

"TERMINAL BREACH"

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. KEY WEST - EMPTY BEACH - NIGHT

ANGLE: Elliott Sumner ends run on a narrow stretch of beach near his secret abode in the Keys. Under a full moon with hands on his waist the world-renowned forensic sleuth walks the water's edge shaking off Caroline Street trauma.

Ahead he sees a SHADOW lean into the curve of a palm tree.

ELLIOTT SUMNER (V.O.) (thought)

You just happened to choose the palm marking my trail home. (beat)

I'm too close - too exposed - to change course now. Maybe nothing. If I need to I'll lose him in the foliage.

Elliott nears the palm tree.

SHADOW

Dr. Sumner, we need to talk. I'm CIA Special Agent RICHARD KESWICK (45).

Mr. Turpin sent me. They have a nasty homicide in London. It connects to Milton Busey and Caroline Street.

ANGLE: Keswick lights a cigarette and face. Elliott keeps walking without slowing or acknowledging the stranger.

ELLIOTT SUMNER (V.O.) (thought)

You know Harold Turpin? You know about Milton and his visit on Caroline?

RICHARD KESWICK

You were at Bowman-Weller-Garcia Law Offices this morning, Dr. Sumner. You saved Helen Ramsey's life. (beat)

Be a shame if she got pulled into this mess. (beat)

I can help.

ANGLE: Elliott passes and stops with his back to Keswick.

ELLIOTT SUMNER

I was next door. Heard shots. Went to help. Simple as that.

I'm retired now. Suggest you get with Sheriff Malone.

RICHARD KESWICK

You were there 27 minutes. We both know your unique skills. You saw more than the local-yokels. I need to find Milton Busey. I know you can help me.

ELLIOTT SUMNER (V.O.) (thought)

Why is CIA watching the law offices on Caroline? You timed me? Means you were there before it happened. You were waiting for Milton.

ANGLE: Elliott turns from elephant ears and bamboo shoots to study Keswick. A breeze leaves the dark ocean water, climbs the beach, and lifts the foliage.

RICHARD KESWICK

Busey left Pingree a few days ago. He sliced up a prison psychiatrist and stole the man's car.

We've got a string of nasty kills from Istanbul, London, Canada, and into North Dakota. Now we got two more in Key West.

Milton Busey is in this, Dr. Sumner.

ELLIOTT SUMNER

I'm sure INTERPOL, Scotland Yard, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and CIA can sort things out without me. (beat)

How is Graham Pucket?

RICHARD KESWICK

How is my boss? East coast regional director of the CIA? This a test?

ELLIOTT SUMNER

How is he?

I'm sure you've been to his house for dinner. Jenny's a great cook. Tell me, what are their two daughter's names?

Keswick looks up and down the beach with a crooked smile.

RICHARD KESWICK

Melissa and Manda. But you must have forgotten Yvonne. Three daughters, Dr. Sumner. Now please, tell me where Busey is hiding. I know you know something.

ANGLE: Elliott shifts weight onto his push-off foot.

ELLIOTT SUMNER

Right. Yvonne. But there's no Jenny. It's Karen Pucket. Seems you would-

ANGLE: Keswick takes out his Glock and chambers a round.

RICHARD KESWICK

Don't think about leaving. (beat)

You're as good as they say. Knew it'd be risky talking to you, but I'm kinda in a hurry.

Right after I dropped Graham in the Chesapeake, my client wanted me down here to stop - I mean - to find Busey. Man's a menace to society.

ELLIOTT SUMNER

What did you do with Graham Pucket?

RICHARD KESWICK

Let's just say he's crab bait...

Well now. Clearly you will be of no help to me. And I gotta run.

ANGLE: Keswick raises barrel of his gun to Elliott's head.

RICHARD KESWICK (cont'd)

I bet you never imagined one day your illustrious forensic career would come to an end on a deserted beach in Key West. Life is just full of surprises.

ANGLE: Elliott closes his eyes.

ELLIOTT SUMNER (V.O.) (thought)

I'm okay with this. Someone else needs to do it, end this relentless battle with my demons. I'm tired. I'm ready for it to end. Go ahead. Please! Do what I could not. End my nightmare.

CUT TO:

EXT. KEY WEST - EMPTY BEACH - NIGHT

WIDE ANGLE: Waves reach onto moonlit beach.

SOUND: A shot rings out. Echo rolls up empty beach.

CLOSE UP: Head in shadows explodes! Splintered bone, ragged brain tissue, tufts of hair, and blood rain on giant elephant ears and spray lush bamboo shoots.

SMASH CUT:

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - SNOWING - EARLY MORNING

PRESIDENT LANDON (O.C.)

Who's in the Oval Office?

INT. WHITE HOUSE - THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY - SAME

WIDE ANGLE: Surrounded by Secret Service President Landon (6'5") and Cameron Scofield move at a brisk pace.

CAMERON SCOFIELD

Vice President Pierce, Secretary of Defense, and the Directors of CIA and Homeland Security. Others are en route.

PRESIDENT LANDON

I want the Air Force. Buck needs to be front and center. This is his.

The cluster turns a corner and goes down flight of stairs.

CAMERON SCOFIELD

Chief General Jamison is leaving Wright Patterson. He said he would be more useful heading northwest, not southeast for hours of pontification—

They increase pace in second floor hall network.

CAMERON SCOFIELD (cont'd)

—his words, not mine.

The General did add if you saw it differently he would turn around his goddamn plane, sir. Again, his—

PRESIDENT LANDON

—words, not yours. I got it. Can't argue with good sense. (beat)

I want him on the box. Other than my cabinet, who else knows about this?

ANGLE: Scofield reads scribbles on palm of his hand.

CAMERON SCOFIELD

Seven high-clearance military personnel at Minot Air Force Base, three on the General Jamison's staff, this secret service detail, and me. Fifteen by my count. The Vice President put a lid on this.

PRESIDENT LANDON

Who would have ever thought the day would come when the most powerful office on earth could not keep a secret? (beat)

This got a *code name* yet? Everything around here gets a code name.

ANGLE: They descend the last set of stairs and move across the main floor of the White House to the doors onto the Rose Garden.

CAMERON SCOFIELD

GRAY WOLF. General Jamison named-

PRESIDENT LANDON

-it GRAY WOLF! Alleged terrorist of the Great Plains. Buck knows his Indian legend. And he's a zoologist to boot.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - ROSE GARDEN - SAME

AERIAL VIEW: They cross Rose Garden. Landon stops outside. Secret Service touches earpiece, turns, and nods.

INT. WHITE HOUSE - OVAL OFFICE - SAME

Landon enters Oval Office. His stature and chiseled Lincolnesque presence brings calm. Present are:

MICHAEL PIERCE (55)	VICE PRESIDENT
FRANK GRAHAM (65)	SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
JAMES HERBOLT (57)	DIRECTOR OF CIA
MAUREEN NYE, M.D. (47)	DIRECTOR OF HOMALAND
SUSAN DABNEY (57)	SECRETARY OF STATE
BRANDON (BUCK) JAMISON (70)	CHIEF GENERAL JCS

ANGLE: Landon signals all to sit. He takes a seat at the Resolute Desk as Vice President takes center of room.

VICE PRESIDENT

We have a TERMINAL BREACH, Mr. President. (beat)

An unidentified and unquantified entity, code name GRAY WOLF, entered the United States from Canada five days ago and commandeered one or more of our nuclear missile silos in Ward County outside Minot, North Dakota.

A message was received today at 0200.
Minot AFB is our hostage. No planes take off or land. No one enters or leaves. We are monitoring. Do not test us.

PRESIDENT LANDON

How do we know this is not a hoax?

GENERAL JAMISON (O.C.) (speakerphone)

Mr. President, we verified the text message. It was sent to the Minot AFB commander on a secured network.

PRESIDENT LANDON

We have redundant defense systems. Why has this risen to a *terminal breach*?

GENERAL JAMISON

GRAY WOLF sent a digital command to silo doors, asset HIGH TECH A-7. The hydraulic pressure elevated, an action preceding launch.

GRAY WOLF had to navigate a myriad of coded barriers to accomplish this. They found one of our medium range ballistic missiles in a field of Minuteman III ICBMs.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GRAHAM

The MRBM is what they would use on one of our cities, Mr. President. They are showing us their capabilities.

PRESIDENT LANDON

Thank you, Frank. Buck, give us an update on our nuclear assets in North Dakota.

GENERAL JAMISON

We have 135 missiles in an area the size of New Jersey; 2 medium range and 133 intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The Minuteman III can deliver a W62 nuclear warhead anywhere in the world with a blast yield of 170 kilotons, thirteen times Hiroshima.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE GRAHAM

Possession of this kind of fire power has served our country well; a necessary deterrence in a dangerous world.

VICE PRESIDENT PIERCE

Can the III be stopped?

GENERAL JAMISON

It travels at 15,000 mph. Places one of our nuclear warheads in a suborbital trajectory and reenters the atmosphere on a stealth pathway to the target. It would be almost impossible to-

VICE PRESIDENT PIERCE

-stop after launched.

PRESIDENT LANDON

Undeterred, GRAY WOLF could deliver one or more anywhere in the world.

GENERAL JAMISON

That is correct.

ANGLE: Landon stands and walks to the front of desk.

PRESIDENT LANDON

We don't know who we are dealing with, how many and where they are, or their capabilities. Is that an accurate account of this *terminal breach*, Buck?

GENERAL JAMISON

It is, Mr. President. You must be involved at the front end. At any moment a decision on immediate and lethal action may be-