

COBRA
"Something in the Air"
TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. SKY – DAY (STOCK)

An airliner cuts its way through the brilliant sky.

CAPTAIN'S VOICE

(filtered)

...so sit back, relax, and enjoy the flight.

INT. AIRPLANE CABIN – DAY

NATALIE, a gorgeous, young flight attendant, makes her way through the coach cabin, pushing a beverage cart.

NATALIE

Coffee? Tea? Juice?

She stops at a seat where JAROD KRILL, 30s, suave, sits, reading a newspaper.

NATALIE

Would you like another drink, sir?

KRILL

No thank you. I've had one too many as it is.

With hardly a glance up, he hands her A SEALED SMALL DRINK BOTTLE. She looks around nervously, then stuffs it in her apron pocket and pushes the cart along. He glances up after her, a sinister smile playing on his lips.

AT THE FRONT OF THE PLANE

Natalie looks around furtively, then opens a door by the cockpit, revealing a panel marked VENTILATION. Unlocking the panel, she reveals a maze of plastic tubing. She takes the drink bottle out of her apron and unscrews the top. A NEEDLE pops up. She sticks the needle-bottle into one of the tubes and closes the hatch, unseen.

KRILL

looks up from his book as Natalie walks past him, not meeting his gaze.

IN THE BACK OF THE CABIN

A HANDSOME BUSINESSMAN sleeps peacefully in his seat as the AIR JET above his seat blows A LIGHT MIST at his face. Throughout the plane, the MIST wafts gently from the vents ON THE PASSENGERS. Lost in slumber, he doesn't notice Krill walking past him, gently dabbing his hand with the rubber-sealed top of another small DRINK BOTTLE.

AT THE FRONT OF THE PLANE

Krill positions himself by the cockpit door and surveys the plane. The passengers are reading, or sleeping, or talking. Krill smiles, waiting. MINDY, a pert, young stewardess comes up to him.

MINDY

Is there something wrong, sir?

KRILL

Not yet.

MINDY

Then could I ask you to return to your seat? The fasten seatbelt sign is on.

KRILL

I'm afraid there's someone in my seat. The captain. But that will be changing just about... now.

And just as Krill says the word "now," the handsome businessman lets out a blood-curdling scream. MINDY takes one nervous look back at Krill, then rushes to the stricken passenger's side.

THE BUSINESSMAN

convulses, his muscles tearing themselves apart, his body contracting so strongly that his convulsions rip the seatbelt in half. And then, just as swiftly as it started, it stops. The businessman is dead. The other passengers stare at him, the stewardesses cluster around, Natalie and MINDY among them. That's when KRILL'S VOICE comes over the PA. All eyes turn towards

THE FRONT OF THE PLANE

where Krill speaks calmly into the flight attendants' microphone.

KRILL

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, this is your new captain speaking. I wanted to call your attention to one of the special features of this Boeing 737.

Behind Krill, the cockpit door flies open and the Captain bursts out. Krill simply holds up a hand to stop him.

KRILL

For the last half hour, you've all been breathing quintoxin-12, one-half of the deadliest nerve gas your tax dollars ever developed. The good news is, by itself, quintoxin-12 is completely harmless.

He holds up the rubber-tipped bottle.

KRILL

The bad news is, when combined with its binary complement duotoxin, one billionth of a drop of quintoxin-12 is enough to do to a small city what it's done to the gentleman in row T. And you'll never guess what I have in this bottle.

A panicked murmur runs through the crowd. Krill motions with the bottle and the passengers fall silent.

MINDY

You bastard! What do you want from us?

KRILL

From you? A glass of champagne when you have a moment. But from your government I'd like 25 million dollars. Or this plane will become the world's first flying cemetery.

And on his evil smile, we FADE OUT.

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. JUICE BAR – ESTABLISHING – DAY

INT. JUICE BAR GYM – DAY

The bartender is serving drinks to some ATTRACTIVE PATRONS. Scandal walks through the juice bar, sweat-soaked in work-out clothes to find Danielle, in shorts and a t-shirt, walking casually on the treadmill, reading a HUGE, HEAVY, HARDCOVER BOOK that's perched open on the display panel in front of her. Unlike Scandal, she's hardly cracked a sweat.

SCANDAL

I thought we came here for a workout.

DANIELLE

We did.

SCANDAL

I just did 30 minutes of heavy calisthenics, ran six miles, and finished with an hour on the free weights.

DANIELLE

Good for you.

SCANDAL

And while I've been pumping iron, you've been pumping paper.

DANIELLE

I've been reading a fascinating ethno-morphographic deconstruction of the Mephisto Fallacy of Sociopathic Behavior. Scandal shoots her a look -- he has no idea what she's talking about. She steps off the treadmill and heads for the juice bar. Scandal follows after her.

SCANDAL

You call reading on a treadmill, set at its lowest possible setting, a workout? You aren't even sweating.

DANIELLE

You have to keep yourself intellectually fit as well as physically.

SCANDAL

A textbook isn't going to help you chase down a killer who's running away from you.

DANIELLE

(tweaking him:)

No, but with a sharp mind, you wouldn't have to run -- you could anticipate his next move and be waiting for him.

The BARTENDER serves her a drink. Scandal is frustrated. She just doesn't get it.

SCANDAL

You got to be tough to survive out there. And you aren't.

DANIELLE

Toughness isn't just measured by muscle mass, you know. It's a sharp mind, self-confidence, strength of character. All of which I've got in spades.

SCANDAL

That's a nice thought, but out there, in the real world, it's a different story.

DANIELLE

Oh really? And you've tested this theory?

SCANDAL

Well, yeah.

DANIELLE

Fine. You want tough, I'll show you tough: Two day wilderness trek. This weekend. You and me.

SCANDAL

Is this a challenge?

DANIELLE

A hike from Fawn Valley to Devil's Peak. We leave right now, and we'll be back at work first thing Monday morning. If you're tough enough.

SCANDAL

I'm always up for a relaxing nature walk.

DANIELLE

I'm talking rough terrain, unpredictable weather, and almost complete isolation from society.

SCANDAL

You're on. I'll grab my gear and pack the car.

DANIELLE

I don't think you understand, tough guy. We're not packing any gear. It's just you and me against the elements. That is, if you can hack it

She smiles, closes her book, and alks out, Scandal on her heels. As soon as they're gone, the bartender turns and switches on the TELEVISION SET. We ANGLE UP to see

ON THE TELEVISION SET

we see a REPORTER against whatever backdrop is convenient.

REPORTER

We're live at O'Hare International Airport, scene of a terrifying hostage crisis. An unidentified hijacker forced the pilot to land a short time ago, and is threatening to kill all the passengers unless he receives \$25 million.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPLANE COCKPIT – DAY

Krill sits in the pilot's seat, talking into the radio.

KRILL

By now you must have tested that air sample I allowed you to take from the plane. What does it tell you?

Intercut with:

INT/EXT AIRPORT (TBD) – DAY

Production note: The FBI command center will be wherever best suits the board, either inside the airport or outside the plane.

Wherever it is, Special Agent CLAIRE KILBURN, early 30s, intense and beautiful, is on the radio, talking to Krill.

KILBURN

It tells me you're a psychopath, but not a liar.

KRILL

You're a perceptive judge of character, Agent Kilburn. No wonder they put you in charge. Now where's my money?

KILBURN

We need more time.

KRILL

That puts me in a bit of a bind. Normally I'd kill a hostage for every minute of delay, but this is an all-or-nothing situation. And I do mean nothing.

KILBURN

You'll die too. Kind of a hitch in your brilliant strategy.

KRILL

Better dead than poor. I guess I'm not adjusting very well to the 90s. You have two hours.

EXT. HQ – ESTABLISHING – DAY

INT. HQ – DAY

as Dallas walks in, wearing casual clothes, which in his case, is a loud hawaiian shirt and khaki shorts. He lights up the dark, silent HQ. He's followed by three, similarly dressed buddies, into the empty control center. One of his buddies, FLOYD, actually speaks.

DALLAS

The Cobra Control Center. This is where is all the action is, boys.

FLOYD

Yeah, yeah, real nice. But sitting around an office is not the kind of action we had in mind for a Saturday afternoon.

DALLAS

Patience, Floyd.

He leads them into the

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM – DAY

Dallas stands beside the conference table.

DALLAS

I had this made for Scandal, but there's no reason we can't break it in.

FLOYD

What are we gonna do, shuffle papers across it?

(off look to pals:)

You gotta get a life, Dallas.

Dallas smiles and goes to one end, and motions to the other guys.

DALLAS

Gimme a hand, fellas.

They lift the glass off to reveal a BEAUTIFUL, VERMILLION POOL TABLE underneath, along with BALLS and CUES. Floyd shares a grin with his friends and rubs his hands together.

FLOYD

So, where're the chips and dip?

DALLAS

What, I got to think of everything?

And on Dallas' look, we CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD – DAY

as the Cobra Explorer sputters to a stop, STEAM POURING from under the hood. Scandal and Danielle get out. She's upset.

DANIELLE

I told you to turn left.

SCANDAL

I did turn left.

DANIELLE

You turned right and then you turned left. You don't know how to read a map.

SCANDAL

And you have no sense of direction. The road we're on isn't on the map.

He pops the hood and is hit by a blast of steam. He then peers into the engine.

SCANDAL

The radiator's cracked.

DANIELLE

No problem, I'll just call the auto club.

Scandal gives her a look. She pulls out the cellular. No good.

DANIELLE

No signal.

SCANDAL

Guess we'll just have to walk to the ranger station on Devil's Peak.

DANIELLE

The first rule when your car breaks down in the middle of nowhere is to stay with the vehicle.

SCANDAL

What, can't hack it?

DANIELLE

It's forty miles through rough terrain to Devil's Peak. We should wait here for help.

SCANDAL

So it's a long walk. The sooner we get started, the sooner we get there.

DANIELLE

I know it's harder on you to sit still for a few hours than it is to scale a mountain, but it's the smart thing to do.

SCANDAL

Fine, you stay. I'll walk.

DANIELLE

The second rule is never split up.

SCANDAL

We're on an unmapped access road in middle of a national forest.

What are the odds of someone happening by?

(off her look:)

You wanted a mountain endurance exercise. This is it.

DANIELLE

You're right. So we'll compromise.

She takes a pen and paper from the glove box and scrawls something down.

DANIELLE

We'll leave a note, with our destination and Dallas' phone number. She slips it on the dash.

DANIELLE

There. Now it's you and me, against the elements.

SCANDAL

(teasing:)

Joy.

And on her grin, they head off.

INT. HQ – DAY

Dallas and Floyd are playing. Their friends are working on what's left of the chips, dip, and beer that's scattered all over the place. On the TV MONITORS, news reporters about the hostage situation are playing. INTERCUT WITH:

ON THE TELEVISION

The reporter is on camera.

REPORTER

And with the money delivered, and the plane fully fueled, flight 2311 is taking off, destination unknown. We're here with Special Agent Claire Kilburn, who is in charge of the hostage negotiation. SPECIAL AGENT CLAIRE KILBURN, early 30s, beautiful, but all business right now, is not happy about being on camera.

REPORTER

Agent Kilburn, why has the FBI been so vague about the nature of the terrorist's threat? Does he have a bomb? Or something worse?

KILBURN

No comment.

FLOYD

You frisbees always were a witty bunch.

DALLAS

Guess we don't have the refined humor of you boys in the DEA. Tenball, side pocket.

Clack, the ball goes in the pocket.

REPORTER

What about the rumors that this terrorist was also the mastermind behind last year's Virginia Armory heist?

KILBURN

No comment.

She walks away. Dallas flicks off the set, mulling something as he turns his gaze back to the table.

DALLAS

Holy sweet mother.

FLOYD

(re: the ball)

It's a hard shot, but it's not impossible.

DALLAS

Three ounces of quintonen-12 were stolen from the Virginia armory.

FLOYD

He's threatening'em with cough syrup?

DALLAS

Quintoxin 12 is a little potion cooked up by a mad scientist at the Pentagon. It's harmless by itself, but combined with duotoxin, it's instantly fatal. Kinda like this dip you whipped up, Floyd.

FLOYD

I don't see the the point. Why not put'em together to begin with?

DALLAS

Fiveball, corner.

(clack, in the hole:)

We schpritz the enemy with Quintoxin-12, then our troops waltz in and douse'em with Duotoxin. Bad guys drop dead, our boys are fine, and there's no toxic residue.

FLOYD

Sweet. Now, aren't you glad you're retired? We get to sit here shooting pool while that psycho and his poison gas are someone else's problem.

Dallas lines up his shot.

DALLAS

Yeah, you're right. I'm a pool hustler now.

(prepares to shoot:)

This is gonna cost you the game, and fifty bucks.

He's making his shot just as THE PHONE RINGS, startling him and ruining his aim. The cue ball misses it's target. Floyd grins.

FLOYD

Will that be cash, check or charge?

The GUYS laugh it up. Dallas glares at them, grabs the phone and snaps:

DALLAS

What?

(then:)

You found their car where?

And on Dallas' look, we CUT TO:

INT. AIRPLANE – DAY

Krill is zipping up LARGE GLOBAL AIRWAYS SATCHEL full of MONEY, as Natalie approaches. He has been transferring it from an FBI BAG.

NATALIE

We've been heading west for three hours. The Captain says if we are going further than San Francisco, we're going to need more fuel.

KRILL

Nice try. Tell the Captain that my destination is none of his concern. He is to keep flying until we're running on fumes.

He checks his watch.

KRILL

You can start the movie any time. Tell the passengers the headsets are my treat. Wouldn't want any hard feelings.

And on her look, we CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST – DAY (MONTAGE)

VARIOUS SHOTS as Scandal and Danielle climb steep hills, cross rivers, inch along narrow cliffs...helping each other every step of the way. Ending with Scandal looking winded.

DANIELLE

Tired?

SCANDAL

Me? Nah. Well, workout this morning may have wore me down a tiny bit.

DANIELLE

A few laps around the block shouldn't poop out a Navy SEAL.

SCANDAL

It didn't. It's just that I haven't eaten, and I'm starving. What did you pack for dinner?

DANIELLE

Nothing.

SCANDAL

Nothing?

DANIELLE

We're going to live off the land. This is an endurance exercise, not a stroll in the park, remember?

SCANDAL

The land.

DANIELLE

Yes.

SCANDAL

Fine.

Scandal starts looking around. She notices.

DANIELLE

What are you looking for?

SCANDAL

Golden Arches.

And on Scandal's look, we DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CAMPSIGHT – EVENING

Danielle sit beside a campfire as Scandal comes up, looking exhausted.

SCANDAL

It took some time, and I had to chase him all over the canyon, but I caught us some dinner.

He proudly holds up a DEAD RABBITT by the ears.

SCANDAL

You got to be fast on your feet to catch one of these.

DANIELLE

Or with your mind.

SCANDAL

Hey, what's that smell?

That's when she turns to reveal...A RABBITT on a spit over the fire.

SCANDAL

You caught a rabbitt? How?

DANIELLE

Sitting on a rock, watching the sunset.

(off his look:)

I set a trap and waited.

He sits down beside her, a little peeved. It amuses her no end.

SCANDAL

You could have saved me a lot of trouble.

DANIELLE

I saved you some white meat instead.

SCANDAL

Thanks.

He drops his rabbitt and cuts a piece from the spit. They sit in silence for a moment, the fire playing on their faces. After a moment, he starts to laugh. So does she.

SCANDAL

This is nice.

DANIELLE

Yes, it is.

SCANDAL

Maybe we should have engine problems more often.

DANIELLE

(smiles:)

You know something, Scandal? You're not as tough as you look.

SCANDAL

Thank you. I think.

DANIELLE

It's been a long day, and right now I'm feeling every minute of it. I'm going to sleep. What about you?

SCANDAL

I'll stoke the fire for a little while.

DANIELLE

We hit the trail at dawn. We have a lot of ground to cover to get to Devil's Peak. You're going to need your rest and I hope you don't expect me to slow down for you.

(off his look:)

What?

SCANDAL

Sweet dreams.

DANIELLE

You, too.

She curls up and closes her eyes. Scandal watches her, the flickering flames playing on her serene face. CUT TO:

EXT. AIRPLANE – NIGHT (STOCK)

streaking across the night sky.

INT. AIRPLANE – NIGHT

Krill, wearing a parachute, watches Nancy finish strapping it onto him.

NATALIE

The Captain has slowed the jet speed and lowered the altitude, as you asked.

KRILL

How considerate of him. Everyone's being so nice to me. Must be something in the air.

He pulls her close, and out of eyesight of the crew, and gives her a deep, lusty kiss, then he whispers:

KRILL

See you in Switzerland.

NATALIE

I'll have a brandy waiting.

Krill steps away from her, slips a TINY ELECTRONIC DEVICE into the open SACHEL OF MONEY, then zips it up and grabs the microphone off the wall.

KRILL

(into mike:)

Please fasten your seat belts, close your tray tables and bring your seat backs to their full, upright position. We're about to experience a sudden loss of cabin pressure.

He hangs up the mike, blows a last kiss to Natalie, then lifts the satchel of money, and makes his way up the aisle to the cabin door. He pauses as he grabs the latch, shooting a smile at Stewardess Mindy, who is strapping herself into a seat.

KRILL

It has been a pleasure flying Global Air. I'll certainly keep you in mind when making future travel plans.

And with that, we CUT TO:

EXT. AIRPLANE – NIGHT – (STOCK)

as Krill leaps out of the plane.

ANOTHER ANGLE – (STOCK)

as a Krill's parachute opens and he gently drifts downward.

EXT. CAMPSIGHT – NIGHT

Scandal is watching the flames play over Danielle's face when he hears the sounds of something FALLING INTO THE TREES nearby. Danielle's eyes flash open and she shares a look with Scandal.

EXT. FOREST – NIGHT

Krill dangles from the tree, his parachute caught in the limbs. He drops his satchel and, dangling from the trees, carefully unhitches himself from the chute and drops safely to his feet. He pushes up his sleeve, exposing his DIGITAL WATCH. Krill presses two buttons and talks into it with a mischevious grin.

KRILL

Dick Tracy to Flat-top.

Intercut with:

EXT. FOREST – ELSEWHERE – NIGHT

a black, leather-gloved hand pushes up a CAMOUFLAGED SLEEVE to reveal an identical watch on a woman's wrist. A WOMAN'S VOICE answers.

MORGANA'S VOICE

Flat-top here. Have a nice trip?

KRILL

The wind carried me a bit off course and--

KRILL

hears something, or someone, approaching. He clicks off his watch and hides in the brush.

WIDER ANGLE

as Scandal and Danielle emerge in the clearing. They immediately spot the parachute in the trees .. Danielle spots the Global Airways Satchel and goes to it. And as she does, we RACK FOCUS to reveal Krill coming up behind Scandal, a GARROT strung tight between his hands. Danielle unzips the bag to reveal the money...

DANIELLE

There must be millions of dollars in--

.. then turns just as Krill reaches over Scandal's head..

DANIELLE

Scandal!

Scandal grabs Krill by the wrists and flings him over his shoulder. Krill lands upright, pushes Danielle aside, turn on Scandal, who attacks. Krill holds his own, but is no match for Scandal, who takes him down with a expert series of kicks and chops. Krill lays dazed on the ground and Scandal helps Danielle to her feet.

SCANDAL

Are you all right?

DANIELLE

Yeah.

She looks down at Krill.

DANIELLE

Who the hell are you?

And on Krill's evil glare, we FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. CAMPSIGHT – NIGHT

Scandal and Danielle confer out of earshot of Jarod Krill, who sits with his hands and feet tied up in ropes cut from the parachute.

SCANDAL

He's not carrying any identification. All he's got on him is a Global Airways ticket, made out to "Joe Smith," oneway from New York to Chicago.

DANIELLE

And a Global Airways bag stuffed with millions of dollars in cash.

SCANDAL

Looks to me like we've got us a hijacker.

DANIELLE

So what do we do?

SCANDAL

Same thing we were doing before. We head for the Ranger station and call for help.

And on her look, we see Krill, who shoots a glance at his Satchel of money, then, with a smile, into the woods. He knows something our heroes don't....

EXT. HQ – ESTABLISHING – DAY

REPORTER'S VOICE

...and he leaped out of the plane carrying \$25 million. Although authorities have been unable to pinpoint his exact location...

INT. HQ – DAY

Dallas marches in, to find his aides watching the news.

DALLAS

(to an aide:)

Did you contact the rangers, let'em know where to look for Scandal and Danielle?

The aide nods. That's when Dallas hears:

REPORTER'S VOICE

...they believe he's somewhere in Evergreen State Park, 10,000 acres of the most difficult terrain in the west coast. Campers are warned to stay out of the park until--

Dallas suddenly realizes what this means.

DALLAS

Evergreen State Park. Hell, that's where Scandal and Danielle are. He grabs the nearest aide.

DALLAS

Find me Special Agent Claire Kilburn. Now!

EXT. CAMPSIGHT – DAY

A young CAMPER, 20s, parks his jeep, gets out, and is about to unpack his stuff from the back when a MAN IN CAMOUFLAGE GEAR comes up behind him, breaks his neck, and drags him into the trees. After a moment, the MAN IN CAMOUFLAGE emerges, holding the car keys. He lifts up his sleeve, revealing A WRIST TRANSMITTER.

ELSEWHERE IN THE FOREST

MORGANA, 30s, dressed in camouflage, emerges from the trees, flanked by OTTO and BURT, who are also dressed in camouflage gear and carrying AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. She's talking to her WRIST TRANSMITTER.

MAN'S VOICE

I've left the body in the brush. But it can be found.

MORGANA

Good. Drive the jeep into town, park it where it will be discovered.
Be sure to leave behind the map.

She switches off the transmitter, smiling to herself, then stops to pull a LOCATOR DEVICE from her bag and glances down at it.

THE LOCATOR DEVICE

a BLINKING light moving across a digital read-out of hill-like terrain (similar to what you'd see on an Exercycle display).

MORGANA

The money is on the move. Ten miles ahead. It shouldn't take us long.

And off they march, into the woods.

EXT. BIVOUAC - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A large tent and several official cars and jeeps identify this as the FBI command center.

INT. TENT - DAY

Controlled chaos. Agents are working everywhere, on phones or radios, running back and forth with maps etc. In the center of it all, Claire Kilburn is leaning over a map of the forest and talking to a VARIOUS AGENTS.

KILBURN

We're looking at 10,000 square miles of forest. Two rivers cut across it and the edge of one mountain range. There are two or three dozen known access roads, most of'em unmapped.

(to an agent:)

Coordinate with the forest service. I want agents in ATVs and choppers patrolling each of those roads by daybreak tomorrow. And get me something to eat -- something greasy.

(continuing:)

A freeway cuts across the North-eastern corner of the park and we're putting road blocks here... here.. and here.

She points to various spots on the map.

KILBURN

I want agents in Walnut Creek, Buttonwillow, Lenawee, Pine Valley and every other town within 25 miles of the forest.

Her cellular CHIRPS. She flips it open.

KILBURN

Kilburn.

DALLAS' VOICE

Dallas Cassell here, FBI Special Agent, retired.

Intercut with:

INT. HQ - DAY

Dallas is on the phone.

DALLAS

Now, I work for an organization that--

KILBURN

(interrupts, hot:)

Viper. I've heard of you.

This is a red line. Where did you get the number?

DALLAS

It's COBRA, and we'll swap secrets some other time. Right now, I've got a problem.

KILBURN

Yeah? I got a homicidal maniac lost in 10,000 square miles of forest with \$25 million Uncle Sam was saving for his retirement. What's yours?

DALLAS

I've got two of my people in there, unarmed and alone, and--

KILBURN

--and if they've run into Jarod Krill they're already dead and there's nothing I can do to help.

She hangs up the phone and tosses it to an agent.

KILBURN

Have the number changed immediately. And get me my food.

INT. HQ - DAY

Dallas slams down the phone. Stares at it a moment. He turns to an aide.

DALLAS

Fire up the Cobra chopper. And get me a complete background check on Jarod Krill.

And as Dallas flies out the door, we CUT TO:

FOREST - MORNING

Our heroes hike along with their prisoner. Scandal holds a rope, which is attached to Krill's wrists, which are bound in front of him. Krill carries the satchel of money on his back. Krill trudges slowly. Scandal gives the rope a strong jerk, nearly sending the hijacker falling face-first.

SCANDAL

Move along.

KRILL

Do you have any idea how much \$25 million weighs?

DANIELLE

You shouldn't have been so greedy.

KRILL

You could lighten the load by a million or two ... remodel your house. Buy a station wagon. Start a college fund for the kids.

DANIELLE

We aren't married.

SCANDAL

And we aren't interested in your money.

KRILL

What are you interested in?

SCANDAL

Silence.

KRILL

(to Danielle:)

And you?

DANIELLE

I want to see you stand trial for your crimes.

Krill laughs in disbelief.

KRILL

It's not often I meet someone so innocent and idealistic.

Unfortunately, they're always the first ones to die.

And as Scandal yanks Krill forward, we CUT TO:

ELSEWHERE IN THE FOREST

Morgana and her men pause while she looks at her LOCATOR READOUT.

MORGANA

We're right on top of them.

(to her men:)

Fan out. Surround them. Shoot anyone you see.

OTTO

Does that include Krill?

Morgana grabs Otto by the throat and squeezes until his eye bulge.

MORGANA

He dies, you die. Do we understand each other?

Otto gurgles and nods. She releases him.

MORGANA

Go.

And as they fan out, we CUT TO:

EXT. CLIFF TRAIL – DAY

Danielle leads the way along a narrow cliff trail along a steep (although not vertical) hillside, trailing the trussed-up Krill on a rope. Scandal follows, keeping a close eye on the captive and carrying the suitcase.

KRILL

I was caught once before, although it embarrasses me to admit it. A Mossad agent was supposed to bring me a smidgeon of plutonium. Turned out he still had an old-fashioned allegiance to the notion of patriotism.

SCANDAL

Be quiet.

KRILL

I left him chained to a rock in the desert so the vultures would tear out his liver.

There's a RUSTLING in the brush on the hill far above them. Scandal looks around, doesn't see anything. Krill smiles to himself. This is what he's been waiting for.

KRILL

Not that you should be nervous. After all, young Prometheus was only a trained Israeli spy. I don't see how I could possibly get away from a couple of cub scouts.

SCANDAL

Quiet!

The RUSTLING comes again, louder this time. Danielle stops.

DANIELLE

What is it?

SCANDAL

We aren't alone.

Scandal sees MACHINE GUN BARRELS emerging from the trees FAR ABOVE THEM. (Prod Note: our heroes DO NOT SEE the faces of their attackers).

SCANDAL

Get down!

The commandos open fire on our heroes. There's no cover, no place to hide. They're dead. Unless...

SCANDAL

launches himself at Danielle, hits her with a perfect tackle, sends them both flying over the side of the hill, trailing the tied-up Krill like an anchor!

WIDE ANGLE

They tumble, head over heels, down the long hill (ala ROMANCING THE STONE), land in a pile at the bottom of the gully. For a moment, all is still. Then Danielle gets shakily to her feet. She looks up at the hill.

THE HILL – HER POV

Through the trees, the commandos are out of sight.

BACK TO SCENE

Danielle rushes over to Scandal's side.

DANIELLE

Scandal, are you all right?

SCANDAL

I'm fine.

He struggles to his feet. But as soon as he's up, his leg buckles.

Danielle grabs him to keep him from falling. They look down and see that his leg is bloody.

SCANDAL

As long as I don't have to walk anywhere.

DANIELLE

How did they find us?

KRILL

The same why they will find you again. But next time, you won't sur--

Scandal whirls around and slugs him, knocking him to the ground and nearly falling himself. he grabs Danielle for balance. She looks down at Krill.

DANIELLE

Textbook example of the Mephisto Fallacy of Sociopathic Behavior.

SCANDAL

Too bad we don't have your book with us

DANIELLE

To show us how to deal with him?

SCANDAL

To hit him with.

Scandal carefully lowers himself to the ground. He pulls the Global Air satchel to him and opens it.

DANIELLE

You're not actually going to give him the money.

Scandal finds what he's looking for -- a SMALL TRACKING DEVICE, the one Krill stuck in there on the plane.

DANIELLE

A tracking device?

SCANDAL

My guess is he put it the bag in case he dropped the money when he jumped.

DANIELLE

And to help his accomplices locate him at night in middle of the forest.

SCANDAL

(switches it off:)

We won't be so easy to find anymore.

He grabs a piece of wood and uses it as a crutch to get to his feet. he can barely stand, but he does his best to hide if from Danielle. She knows just how deep their trouble is -- she's scared, but determined.

DANIELLE

You need to rest.

SCANDAL

We can't stay here, they're right behind us.

DANIELLE

But you're in no condition to out run them.

She takes the tracking device from him.

DANIELLE

If I activate the tracking device, I can lead the others away. It'll give you a chance to get to the Ranger Station with Krill.

SCANDAL

Too dangerous.

DANIELLE

As opposed to what?

Scandal thinks about it. It's a plan. But...

SCANDAL

I'll go.

She looks at him, honestly touched. She's never met anyone like him.

DANIELLE

And you would, too.

SCANDAL

I can make it.

DANIELLE

I'll take the transmitter to the river, attach it to a log, and send it downstream. Then I'll double back in your direction. I'll be okay.

She heads away before he can see how scared she is.

SCANDAL

Danielle. Dani!

She doesn't turn. This is tough enough as it is. She runs off into the woods. Scandal limps over and takes Krill's tether. Krill massages his jaw.

KRILL

How nice she'll have that lovely farewell to think about when my friends are hacking her to pieces.

Scandal yanks on the rope, hard. Krill stumbles, but follows, humming happily, which Scandal doesn't get. That's because he doesn't see what we do...

KRILL'S WATCH

The RADIO TRANSMITTER is on. Whoever is out there has HEARD IT ALL. We CUT TO:

FOREST – ELSEWHERE

Morgana listens to Krill humming. She switches off her wrist radio.

OTTO

So we ambush them at the ranger station.

MORGANA

Which ranger station? There are half-a-dozen an equal distance from here.

(then, smiles:)

We may not know where they're going, but we know where to find her.

And on her evil look, we GO TO:

EXT. FOREST – DAY

Claire Kilburn and her fellow rifle-toting FBI agents, in FBI-emblazoned windbreakers, move cautiously through the trees when they HEAR a helicopter streak by overhead.

A HELICOPTER – HER POV (STOCK)

steaking above the treeline.

BACK TO SCENE

Kilburn pulls out her walkie-talkie and whispers angrily into it.

KILBURN

Who the hell was that? This is restricted air space.

AGENT'S VOICE

(on radio:)

I don't know, sir. But they dropped someone off in a clearing fifty yards due west of your present location.

KILBURN

Intercept the chopper when it lands. I want the pilot in interrogation when I get back.

She clicks off the walkie-talkie and turns to her men. She motions them to circle ahead. They cock their weapons and move in cautiously, weaving through the trees, working their way towards...

INT. CLEARING – DAY

as Kilburn and her men emerge from the trees... to see a KRILL'S TATTERED PARACHUTE in the branches overhead ... and the back of a man in CAMOUFLAGE GEAR crouching over something in the dirt.

It's Krill's tiny bottle of DUOTOXIN, the one Krill used to dab the businessman's palm. Dallas picks it up just as:

KILBURN

Don't move.

The agents immediately surround the man, their weapons aimed at him.

DALLAS' VOICE

It's about time you got here.

Dallas slowly turns around, wearing an FBI cap on his head.

DALLAS

Dallas Cassel, FBI Special Agent.

KILBURN

Retired.

Claire motions the men to lower their guns.

KILBURN

You better have a damn good explanation, or so help me I'll arrest you for interfering in a Federal investigation.

DALLAS

My people, Scandal Jackson and Danielle LaPoint, were driving up an access road in Fawn Valley yesterday when their car broke down.

They left me a note, an off-roader hiker found it, gave me a call.

KILBURN

Could I have the Readers Digest version, please?

DALLAS

They were headed for the Ranger Station at Devil's Peak. Figuring they made four miles an hour, and would take the most direct route, I guessed they'd camp out somewhere in this area for the night.

(then:)

This is also where they met your hijacker.

KILBURN

Then their bodies are probably nearby. Mercy is not one of Jarod Krill's qualities.

DALLAS

Jarod Krill -- Oxford-educated, a certified genius and diagnosed sociopath responsible for some of the most daring, and vicious, robberies on the globe. He's never been captured.

KILBURN

You've kept up since your retirement. How nice. Now go back to your mobile home and shuffleboard -- leave this to the professionals.

She gives him a cold look and moves on. We hold on Dallas' angry reaction for a beat, and then he gets up, SURREPTITIOUSLY pocketing Krill's dropped bottle of Duotoxin. CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST TRAIL – DAY

Scandal, limping painfully, leads the bound Krill, money satchel on his back, up the steep trail. Krill, seeing Scandal weakening, tries to make a break for it. Scandal grabs the rope and yanks him back, hard. But it takes its toll on Scandal's leg. He winces with each step.

SCANDAL

Walk.

KRILL

Why bother? She's never going to make that rendez-vous.

SCANDAL

She'll make it.

KRILL

I suppose you're right. It's not like she's carrying a tracking device telling four crack guerilla warriors exactly where to find her.

SCANDAL

If they hurt her....

KRILL

No need to worry. Odds are she'll fall into a crevasse or be mauled by a bear long before she gets to the river. And if my boys do find her first, they'll treat her like a princess. They haven't had a woman for months.

Scandal grabs Krill and whirls him around. All he wants is to toss this son of a bitch off the cliff. Instead:

SCANDAL

She'll be there.

KRILL

Interesting dilemma: do I believe you, or those buzzards circling in the sky?

SCANDAL

Believe the man who's holding the rope around your neck.

And with that, Scandal shoves Krill forward and they move on up the trail.

EXT. RIVER – DAY

Danielle reaches the river's edge and pulls the LOCATOR DEVICE from her pocket. She carefully attaches it to a log and sends it sailing down river. She's trudging away from the river when she hears:

WOMAN'S VOICE

Wait! Don't go! Help!

Danielle turns and
REVERSE ANGLE – OVER WOMAN'S SHOULDER
as she approaches a surprised Danielle. The desperate stranger is
nearly hysterical.

WOMAN

Thank God.. these men with machine guns...they came out of the
trees...they killed my husband...I ran, and I ran, and I ran...I don't
even know where I am ...

THE WOMAN – DANIELLE'S POV

Her hair's a mess. Her shirt is torn. But there's no question about it.
It's Morgana.

MORGANA

You've got to help me.

She collapses into tears, and as Danielle comforts her, we FADE
OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. ROCKY HILLSIDE – DAY

Scandal and Krill are climbing a steep, rocky grade. Scandal's
sweat-soaked and in obvious pain, willing himself to push on. Krill
walks behind him, a bit winded, but otherwise taking pleasure in
Scandal's pain. Scandal stops, glances at his leg. It's bleeding again.

KRILL

That must hurt.

SCANDAL

Not as much as listening to you.

KRILL

What kind of pain is it, exactly? Sharp? Stinging? White hot?

SCANDAL

I can live with it.

KRILL

I wouldn't bet on it. In fact, I'm betting against it.

Scandal gives him a look, forces himself to push on. Krill walks
beside him.

KRILL

You're in shock, losing a lot of blood... you're already weak,
sluggish... maybe even a bit dizzy. You're going to fall. And when
you do, I'll break your neck, or smash your skull with a rock.

Scandal turns and gets in Krill's face. Eye to eye. Man to man.

SCANDAL

Maybe I should just save myself and kill you now.

Krill meets his gaze, and then smiles.

KRILL

You should. But you won't.

The moment passes and they walk on.

KRILL

Remind me to carve that on your tombstone.

And as they pass FRAME, we see Krill working his wrists against the knot...

EXT. FOREST – DAY

Danielle and Morgana hike along.

MORGANA

What if they come back? What if they find us?

DANIELLE

Don't worry, by now they're a long ways down river.

MORGANA

How can you be sure?

DANIELLE

It's not us they want. It's their bag of money, and they think it's floating towards Buttonwillow right now.

Morgana grabs her, desperate and afraid.

MORGANA

But they'll find out it's a trick. They'll come back for us.

DANIELLE

It's all right... we'll be long gone.

She gives Morgana a reassuring squeeze.

DANIELLE

Trust me.

Morgana lets go of Danielle, who starts off walking. And as they WIPE PAST FRAME, we hold for a beat on the same spot. After a moment, OTTO and BURT emerge from the trees, following after them.

INT. TENT – DAY

The FBI agents are in the midst of packing up and pulling out. Dallas surveys the map of the forest on the wall. Colored pins designate search parties, helicopter sweeps, etc. Behind him, Kilburn is addressing her agents.

KILBURN

We're pulling out. We've apprehended Krill's accomplice, a flight attendant, on her way to Switzerland. They were going to meet in Gstaad in two days -- which means he's got to make his move out of the area tonight.

He spots something in the center of the forest -- something called SUTTERS MINE. He taps it with his finger. Bingo.

DALLAS

Krill's not going anywhere.

Kilburn stops cold. She doesn't even look at him.

KILBURN

I thought I told you to go home. If you can't find your way back on your own, I'll provide an escort.

(then, to others:)

My guess is Krill will head for Interstate 180, then go--

DALLAS

(interrupts:)

Why should he go anywhere? That's what you expect him to do. So he's gonna do the opposite.

KILBURN

A few minutes ago we found the body of a camper. He was killed on the northend of the park. His jeep turned up in Lenawee. There was a map on the passenger seat, and Krill's fingerprints were all over it. Krill has left the forest.

DALLAS

He's too smart to do something that stupid. It's a trick. He's going to sit tight until you all go running off to Switzerland or wherever else he's left you some crumbs. Then he can stroll outta here whenever he wants, and no one will be waiting for him.

KILBURN

You want me to believe Krill is going to camp out roasting marshmallows instead of slipping away to Europe and living high on his millions?

DALLAS

Why not? If I were him, I'd lose myself in that forest ... I'd have found someplace in advance where I could stock up provisions and live for weeks, maybe months... someplace like an abandoned Gold Mine.

KILBURN

That's not his style.

DALLAS

Exactly. The good ones always zig when they should zag. Look, I've got a lot of experience in--

KILBURN

(interrupts:)

The stone age. Hoover's dead, the commies are gone, and we've got a President who sings with Carly Simon. The game has changed since you played it. You don't know the moves or the players anymore.

DALLAS

I'm telling you he's going to Sutters Mine.

Kilburn motions to an agent.

KILBURN

Give Retired Special Agent Cassell a jeep and directions back to the highway.

(to Dallas:)

Set foot in this area again, and I'll have you arrested.

Dallas walks out, taking one last look at the map as he goes.

Kilburn watches after him, and grins.

KILBURN

Be sure to return it with a full tank, or we'll have to charge you extra.

EXT. HILLSIDE – DAY

Scandal and Krill walk along the edge of a RAVINE. Scandal is forcing himself to move ahead... but he can't stop the occasional weave or stumble, betraying his weakness. Krill works his wrists...the rope is getting loose... too loose.

KRILL

It feels like the day will never end ... the sun is scorching ... the trail keeps getting steeper and steeper...

SCANDAL'S POV

the trail ahead BLURS in and out of FOCUS.

BACK TO SCENE

as Scandal blinks hard, forcing himself to see clearly, to stay focused.

KRILL

Your throat is dry. Your skin is on fire. Each step is like climbing a mountain.

Krill waits for the right moment and ...when Scandal is just a bit off balance .. he SUDDENLY YANKS BACK on his ROPE. Scandal tumbles hard to the ground. Krill SLIPS HIS HANDS out of the rope. Scandal starts to rise and Krill gives him a swift kick, sending Scandal sliding over the edge of the ravine...

SCANDAL

grabs hold of the ledge, and looks down, his feet dangling in thin air, pebbles and loose dirt falling into the ravine below. He looks up to see

KRILL

standing over him, looking down as if staring at a misbehaving dog.

KRILL

You just won't let go. You're nothing if not tenacious. Sort of like a wart that refuses to go away.

SCANDAL

tries to pull himself up, but he doesn't have the strength, and it only loosens his hold.

KRILL

activates his watch transmitter, and talks into it.

KRILL

Dick Tracy to Flat-top. I've finished my nature tour. Where are you?

Intercut with:

EXT. FOREST – TIGHT ON OTTO

as he responds on his own watch communicator.

OTTO'S V.O.

Morgana's with the girl. We thought she'd lead us to you.

KRILL

Kill the girl, meet me at Sutters Mine. And be quick about it, we've wasted enough time as it is.

Krill switches off his watch and looks down at Scandal.

KRILL

Have a nice trip.

Krill STOMPS on Scandal's hands.

SCANDAL

loses his grip and tumbles, end-over-end, colliding with rocks, brush and trees as he falls to the bottom of the ravine. And on Scandal's body...we FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST RAVINE – DAY

Scandal lies crumpled at the bottom of the ravine, still. After a moment, his eyes open slowly.

SCANDAL'S POV

The top of the ravine seems miles off.

BACK TO SCENE

Scandal pushes himself up and climbs to his knees. There isn't an inch of him that doesn't hurt. God, he wants to lie still and die. Scandal pulls himself up to his feet, leaning against the ravine wall for balance. Scandal grabs a ledge on the ravine wall and starts to pull himself up. He reaches the ledge and, fighting his pain all the way, reaches for another hand-hold. Scandal climbs up out of the FRAME towards the top... CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST – DAY

Danielle and Morgana are hiking along.

MORGANA

Is it much farther?

DANIELLE

We've got some more climbing to do.

She loses her footing, and Danielle instinctively grabs her hand, helping her steady herself. And that's when Danielle notices

MORGANA'S HAND AND WRIST – DANIELLE'S POV

PUSHING IN DRAMATICALLY to see that Morgana has the SAME DISTINCTIVE WATCH as Krill...

BACK TO SCENE

Morgana and Danielle's eyes meet for a split second -- enough for Morgana to see her cover is blown. Morgana lunges for her, but Danielle avoids the blow, trips Morgana, and sends the commando tumbling down the hill. Danielle looks down to see:

THE TWO COMMANDOS

emerge from the trees around Morgana and OPEN FIRE at:

DANIELLE

who scurries away, BULLETS just missing her.

MORGANA

gets to her feet and motions to her men to stop.

MORGANA

Are you crazy? She's the only one who knows where Krill is being taken.

OTTO

Krill's escaped, he meeting us at the mine.

MORGANA

Then let her go. We don't have time to go chasing after her -- besides, there's nothing she can do to stop us now.

They head off in a different direction. After a moment, we see Danielle has doubled back and is following them. DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SUTTER'S MINE – DAY

Looks like a narrow cave. Scandal stumbles out of the trees. He looks like hell and feels worse. He sees Krill disappear into the cave.
TIGHT ON SCANDAL

He leans down and picks up a rock. He looks at it, his wheels turning. He has a plan. He tears the sleeve off his shirt and we
DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FOREST – VARIOUS SHOTS – DAY

as Morgana and her commandos hurry towards their destination,
After a beat, we see Danielle is still on their trail.

EXT. SUTTER'S MINE – DAY

as Morgana and the commandos come up the trail, near a STREAM
and the CAVE OPENING. They are about to move on when:.

DANIELLE

steps on a patch of dry leaves. Sounds like she jumped on a bag of
potato chips. She freezes. Too late.

BACK TO SCENE

The commandos stop in their tracks and whip around, aiming their
guns into the foliage where Danielle is hiding.

MORGANA

Come out or we'll shoot.

Danielle emerges from the trees to face a firing squad.

MORGANA

Ah, let's shoot anyway.

They are about to pull their triggers when a ROCK silently sails out
of nowhere and BONKS Otto in the head. What happens next
happens FAST.

OTTO

drops, unconscious.

BURT

Burt turns to see what happened to his friend and BONK, a ROCK
takes him out.

MORGANA

turns to fire in the direction the rocks came from, but a ROCK slams
into her shoulder, knocking her off balance and the rifle out of her
grasp. She goes for the gun, but

DANIELLE

is faster. She kicks the rifle aside, and DECKS Morgana with a killer
RIGHT HOOK. Morgana drops. Danielle smiles to herself as

WIDE ANGLE

Scandal comes out of the trees a few yards away, holding a JURY-
RIGGED SLING made out a SHIRT-SLEEVE.

DANIELLE

(re sling:)

Nice toy. Where'd you learn to make that?

SCANDAL

Read it in a book. Something about David and Goliath. Where did you learn to throw a right hook?

DANIELLE

Something I picked up at the gym in between chapters.

She's about to go to him when

KRILL

bursts out of the trees behind her, jamming the end of HIS GUN into the small of Danielle's back.

KRILL

Boo.

WIDE ANGLE

Danielle freezes. Krill smiles at Scandal.

KRILL

You I'm going to kill. But I haven't decided about her. Maybe you could give me some advice. Should I cripple her for life, or finish her off?

Scandal glances at the rifles on the ground nearby. Krill is reading his mind.

KRILL

Oh, go ahead, try. It'll be more fun than killing you where you stand.

SCANDAL

You're insane.

KRILL

And rich. And I'm getting away with it. Don't despair. You won't die in vain. I'll remember you in my memoirs.

That's when a TINY GLASS BOTTLE sails through the air and SHATTERS on the rocks beside Krill. He laughs and turns to see Dallas emerging from the mine, the Global Airways satchel of money over his shoulder.

KRILL

You missed.

Almost instantly, he's wracked by CONVULSIONS...just like the businessman on the jet. Scandal pushes Danielle aside and yanks the weapon from Krill's grasp. Krill, jerking and twists in agony, stumbles backwards and falls into the CREEK. Dallas walks up to our heroes.

DALLAS

Duotoxin. Perfectly harmless. Unless you inhaled Quintoxin-12 in the last day or so.

DANIELLE

How did you find us?

DALLAS

Figured he'd hide out here. Only I went to the wrong end of the mine, a couple miles north. You can't win'em all.

Scandal puts his arm around Danielle for support and gives Dallas a smile.

SCANDAL

At least you win when it counts.

Dallas takes Scandal's other arm around his shoulder and, together, Danielle and Dallas lead Scandal away.

DALLAS

So, how was your weekend?

And as they walk past camera, we FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. HQ – DAY

Danielle is pushing Scandal in a wheelchair, his leg propped up in a cast.

DANIELLE

Well, I hope you learned something this weekend.

SCANDAL

I sure did.

DANIELLE

That women are every bit as tough as men? That strength is measured not by one's muscles by one's character?

SCANDAL

I learned I should never go camping with a psychotic hijacker.

Dallas is waiting for them.

DALLAS

I hope you don't think just because you got a little scratch you're on vacation.

SCANDAL

I'm not going to sit behind a desk for three weeks, if that's what you're thinking.

Dallas takes the chair from Danielle and pushes him into

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM – DAY

They lead him into the conference room, where two aides are sitting with a stack of files.

DALLAS

As far as I'm concerned, you're not leaving this room until you're fully recovered.

SCANDAL

I'm a field operative, Dallas. There's no way I'm going to --
Dallas motions to the aides, who lift the top off the table to reveal the POOL TABLE underneath. Scandal is stunned.

SCANDAL

Leave this room until I am completely healed.

(then:)

You know, when the doctor said three weeks, he was being optimistic. Probably more like six. Or eight.

Dallas takes off his jacket and rolls up his sleeves.

DALLAS

Rack'em up.

And on Scandal's look, we FADE OUT.

THE END