

KING'S ROOK

REWRITE Written

by

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STELLAR FILMS

FADE IN:

SUPER: HONG KONG, CHINA - 1992

EXT. HONG KONG, CHINA, SMALL VILLAGE - DAY

A small wooden shack crowded in-between other buildings.

INT. WOODEN SHACK - CONTINUOUS

Beams of sunlight cut through a wooden shack stacked with chicken cages. A YOUNG BOY'S hand opens as a TOY SOLDIER is placed in his palm. Two BOYS stand together, JIAN ZHENG (7) and his brother BAO ZHENG (11). They each hold a toy soldier.

BAO
Ready? Go!

They run in different directions. Bao ducks into the shadows as Jian runs into the work shack in search of a hiding place. He spots a small red bucket. A cautious glance over his shoulder, Jian hides the Toy Soldier under the bucket. The two boys meet back outside.

BAO (CONT'D)
Find a good place?

Jian nods with a mischievous grin. They stand together. Bao firmly grabs both of Jian's hands.

BAO (CONT'D)
Okay. I'll go first.

Bao concentrates and closing his eyes. His frown twists as his grip tightens on Jian's hands.

BAO (CONT'D)
Under a bucket. Red bucket.

Jian grimaces and nods.

BAO (CONT'D)
Good one. Okay, you.

Jian thinks as his frown deepens.

BAO (CONT'D)
Com'on, Jian. It's a hard one but you can do it. Close your eyes.

Jian struggles squeezing Bao's hands and closes his eyes. His expression shifts and he smirks.

JIAN
You cheated.

BAO
How?

JIAN
It's in your pocket!

Bao smiles, pulling the toy soldier out of his pocket. Jian laughs.

BAO
Good job.

JIAN
Again!

BAO
Okay, okay! Ready?

Jian's expression sours. His eyes appear frightened.

BAO (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

JIAN
He's coming.

They peek outside and see LEE ZHENG (30s) wander through the village and stagger, slightly drunk, towards the shack. Jian's gaze goes distant as his eyes widen.

JIAN (CONT'D)
He's coming. He's angry. Daddy wants to be mean!

Bao grabs Jian's hand and they kneeling behind crates to hide. Jian is scared as Bao hugs him tight. Lee Zheng staggers in through the door, searching for them.

LEE ZHENG
Boys!? Where are ya?

Jian's eyes widen with fear.

SUPER: FIFTEEN YEARS LATER

EXT. SHANGHAI, CHINA/ALLEYWAY- NIGHT

Jian (22) heads down an alley. He stops and carefully scans the immediate area. He focuses on an apartment building as a RADIO crackles from the tiny speaker hidden in his ear.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S)
(on radio)
What do we got?

Jian speaks into a radio-microphone tucked into his sleeve.

JIAN
(into mic)
I think it's a wash. There was something here but I can't-

Jian pauses, then moves closer to the buildings. He places his hand on a metal railing of a fire escape. His eyes closes as he concentrates. His expression shifts.

JIAN (CONT'D)
(into mic)
I got it.

FRANK (O.S.)
(on radio)
Check. Move in.

Two black VANS pull into the alleyway and stop. Out jumps a handful of SWAT TEAM OFFICERS carrying weapons. They wear tactical gear and black uniforms.

FRANK PETERSON (40s) emerges last from the second vehicle and approaches Jian. Fran looks at the run down building.

FRANK (CONT'D)
This one?

Jian removes his hands from the metal fire escape.

JIAN
Fifth floor. Corner apartment.

FRANK
Which number?

JIAN
I don't know. Third door, on the left.

Frank signals to the TEAM as they ready their weapons. Frank follows them into the building as Jian takes a seat on a crate in the alley. He lowers his head and rubs his hands.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Frank leads the squad upstairs to the third floor. They head down the hallway quietly as they hear sounds of BABIES crying and ARGUING in some of the apartments.

They approach the last door on the left and pause. Frank sees a security camera mounted on the ceiling behind them and senses something out of place for such a run-down building.

Frank signals to the TEAM as BOOM -- the Officers kick the door in and rush inside, weapons raised.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

The squad team sweeps through the apartment, calling out as they search each room.

SWAT OFFICER ONE

Clear!

SWAT OFFICER TWO

Clear!

They find empty rooms and running computers but no one is home. Frank toggles his radio in his ear.

FRANK

(into mic)

The right place, but no one's home.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jian approaches the building again and places both hands firmly against the brick wall. His face tightens.

JIAN

(into mic)

Bedroom. Down the hall.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Frank points to the bedroom down which was already checked.

JIAN (O.S.)

(thru Frank's ear/radio)

Under the bed.

The SWAT team crouches, and enters the room.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

They point their guns and check under the bed and the closet for a second time. Again, nobody is there. Frank frowns.

FRANK

Jian, I--

JIAN (O.S.)

(through Frank's ear)

Under the bed!

Frank sees the mattress slowly move. He snaps his fingers and points at the bed as the TEAM rips the mattress back. A MAN (30s) lies wedged in-between a foam cut-out inside the mattress. He instantly jumps to his feet as swat team wrestles him to the ground.

SWAT OFFICERS ONE

Don't move!

SWAT OFFICER TWO

Hands. Let me see your hands!

They arrest the man who is completely baffled.

FRANK

(into mic)

We got him.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jian grins, then suddenly looks up.

JIAN

(into mic)

Him? There's two!

FRANK (O.S.)

(on radio)

What?

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Frank turns as RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT! A machine gun opens fire on him and his Swat Team as bullets rip through the walls and ceiling.

Frank and the SWAT TEAM dives to the floor for cover as a YOUNG TURK (30s) comes into the room from the hall firing blindly. He unloads his entire clip and dives out the open window which leads to the fire escape.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jian sees the Turk appear on the fire escape as he runs up towards the roof. Jian grabs the metal rails and takes off after him.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Frank and the Swat Team rises from the floor, still holding their weapons. Frank looks out the open window as his radios go crazy.

FRANK

Christ! Where did that come from?

SWAT OFFICER ONE

(into radio)

Shots fired! Shots fired!

SWAT OFFICER TWO

(into mic)

Team two! We've got a shooter on roof! Seal the building!

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Additional SWAT TEAM OFFICERS exit the second vehicles and secure the building. Others enter the building or head up the fire escape.

EXT. BUILDING ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

The Turk gets onto the roof and sees Jian heading up after him. He runs across the rooftop clutching his machine gun.

He leaps from the building and run onto the other rooftop of another building. Jian gets onto the roof and takes off after him.

The Turk jump onto the roof of the next building. He gets to another building but the gap is too far. He doubles back and sees Jian coming at him. Jian stops and faces him as he raises his weapon, pointing at Jian.

TURK

Back off, asshole!

JIAN

(calmly)

It's over.

The Turk peers off the edge of the roof, keeping his gun raised.

JIAN (CONT'D)
You'll never make it.

TURK
Make what?

JIAN
They're not taking you alive. Not now. Unless you come with me. So put the gun down.

TURK
Screw you, asshole!

The Turk heads towards the roof door as he it's locked. He looks over the edge for the fire escape and sees the SWAT TEAM running up it.

TURK (CONT'D)
Dammit!

He looks back to Jian, as an idea flashes across his face.

VISION IN SLOW MOTION AND VIVID COLORS

The Turk cocks his weapon and jabs the gun into Jian's face. He grabs Jian around the neck to use him as a human shield. He takes Jian hostage as the Swat Team surrounds him.

BACK TO REAL TIME

CLICK. The Turk pulls back the hammer on the gun as--

JIAN
That won't work.

The Turk is taken back.

TURK
What?

JIAN
Taking me hostage. If you want my help, put it down, Demir.

TURK
How'd you know--

The Turk shoves the gun into Jian's face, now really pissed. He tries to grab him as--

--Jian grabs his wrist and spins the Turk around. Jian, in a series of Martial Art moves sends the Turk flying across the roof as lands against a brick wall.

The Turk rises as Jian performs another series of intense martial arts blows with his feet and hands that leaves the Turk on the rooftop, out cold.

The Swat Team enters the roof as Jian kicks the Turk's weapon away. He sits on the rooftop edge as the Swat Team surrounds the unconscious Turk. A winded Frank climbs up the fire escape and climbs onto the roof. He sees Jian as he looks at him. Jian rubs his wrist as Frank sighs.

EXT. ALLEY WAY, DOWNTOWN, LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

An unmarked Police car pulls into an alleyway. Out climbs DETECTIVE ABBY LERNER (20s) dressed in a business suit.

Abby is a natural beauty who puts work above vanity. Her hair and make-up are thrown together in haste as she holds out her Police badge to a POLICE OFFICER (30s). She ducks under police tape, and steps onto a crime scene.

A parked Jaguar sits in the middle of the street with it's door left wide open. A MAN (30s) in a business suit leans against a police car while being questioned by POLICE OFFICERS.

A MAN (20s) with bright blonde hair and hip-hop clothing lies dead on the ground. A pistol lies near his hand as ABBY surveys the area.

Abby approached DETECTIVE CARL STEVENS (40s) who wears a thick mustache.

CARL

Thanks for showing up.

ABBY

Sorry. I was in Glendale getting the Judge to sign off on the Fallon warrant.

CARL

We could have dealt with that tomorrow.

ABBY

Yeah, well I didn't have anything going on so I figured-

CARL
Christ, we need to find you a life.

ABBY
Speak for yourself.

Abby heads back through the crime scene as Carl follows her.

CARL
There's not much left except the paperwork. Pretty clear cut. Car-jacking gone bad. Mr. Jaguar came out to his car and Vanilla Ice pulled a Glock on him. Problem is Jag had a 9mm under the seat. Two shots, sternum and neck. Self defense.

Abby moves closer to the Business Man, eyeing his shoes and some blood on one of them.

CARL (CONT'D)
Don't start. This one's nice and neat, just how I like it.

ABBY
Right.

Abby uses her flashlight and closely examining the ground. She sees blood smudges and follows the bloody shoe prints across the alley towards a dumpster.

CARL
What are you doing? What is-

Abby opens the dumpster and climbs inside. She angles her flashlight inside and see a pack of drugs at the bottom. She picks it up and jumps out of the dumpster. Carl is dumbfounded.

CARL (CONT'D)
Ah, shit! Gotta be kidding me?

ABBY
I think car-jack is out. Met to do a deal and Jaguar had other ideas. Pops Blondie and stashed the take before we showed up.

The Business Man sees what Abby's discovered, as his eyes shift about with obvious guilt.

ABBY (CONT'D)
I'm sure we'll find his prints on
the bag.

She hands Carl the bag and walks off.

ABBY (CONT'D)
Meanwhile, I see if he wants to
change his statement.

Carl eyes the bag with disbelief as Abby approaches the
Business Man.

CARL
Son-of-a-bitch.

EXT. SHANGHAI HOTEL, CHINA - DAY

The streets are busy with PEDESTRIANS who walk past an
upscale hotel.

INT. SHANGHAI HOTEL SUITE/BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

The king size bed is left unmade in the room as--

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jian splashes water onto his face in the bathroom. Jian
wipes his face with a towel and puts his hands down on the
edge of the sink. He looks at himself in the mirror as his
finger shake. Jian looks down at them and senses something
is wrong.

AMPLIFIED DISTORTED SOUNDS

*An elevator DINGS followed by a brief pause. FOOTSTEPS head
down in the hall.*

BACK TO NOW

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

DING. An elevator arrives as the doors open. Frank exits
and heads down the hallway carrying a briefcase with him.

Frank approaches one of the hotel suites and shows an ISN
government ID to a MALE ISN AGENT (30s) posted in the hallway
outside the suite. The Agent opens the door as Frank enters.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Frank see Jian as he comes out of the bathroom. Jian approaches the window and gazing out towards the city. Frank moves to the table and opens his briefcase.

FRANK
You're up?

JIAN
Couldn't sleep.

FRANK
(removes papers)
Get some room service yet?

Jian shakes his head 'no.'

FRANK (CONT'D)
Well, I'm starved. Maybe we could order some breakfast. I heard this place has world famous souffles.

JIAN
(stares out window)
Something different. Something happened.

Frank looks at him and then back at papers.

FRANK
Right. A special thanks from ISN for last night. They'd spent two years looking for that target. I got a few things for you to review and sign off on.

Jian turns and catches Frank's look.

JIAN
You're trying to decide whether or not to tell me.

Frank sighs.

FRANK
I was gonna wait until we had more information. I was only trying to protect-

JIAN
It's Bao, isn't it?

FRANK

Yeah. Bao. I just found out about it this morning.

JIAN

He's dead. Isn't he?

FRANK

I'm sorry, Jian.

Jian looks back out the window, hurt by this.

JIAN

Where?

FRANK

Last night. In Los Angeles. Central picked up the police report that came across the ISN Kiard. Preliminary reports a suicide.

JIAN

That's not what I felt.

Frank approaches Jian, still holding the papers. He shuffles through them and hands them to Jian.

FRANK

We have operations in the states. I can have our people look into it.

JIAN

(ignores papers)
I need a look for myself.

FRANK

(lowers papers)
I can't authorize that. We need to be on a plane today to Prague. We have a pending operation and we can't just-

JIAN

I'm not asking for permission, Frank. It's my brother.

Frank sighs heavily and walks away.

FRANK

Alright. I'll talk to the ISN.

JIAN
 (stares out window)
 Just give me the clearance. I can
 handle it myself.

FRANK
 Now hold on, Jian. I can let you go
 for the funeral, but anything else -
 -

JIAN
 I don't care that he doesn't work
 for us anymore, Frank. I want to
 know who did this.

FRANK
 Okay. I'll make the arrangements.
 Only keep it low. The agency isn't
 going to like you snooping around
 on Bao business, especially after
 the way he left us.

Frank sits in a chair still holding the papers as Jian
 continues to stare out the window.

EXT. LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

SOUND OF AIRPLANE ENGINE as an ASIAN AIRLINER lands in Los
 Angeles. It's tires screech as it hits the runway.

EXT. LAX TERMINAL - DAY

Jian exits the International Terminal with a small carry-on
 bag over his shoulder. He sees a group of PASSENGERS near a
 taxi stand and looks the other way. Abby leans against her
 unmarked Police car as Jian walks up to her.

JIAN
 You're waiting for me.

ABBY
 Sorry?

She glances at Jian, confused, and straightens up.

ABBY (CONT'D)
 Oh. You're him? My partner went
 inside to meet-- never mind. I'm
 Detective Lerner.

She offers her hand, but Jian doesn't take it.

ABBY (CONT'D)
 (lowers hand)
 Sorry. I don't know how to
 pronounce your name.

JIAN
 Jian.

ABBY
 Juu-an?

JIAN
 Close enough.

ABBY
 How did you know it was me who was
 picking you up?

JIAN
 You look like a cop.

Abby is not sure how to respond as CARL exits the terminal.
 He spots them together.

CARL
 Mr. Zheng? Sorry, we were late
 getting here. I was told to wait
 for you at the gate. I'm Detective
 Stevens. Shall we?

Carl opens the back door as Jian climb in. Abby gets into
 the drivers seat and Carl gets in next to her. They drive
 off.

INT. UNMARKED POLICE CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Abby drives out of the airport area and heads north on
 Sepulveda Boulevard. Jian looks out the window and takes in
 the sunshine, palm trees and heavy traffic.

CARL
 (looks back at Jian)
 We're really sorry about your loss.
 I suppose you want to see the body?
 We can arrange that if you want.
 Just let us-- know when and where.

Jian keeps his gaze focused on the city, followed by an
 awkward silence. Abby looks at Carl, then back at Jian in
 her rear view mirror.

ABBY
 First time in LA?

Jian gives a slight nod as he keeps his eyes focused out the window.

CARL

Sorry about the circumstances. If there is anything we can do to make this any easier, just ask.

No response again from Jian as Carl looks at Abby. He turns around as Abby watches Jian more closely.

ABBY

You must have some pretty powerful friends in the states.

JIAN

Sorry?

ABBY

This isn't exactly what we do. But we got orders to escort you to the crime scene and provide whatever information you needed. More than a little unusual. What do you do back there in Hong Kong? You a cop?

Jian catches her look in the mirror as his eyes narrow.

JIAN

You just pass it.

ABBY

Oh, shit.

Abby slows down and whips the car around, back tracking down Sepulveda. She heads down a side street.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

The car stops outside a high rise apartment building. They three of them get out of the car as Jian scans the area.

ABBY

Thought this was your first time in LA? How did you know we passed it?

Jian walks on towards the building.

JIAN

I knew the address.

Carl and Abby exchange looks and follow Jian inside the building.

INT. BUILDING LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Jian walk past a DOORMAN and enters the elevators. Abby and Carl follows after him as the Doorman looks up.

DOORMAN

Hey. Are you guests? Who are you--

ABBY

LAPD. We were here this morning.

Abby flashes her badge to the doorman. The elevator doors close.

INT. BUILDING ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Abby goes to press the button and sees Jian press it. She looks at Carl again, as they head for the top floor.

INT. BAO'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Abby unlocks the apartment door as Jian enters. Carl and Abby follows as Abby closes the door behind them.

The apartment has a stunning view of Los Angeles and expensive furnishings. Jian immediately heads down the hallway and enters a bedroom.

INT. BAO'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jian wanders around the room as Abby and Carl enter behind him. The bed is empty as Jian eyes personal things on the tables and dresser. He looks in the closet.

ABBY

(points to bed)

Cleaning woman found him here.

CARL

The Medical examiner estimated he'd been deceased a couple hours. We're waiting for the toxicology report.

ABBY

An empty bottle of pills was found on the floor by his feet.

Jian eyes the bed again with a blank gaze.

CARL

Celtriptan.

ABBY

It's a prescription drug that
treats brain trauma victims.

CARL

Did you know of if your brother was
having any medical problems?

JIAN

(feels the bed)
It wasn't from prescriptions.

ABBY

What?

CARL

It wouldn't take much of that stuff
to shut down someone's system. From
what the lab said, he took nearly--

JIAN

It's not the pills. But you're
right. It was something to do with--
his brain.

Jian walks over to the dresser and looks in the drawers. Carl
and Abby exchange glances.

CARL

We don't know much about your
brother, other than he was here on
an expired Visa from three years
ago.

ABBY

No employment records or even a
bank account. Can you tell us how
your brother made his living? These
places don't come cheap.

JIAN

Sorry, I can't help.

ABBY

And why is that?

JIAN

(exits room)
We hadn't spoken in years.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jian looks around the room, as Carl and Abby follow him.

ABBY

And may I ask, how do you make a living?

JIAN

This isn't about me. He didn't die here.

Jian looks through some papers on a table. Mostly just bills or junk mail.

CARL

Beg your pardon?

JIAN

He was moved here, after he was killed.

ABBY

Why do you say that?

JIAN

Because it's true. He didn't kill himself.

Jian continues to search more drawers and comes up empty. Carl shoots Abby a look, "this guy is nuts".

CARL

And how do you know all this? You just said you haven't spoken to him in years.

Jian sits in the sofa and looks around the room, sensing something.

CARL (CONT'D)

Well, look, it doesn't matter. We'll be doing a thorough investigation and will have toxicology report back in a few days. We'll make sure we know the truth about your brother's death, you can count on that.

Jian gets up and opens the front door.

JIAN

Sounds great. Now if you don't mind, I'd like to get some rest after that long flight.

ABBY

You're planning on staying?

CARL

We were instructed to take you to a hotel.

JIAN

Why would I stay in a hotel? He rents paid, isn't it? And the body isn't here.

Abby and Carl are unsure how to respond to this.

ABBY

Fine. Only we'll be back to check on you.

CARL

And if you find anything out, give us--

Jian closes the door and locks it.

INT. BUILDING HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Abby and Carl exchange looks again, even more pissed.

CARL

What do you make of that?

ABBY

I don't trust any of this. Something doesn't fit.

CARL

Oh, Christ. Here we go again.

They head for the elevator as Abby presses the button.

CARL (CONT'D)

You're wheels are spinning already. The office says it's a simple suicide, so I'm going with that, until I hear otherwise.

ABBY

What's wrong with this picture, Carl? Nothing simple about it. Not since mystery man showed up.

The elevator arrives as they enter.

INT. BAO'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Jian does a real search of the apartment now. He presses his hand against the backside of a bookcase and feels something. He stops and pushes it. CLICK -- a compartment opens. Inside the compartment are numerous documents, stacks of cash and several phony passports.

Jian removes them and looks through the materials, eyeing what looks like some kind of security ID card but there is no logo or numbers written on it.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Abby and Carl exit the building and head for the parked car.

CARL

The guy swallowed a bottle of pills. So his family's a little weird and from another planet? We have bigger cases to worry about.

Abby and Carl get into the car.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Abby starts the engine and backs out of the spot.

ABBY

Who has contacts like that in our department? He obviously knows more than he's willing to share.

They drive off.

CARL

What the road.

ABBY

He squeezes a few pillows and suddenly it's murder. What the Christ is that?

CARL

Geeh, can you imagine? I don't know anybody who thinks like that.
(chuckles)
You'd make a great pair.

ABBY

Not funny, Carl. Not funny.

EXT. BAO'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Jian exits the apartment building. He looks around and suddenly heads north of the city.

EXT. DOWNTOWN, LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

Jian stops in front of a building. The sign above the entrance reads VORTEX COMMUNICATIONS. Jian removes the security ID card from his pocket. He feels it with his hands.

VISION IN VIBRANT COLORS

A large room with massive security systems and monitors. Dozens of computers are hooked up to elaborate machines. There is a large golden box that sits on a table inside the room with locks on it. The door in the room reads: HIGH SECURITY.

BACK TO NORMAL COLOR

Jian puts the ID back into his pocket and approaches the building.

INT. VORTEX BUILDING LOBBY - SECONDS LATER

Jian enters the lobby and several VORTEX SECURITY GUARDS (30s) at the front desk watching security monitors.

GUARD
Can I help you?

Jian also notices numerous surveillance cameras on the ceiling scanning the lobby. They look at Jian who ducks back outside and heads away from the building. The Guards get up and go after him.

EXT. REAR OF BUILDING, PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Jian darts down the alleyway towards the back of the building.

He spots another GUARD (30s) patrolling the rear of the building and the rear entrance. Jian sees the other Guards from the front coming down the alleyway as sees a fire escape and jumps onto it.

He waits until the Guards have passed by. Jian continues up the fire escape and tries several windows.

They are all locked. He continues to climb upwards until he finds a small open window and opens it wider. He climbs inside as--

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jian stands inside an empty bathroom.

EXT. BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

The Guard out exchange words in the rear of the building. They return back returns to their stations as Jian watches them from the bathroom the window. He closes the window.

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jian opens the door and looks into the empty hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jian makes his way down the hallway. He passes by some office rooms where he sees EMPLOYEES working at computers. He continues down the hallway and enters a stairwell.

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Jian reaches the top floor and looks out the stairwell.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jian peers out of the stairwell and into the hallway. He sees a door at the end of the hallway which reads: HIGH SECURITY. Jian enters the hall and approaches the door.

He looks around and swipes the security ID card through the scanner. The door CLICKS. Jian enters the room.

INT. VORTEX HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jian scans the room which is filled with huge terminals of elaborate equipment. The machines gently throb with electricity. Dozens of hard drives HUM as computer monitors show strange images of information that look like brain waves and encrypted data.

Jian sees a special golden box on a table just as he saw it in the vision. He approaches it and touches the box.

VISUAL IN VIVID COLOR

*Bao tied to chair with a golden helmet on his head.
Electrical wires go into the helmet and attach to a machine.
Bao withers in agony as his body goes limp.*

Jian keeps his hands on the box, shocked, and lets go.

JIAN

What have you gotten yourself into?

Jian tries to unlock the box as ALARM SOUNDS. Red lights in the room suddenly flash as Jian moves away from the golden box. He sees lights flashes above the door and tries to open it. It's now locked. He hears footsteps coming down the hallway.

INT. BUILDING HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

A team of VORTEX SECURITY GUARDS comes running down the hallway with weapons in their hands. They rush into the High Security Room as--

INT. HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

-- Jian is no where in sight. They enter with weapons raised as--

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME

ANDREW BANKS (30s) sit at the head of a long conference table with several MEN reviewing documents with him. On a blackboard behind them sits a picture of a Golden Helmet. Andrew looks up as he hears the ALARMS and sees GUARD outside in the hall running pass the conference room window.

ANDREW

Excuse me a minute, will you?

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Andrew looks into the hallway as MASON MAHONEY (30s) approaches him. The Guard continue into the stairwell and head upstairs.

ANDREW

What the hell's going on here out here?

MASON

Go back to your meeting. It's under control.

Mason enters the stairwell.

ANDREW

It'd better be!

Andrew heads back into the conference room as the doors close. He sits back at the table with the men who look concerned. Andrew tries to reassure them and sits back down.

INT. HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Guards look at the golden box as Jian holds onto one of the ceiling security monitors. He jumps down to the floor and darts out of the room. The Guards turn around and spot him and dive after him.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jian heads for the stairwell as other guards come up it, along with Mason. They see Jian who turns and runs down another hallway. Jian ducks into another stairwell as --

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

The Guard chase after him, along with Mason. Mason speaks into a mic on his sleeve.

MASON

(into mic)

Lock all exits. Secure the lobby.
We have an intruder coming down.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jian flies into the hallway and into the Men's bathroom.

INT. MEN'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jian opens the window again and heads outside.

EXT. BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Jian climbs down the fire escape as the Guards appear below him, searching the area.

EXT. BUILDING ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jian jumps down to the ground as Mason turns the corner and spots him.

MASON

That's him! Stop him!

The Guards turn the corner see Jian. They run after him as several fires their guns.

MASON (CONT'D)

I said, stop!

One of the Guards comes from the other way and blocks Jian's escape to the street. They close in on Jian from both directions as Jian lunges into the air and with his foot - knocks a gun out of one of the Guard's hands. Two other GUARDS attack as Jian --

-- makes a series of fast and fluid martial arts moves that send the Guards tumbling to the ground with disbelief.

The Guard down , left and right, as Jian finally turns to face Mason. He raises his foot, ready to strike as suddenly -
- Jian is zapped by a TASER GUN.

He falls to the ground stunned as Andrew appears behind him with the Taser gun.

ANDREW

Take him to the lab. And next time,
make sure my meetings are not
disturbed with this bullshit!

The ALARM stops as Mason goes to lift Jian. Suddenly a group of LAPD POLICE CARS enter the alley as several LAPD POLICE OFFICERS jump out of cars holding guns.

POLICE OFFICER ONE

Hold it! Freeze. Drop your
weapons, now!

ANDREW

Who told you to show up? We have
our own security.

POLICE OFFICER TWO

You're neighbors heard the alarm
and the gun fire.

POLICE OFFICER ONE

We were in the area! Now drop your
guns.

Andrew drops the Taser gun as his Guards drop their weapons. The LAPD approach Jian.

COP ONE
Is he dead?

MASON
No. He broke into our building. We were about to--

COP TWO
Well take him in.

They lift Jian to his feet and lead him towards the Police cars.

ANDREW
Christ. How did this happen? Did anyone get an ID on this guy?

MASON
I didn't get a chance to search him.

ANDREW
Go with him and file a report. And get back to me as to who this is.

Andrew walks off as Mason nods. The Guard go back to work as the LAPD drives off with Jian in the car. Jian looks out the rear window and sees Mason staring at him. He turns back around.

INT. LOS ANGELES POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Jian sits in a CROWDED jail cell. Several MEN sit near him including a large angry black MAN (40s). The black man stands at the door yelling at the COPS who stand in the outer office area answering phones and filing reports. He is drunk.

BLACK MAN
It's a bunch of crap! I didn't do nothin' man! Sons-of-Bitches, I want my lawyer!

JIAN
Hey. Give it a rest.

The Black Man gives Jian a lethal look.

BLACK MAN
Ain't suppose to be in here! Didn't do nothing!

JIAN
I think you did. You hit a cop.

The Black Man's eyes widen.

BLACK MAN
Fuck you.

JIAN
Just be thankful they didn't find
that vial of coke in your car.

Jian sees Abby enter the jail area. She points at Jian as Jian stands up.

ABBY
Mr. Zheng. How nice of you to call
me.

A LAPD COP opens the door and lets Jian out of the cell. He locks the door again as the Black Man stares at him.

BLACK MAN
What about me? Where's my damn
lawyer?!

Abby walks off as Jian follows her.

ABBY
You've been making a lot of rounds
for someone so new to our city. I
guess you weren't in need of a rest
after all, were you?

Abby walks to the front of the building as Jian follows her. The Black Man watches, pissed to hell.

BLACK MAN
I'm talking to you, asshole! And
keep away from my damn car!

INT. ABBY'S CAR - NIGHT

Abby drives through the city, heading back towards the airport. Jian sits beside her the passenger seat.

JIAN
Where we going?

ABBY
Airport. I've got orders to escort
you on to the first flight back to
Hong Kong.

JIAN
I can't do that.

Jian stares out the window.

ABBY
Either you're on the plane tonight,
or you're back in lock up. The
owner of Vortex is threatening to
press charges against you. He
doesn't even know your out on bail.

JIAN
He's not going to press charges
because they don't want to draw
attention to themselves. He don't
want anyone taking a closer look at
who he really is. Vortex isn't a
software company.

Abby runs a light, by accident while hearing this. She is
getting more pissed by the minute.

ABBY
Listen. I'm sorry about your
brother, I am. And I will do
everything in my power to get to
the bottom of his death. But I
can't ignore orders and let you go
breaking into company's while
making claims that I'm not even
entirely sure be can even be
substantiate. So deal either deal
with letting us handle this case,
or your on the plane now. So what's
it going to be Juan?

Jian is not really listening as--

VISION OF

A flashing neon light to LOS ANGELES NIGHT CLUB.

Jian's hands shake.

JIAN
Pull over.

ABBY
What?

JIAN
Pull over. Here!

ABBY

Why?

Abby reluctantly pulls over as Jian jumps out of the car. He runs in the opposite direction as Abby watches him.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Are you crazy? Hey! HEY! Dammit!

She turns the car around and drives after Jian.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jian ducks into an alley as Abby parks the car and chases after him on foot. Jian slows down as he approaches the Nightclub. He sees a CROWD of people standing outside waiting to get in. Abby catches up to Jian as Jian scans the building.

ABBY

What the hell is with you? Do I have to call for backup? Or are you going to get back into the--

JIAN

He's in there.

Jian wanders over to the club entrance as Abby watches him. He stands near the door as Abby approaches.

ABBY

Who is?

No response as Abby sighs with exhaustion.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Who!?

Jian heads up to the front of the line.

JIAN

One of the men who helped to kill him.

Jian walks past the BOUNCER and enters the club. Abby cuts in line as GIRLS complain.

WOMEN

Bitch! Who she think she is?

ABBY

Get back!

Abby flashes her Police badge to Bouncer.

ABBY (CONT'D)

LAPD!

Abby enters the club.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - CONTINUOUS

Jian walks down the hallway. He enters the larger room where loud TECHNO MUSIC plays. COUPLES dance as Jian stares into the crowd of DANCERS. Abby catches up to him.

ABBY

Look, I don't get you, and frankly,
I don't even care. All I know is,
I'm taking you to the airport now!

She grabs Jian's arm as Jian looks up.

VISION IN DISTORTED VIBRANT COLORS

A girl (7) trapped in a house and scared. She is crying and sits on the floor. There no light in the room and the windows are all covered with wood.

BACK TO

Abby's hand as she lets go of Jian's arm.

ABBY (CONT'D)

What is it? What is it you're not telling?

JIAN

What is it, you're not telling me?

Jian looks at her and moves closer to the dance floor.

JIAN (CONT'D)

Did you get the coroner's report back?

ABBY

I'm not at liberty to discuss that. You lost that privilege as soon as started playing cat burglar.

JIAN

Those pills where pumped into Bao after he died. It was something else that killed him. Something more like -- a machine.

There is obviously some truth to this as Abby reacts.

ABBY

There's nothing conclusive but-it
is possible it wasn't drugs.

He moves closer to the dance floor as Abby follows.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Look, I don't know where you're
getting your information but I
can't help you if you won't tell me
what you know. Otherwise, I have go
get you on the at plane.

Jian stops as he sees Mason dancing on the floor with a buxom
BLONDE (30s).

JIAN

That's him.

Abby stares into the crowd of DANCERS.

ABBY

Who?

JIAN

The one who works at Vortex. He
knew my brother.

Mason continues dancing with the Blonde as Abby watches him.

ABBY

How do you know that? Did you talk
to him?

JIAN

I just know.

ABBY

Then lets find out. Shall we?

She grabs Jian hand and leads him out onto the dance floor.
She tries to dance with Jian who just stands there.

ABBY (CONT'D)

What? You don't want to find out
anymore? I thought you knew
everything?

She throws Jian's hands around her. Jian is taken back by
this as she moves him around.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's make this fun. You and I can dance, while you can talk to him.

She moves them closer to Mason. Jian holds onto her but hardly moves.

ABBY (CONT'D)

I can see you get out about as much as I do.

She holds Jian closer and makes him move his hips. They get closer to Mason show looks up and notices Abby. Mason smiles and eyes her up and down as-- Jian looks at him.

VISION IN SLOW MOTION AND VIVID COLOR

Abby in a shower with lots of suds. She is naked and turns around while slowly washing her breasts and stomach.

Jian looks at Mason, pissed and stop dancing The MUSIC changes as Mason suddenly recognizes Jian's face.

MASON

You! I thought you were still in jail.

BLONDE

(to Mason)

What's wrong, baby? Who is this?

JIAN

What'd you do to my brother?

MASON

What?

Jian grabs Mason's arm and twists it. Mason grabs him as Jian pulls him off the dance floor and slams him against the bar.

JIAN

What happened? What'd you do to him?

Mason sees some of the Vortex Security GUARDS at the bar drinking, and shouts to them.

MASON

Wake up, assholes! It's him!

The Guards remove their guns as they see Jian. Jian lets go of Mason as one of the Guards shoot at him. Jian grabs Abby's hand and runs back onto the dance floor with her.

They are chased through dancing CROWD as CUSTOMERS SCREAM while spotting the guns in the hands of the Guards.

Jian and Abby exit the crowd as more GUN SHOTS are heard. Jian and Abby runs into the back hallway as -- the Guards and Mason chase after him.

INT. NIGHTCLUB HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jian heads down a dark hallway as Abby tries to keep up with him. She takes out her gun and holds it as Jian scans the area.

ABBY

What the hell was that all about?

JIAN

I told you there the same men. They work at Vortex.

ABBY

We need to get out of here!

JIAN

That's what I'm looking for. There's a back entrance.

ABBY

How do you know? You've never been in LA before.

Mason and the Guards appear in the hallway as Jian sees them. His hands shake.

MASON

Get--

VISION IN SLOW MOTION WITH AMPLIFIED SOUNDS

The Vortex Guards attack as Jian dodges their moves. Jian spins and ducks missing all their weapons and fists while countering them each with precise moves and blows.

SNAP BACK TO REAL TIME

-- as MASON finishes his statement.

MASON (CONT'D)

--him!

THE SAME ATTACK IS REPEATED IN NORMAL SPEED

Jian's fast moves sends the Vortex Guards and their weapons slamming against the walls and floors. The Guards collapse on the floor as Mason lunges at Jian.

Jian jumps into the air as his feet and sends Mason crashing into a 'hidden' rear doorway that suddenly flies opens. He lies on the threshold with a bloodied head and nose as Jian grabs Abby's hand and leads her outside the building.

INT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Abby and Jian head back into the alleyway from the side of the building and run past the Bouncers and Patrons still near the door. Seconds later, Mason and his Guards appear and spot them exiting the alleyway.

MASON

Get the car!

The Guards, still dazed stumble towards a parked Mercedes as Mason wipes blood from his nose.

EXT. LOS ANGELES STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Jian and Abby head back towards Abby's parked car as she looks back at the alleyway.

ABBY

This is crazy! Everywhere you go,
this story only gets worse!

JIAN

I told you before. He knew my
brother.

Jian pauses by the car, out of breathe. So is Abby.

ABBY

Fine! Only how did you even know
where he was or that he was in that
club? And all this other stuff you
know, like that invisible back
door! Where is all this
'information' coming from?

JIAN

I can't tell you that. You wouldn't
believe me anyway. It's better you
don't know.

Jian straightens up.

ABBY

Bullshit. I'm the one whose trying to help you, instead of putting you on a plane right now. And now you can't even be bothered tell me what's going on with all this shit?

JIAN

You can't help me. I can handle it better alone. I shouldn't have gotten you this involved as it is. I'm sorry about that.

Jian jogs off leaving Abby alone by her car. She is completely flabbergasted as the Mercedes peels around the corner.

Abby sees Mason in the passenger seat holding his nose with a Kleenex. One of the Vortex Security Guards drives the car as Abby grabs her pen from her car writes down the license plate number. Abby gets into her car and drives off.

EXT. NORTH LOS ANGELES, GREEN MEADOWS APARTMENTS - NIGHT

A small modest Apartment complex with nice landscaping and secured underground parking.

INT. ABBY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Abby, now in her pj's, sits at a table with her laptop. She scans through the police database searching for information on Jian Zheng and Bao Zheng, but cannot find anything.

She then opens the FBI database and does another search. She still can't find anything and does the same for the CIA. Finally she gives up and pulls out the piece of paper with the Mercedes license plate number.

She does a search and finds out the car is registered and owned by ANDREW BANKS, President of Vortex Communications Company. She does a search of him on the LAPD software and comes up empty again. She then runs him through and the FBI network which leads her to the ISN network.

There she finds Andrew Banks more detailed profile.

ABBY

(reads out loud/to herself)

(MORE)

ABBY (CONT'D)

Born in San Francisco he attended CalTech where he was thrown out in his last year for breaking into computer databases and changing students grades. He was later accused of blackmailed the faculty as well which is why he was kicked out.

She sips some tea and continues reading.

ABBY (CONT'D)

He was later accepted to MIT where he graduated at the top of his class in multi-variable calculus and linear algebra with real-life applications in technological mathematics. He was recruited by the ISN for cryptanalyst but was suspended for suspected treason for leaking internal security codes to foreign governments. Reports were inconclusive. He lived in China for two years and opened Vortex Communications in 2010. Type of business unknown.

Abby sips her tea and types in the word 'Vortex'.

INT. BAO'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Jian sleeps in Bao's bed. He moves around in the bed. His sleep appears uneasy.

DREAM-LIKE VISUALS WITH A SEPIA TONE

INT. HONG KONG, CHINA - WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Jian's small child like hand is held tightly by a larger adult hand as he is being led through a CROWD.

REVEAL

Both Jian (10) and Bao (13) are being pulled along by their father, Lee Zheng. Lee is unshaven and wears work clothes. Lee tugs the two boys to the front of the crowd where TWO boxing gloved ASIAN MEN (30s) are in the fighting ring waiting to fight.

Jian begins to drag his feet as Lee tugs him harder

LEE ZHENG

Com'on!

Lee stops in front of the ring and takes a swig of booze from a flask. He wipes his mouth and eyes the two opponents.

LEE ZHENG (CONT'D)

Alright boys. Which one is going to win?

Jian and Bao stare at the two fighters. The ANNOUNCER introduces the fighters to the crowds as they jump around the ring and throw up their arms. Money begins to exchange hands.

FATHER

Com'on boys. Which one? Jian? Do your trick and make ya Papa proud.

Jian presses his hands against the boxing ring and feels the canvas, and concentrates. Lee shoves Bao who does the same. The boys exchange looks as Bao suddenly points to the larger fighter.

BAO

That one.

FATHER

You sure?

BAO

Yes. He's going to break that one's jaw.

(points at other fighter)

The fight won't last long.

Lee smiles, pulls out a bundle of cash. He rushes over to place a bet as Jian looks at Bao.

JIAN

Why'd you do that?

BAO

Do what?

JIAN

Why did you tell him the wrong one? He's going to find out and beat us!

BAO

Hell with him! We are getting the hell out of here now. Let him win his own fights from now on.

Bao grabs Jian and run out of the warehouse. They head down the street together as the fight begins. People inside CHEER.

JIAN

Where will we go? What will we live?

BAO

We'll make due. I'll take care of ya? You trust me?

Jian looks at him and nods.

Bao and Jian run down the street together as Lee Zheng exits the warehouse. He explodes with rage and shouts.

LEE ZHENG

Where are you? Where are you? I'll kill you. You hear? I'll kill you both! You filthy liars!

He rips up the ticket.

WIPE TO:

INT. BAO'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The phone in the room RINGS. Jian sits up, half asleep and answers the phone. Jian rises, wearing his underwear, and doesn't say anything into the phone.

FRANK

It's me, Frank.

JIAN

It's not safe calling me here.

FRANK (O.S.)

I was expecting you to be on your way back here by now. You were supposed to call in yesterday.

JIAN

It's no suicide. Bao was murdered. By the men who did it, are working for Vortex.

FRANK (V.O.)

Vortex? Why does that name sound--

JIAM

That's right. Andrew Banks's company. The one who talked Bao into leaving the agency and going back with him to China. I can't leave till I find out more. Can you help?

INT. FRANK'S SHANGHAI OFFICE - NIGHT

Frank looks out the window of his small office.

FRANK

I'm on the next plane. I'll send word of a meeting place. Till then, keep your head low. I don't want any more accidents. You hear?

Frank hands up the phone. He presses the INTERCOM.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Book me a flight to LA. And get me a map of all pay phones.

Frank looks at the picture of him, Jian and Bao on his wall. Bao and Jian look several years younger.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(talking to himself)

Why'd you do it, Bao? You could have had it all. Career, money, rank. Instead, you threw it all away to join that traitor. Why couldn't you have been more like your brother?

INT. VORTEX BUILDING, TOP FLOOR - MORNING

Mason exits the elevator with a bandaged over his nose and forehead. He heads down the hallway and enters a door.

INT. LARGE GYM - CONTINUOUS

A large elaborate gym with boxing ring and floor mats. Inside the ring is Andrew dressed in gym clothes. He fights a larger MAN (30s) who, dressed the same, who appears to be in good shape. They execute skillful Martial Arts moves.

A group of EMPLOYEES sit in chairs nearby watching. The fight escalates and suddenly gets bloody as Andrew kicks the man in the face. The man goes flying against the ropes, only to come back at Andrew again.

Andrew spins around and sends him back to the matt. This time Andrew jumps on him and keeps him pinned down with his foot. The man struggles as kicks the side of his head with his left foot, SWAT, and then kicks his head again with his right foot, SWAT. The man stays down as Andrew steps off him. He sees Mason nearby as he looks away from the blood coming out of the man's face.

ANDREW

You'd better have good news for me.
I heard that girl bailed him out of
jail.

The Guards enter the ring and pick him up the man who appears unconscious. They carry him out of the room as the employees get up and return to their offices. Some of them exchange money.

MASON

It's worse. He came by the club. We
went after him again only--

Andrew looks at him, completely pissed.

ANDREW

And?

MASON

He took off again, but not before
giving me this, and taking down the
five of our guys. I haven't been
able to track him down since.

ANDREW

That's because you're too stupid! I
should have looked into this one
myself.

Andrew approaches a back entrance to the hallway.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

He approaches the High Security Room and uses his pass to enter.

INT. HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andrew approaches some monitors and computer equipment and punches in some codes.

ANDREW
So he was the club, huh?

Andrew pulls up the security tapes and scans through them.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
What time was that?

MASON
About ten o'clock. He was with that girl again.

ANDREW
She's nothing. LAPD. We own that shit. It's him I--

He stops as he comes across Jian's face standing next to Abby in the crowd.

MASON
That's him!

ANDREW
Who is this guy? And how did he get into my private--

Andrew closes in tight on Jian's face and freezes it.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Wait a minute. No. It isn't.

Andrew transfers the image to some other software and runs a face recognition search on Jian. It pulls up his name and rank at the ISN office.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
It is!

MASON
What?

ANDREW
Jian Zheng, younger brother of Bao Zheng. How could I miss this?

MASON
He's Bao's brother?

ANDREW

And an ISN agent. No wonder he's giving up so much trouble. He's here looking into Bao's--

MASON

Wait! Are you saying the agency knows about what happened to Bao and that you killed--

Andrew kicks Mason in the gut and sends him flying.

ANDREW

Don't interrupt me again, asshole.

Mason stands up, feeling his stomach.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

He's still just looking for answers. Answers he's not going to get.

Andrew walks back over to the computer and reads more about Jian from the ISN site.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Of course. This is almost too perfect.

MASON

What is?

ANDREW

He has the 'gift' too, same as Bao. I remember he used it in training, and was even more accurate than--

MASON

You mean at, predicting shit?

Andrew kicks Mason again as he goes down.

ANDREW

Did I just get threw, telling you not to interrupt me?

Mason groans and this time stays down.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Tell the men I no longer want him killed. I want him brought in to me, and to make sure he's unharmed.

MASON

What about the girl?

ANDREW

Screw the girl! Take as many men as you need and use the helicopters. Just get it done before he has time to find out anything else.

Mason climbs back to his feet and exits the room. Andrew stares at Jian's face on screen and smiles

ANDREW (CONT'D)

This should be interesting.

INT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES, POLICE STATION - MORNING

Abby is in her office at a table. She finishes printing out some information from her computer and sits back down at her desk. In walks CAPTAIN DUKE FOREST (50s) a hefty Black man, and Carl.

CAPTAIN DUKE

Abby, we got a problem.

ABBY

Right, Captain. I was just about to come in to see you.

(rises, holding print out)

About Jian Zheng and his brother.

I've been finding out some very interesting information about this man Andrew Bank's who owns--

Two ISN AGENTS (30s) enter Abby's office and flash their ID's at her.

ABBY (CONT'D)

What's going on?

AGENT ONE

Stand back, Miss Lerner.

They immediately get behind Abby's desk shut down Abby's computer.

ABBY

What the hell--

They unplug her connections and take her computer off her desk, and head back out the door.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Are you kidding me? What just happened here?

CARL

They claim you hacked into some unauthorized government sites without getting clearance.

ABBY

Look, I was only trying to find out about this man Jian Zheng claims killed his brother. And since when does LAPD need clearance for using shared information?

CAPTAIN DUKE

So now it's a killing? According to who, Abby?

CARL

Yeah, where you'd get that information from? That nightclub you were at last night?

ABBY

Who told you about the nightclub?

CAPTAIN DUKE

Sorry, Abby, but not only are you off this case, but your suspended until I hear otherwise from the department. Carl, take her gun.

Captain Duke exits the office as Abby follows him to the door.

ABBY

Suspended? For two years, I've been your departments highest ranked detective!

CAPTAIN DUKE

I told you, you're working too hard. Better let some other poor shmucks solve this one, huh? Meanwhile, I'll take your gun.

He holds out his hand. Abby takes off her gun and hands over.

ABBY

Son-of-a-bitch.

INT. BAO'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Jian sits at the table eating a sandwich as someone pounds on the door. Jian gets up and looks through the door keyhole.

A DISTORTED IMAGE OF AN ANGRY ABBY

Jian opens the door as Abby enters.

JIAN

What? No more key?

He returns to the table and continues eating.

ABBY

You've got five seconds to tell me who you really are and why the hell I'm now suddenly off this damn case now.

JIAN

I told you, already. You can't help me. It's not LAPD matter.

ABBY

Like hell it isn't! I've been suspended for trying to back up your stupid theories!

JIAN

Would you like a sandwich?

ABBY

No! Five years I've been here, and never a single blemish, and the one day you show up, my whole career gets side-railed.

She slams her fist on the table and sits down.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Now, I want some answers, and I want them now.

Jian pours some milk and sips it.

JIAN

You're not going to make this easy, are you?

She grabs Jian's sandwich tosses it out the open window. Jian looks at her, and then the window.

JIAN (CONT'D)
I wasn't done with that!

ABBY
You are now! I'm still waiting for
that answer.

Jian looks at her and wipes his mouth.

LATER

Abby and Jian sits on the couch. She has a glass of wine in her hands and appears calmer now.

JIAN
We both work for the ISN. We were teenagers when they recruited us in Hong Kong. We were living on the streets and one day, Bao got us arrested for some prank he pulled on a man in a subway. We didn't know he was a spy. It wasn't long before they discovered the special talents we had.

ABBY
What talents?

Jian gets up and approaches the window.

JIAN
We can see and sometimes even predict things that other people can't. It's not easy to explain. It's just something we were born with.

ABBY
You mean, like a clairvoyant?

JIAN
When we were little, my father spent a lot of time trying to find ways to exploit that skill. My brother and I used to call it a game. The game of, King's Rook.

ABBY
But what does this have to do with Andrew Banks and Vortex? And why do you seem so convinced that it's them who are behind your brother's death?

JIAN

Because I know Andrew. My brother left the agency shortly after he meet Andrew at ISN. He talked Bao into leaving the agency and going into business with him. Doing what, I don't know. That's the last time I hear from him.

Jian heads back to the sofa and sits down again.

ABBY

And what kind of business would that be?

JIAN

That's what I'm trying to find out. I'm sure what ever it was, my brother was killed over it. People like Andrew Banks like to exploit people for his own agendas. He was only recruited because he cared about getting information he could later on sell for money. And how, he's doing something else, most likely just as bad. What ever it is, I'm sure it has something to do with what happened to my brother.

Abby rises and paces around the room.

ABBY

And meanwhile, I'm out of a job. I can't go home, or back to work. Not until this case is solved.

JIAN

Why do you say that?

ABBY

My apartment's being stacked out right now. Most likely, the same people who are looking who you pissed off last night at that club.

Jian looks out the window and see a black SUV car parked up the street.

VISION OF

Several Vortex Guards and Mason hiding inside the vehicle. They all have guns.

BACK TO NOW

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Mason and the Guard jump out of the vehicle and head for Bao's building.

INT. BAO'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Jian grabs his gun and coat. He heads for the door.

JIAN

We have to get out of here.

Jian looks out into the hallway as Abby follows him.

ABBY

Since when am I helping you again?
I've got no gun, no job, and no
back up. As far as I'm concerned--

JIAN

They're in the building.

ABBY

What?

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jian leads Abby down the hallway, towards the elevator.

JIAN

They're getting into the elevator.
We'd better take the stairs.

He leads her the other way as Abby grimaces.

ABBY

I don't like this game. And what's
more, you'd better not be playing
me.

Jian and Abby enter the stairwell.

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Abby follows Jian down the stairs. He holds out his gun.

JIAN

How far away is your car?

ABBY

It's right out front.

JIAN
You a good driver?

They continue down the stairs.

ABBY
Why are you asking me that?

JIAN
Just trying to make conversation.

Abby hears someone in the stairwell behind them and freaks.

ABBY
Shit! There's nothing I hate more
than being without my gun.

JIAN
Me too.

He hands her his gun.

ABBY
What are you gonna use?

JIAN
I keep a spare.

Jian fishes for another gun at his ankle and continues down the stairs. Abby looks at him and follows.

ABBY
I'm assuming this is registered in
your name, right? I'd hate to be
firing a weapon that's been stolen!

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mason and his Vortex GUARDS get off the elevator and head over to Bao's apartment door. They kick it down and enter. Their apartment is empty.

INT. BUILDING LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Abby and Jian peer into the lobby and see the DOORMAN passed out on the floor. The Vortex Guards are at the monitors watching the hallways and elevators. One looks up and sees Abby as she ducks back into the stairwell.

GUARD
(into mic/radio)
Lobby! Someone check the stairwell!

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Abby and Jian run back up the stairwell as --

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Mason hears the message on his radio and heads into the stairwell, followed by the guards.

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Abby and Jian see Mason coming down the stairs. Jian sees an open window and climbs outside of it. He holds out his hand.

JIAN

Come on. I said, let's go.

Abby gives him her hand and climbs out onto the ledge with him. Mason and the other Guards run past them on the stairs.

MASON

Is anyone tracking them?

GUARD IN LOBBY (O.S.)

(through radio)

There were just there. Third floor.

EXT. WINDOW LEDGE/SIDE OF BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Jian looks at Abby.

JIAN

Give me your cell phone.

ABBY

Now? Why can't we--

JIAN

Just do it!

She hands over his cell phone as Jian takes it apart and drops it to the ground.

JIAN (CONT'D)

I hope you sprang for the insurance.

She looks at him pissed as they jump back inside the building.

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

They head up the stairs as Abby keeps her gun raised.

ABBY

I guess you travel light. Do you
have any idea where we're going?

JIAN

The roof.

ABBY

Sound perfect. We can jump off, and
hopefully land on my car.

INT. LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The Guards watch the elevator numbers slowly lowering. A
COUPLE (50s) get off the elevators and see the Guards with
guns and the doorman on the floor.

HUSBAND

What's going on here?

They shoot the couple with tranquilizer bullets the couple
fall to the ground.. Mason runs out of the stairwell and
looks around. He sees the couple and steps over them.

MASON

(to Guards)

Well? Where the hell are they?

The Guards in the lobby shrug as Mason flips.

MASON (CONT'D)

Cut the power to the elevators.
Lock all exits and that front door.

GUARD

We should check the roof!

MASON

Son-of-a-bitch!

They heads back into the stairwell as the same Guards follow.

INT. STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

Mason and the Guards rush up the stairs, weapons in hand.

MASON
(into radio)
Get the chopper over here. I want
back up now! This asshole's not
getting away from us again, or
we're all dead men!

INT. ROOFTOP OF BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Jian and Abby enter the roof out of breath.

ABBY
Now what?

JIAN
I don't know.

Jian looks off the edge as Abby follows him.

ABBY
You're not thinking of jumping
down?

DISTORTED SOUNDS OF

-- rapid footsteps coming up the stairwell.

BACK TO

Jian grabs Abby's hand and leads her towards a door that
leads into another stairwell.

ABBY (CONT'D)
Great. For a minute there, I was
worried I missed my three mile run
this morning.

They head back into the stairwell as--

-- Mason and the other Gun men get into the roof. They point
their guns into an empty roof. They search the entire roof
area as Mason spots the second door leading into another
stairwell.

MASON
Shit! Those friggin' doors!
Somebody check the lobby again!
(into radio)
And you, find out where those
stairs go!

The Guards run into the second stairwell as--

INT. BUILDING BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Abby and Jian keep running down until they finally get to the lobby. Jian peers inside and sees the Guards along with the couple lying on the floor. He quickly closes the door.

JIAN

There's a better way. The basement.

He continues down the stairs as Abby follows him.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

They enter the dark and musty basement as Jian scans the area for possible exits and doors. Abby follows him through the darkness as they pass by a large gas furnace and gas boiler.

ABBY

I suppose roof's aren't your thing?
Just basements and nightclubs with
invisible doors.

JIAN

I don't see everything. Just some
things.

ABBY

How about rats? I have a feeling
one just passed by my leg.

Jian looks up.

VISION IN ULTRA-SLOW MOTION

*As the BURST of a MUZZLED small projectile EXPLODES into
drywall right next to Abby's head.*

BACK to REAL TIME AS--

--Jian shoves Abby out of the way just as a muzzled
projectile explodes into the wall behind Abby's head.

She looks at it freaked as -- THWAP! THWAP! THWAP! More
shots fly across the basement and hit the wall, but these are
NOT normal bullets.

The GUARDS charges out the darkness, weapon in hand, as Mason
toggles his radio.

MASON

Basement level! Secure the lobby
and stairs! We got 'em.

Abby heads reels around as Mason and his Guards rush towards them. Abby raises her gun as--CRACK --Jian jumps into the air and lands a chest blow on the first GUARD who tries to attack them.

The Guard falls backwards knocking down Mason and the other TWO Guards behind him. Their guns go flying as Jian dives into the darkness with Abby.

MASON (CONT'D)

Get him!

The Guard chase after them Jian puts his hands on the wall, looking for an exit. Abby sees him struggling as she sees Mason coming at her.

Mason goes for Jian holding out his TASER GUN Abby grabs a pipe and hits him. Mason falls hard as Abby leans over him and rips off his radio and ear piece. She tosses it to the ground as Jian goes into form and fends off the other Guards.

With a series of rapid fire feet and hand movements he dislodges all of their weapons and sends the Guards crashing into each other.

INT. BUILDING LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

A SURGE of high pitched feedback comes through the radios, causing the GUARD in the lobby to cringe. He frantically pull out his ear-pieces.

GUARD ONE

What was that?!

EXT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Abby looks at Jian who finally locates the basement bulkhead exit. He lifts the door open and runs into the light as Abby follows.

INT. REAR BUILDING PARKING LOT- CONTINUOUS

Abby and Jian run into the parking lot as several Guards outside see them. They turn towards them with raised guns.

They shoot at them as Jian and Abby run onto the main street and hide behind some parked cars. A helicopter appears above the building as Abby catches her breath.

ABBY

Holy shit. You'd think this was the military, with all that fire power they have. And did you see those guns? They're not even shooting real bullets.

Jian sees the helicopter above them.

JIAN

The tranquilizer guns. They seem to want us alive.

ABBY

There you go with that 'us' business again. I'm only LAPD. Nobody goes all this out for just a detective's job. They must think you've something they want.

JIAN

Yeah, and I have a feeling I know what that is.

ABBY

What?

JIAN

The same thing they recruited my brother Bao for. And what Andrew Banks wants, I have a feeling, Andrew Banks usually gets.

The helicopter flies about them as they duck further near the parked car.

ABBY

I hope to hell I'm not around long enough to have to meet this guy. Already I can't even stomach hearing his pathetic name.

Jian waits for the helicopter to circle around. He hurries down the down the street and away from Bao's building as Abby follows him.

INT. VORTEX BUILDING, HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON

A traffic camera showing images of Jian and Abby on the street.

ANDREW (O.S.)

I cannot believe this asshole's on the street! And nobody's even tracking him!? Mason! Mason, come in!

EXT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Mason rises with the Guards still on the ground behind him. He sees his radio on the ground with his ear phone and pick sit up. He sees one of the Guard's radio's and rips it out of his ear and puts it on.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Abby looks for her parked car.

ABBY

We're going away from the car!

JIAN

Too much trouble. No doubt the have a mark on it. We need to get out of the area, and fast.

They hear the sound of the helicopter again as it appears above them. They duck behind a dumpster.

INT. HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andrew clicks through numerous monitors, showing traffic security cameras from all different intersection. He switches between them, trying to cover as much of the area as possible.

MASON (O.S.)

(through radio)

I'm back.

ANDREW

(into radio)

I am not even going to ask! Just get them.

(toggles between monitors)

Targets on foot. North on LaBrea! Headed towards Sixth. Do you read?

MASON (O.S.)

I read! We're on our way.

INT. BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Mason dives out the basement doorway and sees more Guards in the parking lot.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Mason shouts to them as they mill about, aimless.

MASON

He's on Sixth! Get the car now!

The Guards head for the vehicles. They scramble inside and take off out of the parking lot.

INT. HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ANGLE ON MONITOR

Jian and Abby run down the street and enters a different intersection. Jian stops and looks up. He sees a security camera staring right at them. He suddenly climbs up the traffic pole.

ABBY

What are you doing?

JIAN

Nothing much. I just hate the feeling of being 'watched. That's all.

Jian looks into the camera and smashes it with his fist.

INT. HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

THE TRAFFIC MONITOR SUDDENLY GOES BLACK

Andrew freaks and SCREAMS into his radio.

ANDREW

Where the hell are you!? He's headed towards Highland!

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

Mason, hears this on his ear piece as the SUV speed down the street.

INT. HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andrew moves to another traffic cameras and spots Jian and Abby as they continue West.

MASON (O.S.)

We're there. Only I don't see him!
You got a read yet?

ANDREW

Yeah, hold on. He's headed West
now. They're headed towards
Wilshire!

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Jian and Abby run past another traffic camera and head onto Wilshire Boulevard. Jian sees a bus stop and ducks into it for cover. The SUV speeds past Jian and Abby as they duck down behind the bench.

INT. HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andrew switches between monitors and traffic camera, only the street is empty. They've disappeared.

ANDRE

--Shit! Where the hell are they?

Flustered, Andrew toggles between the monitors as--

EXT. WILSHIRE BOULEVARD - CONTINUOUS

WE SEE A TRAFFIC CAMERA

--in the intersection. Cars speed by.

REVEAL

--Jian and Abby pressed against bench inside a bus stop. They huddled together keeping out of view from surrounding traffic cameras.

They are awkwardly close to one another as a SPANISH WOMAN (40s) walks into the bus stop holding shopping bags. She sees them by the bench and isn't sure what to do. Abby smiles.

ABBY

Lost his contacts.

The Woman looks at them and sits down. Jian grabs Abby's hand and leads her out of the bus stop booth. They continuing down Wilshire as Abby stops.

ABBY (CONT'D)

This isn't getting us anywhere. We need to get some help.

JIAN

I missed Frank's call. I should have been over at the Pier by now.

ABBY

What Pier?

JIAN

Santa Monica.

ABBY

Well to hell with that. I'm calling my office.

She sees a liquor store on the corner and heads for it.

JIAN

I wouldn't do that.

ABBY

Watch me.

She enters local liquor store as Jian shakes his head.

INT. LIQUOR STORE - CONTINUOUS

Abby walks up to the MALE CLERK (20) behind the counter. She shows him her LAPD badge.

ABBY

I need to use the phone.

The clerk quickly hands it over as Abby dials.

Jian enters the store and stops.

VISION OF

TWO MALE TEENAGERS (14) shop-lifting in one of the aisles.

Jian looks up and sees the Teenagers putting stuff into their shirts through a mirror attached the ceiling.

INT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Carl sits at his desk as his phone RINGS. He looks up and sees Captain Duck talking to the same ISN AGENTS in the outer office. Carl answers the phone.

CARL
(into phone)
Detective Stevens.

ABBY (O.S.)
Carl? It's me.

CARL
Jesus. I've been trying to call you? Where the hell are you?

ABBY (O.S.)
I had to ditch my phone.

INT. LIQUOR STORE - CONTINUOUS

Abby watches Jian as he stares down the aisle at the teenagers. The store clerk looks at a Playboy magazine as Abby catches this, annoyed.

ABBY
We need your help, Carl. They're after me and Jian now. They're with Vortex and work for-

CARL
Just tell me where you are. I'll come and get you myself.

Captain Duke sees him on the phone and enters his office.

CAPTAIN DUKE
Is that her?

INT. LIQUOR STORE - CONTINUOUS

Jian approaches Abby.

JIAN
Hang up, Abby.

ABBY
-- I need about five cars and--

JIAN
He's not alone.

CARL (O.S.)
Abigail? You there?

ABBY
Yes, Carl. I'm at the corner of-

Abby stops for a second. She immediately hangs up the phone.

INT. CARL'S OFFICE, LOS ANGELES POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Carl hears the line go DEAD.

CARL
Hello? Abby?

Captain Duke sees Carl hangs up the phone. One of the ISN OFFICER enters Carl's office.

ISN AGENT
We got it!

CARL
Sorry to hear that.

ISN AGENT
What?

He looks at Carl pissed and rushes off. The Agents pack up some phone equipment exits the office. Captain Duke eyes Carl.

CARL
There is something fishy about those guys. And their fancy equipment.

CAPTAIN DUKE
You smell that too? I think it's time I do a little investigating myself.

Captain Duke exits the office.

CARL
Meanwhile, who's looking after Abby?

CAPTAIN DUKE (O.S.)
Abby can take care of herself!

CARL
That's what you think.

Carl looks at Abby's gun on his desk and frowns.

INT. LIQUOR STORE - CONTINUOUS

Abby looks at Jian.

ABBY
You're right. He's not alone. He
just called me Abigail.

JIAN
So?

ABBY
That's code for, don't come in.

They hear the helicopter again outside. Jian looks out the window and sees it hovering above.

JIAN
We need to get out of here now.

Jian walks past two Teenagers who are now at the door. Their shirts have stolen stuff in them.

JIAN (CONT'D)
Put it back. It's not worth it.

Jian exits with Abby as--

SECONDS LATER

-- a group of Vortex Security GUARDS storm the liquor store, holding up their weapons. The boys drop the stolen snacks on the floor and raise their hands.

TEENAGERS
I didn't take it! I put it back!

EXT. WILSHIRE BOULEVARD - CONTINUOUS

Jian and Abby run down the street and duck into an alleyway between two building.

ABBY
So what now?

JIAN
I get only once shot at meeting
Frank today.
(MORE)

JIAN (CONT'D)

I need to get down to the Pier
before five o'clock, or it'll a no
go for today.

ABBY

That's five miles from here? You
thinking of walking there?

JIAN

I have a better idea.

A CITY BUS RUMBLES past as--

INT. LOS ANGELES CITY BUS - CONTINUOUS

Abby and Jian sit in the back of a bus. Jian looks out the
window as Abby watches a WOMAN (20s) drinking a diet coke.

ABBY

I should have gotten us a couple of
cokes from that store. I'm so
thirsty. Aren't you?

Jian doesn't respond. He stares at a Businessman reading a
newspaper as--

FLASHBACK:

SUPER: HONG KONG, CHINA - YEARS EARLIER

INT. CITY BUS, - NIGHT

Bao (11) and Jian (7) sleep on a city bus. Jian wakes up
next to Bao who rests beside him.

JIAN

I'm hungry.

BAO

(stretches)

Me too. Don't worry. I'll figure
something.

Bao scans the crowd of PEOPLE on the bus. He spots a
BUSINESSMAN (40s) in a nice suit reading the newspaper. Bao
gets up and sits next to him. Bao smiles at him. The
Businessman turns the page and returns the smile.

BAO (CONT'D)

I'm Bao. Nice to meet you.

Bao holds out his hand. The man looks at Bao, slightly confused. He looks at Bao's hand and shakes it.

VISION OF SOFT IMAGES, DREAM-LIKE

The Businessman kisses a YOUNG WOMAN (20s) who is dressed in sexy clothes in a hotel room. The Businessman slowly kisses her while taking off his clothes.

SNAP BACK to REALITY

The Businessman removes his hand from Bao's and goes back to his newspaper.

BUSINESSMAN

Have a nice day.

BAO

My brother and I were just looking for something to eat. Could you spare some--

BUSINESSMAN

I said, have a nice day.

The man turns away as Bao grimaces. He looks back at Jian and rises.

BAO

Fine. You're telephone number is 877-765-7789. Right?

MAN

Who told you-- how did you--

BAO

(removes change)

I think I just got enough to make a phone call to your wife, Meihui and let her know about your mistress, Sunni.

The man is stunned.

BAO (CONT'D)

Of course, if you give us some money for lunch, I might just forget about the call. We're just hungry.

The man fishes into his pockets and hands Bao a wad of cash. Bao takes it and walks off. He sits back down next to Jian as--

INT. HONG KONG RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Bao and Jian sit at a nice restaurant eating several orders of food. A pile of cash sits next to them as Jian and Bao both LAUGH.

FLASH BACK TO:

INT. LOS ANGELES BUS - NIGHT

Abby sees Jian's face as he looks away from the Businessman.

ABBY

What is it? You know him?

JIAN

No.

ABBY

I keep forgetting how hard this must be-- I mean, even if you and your weren't very close, he still was your brother.

JIAN

We were close. We just choose different paths, is all.

ABBY

Why? What changed him?

JIAN

He doesn't like being controlled. The Agency isn't-- too forgiving about rules. He always like the danger and -- avoided getting too close to anyone.

ABBY

Then how did he end up working for Andrew Banks?

JIAN

I don't know. I tried to talk him out of it. But with Bao, the more you say don't do something, the more he wants to do it. I'm sure growing up around my father didn't help.

ABBY

Where is he now? Your father?

Jian doesn't respond.

ABBY (CONT'D)
 Sorry. I don't know why I asked.
 Everybody's got problems. The trick
 is, just figuring how to survive
 them.

She looks out the window as Jian looks at her. He holds out his hand.

JIAN
 Let me see your hand.

ABBY
 What?

JIAN
 Let me see your hand.

She holds out her hand. Jian takes it. He closes his eyes.

VISION IN DISTORTED VIBRANT COLORS

The same GIRL (7) in the room. A disheveled WOMAN (30s) enters with a tray of food. She puts the tray on the floor and leaves without saying a word.

Jian releases Abby's hand.

JIAN (CONT'D)
 Victoria.

ABBY
 What?

JIAN
 That's the name of the girl you're worried about. The case you never solved. The reason why you never sleep at night.

Abby is utterly stunned.

ABBY
 You saw her name?

JIAN
 I see a lot of things. She disappeared two years ago. Everyone's given up but you. But, you shouldn't give up. She's still waiting for you. She's not dead.

ABBY

Are you serious? Where? Where is she?

Abby rises.

JIAN

I don't know. There's a house and a barn. As soon as I figure it out, I'll let you know.

Abby sits down, staring at Jian, in complete awe of him. Jian stares out the bus window. The bus drives on.

EXT. LAX AIRPORT - NIGHT

Frank exits the International Terminal. He has a small hand bag. He opens his cell phone and makes a call.

INT. BLACK LINCOLN SEDAN - NIGHT

Andrew sit in a black sedan with a small computer device. He wears a black hat, blonde wing, tinted sunglasses, black suit, black tie and a white shirt. He sees Frank outside the terminal using his cell phone. Andrew taps the call and listens in with his ear phones.

FRANK (O.S.)

(into cell phone)

I'm here now. Terminal B. Code word is Baggage Claim Five.

EXT. AIRPORT - NIGHT

A limousine drives up to Frank and stops. Andrew gets out and opens the door for Frank.

ANDREW

(lowers voice)

Baggage Claim Five.

Frank looks at Andrew confused.

FRANK

What? But I only just--

ANDREW

(louder)

Baggage Claim Five.

Frank looks around, unsure how the car got there this fast. He hesitates and gets into back seat of the car. Andrew closes the door and heads back around to the drivers side.

INT. BLACK SEDAN - CONTINUOUS

Andrew drives out of the airport. He takes his hat off, his wig and locks the doors to the car.

ANDREW
Hello, Frank.

A metal grid/bar goes up separating the front seat from the back. Frank sees Andrew as he turns around and stares at him.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Remember me? Your old protege?
How's the bureau been treating?
Still got that same little shitty
office?

The car heads onto the freeway.

FRANK
So it is you? What is it you're
after now, Andrew? You still trying
to make dirty deals with stolen
information?

ANDREW
That's kids stuff now, baby. I've
got something much bigger planned.

FRANK
I'm all ears.

ANDREW
You'll find out soon enough, Frank.
You and Jian. Only I wouldn't get
ahead of myself. You always were
one sloppy teacher.

We hear THUNDER as rain starts to hit the windshield. Frank tries the back doors which are both locked. He looks at Andrew who smiles at him through the rear view mirror.

The rain starts to pour down on the car. The black sedan continues up the freeway.

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES STREET - NIGHT

The rain continues as Jian and Abby get off the bus. They head toward the Santa Monica Pier.

EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER - MOMENTS LATER

Abby and Jian approach the end of the pier. Jian looks around. Nobody is there but Abby and Jian. Jian sees the clock which reads 10 PM.

ABBY
Do you see him?

JIAN
No. He must have landed by now.
Unless--

ABBY
Unless what?

JIAN
(eyes pay phone)
Let's check out the phone.

They head over to the pay phone and stand near it. Abby and Jian are getting soaked.

ABBY
Does he know the number?

Suddenly the helicopter appears above them. Inside are FIVE Vortex Security Guards and Mason. They holding tranquilizer guns and start shooting at Jian.

MASON
Stay on him like water! This guy is
not getting away from us this time.

They fire more rounds as Jian grabs Abby's hand and runs with her down the Pier. The helicopter is right behind them. Jian jumps off the side of the Pier with Abby.

ABBY
How did they find us?

JIAN
I don't know.

They run down the deserted beach as the helicopter shines lights on them. They are right on their tail. Jian tries to protect Abby from getting shot.

Jian grabs her hand and leads her towards the street. On the street, they hide behind some parked cars.

The helicopter SEARCH LIGHTS shine down at the cars, trees and sidewalks.

ABBY

I can't figure out why they want you so bad. What is it you have that they want?

JIAN

My special skills, no doubt. I'm sure that's why he wanted Bao. Only now with him gone, it must be creating some kind of problem for them with their plans.

ABBY

And what plans would those be?

JIAN

I don't know. That's what I'm still trying to figure out. And it looks like now, I'm going to have to do it alone.

Jian runs off as Abby follows him.

EXT. VORTEX BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

The rain continues as the Black Sedan approaches the Vortex building. Andrew drives the Sedan into the secured parking lot. The gates behind close.

INT. VORTEX PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Several Guards approach the vehicle. Andrew gets out and open as back door. One of the Guards points a gun at Frank as he gets out. They handcuff him and lead him towards the elevators. Andrew takes off his black jacket and removes something from the pocket. It looks like a needle.

FRANK

Give yourself up, Andrew. And I'll ask the agency to go easy on you.

ANDREW

Oh, come on, Frank. Since when did the agency give a shit about my life?

Andrew injects Frank with a drug. Frank is stunned as he sees the needle.

FRANK
What's that?

ANDREW
Something to help you relax. So we can discuss more of these touching memories.

Andrew shoves Frank into the elevator and pushes the button. The doors close.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

Jian and Abby continues running. Abby is exhausted. The helicopter is still behind them with the search light.

ABBY
We're going to have to stop. I can't keep this up for much longer.

JIAN
A car is out. The only chance we have is on foot. We need a place to find that's--

ABBY
-- that's what?

VISION IN DISTORTED VIBRANT COLORS

Frank being tied to a chair in the Vortex Building.

SNAP BACK TO

Jian's face as Abby stares at him.

ABBY (CONT'D)
What's wrong?

JIAN
They've got Frank. He's at Vortex.

ABBY
We cannot do this alone, Jian. We need serious backup now. I don't care where it comes from! Just get it here now!

The Helicopter shines the light on them as more bullets hit the ground next to Jian. He runs off as Abby follows.

SHORT WHILE LATER

Abby and Jian walk near the Los Angeles River. They are even more tired and exhausted now. The rain lightens up some but the river is over-flowing with run off.

Abby stumbles along as Jian looks back at her.

JIAN
Are you okay?

ABBY
Sure. I just--

Abby suddenly slips and falls into the Los Angeles River. She gets swept away as Jian calls to her.

JIAN
Abby!

The helicopter appears above Jian and flashes its light on Jian. Mason and the Guards shoot at Jian as Jian dives into the river after Abby.

Jian swims towards Abby who is now far ahead of him. Abby almost drowns as the current is stronger than she is and more powerful. The water moves fast as the helicopter stays focused on Jian in the water. The search light stays on him.

MASON
I cannot believe his luck. It's like trying to kill a cat with nine lives. What is it going to take to get this bastard?

CLOSE ON THE RAGING RIVER WATER

Abby struggles to stay afloat in the water and goes down a few times. She looks for something to grab onto. Jian swims faster and tries to catch up to her. He finally does and grabs onto her.

JIAN
Hold on!

ABBY
There's nothing to hold onto to!

JIAN
Stay with me.

ABBY

I can't do it. I can't--
(goes under)
I'm too-- tired.

They get swept further along as Jian holds onto Abby, while trying to keep her face above water. They go under a bridge as the Helicopter has to fly higher above. They send off more shots still missing their target.

MASON

Don't shoot him in the water, you idiot. He'll drown.

GUARD

He's drowning anyway. Look!

Jian's head goes down as he struggles to stay up with Abby. He finally see a fallen tree up ahead of them and tries to make his way towards it. The branch is attached to tree that leads up the river bank.

Jian struggles to get into position so he can grab onto it. The Helicopter above shines the LIGHT into the river. If targets Jian again as he grabs the branch. As he does, he goes out of focus. The helicopter stops and tries to turn around.

MASON

You asshole! You lost him again!
Turn around.

They circle around as -- Jian pulls himself and Abby onto the river edge. He holds Abby and tries to help her to her feet. She coughs out water as he helps her up.

They stagger onto the shore as Jian takes her hand and leads her into the bushes for cover. The light from the helicopter searches the area as they hide. Abby collapses into Jian's arms as he holds her.

EXT. LOS ANGELES RIVER - NIGHT

The Helicopter continues to still searching the area as Abby and Jian are now long gone.

EXT. TRUCK LOADING AREA - NIGHT

The rain comes to a drizzle as Abby and Jian come across a truck stop area located near the loading docks.

Jian sees an abandoned warehouse up ahead as some trucks are parked along the road. DRIVERS are inside the trucks either sleeping or talking to HOOKERS who are looking for business.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Jian peers inside warehouse and enters with Abby. Inside all is quiet and dark. Jian looks around and sees only empty crates and boxes. Nothing else is stored there. Abby sees a few rats are in the corner. They see her and Jian run outside.

ABBY
I'm freezing.

Jian finds a empty box and turns it over.

JIAN
Sit down and rest. You're not looking so good.

ABBY
I wonder why that is.

JIAN
I'd start a fire but it could draw attention. I think we should stay till morning.

ABBY
I need something warmer. I can't see myself sleeping here with a bunch of --rats around.

She spots a rat heading out a whole in the side of the building.

JIAN
I slept in worse places than this. These crates don't look too bad.

He points at some large abandoned shipping crates. Abby gets up and follows him as he approaches them. He positions them together and makes a small 'forte'.

ABBY
Are you serious?

JIAN
It'll be warmer inside.

He crawls in as she looks at him.

JIAN (CONT'D)
Relax. My only interest is in
keeping us safe until I can figure
out our next move.

ABBY
Fine. Only I I'll have to warn you,
I snore. So don't expect to sleep
to good.

She gets into the crate and lies down beside him, with her
back towards him. Jian moves closer to her and puts his arm
around her. She looks at his arm.

ABBY (CONT'D)
What every your seeing, I don't
want to talk about it.

JIAN
I'm not seeing anything. I just
thought it'd help-- keep you warm.

The sounds of Stray CATS fighting in the distance.

ABBY
Why is that?

JIAN
Don't worry about it.

She sees the moonlight through a skyline in the ceiling.

ABBY
You ever been married?

JIAN
No. You?

ABBY
No. Girlfriend?

JIAN
No. Boyfriend?

ABBY
No. You--

JIAN
Hey. I thought you were tied?

She smiles and relaxes more in his arm.

ABBY

So what's it like? Being able to--
see things.

JIAN

It's hard to describe. It's sort
of like memories. Some distorted,
loud, distant. But somehow once
they pass, they become more
clearer.

ABBY

Sounds like you'd make one hell of
a good detective.

JIAN

You're good too, Abby. What
happened to that girl isn't your
fault. You put too much pressure on
yourself. I know how that feels. I
have the same problem. I let the
job be more than it should
sometimes.

ABBY

So you don't want kids or a family?

He looks at her, confused.

JIAN

Try and get some sleep. I think we
talked enough for one night.

ABBY

Yeah, sleep sounds good. I don't
get much of that lately. A few
hours at best, for me.

JIAN

Me too.

She falls asleep and SNORES. Jian smiles as he closes his
eyes next to her. The rain outside finally comes to a stop.

EXT. VORTEX BUILDING - MORNING

Guards are outside the building. The helicopter lands on the
roof as Andrew exit the roof and sees Mason and the guards
get out of the helicopter -- alone. He SCREAMS at the top of
his lungs.

ANDREW

Son-of-a-bitch!

INT. VORTEX HIGH SECURITY ROOM - MORNING

Frank is tied to a chair as Andrew approaches him with a phone.

FRANK

I told you, Jian's not like Bao.

ANDREW

Contact him now!

FRANK

He doesn't have a phone. Besides, he most likely already knows I'm here and isn't going to do anything to help.

Andrew whacks Frank across the face with the phone. Frank's mouth bleeds. Andrew opens a cabinet and removes another needle and drug vile.

ANDREW

You want to be difficult? I got ways around that. I spent years devising ways to get exactly what I want out of people. The mind is a terrible thing to waste, Frank. SO let's not waste it, shall we?

He injects Frank with more of the drug.

FRANK

Is that how you killed Bao? By this bullshit?

Andrew stares in his face as his eyes glaze over.

ANDREW

You think too small, Frank. Getting information is only half the fun. But being able to get it for yourself, is even better.

FRANK

What are you-- talking-- about?

ANDREW

You'll find out soon enough.

Andrew walks off and puts the needle in the trash. A strange look appears on his Franks.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Feeling any better, Frank? How about your wife and kids? Any news from them?

FRANK

Celine is singing in a school play today. She's plays Maria in 'The Sound of Music'. I was supposed to be there. Gracie started ballet. She hates her toe shoes.

ANDREW

And what about Jian? What can you tell me about Jian?

FRANK

Jian was meeting me at Santa Monica Pier last night till you interfered. He'll be expecting me to contact him again. He will call the agency when he doesn't hear me and report I didn't show up.

Andrew holds Frank's phone and smiles.

ANDREW

It's so nice to be working together again, Frank. And now, now you will call headquarters and tell them to no longer worry about the Bao Zheng or Andrew Bank's case. You'll be handling it alone with Jian. Isn't that right, Frank?

FRANK

Yes, that's right.

ANDREW

What's the number, Frank?

FRANK

The number is--

Andrew dials a number. Mason and the Guards looks on, from the corner of the room, impressed.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - MORNING

The sun shines brightly over the warehouse. The Trucks that were once all parked near the loading dock are now gone.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Abby wakes up inside the crate with Jian. She opens her arms, alarmed and then remembers where she is. She sees Jian's arm around her as she moves it away. Jian also wakes up.

JIAN
What time is it?

Abby looks outside the warehouse. Jian gets up and joins her. They see the trucks now gone.

JIAN (CONT'D)
It must be late. The trucks are gone.

Abby looks at the sun which is about 1/3 way in the sky.

ABBY
From the looks of it, it's mid morning. Jesus. We actually--
(walks off)
--slept late. How did that happen?

She stops as they exchange looks. Abby wipes her mouth.

ABBY (CONT'D)
Did I snore?

JIAN
I don't remember. I was too busy--

ABBY
-- enjoying your comfy crate? Yeah, right.

She looks at the crate and tries to fix her hair. She gives up as it's hopeless.

ABBY (CONT'D)
Meanwhile, I could use a shower and some coffee. And I don't suppose we'll be getting any room service around here.

Jian heads outside.

JIAN
I remember we passed a diner somewhere.

ABBY
How long ago was that?

JIAN
Two o'clock, yesterday.

ABBY
(joins him at door)
I don't know about you, but
yesterday seems like a whole other
life-time now.

JIAN
I know what you mean.

They exchange looks and exit the warehouse.

INT. LOS ANGELES POLICE STATION - MORNING

Carl is at his desk as Captain Duke enters.

CAPTAIN DUKE
You're right about those agents.
Bogus as the day is long.

He throws 'arrest' warrants down on Carl's desk with pictures
of the two Agents on it and their 'real' names.

CAPTAIN DUKE (CONT'D)
They work at Vortex!

CARL
What about Jian's department? Did
you hear from--

CAPTAIN DUKE
They got a call this morning. They
said Frank Peterson told he and
Jian would be handling the case
alone. That he'd get back to him if
they needed backup.

CARL
That's some case, for two agents.
You sure it wasn't--

CAPTAIN DUKE
I checked it out five times. It's
was him all right who made the
call.

Carl rises and looks out the window.

CARL
Still smells to me.

CAPTAIN DUKE
Like a sewer.

CARL
(lights cigarette)
Actually, I was thinking about
taking the day off. It's kinda slow
here and my kids--

CAPTAIN DUKE
You don't have any kids.

CARL
That's what I mean. I should get
out more. Find a wife and then
maybe---

CAPTAIN DUKE
I don't give a shit what you do.
Only don't take any men with you.
Not till I get her re-instated.

Captain Duke exits his office.

CARL
Now how long is that going to be?

Carl picks up Abby's gun from his desk and puts it into his
jacket.

EXT. DOWNTOWN, LOS ANGELES - CONTINUOUS

Abby and Jian continue down the street. Abby sees a diner
and stops out front.

ABBY
Just a coffee and donut, please.

JIAN
You'd cops are all alike. Wouldn't
last a day as an agent.

ABBY
Who says I want to be an ISN agent?
FBI or CIA, maybe. But never--

JIAN
All right. I get the picture.

Jian watches her annoyed as she enters the diner. Abby
orders with a WAITRESS inside the window.

Jian sees an old car on the street and walks over to it. He looks inside. He tries the door which is unlocked and looks around. He opens it and gets inside.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jian fishes under the dash and pulls out some wires. He uses a knife he has and starts the car.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Abby exits the diner with the two coffees and three donuts. She sees him in the car.

ABBY
What are you doing?

JIAN
Get in.

ABBY
You're asking me to get into a
stolen car?

JIAN
And I'm giving you five seconds.

She gets in.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jian drives off as Abby hands him a coffee.

JIAN
Cream and sugar?

ABBY
Black.

JIAN
How'd you guess?

ABBY
You're not sweet.

He is again insulted. She eats a donut as he sees she has three of them.

JIAN
Those all for you?

ABBY

Oh, did you want one?

She hands him a donut. He scoffs it down, and licks his lips.

ABBY (CONT'D)

I'm still missing my shower. So
Where'd you learn to steal cars?
And by the way were are we going?

JIAN

To Vortex.

ABBY

Alone? Don't you think that's a
little crazy? Why not just stand on
the corner and let them shoot us.
We'd have an easier time getting in-

-

JIAN

You sure do talk at in the morning,
don't you?

ABBY

Is that going to be a problem for
you?

He looks at her and smiles.

JIAN

I could live with it.

ABBY

Oh, so now a one night in a crate,
and suddenly we're moving in
together.

JIAN

It was a nice crate.

ABBY

It was an okay crate.

JIAN

You slept all night.

ABBY

Do you mind? You're starting to
give me a headache.

She eats her donut as -- they drive pass another traffic light. Seconds later the helicopter reappears above them.

Jian and Abby look up and see it's the Vortex chopper gain with Mason and the Guards.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Holy shit. How did that happen? Did you run a light?

JIAN

No. But this car just might have LoJack!

ABBY

So much for your car stealing ideas. This isn't China!

JIAN

Hold onto your seats. It's going to be a bump ride.

ABBY

This is no time to try and tell me you like Betty Davis!

INT. VORTEX HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andrew sees the car on his traffic security monitors.

MASON (O.S.)

He's south headed Sepelvada!

ANDREW

Son-of-a-bitch. This asshole is really starting to piss me off! He outruns choppers and our best security surveillance equipment!

INT. SEPUELVEDA BOULEVARD - CONTINUOUS

Jian drives like a bat out of hell as the Vortex helicopter right on his tail. Mason tries to take more shots at them as Jian runs the red light.

ABBY

You sure you don't want me to drive?

JIAN

What's wrong with my driving?

Jian runs another light and nearly smashes into a truck. The RUCK HONKS at him.

ABBY

Do you really want to know?

Jian takes a corner and heads down an alleyway between two buildings. A bullet flies through the passenger seat head rest as Abby turns around and sees it. She takes out her gun and shoots up at the helicopter.

JIAN

You're never going to stop them with that tiny thing.

ABBY

I don't give a shit. They pissed me off!

Jian speeds down the alley as--

VISION IN SLOW MOTION AND VIVID COLORS

The car smashes into another car with as a MOTHER(30s) backs out of her parking garage and BABY INFANT in the back seat.

BACK TO REAL TIME

-- as Jian sees the SAME EXACT CAR back out of a parking garage. He swerves the car left and slams into a stack of trash cans. Abby and Jian jump out as the Woman get out of her car and immediately checks on her baby. She looks at Jian.

WOMAN

Are you crazy? I have a baby here!
What is wrong with you?

Jian hands shake as Abby gets into the drivers seat and closes the door. Jian walks around and gets into the passenger seat.

ABBY

I told you, you should let me drive.

The Woman with the Baby drives in the opposite direction. Abby sees the helicopter above, puts the car in reverse, and swerves around heading in the opposite direction. She floors it as they drive at full speed.

JIAN

Isn't that a little fast for an alley?

ABBY

I was driving a stick-shit at five.

She turns the corner nearly on two wheels and peels out of the alleyway. They rubber down the street as she dodges cars headed towards them. The cars HONK and swear as Abby and Jian are now long gone.

ABBY (CONT'D)
Same to you, lovers!

She flips them the 'bird' and drives on. She zig-zags down a few more alleyways and pulls into a garage.

INT. PRIVATE GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Abby jumps out of the car and quickly closes the door to the garage. Jian gets out and looks at her.

ABBY
Disconnect the Lojack now!

JIAN
How?

ABBY
What do you mean, how?

She finds the Lojack and rips it out.

ABBY (CONT'D)
Like that, see?

JIAN
How far are we from Vortex?

ABBY
About seven blocks from here.

Jian walks away not amused. The SOUND OVER of HELICOPTER passes above the garage and then disappears. Abby opens the door to the garage and looks at Jian.

ABBY (CONT'D)
Well, you coming?

Jian approaches her.

JIAN
I'd rather if you want here.

ABBY
Oh, no. You're not going to get rid of me that easy.

JIAN

But like you said, there are only
two of us and--

ABBY

I know what I'm doing all right.
Besides, I kind of like being with
you.

Jian walks off and stops. He turns around shocked by this.

JIAN

How come?

ABBY

I don't know why. Maybe it's
because you don't like to talk in
the morning. Do I have to have a
reason?

JIAN

I'm a beer drinker too. Hate
sports. Never wash my socks. And
also--

ABBY

Yah? Well you can tell me all that
stuff later. Meanwhile, let's put
this shit to bed, shall we?

She takes out her gun and heads outside of the garage.

EXT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

They head off down the alleyway together.

EXT. VORTEX BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

The Vortex Helicopter lands on the roof. Mason and the other
Guards get out.

INT. VORTEX HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andrew is still searching his traffic surveillance cameras as
Mason enters with the Guards.

MASON

We lost him again and the car.

Andrew smacks Mason across the face.

ANDREW

You imbeciles are useless! You're all fired!

MASON

He'll show up. It's not like he's going back to China.

Andrew does a Martial Arts move and sends Mason crashing to the ground. He looks with a bloody face at the Guards behind him back away.

ANDREW

(to Guards)

Anybody else want to argue with me?

They all shake their heads 'no'.

FRANK

Still trying to control the world, huh, Andrew? Doesn't it ever easier for you?

ANDREW

Shut up! I've got other plans for extracting the information I need. Pretty soon, both you and or the Zheng brother's will no longer be needed. All I need is one more try.

FRANK

One more try at what?

Andrew walks over to the golden box and unlocks it. He takes out the golden helmet with wires attached to it's sides.

ANDREW

Something that will take the guess work out of it. Who ever wears the helmet will know exactly what to find. And see exactly what Bao and Jian can, without them being either present, or alive.

FRANK

You're mad.

ANDREW

Am I?

Andrew puts the helmet on as Mason rises and rubs his face.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

It was almost complete before Bao decided to no longer cooperate with my plans. He thought his no longer being not useful, was a liability. And he was right. He resisted letting me see what I was meant to see and--

FRANK

You killed him with that?

Andrew slams Frank on the head with his fist. Frank passes out.

ANDREW

You talk too much.

Andrew looks at Mason, with eyes full of rage.

MASON

Don't even say it. I'm on it, now.

Mason exits with the Guards as Andrew takes off the helmet and places it back inside the box.

EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - CONTINUOUS

Jian and Abby hurry down the street.

ABBY

So how you are you planning to get in?

They try to keep out of view of the traffic monitors.

JIAN

I used Bao's security ID last time. I'm sure that's been changed.

ABBY

So what you're saying is, other than wanting to get Frank freed, and take this guy out, we have no plan?

Jian grabs Abby and ducks inside a doorway. They stand close. The helicopter appears above them and lands on the roof of the Vortex building.

JIAN

What do you want from a guy who's only had six hours of sleep.

She leans against the edge of the car.

ABBY

Seven. Let's think about this, shall we? I mean, what do we really know about this guy? Do we even know for sure what he wants?

JIAN

So now we're playing detective? It's a little late for that, isn't it?

ABBY

I mean, other than his being an expert cryptanalyst, having extorted and blackmailed some of the worlds highest officials and governments and killed your brother that is. What's his real weakness? Can you tell me that?

JIAN

His weakness? Is that what they taught you in detective school?

ABBY

Well what do they teach you at the ISN? Now to not be resourceful?

JIAN

Oh, I'm resourceful all right.

Jian sees a rope tied to a window cleaning machine. He walks over to it and unties it.

JIAN (CONT'D)

And if I had to guess his weakness, I'd say it's not taking any medication right now. He's got a big head this guy, and a tiny brain to fit it in. So it's a tight squeeze.

Jian wraps the rope around his waist and heads for the Vortex building. He stays close to the buildings along the street as Abby cocks her weapon and follows after him.

MOMENTS LATER

INT. VORTEX BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Jian and Abby sneak into an alleyway a few building away from the Vortex as--

--Carl sits in his car which is parked car down the street in the opposite direction. Carl sees the all Vortex GUARDS outside the front of building as well as the helicopter on the roof.

CARL

ISN Agents my ass. You've got to do better than that to fool LAPD, pal.

Carl gets out of his car and scans the area. He takes out his gun. Mason comes out of the front of building and looks around. He walks down the sidewalk, and heads around the to the back of the building. Carl watches him and stops.

EXT. VOTEX BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Jian and Abby enter the rear parking lot of the next door building. Jian looks over a large privacy fence and -- sees the Vortex Guards at the rear of Vortex the building with weapons raised.

ABBY

Now what?

JIAN

Don't you trust me yet? Especially after last-night?

He climbs over the fence, as Abby follows him. They land inside Vortex's parking lot and hide behind some landscaping shrubs.

ABBY

Like I said, I snore.

JIAN

I didn't keep me up.

Jian suddenly walks towards the Guards who look up and see him. Abby watches shocked.

ABBY

Hey, what are you--

They raise their guns and surround Jian. They try to grab him as Jian suddenly jumps into the air. He uses his feet to knock their weapons out of their hands.

In a series of Martial Arts moves, Jian spins around and after a series of rapid blows, finally knocks out both Guards. Jian drags them over to some bushes as Abby runs over to him.

JIAN
Get their guns. And keep out of
view of the security monitors.

Abby sees the monitors and dashes out for the guns. She grabs them and dives back for cover in the bushes with Jian and the guards.

ABBY
They'll see the guards missing.

JIAN
Not before we can get up the side
of that building.

ABBY
Get up--

He takes out the rope as Abby stares at him.

JIAN
Or didn't they go over that in
detective school?

She looks at the rope, shocked.

INT. HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Andrew monitors the traffic cameras. He sees Frank behind him still drugged. He goes over to Frank and tries to wake him up.

ANDREW
Call the agency! See if he's
checked in. Frank! Frank! Frank!

He slaps Frank's face as he remains unconscious.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
This damn drug!

Mason enters and sees him.

MASON
You keep using too much of it.

ANDREW

Shut up and find that asshole for me! What am I paying you for? To stand around?

Mason looks at him pissed and exits the room. Frank groans.

EXT. VORTEX ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

Jian climbs up the side of the building while holding onto the rope. The rope is tied to a metal air vent near the edge of the roof. Abby climbs up after Jian. The rope is also tied around her waist.

JIAN

You doing all right there?

Abby looks down, slightly freaked out by this.

ABBY

As good as I can.

JIAN

Keep thinking about that shower.

ABBY

I passed that stage ten minutes ago.

They stop at a window. Jian looks in and sees Fran in the chair. He is passed out. Andrew is at scanning some security monitors on a desk, his back to the window. Jian moves away from the window and keeps climbing.

INT. VORTEX HIGH SECURITY ROOM - DAY

The Guards in the parking lot wake up. They get up and stumble back to their stations. One speaks on a radio.

GUARD (O.S.)

He's here! He's headed up the roof.

Andrew scans through the security cameras and sees Jian and Abby.

ANDREW

Finally! Someone who can do something right.

The Guards shoot at Jian as Abby holds on to the rope. Jian ducks.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Don't shoot him now. Let him get
onto the roof first, morons!

Andrew walks past Frank who is still tied to the chair, and
knocked out. He presses and ALARM which puts the building on
lock down. He presses an intercom and shouts--

ANDREW (CONT'D)

All Guards report to the roof. The
building is on total lock-down
until further notice!

A TEAM OF GUARDS from the lobby and other floors storm onto
the stairwells. Mason follows.

EXT. VORTEX ROOF - SECONDS LATER

The Guards appear on the roof followed by Mason. The roof is
empty as they search everywhere. Mason looks over the edge
and sees Jian and Abby holding on by the rope. The Guards
move to cut the rope as Mason stops them.

MASON

He wants him alive, remember?

The Guards back off as another one takes shots at Jian and
Abby with the tranquilizer guns.

MASON (CONT'D)

What did I just say! Someone needs
to get down there.

Jian sees them all staring at them, contemplating what to do.

JIAN

I'm not getting a good feeling
about this.

ABBY

Me either.

JIAN

I think we have to change
directions.

Abby loses her footing and nearly falls. Jian holds onto
the rope as Abby gets back onto a landing edge.

ABBY

Talk to me.

JIAN
I don't think you're going to like
it.

She looks down.

ABBY
It can't be any worse than this,
can it?

JIAN
Yes.

ABBY
What ever it is, just do it. But
before you do, I just have one
thing to say.

JIAN
Which is?

He puts his hand around her waist and stare into her eyes. .

ABBY
It was nice sleeping with ya.

Jian smiles as he uses his legs to push them off the side of the building. He let's the rope fall as they slide down and smash through the glass window below and land inside--

INT. HIGH SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

--the high security room where Andrew and Frank. Jian let's go of Abby as Andrew see Jian now in the room. Andrew grabs the intercom.

ANDREW
Correction, all Guards to the
security room, now!
(hangs up)
Welcome, Mr. Zheng.

Jian sees Frank ties to the chair and moves towards Andrew. The Guards and Mason storm into the room as the Guards grabs Abby before she can take out her gun. She struggles as Jian holds onto Andrew.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Ah, yes. The smart one.

Andrew injects something into Jian's leg. Jian looks up and suddenly -- everything goes black.

EXT. VORTEX PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Carl stands in the alleyway between Vortex and the next building. He sees Mason enter the back door. He also sees the Two Guards back at their posts.

Carl throws a rock towards one of the parked SUV's as an alarm goes off. One of the Guards walks over to check it out. The other Guard steps away from the door and watches him. Carl sneaks around towards the other Guard while staying out of his vision. Carl uses the back of his gun to knock him out and drags him inside the building.

The ALARMS STOPS as the other Guard turns around. He looks for the other Guard.

GUARD

Hey! Where'd you go?

INT. VORTEX HIGH SECURITY ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jian wakes now tied to a chair next to Frank. Abby is tied to a chair in another room. She sees Jian and looks at him through a glass window.

ANDREW

Feeling better, Jian?

Jian looks at Andrew. He watches him as he walks over to the golden box and takes out the Golden Helmet.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Let's see if it fits you as well as your brother.

Andrew puts the helmet on Jian and connects the wires to a machine. He turns it on.

JIAN

What the hell is this?

Abby looks on, helpless. A GUARD stands by her.

ANDREW

My newest friend. It a device that monitoring brain activity and stores it for later use.

Andrew see images of Jian's brain activity on the monitor.

JIAN

Get it off me! Get it off you friggin' lunatic!

ANDREW

This is good, very good. Anger, fear, hate. Looking for possible escape, are you?

He points to the wave patterns.

JIAN

Take it off, I said!

ANDREW

Your stubbornness won't help you now. Sooner or later, you'll have a vision. And when you do, I'll be able to see how it is process and record it. Then you will no longer be needed, the same as your brother.

Jian struggles as Abby watches him from the other room.

JIAN

So that's how you did it? It was this thing that killed him, wasn't it?

ANDREW

It was his trying to keep me from recording his visions that did it. Only I have better ways to control that now.

Andrew turns some controls as Jian's hands twitch. His eyes go back and forth as Frank wakes up and sees this.

FRANK

Jian. Don't let him know what you're thinking. Don't let him--

Andrew socks Frank again with his fist as he passes out. Jian looks at him, with hate.

ANDREW

That's right. Get mad. That's when you think best, isn't it? When what you really see comes clearer?

VISION IN SLOW MOTION WITH VIBRANT COLORS

Bao in the seat, shaking violently while wearing the Golden Helmet on. The helmet omits fumes and sparks which seem to be torturing Bao while equally destroying his brain.

BACK TO NOW

JIAN

No. I won't do it!

ANDREW

Oh, yes you will. With his technology, I will no longer have to spend my time stealing information, I can simple see it for myself. It'll be like playing chess. King's Rook. Isn't that what you call it? You and Bao? Well I want to know how to do it for myself, and you will teach me, or die just like your brother. The choice is yours!

Andrew turns up the machine higher as Jian's hands shake more.

ABBY (O.S.)

(through glass)

Stop it! You're hurting him! Stop!

Jian's body shakes in the chair.

ANDREW

Your brain is strong, but my will be stronger. Nothing will compare with this machine, once it is perfected. Nothing.

VISION IN SLOW MOTION

Of Carl, now dressed as a Vortex Guard, heading up the stairs and into the high security room, with a weapon.

Jian SCREAMS and shakes his head back and forth.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

That's right. Don't fight it. It'll only make it harder. The machine likes to record these things. See!?

Andrew points at the images as they suddenly go from vibrate colors to small muted monotonous.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

What's happened? Why is it stopping? You're doing something to stop it!

Jian fights the vision with all his might as his hands and feet shake so violently that he frees both of them from the leather restraints. Jian rises as--

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Get back in the chair!

Jian removes the helmet as--

-- Carl enters the room in the Guard's uniform. He sees Abby, Jian and Frank as Andrew sees him.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Who the hell are you?

Carl takes a shot at Andrew who ducks.

CARL
LAPD! Your worst nightmare!

A swarm of GUARDS enter the room followed by Mason. All hell breaks loose. Carl shoots at the Guards as Jian unties Frank. Frank goes after Andrew as Jian goes after Abby.

The door is locked. Jian jumps into the air and kick down the glass window. He jumps into the room and unties Abby. Andrew decks Frank and SCREAMS.

ANDREW
My helmet!

Andrew picks up the helmet as Frank attacks him again.

FRANK
You like machines and drug,
asshole? I've got a few tricks I'd
like to use on your too!

The Guards are on Jian and Abby as Carl tries to fend them off. Mason tries to help Andrew and grabs Frank.

ANDREW
Don't let him get away!

Mason and Frank go at it. Andrew rubs his neck and rushes over to a wall. He presses a RED button as Jian and Abby fend off more Guards and run for the door. The room instantly is filled with white high-pressured GAS. The gas pours out of several nozzles, filling the room with a thick white vapor. Jian, Abby, Frank and Carl cough on the gas.

Andrew puts on a small mask and breathes oxygen as Mason and some of the Guards run out of the room. The dark room is completely white as Jian feels around the walls for the doors, but can't find them.

ABBY
What is it?

JIAN

It looks like some kind of gas.

ANDREW

I'm not done with you yet, Jian.
Either you let me finish my work
will die. The choice is yours.

The four of them choke as nobody can see a thing.

VISION OF

A small door which opens and leads to a sun-lite space.

BACK TO REAL TIME

Jian searches for the door and finds it. He opens it and yells to Abby, Frank and Carl.

JIAN

Follow my voice. Follow my voice!

They head for Jian's voice, as Abby grabs onto Carl. Carl is just about to pass out as they hurry into the door.

INT. SMALL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They feel their way up some steps as Jian opens another door. The sunlight burst into the room as they climb onto the--

EXT. ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

-- the roof. They stumble around, trying to breath. Jian gains his composure as Frank falls to his knees.

Andrew follows them out the same door. He is still holding the golden helmet.

ANDREW

Just when I'm making progress, you
had to go and find another way to
make me--

JIAN

Shut up! I've had it with you and
your games!

Jian takes a stance ready to fight him. Andrew puts the helmet down carefully.

ANDREW

Oh, so you want to play it that
way? And if I win?

JIAN

You'll never win asshole. King's Rook isn't going to let you get away with anything! And that goes double for Bao!

The Guards storm onto the roof as Abby, Frank and Carl draw their guns. A shoot-out takes place as--

-- Jian and Andrew go head to head in a full blown match off of masterful Martial Arts moves.

The helicopter is still on the roof parked behind them as Mason shoots at Abby. Abby shoots back. Mason follows her as she heads around the rooftop, taking cover where she can. Carl kills one of the guards and grabs his microphone. Frank grabs another Guards cell phone. They both call for help.

CARL

LAPD. We need back up now.
Location--

FRANK

Someone get me a helicopter over to Vortex, rooftop now. This if Agent 90087!

Jian sends another body blow towards Andrew who ducks. Andrew spins around and comes back at him. Andrew kick Jian in the face as Jian flies backwards. Jian feels the blood on his chin and WHAM! he spins into the air and sends Andrew crashing into the ledge of the roof with a full body blow to his chest. The fight continues.

A Guard grabs Frank from behind as he shoots at another Guard. Carl grabs the Guard and shoots him in the head. He goes down. a Abby rounds the corner of the smoke stacks as CRACK -- she levels Mason with a pipe, sending him to the ground.

INT. VORTEX BUILDING, LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The Security Monitors and Security Desk are now empty as some EMPLOYEES return from lunch. OTHERS are gather around the security monitors in the lobby and watch all the killing and fighting going on the roof.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE

What's going on?

MALE EMPLOYEE

This place is nuts! He can shove this damn job!

He takes off out of the building as the woman joins him. Several others WORKERS also leave. We hear LAPD POLICE SIRENS approaching in the distance.

EXT. ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

The police SIRENS get louder as Frank gets is hit by a bullet. He goes down as Abby sees this. Carl takes out another Guard who takes a nose dive off the edge of the roof.

ABBY
(to Frank)
Are you all right?

FRANK
Thank god for the drugs.
(sees blood from shoulder)
I can't feel a damn thing.

He drops his gun and passes out as Abby takes out two more GUARDS out, while keeping Frank covered.

Jian and Andrew escalates their Martial Art blows as both are bloody now. They seem both equally matched in skill as Abby tries to keep the rest of the Guards from entering the roof. She kicks the door closed and locks it.

ABBY
Jian! Quit dancing around and take that bastard out! I'm still waiting for my damn shower!

Jian slams Andrew against the HVAC unit.

JIAN
Quit talking about the damn shower!

ABBY
Why not?

VISION OF

Abby naked in the shower as--

BACK TO

Andrew as he rises.

ANDREW
Two years of work that's still incomplete! And all because you're a lousy chess player!

Andrew kicks Jian away as Jian lands on the ground. He rises and looks at him.

SLOW MOTION

Jian sees Andrews next moves which send Jian off the edge of the roof as-

BACK TO REAL TIME

Andrew comes flying at Jian does a back flip and jumps into the air. Andrew himself flies head first off the roof as Jian lands on the roof.

Jian looks down at the parking lot as Andrew lands with a loud SPLAT! He lies next to his broken Golden Helmet.

Mason looks off the edge of the roof, and sees a dead Andrew. He looks back at Jian who's ready to attack. Instead, Mason unlocks the stairwell.

MASON

Screw this! I never like that sick bastard. Him or his stupid hat!

Mason runs down the stairs as the few remaining GUARDS follow after him. The door closes as Abby looks at Jian. Carl joins Frank an FBI Helicopter appears above them. It lands on the roof. An FBI MEDIC rush out and head over to Frank.

FBI MEDIC

Are you okay, sir?

FRANK

Just get me off this roof.

They lift him up as LAPD rush onto the roof. Carl greets then as they survey the damage and dead bodies.

JIAN

Well, seems like we're still all here.

ABBY

That was some two days of hell we just lived thru. Too bad, I'm not even on the payroll.

JIAN

So what now? You go back to your old and I go back to China?

Abby looks at Jian and smiles.

ABBY

Looks like. Unless you're planning on joining the LAPD.

JIAN

I got a better idea. How about you work with me? I could use a good partner.

ABBY

Is that right? And what's in it for me?

Jian pulls Abby towards him and stares into her eyes.

JIAN

I only got one thing to say.

ABBY

And what's that?

JIAN

You're crate or mine?

ABBY

That depends on who's got the better shower.

Jian kisses Abby passionately. She kisses him back as Carl looks on, slightly pleased by this. Carl exits the roof followed by some LAPD as Jian and Abby remain on the roof, embracing.

EXT. CALABASAS FARMHOUSE - DAY

The aerial view centers on a small farmhouse at the edge of the woods. Out of the trees, figures slowly emerge.

A SWAT TEAM moves towards the farmhouse with weapons raised. They surround the house and make signals. Second later they rush into the front door as--

INT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

BOOM! The door is kicked in. The SWAT TEAM swarms through the house. A MAN (40) sleeping on the couch wakes in shock and tries to make a run for it but is tackled by two OFFICERS. A WOMAN (30s) is pulled out of the kitchen as a OFFICER yells toward the front door.

SWAT OFFICER

Detective! Back here.

Abby enters and heads down the hallway.

INT. FARMHOUSE BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Abby enters a small bedroom with a mattress on the floor and several toys. In the corner is a terrified GIRL (7) with matted hair and dirty clothes. Abby approaches her, and gently kneels beside her.

ABBY

Victoria.

The girl rushes into her arms. Both share relief and tears of joy as Abby rocks her.

ABBY (CONT'D)

It's okay. Your safe. It's okay.
I've got you.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Abby leads Victoria out of the house. Jian leans against the car watching her as she and the girl enter a Police car. The car drives off as--

-- several POLICE OFFICERS lead the MAN and WOMAN out of the house in handcuff. The LAPD put them in a cruiser and drive off. Jian gets into a rental car and starts his car.

EXT. LOS ANGELES CEMETERY - DAY

Focus on Bao's grave.

REVEAL Jian and Abby by the grave. Franks sits in a parked car near the road watching them. Jian puts a flower on the grave. Abby takes his hand.

ABBY

I would have liked to have met him.

JIAN

You would have liked him. And
what's more, he would have liked
you.

They stare at each other as Frank HONKS.

FRANK

I hate to rush you guys, but we got
a plane to catch.

Jian and Abby walk back towards the car. They get in the back seat as Frank looks at them through the rear view mirror. He smiles and drives off.

INT. LAPD POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Carl eyes the file of a BLACK WOMAN(30s).

CARL

Did I mention, I'm the boss of this team and you're the rookie?

BLACK WOMAN

Three times! Can we go now?

She rises and grabs her gun and badge and puts them on. She head for the door as Carl rises from his desk.

CARL

What's your rush?

BLACK WOMAN

I got a feeling something ain't right about that crime scene.

CARL

That's exactly what I was afraid of.

He follows her out the door and sighs.

FADE OUT