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Response

Pilot

By Nimrod Harel

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In 2012 The Interpol requited the first Incident Response Team. An IRT is a small unit made of people with special expertise that can be briefed, equipped and deployed anywhere in the world within 12 to 24 hours of an incident, crime or disaster.

This is their story.

Well, sort of.

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INT. ECONOMY CLASS, AIRPLANE - DAY

On a flight from Hong Kong to LA, a gorgeous Chinese flight attendant walks along the aisles, making sure the passengers are buckled up before landing. The plane is filled to the brim, and the attendant makes her way through exhausted American and Asian passengers till--

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Sir, I'm going to have to ask you to fold your tray in preparation for landing.

PAVEL, 32, a skinny and meticulous looking Russian, smiles and nods. Once the flight attendant walks off, he proceeds to open a box of LEGO on the tray in front of him. He removes parts that are clearly not LEGO pieces while TAI, 6, a Chinese boy with observant eyes watches Pavel closely from the seat next to him. Pavel notices his little neighbor's interest.

PAVEL

Do you know what this is?

Tai shakes his head. Pavel hands the boy one of the pieces.

PAVEL

Here, hold this.
You know, the mayor of Kiev used to say: "It's nothing until it's something." Do you understand English? (Tai doesn't respond)
Surely more than Russian.

Pavel takes the piece from Tai and puts it up to the light.

PAVEL

It's the firing pin. The catalyst.
It's where everything begins.

Pavel assembles the FIRING PIN. The flight attendant walks up to them again, but Pavel isn't fazed... the white "toy" he assembled doesn't seem menacing in any way.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Sir, please fold your tray.

PAVEL

I'm just assembling his toy (winks at Tai). Give us another minute?

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The flight attendant's maternal instincts kick.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Take two.

Pavel waits for her to walk away, and then quickly assembles the last piece of the GUN. He then places a black pen and a box of Digoxin CAPSULES (against irregular heartbeat) on the tray. He opens the pen cover, screws out the head, and five tiny metal BULLET CASINGS spill onto the tray. He removes one of the Digoxin capsules, opens it carefully, and empties its BLACK GUN POWDER out into the bullet casing on the tray. When he's done filling the bullet casings he lines them up in a row like little soldiers. Tai watches, intrigued. Pavel puts his hands behind his neck and removes a CHAIN with five bullets instead of beads. He removes the bullets and hands them to Tai.

PAVEL

Go ahead, smell it.

Tai fearlessly smells the bullets, and quickly distorts his face. Gross. Pavel smiles.

PAVEL

Phosphate. (puts a finger to his lips) Shhh...

Pavel quickly sticks a bullet in each of the casings on the tray, then LOADS two of them into the gun.

PAVEL

It's nothing until it's something, right? (to Tai) What's your name?

Tai doesn't understand the question.

PAVEL

(pointing at his chest)

Pavel.

TAI

(pointing at his chest)

Tai.

Pavel removes a PHOTO of his son PIOTR, 8, light hair. Pavel smiles sadly at the photograph for one last moment, then swiftly opens the safety buckle and stands up. He cocks his gun and walks along the aisle to the front of the plane, the

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gun JIGGLING at his side. The passengers watch him with baffled expressions.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Sir, please return to your seat.

Pavel walks right by her and proceeds to the flight attendants' MICROPHONE, putting it to his mouth.

PAVEL
Ladies and gentlemen, I need your attention. (Shouts) Now! This is a gun. (Aims it at the passengers) As of this moment, this plane is hijacked.

The passengers look at each other, skeptical at what's being said; that sure doesn't look like a gun. Mutters and whispers fill the cabin. Pavel knew that he'd have to find a way to convince them: he aims the gun at the head of a man sitting several rows in front of him and... BANG! BLOOD spatters on the passengers behind him followed by high pitched Screams and crying. Pavel lets the passengers voice their distress until -

PAVEL
(calm)
As I was saying: This. Is. A. Gun.

He raises the gun again and aims it at the passengers. They quiet down INSTANTLY; parents place their hands on their children's' mouths. Pavel looks at Tai. The boy's innocent expression gets to him and he quickly turns away, and looks back at the passengers frozen in their seats.

END OF COLD OPEN

2. INT. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER - DAY

FBI Agents and military officials sit around a large table, whispering among themselves, passing documents, preparing for the meeting to start. DAN ELLIS, 55, FBI's head of Counter Terrorism Division sits at the head of the table, reading from the iPad in front of him.

DAN
At 9:04, L.A time, 11 minutes before landing, Albert Chan, chief pilot of flight CCA983, informed the control tower that an armed man took over the

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passenger cabin. There are no CCTVs in the plane so he couldn't give us a description of the hijacker except to say that he believes the man has a Russian accent. The transcript is in front of you. I remind you, the doors of the cockpit are locked from the inside, so unfortunately a takeover is not an option.

DAVID, 38, tall and stocky, wearing a dark suit, looks away from Dan and out the control tower window. His gaze focuses on the hangar next to the hijacked plane: He sees the SNIPERS, SWAT TEAMS and border police surrounding the plane, situated on small buildings and behind POLICE CARS. REMI, 35, stands beside him in a worn out brown leather jacket and a 3 day stubble. Dan continues talking inaudibly but the two men aren't listening; they already know what he has to say.

DAVID

The Chinese airlines operate according to Israeli security procedures. They have an undercover security officer on every flight, who's supposed to transmit a distress signal in the event of a terror attack, and if necessary handle the situation from the inside. Luckily the procedures prohibit him from being armed.

REMI

Luckily?

DAVID

We know there's one casualty and since no distress signal was transmitted, the working premise is that the security officer is out of the game. I prefer an unarmed body to an armed one.

David looks at his WATCH.

REMI

Hungry?

The question touches a nerve with David and Remi takes a moment to enjoy David's weak spot, then lights a ROLLED cigarette.

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DAVID

What's that?

David seizes the cigarette from Remi's mouth and sniffs it.

DAVID

Shit, Remi.

David tosses the cigarette on the floor and stomps it out.

REMI

LA, baby.

Remi looks up and notices that the entire room's eyes are on him. Dan's patience is going fast. Granted, he doesn't like people talking during his briefings, but it's more than that it's David.

DAN

Before I forget, we also have David Roth from Interpol with us. David heads the Incident Response Team that will provide us access to the I-24/7 organization databases. David's also a former FBI agent, specialized in crisis negotiation. He worked under me on several occasions so I'm confident that his input will be crucial in the upcoming hours.

David smiles, but Dan doesn't even try and turns his head; where he's surprised to see a Chinese man standing by the door.

DAN

(with unease)

Last but not least we have China's deputy minister of public safety, Mr. Wei Zhang to help us with the Chinese side of this mess.

WEI ZHANG, 50, nods, yet seems extremely displeased

DAN

Mr. Zhang will be updated on all the events and so obviously we'll be working in full cooperation with the Chinese government in order to bring this incident to a successful end.

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זה נראה לי חשוב וכיף לבסס את האיבה: הערת עם [061]
של דן לדיייד זה המקום intro ההדדית בין השניים. ה
המושלם לדעתי לזה

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WEI ZHANG
(to David)

What does the hijacker want?

David looks DEEP into Zhang's eyes; Dan notices this.

DAN

Mr. Zhang, we don't know yet.

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3. INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Our phone number is 057-5775577.
Please contact us. We want to know
what you need. Our phone number is
057-5775577 (repeats)

The camera follows Pavel as he stomps down the aisle, among dozens of CELL PHONES and BATTERIES, some shatter under his boots. He reaches the front of the plane. The passengers watch him in silence. Tai looks at him then stands up and walks over to him.

ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

... Contact us. We want to know what
you need...

TAI

(in Cantonese)

I need to pee.

Pavel gives the flight attendant a probing look

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

(defiant)

He needs to pee.

Pavel shakes his head and watches Tai return to his seat. Pavel freezes for a moment, then pulls the DUTY FREE CART towards him, takes a box of TOBLERONE and hands it to Tai. Tai takes the chocolate but doesn't open it. Several rows behind him, a man who looks like a hefty BEAR, with a TATTOO peeking out from under his collar, exchanges glances with the flight attendant. He secretly shows her an expensive SILVER FOUNTAIN PEN in his hand. The flight attendant doesn't understand. The man then opens the pen, shows her the pen's sharp metal tip and holds it in his fist like a WEAPON. The flight attendant shakes her head; this is

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a VERY BAD idea. Pavel notices the motion and looks at her; she dons a blank expression.

PAVEL

Take him to the bathroom.

4. EXT. RUNWAY - DAY

Dan patrols the units surrounding the plane, accompanied by David and his ASSISTANT, dressed in a dark suit.

DAN

(to his assistant)

Make sure the Chinese ambassador gets sandwiches and good wine. I don't care who authorized it, that was the last time he enters my operations room. He'll get updates on everything that's going on directly from me, no one else. Jesus, what a mess.

His assistant walks away, and Dan removes an ENERGY BAR, takes a bite and offers it to David, who looks off.

DAN

You still on that crazy clock diet?

David nods. Dan delights in another bite.

DAN

I never thought we'd meet again.

DAVID

Hoping and thinking are two different things.

DAN

Incident Response Team, some name. Do they pay well at least?

DAVID

The same, only in Euros.

DAN

David, what are you doing here? Last time I checked no one called the Interpol.

DAVID

You should have. You've got a hollow

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pipe with doors that only open outwards and walls padded with people. Show me the SWAT commander who thinks he can break in and I'll show you a SWAT commander who's going to kill ten passengers. 97% of hijackings end in catastrophe, and Dan, you don't want your name on any of them. Not when a billion Chinese are glued to their TV sets.

Dan stops; David looks at him.

DAVID

Get all your men out of the control tower, leave only the tactic and technical units. Let my team handle this and I assure you I'll put you in the 3%. If I'm wrong, you can always say that Interpol fucked up. It doesn't sound good, but it sure sounds better than admitting the FBI fucked up.

DAN

Last time I let you take over an operation I had to testify before Congress. So if you don't mind, I'll take a rain check.

Dan's assistant runs back up to him. He hands Dan a Smartphone.

DAN'S ASSISTANT

It's the boss.

Dan walks away and takes the call.

DAVID

Four hours into the incident and you still don't have a clue who's behind this and what they want.

Dan stops talking on the phone and turns to David.

DAN

We have our methods. (to the assistant) Get some sandwiches for the IRT guys.

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Dan walks away; David looks at the plane more concerned than ever.

5. INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A CHINESE MAN, 25, terrified, his face dripping with sweat, while a hand feeds him RICE with a pair of CHOP STICKS.

CHOP STICKS (O.S.)
(in Cantonese)
Sshhh...you must eat.

The Chinese man chews a little but can't swallow. The man with the chop sticks hands him a glass of water; the man drinks thirstily. The camera zooms out; and we now see that the Chinese man is being TORTURED, seated on a wooden chair, with his FEET and HANDS tied to the chair. His left hand is SWOLLEN; black and blue, while the torturer holds a HAMMER in his hand.

CHOP STICKS/TORTURER
(in Cantonese)
Let's try this again: what is his name?

6. INT. SMALL ROOM AT THE AIRPORT - DAY

Close up on a tray of sandwiches; a hand seizes one. David sits at the head of the table next to RUTH, 50, a striking British woman with unforgiving eyes, who types vigorously on her LAPTOP. Sitting next to her is DES, 30, a rugged Chinese man with the chiseled features of a soldier. ALEX, 27, a beautiful Russian woman, sits at the other end of the table and next to her, a little too close for comfort, Remi sits with the SANDWICH in hand.

RUTH
I suggested they hook up to the I-24/7 but they refused. "They don't want to share information at this point." Stupid colonists.

ALEX
David, what are we doing here?

REMI
This is a members only party and we clearly weren't invited.

DAVID
It's Grekov.

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An eerie silence. Alex looks the most stunned of all.

REMI
Not again...

DAVID
It's him. I know it. It's Grekov.

ALEX
Did you tell the FBI?

DAVID
I need proof. If I go to Dan with
nothing but a gut feeling he'll -

ALEX
(upset)
Realize this is a personal vendetta
and ask us to leave. And he'd be
right.

Ruth turns the screen to everyone, showing them a picture of Pavel taken with a HIDDEN CAMERA. The length and color of his hair are different, but there's no doubt that this is the hijacker on the plane.

RUTH
How do you identify a man who's
invisible?

Silence. Ruth examines the group's blank expressions. They've lost her.

RUTH
You can...

DES
Hear him?

RUTH
Thank God. For a moment there I
thought we were stuck in a hole in
the fabric of time.
(no one at the table gets her geek
joke)
So yes, get me a voice sample of the
hijacker and you'll have your proof.

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I saw at least two parabolic mics aimed at the plane.

REMI
(to David)

I'll get you your voice sample. But if it's not Grekov, I don't want to hear that name for the next year.

Remi leaves the room, but not before he takes another sandwich. David looks at the sandwich with longing, glances at his WATCH, it's not time yet. Des' cell phone rings.

DES
(into the phone)

Des. (surprised) I'll be right there.
(hangs up) The FBI needs someone who speaks Chinese. I've officially gone from cop to interpreter.

REMI
I hate the Chinese.

Des looks at him as if to say "Hey, I'm here!"

REMI
Not you. Generally speaking.

Des leaves the room and David eyes him SUSPICIOUSLY; he knows how to spot a lie when he sees one.

7. INT. AIRPORT, VIP LOUNGE - DAY

[**In this scene, everyone speaks Chinese]

Des enters the lounge. A stocky, tall Chinese THUG blocks his way. Des looks straight into his eyes then knocks on his chest as if knocking on a door. The thug is about to knock on Des' head, when...

ZHANG
Let him in. Deshi is one of us. Trust me, you don't want to stand in the way of a Snow Leopard.

Des studies the thug who reluctantly lets him pass.

ZHANG
Sit down, Deshi.

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Des doesn't budge.

ZHANG

Please, sit down.

Des sits down in the armchair facing Zhang. Zhang pours Des and himself a glass of WINE. He takes a sip. DISGUSTED...

ZHANG

The only thing the United States and China have in common is that neither knows how to make wine.

DES

Who authorized you to contact me directly?

Zhang gets up and walks over to the window. He looks at the hijacked plane and POURS his wine onto the carpet.

ZHANG

One hundred and twenty two of my people are on that plane and they give me sandwiches and wine that tastes like piss. I need ears in the command room, Deshi.

DES

They cut us out too.

ZHANG

I can get you back at the table. It's only fair that there be an international task force on an international incident. That's what you're here for, isn't it, Deshi?

DES

I'm no spy.

ZHANG

True. You're a Snow Leopard. And you swore allegiance to the People's Republic to protect all its citizens. Do it.

Des doesn't respond.

8. INT. PUBLIC RESTROOM - DAY

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Des washes his hands, studying his reflection in the mirror.
He leans his hands on the sink and lowers his eyes in shame.

DAVID (O.S.)

Do you know why I took you?

Des looks up and sees David in the mirror.

DES

Because they forced you to take a
Chinese man?

DAVID

(Shakes his head)

They gave me a list of "China's
finest". All fluent in three
languages, IQs of about 130,
operational background in counter
terrorism - you name it they had it.
But I chose you, you wanna know why?
(Des doesn't respond) Because the
second I met you I could tell by your
eyes that you wanted what I wanted.

DES

You're an American, you see slanted
eyes and nothing else.
Did you ever stop to think that you
all look the same to us too? (opens
his eyes wide) With this constant
stupid surprised expression.

David says nothing and looks at Des with a stupid surprised
expression. Des reflects and then -

DES

Zhang can get us back at the table.

DAVID

What does he want in return?

DES

To know everything: when it's
happening, while it's happening.

David considers what to do next, when--.

DAVID

Then we'll give him what he wants.

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Des looks surprised.

DAVID
Keep your friends close and your
enemies closer.

DES
Sun Tzu.

DAVID
(smiles)
Really? I thought I made that one up.

David walks over to the paper towel dispenser and pulls out a few PAPERS. He turns around abruptly to Des.

DAVID
Des, can I trust you?

They look into each other's eyes, trying to see beyond the visible. Finally Des nods. David studies him another moment then hands him a paper towel.

9. EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Remi walks over to a surveillance van parked by the plane, where two men are busy operating a PARABOLIC MICROPHONE for remote eavesdropping. Remi shows them his BADGE.

REMI
Remi, Interpol.

The men don't seem impressed.

REMI
I need a voice sample of the
hijacker.

EAVESDROPPER 1
(removes his headphones)
Here, listen.

Remi puts on the headphones and waits... and waits.

REMI
I don't hear a thing.

EAVESDROPPER 1
Because he's not saying anything.

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It's been 4 hours. I've been in this business for 20 years and I've yet to meet a scumbag who can keep his mouth shut for more than ten minutes.

REMI

(looks at the plane)

Clever...

Remi walks towards the plane.

EAVESDROPPER 2

Hey, what're you doing?

REMI

I'm going to make small talk.

Remi walks up the stairs by the airplane door, while several cops shout at him from a distance to stop. He reaches the door and knocks.

10. INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Pavel hears dull knocks from the door beside him. The passengers quiet down in an attempt to listen.

REMI (O.S.)

Sergeinikovichich, I'm coming in!
Move away from the door, mon cheri.

Pavel puts a finger to his lips, motioning to the flight attendant to keep quiet, then aims his gun at the door.

11. EXT. AIRPLANE STAIRWAY - DAY

A group of cops and FBI agents gather at the foot of the stairs below Remi.

AGENT WITH MEGAPHONE

Sir, come down from there at once.
That's an order.

Remi draws a GUN. The hubbub below intensifies.

AGENT WITH MEGAPHONE

Put the gun down on the ground. Put
the gun down on the ground now!

Remi gestures to them to be quiet. Eavesdropper 1 walks over to the agent with the megaphone and whispers in his ear. The

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agent understands and motions for his men to lower their weapons. Remi turns back around to the plane. He aims his gun at the plane door at a 60 degree angle and.. FIRES! The bullet PIERCES the plane.

12. INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

The bullet zooms in, SHATTERING a LIGHT over Pavel's head. The passengers begin screaming hysterically.

PAVEL
Shut up! Shut up!

He aims the gun at them; everyone shuts up.

PAVEL
(shouting)
Get away from the door!

AGENT WITH MEGAPHONE (O.S.)
Our mistake. It won't happen again.

PAVEL
Next time you pull any shit like that
you'll be removing the business class
in body bags!

13. EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Remi approaches the Surveillance team. The agent with the megaphone stands in his way.

AGENT WITH MEGAPHONE
What was that?!

Remi shoves him aside and walks by.

REMI
Not now.

The surveyors look at him slightly in shock.

REMI
You got it?

The eavesdroppers nod.

14. INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Pavel swipes a hand across his forehead. Sweat. He lost

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control and needs to get it back together. He looks up and notices a 50 year old CHINESE PASSENGER. He points his gun at him...

PAVEL

Get up.

The Chinese man shakes his head in fear.

PAVEL

Get up and stand in the aisle!

The man closes his eyes, muttering a plea in Chinese. Pavel steadies the gun.

PAVEL

Three... two... one...

The man stands up.

PAVEL

In the aisle.

The man fearfully steps into the aisle.

PAVEL

Come here.

The Chinese man slowly walks towards Pavel with his hands in the air until he is INCHES from the end of his gun. His lip quivers, but there's a calmness about him - as if he's accepted his fate. Pavel puts a hand in his pants pocket and removes... a yellow MEASURING TAPE and thick black MARKER. He hands them to the Chinese man and the man's calmness quickly becomes confusion.

15. INT. CONTROL TOWER - DAY

Dan slams down the phone and turns to David with fiery eyes.

DAN

You're crazy Frenchman shot at the plane!

David exchanges a surprised look with Alex just as his CELL PHONE rings.

REMI (O.S.)

Ruth has your voice sample.

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David nods and hangs up.

DAVID

(to Dan)

Don't worry Dan, you can thank him later. We got a voice sample of the hijacker. If he's in our voice recognition database, you'll know what his favorite cigarettes are in less than two minutes.

DAN

Your man opened fire next to an armed terrorist in a plane filled with passengers and you're talking to me about freaking cigarettes?

David looks at him, shakes his head.

DAVID

Armed with what...? You read the pilots' transcript, the hijacker had to tell the passengers twice that he has a gun and then shoot so they'd believe him. So you tell me: what gun doesn't look like a gun and can get through an X-ray machine at Chek Lap Kok, the most technologically advanced airport in the world?

Dan takes this in. He's beginning to catch on.

DAVID

(to everyone)

I believe the hijacker has a LIBERATOR that was printed on a 3D printer. The diagram was distributed online and you and your state of the art bureau (looks at Dan) managed to remove it with only a slight delay of 100,000 downloads. The good news is that the original Liberator can only fire one bullet, two at the most, before the barrel has to be changed.

DAN

You're speculating. You can't know that for sure.

DAVID

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Once our hijacker preferred to expose himself by shouting instead of wasting his next bullet he told us exactly what he has in his hand.

Dan's assistant sets down an iPad with the diagram of a DISASSEMBLED LIBERATOR, and Dan finally gives in.

DAN

...When did you come up with this?

DAVID

Just now. But I hope Remi thought of it before me.

DAN

Jesus, David. This better work.

David calls Ruth on his cell phone and puts her on speaker.

DAVID

Ruth, we need some good news.

16. INT. SMALL ROOM IN AIRPORT - DAY

Ruth types away on her laptop. On screen we see a program running searches, comparing VOICE WAVES segments.

RUTH

You just caught me on the beach with a Mojito in my hand...

17. INT. CONTROL TOWER - DAY

Dan exchanges glances with a GEEK in glasses sitting beside a YOUNG MAN with scraggly hair.

DAN

David, these guys are experts in deciphering -

David covers the SPEAKER with his hand.

DAVID

And I have a professor from Cambridge. She's a pain in the ass, but she's the only person in the world who won the Turing Award.. twice. So tell your virgin hackers thanks, but we'll take a rain check.

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RUTH (O.S.)
David? I can hear you.

David realizes he covered the speaker instead of the mic.
He's about to cover the mic then-

DAVID
(to himself quietly)
Shit.
(into the phone to Ruth)
I know... Talk to me.

David's Smartphone indicates an incoming message.

RUTH (O.S.)
You were right, David. It's him.

He gives the Smartphone to the Geek with the glasses. In seconds the Interpol profile of Pavel Grekov appears on screen: There's no doubt, that's our hijacker.

DAN
(reading off his iPad)
32 years old. A mercenary. A hit man.
Wanted in six countries for 16 cases
of abduction and murder, including
the assassination of the mayor of
Kiev, the Israeli ambassador in
Argentina... Last wanted for
hijacking a Lufthansa transport
plane last year over Yemen.

David and Dan exchange glances. They remember the incident.

DAVID
Six casualties. All the crew
members.

A CELL PHONE on the table rings. Dan stops and looks at it.
He motions to his team to track the call. He presses "answer"
and puts the call on speaker.

DAN
Dan Ellis, FBI.

PAVEL (O.S.)
Pavel Grekov, but you already know
that. I have your plane.

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DAN

What do you want?

18. INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Pavel stands over a BLACK X in the aisle. He aims his gun at it, looking at it as if hypnotized.

PAVEL

(into outdated cell)

In most airplanes the fuel is located in the tanks in the wings. But on transatlantic flights they take two to three more tanks and store them in the cargo cabin. In a 777 that's exactly 5 yards and 7 inches from the cockpit.

19. INT. CONTROL TOWER - DAY

Dan looks at a decorated Air Force General who sadly nods in agreement.

PAVEL (O.S.)

My bullets are full of phosphate.
Incen

diary ammunition, look it up in the dictionary.

DAN

Pavel, we both know that threats will get us nowhere. We're talking, that's a good thing, it's the first step towards a solution so tell me what you want and let me help you.

Silence.

PAVEL (O.S.)

The man who fired at the plane... he said "Mon cheri." Since when does the FBI hire crazy Frenchmen?

DAN

That was a mistake -

PAVEL (O.S.)

No it wasn't. Hello, David.

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David freezes. Pavel identifying him wasn't part of the plan. He says nothing until...

DAVID
Pavel, it's over.

PAVEL (O.S.)
David Roth... I guess it was only
a matter of time.

The room fills with an eerie silence, and David nervously watches Alex in concern. She's completely frozen in terror and Dan takes this all in.

DAVID
We can end this so that everyone is
happy.

PAVEL (O.S.)
You didn't come half way around the
world to make me happy.
(Breathes heavily)
If you're there, I'm a dead man.
They don't know it yet, but you and
I, we know... We know too much.

(Matter of fact)
In 1967, three Russian citizens
were arrested in Shanghai for
distributing anti Mao propaganda.
One of them died in detention, the
other two are still in Chinese
prison, awaiting trial, for 55
years. Patriots thrown to the
Chinese dogs by mother Russia. How
easy it is to forget two old men.
Today two nations will see that it
is harder to remember. In five
hours Nicola Avaryanov and Misha
Bovarin will be free men. And
you'll make it happen.

DAN
You know that we can't -

Pavel hangs up. Silence in the room.

DAN
Find out who those two prisoners are.
And get me Zhang.

Response created by Nimrod Harel

A \ CAPPELLA

Dan glances at David as if to say "what was that?" He sits back down at his iPad, studies Pavel Grekov's profile. He taps the screen and an image appears of a Russian man, 60, in an elegant suit. He can't believe his eyes. He stands up, looks at Alex, who's frozen in her seat. Finally he has the missing piece. He turns to David.

DAN

Mikhail Danisov - The Mayor of Kiev.

David looks as if he was caught red-handed.

DAN

Murdered 4 years ago. Our Intelligence believes that Grekov is behind the assassination. There's another interesting piece of information, David, maybe you came across it: The name of Mikhail Danisov's daughter is Alex Danisov. I believe you have a profiler by that name, don't you?

DAVID

Dan, don't make this -

DAN

Personal?!
At least now I know why you're here. Get out of my operations room. I want you and your team out of the airport in one hour.

20. EXT. RUNWAY - DAY

David and Alex leave the tower and look at the hijacked plane, their heads hanging low. David's phone rings--

RUTH (O.S.)

David.

DAVID

Dan knows about Alex.

RUTH (O.S.)

So the FBI has some intelligence after all.

DAVID

Response created by Nimrod Harel

A \ CAPPELLA

We got an hour to get outta here.

RUTH (O.S.)

If you're looking for empathy, try
the Russian.

David looks at Alex who stares at the hijacked plane. He
doesn't even know how to approach her.

David

(into the phone)

Give me some good news, Ruthy.

RUTH (O.S.)

Look at your watch. It's 2:00. You
can eat now.

Silence on David's end. Ruth was never much for words of
encouragement.

RUTH (O.S.)

We have an hour.

21. INT. SMALL ROOM IN AIRPORT - DAY

DAVID

Pavel Grekov is demanding the Chinese
government release two 85 year old
Soviet prisoners from jail.

REMI

You buy that? A mercenary turned freedom fighter?

Alex looks at the image of Pavel Grekov on Ruth's laptop.

ALEX

He's trying to buy time... He knows
the FBI will lose its patience and
break in there by force. But there's
something else... The MO doesn't fit.
The plane's surrounded by 150 FBI
agents. He'll either come out of
there in handcuffs or a body bag.
There's no other way.

RUTH

Unless there's something we're not
seeing.

Alex is mesmerized by Grekov's picture. She shakes her head.

Response created by Nimrod Harel

A \ CAPPELLA

ALEX

No. He knows there's no other way and still he got himself into this. This is the MO of a fanatic, not a mercenary. He's changed. It's almost... as if he doesn't care about himself anymore.

22. EXT. YARD - DAY

PIOTR, 8, runs after a chicken in the yard. He laughs as it gets away from him again and again. Finally he corners it between a rundown wooden shack and a wall. For a moment they look into each other's eyes. Piotr removes a butcher knife.

CUT TO:

Piotr walks towards his house, holding the slaughtered chicken by the leg.

PIOTR

Mama!

The sound of an old telephone ringing.

LUBA (O.S)
(in Russian)

Hello.

23. INT. SMALL RUSSIAN HOUSE - DAY

LUBA, 26 going on 50, stands in a plain kitchen. She holds an old dial phone receiver to her ear and watches as Piotr runs over to the house with their lunch in his hands.

LUBA
(into phone)

Yes, this is Luba. Who's asking?

24. INT. SMALL ROOM IN AIRPORT - DAY

ALEX
(in Russian, into the phone)

This is Yevgenya from the welfare service. Are you Pavel Grekov's wife?

Remi and Des watch her in silence.

Response created by Nimrod Harel

25. INT. SMALL RUSSIAN HOUSE - DAY

LUBA

(harsh laugh)

You sound too pretty to be a social worker. You're either from the police or the Interpol and wherever you're from, you're too late.

ALEX (O.S.)

...Too late?

LUBA

I haven't heard from him in six years and last week he suddenly decided it's time to see his son. I bet he's on a plane for a final vacation, and don't ask me where to because I don't know and I don't care.

26. INT. SMALL ROOM IN AIRPORT - DAY

Alex looks at Remi and Des and shakes her head. She's about to hang up when...

ALEX

(into the phone)

Why do you say "final?"

25. INT. SMALL RUSSIAN HOUSE - DAY

LUBA

Pavel has stage 4 colon cancer. So basically what you couldn't do in 20 years God will finish in a month.

Luba angrily hangs up. She turns and sees Piotr with the dead chicken in his hand. Finally, she smiles.

LUBA

Did you drain the blood like I taught you?

Piotr extends the chicken in front of him. It is HEADLESS and not a drop of blood drips from its neck.

28. INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Pavel stares at the picture of his son Piotr. He hears a noise from one of the seats; it's the Bearish guy exchanging

Response created by Nimrod Harel

A \ CAPPELLA

glances with the flight attendant again. Pavel glares at them and they freeze. Too late. He swiftly moves towards the Bearish guy and punches him in the throat. The guy chokes, but Pavel doesn't stop, punching his face again and again. The flight attendant moves forward to stop Pavel, but he's quicker: aims his gun at her face with his other hand without taking his gaze off the bearish guy.

PAVEL

Back.

The flight attendant freezes.

PAVEL

Back!

She retreats. Pavel looks into the swollen and bloody eyes of the Bearish guy who spits out blood, fighting for every breath. Pavel looks at his bloody fist and then up at the passengers. Some are crying silently, some are simply paralyzed. The message's been sent loud and clear: there'll be no more mutiny on this ship.

29. INT. SMALL ROOM, AIRPORT - DAY

David, now with his back to Alex, watches the SWAT team.

ALEX

He's doing it for the money but this time the money isn't for him. I'm guessing that Luba will be surprised next time she goes to the bank.

DAVID

The worst enemy is the enemy who has made peace with death.

ALEX

Mao Tse Tung?

DAVID

(shakes his head)

I thought it was me.

ALEX

I'm more afraid of people who haven't made peace with death.

David knows the remark was intended for him.

Response created by Nimrod Harel

^ \ CAPPELLA

DAVID

He killed your father, Alex.

ALEX

Yes, but he was my father. My father... made his own choices. He brought whatever happened to him on himself. You're telling yourself that you're doing this for me but it's really all about you David. It's your justice, not mine.

DAVID

What do you want me to do?

Alex shakes her head, at a loss. In David's world cold justice is a romantic gesture. He looks out at the plane and his expression changes. He finally realizes that this is what it's all about.

DAVID

He doesn't know what to do. Pavel, he doesn't know who he's supposed to kill, he only knows that that person is on the plane. He's stalling because he's waiting.

ALEX

For what?

DAVID

For someone on the outside to give him a name. I need you to write up a profile for me. Quick.

ALEX

Whose?

30. INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

TORTURER

(in Chinese into phone)

Not yet. He's about to break.

The torturer tightens his grip around a BLOODIED hammer.

31. INT. AIRPORT LOUNGE - DAY

A hand shaking with rage hangs up the phone. The camera

Response created by Nimrod Harel

A \ CAPPELLA

zooms out to reveal... ZHANG. He HURLS the cell phone at the big window.

32. INT. SMALL ROOM IN AIRPORT - DAY

Ruth types vigorously at her laptop, and Alex watches the screen from behind her. An Interpol profile of Wei Zhang appears. This time the image is clear.

RUTH
Wei Zhang.

ALEX
Widower...

RUTH
His wife was killed by a... burglar?

Ruth opens the woman's murder file on screen.

ALEX
How do I get my hands on all the Hong Kong police investigation files in which Zhang was actively involved?

RUTH
You break the law.

Alex gives her a determined look.

RUTH
Psychologists are supposed to get your life in order, not screw it up even more.

Alex smiles a captivating smile.

RUTH
Bimbo, save that mushy stuff for David.

Alex keeps smiling, but Ruth shoves her away and grumbles. She takes a deep breath and starts typing. Alex's smile widens.

33. INT. AIRPORT CORRIDOR - DAY

The door opens and Alex rushes out to Remi and David, with a folder in hand.

Response created by Nimrod Harel

^ \ CAPPELLA

ALEX

Wei Zhang. Chinese deputy minister of public safety. In his current position for 4 years. A history of obstructing justice, torturing detainees, bribery and hookers. Nothing I wouldn't expect of a high ranking Chinese official, but we did learn something else that could be interesting: two years ago his first wife died. She was bludgeoned to death by a burglar. The burglar was caught and executed; his organs were harvested and sent to all ends of the earth in the finest Chinese tradition.

David studies Alex and notices her displeasure.

DAVID

You're not buying it.

ALEX

No burglar would rape the wife of the deputy minister of public safety, crush her skull with a bronze vase and steal... (checks the folder) a bronze vase.

DAVID

There's no lack of Chinese high on opium or heroin...

David looks at Alex and finally understands. She nods.

DAVID

But then they wouldn't be fit to donate organs.

ALEX

That's why we dug a little deeper. Zhang headed nine investigations of women who died under similar circumstances: Rape and battery that resulted in death. The perpetrators were caught and brought to trial. You asked for Zhang's profile? Here it is - corrupt, sees himself above the law, extremely violent, most probably a psychopath with murderous

Response created by Nimrod Harel

A \ CAPPELLA
inclinations.

David's heard enough. Now he understands and he's FURIOUS. He walks away from Alex.

ALEX
David!

34. INT. AIRPORT LOUNGE - DAY

A man's hand POUNDS on the glass door, almost breaking it. Zhang looks over his assistant's shoulder and sees... Des standing at the lounge door. Zhang nods, and his assistant walks over to the door and instructs Zhang's thug to move aside. Das walks up to Zhang, puts a hand in his jacket pocket and removes an ELEGANT PEN and notepad. He tears off a piece of paper, writes something on it, folds it and hands it to Zhang.

ZHANG
(in Chinese)
You can speak. The room is clean.

Das ignores him. He hands him the paper and leaves without saying a word. Zhang reads the note: "Pavel Grekov" and underneath "30 seconds to break in." For the first time Zhang seems unnerved.

ZHANG
(to his assistant)
Get me Harry Bell. Now!

Close up on a large plastic plant at the entrance to the lounge. Des' fancy pen hides among its leaves.

35. INT. CAR - DAY

Remi speeds down the highway and Des sits in the passenger seat, holding on for dear life. There's a box of day-old CINNAMON ROLLS on the dashboard and Des watches in disgust as Remi shoves one in his mouth. His phone rings. Saved by the bell. He picks up a pad of paper and answers the call. It's Ruth.

DES
(into the phone)
Slow down, Ruth, I'm writing this
down.

Des hangs up and enters the address in the GPS.

Response created by Nimrod Harel

A \ CAPPELLA

DES

Harry Bell. Attorney. Works with the
Big Circle Boys here in LA.

Remi swallows his second cinnabun and gives Des a look as if
to say "What am I missing?"

DES

One of China's biggest Triads. They
do it all, narcotics, weapons,
diamonds, human trafficking. You do
know what a Triad is, right?

REMI

(looks in the rearview mirror)

No, but I know all the rest.

Remi looks in the rearview mirror again, now he's sure, a BLACK
DODGE is following them. He swerves the steering wheel to the
right and pulls over. Des look through his side view mirror.

DES

FBI.

REMI

I'll be right back.

36. EXT. BUSY STREET - DAY

Remi gets out of the car and walks over to the FBI vehicle.
Inside are two AGENTS; the one beside the driver is DAN'S
ASSISTANT. Remi makes his way to Dan's assistant window and
takes out a DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT. He opens it and SLAMS it
down onto the windshield.

37. INT. CAR - DAY

The two agents look at the document stuck to the windshield.

AGENT 1

What is that?

DAN'S ASSISTANT

A reminder: He has diplomatic
immunity.

From outside the car-- Remi removes a POCKETKNIFE from his
pocket and SLOWLY extracts the blade. He shows them the
knife in his hand from every angle. The two agents follow

Response created by Nimrod Harel

A \ CAPPELLA

his motions as if watching some strange ritual. Then Remi bends down and disappears from their line of sight.

AGENT 1

What?!

Just then a loud HISSING NOISE and the car TILTS on its side. Remi punctured one of their tires. He stands up and returns to his car. Agent 1 extends his hand to his gun, Dan's assistant stops him.

DAN'S ASSISTANT

He has more authority to arrest you than you do him. Amended Executive Order 12425. Next time don't vote for Obama.

Agent 1 pounds the dashboard in rage. Suddenly, the door of the other car opens; It's Des and he has the cinnabuns in hand. But before they can say a word, he sets the box down on their dashboard, turns and walks away. Agent 1 examines the box, then opens it carefully. He considers for a moment then stuffs one in his mouth. Hey, if you can't beat'em --enjoy'em. Dan's assistant watches him in disgust.

38. INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Des and Remi go up the elevator. Remi sees Des' reflection in the mirror and notices his unease.

REMI

You know why he took us?

DES

David?

Remi shifts a hand over his stubble and examines his reflection, losing his train of thought.

REMI

I hear that LA women hate stubble.

DES

Why?

REMI

For the same reason LA men hate women with sharp teeth.

Response created by Nimrod Harel

^ \ CAPPELLA

DES

(impatient)

No. I mean, why did he take us?

REMI

(smiles, content)

You've never wondered why?

DES

We all want what he wants. That's what he told me.

REMI

(laughs)

No one wants what he wants.

David is in the game for justice. And

Alex out of guilt. And you, out of...

loyalty?

Remi studies Des but Des doesn't respond, making Remi smile; he hit the nail on the head.

REMI

And Ruth, only God knows what Ruth is in the game for, but I have a feeling I'm going to wet my pants when I find out. No, none of us wants what David wants.

Remi finally turns back to Des.

REMI

He took us because we're alone. That was his only condition. No wife, no husband, no kids, no ties. We're the perfect pawns; no one on the outside can pull our strings because... we have none.

Des' expression says otherwise but he quickly hides it.

DES

So what are you in the game for?

REMI

(Reflects, smiles)

--For the game.

The sound of a BELL and the elevator door opens. Remi exits, Des lingers, shakes his head - that was a fair answer. He

Response created by Nimrod Harel

follows Remi out.

39. INT. LAW FIRM - DAY

Des and Remi enter Harry Bell's elegant firm and make a bee line to the room at the end of the hall. Their lack of suit and tie draws looks from every corner of the snooty office, and Des' overt GUN doesn't help. Harry's SECRETARY rushes after them.

SECRETARY

Excuse me, did you schedule a--

They ignore her, briskly entering Harry's office.

40. INT. HARRY BELL'S OFFICE - DAY

The office is everything you'd imagine: big and imposing, with a heavy wooden desk on an expensive Persian carpet. Typical sounds from inside Harry's private bathroom; he's peeing and doesn't know he has guests. The INTERCOM buzzes.

SECRETARY (O.S.)

Harry, the two gentlemen --

Remi pounces on the intercom and presses the button.

REMI

That will be all, my dear.

Remi rips the cable chord out of the intercom, while Des walks over to the wall on his left where TWO MARBLE HANDS hold a striking KATANA. Des shifts appreciative fingers along the blade.

HARRY (O.S.)

It's Susho Kita coating.

Des turns to see HARRY BELL, 50, standing by the bathroom door zipping up his pants. He looks good for his age, tall and muscular, in a custom made suit; his face and posture indicate that he OWNS the place.

HARRY

A strong Chinese blade, not
like the Japanese garbage.
People forget that the Chinese
taught the Japanese how to make
swords, not the other way
around.

Response created by Nimrod Harel

^ \ CAPPELLA

DES

A gift from the Big Circle Boys?

Harry seems surprised by Des' insight and takes a seat behind his desk.

HARRY

You're cops. Based on the scruffy beard not LAPD and based on the slight accent not FBI. From what I saw on the morning news I'm guessing Interpol.

(off their silence)

Interpol it is. The thing is I'm an attorney, you see? So no, I'm not interested in answering a few questions. If you have a search warrant or an arrest warrant, now's the time to pull them out, but since you don't even have American citizenship, get the hell out of my office. This is LA, not Beijing.

Remi and Des exchange glances. At the end of what seems to be a short telepathic dialogue, Des gives his consent to what is about to happen. Remi draws his gun: a SILVER REVOLVER, small but impressive. He opens the chamber with a skilled hand.

HARRY

(stunned)

You didn't just draw a gun in my office...

Remi ignores him and walks towards Harry.

HARRY

What are you doing?

Harry extends his hand to the desk drawer to remove a gun of his own but Remi's quicker. He leaps onto the chair in front of him, hops onto the wide desk, then KICKS Harry in the chest. Harry's chair ROLLS back until it hits the wall behind it. Before Harry can recover, Remi sticks the gun in his MOUTH. Harry's terrified and tries to yell with the gun lodged in between his teeth.

REMI

Here's the thing, Mr. Bell, we're

Response created by Nimrod Harel

A \ CAPPELLA

above the legal system that you so
love to rape every morning. No matter
what happens in this room in the next
ten minutes, when the cops finally
get here and see this tape -

Remi looks at the CAMERA in the corner on the ceiling; the
red light is ON. Remi waves to the camera.

REMI

There will be an exchange of emails
and after a while, maybe a day, maybe
a week, we'll be officially asked to
leave the country. The worst that can
happen to me is I'll have to leave
Silicone Boob Valley. The question
is, what's the worst thing that can
happen to you?

Remi turns the gun slowly so that it sticks out from Harry's
CHEEK.

REMI

I hear that LA women love piercings
in unexpected places.

Harry's eyes widen. Remi nods as if they reached an
understanding and removes the gun from his mouth.

REMI

You familiar with good cop bad cop?
Well, I know this will surprise you,
but I'm the good cop. If you don't
give me what I want, we'll shove you
in the trunk of our shitty rental car
and take you to see the bad cop. His
name is David Roth and he's Don
Quixote with a SCYTHE. He hates loose
ends... And you are a loose end
Harry. But me... I have no problem
with that. If you pour your heart out
to me I'll let you get back to (scans
the office) "this".

Des turns the player on his cell phone on and Zhang's voice
emerges:

ZHANG (V.O.)

I need a name, Harry... I don't care
how dangerous it is, I'm paying you

Response created by Nimrod Harel

^ \ CAPPELLA

50,000 dollars to -

Des stops the tape.

REMI

Sound familiar? A client of yours, Wei Zhang. I'll tell you what we have, you stop me if I'm wrong: In the past three years you've been working for the Hong Kong mob. You arrange bail for them, get them out of prison when they get too drunk, little things like that that pay off. And here's where we draw a blank. The next thing we know is that Zhang transferred 50,000 dollars to you for the name of a man on flight 983 from Hong Kong so that a dying Russian terrorist can put a phosphate bullet through his head. Harry, what am I missing?

Remi puts the gun to Harry's forehead. Harry says nothing, his face contorted in fear. Remi looks at Des.

REMI

The trunk it is.

HARRY

Wait!

41. INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

Remi and Des walk through the office, ALL EYES on them.

42. INT. HARRY BELL'S OFFICE - DAY

Harry's secretary sticks her head into his office.

SECRETARY

Harry?

Harry sits frozen at his desk. He no longer owns this place.

43. INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Des and Remi stare at the doors in silence.

DES

The Katana, it was fake.

Response created by Nimrod Harel

A \ CAPPELLA

REMI

Why didn't you tell him?

DES

I didn't want to crush his
spirit.

Remi isn't one to laugh at someone else's joke, but his eyes smile in appreciation.

41

44. INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Close up on a phone in a man's hand. A BLOODY THUMB dials.

TORTURER

(in Chinese)

A tattoo of a blue dragon on his
back. That's the only thing he knew.
Yes, I'm sure of it.

Behind him the tortured man's lifeless head lays hanging.

45. INT. AIRPORT LOUNGE - DAY

Zhang hangs up the call and types a message.

46. INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Pavel watches the passengers, then glimpses at his WATCH unpleased.. Suddenly, the SOUND of an incoming message, and Pavel quickly grabs a PLAIN cell phone from his pocket. He reads the message and looks up. Bingo.

PAVEL

Everyone take your shirts off and
put your heads on the seats in front
of you. (raises the gun) Everyone.

47. INT. CONTROL TOWER - DAY

Dan stands in front of two huge PLASMA SCREENS showing the plane from each and every angle. He notices David walking in and it's clear to see: he's more furious than ever.

DAN

Your Frenchman pulled a knife out on
my agents!

DAVID

Response created by Nimrod Harel

^ \ CAPPELLA

What can I say? Crazy dogs
sometimes bite their own tails.

DAN

That's enough. (to the security
officers) Escort --

DAVID

Remi is the last person you
have to worry about right now.
(looks at everyone in the room)
Everyone out.

SILENCE. Dan looks at David; suddenly it seems the two men
have known each other for far too long. Dan nods, and
everyone gets up from the table and leaves.

DAN

(to his assistant)

You too.

Dan's assistant leaves reluctantly and when the room is
finally empty, David hands Dan a FOLDER. Dan opens it and
sees a PICTURE of Wei Zhang with rows of information
underneath. He reviews the information briefly.

DAN

Zhang the ripper, huh?

Dan throws the file back at David.

DAN

So arrest him, I have a high jacked
plane to take care of.

DAVID

Jack killed five women. Wei Zhang
killed nine. The ninth is the one
that you'll find interesting.

David turns a page and shows Dan a picture of a beautiful
CHINESE WOMAN in an AD for FEMALE ESCORTS with the caption:
"What happens in Hong Kong..." and a phone number.

DAVID

Meyfen. She was a Chinese escort.
Found dead in her apartment in Chai
Won district in Hong Kong a little
less than two weeks ago. The cause of

Response created by Nimrod Harel

A \ CAPPELLA

death: bludgeons to the head. 57, to be exact. Two days ago Zhang got a phone call from a lawyer who lives on the other side of the world and who coincidentally works only 25 minutes away from here, called Harry Bell -

48. SERIES OF INTERCUTS

[INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY]

Harry Bell sits at his desk, signing DOCUMENTS with PASSPORT PHOTOS of Chinese people.

DAVID (V.O.)

Bell works with the Big Boys Circle, helps them obtain visas, releases them on bail, basically cleans up after them.

A Chinese man in a suit stands by the KATANA on the wall, talking on his cell phone. Harry stops writing and LISTENS in.

DAVID (V.O.)

One day he hears a conversation with the bosses in Hong Kong. It turns out there was a witness to Zhang's most recent gruesome escapade. The Big Circle Boys are huge in Hong Kong and they know that a witness like that is priceless; Let's not forget that Zhang also has authority over the Hong Kong police which means serious leverage.

[INT. FLIGHT GATE - DAY]

Passengers stand at a flight gate. The pretty Chinese FLIGHT ATTENDANT checks their boarding passes...

DAVID (V.O.)

Harry Bell hears the bosses discussing the fact that they're going to put their witness on flight 983 the next day. They know that in Hong Kong it's only a matter of time before they find him floating in the sea.

Response created by Nimrod Harel

^ \ CAPPELLA

[INT. LIMBO - NIGHT]

Zhang's on his cell phone, with a stern expression.

DAVID (V.O.)

Harry doesn't think twice and decides to sell the information to Zhang. He doesn't have a name, but he does have a flight number.

[INT. FLIGHT GATE - DAY]

Pavel shows his boarding pass to the pretty Chinese flight attendant. She SMILES at him and lets him through. He strokes the BULLETS on the CHAIN around his neck as he makes his way to the plane.

DAVID (V.O.)

Zhang works fast: he hires Pavel Grekov, a terrorist with terminal cancer who wants to ensure a life of comfort for his family after he's gone. He puts him on the plane with instructions to wait for further information.

[INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT]

A hand takes a bloody hammer from a table. In the background, the blurred silhouette of the tortured subject tied to a chair. The TORTURER approaches--

DAVID (V.O.)

In the meantime, he puts the pressure on the Triad in Hong Kong; maybe one of them will break and give him a clue who the witness is--

[INT. AIRPLANE - DAY]

Pavel threatens the passengers with a gun.

DAVID (V.O.)

Like Poirot: Lock everyone in one room and don't leave until you put the handcuffs on your man. Only instead of handcuffs, Grekov is about to put a bullet in his head...

49. INT. CONTROL TOWER - DAY

Response created by Nimrod Harel

^ \ CAPPELLA

Dan's face becomes gray.

DAN

...A few minutes ago we intercepted a text message sent to a cell phone on the plane. "A blue dragon tattoo on his back"... Are you saying that Grekov is hijacking an entire plane just to whack one person?

DAVID

I'm saying he had no other choice.

DAN

How sure are you?

David gives Dan a steadfast look. Dan leans back, DEFLATED.

DAN

Why doesn't he just blow the plane up and get it over with?

DAVID

My Russian shrink says that even an atheist terrorist would rather not end his life on such a bitter note. But she also believes that if push comes to shove, he'll choose that option. How did she put it? People will go to hell just so their kid can get the latest iPhone.

DAN

You realize that I can't tell anyone about this without creating a relationship crisis with China. Shit, David... China.

DAVID

(as if interviewing)

"It was an international incident and we had no choice but to shift the authority to Interpol..."

Dan chuckles sadly.

DAN

There was a time when a guy would just bring a girl flowers.

Response created by Nimrod Harel

A \ CAPPELLA

David takes this in, and Dan TEARS up the document on Zhang.

DAN

I need you to promise me one thing.
You're leaving Zhang to us. Don't
make this into one of your
missions.

David doesn't respond.

50. INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Pavel walks along the aisles. All the passengers are NAKED from the waist up and Pavel looks right and left; nothing but blank backs. Suddenly he notices a TATTOO on the Bearish guy's back. With his face still bloody and bruised, he swallows hard. He can't help but feel Pavel stopping beside him... He tries to calm his fear, while Pavel sticks a gun to his NECK.

BEARISH GUY

Dear God...

Pavel draws his head closer to study the tattoo. It's... A KOALA BEAR climbing a branch. Pavel takes it in and keeps walking; the man breathes a sigh of relief. Pavel reaches the cockpit and looks at the flight attendant.

PAVEL

Take your clothes off.

The flight attendant doesn't move. Pavel puts the gun to her FOREHEAD.

PAVEL

Take your clothes off.

The flight attendant turns around and removes her blouse. She has a PERFECT figure but Pavel doesn't have time to appreciate it. He looks at the passengers; one or two raise their heads, quickly lowering them when they meet Pavel's eyes. He looks at her bare back. Nothing.

PAVEL

(in Russian)

No way.

51. EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Response created by Nimrod Harel

^ \ CAPPELLA

David stands alongside Remi, Ruth, Alex, Dan and his men, observing the hijacked plane.

DAVID
(into the radio)
Good luck, Des.

52. EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Des, looking like a SNOW LEOPARD should; wearing a black ASSAULT VEST, an EARPHONE in his ear, a big black KIMBER PISTOL with a TACTICAL LASER SIGHT in his hand, runs hunched over to the plane.

He situates himself under the belly in back, stretches out his hand and opens a HATCH DOOR that leads to the cargo hold. He lowers his NIGHT VISION GOGGLES over his eyes, pulls himself up like a cat and vanishes inside the plane.

53. EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

David and the team watch Des disappear into the plane.

DES (O.S.)
(on radio)
I'm in.

54. INT. AIRPLANE, CARGO HOLD - DAY

Des' POV through night vision goggles: Des makes his way through the narrow passage, jam packed with LUGGAGE and CRATES, when suddenly, on a shelf over his head, a black GERMAN SHEPHERD starts BARKING, lunging angrily at the bars of his cage. Des doesn't even FLINCH. He looks at the dog and smiles, then extends a hand to the bars, allowing the dog to lick his fingers.

DES
Long flight, huh?

Des looks up. He knows that Pavel Grekov is standing somewhere above him. He turns on a GPS device on his wrist.

55. EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Dan lowers his binoculars.

DAN
You think it'll work?

DAVID
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A \ CAPPELLA

He won't shut off the only means of communications he has with the outside world.

56. INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Pavel looks at his cell phone; no new message.

57. INT. AIRPLANE, CARGO HOLD - DAY

The GPS device displays a map of the airport and a FLASHING DOT in the center. Des enlarges the image to a maximum. The flashing dot is now in the top left quarter of the screen. As Des walks along the passage, the dot APPROACHES the middle of the screen.

58. INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Close up on Pavel's cell phone. His hand TIGHTENS around it.

TAI
(in Cantonese)
Don't worry, your son will call.

Tai sits in the seat next to Pavel. He extends his hand and touches Pavel's leg in an attempt to reassure him.

PAVEL
(to the flight attendant)
What did he say?

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
You have nothing to worry about.
He'll call.

PAVEL
Who?

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Your son.

Pavel looks at Tai. Suddenly his expression changes, a TERRIFYING thought enters his mind.

PAVEL
(to himself)
It's nothing until it's something...
(to Tai)
Take off your shirt.

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Pavel looks at the flight attendant indicating she should translate. She hesitates.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
(in Cantonese)

Take off your shirt.

Tai takes off his shirt, Pavel recoils in horror: a tattoo of a huge, WRITHING BLUE DRAGON on the boy's back.

PAVEL
(in Russian)

Not him...

He looks at the gun in his hand, then at Tai, then back at the gun. He CAN'T DO IT. Not this way. The hand with the gun drops to his side. He looks up at the passengers; all looking at him. He sees them in a blur and his face contorts in hatred. The world against Pavel.

PAVEL
(in Russian)

All of you. All of you.

Pavel walks quickly to the X he marked on the floor. He stands over it and looks at the people watching him in fear. He aims the gun at the floor and COCKS it. His finger tightens on the TRIGGER... Suddenly his face convulses in pain. A SILVER FOUNTAIN PEN sticks out from the side of his neck. He turns around and sees the flight attendant, stunned at what she just did. Pavel PULLS the bloody pen out of his neck and hurls it on the floor. He aims the gun at the flight attendant who retreats in horror.

BANG!

Pavel is stunned at the sight of the BLOODY GAPING HOLE in his arm. He looks down and sees a HOLE in the center of the X on the floor. He's been shot from below!

BANG! BANG! BANG! Pavel's shot AGAIN and AGAIN.

59. INT. AIRPLANE, CARGO HOLD - DAY

Des, now on his back on a large FUEL TANK, holds the gun with both hands, repeatedly shooting upwards. The red dot on his GPS flashes in the center of the screen.

60. INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Pavel retreats and COLLAPSES on the floor next to Tai. Loud SCREAMING begins but Tai hears them faintly as if from

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A \ CAPPELLA

inside a fish bowl. He's too busy staring at the PICTURE of Pavel's son, poking out of Pavel's pocket. Tai stretches his hand and takes the BLOOD STAINED picture. Feet race along the aisle, dull screams from all sides, but Tai is focused on Piotr's smile.

61. EXT. AIRPLANE - DAY

IRT and FBI men watch a SWARM of people gushing forth from the plane. They run down the stairway towards the rescue teams, all naked from the waist up.

REMI
LA, baby.

62. INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

David enters the plane with his gun drawn, followed by Remi. The plane is empty; Pavel is lying in the aisle on his back, GURGLING blood. David calls Des on the radio.

DAVID
We're in, Des. Give me an update.

DES (O.S.)
The cargo hold is clear.

David walks over to Pavel, leans in towards him. Pavel has the look of a dying man. Every word he utters is torture:

PAVEL
David... This time I'm not going
anywhere even if you let me...
(coughs up blood)
The Chinese boy... dragon tattoo...
my Piotr...

David nods. He understands the dying man's request. Pavel's face becomes serene, and he departs this world.

63. INT. PASSENGER TERMINAL - DAY

David, Remi, Des and Alex scatter in the terminal in search of Tai. They exchange glances and make their way amongst the hundreds of exhausted passengers filling the terminal, but Tai is nowhere to be found...

David sees Alex talking to a Chinese girl with bright red hair. She points at a side door. Are they too late?

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64. INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

David, Remi, Des and Alex run through the corridor, looking right and left. Finally they split up; Remi and Alex to one side, David and Des to the other.

65. INT. DUTY FREE MEZZANINE - DAY

David and Des emerge onto the mezzanine. No one in sight. They run aimlessly until they stop, out of breath. Des notices a slightly open side service door... He walks towards it and sees the PICTURE of Piotr on the floor. He picks it up and runs through the door, David follows.

66. INT. PASSAGEWAY - DAY

David and Des run along the service passageway. They draw their guns and split up..

67. INT. STORAGE ROOM - DAY

Wei ZHANG stands with an ADORNED IVORY RECTANGLE object in his hand. He senses the movement behind him and turns towards it. His thug holds onto Tai who pushes and kicks to get away. The thug finally puts Tai down and takes a step back. Zhang studies the bare-chested boy, circles around him and sees the tattoo on his back.

ZHANG
(in Chinese to the thug)
Go. Far away.

The thug leaves the storage room. Zhang observes the loot.

ZHANG
(in Cantonese)
Let me guess, you're the whore's son?

Tai doesn't answer. He looks at Zhang in fear.

ZHANG
(in Cantonese)
Children are not my specialty, but
I'm always happy to develop new
tastes.

Zhang presses the ivory object and A BLADE pops out. Tai turns to run but Zhang grabs him, pressing the knife to his THROAT.

68. INT. PASSAGEWAY - DAY

David runs to the end of the passageway, but before he can turn the corner he sees Zhang's THUG. He presses his back to the wall, hiding in the shadows and the thug passes him by.

69. INT. STORAGE ROOM - DAY

Zhang is about to slit the boy's throat when -

DAVID

Let go of the knife, Zhang!

Zhang looks at David, then at the gun in his hand. He turns the boy's back to David.

ZHANG

The blue dragon is the symbol of the Big Circle Boys... He's the son of a criminal and a whore. His future is written on his back. I'm sparing you the effort ten years from now.

Zhang seems to be drawing the knife closer to Tai's throat. David cocks his gun.

DAVID

Let the boy go, Zhang!

70. INT. PASSAGEWAY - DAY

Des reaches a small service room with cleaning equipment. It's a DEAD END. He turns around and makes his way back, when he hears the sound of an incoming message. He opens his cell phone and reads the message. Suddenly, he looks up and sees Zhang's THUG at the end of the passageway! The thug clenches his fists when he sees Des, and hurls towards him. But Des keeps calm, walking at the same pace. As Des approaches, he draws his gun and shoots the thug in the KNEE!

^ \ CAPPELLA

The thug falls and as Des passes him, he swiftly KICKS him in the head, as if swatting an annoying fly.

71. INT. STORAGE ROOM - DAY

Zhang reluctantly raises his hands and lets the knife drop to the floor. Tai runs, but Zhang looks amused.

ZHANG

What now? Are you going to shoot me?

DAVID

That's one option.

Zhang's smile fades. He realizes David is TOTALLY SERIOUS.

ZHANG

You're a man of the law.

DAVID

You were too.

ZHANG

You can't protect him forever. You're not a babysitter. Sooner or later it will be over for him.

DES

It's over for you today.

Des appears behind David, his gun aimed at Zhang.

ZHANG

Deshi, it's about time. Tell your friend to lower his gun before he does something he'll regret. Submit an official complaint, deport me, let the wheels of bureaucracy turn.

DES

Not today, Zhang.

David looks at Des with concern.

DAVID

Des...

ZHANG

(in Chinese)

Put down the gun, Deshi. I don't have

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^ \ CAPPELLA

to remind you what you have to lose.

A cell phone rings. It takes Zhang a few seconds until he realizes it's HIS. He looks down at his pocket.

DES

(in Chinese)

Answer it.

Zhang puts the cell phone to his ear. His face suddenly PALES.

DES

(in Chinese)

The orders have changed.

DAVID

I'm handling this, Des. Put down your gun.

Des releases the safety catch.

DAVID

Don't do it Des! Lower your gun!

Des doesn't respond. David TURNS his gun from Zhang to Des.

DAVID

Des! Don't!

Des looks at David and shakes his head. He focuses on Zhang and takes a deep breath.

BOOM! A shot echoes in the room. Zhang falls to his knees, a gaping bloody hole in his shirt.

Tai EMERGES, Pavel's LIBERATOR in hand, its barrel still SMOKING from the shot. His hand drops to his side, the gun slips to the floor. For the first time, a TEAR rolls down the boy's cheek.

72. INT. STORAGE ROOM - DAY

Des' POV: The FBI and border police crowd the crime scene; Zhang's body is zipped up in a BODY BAG, while a forensic team studies the blood splatter. A SOCAIL WORKER, 45, talks to Tai under the watchful eye of two agents, while the Chinese thug, with his leg BANDAGED, is cuffed to a stretcher and taken away.

Des looks at Tai, who senses his gaze, and stares right back at him.

73. INT. CONTROL TOWER - DAY

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A \ CAPPELLA

David observes the hijacked plane being HAULED by a small vehicle to the distant hangars. Alex stands beside him and hands him a green APPLE. David smiles.

DAVID

Always one step ahead of me.

He takes the apple, looks at it, but doesn't take a bite.

DAVID

I'm just thinking what if he had taken that shot.

ALEX

No. You're thinking what if you had taken yours.

David winces. Alex puts a reassuring hand on his shoulder.

ALEX

You can admit it now. It's over.

David shakes his head. It'll never be over for him. He takes out his phone and dials.

DAVID

Ruth? Send Zhang's recording to the Big Circle Boys. I'm sure they'll want to know what kind of lawyer they hired.

Alex looks at David: Don Quixote with a scythe.

ALEX

No loose ends, huh?

[Montage on the backdrop of heartrending music]

74. INT. PASSENGER WAITING AREA - DAY

Alex is asleep on a row of chairs, her coat under her head. Des sits next to her, holding his cell phone in both hands, CONTEMPLATING whether or not to make a call. Finally he gets up, places his black TROLLEY on the seat, walks a short distance away and dials.

75. INT. DUTY FREE MEZZANINE - DAY

Remi stands by a coffee counter speaking to the brave and oh

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A \ CAPPELLA

so beautiful Chinese flight attendant. By the way she's looking into his eyes it seems Remi might actually have a chance. He extends his hand to stroke the back of her neck but she RETREATS, then walks away to the adjacent restroom. Remi looks at the SIGN; it's the MEN'S restroom. He smiles to himself and follows her in. LA baby!

76. INT. PASSENGER WAITING AREA - DAY

Alex opens her eyes. Her gaze shifts to Des' black trolley on the seat next to her head. The back of a blood stained PICTURE sticks out from an outer pockets. She takes the picture: Close up on Piotr's face smiling at her from the picture.

77. INT. STORAGE ROOM - DAY

Tai is wrapped in a BLANKET, looking at all the commotion. when he sees a CHINESE MAN at the end of the room in an elegant SUIT. Their eyes meet and Tai quickly removes his blanket and runs to him. For a moment they face one another in silence, then the man places a hand on Tai's neck. His jacket sleeve rolls up to reveal a BLUE DRAGON TATTOO underneath. Tai and the man leave the room together.

78. INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

Close up on BLOOD dripping from the edge of a heavy wooden DESK onto an elegant CARPET. Harry Bell is sprawled out DEAD on his back on the desk, with the fake Katana STICKING OUT of his belly. The Triad is no longer in need of his services.

79. INT. PASSENGER WAITING AREA - DAY

Ruth studies her outgoing mail on her laptop then closes it, a HARSH expression on her face. For her it was never about justice - it was always about revenge.

80. INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

A Chinese girl, 6, smiles as she plays MAH JONG with her MOTHER, 25. The mother is on the cell phone, a smile of longing on her face. She hands the cell phone to her daughter. The girl can't contain her excitement; with animated gestures she conveys to the person on the other end the thrilling events in the life of a 6 year old.

81. INT. PASSENGER WAITING AREA - DAY

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A \ CAPPELLA

Des listens to his DAUGHTER at the other end of the world.
He laughs happily and sadly at the sound of her voice.

82. EXT. RUNWAY - DAY

David stands on the runway, just two planes in the distant horizon. Dan enters the frame.

DAN

When you saw Zhang... you suspected him from the very start.

DAVID

The undercover security officer on the flight. He didn't even have time to transmit a distress signal. It was Grekov's first and only shot. And Zhang was the only man around with access to that information. It doesn't take much to suspect someone.

DAN

The Chinese informed us that based on their preliminary findings, Wei Zhang was shot to death in the shootout with his bodyguard, who came out with a light wound in the leg. His extradition will be finalized today and he'll be tried in China for murder and treason.

DAVID

Someone just gained a new pair of kidneys.

They both stand in silence for a moment.

DAN

But what bothered me all the time was what was in it for you.

Dan removes a BROWN FOLDER from his briefcase.

DAN

You gotta love the NSA.
(opens and reads)
In 2009 you headed a team that investigated a corruption case in which the mayor of Kiev was involved. Blackmail, extortion, prostitution,

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A \ CAPPELLA

money laundering and businessmen murdered all over the world. 37 to be exact. Zhang was an amateur, for Mikhail Danisov this was business.

DAVID

And now they're both dead.

DAN

Yeah... And then I discovered that during your stakeout of Danisov, you uncovered a plan to assassinate him.

Dan shows David a picture of David LEADING Grekov in HANDCUFFS.

DAN

You had him.

DAVID

And he escaped.

DAN

Bullshit. You and I know there was only one Houdini. Maybe "someone left the door open."

(Beat)

The next day the mayor of Kiev was dead.

DAVID

God works in mysterious ways.

DAN

This isn't about God. This is about you cooperating with a murderer. I wonder what Alex Danisov would think about it.

The look in David's eyes is harsh and MENACING.

DAVID

I guess we'll never know.

DAN

That's why you came here; to silence the only man who could corroborate the story.

DAVID

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^ \ CAPPELLA

(losing his cool)

I came here to do what you couldn't!

(calms down)

And I did.

Dan hands him the picture from the folder. David studies it, it doesn't look familiar.

DAN

Lee Wang. The most common name in China. He was the security officer on flight 983. You played his God, guess it's time you get to know him.

David looks at the picture in silence. Finally he puts it in his coat pocket.

DAN

Take care, David.

Dan walks away. David looks at his watch, FINALLY IT'S TIME. He removes an APPLE from his coat pocket, takes a bite and watches a plane take off.

THE END

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