

THE IRISHMAN'S APPRENTICE

Written by

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INT. JACK'S BEDROOM - DAY

A man lays on a bed front down face turned to the right, mouth open, half covered by sheet. Curtains and blinds allow only a ribbon of light around the edge of the window. Digital clock on end table reads 8:00. Cell phone on the end table rings. Man swipes at the phone causing it to land on the floor next to the bed. Phone rings again, and man grabs it and pulls it to his ear.

MAN ON BED

Yeah?

MAN ON PHONE (V.O.)

Is this Jack Wellington?

JACK

Yeah, it's eight in the morning on New Years Day this better be important.

MAN ON PHONE

This is Warren Oats from the UN. I interviewed you last September at Princeton. Are you interested in a position with the UN?

Jack rolls over sits up rubbing his eyes, his brown hair is sticking up on one side of his head. He stands and looks into the mirror on the dresser.

JACK

Yes, but it's New Years Day.

WARREN

Can you come over to the UN today. And er, do you have a passport? I'm looking for someone to go on a trip tomorrow.

Jack closes his eyes and places his right hand on his head.

JACK

I guess I can come over by ten. But I need a shower, something to eat and a couple of aspirins.

FADE TO:

INT. OFFICE OF THE UN PROTOCOL ON CULTURAL PRESERVATION - DAY

Small office has no windows, two desks and a filing cabinet Warren Oats is at the first desk. Warren is a big man who has trouble buttoning his suit jacket. A thin woman with short brown hair is sitting at the second desk behind a computer screen. Jack enters through the door, hair combed wearing a jacket and tie. Warren gets up from the desk and shakes Jack's hand. Jack looks about and takes a seat at Warren's desk.

WARREN

Jack, glad you're here.

JACK

Thanks for calling me in, what have you got?

WARREN

This is my secretary FRAN WEAVER, she will help you with anything you need to get you settled in the job. I'm sure you know about the tsunami that hit in the Indian Ocean last month, well I need another person to go there and make an additional survey. It is an intern position.

(Pauses at Jack's expression)

It is a paid position of fifty K per year with expenses. As I said in the interview we operate under a protocol to assist membership countries in on maintenance of cultural entities during disaster relief and mitigation. Are you free to go to South Asia for a month or two?

Jack blinked, leaned back and nodded.

WARREN (CONT'D)

I have a man in the field now, a JAMES MORRISSEY. You will be assisting him. He is completing a survey of the cultural entities that fall under the protocol, but the area is vast from Indonesia to India. The tsunami washed away everything. You will be living in a tent in a UN compound. Do you think you can handle that?

JACK

(Looks down at his cloths)
I guess so. Sounds like I'm over dressed. What exactly will I be doing?

WARREN

Actually you will need a suit too. You may find yourself in talks with some government official in one of the affected countries. But what I'm going to do now is turn you over to Fran. She will walk you through the building and see you have everything you need including personnel forms, UN ID, work clothes, communications equipment, bedroll, and anything else you need. I have to go talk to a couple of ambassadors to assure them I am bringing someone on board to hand their problems.

Warren shakes Jack's hand again as they both stood.

WARREN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry to rush off, but we will talk more when Fran is finished getting you onboard. I have to go talk to a couple of ambassadors to assure them I am bringing someone on board to handle their problems.

Warren turns and goes out the door with some papers in hand. Jack turns to Fran who has a smirk on her face.

FRAN

Have a late night, New Years Eve?

JACK

I got about four hours sleep. What have I got myself into?

FRAN

It's not usually this frantic, usually things occur at the frightening pace of a turtle. It's been this way since the twenty sixth of last month. If you are anything like Jimmy Morrissey you will enjoy it. It is mostly about helping people. How are you with English Lit?

(MORE)

FRAN (CONT'D)

Jimmy compares the people he meets with characters out of Shakespeare's plays so he knows what they will do next. Funny thing, it almost always works. I figure he will tag you with Orsino.

JACK

Who?

FRAN

(Laughs)

You've got a lot of work to do, better get the Cliffnotes.

FADE TO:

EXT. ENTRANCE UN COMPOUND BANDA ACEH - DAY - TRAVELING

A compound consists of rows of tents and a muddy road leading through a gate and up the middle. There are men in a work clothes and military uniforms busily walking in all directions about the place. An open tent with an Asian man sitting at a table is at the gate with a sign reading ANGA. Jack looks at the pile of boxes and bags dropped off by the military truck that is leaving with several people in the back. There are people in tents cooking, and a heavy smell of curry causing Jack to push the side of his nose with his left hand. He turns back toward the man at the desk. A man in his fifties, over weight with a reddish complexion, in a tan uniform is coming up the muddy road through the gate.

MAN IN TAN

You Wellington? I'm JIMMY. They called me you were coming.

Jack waves and reaches down for a small leather pouch case, as Jimmy walks up and extends his hand. He his head back toward the man at the desk in the open tent.

JIMMY

Angga get a couple of boys over their prickling around to help take this gear to my tent. You're Jack right. Am I glad to see you. How long have you been working for the UN?

Jack looks at his watch.

JACK

Three days ago I was an unemployed college graduate.

(Jimmy laughs)

Jimmy pats him on the back gently pushing him toward the muddy road leading through the compound. Angga was to the right directing some men standing nearby to carry the goods stacked behind Jack.

JIMMY

I guess you feel like you have no idea what's going on. Well there are men here from probably a hundred and fifty organizations here from UN, US, British, Australia, Sweden and others that don't have any idea either. I see no ring on your hand, I guess not married, what you didn't want the abuse.

(pauses)

We have plenty of room in the tent cause it's just the two of us. The showers and jacks er ah latrine are over behind us. I see Frannie, god lover her, outfitted you with everything you need as if you were alone. Frannie is always in my head, she knows one of the places I want you to go was completely washed away.

(pauses again)

Aussies run the mess. The Aussies are good cooks, you just have to watch out for the meat, they cook anything that walks, hops, flies, crawls or slithers. But what ever it is it tastes good. You been out in the bush before? I suppose you know not to drink anything that ain't been boiled or you'll get the scutters and not to dip your wick in any Slappers or you'll get something worse. Sorry I'm blathering like some ole maid that ain't seen anyone in a while.

FADE TO:

INT. MESS TENT/BANDA ACEH COMPOUND - DAY

Jimmy and Jack are sitting across from each other at a picnic style table each with a cup in front of them.

JACK

So what is this place you want me to go?

JIMMY

Well I'm tied up with the Pusaka Nias Museum. It was destroyed during the tsunami. There are several cultural sites that I need you to survey. One in particular, a Buddhist temple that was destroyed in Thailand. Two days before the tsunami the entire population fled the place and not one of them was there when the tsunami came. You could start by finding a Buddha which was suppose to weigh about a ton. After that what needs to be done to put the place back as it was before the tsunami. I guess Warren explained the funding business.

(Jack nods)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Talk to me if you find yourself dealing with coppers, criminals or shysters. I don't want you meetin the Divil too soon. I think Warren is punching you up for when I retire. Remember your interested in protecten and preserven culture not justice or law. Now I need to know if you can sort out men. Look at the table behind me with the men at it and tell me about em.

Two tables away were sever US Military men eating. Jack watched them for a while then leaned forward.

JACK

First the Chief Master Sergeant at the table on the right does not like the Colonel at the table on the left.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

The Lieutenant at the table on the left seems to be hanging on every word the Colonel said and the Major at the table with the Chief is not saying anything and is just looking down at his food. I can't say much about the two airmen except that one has a scared look.

JIMMY

(smiles)

You'll do, where did you learn to judge men?

JACK

Well my dad is part of a group of men that have a poker game every week and they allow me to sit in once in a while.

JIMMY

OK Jack they are two crews that are flying between 'the P.I.' Hong Kong, Bangkok and here on a regular basis bringing in supplies. So what criminal activity is goin on there?

JACK

Fran said you use Shakespeare to judge people. How do you call them out?

JIMMY

I see Frannie gave you a tutorial. Well the Colonel, I call for Macbeth's Uncle and I wouldn't be surprised if he got the job by someone else bein taken out of the picture. Now the Chief Master Sergeant is like Banquo again in Macbeth and he may be worried about the Colonel sickin someone to get em in the dark some night. For the Lieutenant, I have to change plays to Touchstone in 'As You Like It' or the fool in 'King Lear.

(Pauses to take a sip of coffee)

I said to talk to me if you find yourself dealing with criminals or shysters. You'll need this skill.

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

And, Oh by the way the Colonel is working the money market buying currency in one country and selling it in the other. I expect the Chief and the Major don't like the extra trips at the expense of the government to this city and that. And if cornered that Colonel would throw you right out of the plane door at ten thousand feet, which may be why the airman has the scared look. Don't feel bad like you said three days ago you were an unemployed college graduate.

FADE TO:

EXT. EASTERN BEACH/KO KHO KHAO THAILAND - DAY - TRAVELING

Jack waves at the helicopter as it rises and leaves the landing site. Jack looks around at the pile of gear then the beach area. The sound of the waves lapping at the beach surrounds Jack. The beach smells fresh with only a slight hint of sea weed. Jack sits down on one of the cases and opens his shirt.

JACK

Well Thailand has nice beaches. I need to come back to this place for a vacation.

SOUND OF A SMALL ENGINE IN THE DISTANCE.

Jack turns away from the beach to see a yellow three-wheeled taxi approach.

DRIVER

(Points at Jack)

Well ink tun kup?

Jack nods and the driver jumps out and loads the gear into the back of the vehicle. Jack sits in the back behind the gear and grabs the vertical tube holding up the roof tightly. The driver at five foot, with black hair appears stocky. The taxi turns and leaves the beach at high speed bouncing and swaying. Jack grabs on to the rail on the outside of the taxi with his other hand.

FADE TO:

EXT/INT. SMALL COTTAGE/THAILAND - DAY

Small wooden cottage constructed on stilts stands above a concrete pad. An older Thai man with his hair cut short stands in front of the cottage. The man is in his fifties, thin, near six foot tall, wearing a white shirt open at the top, dress pants and sandals appears salesman like. Taxi pulls to a stop and the driver turns off the clattering engine. Jack steps from the back of the taxi. The older man places his hands together in a short bow.

OLDER MAN

Saw Wa Dee Kup. Mr. Well ink ton I
am PALM CHANKUL. Mr. Jimmy called
for house for you.

Palm says something in Thai to the driver who begins carrying Jack's gear into the house. Jack makes a short bow in an unconscious response and extends his hand.

JACK

Saw Wa Dee Kup. Call me Jack. Mr.
JIMMY told me of the house.

PALM

It is an old house. Many small ones
gone now. It has electric, English
toilet and sink in house, bath
below is old er folk er trad iss a
nal.

Palm turns and walks to the concrete pad under the house with Jack following. In the back curtains hide a small area with a large earthen jar about a meter tall, filled with water. A cup is hanging from a hook near the jar. It is an open bathing area.

PALM (CONT'D)

No hot.
(Jack shurgs)

Palm and Jack walk up front steps into house. House is one room with a sink and propane stove against the back wall near back porch and stairs. The toilet is a small closet in the opposite corner of the back wall. The bed is a full size mattress on a wooden platform near right wall. There are three empty chests and two rolled up bamboo mats leaning against the left wall.

JACK

Mr. JIMMY said I will be here for
three or four days. How much for
that time?

PALM
Four days two thousand Baht.

Jack fishes a wad of bills out of his pocket and hands Palm two bills. Driver brings the last bag up the stairs and sets it next to the others at the end of the bed. Jack turns to the driver.

JACK
How much for the ride?

DRIVER
A thousand Baht.

Palm says something in Thai to the driver scolding him.

DRIVER (CONT'D)
I come long way from Resort and carry bags twice.

Jack holds up his hand to Palm, then hands the driver a bill.

JACK
You speak good English. I need someone that speaks Thai and can drive me around. Can you do that? Say two thousand a day. What is your name.

DRIVER
PUD TI NAH LAMPHUN. Drive Sam Laur for tourists much.

JACK
Now do either of you know any of the people that ran away before the Tsunami came. I need to talk to them. I also need to see the place where the Tsunami washed away the temple.

A discussion occurs in Thai between the two men.

PUD
Most people leave and go Bangkok. There a old woman cooks Moo Satay on street. Has house on high hill. That group er believe in magic and curses.

JACK
They took care of the temple and what ever magic they used, told them to leave before the Tsunami.
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

I am to look into rebuilding the temple if possible. I may also need a builder.

FADE TO:

EXT. NARROW STREET/ KO KHO KHAO/THAILAND - DAY

An old woman is selling thin sliced pork freshly grilled on a bamboo stick stands next to a cart on bicycle wheels, contains an icebox in the bottom and a charcoal grill on the top. Four metal pipes acting as poles attach a metal roof above the cart. The thin woman has a gaunt looking face with white hair and streaks of gray. The pork on a stick has a sweet burnt smell. The three wheeled taxi pulls to a stop and Jack comes around from the back. Pud gets out and talks to the old woman. Old woman hands Jack one of the cooked pork on a stick and a paper cup with a sauce inside. She then does the same to Pud.

PUD

Her name WANTA. She say you want hear about Haow See Bong Hin, you eat Moo Satay. Moo Satay is ten baht.

Jack smiles and pulls a twenty baht note from his pocket. The old woman takes the note and stuffs it in her pocket. Jack watches Pud dip the meat on a stick into the cup of sauce and thrust it in his mouth. Jack copies Pud and does the same.

JACK

Oh it is Peanut Sauce. I thought it was hot. What does Haow See Bong Hin mean?

PUD

It mean Red Stone People.

JACK

Why did the Red Stone people leave before the Tsunami?

Pud talks to the woman and she hands each of them another steak on a stick. Jack smiles and hands the woman another twenty Baht bill.

PUD

Someone come at night and take the red stone from Buddha and it mean wibati er you say cat is er end of the world come.

JACK

You mean catastrophe. Does she know where the Buddha is now, who took the red stone and can she describe the stone.

Pud asks the questions of the Old Woman and she starts to hand each of them three more of the Moo Satay. Jack waves his hand back and forth then pulls out a hundred Baht bill and hands it to her. The old woman smiles and talks to Pud. She pulls a postcard from a bunch hanging on the roof of the wagon.

PUD

A Phra songkh er ah Buddhist Priest said man come day before with accent maybe Lao or Wiew tnam er ah Vietnamese want close look at stone.

EXT. WESTERN BEACH KO KHO KHAO THAILAND - DAY

Jack reaches down and snaps the waist of the brightly colored swimming suit and shakes his head. Jack looks back at the land where the tsunami washed through, then turned to looks at the quiet bay to the east. The beach is littered with rotting wood, plants and sea weed. Pud pulls the two tanks out of the back of the taxi.

PUD

You know to use?

JACK

Just for fun before. This time I'm not after pretty rocks.

Jack picks up the tanks, slips them around his shoulders and locks them in place.

(Sound of flippers
slapping on sand)

Pud sits down and puts a SAMSUN cigarette in his mouth as Jack slips under the water. Jack swims down the slope of the land under the water. Trash from the tsunami lays throughout the area, palm trees, small pieces of stone, roof tiles, pieces of housing, metal tanks, bicycles, and cars. The level drops off to darkness below the line of debris. Jack swims along the debris line. He stops and looks back to the land. There is a valley through the debris. Jack swims down the valley into the darkness. He pulls a light from his belt and shines it into the darkness. The light disappears into the nothingness of the dark. Suddenly there is a reflection.

There in the debris is the somber face of the Buddha with the stone in the middle of his forehead reflecting the light. Jack swims for the surface expelling air as he goes. At the surface he is right of the taxi twenty yards.

PUD (YELLING)
What did you find?

Jack walks to where the water is waist deep.

JACK
I found the sixth chakra. Buddha is right there waiting for us.

Jack marked the beach with a large arrow.

FADE TO:

LATER ON THE BEACH - DAY

Several men, Jack, Mr. Chankul, Pud, Wanta, and a Buddhist Priest stand and watch as a large tow truck pulls the Buddha from the bay. The Buddhist Priest in an old saffron robe with is standing with his hands pressed together in a prayer.

(Sound of truck wench)

The tow truck grinds and occasionally rocks back and forth as the wench pulls in the cable. As the cable on the tow truck reels in the head of the Buddha appears with the shining mirror in its forehead. The cable ties around the base of Buddha cause the large statue to slide up on the beach pushing a small pile of debris before it. There is debris hanging off the shoulders like a robe. The group walks to the edge of the water and around the statue. Wanta walks to the front and places her hand on the empty navel cavity. She turns to Jack and says something to Pud. The priest nods his head up and down with his hands together in the prayer position.

PUD
Wanta say now you get back stone.

JACK
Not so easy. The scientists at the UN told me where I had to look in the ocean. Now I have to find the man who has the stone. Water and wind don't lie. I may need some help.

Palm and another man pull Jack away from the others.

PALM

This is JAO WONGWAI, he is a contractor and can build a temple to replace the one that was destroyed.

Jack shook his hand.

JACK

For now we will put the Buddha at the place it was before the Tsunami. The UN will not pay for the replacement of the temple. I will have to talk the Thai Government into replacing it.

Both men shook their heads and started to talk at once. Jack held up his hand.

JACK (CONT'D)

Mr. Wongwai, you draw the plans and cost estimate for the work. My Boss in New York will take them to the Thai Ambassador and then Thai Government. He said he will put the weight of the UN behind the request. He says they will complain but will do it in the end. And put the new structure on stilts or something so I don't have to do this the next time there is a Tsunami.

JAO

This will be something new for the men at Krabi Province Headquarters.

JACK

Well get me the names of the men that you think will be a problem, and anything you can find out about them, likes, dislikes, do they have a mistress.

Both men look at each other and nervously around at the crowd.

PALM

You are a dangerous man. You don't look so.

JACK

Actually not, I am being told what to do. Now if you stole a large ruby where would you go to sell it.

Palm opens his eyes wide and takes a deep breath.

PALM

Bangkok is only place. Amphoe Bor Rai Market is largest. There are four or five others. These are honest markets. I don't know about others you need someone to deal with these people.

JACK

That is what I need, a guide.

JAO

I have a Hmu Yati er cousin, TIK. He is a Kuy er a bum. Not trust. Will want much baht, may know someone.

JACK

Palm, I guess this is the next part of my assignment. I will need to come back when the temple plans are approved. I will miss Pud he has been helpful.

PALM

Take him with you. He has relatives in Bangkok. There is no air service now. He can drive you there.

FADE TO:

EXT. RAMA HOTEL/BANGKOK - DAY

Pud is leaning against his taxi in front of the hotel reading a newspaper. Jack walks out of the hotel carrying a thin leather case and to Pud

JACK

Saw Wa Dee Pud, how was your visit with your mother?

Pud wrinkles his nose and shrugs. Jack smiles and hands him a note.

JACK (CONT'D)
That bad huh? Here is the first
place I want to go.

Jack got in the back of the taxi and scooted to the front.

PUD
Mae want me stay Bangkok. Work more
less money not good like south. Mae
want hlan er child of child.

JACK
(laughs)
Sounds like my mother. Are you
married er you have a wife?

PUD
No wife. Have wife must build
house, must work more, work more
see wife less. Big wing er ah
round.

Pud holds up his hand and makes a circle in the air. Pud
pulls to a stop along several other taxis and Jack gets out. A
sign in Thai and English reads Bangkok Police-Scientific
Crime Detection Division.

FADE TO:

INT. THAI POLICE HEADQUARTERS/BANGKOK - DAY (TRAVELING)

Wall of Bangkok police station is covered with an open
bookcase stuffed from floor to ceiling with manila folders.
There is a door at the right side of the wall. There is a
gold painted name in Thai on the opaque glass of the door.
The front has counter with a swinging door. Three Thai
Policemen are talking to people over the counter. A policeman
in gray uniform leads Jack through the swinging door in the
counter toward the door in the back wall. As Jack enters the
small room, a man is sitting at the desk in a white shirt and
tie looks up. He is in his forties with thinning hair. He is
thin, strong and fit.

JACK
Are you Detective KAMSAKUL? I am
Jack Wellington from the UN. I was
told to contact you when I arrived
in Bangkok.

KAMSAKUL
Yes, what can I do for you?

JACK

I am attached to the Compound at Banda Aceh with the UN Cultural Protocol Group. I am evaluating places where the UN can assist in the repair of cultural sites damaged in the tsunami.

Jack opens his small leather case and places his passport, UN Identification and orders on the desk in front of the detective. Kamaskul picks up the passport looks at it casually and replaces it.

KAMSAKUL

What brings you to Bangkok there was no damage here?

JACK

At Ko kho khao with the help of local Thai people I was able to locate the Buddha that was in a small temple there and initiate work to replace the temple. In recovering the Buddha I found that two days before the tsunami, the ruby that was mounted in the navel was stolen.

Kamaskul holds up his hand causing Jack to stop. He reaches in his desk and pulls out a paper with a sketch of the ruby in the middle.

KAMSAKUL

I received a notice of the missing item. It describes it as a 100 carat, Marquise Horizontal Star. I had the notice given out to the gem, but have no information on it.

JACK

My headquarters in New York has told me to ask around the Bangkok area and offer a "No Questions Asked Reward" for information on the ruby.

Kamsakul shifts uncomfortably in his chair.

KAMSAKUL

How much reward are you offering? The price listed on the flyer is 150 million Baht or 5 million dollars.

(MORE)

KAMSAKUL (CONT'D)

To get such information you need to offer almost as much as the item is worth. Do you carry such funds with you? Furthermore, with no questions asked it is possible that you could pay the thief for taking the item, which this office would not approve. Are you a trained investigator, if so you have no jurisdiction here. And if you were to assert such I would have you expelled from the country.

Jack sits up and blinks.

JACK

Well er that was what my boss told me to say. I ah have letters of credit that can be taken to a bank which then calls for approval. The most I can issue without the item in my custody is 5,000 Baht. When I have the item in my custody I can offer ten percent of the value. I am an intern in museum science that was hired a week ago.

Kamsakul smirks and sits back in his chair.

KAMSAKUL

What do you intend to do while you are here?

JACK

I intended to go to the major gem dealers and say I would give a 5,000 Baht reward for information on the item. I was also told to price a replacement for the stone and maybe a wealthy donor can help the UN replace it. My boss thinks it will never be found.

KAMSAKUL

I suspect 5000 Baht would not get the attention of the dealers. They deal in much larger sums. I suspect your boss is right and the stone is by now cut into several smaller stones it is or was a unique stone in size and shape.

(Pauses)

Go do your search for the gem. I suspect it will lead nowhere.

(MORE)

KAMSAKUL (CONT'D)

And this is not New York. The only ones with guns here are police and soldiers. I would not expect you to get into trouble. When you do your search do not imply that you in anyway represent the police.

Jack quickly picks up his papers, places them in the leather folder and goes.

FADE TO:

EXT. RAMA HOTEL/BANGKOK - NIGHT

Pud pulls to a stop and turns off the clattering taxi's engine. Jack exits the vehicle and pulls out his wallet handing Pud several bills.

JACK

I visited seven markets that have all seen or know about the stone, Don't plan on coming to the Hotel until about ten. I need to decide what to do next.

A second taxi pulls up behind them and a Thai man steps out, then the taxi speeds off.

PUD

Tik come.

Tik says something in Thai and Put turns to Jack.

PUD (CONT'D)

Tik say Jao wanted him to help you in your search for the ruby. He says you have something for him from Jao Wongwai.

Jack reaches into a leather folder and hands Tik an envelope. Tik opens the envelope and smiles. He pulls out a note written in Thai.

JACK

Jao said that should be enough for your help.

PUD

Tik saw you go to the police station and to all of the Gem markets. He say a policeman follow us too.

Pud stops and looks around. Tik says something in Thai.

PUD (CONT'D)

Tik say he left after you handed me the Baht. Then Tik came up here. Tik say we like sleep walking not see policeman follow us even when he trip over table of rings and bracelets.

JACK

(smiles)

English word is unconscious. I remember the noise of the man tripping but he is right. I didn't pay any attention to it.

Tik says something in Thai. Pud smiles and says something back in Thai.

PUD

Tik asked if you like Muay Thai er Thai Boxing. He want you to come to match tomorrow night. I told him I want to come too. He say OK. He want you meet man who has a fighter there. He say man know about ruby.

JACK

Good, Palm said you could help me and yes I like Muay Thai. Pud you find out what time and where it is.

Pud and Tik talk, then Tik climbs in the back of the taxi.

PUD

He show me how to get there. Maybe a fight there tonight.

The taxi speeds off.

FADE TO:

I/E. MUAY THAI RING/BANGKOK - NIGHT (TRAVELING)

The Muay Thai ring is in a warehouse like building with large windows painted over. The tilting center windows are open and a large fan is in the arch of the roof blowing air out of the building. It is hot and humid in the building. The faces of small boys are looking in the tilted windows from outside. In the center of the room is a raised concrete surface with interlocking red and blue rubber mats. Metal poles covered with matting on corners support ropes form the ring.

Around the ring are for sets of stadium like bleachers five levels high. A loud speaker blears Thai music into the room, the fan is rattling, and men are yelling out bets creating an oppressive din. Walking behind Pud, Jack puts a finger to his right ear and shakes his head. There is a heavy smell of evergreen in liniment and sweat. Pud motions Jack to the far side of the ring where Tik is sitting in the second row. There are two empty spaces next to him and Jack and Pud sit down. In the front row there are four spaces painted with Thai lettering. At the corner to the right is a fighter in red shorts with a Thai inscription, a coach talking intently to him and two men in suit pants and white shirts. At the corner across the ring is a fighter in black shorts with a Thai inscription, a coach and two men in white shirts and suit pants. The Thai music in the loud speaker goes off and a man speaks in Thai, while a pretty Thai girl in shorts and a halter top walks around the ring holding a sign. The two men in suit pants and white shirts at the corner to the right come back and sit in the seats in front of Jack and Pud. Pud leans to Jack and whispers in his ear.

PUD

Man in front is Mr. Naoson. He is the Hawanna er what you call sponsor of fighter.

The two fighters each come out to opposite sides of the ring and bow to the audience with their gloves together. They move in a clockwise fashion so they do not come together. At the end of this they each kneel down facing opposite directions as if praying.

SOUND OF BELL

A man beside the ring hits a bell with a hammer and the two men jump up and go to their corners and begin raising their knees as they walk about. The pretty girl walks around the ring with a sign with the round number.

SOUND OF BELL - FIGHTERS COME OUT

The man in the red trunks strikes the legs of the man in black trunks repeatedly followed by a punch to the face. The two men move about the ring trading blows and kicking legs. Again the man in red trucks gets a blow through to the face of the man in black trunks.

SOUND OF ROAR OF CROWD IS LOUD

PUD (CONT'D)

Red trunks is stronger fighter.
What fighter you like?

JACK

Black trunks, Red trunks has twitch
in his neck before he raises right
knee high. I think he is sore or
has an injury to his left thigh.

Mr. Naoson turned around and looked at Jack for a long moment
then turned back to watch the fight.

SOUND OF BELL

Mr. Naoson jumps up and goes the corner of the fighter with
Black trunks. Coach cleans blood from fighter. The pretty
Thai girl walks around the ring with a sign. Mr. Naoson comes
back to his seat in front of Jack.

SOUND OF BELL

Thai girl walks around with a sign again. The two men in
white shirts return to their seats in front of Jack. Mr.
Naoson turns to Tik and says something in Thai, which Tik
says to Pud.

PUD

Man in white shirt Mr. Naoson says
the man with ruby is across the
ring third row back in old brown
army uniform.

JACK

Is he in the Thai Army?

PUD

No, uniform not same, wrong color
may be Vietnam or Myanmar.

Jack watches the man for a long time. The man shows no
interest in Jack or the group his is in, only fighters. The
fighter in black trunks hits the fighter in red trunks in the
face causing him to stagger backwards.

SOUND LARGE NOISE FROM THE AUDIENCE

SOUND OF BELL

Fighters go back to corners. Mr. Naoson goes to corner and
the Pretty Thai girl walks around ring with sign for third
round.

JACK

How do I get to talk to the man in
the old uniform?

Pud turned to Tik and they talk then turns back to Jack.

PUD

Tik says he will go and ask him to
meet you at restaurant outside at
the corner. It is a quiet place.

Mr. Naoson comes back to his seat and glances up at Jack with
a smile on his face.

SOUND OF BELL

Fighters come out for the third round. They move around
testing each other with kicks and punches. The fighter in the
red trunks in comes in close trying a body shot with his
right knee. The fighter in black trunks moves slightly way
from the knee strike and kicks the standing leg of the
fighter in red slightly behind the knee causing it to buckle.
The fighter in red sinks downward but does not touch the
floor with his hand. The fighter in black punches in a
downward manner hitting the fighter in red in the eye,
causing his head to snap back violently. The fighter in red
is sprawled on the mat.

ROAR OF CROWD

The referee pushes the fighter in black away and begins
counting against the fighter in red. When the referee spreads
his arms he calls the fighter in red out. Fighter in black is
jumping around as referee raises his hand signaling him the
winner. Mr. Naoson jumps up and runs to the corner of the
ring. The crowd is on its feet. Some of the crowd move toward
the area where the bookies are located. The area around Jack
and Pud move toward the corner of the ring where Mr. Naoson,
the coach and the fighter in black are moving up the aisle
between the stadium seats. Jack and Pud are swept along with
the crowd.

INT. BACK OF STADIUM - NIGHT

At the open space behind the stadium seats the crowd forms a
circle around Mr. Naoson, the coach and the fighter in black.
Mr. Naoson speaks in Thai and pats both the coach and the
fighter in black on the back. He raises the hand of the
fighter.

SOUND OF APPLAUSE

Mr. Naoson holds up his hand for the crowd to be quiet. Then he speaks some more in Thai and points at Jack.

SOUND OF APPLAUSE

Jack sees a blur in his right eye. He raises his hand, grabbing a wrist. He steps forward raising the wrist and dropping it in a circle. The motion causes the fighter in the red trunks to go sprawling on the floor. A second Thai man lunges at Jack. Jack pushes the man's arms upward while striking his forehead and kicking his feet. The motion causes the second man to sprawl on the floor next to the fighter in red trunks.

SOUND OF MEN YELLING

Several men move to separate Jack from the two men on the floor. A crowd of men push the ones that attacked Jack toward the exit.

NAOSON

You a fighter. I get you a match.
 You make much Baht.
 (Whispers)
 You loose you make much more.

JACK

No. I shouldn't have done that. He came so fast, I didn't have time to run. I work for the UN. I should negotiate.

NAOSON

Good to negotiate if man on the floor. You think on fight. American fighter bring in big crowd.

Jack motions for Pud and the two men leave the building.

FADE TO:

I/E. STREET AND RESTAURANT OUTSIDE STADIUM - NIGHT
 (TRAVELING)

Pud looks at Jack.

JACK

What's the matter?

PUD

You not look like what you are. You give me diyin er ah warning next time?

(MORE)

PUD (CONT'D)

(pauses)

Man in Uniform across street in Ban
Cha er ah tea house.

Jack and Pud walk across the street.

JACK

Saw Wa Dee Kup, I am Jack
Wellington from the UN.

Pud starts to translate and the man holds up his hand.

MAN IN UNIFORM

Saw Wa Dee Kup, I am Bogyoke Maung.
How can I help someone from the UN.

JACK

I am attached to the UN group at
Bamda Aceh working to assist
countries damaged by the tsunami. I
am assigned to assist in the
recovery, protection and
preservation of cultural artifacts.
I recovered a large Buddha from the
bay on the west side of Ko Kho
Khao.

Jack pauses to see if Maung understands what he is saying.

MAUNG

I have heard of that Buddha it is
quite large. To be swept into the
west bay required a strong wave. To
pull it back out you must have Qi,
fortune, and be very able.

JACK

When I pulled the Buddha out the
ruby mounted in Buddha's navel was
missing. I am looking for it. The
ruby is a Marquise Horizontal Star
of a hundred carats.

MAUNG

Should you not be looking in the
west bay?

JACK

Witnesses have indicated the ruby
was missing before the Tsunami.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

In fact the fear of the ruby being gone caused the people that attending that temple to go hide in the hills saving them from the Tsunami.

MAUNG

It is as if the ruby carries fortune with it. So what brings you to me.

JACK

I am authorized to pay a reward for return of the ruby and in searching for it, I learned you might have knowledge of those that have the ruby.

MAUNG

Sometimes the more you know the less you understand. But how much is the reward?

JACK

The UN authorizes me to give ten percent of it's market value.

MAUNG

Do you carry such funds with you?

Jack pauses to look around momentarily.

JACK

No. I have letters of credit that I fill in and the person that is given the reward can take them to a bank in any country. The bank confirms with the UN and the money is immediately transferred. It keeps me from being attacked and the funds are clean.

MAUNG

(smiles)

So you just walk up to someone you think has what you want and offer them a letter of credit. Have you ever done this before?

JACK

Well no. But I am told by other agents it works.

MAUNG

I suppose you have no gun and your only weapon is a pencil. Well you went to the Thai SCD, probably Detective Kamsakul and he in turn notified every gem dealer in Thailand. I have met Kamsakul I don't think he would like you handing out such a reward to anyone who took such an item.

JACK

Well I'm sure you didn't take the ruby but you may have stumbled on it.

MAUNG

Well there is a difference between 30 million US dollars and three million. So if I knew who had it I would advise them to get it out of Thailand with it to get the larger amount. Oh and I would advise you not to follow them. It has been an interesting talk.

Maung gets up and walked away.

PUD

You talk much. What did all of the talk mean?

JACK

Pud have you ever seen two dogs ready to fight. They walk around each other smell and growl.

FADE TO:

INT. RAMA HOTEL BAR/BANGKOK - NIGHT

Jack walks into the quiet bar and looks around. He turns and walks to a table to the right away from the crowd. Jack sits down placing his case on the floor next to the chair. A waiter comes over to the table.

JACK

A Singha beer. Oh yes and some Thaw.

The waiter returns with the beer and the salty bean snack. Jack takes a sip of beer and sits back sighing as he chews one of the beans.

KAMSAKUL

You have had a busy day.

Jack sits up straight and looks around. As Kamsakul sits down the waiter comes over and Kamsakul says something in Thai. Jack looks at the two and holds up his room key with the number pointing at the waiter.

KAMSAKUL (CONT'D)

You seem to have more experience that it appears. Your inquiries lead you straight to the Maethapher ah General.

JACK

Oh is he a General. I just guessed he was ex-military.

The waiter comes back leaving a glass of whiskey and scurries away.

KAMSAKUL

Yes, he is an ex-general in the Myanmar Army. The ruling generals in Myanmar chased him out of the country. He went over the border into Chaing Rai. His wife has relatives there. I take it he did not take your reward money.

JACK

No, he acted like the reward was too small.

KAMSAKUL

When I heard you contacted him I closed down the airports to him and his followers. Your still being alive surprises me. He is the head of Hmu er mafia or tong family they are in the opium business.

JACK

I guess I don't look like a threat.

KAMSAKUL

He has a mistress in a house in the Phaya Thai district. If the General has your ruby, it would be best if you gave up looking for it. I don't want to explain why I am shipping back the body of a dead UN agent.

Kamsakul finishes the glass of whiskey and leans toward Jack.

KAMSAKUL (CONT'D)

There is one thing I am curious about. It appears he stole the ruby himself. Why not have someone do it for him. If he just couldn't resist it then it is a character flaw I could use later.

Jack looks at him, takes a long drink and sits the empty glass down.

JACK

You are sizing him up like a snake watching a mouse. I guess that makes me the cheese. In any case this lump of cheese needs to get to bed before it melts. The talk was interesting.

Both men stand up and Jack signs the bill at the bar. When he turns around Kamsakul is gone.

FADE TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE/BANGKOK - DAY

A man is standing in front of a painting with a brush painting. Beyond the man against the wall are paintings standing on edge. A nude model is posing against a curtain backdrop. The smell of paint permeates the room. Jack, Pud, and Tik enter through the door of the studio. The girl on the stand quickly covers herself with the large cloth covering the chair she is sitting on.

PAINTER

What are you doing here? This is a private studio.

JACK

MR. WILSON, I am Jack Wellington from the UN. I am trying to find the location of someone in Bangkok and I understand you can help me.

WILSON

How would I know that, I am a simple painter?

Wilson said something in Thai to the girl who was modeling. She wraps the cloth around her and she scurries to a small room and closes the door.

JACK

The individual I am interested in, may own a house in Bangkok. His name is Bogyoke Maung. He is from Myanmar and is a former general.

WILSON

(SMILES)

I see, you want my wife's help and you came to me. Well I only give my wife's help to clients who buy my paintings.

Wilson points to the back wall where there are stacks of paintings.

JACK

Well show me your paintings. Do you have any that are not nudes. I may want to send it to my mother in New Jersey.

Jack picks out a two landscapes showing mountains, rice paddies and Thai houses. Jack notes the price stickers on the paintings and hands Wilson the Baht to cover the costs. Wilson picks up the phone next to his work bench and dials a number.

WILSON

Thirak there is a man here looking for the house of a Bogyoke Maung do you know of such a house?

(Holds hand over phone)

She is looking up the address.

(writes down address)

Yes dear, two of them.

Jack takes the piece of paper and hands it to Pud.

JACK

Tell Thirak thank you for her help.

WILSON

(Laughs)

Thirak is the word for sweetheart, but I will tell her.

JACK

How does your wife know where he lives?

WILSON

She is in Real Estate. I met her in Indonesia and her father said I could marry her if I gave him a sow pig. I went down the road, found one and brought her back to Bangkok. Four years in Bangkok University, rental on an office for a year and she runs the top Real Estate Agency in Bangkok. I am now married to one of the richest women in Bangkok. Best pig I ever bought.

JACK

ll thanks for your help.

WILSON

One thing, the name Bogyoke is for important men from Myanmar. They often have body guards to keep annoyances away.

FADE TO:

EXT. TEAHOUSE/PHYA THAI DISTRICT/BANGKOK - DAY

Teahouse is in a small store with a folding metal security door. The door is slid aside and tables are under the roof of the store and on the sidewalk in front of the shop. Jack Tik, and Pud are sitting at one of the tables on the sidewalk. A waiter is serving tea and a plate of KleeB Lamduan. Jack takes one of the shortbread cookies.

JACK

Umn these are good.

PUD

Why are we here.

JACK

Mr Maung has a mistress in the house across the street.

PUD

Not mistress, second wife. Only wife have house.

The curtains of one of the upper windows is pulled aside for a moment then close. The lower level of the house has a garage, a small door and one small window. A large set of stairs lead from the ground level to the second lever where a large double door leads into the house.

The lower level door opens and a man in a blue suit with no tie comes out walking straight toward Jack. At the same time there is a dark black Mercedes sedan with dark windows coming to a stop near the side of the Tea House.

MAN IN BLUE SUIT

I DRIVER for Pum Maung. He not like you here. You go now.

JACK

I'm not finished with my tea.

The man sweeps Jack's cup of tea on to the floor with his hand causing Pud to jump back from the splashing fluid.

DRIVER FOR MAUNG

You finished now.

JACK

Oh, now I need more tea.

The man grabs Jack's shirt with his right hand pulling him to his feet.

DRIVER FOR MAUNG

You go now.

Jack reaches over the man's hand grabbing the edge of the man's hand with his thumb on top twisting it. Jack's other hand pushes the man's elbow locked as he raises the man's arm high. Taking two quick steps forward and two back Jack brings the arm downward in a circle causing the man to flip laying on his back. Jack pulls the arm causing the man to roll over face down on the ground. Bending the arm behind his back Jack places his knee on the arm preventing the man from moving. There is a gasp in the Tea House and everyone is quiet.

JACK

We do not mean the General harm. We only want to be available if he decides to take the reward for the ruby. Pud tell him again in Thai.

Pud translates Jack's conversation, and Jack releases the man in the blue suit. As the man gets up from the ground, he shakes his head from the shock of landing on the ground. Jack motions to the waiter who is behind the counter in the back of the store.

JACK (CONT'D)

Kup more tea, er Cha. Would you like some tea?

The man in the driver looks at Jack with his mouth open for a moment and turns to walk back to the house.

The back door to the Mercedes opens and chubby man with slick black hair, in a white shirt and tie gets out. As Jack lifts his chair upright and sits down the chubby man walks up.

CHUBBY MAN

Are you Wellington? I am ALEX
COOTER from the UN Mission.

Jack pours sugar into the tea and stirs the cup.

JACK

Yes, how can I help you.

ALEX

First you did not come and check in at the Mission, and you can help me by behaving like someone from the UN. We at the UN do not get involved in altercations, we negotiate. What unit do you belong to? And what is your rank.

Jack takes a sip of tea and motions for Alex to have a seat. Jeffery just places his hands on his hips.

JACK

I am from the office that manages the Protocol on Preserving and Protecting Cultural Heritage. I work for Warren Oaks. I was sent to Banda Ache with the Tsunami team and from there to Ko Kho Khao Thailand to restore a small Buddhist temple destroyed in the Tsunami.

Jack pauses and takes another sip of tea.

JACK (CONT'D)

As far as checking in at the Mission I did not know I should do it. You see, two weeks ago I was an unemployed Princeton graduate. Officially, I am an Intern. I did have a long meeting with Detective Kamsakul at the Bangkok SSD.

ALEX

Oh, my god. You are a novice stumbling around Bangkok having fights with Thai Citizens and pretending to be from the UN without any guidance.

Alex sits down at the table.

JACK

Now, now Alex. I check in every day with my boss Warren Oats in New York by email and Skype and get direction. As for fighting at the Muay Thai ring and here, they came at me when I did not expect it and my response was just self-defense. I took Hop Ki Do and it just happens.

ALEX

What fight at the Muay Thai Ring? You have to come to me to see the head of the mission.

JACK

I don't think so. Warren told me to stick to Mr. Maung like glue to remind him that he needs to get ruby he stole back to me for the Buddha that is now being placed in a new temple. If I go off he will disappear and I will lose the chance to get the ruby back. Have your Mission chief call Warren at UN Headquarters.

Alex stands up. His face is red, his breathing is labored and his fists are clenched.

ALEX

We'll see about that.

Alex walks over to the Mercedes, gets in the back seat and slams the door. The car speeds off and around the corner. Tik stands and says something in Thai to Pud and walks away.

PUD

Tik thinks you are bad er not safe to be around. You make everyone korth er angry. Do you know what you do?

JACK

Not really. I am just doing what my boss told me to do. He thinks it will work.

Pud shakes his head and looks around nervously. The man in the blue suit comes out of the house across the street and walks to the car opening the back door. Mr. Maung, and his mistress come out of the main door, down the stairs and into the back seat of the car. The man in the blue suit glances over at Jack and gets into the driver's seat.

JACK (CONT'D)

Well Pud it looks like we are going for a ride.

FADE TO:

EXT. BANGKOK - NIGHT (TRAVELING)

Pud stops the three wheeled taxi at a dock on the Chao Phraya River. Mr. Maung and his mistress get out of the car, walk into a small building and out on the deck of a large boat. The driver parks the car next to several others.

PUD

They go eat on boat.

JACK

OK, they are busy for the evening. So take me back to the hotel. We can catch up with them tomorrow.

Pud turns the taxi and speeds off down the street. Pud slows at an intersection and another three wheeled taxi comes up beside them. Inside of the back of the second taxi is a man with the same kind of uniform as Maung had worn to the Muay Thai match. Jack leans forward where he can talk Pud over the noise of the engine.

JACK (CONT'D)

Are their many men in Bangkok from the Myanmar Army?

PUD

Not know. Why?

JACK

How fast will this taxi go?

Pud looks over shoulder at Jack and then at the second taxi slightly behind and to the right.

He accelerates the taxi and speeds through the intersection swerving to the right in front of the second taxi.

SOUND OF GUN FIRING AND CLANG

A hole appears in the side of the roof of the taxi a foot back of Jack's head. Pud swerves taxi back and forth in front of the second taxi keeping the second taxi from pulling along side. Man in second taxi leans out of back holding on to the roof support pointing gun momentarily then ducks back in avoid falling out.

PUD

You not fall out.

A woman is walking along the sidewalk on the right side carrying two baskets suspended on a pole over her left shoulder. Pud turns to the right into a small alley way. The taxi raises up so the right rear wheel is off the ground.

SOUND OF ENGINE WHINE

As Pud enters the alley way the taxi hits one of the baskets causing the pole on the woman's shoulder to fly off spilling the two baskets of guava to roll into the street and alley way. The second taxi breaks, slides to a stop past the alley, backs up then speeds down the alleyway. The woman steps out shakes her fists at the departing taxi. The next street is a crowded market and Pud turns to the right and slowly moves through the crowd of people and small carts. A sign on the wall in Thai and English reads Pratunam Market. The people close in behind Pud's taxi temporarily hiding it. The second taxi slows and proceeds through the street into the alleyway on the other side. After a moment the taxi backs up and the man in the back seat climbs up on the back of the taxi to look over the top of the crowd of people in the market. The second taxi turns into the market and follows through the market. The man in the back slips the gun into his jacket pocket jumps out and begins working his way through the crowd. Jack stands in back of taxi holding on to the roof to look back through the crowd. The man with the gun is pushing people aside to move through the crowd. For a moment Jack and the man in uniform look at each other.

JACK

Man with the gun is out of the taxi walking. Getting closer.

PUD

Almost out. Know place go.

The Pud's taxi emerges from the crowded market street, turns left and speeds off.

At two crossing streets down Jack looks back to see the man in uniform climb back into his taxi and follow him. In a short way Pud turns right goes a few feet and pulls to a stop behind another taxi.

JACK
Pud, don't stop they are right
behind us.

Pud points to the large building where they are parked. Jack looks at the building as three policemen come out and down the stairs.

JACK (CONT'D)
Good idea. Nothing like a policeman
or two to put off the casual
gunman.

The second taxi comes to a stop at the intersection and the man in back looks at the building and Jack. The taxi, then the taxi slowly moves off.

JACK (CONT'D)
I'll wait here for a while then
take another taxi back to the
hotel. A big yellow one.

Jack pulls a folded envelope from his pocket, then his billfold. He places some more money in the envelope and hands it to Pud. Pud opens and looks in the envelope.

PUD
Maybe tomorrow you give envelope
first. You may not live long.

Jack smiles and nods as he steps out of the taxi.

FADE TO:

INT. RAMA HOTEL POOL/BANGKOK - NIGHT

Jack is sitting in a lounge chair. On the table next to him is a glass with a plastic umbrella and a straw sticking out of it. Next to him is a tripod with a gray dish pointed to the sky. Wires run from the antenna to a box and then to his laptop.

SHOT OF SCREEN CONTAINING WARREN OAT'S FACE

WARREN (V.O.)
Jack don't worry about Alex Cooter
at the UN Mission.
(MORE)

WARREN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I don't much care for your being chased through Bangkok. You should tell the policeman Kamsakul about it.

JACK

I think he would say the bait, by that I mean me, is working fine. My guess is he already knows all about it. I still wonder why General Maung stole the ruby himself. It's not character flaw where he slips things into his pocket when he goes shopping with his mistress.

WARREN (V.O.)

People are strange. You never know. The ambassador here had the Thai Government kick in some extra Baht and the temple is under construction. JIMMY Dolan flew in for a day to Ko Kho and sent me some pictures of it. I also got the Thais to kick more money for the reward. You can offer General Maung 600 thousand US once the stone is verified. Oh by the way JIMMY was pleased with your work in Ko Kho. He said thought you were du, but you adapted quickly. Er it is Irish slang for obtuse.

JACK

I don't know if that was complement or not. Warren, I've got to get to bed. I'll check in again tomorrow.

Jack folds up the equipment and places it on the luggage cart. He looks around the quiet swimming pool.

JACK (CONT'D)

I should come down here and just lay in the sun for a while tomorrow, or maybe that quiet beach at Ko Kho Khao. I wish I knew what I was doing. I could plan a little get away before I went back to the bustle of the City.

FADE TO:

EXT. SMALL STREET/BANGKOK - DAY

Jack exits from the back seat of a police car. An area is cordoned off with yellow tape. Inside the yellow tape is a three-wheeled taxi. There are two men in the taxi apparently dead. The area was a small alleyway between two buildings in a commercial part of Bangkok. A policeman points to Detective Kamsakul behind the yellow tape and shoves Jack's shoulder in that direction. Detective Kamnsakul motions for Jack to come over to him. Jack lifts the yellow tape and walks over to him.

KAMSAKUL

Do you know these two men?

Jack looks at the two men's faces. Each had a bullet hole in the head. There was dried blood on the front seat of the taxi and in the back passenger area. The man in the back of the taxi was the man in uniform that shot at Jack the night before.

JACK

No.

KAMSAKUL

They seem to know you.

Kamaskul holds up a blood stained photograph of Jack and Pud in front of the Rama Hotel.

KAMSAKUL (CONT'D)

There was last night someone shooting a gun on the streets from a moving taxi. Only soldiers and policemen have guns. I find these men here murdered with intent and your picture. How much longer are you to be in Bangkok?

JACK

I don't know.

KAMSAKUL

This is enough for me to ask you to leave. And Mr. Cooter at the UN Mission would see to it for me.

(Pauses)

You do not look like the dangerous type and I do not think you killed these men. They are Myanmar ex-soldiers and have become a criminal element. The one in the back of the taxi with a gun is an ex-officer.

(MORE)

KAMSAKUL (CONT'D)

You seem to do well at keeping out of the way of bullets. This has the look of two criminal gangs fighting. So the longer you are here the more of them end like this. And if you are killed I will send you back with an honor guard.

Jack shakes his head, turns and walks away.

FADE TO:

EXT. TEAHOUSE/PHYA THAI DISTRICT/BANGKOK - NIGHT (TRAVELING)

Jack steps into the back of Pud's taxi.

JACK

Well this was a boring day and now the lights are off and they have gone to bed.

Pud put a sweet cookie from the teahouse on the seat next to him and the taxi speeds off down the street.

PUD

Mr. Maung maybe have good time with MISS SUMALEE not want to leave house.

JACK

Well he is close to fifty let's hope he had a good time. What is the Thai word for fat?

PUD

Khun, but Mr. Maung not khun.

JACK

Not Mr. Maung, but that is the sixth of the sweet cookies you have had today. A few more and it will be Khun Pud.

PUD

I stay with sister and she not cook good.

Pud puts on the brakes to come to a stop at a stop sign. The sweet cookie rolls off the seat and Pud bends down to grab it.

SOUND OF CLANG AND A RICHOSHETE OFF THE STREET

A hole appears in the side of the taxi right the level where Pud's head is when he is driving. Jack fell flat in the bottom of the taxi.

SOUND OF A DOUBLE CLANG

Holes appear in the side where Jack had been sitting and across and down at the bottom of the opposite side of the taxi just above Jack's right hand.

JACK

Pud get out of here.

The taxi accelerates causing Jack to almost slides out of the back of the taxi. The taxi speeds through the next stop sign and turns right on a busy street with cars swerving to avoid an accident.

SOUND OF HONKING AND SQUEAL OF TIRES

PUD

They try shoot me now. Maybe you get another taxi tomorrow.

FADE TO:

EXT. RAMA HOTEL/BANGKOK - NIGHT (TRAVELING)

Pud's taxi pulls to a stop and Jack gets out.

JACK

Are you taking the day off tomorrow?

PUD

No, I be here. I no here you get shot.

Jack pats Pud on the shoulder. A voice behind them said something in Thai. Pud looks behind Jack and turns off the taxi motor. Kamaskul walks over and using a pencil puts it through the two holes in the taxi.

KAMSAKUL

I see you taught the driver how to dodge bullets. One of my men was following you. He saw the shooter and confronted him. The shooter is dead. He was another ex-soldier from Myanmar.

JACK
Is your man OK?

KAMSAKUL
Yes, but this is first man he
killed and is er you say sad. He
will be kneeling before Buddha for
a while. I hope I don't loose him
as an officer.

(Pauses)
The General's men have tried a
shooting you from a taxi, and they
tried a sniper. They will try
someone close next. I asked the UN
about your background hoping you
were an ex-seal or something.

JACK
(Smirks)
Well if I was an ex-Seal my boss
would not have hired me. He must
have said twenty times in the two
days before I left New York, "We in
the UN don't use guns, or fight we
negotiate." I have tried to
negotiate Maung just hasn't come to
the table yet. It has been a long
day. Thank you, I didn't expect any
warnings.

Kamaskul turns gets into is car and leaves. He is followed
out by Pud in his taxi. As the two cars leave Jack turns to
the bellhop standing behind a rolling counter.

JACK (CONT'D)
Is there a good restaurant within
walking distance?

BELLHOP
(Frowns and points)
The one in the hotel is the best
around. But that restaurant there
on the road down the hill with the
lights on is acceptable.

SHOT OF BUILDING WITH ORANGE CHINESE LAMPS AT BOTTOM OF DARK
HILL WITH SIDE WALK NEXT TO STREET

JACK
I just need to walk a bit.

Jack starts walking in the direction of the restaurant.

CLOSE UP OF ORANGE CHINESE LAMP WITH RAMA HOTEL UP THE HILL
BEYOND THE DARK STREET NEXT TO THE SIDEWALK

Jack rubs his stomach and belches, and starts walking up the hill.

JACK (CONT'D)

Jack you should have listened to
the Bellhop. The pork fried rice
was greasy and what ever that side
dish was it should have been served
in a cast iron bowl.

There is a movement to his left and Jack turns to find a man
with a large knife. Jack backs up and the man takes a step
toward him moving his knife back and forth. A large dark
shape appears behind the man with the knife. A large hand
strikes downward at the neck and the man with the knife falls
to the ground.

JIMMY

Jack me boy. Do you wander around
the streets at night all of the
time talking to yourself

Jimmy bends down picks up the knife and throws across the
road and into the ditch.

JACK

Jimmy what are you doing here?

JIMMY

I flew into Bangkok from India and
Warren asked me to check up on you.
Lets go up to the hotel they have a
nice quiet bar.

JACK

I guess so, I've never been in
there.

JIMMY

Jack, Jack now you wouldn't keep an
Irish man from his drink would ya.

The two men walk up the slight hill toward the hotel leaving
the man laying on the sidewalk.

FADE TO:

INT. RAMA HOTEL BAR/BANGKOK - NIGHT

Jimmy and Jack are in a booth against the wall away from the bar.

JACK

And with the man outside of the restaurant I guess that brings you up to date.

Jimmy motions to the waitress.

JIMMY

Luv another Maekong whiskey fer me and what ever that is that Jack here is having.

The waitress turns to ready the drinks.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Jack you need to step back and look at things with fresh eyes.

(Pauses)

Maung is supposed to be a former general from Myanmar and tied in with the drug trade out of Chaing Mai in the north and you have himself gouging out the ruby from the belly of Buddha. It smells of other meat in the stew.

Jimmy stops to have a sip of whiskey.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Jack did you ever take English Lit in college or theater arts? Or were you too busy with a Lass or two? Anyway, have you been to see Othello or the Merry Maids of Windsor?

Jack shakes his head no.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Well it could be here we have the play Desdemona or the Merry Men of Windsor. The number one Mrs. Maung is in Chaing Rai faithfully running the opium business while the philandering Mr. Maung is livin it up with number two here in Bangkok.

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Now I have known some lovely ladies
but I have never found one that
stuffed money in me pockets before
I went to off to see another one.

Jimmy takes another sip of whiskey.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Jack you need to look around. Here
in Thailand you go into a shop and
who do you see running abacus, the
little woman. All that is because
of Anna Leonowens.

JACK

Who?

JIMMY

Oh Lord, you've got a lot of work
to do. You know Anna and the King.
Read about her, it's an interesting
story and why they call this place
Thai or freeland. It is why women
here are treated different than any
other place in Southeast Asia -
Jack me boy the lovely ladies
control the purse strings here and
it all goes back to Anna.

Jimmy takes another sip of whiskey and calls something in
Thai to the waitress.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

So the reason Mr. Maung stole the
ruby himself isn't that he can't
stop himself from shop liften. Mrs.
Maung number 1 cut him off and he
has to pay for number 2 on his own.
Now with Mrs. Maung number 1
running the family opium business
you have to convince her that Mr.
Maung having the ruby is bad for
business.

The waitress brings a bowl of peanuts.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

This guy here Sam Galinsky runs the
protocol on drugs. He tries to
convince the Thai Government into
cut down on the drugs flowing out
of the country.

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

The government does something to limit the flow but everyone knows when it is going to happen. He knows the routes of Mrs. Maung's trucks Convince Sam here to stop and confiscate a couple of her trucks and you will have her on yer doorstep the next day.

JACK

How do you know all this?

JIMMY

That's where the English Lit comes in Jack me boy. Everyone in the world behaves the same. I comparem to some character I know and it almost always works out.

(Pauses)

There can be a fly in the milk. You need to be careful of unintended consequences. Which could happen if you plan on Desdemona and you wind up with Mrs. Macbeth.

Jimmy raises his glass and motions to the waitress.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Love can you bring me a pint to take back to my room?

JACK

Wait, you didn't tell me how the temple is going. You didn't tell me what else is going on at Banda Ache and the other places. And does Warren really want me to replace you.

JIMMY

Well I sent you an email with all the pictures and an update on the temple. It should be ready for you and the ruby in a week or so. As for the rest just think - ain't life an adventure.

As the two men get up from the table, Jimmy puts a stack of Baht on the table and leads Jack out of the bar.

FADE TO:

INT. UN MISSION/OFFICE OF CONF.8217 DRUGS - DAY

Jack opens a door with "UN CONFERENCE 8217 DRUGS." SAM GALINSKY is on the phone. He motions for Jack to close the door and then points to a seat in front of the desk. The office is small, with one window, desk, two filing cabinets, bookcase, a small table, a map of Thailand that covers one wall, two chairs in front of the desk and one larger on in back. Sam ends the phone call and places the phone on the cradle. He looks at the UN Badge on Jack's shirt.

SAM

And how can I help Jack er
Wellington from er what is that?

JACK

Convention on Preservation of
Cultural Heritage. I am here with
the group at Banda Ache, and James
Morrissey.

SAM

Oy vey! What did I do to deserve
this? What does Jimmy need?

JACK

I was sent from the HQ in New York
to work with him. I think Warren
Oaks is grooming me to replace him.

SAM

You look like a mentsh, but I doubt
you can match Jimmy's capacity for
whiskey.

JACK

Well I would like you to arrange
for a couple of opium trucks coming
down from Chaing Mai that belong to
Mrs. Maung to be stopped and
confiscated.

SAM

Well you may not have Jimmy's
capacity but you sure have his
Chutzpah. You'll need to convince
me why I should kick this hornets
nest.

Jack places a report on his desk.

JACK

Here is a report on my work trying to restore the Temple at Ko Kho Khao.

Sam flips through the report scanning the written sections and looking carefully at the pictures.

SAM

So if I get this right you want me to confiscate a couple of Mayuree Maung's opium trucks for her to pressure Bogyoke to give you back the ruby he stole.

Sam gets up and walks to the map on the wall. You need to understand the logistics here.

SAM (CONT'D)

Her shipments start at the top of Thailand and go all the way to Bangkok through all of these towns. There is a lead truck and if it doesn't get through they change routes. They have spotters all along the route. To do what you propose we need to transport the Thai police to some spot on the road without them being seen.

(Pauses)

Doing it at some remote place like between Tak and Thoen would mean helicopter transport. Doing it in the middle of Chaing Mai would mean taking the men there for one purpose and then telling them at the last minute they were there for another reason.

JACK

How does she ship the stuff?

SAM

Every day there are shipments of some sort and this time year it is rice on trucks in large white bags stacked four high four across and nine long. When they ship opium they remove the center bags replace them with small bags of opium and cover them with bags of rice.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

You can't tell the difference in the trucks with opium by looking at them.

Sam walks back to his desk and slumps back into his chair.

SAM (CONT'D)

My guess is, this is Jimmy's idea. He likes manipulating people. And if he has been reading the Mission Newsletter he knows my last couple of raids have netted bupkis. One thing, if I do this interception how will Mayuree know to come to you.

JACK

I think she already knows I'm here trying to get the ruby back. Mr. Maung sent some ex-Myanmar soldiers after me and they were found dead in a taxi the next day. At least that what Detective Kamsakul thought.

SAM

So you've got Tiger Kamsakul involved in this too.

JACK

Yes, Jimmy told me to see him when I got in town first. Though he didn't remind me much of a cat, more like a snake.

SAM

That's what the locals call him. Was he helpful or just observant?

JACK

Well, he seems to know all of Mr. Maung's flunkies and neither Maung or his men seem to be able to leave Bangkok. I guess observant.

SAM

If I am going to do this then you will have to help. Here's what we could do. I will go to the city of Tak and look like I'm stopping a shipment there. When they'll diverted any shipments to another route.

(MORE)

SAM (CONT'D)

You go to Chaing Mai to look at preservation of the White Elephant Gates. The gates are ancient and it will seem reasonable. The shipments pass by the gates. Both cities have airports so when I know a shipment is coming down from Chaing Rai the men will go to Chaing Mai instead of Tak. You have to come up with a reason to stop traffic on the road.

JACK

I guess, I've never been there. Is there some place I could get a seismograph?

SAM

I don't know you could try the Mission Supply Office. Why?

JACK

I've found if you want to pull the wool over someone's eyes, you bring out some equipment, take measurements and people leave you alone. There's a state beach in south Jersey I go to when I want to get some quiet time. All you need is a clipboard and pencil and people will ignore you.

SAM

Oh God, you are a little Jimmy.

FADE TO:

EXT. WHITE ELEPHANT GATE/CHAING MAI/THAILAND - DAY

A sign in Thai and English reads "UN Cultural Preservation Team," stands at the base of the one column of the Gate. The gate is two large stone columns with an elephants head on the top. A two lane road and sidewalks separate them. Behind each column is a low wall Two Thai Policemen are lounging on the wall behind the sign watching the activity. A small folding wooden table is near the sign with a plastic covered seismograph and seven cables leading from the back in different directions. A young Thai man is standing next to Jack holding a cable. Jack takes the cable and twists the connector into a spot on the back of the machine. On the wall near the policemen is a laptop computer, satellite communications box, a small tripod and satellite dish.

Power lines run from all of the equipment to a white Landrover parked just off the road. The Landrover has UN in large black letters on the door. Jack looks at the young Thai man.

JACK

You can tell the men with the backhoe that it is working and they can leave now.

The young man waves at the man driving the backhoe and the backhoe rumbles off down the street. Jack flips a switch on the seismograph and the paper begins to slowly move leaving eight lines. Jack picks up a clipboard and begins taking notes of the traffic going by. Periodically he uses a digital camera to take pictures of various vehicles passing by. The phone on the wall next to the computer rings. Jack walks over and picks it up.

JACK (CONT'D)

Hello.

SAM (V.O.)

I have two trucks just north. They will be at your location in ten minutes. My team will be there in twenty minutes we are at the airport now. I need you to delay them about ten minutes.

JACK

I can do that.

Jack hangs up the phone and goes back to recording vehicles and times on the clipboard. He motions for the young Thai boy to come to him.

JACK (CONT'D)

Soon, I want the Policemen to stop the traffic and let only one vehicle go by at a time. It will not be long, maybe five, six vehicles big ones and little ones. Have them count to ten between vehicles.

Jack holds up his hand and raises and lowered his fingers to a ten count. One of the policemen comes over, looks in the top of the seismograph, at the traffic going by and then back at the columns of the White Elephant Gate. He smiles and nods. The policemen walks down the two roads and wait for the signal. Jack takes a set of binoculars from the truck and looks down the road to the north.

There are three cars close to the policeman, and in the distance is a pickup with two men standing in the back. Behind the pickup are two large flatbed trucks with white bags on the back. Jack signals to the policemen. The policemen step out on the road with a large flag and halt the oncoming traffic. The first car is let go and Jack records the readings on his clipboard then waves for the second car. The process goes on twice more and Jack signals for the pickup to go.

SOUND OF SEVERAL LARGE TRUCKS BEHIND JACK FROM THE CROSSING ROAD.

Jack glances back and sees Sam climbing out of the cab of the first truck along with several Thai soldiers jumping out of the back. Jack signals for the first large flatbed truck. The pickup passes through the gate and starts to turn left. Several soldiers rush out and pull the four men out of the truck. A soldier collects several weapons from the truck. Jack looks back at the two flat bed trucks. The drivers of both trucks jump out and begin running across the rice fields away from the truck. The policeman standing their watching them turns and raises both hands. Sam walks up to Jack.

SAM

Well, let's go see what we've got.

FADE TO:

EXT. ROAD TO WHITE ELEPHANT GATE - DAY

Jack and Sam are standing by the side of the second truck. There is a stack of rice bags to the right and the left next to the ends of the flat bed. In the middle of the stack are small plastic white bags of opium.

SAM

We did good. Each truck has about two and a half tons or about ten thousand pounds at the going rate of seventy dollars a pound is about seven hundred thousand dollars.

JACK

Holy cow, I'm in the wrong business.

SAM

This one raid is better than I did all last year. But they will only fall for this trick once. Now you know you will have a visit from MAYUREE.

Sam looks back at the soldiers loading the rice bags back on the first truck.

SAM (CONT'D)

Now I've got the problem of getting this load down to the burning ground outside of Bangkok without half the soldiers disappearing with a bag or two. You going to be OK getting back to Bangkok?

JACK

Well actually, I need to take a few more readings here before I pack up and go back. It seems our little diversion actually will result in some foundation redesign on the White Elephant Gate to keep it from falling down.

SAM

Sounds like the Buddha is smiling on you. I guess now that I think on it you should be able to handle Mayuree.

Jack waves at Sam and begins walking toward the gate.

FADE TO:

INT. JACK'S ROOM/RAMA HOTEL/BANGKOK - DAY

Jack is sitting on his bed putting on his socks and shoes. He is wearing slacks and a white tee shirt. His hair is slightly wet.

SOUND OF KNOCK ON THE DOOR

Jack gets up looks out of the door security hole. A small Thai woman is there in a pillbox hat with a feather sticking out of one side. Jack opens the door. To the right of the lady is a large very muscular Thai man. The man pushes open the door and Jack out of the way as he walks into the room. He looks Jack up and down then walks to the bathroom and the closet. He opens drawers in the cabinet, desk and night stand. When he finishes he nods to the woman. The woman steps into the room and the man takes a position outside of the door. The woman closes the door. The woman turns to Jack.

WOMAN

You Well-ink-ton? I Mayuree Maung.
You UN man not same Gol-in-ski. Why
you help?

JACK

To get you to see me.

Jack looks at her then walks over to the chair next to the desk and removes the laptop setting it on the floor.

JACK (CONT'D)

Would you like a seat.

Mayuree looks around the room and shakes her head no. She walks to a spot near the window. Mayuree is near five foot high, slightly over weight, in a dark skirt and matching vest with a blue silk blouse. She is wearing nylons that have a seam on the back of the leg and black shoes. When she takes a step in the high heels there is a loud click from the floor and the feather in the hat bounces up and down. Jack walks over to the bed and in two quick moves pulls the cover and bed spread back in place.

MAYUREE

Why you want see me?

She walks back to the middle of the room.

JACK

Bogyoke has something and I want him to return it.

She walks over and takes a seat in the chair. Her skirt is tight and the tops of her nylons becomes slightly visable.

MAYUREE

What he have?

Jack goes to the desk and picks up a bundle of papers. He walks to the bed. He pulls a calendar from the stack and points to December twenty-fourth.

JACK

This is Buddha at Ko Kho Khao temple. See ruby?

Jack shows her a picture and points to ruby.

JACK (CONT'D)

This woman see Bogyok take ruby this day?

Jack shows her a picture of Wanta.

JACK (CONT'D)

Tsunami come this where temple was on this date.

Jack shows her picture of broken foundation, then points to calendar.

JACK (CONT'D)
I find Buddha and pull it from sea.

Jack shows her a picture of Jack in a rubber suit as the pull Buddha from sea. Then a close up picture of the empty hole in the belly of Buddha.

JACK (CONT'D)
I am having temple built again.

Jack shows her a picture of the new temple being constructed.

JACK (CONT'D)
The ruby is large 100 carats, a horizontal star.

MAYUREE
Ruby may be a hundred and fifty million baht er thirty million dollars.

Jack smiles at the quick shift in her position and a narrowing of her eyes.

JACK
The UN allows me to offer a reward of ten percent of the value no questions asked for return of artifacts. I offered Bogyok the reward but he did not take it.

Mayree looks around the room.

MAYUREE
Do you have such money.

JACK
I have letters of credit that can be cashed at any bank in the world. The bank calls for a verification and the funds are made available the same day.

MAYUREE
Do you help Gol-in-ski to get me to help you so you can help people at Ko Kho Khao.

Mayree stands up and Jack in advertently glanced at her legs. She smiled and straightened out her skirt.

MAYUREE (CONT'D)
I will see what I can do. And you
not stop trucks?

Mayuree extended her hand and Jack took it to shake. For a
moment she held it and looked it.

MAYUREE (CONT'D)
So what you do is help people. You
not have wife?

JACK
No, not yet.

She smiled and walked to the door.

FADE TO:

INT. JACK'S ROOM RAMA HOTEL/BANGKOK - DAY

Jack walks over and looks out the security hole then opens
the door. Detective Kamsakul walks in to the room.

KAMSAKUL
You have a meeting from Mayuree
Maung. That because you help
Golinsky stop two opium trucks. You
know he not say much about your
help. Most he ever stop. This is a
dangerous game you play. She look
like nice Thai lady but more like
Maengpong er ah scorpion.

JACK
The way she walks reminds me more
of a Peacock. She struts as she
walks. You were not so concerned
when I was dealing with Bogyok. I'm
still not sure you're concerned
about me or if you think she will
get away with something.

KAMSAKUL
Bogyok like Ox not have er not as
strong.

JACK
(Laughs)
In English it is steer. I guess you
think Mayuree made him impotent.
Well I'm hoping she will get me
back the ruby so I won't stop any
more of her shipments.

KAMSAKUL

Can you do that?

JACK

No, but I'm hoping she thinks I can long enough to get me back the ruby.

KAMSAKUL

Well Bogyok stay in house with Miss Sumalee and not leave while Mayuree come Bangkok. Your man, Pud stay outside house in daytime. The other man Tik, leave. That good, Tik is suspect in several small crimes.

Kamsakul walks over to the door.

KAMSAKUL (CONT'D)

You think she get you back ruby?

JACK

I hope so.

KAMSAKUL

You give her reward? You know I don't like you give Bogyok the reward when he steal ruby. But you give Mayuree reward she keep Bogyok tied up. Buddha would approve. Karma doesn't always give fair result.

Kamsakul walks out the door.

FADE TO:

EXT. TEAHOUSE/PHYA THAI DISTRICT/BANGKOK - DAY

Jack and Pud are sitting at a table. Pud is eating an egg dish served in a bowl. Jack is reading a week old newspaper from Los Angelus. The lower level door opens and the driver for Maung comes out. He walks directly to Jack. He is wearing his blue suit coat and a gray pair of pants.

DRIVER FOR MAUNG

Pum Maung go to meeting now. He come back soon. Not want you there. You not come.

Jack puts the paper down on the table.

JACK

Now you know I never interfere with Mr. Maung's business. I just watch from a distance.

The driver looks at Jack and Pud then turns. As he walks back he reaches in his suit coat pocket and extracts something and there is a glint in his hand. He turns and walks to Pud's taxi. At the front wheel he jabs something into the tire.

SOUND OF AIR HISSING FROM THE TIRE

Pud jumps up and runs to his taxi as the man walks away. He looks at the tire and yells something in Thai as he shakes his fist. Jack stands up.

JACK (CONT'D)

Pud come back. I will get you a new tire.

Across the street at the house Mr, Maung comes out of the door and down the stairs. The driver opens the back door. As Maung is about to get in he looks at Jack and Pud and smiles.

FADE TO:

EXT. TEAHOUSE/PHYA THAI DISTRICT/BANGKOK - DAY (LATER)

Pud is tightening the nuts on the new front tire of his taxi. Jack is sitting at the table with a cup of tea watching the repair.

SOUND OF LOUD MOTORCYCLE DOWN THE STREET

A motorcycle appears down the street to the right of Jack traveling at high speed. As he passes Pud he slows the swerves toward the house across the street. Jack watches as the man on the motorcycle throws a bottle and it arcs toward the corner of the house. The bottle hits and explodes sending burning liquid in all directions. The motorcycle speeds off down the street. Jack jumps up and runs for the house.

JACK

Pud call the fire department.

The fire is burning the house to the right as Jack mounts the stairs two at a time.

SOUND OF JACK'S FEET ON THE STAIRS

Jack pushes the door handle down but the door is locked. He makes a fist and strikes the window on the door. As he reaches inside there is a bleeding cut on his hand.

SOUND OF BREAKING GLASS THEN A CLICK

In the house Jack looks into a small room to the right. It is empty. Going down a hallway there is a living room to the left with a couch, overstuffed chairs, lamps, small tables, but no Sumalee.

SOUND OF JACK'S FEET RUNNING DOWN THE HALLWAY

The next room on the right is a dining room, table, dish cabinets and chairs. The window are open and black smoke is filling the room. Jack can smell the burning wood. At the end of the hall Jack can see a bathroom and two doors. The bathroom and first bedroom are empty. He opens the door to the last room and Sumalee is in bed.

SOUND A SHREEK

Sumalee clutches the covers to her neck. Black smoke follows Jack into the room floating toward the ceiling. Jack grabs her right hand pulling her from the bed and she lands on the floor. Sumalee is dressed in a short nightgown and underwear. Jack points to the smoke.

JACK (CONT'D)

Fire. Fire

Sumalee looks at the smoke and makes a gasping sound. Jack pulls her to her feet. She is thin and short. She looks at her clothes on the chair.

JACK (CONT'D)

No time. No time.

Jack grabs her right wrist with his left hand and kneels down momentarily thrusting his right arm between her legs wrapping it around her right leg. He pulls her over her back and stands. The motion causes another shriek from Sumalee. With Sumalee across his back and shoulder he steps sideways out the bedroom door and moves sideways down the narrow hall trying not to bump her head or feet into the walls. Fire is now coming in the dining room windows and up the windows. Black smoke engulfs the hallway. Jack blinks his eyes from the stinging smoke. As Jack steps out of the front door the left half of the front porch is on fire as well as the left stair columns and railing. As he goes down the stairs he turns sideways to keep Sumalee's head from the fire. He must go down the steps one at a time and process is slow.

SOUND OF SIREN IN THE DISTANCE

At the bottom of the stairs he turns to look back. The stairs and porch are now totally in flames. Jack walks quickly across the street and sets Sumalee down in his chair.

There is a crowd of people standing in the street watching the fire and Jack's rescue.

SOUND OF APPLAUSE

Jack looks at the crowd momentarily, then goes to an empty table removing the little porcelain container for vinegar then the table cloth. He brings the table cloth to Sumalee to cover her. The fire truck arrives and stops a block away to extract hose and connect it to a hydrant. Behind the fire truck are two police cars. The fire truck drives forward deploying hose as it goes.

PUD

You save Miss Sumalee. You ah Kla
er don't remember word.

JACK

You mean stupid.

PUD

No another word like strong.

Jack looks up at the fire. The house is fully engulfed in fire as the firemen finally get water on the fire.

JACK

Well Jimmy there are the unintended
consequences. And we know now what
Lady Macbeth is capable of.

Jack looks back at Sumalee. She is crying. He walks back and pats her on the shoulder. She looks at him and takes his hand pressing it to her cheek. A policeman walks up with a small notebook and is asking questions and writing in the book.

JACK (CONT'D)

Pud translate for me. It will be
easier.

Jack relays the events one sentence at a time followed by Pud's translation and then the policeman's writing in the book. The process takes some time as they are finishing the house collapses in on itself and the firemen begin watering down the debris. Sumalee is still crying softly as she looks at the burned remains of her house. The policeman turns to Sumalee with several questions then points to the police car.

JACK (CONT'D)

Pud what is he doing?

PUD

He take Miss Sumalee to station. He need question her why someone want burn her house.

JACK

No. I will take care of Miss Sumalee. Is there a good Thai Hotel nearby?

PUD

Yes, Siam City Hotel not far.

Jack walks behind Sumalee and put his hands on her shoulders.

JACK

You tell policeman, I will take her to the Siam City Hotel. And if there are any questions he can talk to Detective Kamsakul of the SSD.

Pud translated and mention of Kamsakul causes the policeman to look Jack up and down then nod. It also caused Miss Sumalee to look at Jack. She caught her breath and made a little smile. Jack goes to Miss Sumalee and takes her hand.

JACK (CONT'D)

ud tell the man in the Chabahn that we will return his table cloth after we get Miss Sumalee some clothes.

Jack leads her to the back of the taxi and when Pud is in the front they start off. The policeman says something in Thai but the three proceed down the street.

JACK (CONT'D)

There is a clothing market near here. Go there first.

FADE TO:

EXT. CLOTHING MARKET/BANGKOK - DAY

The market street is narrow and the taxi moves slowly down the middle stopping as people walk in front.

JACK

Pud tell Miss Sumalee to pick a store and we will get her clothes to wear.

Miss Sumalee sits up, wipes her eyes and for the first time smiles. She waits for about thirty feet and pats Jack on the knee pointing to a shop.

JACK (CONT'D)

Pud she wants to stop.

Pud pulls the taxi over and next to the curb. At the shop the three get out of the taxi. After a discussion in Thai Sumalee and a girl from the shop disappear in the back of the shop. Pud and Jack lean back against the taxi.

PUD

You good man but, you have enough money for this?

JACK

I don't know I guess we will find out.

As Jack stood there a sparrow fell at his feet and laid on the ground moving its feet. He looked up and above the clothing shop was a window with several sparrows sitting on it. The window was open about two or three inches. A second sparrow jumped off the ledge and tried to fly but fell next to the other one. Pud looked at Jack then the sparrows pointing up.

PUD

It is a Sa Tan Fin er how you say Opium place. We better move they fall, fly back up and fall again. Soon they die.

JACK

(Grumbled)

More unitteded consequenses.

Jack looks to the left and there is a small coffee shop with four older men playing a game of mahjong. Jack walks over, and watches the play.

JACK P.O.V. MARJONG BOARD

The older man with his back to the wall of the shop slaps a tile down on the table and the other three men make a groaning sound.

BACK TO SCENE

Pud pokes a finger in Jack's back causing him to turn. Sumalee comes out with two bags in each hand and a shoe box under her arm.

Her hair is combed, she has lipstick on and a smile on her face. Sumalee is wearing a white silk blouse, a dark blue scarf, a matching tight blue skirt, and a pair of dark blue high heels. Jack goes to the sales girl and she hands him a cash register receipt. Jack pulls out his wallet and counts out the money necessary. Jack goes to the taxi climbs in the back across from Sumalee and Pud slowly heads out of the market. Sumalee reaches over and puts a hand on his knee.

SUMALEE

Thank you.

Sumalee turns to Pud and says something in Thai

SUMALEE (CONT'D)

Jack.

FADE TO:

INT. SIAM CITY HOTEL/BANGKOK - DAY

Jack takes a key from the desk clerk and hands it to Sumalee. Pud hands the packages from the clothing market to the bellhop.

JACK

I paid for your room for a week.
That should give Bogyok time to get
you another place.

Pud translates the comment and Sumalee nods. She places the palms of her hands together in a slight bow.

SUMALEE

Saw Wa Dee Jawol

She turned and walked toward the elevator. Jack and Pud watched as she walked away.

PUD

She from north.

JACK

How do you know?

PUD

She use word Jawol, girl from
Bangkok use word Kah er Saw Wa Dee
Kah. Only girl from north use
Jawol.

JACK

Well it has been a long day, I
better go back to the Rama Hotel.

FADE TO:

INT. JACK'S ROOM/RAMA HOTEL/BANGKOK - DAY

Jack is removing his satellite dish from the window of the hotel and placing the parts in the carrying case.

SOUND OF A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

Jack goes over and looks through the security hole and sees the large man that accompanied Mayuree Maung. Jack opens the door and the large man comes in and again looks in the bathroom, closet and drawers in the room. Jack stands there until he is through. When he goes out of the door Mayuree walks in to the room. Mayuree is wearing a tight white high heels, nylons, a tight white skirt, a black blouse, a short white jacket, and a small imitation flower in her hair.

MAYUREE

Saw Wa Dee Kah. Mr. Wellington I
come to give you the ruby.

Mayree takes a seat in the chair facing the bed and looks in her white purse. After fishing around a bit she hands Jack a box. Jack opens the box and has a seat on the bed across from her. He pulls out the ruby and holds it up. As he twists the stone, the star flashes.

JACK

Thank you, the people of the Ko Kho
Khao temple will be happy it is
back. I suppose now I owe you the
reward.

Jack reaches over to his brief case and extracts two papers. As he fills out the paper she watches with a smile on her face. She crosses her legs and Jack momentarily looks up at the sound of the nylons rubbing together.

MAYUREE

Bogyok is coming back with me to
Chaing Rai.

Jack hands her the paper.

JACK

This is a letter of credit for 500
thousand dollars US.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

You can deposit it in any bank in the world. They will call the UN and verify the letter and the funds are made available.

Mayuree looks at the letter and smiles. She stands and walks over to Jack and places a hand on his cheek.

MAYUREE

I heard you take Sumalee out of house. You good man.

(Pauses)

You know, I come to Bangkok sometimes every month. You not married, an older woman can show you how to please a woman.

JACK

I am afraid I have to go back to New York.

(Pauses)

I do know an older woman there.

MAYUREE

(Pauses)

She a lucky woman.

Mayuree turns, walks to the door and out into the hallway. As she walks the clicking sound of her high heels and the vibrations cause the small white flower in her hair to vibrate.

FADE TO:

INT. SUMALEE'S ROOM/SIAM CITY HOTEL/BANGKOK - DAY

SOUND OF A KNOCK ON THE DOOR

Sumalee walks over looks out the security hole and opens the door for Jack and Pud to walk in to the room. Sumalee is wearing a pair of white slacks a pink blouse and slippers.

JACK

I was following Bogyok to get the return of a ruby lost during the Tsunami in Ko Kho Khao. That ruby has been returned and I am leaving Bangkok. I understand Bogyok is going back to Chaing Rai.

As Pud translates Sumalee's face becomes sad as if about to cry. Jack pulls a paper out of his brief case and hands it to her.

JACK (CONT'D)

This is a letter of credit, good at any bank in the world for one 100 thousand dollars or three million Baht. It is a finders fee. It is for helping me find the person who had the ruby. When you present it to the bank they will call and verify it with the UN and make the funds available.

Pud stands there with his mouth open for just a second before he translates. Sumalee clutches the paper to her chest.

JACK (CONT'D)

Pud tell her it is best for her not to go back to the north. She can rebuild her life here. Good idea to also talk to a lawyer and accountant.

When Pud finishes she nods then turns and kisses Jack on the cheek. As she does she draw a breath in her nose.

JACK (CONT'D)

Pud it is time for us to go back to Ko Kho Khao.

Jack turned and walked to the door with Pud.

JACK (CONT'D)

Sumalee, Saw Wa Dee Kup.
(Turns to Pud)

I need to go to the Hua Thung Market in Amphoe Bor Rai. To pick up the gold setting I had made for the stone.

FADE TO:

E/I. TEMPLE/KO KHO KHAO THAILAND - DAY

A large crowd of people stand around the base of temple with an open place in the middle of the crowd. Jack is standing there in front with Jimmy Morrissey, Palm, and Pud standing behind him. In front of him is the old Buddhist Priest of the temple.

JACK

On behalf of the UN I am glad to return the stone that belongs in the Buddha.

SOUND OF APPLAUSE

Palm makes the translation and Jack hands the ruby encased in its golden mount. The priest holds the ruby and mount above his head and then looks at it rolling it over in his hands. The front golden mount is done in the shape of an eyelid encasing the ruby. On the back are two steel hooks that cross.

JACK (CONT'D)

Palm tell the priest that when the stone is pushed into place with the crossing bar we put in Buddha's belly the hooks will lock into place so it cannot be removed. The front part will cover the gouge marks made in Buddha when the stone was removed.

Palm translated what Jack said and the priest smiled and bowed several time. He turned and walked up the stairs and into the temple with the crowd following him. The priest walked over to the large Buddha and pushed the ruby in place with a clicking sound.

SOUND OF APPLAUSE BY THE CROWD

JIMMY

Well Jack me boy you did good for yer first time out of the stable. But it would be nice if you told me what was going on. I found myself doin a jig every time Warren called about money. And Jack I never figured you fer a softy givin Sumalee a finders fee I really had to dance.

JACK

Like you said in Bangkok, I kicked over the first domino with the raid in Chaing Mai To leave Sumalee with nothing would be bad karma and I would have been kneeling before Buddha or going to confession for a long time. But now I have one more thing to do before I'm finished.

Jack turned to Pud and handed him an envelope.

JACK (CONT'D)

Pud I couldn't have done this with out you there helping me.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)
 Here are the wages I promised plus
 a little more.

Pud looked in the envelope and grinned.

JACK (CONT'D)
 Pud what are you going to do with
 it?

PUD
 Maybe I build a house and take a
 wife.

JACK
 (Smiles)
 You know Mayuree said if you take
 an older woman she can teach you
 how to really treat a woman.

PUD
 (Frowns)
 I think I take a younger one.

Jack and Jimmy both laugh.

JIMMY
 Jack you and I need to sit down
 over a big glass of whiskey and
 have a long talk on how you really
 got Mayuree to give you the ruby.
 After that I've got an assignment
 in India, well to be exact, Sri
 Lanka for you. I don't know if
 there are any older women around.

FADE TO:

I/E. MARITIME MUSEUM - GALLE SRI LANKA - DAY (TRAVELING)

Jack opened a door to a building with debris all around it. A
 telephone wire ran under the door and across the muddy floor
 to a table where a woman in a baggy set of pants and a muddy
 shirt was cleaning a china plate with a brush and sponge.

JACK
 Are you ANNA GUARDIA?

WOMAN CLEANING
 (Nods and smirks)
 You must be an American.

JACK

I am Jack Wellington from the UN Cultural Protocol Unit. I was sent from Thailand to see if we can be of help.

ANNA

Well basically we did nine years of work putting together the Maritime Museum was lost in a matter of hours. You see that pile of books on the floor. We had almost completed cataloguing the thousands of artifacts we had pulled from the sea just to have most of the artifacts and all of my records ruined.

Jack went over to the books, squatted down and lifted the cover of one of the record books. The books were still damp.

JACK

There is a way that these records could be made at least readable again.

ANNA

How?

JACK

You dehydrate them. The process involves freezing them, then putting them in a vacuum and warming them up to a point where the water is drawn out. I understand that some times Tung Oil is infused under pressure. You still have to rewrite, copy, or photo copy the documents but you can handle them again with out them falling apart.

ANNA

I suppose that would be the thing to do if we still had the artifacts that are cataloged in the documents. So now that you are here what do you want to do?

JACK

I report back to the UN and one of the ways is to take pictures of everything of importance. Do you mind if take pictures of your work.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

And as far as what I need, it seems your museum people are spread out all over the place. I need to have an overview somehow and see where the UN can assist.

ANNA

KUSUM, Are you in there?

There was the noise of a chair moving on the floor and footsteps from the other room. A young woman appeared in jeans and a sweat shirt.

KUSUM

Oh!

She looks at Jack and scurried back into the other room.

ANNA

It is OK Kusum. Change into your sari. I want you to take Mr. Wellington from the UN on a tour.

(She turned back to Jack)

Kusum is a college student helping me here, but she knows about what is going on in the Maritime Archeological Unit.

Kusum reappears in a blue and yellow sari.

ANNA (CONT'D)

This is Mr. Wellington from the UN. I want you to take him around and describe what was going on at the pieces of the museum and what we planned to do. Then show him what happened during the tsunami. When you have finished bring him back and we can talk about what the UN can do for us.

JACK

Wait, wait, is it Miss Kusum or Mrs. What are the customs for a man and woman together. I am from the UN. I need to know how to behave.

Ansuha rolls her eyes, reached out and took the small leather folio from Jack's hand and handed it to Kusum.

ANNA

Here you carry this for him and when you think he needs it hand it to him.

(MORE)

ANNA (CONT'D)

(Turns to Jack)

Muslims will think she is a servant, Hindus will think the same, Buddhist will think she is your boss, and Christians will think you are a lucky man to have such a pretty wife. I assume you have a vehicle. Some of the places where old parts of the Maritime Archeological Unit are located are a long walk from here, a vehicle will make it easier.

Jack and Kusum went out of the door of the Document Office

KUSUM

We should look at near by locations first. That long building over there is an Old Dutch warehouse for the Galle Fort. It has been there a long time the seventeen hundreds or something. The museum was in different parts in and near the Fort before the tsunami. The Warehouse was being renovated to hold the completed museum. Now it will be three more years before we can have it all in one place, it makes me so sad.

FADE TO:

I/E. WAREHOUSE GALLE MUSEUM - DAY (TRAVELING)

There were stains on the walls about two feet high. At the other end, there were tables. On the first table were scale models of a sperm whale and a dolphin. A glass case next to the table had signs leaning against it that read "Tussoc Grass, Poa Cookii Grass, Kerguelen Cabbage, Giant Petrel, Light-Mantled Albatross. On other tables there were remnants of displays of coral, sea grasses and deep sea fish. Jack walks around the room taking pictures of everything in the building.

KUSUM

We had these displays prepared and waiting to be.

Her voice trails off then Jack pats her on the shoulder and she sniffed and sucked in a breath.

KUSUM (CONT'D)

They were in a building near the jetty and were ruined by the flooding.

JACK

Lets move on I have seen what I need to see here.

They walked out of the Warehouse and down toward the bay. There was a small building there that was on one of the jetties. The building was empty and one end was torn away.

KUSUM

In here were small items pulled from the ocean floor. They spent nine years collecting them. They were small things, belt buckles, jars, bowls, spoons, bottles, jugs, and small boxes.

(Wipes away a tear)

They put divers into the bay and were able to recover some of the items that the waves took out of the building.

They turned to a second building next to the empty building.

KUSUM (CONT'D)

There is a MR. DEKKER here. He is Dutch and ran the museum project until two years ago. He came back to help us.

Mr. Dekker came out of the building cleaning his hands with a towel.

DEKKER

You must be Mr. Wellington from the UN. I contacted the Dutch ambassador and he said you were coming. I also received an email from a Mr. Oaks; I understand your office is working with the Ambassadors from the Netherlands and Portugal on getting us some funding to support our recovery here. Do you know the status of it?

JACK

I'm a bit out of touch here. I haven't talked to him since yesterday and he's my boss so he doesn't tell me everything he does unless he thinks I need to know.

DEKKER

So why are you here?

JACK

My orders say I am here to survey what was here before the tsunami, what the damage is and what is needed if possible to restore, preserve and protect the cultural entities of the member state.

DEKKER

You just gave me the description on the back of a brochure. I guess you haven't been doing this long.

JACK

(Smiles)

Three weeks ago I was an unemployed graduate of Princeton. But in Thailand, I found a two ton Buddha that washed into a bay then chased down a ruby taken from its belly. Now it is sitting in a new temple so I don't feel all that bad. What I need is to understand what was here before the tsunami hit and what has been recovered so far.

Mr. Dekker opened his mouth to say something, but Kusum moves between the men in front of Jack.

KUSUM

Mr. Dekker you had a book of pictures of the work of the Maritime Archeological Unit. I brought Mr. Wellington here because the pictures will allow him to understand the scope of the damage.

DEKKER

(Smiles)

Oh someone analytical and circumspect.

(Turns to Jack)

(MORE)

DEKKER (CONT'D)

You picked someone that has earned her status by working for weeks up to her neck in the mud and debris to show you around. Kusum, the album is over there on the table it is a spare so you can lead Mr. Wellington here around and show him what we lost. Are you here to help with our efforts to rebuild.

JACK

My boss does not want me involved in a long term project. He has me set to go somewhere else when I get time. I suspect he will have any funds or support from Portugal or the Netherlands he is able to arrange to go directly to you.

Kusum retrieved the book and led Jack away.

KUSUM

Mr. Dekker had all of the pieces of the museum ready to put together when the warehouse building was done then the tsunami came. He can be a bit cross with people.

JACK

I would say petulant but to go on, is there someplace high where we can look over the whole area?

KUSUM

Yes there are two places one is the Fort Clock Tower. There is an old man GIHAN PERERA who is the caretaker of the tower. He is there all of the time, but he would never let us up in it. There is the Lighthouse. A man named AMAL runs it and I think we can go up in it.

FADE TO:

EXT. TOP OF LIGHTHOUSE - DAY

Kusum steps out with Jack and walks to where the entrance to the bay can be seen. There is just a chain fence around the balcony. Amal did not follow the two out on the top walkway.

AMAL

You must be very careful. There is just a chain for a fence.

KUSUM

The museum is over there you can see the warehouse and the buildings by the inlet that were destroyed.

Jack takes pictures of the entire area.

JACK

So the wave folded around the point over there and up the bay and back on to the jetty where the work sheds were located. Amal, were you up here when the tsunami came in?

AMAL

No when the tsunami warning horn went off everyone run to north of Pedlar Street where it high.

JACK

Do you think the old man at the clock tower was at the top of his tower when the tsunami came in?

AMAL

Yes he laughed at me for leaving the lighthouse.

JACK

That is interesting, and thank you Amal for letting us go up in the lighthouse it was helpful. Kusum, would the old man at the clock tower talk to us about what he saw.

KUSUM

I don't know. He like Dekker.

JACK

(Laughs)

Well we can rate the two of them from one to ten to see who is the most crotchety.

FADE TO:

E/I. GALLE CLOCK TOWER - DAY

As he parked his van an older man came out of the tower and said something in Tamil. Kusum answered him back as she got out of the van and Jack looked at her.

KUSUM

MR. PERERA said we cannot park here. I told him we would be here just a short while, but he wants you to move it back near the tree.

Jack got into the van and moved it back about fifty feet. When he got out and walked back Kusum had told the old man who he was and why he was here. Jack takes pictures of the surrounding area as had with the other tower.

JACK

Mr. Perera were you in the tower when the tsunami struck?

KUSUM

(Translating)

He said, Yes, when the tsunami warning went off he went up to the clock. He was worried about the mechanism. At 9:30 the clock struck and he saw the first wave come to the Fort. It broke in two pieces and went around the Fort.

JACK

What did the wave do at the Jetty where the Maritime Archeological group were working?

KUSUM

(Translating)

Mr. Perera said, 'The bus station on the other side of the soccer field got the first wave from both directions. That is why so many people died. The Jetty got the first wave then it went back out, then the wave from the other side of the bay came around to the Jetty when another wave came in from the ocean. Jetty get two big waves. He said two busses high. Then go out into ocean take much with it like er Kuntu er stew.

JACK

That explains the damage to the work spaces on the Jetty. It also explains why so little of the artifacts were found on the ocean floor. There must be a foot of sand on top of them which came from sweeping the ocean floor in both directions. Tell him thank you for his help.

Kusum translated Jack's thank you and they start to walk to the van.

PERERA

You go after little boat?

Jack and Kusum stop and look back at him and Jack turned to the picture in the book from Dekker and showed it to him.

JACK

Does he mean the little boat from the display?

KUSUM

He said yes little boat no sail. Go long way out in ocean.

(Pauses)

He speaks Sinhalese and there is no word. He used Tamil word Katarkollaiyarkal, English is pirates take little boat.

JACK

He said what?

KUSUM

(Extended conversation)

He said the pirates were a long way out in the ocean early that morning. He was looking through the telescope and saw them when they rode the waves. The waves were small far out from the bay. He said he didn't understand what he was watching. The boats turned toward the bay after the waves went by. When the water started to flow out of the bay he stopped watching the pirates and didn't see them until after it was over. That is when he saw one of the pirate boats towing away the little boat from the bay.

(MORE)

KUSUM (CONT'D)

Both the pirate boat and the little boat were full of boxes and other things they pulled from the water.

When she was finished Perera said something else.

KUSUM (CONT'D)

There was a small ship unloading at the Der Hafen von Galle. He thinks it was called 'Lict der Nortn'. They were unloading TVs and other things and the pirates were waiting until they came out of the port. The tsunami beached the ship and dumped cargo on the deck into the water. The pirates came in and took some cargo.

JACK

Does he know where the pirates have their home or base?

Kusum had another conversation with Mr. Perera.

KUSUM

He said some people say near Beruwala and some say near Matara but he thinks it moves. Maybe the wives and older men move it on the 'E-one' in trucks, vans and trailers like Natoti er travelers er oh yes gypsy.

JACK

Tell him thank you.

Kusum and the old man had a conversation. The old man was grinning as the two walked back to the van.

JACK (CONT'D)

There was a lot of extra conversation that went on between the two of you, what was that about?

KUSUM

He said I should call him Gihan and come by and see him again. He make look at me.

JACK

(Laughs)

He was a flirt.

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

I can understand that you are very pretty and he seems to spend all day in his tower, watching people around here. He doesn't get a chance to talk to women much.

Kusum looks down for a moment.

KUSUM

You think I'm pretty?

JACK

(Pauses for a moment)

I think you are beautiful. I assume your parents have picked out a potential suitor with the right qualifications.

KUSUM

Yes, he is a banker and er boring. I have put off my parents by going to school and working here.

JACK

(Laughs Again)

I have met bankers I feel that way about too. Maybe you need a tee shirt that said 'Equities and Futures' across the front.

KUSUM

(Blushes)

I could get one but I couldn't wear it.

FADE TO:

INT. RESTAURANT JETWING LIGHTHOUSE HOTEL - DAY

In the morning Jack is sitting in the dining room having breakfast looking out the window at the ocean.

JACK

(Mumbles to himself)

Even the coffee is good compared to sleeping in the van and eating M.R.E.s this is heaven. Cold eggs a medium sausage and what looks like a pancake.

MAN IN RESTAURANT

(French Accent)

Are you Mr. Wellington?

Jack turns to see a man in a light blue uniform shirt with dark blue trim, dark blue pants, shiny black shoes and a single silver bar on the epaulet. The name tag reads, "LEON."

JACK
(Stands shakes hand)
Yes, I am Jack Wellington.

LEON
I am Lieutenant Paul Leon of the EU Naval Force Somalia, I am here to help you. I received a request to give you a review of the piracy in Sri Lanka.

Jack motioned to the waiter, and they both took a seat.

JACK
First I am here with the UN Protocol on Preservation of Cultural Entities. That is I am here to help the member country protect and preserve its cultural heritage. When the tsunami struck Galle much of the Maritime Archeological Unit was swept out to sea. I was directed here to conduct a survey of the damage. In doing that I had a witness account of pirates coming into the port as the tsunami retreated and collecting some items that belonged to the museum. I also had indications from interviews that the pirates do not have a permanent base on Sri Lanka and that they may have followers that go along the E-one and set up temporary bases for the night.

Jack paused while the waiter delivered a cup of coffee.

JACK (CONT'D)
I contacted UN Headquarters to see if there was any way I could approach and contact the pirates to bargain for the return of the items. That is why I believe you were called.

LEON
It is our mission to get the pirates to er faire cesser er stop.

JACK

I am from the UN and they tell me all the time we do not fight we negotiate. I even get yelled at when I defend myself.

Jack pauses and reaches down to a small leather folio he has leaning against the table leg.

JACK (CONT'D)

I called my Headquarters in New York last night and told them what the indications were about the pirates and I received these by email this morning.

(Spreads out photos)

Sorry my printer is just a little printer for printed documents and the photos are not as clear as the on the screen. But here is a photo of the pirates in the sea at Hambantota and if you look at the road er I guess this is the A-two there are three trucks followed by three autos. Then here is another picture at Kosgoda and the same vehicles headed toward the A-one.

Jack looked at the expression on his face.

JACK (CONT'D)

From your expression I guess you don't have open communications with the US Military and their satellite surveillance.

(Pauses)

Now before I go on, what I am going to say now, the police and military do not in general like but let me get it out before you complain. My primary charge or mission is to get back the antiquities or cultural items and return them to the member state. I am authorized to pay a no questions asked reward for return of missing items up to ten percent of their worth.

LEON

(sucks in a breath)

I see why policemen and military complain.

JACK

Let me tell you what I need and it may be that in doing it the pirates will come to fear your task force even more. In the US there is a saying, 'Between a rock and a hard place.'

(Lieutenant nods)

A good approach here is to corner the pirate's support group and the pirates off shore between your force and me on land. In that way, I could negotiate with them. When I secure the antiquities they have, if your force backs off for a while then I can exit with the goods. But it will show to them that any time you want you can come down and scoop them up. It may make them much less active.

LEON

You are telling me this so I can convince my Commande. My guess is they will not believe it.

JACK

(smiles)

Well you can always curse at the UN for wanting it.

LEON

That will be easy.

(stands)

I will get back to you.

FADE TO:

EXT. 5KM SOUTH BENTOTA ON A-2 HIGHWAY SRI LANKA - DAY

On an isolated stretch of a major highway, the little convoy pulls to a stop. The car in the rear starts to turn around but behind them are three police cars and in front of them are three police cars a flat bed truck and two civilian cars. The first truck started to turn on to the beach and stopped. Jack steps out of the truck with a white flag on a stick. The old man in the passenger seat of the first truck pats on the driver to stop. Jack walks half the distance between the two vehicles and stops. He turns and motions for Hashini. She steps out of the back seat of the limousine and walks up to Jack. Jack then points to the ocean. The small pirate boats are about a thousand yards out and a EU Navy Frigate is just showing on the horizon.

There is a reef that is a water break between the pirate boats and the beach. The beach is grungy to the point of being ugly. The old man gets out of the first truck, looks out to sea, then behind the convoy, and then back at Jack. Jack turns and motions to one of the policemen standing next to the truck. The policemen pulls two folding chairs from the flat bed and walks out to Jack and sets the two chairs facing each other then walks back to the truck. Jack takes a seat in one of the chairs and HASHAINI stands behind him. The old man smiles and walks to the second chair and takes a seat.

JACK

I am Jack Wellington of the UN. I am looking for some items that may have come into your families hands and I am willing to pay a reward for their return.

He waits for Hashini to translate. At the end the old man smiles and said something in Tamil.

HASHINI

He wants to know what are the things that you lost?

JACK

First the little boat being towed by one of the boats out there, and the second is some boxes of old things that floated out in the bay after the tsunami.

HASHINI

He said his son out there has become very attached to the boat the reward might need to be high. He is trying to get more money from you.

Jack holds up his hand.

JACK

Tell him two reasonable men can always to an agreement. But that I need for that woman there by the second car to make sure that the goods are what we lost. And if it is and we can agree on a price the policemen and I will leave along with the ship that is far out in the ocean. Tell him yes and I will shake his hand as a promise of good faith.

HASHINI

Can you do that?

Jack stands and extends his hand. The old man stands and shakes his hand. The old man turns and said something to the driver of the truck.

HASHINI (CONT'D)

He told the driver to have Supun bring the little boat in to shore but not to come on shore. Then get the three wooden boxes from the last truck and get the bowls the women were using from the cars.

The old man sat down and motioned Jack to sit down. Jack takes a seat. A woman from one of the cars comes and leans in and whispers something to the old man who nods. She then scurries back to one of the cars and returns with a small blanket and places it on the ground between the men.

JACK

It looks like we are having tea. I didn't plan on this but it is OK, go back and tell Anna and the others what is going on and ask her to come here. They are about to bring the goods for inspection. Oh and have the policemen tell Lieutenant Leon we are about to have negotiations.

When Hashini and Anna came to Jack, two women from the pirate family had a small charcoal fire in the middle of the road and were heating water, and two older men from the truck were waist deep in the water in the ocean and were pulling the little boat ashore. Anna starts to go look in the three wooden boxes.

JACK (CONT'D)

Wait until the tea is served you don't want to look to anxious, the price will go up.

Anna stops and goes back to stand behind Jack but the motion caught the eye of the old man who made a slight smile. By the time the two men are handed cups of hot tea the boat is next to the road about ten feet and the three boxes are open with four small blue and white china bowls sitting next to them. Jack nods to Anna who goes over to inspect the items. She looks into the boxes.

ANNA

Oh this is good I thought we lost these.

(Pauses)

They put tar on the outside of the boat and they put in a cross member that wasn't there but we can clean it I think.

PIRATE CHIEF

Boat leaked and support to make it.

Hashini stamps her foot.

HASHINI

He speaks English.

Jack looks at both Hashini and Anna.

JACK

Ignore it and translate as before. And you both learned something. First the old man is cleaver and you need to have a fisherman check your display to make sure it meets the needs of the ones that used it years ago.

Jack pulled a small piece of paper from his pocket and a pen, and hands it to Anna.

JACK (CONT'D)

We also learned it is good to keep our negotiations secret. Write down the total value of the goods.

Jack hands his empty cup of tea back to the woman of the pirate clan.

JACK (CONT'D)

Tell the woman the tea was good.

Hashini translated what Jack said but with less enthusiasm. The old man nods. Anna hands Jack a piece of paper, which he looks at and places in his pocket. Jack writes a number on a piece of paper and hands along with a pen to the old man using both hands. The old man looks at the paper and said something.

HASHINI

He said his son has become very fond of the little boat and it is a thing of safety when they are fishing. He is not a fisherman he is.

Jack holds up his hand again to stop Hashini and reaches out and takes back the paper. Jack writes another number on the paper.

JACK

Tell him safety is a good thing for us all.

The old man looks at the paper said something which Hashini translates with her teeth almost gritting.

HASHINI

He said the women have become fond of the dishes from the wooden boxes.

JACK

He said something else what was it?

HASHINI

Keeping women happy can make your house quieter.

Jack nods and writes another number on the paper showing it to Anna then hands it to the old man. The old man nods and Jack.

JACK

The box in the truck has the money round it off upward.

Anna goes to the truck and returns with a cardboard box handing it to Jack who hands it to the old man. After some inspection the old man hands the box to the driver of the first truck and stands to shake Jack's hand. Two policemen and two older men from the pirate crew load the boat on to the flatbed followed by the boxes. When the items are secure the policemen get in their cars and one policeman starts up the flat bed truck. There is smoke from the Navy Frigate as it turns to head south. Hashini and Anna start to walk to their cars. The old man turns to Jack.

PIRATE CHIEF

You marry that one you need a strong stick.

JACK

Maybe two.

The old man laughs, turns and walks back to the first truck. At the limousine Jack, Anna, and Hashini stop.

ANNA

You were authorized to give him ten percent. You did it for half that and the museum got back some things I thought were lost never to be found.

JACK

They are not bad people, they are just trying to get through life. And we had a good negotiating team. But a friend told me to look at people as Shakespeare characters then you know what they will do. So I was facing Shylock and my job was to be Gratiano. And what made it easy is we had a little Katherine from another play thrown in.

Hashini looks at Jack and rolls her eyes.

FADE TO:

INT. DUTCH PLASTIC & RUBBER ASSOC. - COLOMBO - DAY

At eight O'clock that evening Jack, Anna, Kusum and Hashini sat in the corporate offices of DPRA in Colombo. They were facing a large screen on the wall. On the screen was a conference room in the UN with Warren, the Ambassadors to the Netherlands, Portugal and Fran. A small screen to the side gave the transmitted picture. It was a picture of the Maritime Museum before the tsunami with the small boat.

ANNA

And this is the recovered boat." A man sitting to the right switched to a picture of the boat on the flat bed truck. She continued we also recovered some of the pottery that was in a wooden box picked up by the pirates after the tsunami. I'm afraid much of what we had in the work shops on the jetty are lost or destroyed.

The picture transmitted switched to Jack and the women in the conference room.

JACK

The old man in the clock tower at the Fort said that four large waves moved back and forth over the area. From my effort to retrieve the Buddha in Thailand, sand right away starts to cover debris on the bottom with just a single wave. It may be a large vacuum like the treasure hunters use off the coast of Florida might discover some more of the antiquities.

WARREN (V.O.)

The Ambassadors want me to thank you for the briefing. The information will help them a great deal in their attempt to find funds to support the reconstruction of the museum. They would also like you to give our regards to Mr. Dekker.

HASHINI

That is all? We chase around here and confront pirates and we get a thank you for the briefing.

KUSUM

Jack, I didn't know there was a facility like this in Colombo

The screen changed to Fran and Warren.

FRAN

DPRA is a logistics company the UN uses every now and then, and before we close down the link. Jack if you are through there Jimmy said for me to get Orsino back to Banda Aceh.

JACK

But the girls and I were going to the Rock Citadel in Sigirya, the Temples of Cambulla and a mess of ancient monuments. All I've seen is the road to Galle.

FRAN

OK you've had your fun now back to work.

(MORE)

FRAN (CONT'D)

The actual details are that Jimmy said to get you to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

JACK

Where?

ANNA

They are a set of islands owned by India almost all the way to Thailand. There are several museums there. The Cellular Jail is philosophically important to India. Mr. Dekker has been worried about the Anthropological Museum there. We haven't heard from it since the tsunami.

JACK

I guess you won't allow me to take the girls along.

FRAN

Not unless you want Jimmy to tag you with Don Armado.

JACK

Here I go again with the Cliffnotes.

FADE TO:

EXT. AIRPORT PORT BLAIR - ANDAMAN S. ASIA - DAY

The Air India flight to Port Blair had altogether a dozen passengers. There were six India military men lead by an officer and as they walked down the stairs from the plane to the tarmac. They formed a line in a parade rest position next to the path for the passengers to the terminal. They were wearing green fatigues, a black beret and a red waist belt. The man in charge had three stars on his epaulette. Jack looked over to the right as a second plane moved to a stop next to Jack's airplane. Jack looked at the airport. It was a single story blue building with a pink roof with a thin line of sky light windows. The overhang of the roof made the area next to the building dark and people standing there shapes in the shadows. At the bottom of the stairs, the bags were being unloaded in a line with the seven duffle bags in a pile at the end. The five civilian passengers sorted out their luggage and a man directed them into the terminal. Jack was beginning to get used to dragging around his computer, satellite gear, and his suitcase, but he was still at the end of the civilian passengers.

When the civilian passengers had their bags the military men gathered their duffle bags and filled in at the end of the line. Unknown to Jack, a man waiting for the second plane standing next to the airport under the overhanging roof in a dark area watched him. The man moved backward to a place behind some others waiting for the plane.

INDIAN MAN

Bogyoke Maung, what is the matter?

MAUNG

I just saw someone from the other plane I know. I would prefer not to have an accidental meeting.

INDIAN MAN

Oh a tiresome person. I understand.

FADE TO:

EXT. SEA SHELL HOTEL PORT BLAIR - DAY

Jack went to the BELL CAPTAIN outside of the hotel.

JACK

Is there someone around that speaks English and can help me get around?

The Bell Captain looked around and motioned a man over to his podium.

BELLCAPTAIN

YASH, Mr. Wellington here is from the UN and needs someone to act as a translator and help him get around

Yash pointed to his three wheeled taxi.

YASH

You come, where you want go?

JACK

I need to go to the Marine Museum.

As the taxi entered the street another taxi swerved around the one Jack was in and he looked at the passengers.

JACK (CONT'D)

Yash does Port Blair have an opium problem?

The taxi swerved as Yash looked back at Jack.

YASH

You Want?

JACK

No no no. I thought I just saw soldiers from Myanmar like I saw in Thailand.

YASH

Yes they here. They in countries all around Myanmar ran away from army. They not good, cause, trouble.

FADE TO:

INT. MARINE MUSEUM - PORT BLAIR - DAY

At the Marine Museum, a secretary showed Jack into the office of a Lieutenant Commander CHOPRA. Commander Chopra got up from his desk and walked around to shake Jack's hand.

CHOPRA

How can I help someone from the UN?

JACK

I am from the group at Banda Ache and my job is to survey museums, libraries, and important cultural monuments by the countries effected by the Boxer Day event. The protocol I operate under directs me to try to protect and preserve cultural entities of the member states in natural disasters and war.

Chopra walked back behind his desk and using his hand offered Jack a seat in front of the desk.

CHOPRA

We at the Marine Museum were very fortunate. The building we have was reinforced to handle the aquariums and the water park facilities, which saved it from the much earthquake damage and we are in a high place in the middle of the city not near the shore so the tsunami did not impact the museum. So there is nothing for you to do here.

JACK

Well, I have to survey the cultural activities of member states to assure we haven't missed anything.

CHOPRA

Well there is one thing. We also manage Ross Island. It was hit with a ten-meter wave destroying docks, buildings with simple construction. The island was a headquarters for the British and had many pretty stone buildings with red tile roofs. When the British left it fell into repair, roofs fell in and the jungle over grew the place. All that was left was walls of buildings overgrown by the jungle and many deer. The tourists came to see the ruins of what use to be this part of British Empire. The wave brought debris up on land and wetted down the broken in walls of the buildings but when you already have ruins a little more doesn't show.

JACK

So what are your plans for the place?

CHOPRA

The Indian Government tourists departments have plans to already to rebuild docks and other tourist support buildings.

(Lowers the level of his voice)

I think the government likes to show British buildings like this in ruins.

(Paused and voice went up)

The one other thing is a lighthouse that was on land before the tsunami but now is in the ocean. The tsunami washed away the land around it. If you are making a survey you should go to both of those places.

Jack stood and shook Lieutenant Commander Chopra hand.

JACK

Thank you for your help, it was pleasant to run into someone that is perceptive. I need to take some pictures and write a report on this museum. I will go to the other two places also.

Chopra walked him to the door.

CHOPRA

Ragi would you make Mr. Wellington a copy of Lieutenant Ekram's report on the earthquake damage.

FADE TO:

EXT. PORT BLAIR - DAY (TRAVELING) (MONTAGE)

Jack got into Yash's taxi.

JACK

How do I get to Ross Island?

YASH

First must drive to Maybunder then take a boat to the island. But there is not place to land there now. Trip to Maybunder take all day. Boat trip take maybe three hours there and back.

JACK

Can I get there by plane?

YASH

Yes, but no place to land.

JACK

Is there a helicopter somewhere?

YASH

There is a place at airport. You take before?

Jack looked at Yash's face.

JACK

I guess you've never been in a helicopter before. You know if I go there I may need someone to show me around and translate. How about you come with me?

(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)
(Yash made a face.)
You think about it while we go to
the airport.

ROSS ISLAND GOVERNMENT PRISON - DAY

On Ross Island Yash led Jack around showing him to the walls of old government buildings and churches covered with vines and undergrowth. At one point an Axis Deer walked up to Jack stood there.

YASH
She thinks you have something to
eat.

Jack looked at Yash and removed a cookie wrapped in plastic and peeled off the cover. When he handed it to the deer two more came out of the brush.

JACK
We better move on, I just had one
cookie.

ROSS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE - DAY

The lighthouse was visited by a circular flyover with Jack taking pictures out of the window.

YASH
They call this an Air Taxi but you
cannot take it to the Aberdeen
Bazaar or other place I go.

JACK
Well now I need to get back to the
hotel and then you can tell me
about some quiet restaurant with
good food before you go home
tonight.

FADE TO:

EXT. SAFRAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jack was rubbing his belly as he went out on the street. It was dark and he looked for a taxi to take him back to the hotel. A man came behind him and he felt something hard press him in the back. The man grabbed his left arm holding him in place while he spoke into his left ear.

MAN OUTSIDE SAFRAN
You come with me.

The man walked Jack around behind the restaurant to an area next to a large two-story warehouse. As they approached the side of the building, a man stepped out of the shadows.

JACK
Bogyoke Maung, I thought you were
in Chaing Rai.

The man with the gun that brought Jack to the point pushed him next to the building and took a position to Jack's left facing him also next to the wall. Bogyoke pulled a gun from his pocket and pointed it at Jack.

MAUNG
I am here checking on Mayuree's
business here and you just walked
in.

JACK
So now what. I am surprised she let
you out this far

MAUNG
Sumalee have own house, she not
want me now.

JACK
Well all I wanted was the jewel
back.

MAUNG
My mistake was sending others after
you. If you want something done
well you do it yourself.

As Maung raised the small pistol a sparrow fell on the arm of the man to Jack's right and another fell on his head. The man swung his gun to the left and it went off striking Maung in the stomach. Maung muttered something in Thai and shot the man in the chest sending him back into the wall. Maung then fell backward dropping the pistol. Jack looked at the man against the wall. He was dead. Jack went over to Maung and kicked the gun away.

MAUNG (CONT'D)
Why?

JACK
There is an opium den up there on
the second floor. See the sparrows.
Two of them fell on him and the gun
went off by accident.

(Looked at Maung)
It doesn't look good Bogyoke.
(MORE)

JACK (CONT'D)

You've been gut shot and the blood is almost black. He shot you in the liver.

Jack pulled out his phone and looked at it. Bogyoke motioned for Jack to hand him the phone. Jack handed him the phone and he dialed a number. There was a short conversation and he handed Jack back the phone. The police were first to arrive followed by the ambulance. The medics put Bogyoke on a gurney and connected an IV bag. He looked up at Jack and shook his head. Bogyoke was breathing heavy and his eyes were closed.

POLICEMAN

What happened here?

JACK

I don't know. I stepped out of the Zafran Restaurant and heard gun shots and I came back here and found them.

After a few more questions, the policeman told Jack he could go. Jack looked up at the window that was open about two inches on the second floor.

JACK (CONT'D)

Karma reaches out and gets you sometimes.

FADE TO BLACK.

