADI ER

Mr Hurst, Colour... US comms room, ASAP.

They exchange a glance.

Unless the elections are called off, I will be killed. My death will be justified. Afghanistan must...

Dr Bahil hesitates and clearly looks up at one of her captors. We hear someone shouting at her in Pashto before they slap her across the head and the video is cut off.

GEORGIE

What's going to happen, sir?

ANTONI O

Well the elections aren't going to be called off.

GEORGI E

Why not!? They're saying they're going to kill her.

KI NGY

(over Georgie)

Lane. . .

GEORGIE

(carrying on)
At least tell them we can try to get them called off... we've got to

do something or . . .

BRI GADI ER

Dismissed, Sergeant Lane.

A increasingly frustrated Georgie salutes and hurries out of the room Beat.

BRI GADI ER (CONT'D)

(to Sandy)

Her emotional involvement makes unpleasant listening, Mr Hurst.

**SANDY** 

(chast ened)

Sir.

ANTONI O

Have Whitehall seen the video?

BRI GADI ER

(noddi ng)

Yes, and dispatched Special Forces for an initial intel-gathering op.

Antonio nods. A knock at the door and the Brigadier's assistant comes in with an American officer holding an cIES FL -, EP

## ASSI STANT

Excuse me, sir, something the Americans would like you to look at.

The Brigadier Looks a tad thrown. The American officer shows his some footage on the iPad that we don't see. The Brigadier almost rolls his eyes and beckons Sandy to see too.

BRIGADIER
This day just gets better and better, Mr Hurst.

Suddenly the door almost flies off its hinges as Sandy thunders in. Kingy standing beside him

SANDY

Do any of you know anything about any stolen confectionery from the American mess?

Beat.

**THROBBER** 

(fessing up)

Sir...

SANDY

(spinning round on him, furious)

Shut up. I don't want you to speak, I don't want you to say another fucking word.

This startles everyone, not having seen him like this before.

He continues to walk around and examine each of them at close quarters. They remain to attention.

SANDY (CONT'D)

Collective responsibility. What does that mean, Prof?

PROF

Where everybody takes equal blame...

SANDY

...for one person's crime.

Kingy picks up Throbber's bag.

KI NGY

This yours, wanker?

**THROBBER** 

The lads fancied some chocolate...

Kingy pulls out an American officer's uniform

SANDY

So... theft and impersonating an American officer...

THROBBER

Sir, none of the guys knew nothing about any of this, sir.

SANDY

So? You're all on work party punishment duty, starting with a latrine clean. And you're all losing privileges for the foreseeable future. Including internet access, phones, i Pads et cet era. Is that understood?

ALL

Sir.

SANDY

(opening his bag) All phones, i Pads, laptops in this bag now. Now!

They all quickly scurry about and drop all their equipment into Sandy's box.

SANDY (CONT'D)

If anybody makes any attempt to defy that, it will become a formal disciplinary matter.

Sandy picks up the bag and goes. Kingy stares at Throbber.

KI NGY

(quietly, disappointed)
This isn't what I expect from this
section.
 (glaring at Throbber)

You will be dealt with later.

Kingy goes. The moment he's gone, everyone starts to throw the confectionery at Throbber, fuming.

MONK

I'm gonna miss Thumper's birthday!

**THROBBER** 

(shouts)

I tried to fucking fess up but he wouldn't let me!

Monk glares at him

MONK

I'm gonna miss his first birthday. This has done me.

Throbber now looks defeated.

## 14 INT. ROLE ONE HOSPITAL - DAY

We see Georgie heading through the hospital. She gets to a room and looks inside...

Poya is in a bed, drips and monitors keeping check on his vitals etc. Antonio is checking on him Rabee is there too.

Georgie heads inside his room

GEORGIE

You haven't got this week's lottery numbers, have you Poya?

He looks at her, confused.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

Not many people get shot at pointblank range and live to tell the tale.

ANTONI O

He's a lucky man, f'sure.

GEORGIE

Did you see them at all, Poya?

ANTONI O

He'll be questioned when medically fit...

GEORGI E

But maybe we could get a description...

RABEE

The man's just been shot... he'll want to help of course but can this wait?

GEORGIE

Dr Bahil's life is in danger.

ANTONI O

He didn't see anything.

Rabee Looks at Poya.

POYA

I didn't see...

GEORGIE

(insistent)

Not hing? Even the smallest detail could save her life here.

**RABEE** 

The man is still in pain. Please.

ANTONI O

(heading out)

They head out of the room and along the corridor.

## 15 <u>INT. ROLE ONE HOSPITAL. CORRIDOR - DAY</u>

15

Ant oni o and Georgie emerge from the room. Ant oni o heading down the corridor, Georgie walking with him

anton o

It's not your job to... he's a patient, just undergone surgery... 0 0 1 243.96 658.44 TS

# antoni o

I've said sorry... I've said I want ed to take all the blame! What can I do about it if the boss wouldn't hear me out?

FI NGERS

First day since I've been married I've not actually spoken to the wife.

MONK

I just wanna look at my little boy.

THROBBER

Are you all just trying to make me feel more shit than I do already!?

With this, Throbber hurls his mop into a particularly shitencrusted mop bucket, sending a shower of shitty water over Monk.

Monk sees a brown fluid on his t-shirt and rips it off, horrified.

MONK

(screaming)

Oh my God... that's liquid shit he's just fuzzed at me.

Everybody stares open-mouthed because they've just seen the new enormous tattoo on his back... a ridiculous and not very good tat of a photo of him Doris and the baby.

Everyone is dumbstruck for a beat before falling about laughing.

Monk suddenly realises, grabs his shirt and pulls it on again. Everyone tries to pull at his shirt to keep viewing the horrendous tat.

FI NŒRS

That's why you've been showering with your shirt on... wasn't sunburn at all.

MONK

Doris made me get it done.

THROBBER

I know the tattooist was clearly battered but... it's the thought that counts, eh Monk?

Everyone turns and stares at Throbber.

MONK

Haven't you done enough, mate?

### THROBBER

Steady... ain't my fault your missus looks like she's been in a fucking fire...

Before he can finish his sentence, Monk has made a grab for Throbber but everyone pre-empts and holds him back.

FI NŒRS

Calmit! Everybody!

THROBBER

(genuinely stunned)
I was joshing... what's the matter with...

Suddenly the barracks alarm sounds, causing them all to almost freeze.

## 17 EXT. KABUL BARRACKS - DAY

17

An alarm sounds. Af ghan troops on the sangar are pointing out a farm vehicle containing rotting fruit and vegetables... and are becoming somewhat animated, suspecting the vehicle is booby trapped. They shout in Pashto for the driver to stop.

After much shouting, the Afghan troops fire straight at the engine block, in an attempt to stop the vehicle. But the vehicle carries on towards the barracks, causing even more alarm

Suddenly officers rush out from the Ops Room, desperate to stop the firing.

The Afghan Officers are screaming in Pashto for the troops to hold fire, as Sandy and Kingy hurry up the sangar to view the farm vehicle.

The Brigadier, along with the Afghan Officers, is ordering the gates to be opened and the farm vehicle allowed in. There is a degree of panic and pandemonium

The soldiers on the gates open up and the farm vehicle comes inside.

The Brigadier starts to clamber on to examine the driver, who is now slumped forward.

BRIGADIER Blue... is that you?

**BLUE** 

(we now discover Blue was the disguised driver, slumped forward but slowly rising and unwrapping his face) (MORE) BLUE (CONT'D)

'Tis I... like a Pound Shop Lawrence of fucking Arabia am dst

the rancid cucumbers.
(shouting into the rotting

vegetables) Arrive in a fruit and veg lori

'Arrive in a fruit and veg lorry', they said... 'we'll brief the guys you're coming', they said. 'They won't fucking shoot you.'

Blue exposes his arm where a bullet has nicked him Not significant but a nice bit of blood.

BLUE (CONT'D)

(shouting up to the ANA in the sangar)

Suppose I better count my blessings you're shit shots, lads.

Emerging from the rotting vegetables we see Spanner and Jackson, neither very happy, both covered in rotten fruit and veg.

BRI GADI ER

Let's get that wound seen to, Blue.

**BLUE** 

Not till I've had a shower and some scoff.

The three of them jump down from the farm vehicle and head towards the barracks, much to everybody's astonishment. They are so revered, people part as they walk through.

18

18 <u>INT. KABUL BARRACKS. GEORGIE'S MEDICAL ROOM - DAY</u>

Georgie is dressing Blue's bullet wound.

GEORGIE

You don't seem massively phased... about being shot.

**BLUE** 

I'm hungry.

GEORGIE

Won't take long... it's not a lifechanging injury.

**BLUE** 

It will be for the plank that shot me.

GEORGIE

Have you seen the Dr Bahil video?

## BLUE

That's rather why I'm here. Like I ooking for a needle in a haystack.

Blue gets up and starts to go, pulling his sleeve down on Georgie's dressing.

As he opens the door he sees the line of squaddies waiting outside. He goes. Prof, at the front of the queue, comes in.

## PROF (CONT'D)

first day at school... Christmas round her parents, wondering if he's sitting in my place... I do wonder whether it would all be so much easier if she'd just died.

Georgie glares at himlike 'you reckon?'

PROF (CONT'D)

I didn't mean... sorry, Georgie.

GEORGIE

(snaps)

Elvis being dead isn't exactly easy for me, Prof.

He nods, under st and ing.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

(calming herself down)
I need to make sure you're
alright... being part of the team

**PROF** 

Am I not allowed to... occasionally enjoy a moment of quiet reflection?

GEORGI E

Not in the army, mate!

**PROF** 

I used to text her twenty, thirty times a day... silly things... how I'd parked the car, seen a cat... not all sunsets and rainbows but the silly, normal, everyday things.

Georgie is struck by this.

GEORGIE

(confessing)

After Elvis died... I had this old answer message he'd left... I used to listen to it just to hear his voice.

The two of them hold each other's stare. Another medic comes in and collects some equipment.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

(turning on her computer)
Did you download your BPM stats
from your Garmin?

**PROF** 

Yep sent them over... I think you'll find my heart, ironically, is in fine fettle.

Georgie looks at the screen with his stats on and suddenly gets a light-bulb moment.

GEORGIE

Fuck.

PROF

What?

GEORGIE

Shit.

Georgie leaps up and almost runs out of the room, leaving Prof staring after her.

PROF

I have that effect on women...

## 19 INT. ANTONIO'S OFFICE - DAY

19

Antonio is behind his desk as Georgie knocks and comes straight in.

GEORGIE

I think I've cracked it.

ANTONI O

Come in.

She sits down.

GEORGIE

I think I might have a way to track the hospital vehicle Dr Bahil was abducted in.

He stares at her.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

When we were off on the vaccination mission... Dr Bahil told me to lose my watch. I stuck it in the pouch abducted in.

(tapping location)

Dr Bàhil.

Georgie Looks delighted.

**BLUE** 

Well, it's showing us which haystack to look for the needle in... so it's a start.

ANTONI O

Time's not on our side here.

BLUE

We'll send a drone up...
(tapping the screen)
this is quite a large area... we'll
monitor footage and hopefully
locate the vehicle.

Georgie and Antonio smile at each other.

## 21 INT. KABUL BARRACKS. MALE QUARTERS - DAY

21

Everyone is returning from latrine clean punishment duty. They are fairly filthy, and desperate for a shower. The atmosphere is tense and Throbber appears to have been sent to Coventry. He is very much on his own as everyone grabs their shower stuff.

Kingy comes in.

KI NGY

Jeez, it's ripe in here.

They all look up at him, no-one wanting to join in with any jokes.

KINGY (CONT'D)

Guys, you gotta learn to take your punishment on the chin... I don't want a section of sulky Sues... is that understood?

ALL

( mut ed)

Yes, Col our.

Kingy notices Throbber a little on his own.

KI NGY

Throbber, my office, 18:00 hours.

Kingy turns and goes. Throbber wonders whether he's in even more trouble.

## 22 EXT. RURAL FARM. AFGHANI STAN - DAY

22

We see a rural farm compound. Clearly much of the acreage is dedicated to poppy growing.

In the sky is a drone shooting footage, searching for the vehicle.

## 23 INT. KABUL BARRACKS. COMMS ROOM - DAY

23

Ant oni o, Blue and Georgie are studying the footage from the drone.

### GEORGI E

Let's just stick to the roads where the car could have gone.

They watch as the drone changes direction and lowers slightly.

#### BLUE

Your watch battery might have died and the vehicle been moved.

### ANTONI O

Or they're holding her in one of the farm buildings.

He flashes her a look. Her face is steely, determined and focused on the monitor.

## 24 EXT. RURAL FARM. AFGHANI STAN - DAY

24

We see the drone scouring the area. No sign of the hospital vehicle.

We see the drone flying low. We think we see the vehicle hidden behind some trees down a track.

GEORGIE (V.O.)

I think that's the hospital vehicle... by the trees.

BLUE (V.O.)

Bi ngo.

## 25 INT. KABUL BARRACKS. COMMS ROOM - DAY

25

Antonio, Georgie and Blue high five. On the monitor they see a farmer (Arush) emerge from the compound with a weapon. There are a few other men, also with weapons, who get into a 4 x 4 and pull away, leaving Arush alone. He heads back inside the farm building.

## 26 INT. KABUL BARRACKS. COMMS ROOM - DAY

26

Blue looks at Georgie briefly, before getting up and hurrying out.

GEORGIE What do you think?

BLUE

What do you fucking think?

But he's gone. Ant oni o and Georgie exchange a glance before following him out.

## 27 <u>INT. KABUL BARRACKS. BRIGADIER'S OFFICE - DAY</u>

27

Blue, Georgie and Antonio are in with the Brig, Sandy and Kingy.

BRI GADI ER But we have no intel

### **BLUE**

... we can go in and have your guys in a support role... controlling the roads...

The Brigadier nods.

BRI GADI ER

Good. Good.

(flashing a look at
Georgie, borderline
sarcasm)

Well done, Sergeant Lane.

Georgie half nods, her face full of serious intent.

## 28 <u>INT. KINGY'S OFFICE - DAY</u>

28

Kingy is studying a map of Afghan on his wall. Throbber, now showered and clean and in his uniform, comes in.

### THROBBER

Col our Sergeant.

KI NGY

(still staying focused on the map)
Helmand province. When I told my brother I was coming back to Afghan... he told me to look for his leg. He was a para... they're different gravy.

He turns and looks at Throbber.

THROBBER

I'm really sorry, Colour Sergeant King.

KI NGY

Not your fault he stood on an IED, was it?

THROBBER

(trying to be overly
 proper)
I meant... I'm sorry about my
behaviour and from henceforward...

Kingy raises a hand to stop Throbber talking. Kingy seems strangely calm and kind.

KI NGY

I think you're a nice kid... I think you'll grow into a decent human being...

Throbber seems a little taken aback, not sure what to say.

KINGY (CONT'D)

... just not in the army.

This is a body blow surprise to Throbber.

THROBBER

Colour... I... please... I won't muck up again... I'm so sorry...

KI NGY

I'm not telling you off, Throbber I'm just... not sure you're cut out for military life.

THROBBER

I am, Colour... please... let me prove it to you.

KI NGY

It's not right for everyone.

THROBBER

Please...

KI NGY

Why do you think it's right for you?

THROBBER

Because I've got not hing else.

Silence. Kingy contemplates how to play this.

KI NGY

But that's not enough.

Throbber looks at him

KINGY (CONT'D)
In the paras... if they're under snipper attack but can't see where it's coming from .. one of the group would volunteer to come out from cover, take a bullet so the others could see where the attack was coming from

(tapping his head) It's a mindset to sacrifice yourself to save the group. Are you here to serve and do your duty, or cos you've got not hing else?

**THROBBER** 

( det er mi ned) I want to stay.

KI NGY

Think about it and we'll discuss in a few days.

Throbber turns and marches out as quickly as he can. On Kingy's desk, Throbber sees a photo of Kingy with his brother, the brother in his Para beret, proud as punch.

29 OMI TTED 29

### 30 EXT. KABUL BARRACKS - DAY

30

All the vehicles are being loaded. We see Blue, Spanner and Jackson organising.

2 Section arriving with their kit. Sandy nods to Georgie, who salutes and heads towards the SF vehicle. We stay on Sandy as he joins Kingy and the Brig.

SANDY

Happy with the briefing, Brigadier?

BRI GADI ER

Want you to orchestrate operations with me... from the Ops Room Colour Sergeant King can handle it.

SANDY

(st unned)

I need to be with my guys.

BRI GADI ER

Don't make this awkward, Sandy.

SANDY

Sir, I'm one hundred percent on this mission. They're not going without me.

The two men hold each other's stare. Sandy is determined and focused. It's like a battle of wills to see who will back down first. Silence.

KI NGY

Sir, for my two penn'orth... we need the bossman with us.

Brigadier takes this in.

BRI GADI ER

Carry on then, Mr Hurst.

The Brigadier turns and goes. Sandy looks at Kingy, clearly grateful. Kingy pretends not to notice.

## 31 EXT. ROADWAY - DAY

We see an Afghan man who we recognise as Hasan, sitting on the ground behind some trays of produce, as to all appearances, he is trying to sell vegetables to any passing traffic.

He has a small canvas tent up, protecting his produce... but which he also uses as cover, enabling him to use his binoculars and look at the distant, rural farm

Hasan's phone buzzes. He goes behind his canvas for cover, picks up his bins and answers the phone.

### **HASAN**

(into phone)

No movement in or out. Yeah, yeah bruv I got eyes on and the only way in or out is past me fam and I'm telling you... nada. If they was there, then they is still there blud. Oi oi oi... after this yeah, you bang gotta get me back to Brum cos this food is making me ill... I mean proper ill in my guts... I'm shitting sand.

## 32 <u>EXT. RURAL FARM/EXT. SF DUG IN - DAY</u>

32

31

We see the rural farm from the drone footage.

### BLUE (V. O.)

Intelligence suggests the hostage is being kept in this rural compound here. There's been no movement in or out so we move tonight. Under cover of darkness.

## 33 <u>INT. KABUL BARRACKS/EXT. SF DUG IN - NI GHT</u>

33

The platoon are putting the final touches to their combat patrol order.

We see 2 Section amongst them looking sharp, focused and very much up for this mission. Each helping one another with any final adjustments to full battle, under the buddy-buddy system

## BLUE (V. O.)

Delta fire team, securing the roadway... Colf and Oscar tabbing the last mile. Colf fire team.. fanning out around the buildings, 360 degrees. Oscar... we strike and breach building, rescuing hostage and neutralising any resistance.

All appears still in the darkness. Slight movements. Nothing more.

**BLUE** 

(whispers into mic)
Oscar team, prepare to move...

The stillness and silence add to the tension. We see Blue signal to Spanner on the door and Jackson and Sandy on the roof.

BLUE (CONT'D)

Move now!

On his instruction Spanner kicks in the door. Blue leads his team (Kingy, Throbber, Fingers, Monk and Prof) inside as Jackson and Sandy swing down on ladders from the roof and smash into the upstairs rooms, throwing flash bangs in before they follow in.

This is all perfectly synchronised and takes seconds. We see lots of the ensuing action through the soldiers' body cam footage.

Georgie and M mi squat either side of the kicked-down door and await any call-in. They know not to move till they hear 'medic' or 'man down'.

## 41 INT. RURAL FARM - NIGHT

41

Smoke and blasts, shouts and smashes as the guys work their way systematically through the downstairs before Blue leads them up the stairs.

<sup>&#</sup>x27;medic' LONIT.' n RAUDRANI2 TIGARM. OUR STIAMR'S ag NIGHT

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Don't you dare move lady or I will shoot!

Georgie and M mi hurry in and stare at the wife.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Search the woman! She's got something under neath her robes!

They move forward and begin their search, revealing she is pregnant. Georgie and M mi look at each other before they both turn in unison and stare at Jackson... the penny drops.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Ch, shit. Boss, we got an issue.

Blue rushes in and sees her pregnant stomach.

BLUE

Well it weren't me.

Blue blindfolds and plastic cuffs Arush and lays him on the floor.

The children cry but are clean. When they see their mother being blindfolded and cuffed the children's screams become intense and manic/panicked.

## 43 INT/EXT. BARN AREA OF COMPOUND - NIGHT

43

Spanner stalks in, weapon prepped. Scouring every inch with his eyes. He spots some old shit

Mrs Arush screams. Prof sticks his head round the door.

PROF

Need anything?

GEORGIE

Towel s.

**PROF** 

Rightio. Bath or hand?

GEORGIE

Now!

Prof disappears.

# 45 <u>INT. RURAL FARM. DOWNSTAIRS ROOM - NIGHT</u>

45

Arush, sitting on a chair, looks up to the screams. Blue stands over him Kingy and Sandy are there too.

BLUE

(pointing and gesturing in staggered English, desperate to get Arush to comprehend)

So that ambulance...
(he makes the universal ambulance sound)

...you've never seen it before?

ARUSH

(in Pashto)

I don't under st and... I have done not hing...

**BLUE** 

(with a sigh)

He says he knows not hing about the ambul ance parked outside his pissing window...

Blue shows him the photograph of Dr Bahil.

BLUE (CONT'D)

Do you recognise this woman?

Arush shakes his head.

Spanner comes in, carrying a brick of opium wrapped in cling film

**SPANNER** 

Boss, have a look at what I found. And there's a wee bit more where that came from He hands the block to Blue and as he does, Arush sees it and goes absolutely hysterical, shouting and hollering in Pashto, literally a man possessed.

Sandy and Kingy do all they can to restrain him Blue holds the block so Arush can't get near it.

SANDY

Calmyourself, sir.

Arush, hysterical, carries on shouting manically in Pashto.

BLUE

What are you wanging on about?

ARUSH

Georgie is trying to calm M s Arush and checking on her vitals.

GEORGIE M mi, if you've got any bright MM

Georgie! I think her waters have broken.

Georgie looks at Blue like 'we can't move her'.

BLUE

Shitting hell, this never happened to Andy McNab.

Blue heads downstairs. Georgie goes back into the bedroom

## 48 INT. RURAL FARM. DOWNSTAIRS - NIGHT

48

Blue comes back down and joins Sandy and Kingy.

BLUE

Slight change of plan... you're staying and so's that block of heroin.

SANDY

What? We're...

BLUE

Plan B. Your medics can't leave their patient yet...

(pointing at the block of heroin)

And I'm hiding a tracker in that and hoping it leads us to Omar and eventually Dr Bahil. Need to get everyone out before first light...
I'll be staying here with my guys.

Sandy contemplates for a beat.

SANDY

Shall we send Delta and Golf fire teams back to zero... Oscar can stay here, concealed. Potential back up and a protection force for our medics.

Kingy looks at him, impressed. Blue takes it in.

**BLUE** 

(into n.

## 49 EXT. ROADWAY - NI GHT

49

We see Delta and Golf teams under the cover of darkness returning to their vehicles and boarding.

## 50 INT. RURAL FARM - NIGHT

50

Arush is sitting on a chair, his arms behind his back still bound. Blue sits in front of him They are alone.

ARUSH

They will kill all.

**BLUE** 

We need to put the block back wherever they're meant to pick it up from

ARUSH

They will find your tracker...

**BLUE** 

That won't happen.

Arush scoffs. Blue cuts his arms free.

BLUE (CONT'D)

The tracker will lead us to Omar... and the hostage. Omar will not be around to bother you.

ARUSH

You think you will get Omar?
(he shakes his head,
ripping open his shirt
showing lashing scars)
You kill one Omar... ten more Omars
come... ever since I was a child...
punished for taking a pen from a
British soldier when I was seven
years old.

**BLUE** 

You don't have to live in fear for the rest of your life.

BLUE (CONT'D)
You can do something that can help change things. Or you can go screaming out of the door, let Omar and his men know we're here, watch them slaughter us and sign up for no change... live your life in perpetual fear.

Blue stands and leaves the room Arush, alone, listens to the cries from his wife upstairs.

51 <u>OMI TTED</u> 51

51a CM TTED 51a

# 51b INT. RURAL FARM. UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

51b

M mi is with Mrs Arush as Prof sticks his head round the door.

PROF

You okay, M mi?

MM

I think so... hope so.

**PROF** 

How long do these things generally... as a rule... take?

MM

How long's a piece of string? Think this could take hours.

PROF

You do know what you're doing, yes?

M mi looks back at him

PROF (CONT'D)

I don't mind what you tell people but...

MM

What do I tell people?

PROF

I thought you said your mum was a teacher. If she's not a midwife...

MM

I dunno what you're talking about.

**PROF** 

...if you're making stuff up in here...

MM

(caught out)

We've googled stuff too so... it doesn't even matter!

PROF

(kind and gentle)

We can be honest with each other...

MM

And we need some privacy.

M mi shuts the door.

52 OMI TTED 52

53 OMITTED 53

## 54 <u>INT. RURAL FARM. DOWNSTALRS ROOM - NIGHT</u> 54

Georgie has come down to pick up some hot water. She sees Blue fiddling with his dressing.

GEORGI E

Need to change your dressing, while we've got a moment.

**BLUE** 

Have we got a moment?

GEORGI E

M mi'll shout if she needs me.

Blue half nods and takes off his shirt. Georgie sits him down and starts to clean the wound and apply new dressing as they converse. Blue leans back in the chair.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

Didn't your teacher used to say, 'don't swing on your chair or you'll fall off and break your neck'?

Blue sits back down on his chair properly. She stops talking and concentrates on finishing dressing the would.

**BLUE** 

El vi s and I did a mission together in Estonia.

GEORGIE

I didn't know that.

**BLUE** 

I hope you don't mind me saying.

GEORGIE

No. Of course not.

**BLUE** 

I know what he felt about you... and I know...

He shakes his head and stops talking.

GEORGIE

I can take anything. Tell me.

**BLUE** 

All he wanted was a life with you... and he was trying to work out an exit strategy because... well, this job and a happy family life don't exactly go hand in hand.

Georgie nods.

BLUE (CONT'D)

And for him to die in a trap like that...

GEORGI E

What do you mean?

Blue realises Georgie didn't know.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

What the fuck do you mean Blue?

BLUE

Omar was luring British soldiers into that building to kill them

GEORGIE

But we didn't know that...

BLUE

The authorities knew all about Omar... they should have neutralised him early doors instead of letting him grow into... the untouchable he is now.

GEORGIE

Could they have killed him earlier?

**BLUE** 

He was a target that should have been nipped in the bud... we weren't allowed to pursue him But no one kills a blade and lives to tell the tale.

GEORGIE

When you get him.. Omar... aren't you going to... bring him back to justice?

**BLUE** 

(giving a little shake of the head)
Doesn't work like that.

Georgie looks a little thrown.

BLUE (CONT'D)

When we go in... our Modus Operandi is... double tap. No recriminations, no appeals...

Blue mimes one bullet in the head, one bullet in the heart.

She heads outside, Blue can see how upset she is.

# 55 <u>EXT. RURAL FARM - NI GHT</u>

55

Georgie emerges, comes round the corner and finds an abandoned outbuilding where she can hide.

We follow her into the building that has no roof, just the stars above. She looks up and starts to cry.

She hears someone coming out of the farm She tries to sort herself out. She stands and wipes her face. Suddenly Fingers appears round the corner.

FI NGERS

What you up to?

GEORGIE

Just...

She points upward whilst trying to control her panic attack.

FI NGERS

Look at all them stars. Freaky. There's like... billions. Have they got more stars here than in Lanzarote?

GEORGIE

Think they got the same number.

FI NGERS

Yeah? We and Marie are gonna count them

She moves past him.. he takes her arm

FINGERS (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

She struggles not to cry.

FINGERS (CONT'D)
Georgie... Georgie, what's up man?

GEORGIE

I thought I had everything in a little box in my mind... felt I'd never need to open it again...

FI NŒRS

What d'you mean, bae?

GEORGIE

I knew it'd be hard but... I just keep being reminded of Elvis... he was so alive here... is so alive here.

Fingers is floored, not sure what to say.

GEORGIE (CONT'D)

He's in the ether... every breath I take...

As she cries, Fingers holds her.

GEORGIE (CONT'D) (crying)

GEORGIE

These things take longer than you think.

BLUE

Have you got an ETA?

GEORGIE

Fully dilated so now... ish...

**BLUE** 

You'll need to stay with the patient, then, but keep noise to a minimum and... low profile.

Georgie nods.

BLUE (CONT'D)

Lieutenant Hurst, all weapons and ammunition with you. If there is contact, you are in pole position. Prepare for phase one.

SANDY

Roger that.

## 56 <u>EXT. RURAL FARM - DAY</u>

56

We see Blue dug in. He gets a message in his earpiece.

SANDY (V. O.)

4 x 4 en route, over.

**BLUE** 

(into mic)

All call signs on me... medics, not seen or heard. Roger that. Over.

Blue signals to Spanner and Jackson who we see are dug in further along.

## 56a INT. RURAL FARM. UPSTAIRS - DAY

56a

Mrs Arush groans loudly. Mrm is signaling for Mrs Arush to try to be quiet. Georgie wipes Mrs Arush's head with a towel soaked in the hot water she went to get downstairs.

## 57 <u>EXT. RURAL FARM. ROOFTOP - DAY</u>

57

We see 2 Section fanned out. Eyes on distant but approaching  $4 \times 4$ .

SANDY

All focused, guys.

KI NGY

Thr obber?

THROBBER

Col our.

PROF

The next ten minutes may well define us...

KI NGY

(snapped whisper)

Focus.

They are focused and now fall silent.

# 58 <u>EXT. ROADWAY - DAY</u>

58

We see the  $4 \times 4$  making its way towards the rural farmhouse.

#### 59 EXT. RURAL FARM - DAY

59

The 4 x 4 swings in. Two Afghanis alight. One heads to the door, the other to where the opium blocks have been placed. He picks it up and shows his colleague, who nods and bangs on the door.

## 60 <u>EXT. RURAL FARM. ROOFTOP - DAY</u>

60

We see Sandy, Kingy, Fingers, Throbber, Monk and Prof all fanned out across the roof.

Sandy flashes a look at Kingy, not sure what's going on.

SANDY

Don't think that's supposed to happen.

KI NGY

In fucking deed not.

## 61 OM TTED

61 \*

Spanner and Blue both hidden.

SPANNER

ARUSH

(in Pashto)

My wife... she is having a baby.

He points upstairs. Beat as they look upwards.

## 63b INT. RURAL FARM. UPSTAIRS - DAY

63b

Georgie and M mi keep as still and quiet as possible, hearing the men downstairs. They exchange a concerned look.

## 63c INT. RURAL FARM. DOWNSTAIRS ROOM - DAY

63c

The men turn, I ook at Arush, before grabbing him and dragging a protesting Arush outside.

## 63d EXT. RURAL FARM - DAY

63d

The men are uncompromising. One takes hold of Arush by his clothing and drags him to the  $4 \times 4$ .

**BLUE** 

(whispers into mic) Hold your fire.

## 64 EXT. RURAL FARM. ROOFTOP - DAY

64

We see Sandy, Kingy, Fingers, Throbber, Monk and Prof all fanned out across the roof.

Sandy flashes a look at Kingy, not sure what's going on.

## 65 EXT. RURAL FARM - DAY

65

Blue watches as Arush is hooded and bundled into the  $4\times4$  with the two men. We see them starting to bind his arms and feet with gaffer tape.

**BLUE** 

(into mic)

Think he just said Omar. Over.

BLUE

(into mic)

Lieutenant Hurst, stay in position... but prepare to move to RV point at notice. If you've not heard from us in one hour, make your way to the RV point and back to base. Out.

Blue signals to Spanner and Jackson to prepare to move. Blue, on his belly, approaches the back of the  $4\times4...$  the rear open space has a sort of tarpaulin pulled over it.

Blue lifts the tarpaulin and lies on the bottom of the rear area. Spanner and Jackson join him

# 66 INT. UNDER THE TARPAULIN OF THE 4 X 4 - DAY

66

Blue, Spanner and Jackson lie flat as the vehicle pulls away.

JACKSON

(whi spers)

This is the last time I let you get me into trouble, boss.

BLUE

Li ght wei ght.

Spanner shakes his head and checks on his weapon.

## 67 EXT. ROADWAY/MOUNTAIN PASS - DAY

67

We see the 4 x 4 heading up the mountain pass.

## 68 EXT. RURAL FARM. ROOFTOP - DAY

68

Sandy and Kingy have eyes on the 4 x 4 through their bins as

Arush looks desperate. How did he know!?

Omar drops the tracker into a bucket of water before turning back and slapping Arush across the head.

ARUSH
(in Pashto)
It wasn't my fault... it was the British... they came to find Dr Bahil...

Arush drops to the floor and begs at Omar's feet. Omar waves his hand, signaling to the others to take him out.

They grab Arush and start to drag him out, screaming as best he can.

## 76 <u>EXT. OMAR'S TEMPORARY COMPOUND - DAY</u>

76

The men drag out Arush and throw him into the back of the van with the explosives. He is handcuffed to the heaviest of cylinders. No escape.

A young man of about 18 is brought out of the dwelling and put behind the wheel. Omar emerges and shakes the his hand.

**CMAR** 

(in Pashto)

You will be martyred and your family looked after.

The man nods.

Blue has witnessed this. He sees the men scramble into a vehicle behind the 4 x 4 and both vehicles pull away.

Omar gesticulates to two henchmen who go into a tent, grab Dr Bahil and drag her out. They throw her at Omar's feet. Omar takes out his phone to film the killing. He films himself first.

OMAR (CONT'D)

(in Pashto)

We gave our demands... you ignored them.. you have killed your friend.

DR BAHLL

Please...

We see Blue on the wire to Spanner and Jackson.

**BLUE** 

(whispers into mic)
Spanner fire from the right,
Jackson fire from the left...
prepare to engage...

Omar points the camera at Dr Bahil... and he nods to a henchman to fire. The henchman starts to pull his weapon.

BLUE (CONT'D)

(into mic)

Engage!

Blue takes out the henchman as Spanner and Jackson engage from left and right.

Within moments, all of Omar's men have been clinically killed. Omar makes a move for his weapon... but even before he has it raised, Blue is on him, pointing his weapon at Omar's head.

BLUE (CONT'D)

I can't tell you how much I've looked forward to meeting you.

Spanner and Jackson arrive by his side. All with weapons pointing.

## 77 EXT. RURAL FARM. ROOFTOP - DAY

77

Sandy and Kingy and 2 Section still on the roof. Sandy gets a message over the wire.

BLUE (V. O.)

(through radio)
M ke one zero Alpha this is zero
one zero Alpha... target rescued
alive, MERT called to evacuate to
zero. Return to RV point. ASAP.
Over.

We see 2 Section delighted.

## 77a INT. RURAL FARM. UPSTAIRS - DAY

77a

Georgie having heard through wire.

GEORGIE

(into mic)

What about Omar? Was he there?

## 78 <u>EXT. OMAR' S TEMPORARY BASE - DAY</u>

78

Spanner is administering first aid to Dr Bahil, who is in a bad way.

Omar Looks back with menace.

# 80a <u>INT. RURAL FARM - DAY</u>

80a

The rest of the section are preparing to evacuate. Blue radios into them

BLUE (V. O.)

(through radio)
M ke one zero al pha this is zero
one zero al pha... evacuate the farm
building... vehicle-borne IED
heading towards building...
evacuate and clear vicinity...
over.

They all stop and look somewhat horrified.

FI NGERS

We stop it before it reaches target.

81 EXT. RURAL TRACKS. HEADING TO RV POINT - DAY

81

CUT

## 82 <u>EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY</u>

82

We see the 4 x 4 making its way down the road towards the rural farm the young driver, Arush secured in the back with the explosives. The Taliban follow in another vehicle.

82a INT. RURAL FARM. UPSTAIRS - DAY

82a8 2 a

Georgie and Mmi look up stunned.

FI NŒRS

We're stopping it, Georgie...

KI NGY

Can't we try and move you guys at least to...

Mrs Arush lets out an ear piercing scream

FI NGERS

We're stopping it.

Fingers heads out with determination. Kingy follows.

# 82b <u>EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY</u>

82b

The truck bomb carries on its way. We see the driver, crying... as he prays.

We see Arush in the back, handcuffed and trapped. Desperate, he knows where the truck is heading.

#### 82c EXT. RURAL FARM - DAY

82c

Sandy and Kingy have eyes on the approaching truck. 2 Section are fanned out in various strategic positions.

SANDY

Prepare to fire... fire!

The guys unleash a barrage of bullets at the truck. We see the faces of alarm as it appears not to be slowing down.

## 82d INT. RURAL FARM. UPSTAIRS - DAY

82d

We see Georgie and M mi finally delivering the baby.

## 82e EXT. RURAL FARM - DAY

82e

Our guys still firing, the truck still approaching at speed. Of ose on Fingers' determined face, he fires into the engine block, the truck starts to lock as it get closer and closer to the rural farm

## 82f EXT. OMAR'S TEMPORARY COMPOUND - DAY

82f

We see Blue, Spanner and Jackson all on their bins, watching the truck bomb explode into a million pieces, close to the farm

# 82g EXT. RURAL FARM - DAY Fingers, Sandy, Kingy, Throbber, Prof and Monk are illuminated by the fireball... they shelter as the debris from the explosion falls from the sky. 83 OMITTED 83 84 OMITTED 85

# 86 <u>INT. RURAL FARM. UPSTAIRS - DAY</u>

86

The aftermath of the explosion outside... we see the flames and debris crashing around as Georgie and M mi look at Mrs Arush, cradling her new born baby.

Fingers rushes in and sees the scene, all safe.

GEORGIE

That was close.

FI NGERS

Never in doubt.

He winks, relieved. She smiles and nods her head before she reaches across to M mi and play punches her arm

GEORGIE

Well played, Saunders.

FI NGERS

Right you guys... let's get back to the day job.

# 87 EXT. RURAL TRACKS. HEADING TO RV POINT - DAY

87

2 Section are all packed and heading off.

KI NGY

Local forces alerted... medical help on the way to Mrs Arush.

MM

Yes... fine.

SANDY

We wait here, lie low... then when all clear we move to RV point. Everybody stay down.

They all lie as low as they can in the ditch.

# 89 EXT. ROADWAY. DITCH - DAY

89

Sandy looks along the line.

SANDY

Right guys...

Sandy stands. As he does, an incoming bullet just misses him causing him to dive back down into the ditch where there is cover.

SANDY (CONT'D)

Everybody stay down!

ALL

Boss.

MONK

Where the fuck did that come from?

**PROF** 

The mountains somewhere... it landed behind you.

SANDY

Call it in, Fingers.

FI NŒRS

(into radio)

Oscar to zero, contact, wait out.

Sandy and Kingy look at the large mountainside facing them

SANDY

RV point about 400 yards.

KI NGY

We can't risk moving from here, boss. Not unless we can locate where the incoming is coming from and offer cover.

Sandy nods. We look along the line of our guys, sheltering in the ditch... all with different thoughts.

90 <u>OMI TTED</u> 90

We close in on Throbber who has his jaw set and a determined look in his eye. Throbber is out of the ditch and making a dash along the roadway towards the RV point.

Everyone screams at him to get back, what are you doing, Throbber, etc.

As Throbber runs he attracts incoming, allowing the others to see the Taliban location.

KI NGY

Two o'clock... incoming!

SANDY

Return fire at will, repeat return fire!

They all fire now the Taliban location is apparent. We see Throbber... his life literally dependent on it.

## 92 <u>EXT. RV POINT - DAY</u>

92

Throbber has arrived unscathed at the RV point, sees the

MM

(seeing Monk and Prof still firing) Guys, let's move!

They start all scramble on board. Sandy last to board.

## 95 <u>INT. OSCAR ARMOURED VEHCILE - DAY</u>

95

Everyone breathless and adrenalined, on board. Kingy taking over the driving seat.

MONK

Never thought I'd be pleased to see you, Throbber.

GEORGI E

Is everybody okay?

**ALL** 

Ser geant.

KI NGY

Well done, Throbber... never do anything that fucking stupid again, under stood?

PROF

I don't know how many of them were up there firing down at us...

THROBBER

Mllions, Prof...

**PROF** 

You're lucky they're lousy shots.

Laught er and general slapping Throbber on the back.

SANDY

Let's hold the celebration till we're back at zero, guys.

Georgie notices Fingers hasn't responded. She stares at him, horrified, as blood starts to come from a chest wound, bullet crept in from a gap in shoulder armour.

GEORGIE

(panicked, screams)
Fingers is hit! Man down! Give me some room here. Fingers! Stay with me!

We close on Fingers' desperate, fright ened face.

End of Episode Three.