

EVENTS AT DONETSK

or

THE SYNCHRONICITY AND POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND  
LEGAL WORLDWIDE IMPACT OF HISTORIC ASSASSINATIONS IN  
DALLAS AND DONETSK IN 1963 AND 2017

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This is the story of two assassinations - one in Dallas in 1963 and another in Donetsk in 2017.

BLACK:

We faintly hear vehicles moving very slowly. We hear a crowd cheering. We hear three rifle shots. The first two shots are distant and sound to have been fired from the back right of the theater. A distinctly louder shot comes from the back of the theater. There is more time between the first two shots. The second and third shots are relatively nearer to each other. We hear the crowd awe and most become silent. There are a few screams. We hear the vehicles motors rev their engines and speed off.

FADE IN:

**INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY WARD (MOSCOW) - NIGHT - 1963**

In the waiting room, we see a FATHER with his toddler son. The FATHER looks nervous as his wife is having a baby.

The FATHER is a young Communist Party member. He is a sharp suit and tie, nice shoes. He glances at his watch - the nicest Soviet wristwatch.

**YEFIM** KIREYEV is born in the Soviet Union at 9:30 pm.

In Dallas, it is 12:30 pm. This Soviet baby has the peculiarity of being born the exact minute President Kennedy lost his life. No one notices this distinction.

The FATHER is a fast track diplomat at the Foreign Ministry. **YEFIM** is their second child. We see the FATHER "trying" to hold a rebellious first-born son, YEGOR KIREYEV. YEGOR is two years old and driving his father crazy trying to escape his grasp.

FATHER

Yegor. You must be still.

YEGOR continues to struggle against his FATHER and lets out a little squeal of displeasure. We see young YEGOR continuing to squirm, demanding to be let down onto the floor.

FATHER

Son, you must sit still while your new brother arrives. We are waiting quietly.

YEGOR's AUNT shows up in a rush. She immediately takes YEGOR from his FATHER.

AUNT

(to Yegor)

If you can't sit still, how will you ever be the General Secretary of the Communist Party?

FATHER

(confidently)

He will.

AUNT

(to Yegor)

Do you hear? Your father insists.

The AUNT leads the boy off holding his hand. The AUNT and YEGOR take a long walk around the hospital.

FADE TO:

**INT. PRAVDA NEWSPAPER (MOSCOW) - DAY - 2017**

It is Friday November 22, 2017.

We see ALYONA YOLKOV (28), a reform journalist, sitting at a desk with a computer. She has a reputation as a hard-nosed investigative journalist.

ALYONA is looking at a succession of internet web pages concerning the life of JOHN F. KENNEDY.

She has a large box of very old newspaper articles and some biographies on KENNEDY. There is an article about the PT-109, "Profiles in Courage" winning the Pulitzer Prize and the birth of a stillborn daughter.

An EDITOR walks past her desk.

ALYONA

I'm not enjoying this!

EDITOR  
(sarcastically)  
You want to investigate a president?  
Knock yourself out.

ALYONA  
It's President Kennedy's 100 years  
birthday.

EDITOR  
Every time, you investigate our Russian  
president there is hell to pay. This  
assignment is fairly safe for you. The  
topic is 100 years in the past and on  
the other side of the world. What harm  
can you possibly do to yourself or to  
me?

ALYONA  
There isn't anything to investigate.

EDITOR  
I've not had a call from the Kremlin  
demanding you be fired what? All week  
now?

Evidently, the Kremlin and the Russian President, YEGOR  
KIREYEV, doesn't entirely control the newspaper.

ALYONA  
You are relegating me to writing  
obituaries of American politicians 50  
years after the fact, that no one will  
read.

EDITOR  
If you don't want to work here, resign.  
We will both be happier.

ALYONA  
I'm a highly trained investigative  
journalist.

EDITOR  
(sarcastically)

Find something there to investigate.  
For Christ sake Kennedy was a  
politician.

ALYONA

This is the new Russia! There are more  
important stories to cover.

EDITOR

Include a lot of photos. They were  
handsome people, him and his wife.

ALYONA

No one cares about this.

EDITOR

Exactly!

The EDITOR shrugs his shoulders and chuckles a bit.

ALYONA continues her work both online and with the  
newspaper articles. She isn't excited but she is a diligent  
worker and she needs the paycheck.

When the EDITOR is out of earshot...

ALYONA

(loudly)

I know who controls you.

(mumbling to herself)

And you aren't a journalist. You are a  
government lackey.

ALYONA focuses on a newspaper article about John F.  
Kennedy's war record aboard the PT-109. The PT-109 was cut  
in two by a Japanese destroyer. We read in the article  
were "the collision was at night with neither ship running  
with lights" and "after the collision John Kennedy towed an  
injured sailor to a Plum Pudding Island." Kennedy was an  
excellent swimmer.

JOHN KENNEDY, who had been on the Harvard University swim  
team, used a life jacket strap clenched between his teeth  
to tow his badly-burned senior enlisted machinist mate. It  
took four hours of swimming to reach the island, 3.5 miles  
away.

MOVIE BUDGET UPGRADE - show the newspaper account, but then CUT TO: Pacific. We see a short depiction of the PT-109 event. Or, perhaps (cheaper) the newspaper will have an online animation of the event.

BACK TO: Newspaper office.

TITLE CREDITS FLASH:

ALYONA visits <http://www.jfklibrary.org/JFK/Media-Gallery/JFK-Youth.aspx>

We see the following photos...

Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr. with sons Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. (left) and John F. Kennedy (right). Palm Beach, Florida, 1931.

John F. Kennedy in a police man costume and sister Eunice Kennedy, circa 1925. Brookline, Massachusetts, Naples Road.

John F. Kennedy's 1940 Harvard College yearbook entry, in the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston.

The Kennedy Children, 1928. (L-R) Jean, Bobby, Patricia, Eunice, Kathleen, Rosemary, Jack, Joe Jr. Hyannis Port, 1928.

The Kennedy Family at Hyannis Port, 04 September 1931. L-R: Robert Kennedy, John F. Kennedy, Eunice Kennedy, Jean Kennedy (on lap of) Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy (behind) Patricia Kennedy, Kathleen Kennedy, Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. (behind) Rosemary Kennedy. Dog in foreground is "Buddy".

Rose Kennedy and her children, circa 1923. L-R: Rose Kennedy, Eunice Kennedy, Kathleen Kennedy, Rosemary Kennedy (seated in foreground), John F. Kennedy, and Joseph P. Kennedy.

John F. Kennedy in his Dexter Academy football uniform.

Palm Beach April 1936 Ted, Jack, Bob.

Letter from John F. Kennedy to his mother asking if he can be his newly born brother Teddy's godfather, 1932.

John F. Kennedy graduates from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, June 1940.

John F. Kennedy with dog, Bobby, at Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, 1925.

John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., Brookline, Massachusetts, circa 1919.

John F. Kennedy sits and studies at his desk at Harvard, c. 1939.

John F. Kennedy poses with "Dunker" the dachshund at The Hague, Netherlands, during his tour of Europe.

Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., and John F. Kennedy arriving at Southampton, England, July 2, 1938.

Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., Kathleen Kennedy, and John F. Kennedy, sons and daughter of United States Ambassador to England Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., arrive at the House of Parliament in London to hear Prime Minister Chamberlain's announcement that a state of war existed between England and Germany, September 1939.

There are also two handsome photos of JFK. while in the navy.

<http://www.historyplace.com/kennedy/warhero-navy-ensign.jpg>

and

<http://www.historyplace.com/kennedy/warhero-jfk-pt109.jpg>

END TITLE CREDITS:

ALYONA opens her word processor and types, "This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of American President John F. Kennedy." She then stops typing. Is it writer's block or just a crappy assignment from the editor? Evidently her career is in crisis.

ALYONA sits and looks at the word processor. She looks at the EDITOR and then she looks back to the computer screen. ALYONA might be reflecting on the life of JFK; she might be brooding over the assignment. She flips to the browser and view the JFK photos again. She looks up from the computer to the EDITOR's desk again.

LONG SHOT from ALYONA's POV. The telephone on the EDITOR'S desk rings. His eyes become large. He responds nervously, he glances at the television. The clock on the wall read, 12:35 pm. The EDITOR nods and hangs up. He walks rapidly past ALYONA. ALYONA makes a move to rise and follow the EDITOR. The EDITOR points to ALYONA.

EDITOR

Do not move from that desk.

ALYONA knows a big story is afoot; her journalistic instinct tells her this. She expects to be part of it.

ALYONA rotates in her chair and follows the EDITOR with her eyes as he approaches two "lesser" REPORTERS.

The EDITOR leans over the desk of two REPORTERS at the far end of the long room. Judging from the body language, the EDITOR is somewhat discombobulated. Before the EDITOR is finished explaining, the REPORTERS get up from their desks. They gather their jackets, tape recorder, pad and pens, cell phones and they leave the office in a rush.

The EDITOR walks back past ALYONA's desk.

ALYONA

What is going on?

EDITOR

(passing the desk)

I mean it; do not get up from that desk. You have work to do.

The EDITOR has only walked the length of his newsroom, but he is sweating profusely. He looks nervous and ALYONA notices. Newspapermen are supposed to have nerves of steel but ALYONA chuckles and likes seeing her boss in a bind.

By the time the EDITOR returns to his desk, the phone is ringing again. He picks it up and listens. The EDITOR's eyes are even larger than with the last call. Again he listens and stands. He nods. He almost salutes as he hangs up the telephone; clearly it was an important person on the phone.



In a zombie like daze, he walks toward ALYONA's desk. His brain seems in shock. He is something like a computer that is frozen.

He arrives at ALYONA's desk and there is a very long pause.

ALYONA leans forward and gestures that she is ready for the assignment.

There is a very long pause.

EDITOR

Kremlin. Saviour's Tower entrance. Now.

ALYONA is secretly elated and jumps up out of her chair, but she says nothing, trying to process what is happening. She smiles to thank the EDITOR.

ALYONA

Can you tell me what is happening?

The EDITOR is still in shock. He just walks away saying nothing. He has lost his personal war with his employee.

ALYONA gathers her things, much like the other reporters, and she speeds out of the office.

ALYONA knows that if she is being summoned to the Kremlin, something definitely is wrong! She will not show this fear to her editor. By the time she reaches her car, she looks very worried.

**EXT. KREMLIN GATE - SAVIOUR'S TOWER ENTRANCE - DAY**

ALYONA drives a smoking "junker" of a car; it is an old Soviet-made vehicle and is burning oil. She is underpaid but a very competent reporter. While it isn't clear it would be reasonable to assume that the reason she is being invited to the Kremlin is because she is Russia's most tenacious investigative journalist.

She presents her passport to the GUARD. The GUARD gives her a very stern look. Perhaps this is because she has been a unfriendly to the PRESIDENT. Or perhaps he looks inhospitable to every unimportant looking guest. Mostly the GUARD is looking perplexed at her old car.

ALYONA

I've been meaning to get a new car.

The security seems heightened. The GUARDS have dogs and mirrors on poles so they can look under vehicles for bombs.

GUARD

Please exit the vehicle.

ALYONA exits the car and the GUARDS examine the vehicle - under the hood and the trunk and under the seats.

ALYONA has been through the gate security before and it wasn't this intense. She smiles at the GUARD to reassure him; he doesn't return the gesture. While the OTHER GUARDS are searching, the GUARD is staring at her looking for a sign of treachery. She looks concerned and even more worried than before.

Without a word, the GUARD gestures for her to return to her car. ALYONA does this. He gestures for her drive into the fort. There is a man in a business suit who gets in her car at the gate. MIKHAIL VOLKOV is a political aide to the Russian PRESIDENT.

MIKHAIL

The President wants to see you.

ALYONA

(shocked)

Okay. What about?

MIKHAIL

I don't know, but you look surprised.

ALYONA

I thought I was on his bad list.

MIKHAIL

There isn't any list, but sometimes it is useful to have people think there is. I don't know about any list you are on.

ALYONA

What is going on?

MIKHAIL  
Can't really say.

ALYONA  
Oh, come on. I'm about to have a  
meeting with him?  
(long pause)  
And you can't tell me what its about?  
(long pause)  
He will eat me for lunch.

MIKHAIL  
He will not eat you for lunch. But let  
me say the mood is very sombre.

ALYONA is puzzled. MIKHAIL doesn't give verbal  
instructions; he points. Left and right. She drives.

MIKHAIL  
(pointing)  
Stop there.

She stops at the entrance to the building. ALYONA and  
MIKHAIL exit the car. A second MAN gets behind the wheel  
and drives her car a short distance to one of the few  
parking spaces. Judging from ALYONA's appearance, this  
didn't happen on her last visit. She turns and looks at her  
automobile. There is a clear contrast; her old car in the  
middle of many new expensive foreign cars.

MIKHAIL gestures they should move ahead into the building.  
There is a MAN who opens the door for them to enter the  
building. We see ALYONA looking at the MAN a bit longer  
than she should. She is clearly a seasoned professional but  
all this (all of a sudden) is somewhat intimidating.

**INT. OFFICE OF THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENT - DAY - KREMLIN**

The young toddler has grown up to be the President of  
Russia. YEGOR KIREYEV is brooding at his desk. YEGOR shows  
a deep unhappiness of thought. Judging from ALYONA's  
reaction this is not the KIREYEV she is accustomed to.

CUT TO:

ALYONA's collection of memories. She recalls a more  
outgoing KIREYEV comes to ALYONA's mind. KIREYEV is shown

shaking hands, pointing his finger in debate, boarding airplanes, waving to crowds, eating huge meals, leading tourists on a Kremlin tour, swimming, hunting and kissing babies.

BACK TO:

The Russian president suddenly appears 10 years older to ALYONA. It appears that ALYONA's expectations have been shattered. She expected him to jump up (and despite their differences) and shake her hand. He doesn't. He is staring at a box with gloomy eyes. He appears actually darkly menacing. He isn't.

KIREYEV

My brother was assassinated in Donetsk  
three hours ago.

ALYONA

Admiral Kireyev?

There is a very long pause. ALYONA doesn't know what to say. Finally her humanity returns to her and she says what every person says in this situation.

ALYONA

I'm very very sorry. You have my heart  
felt condolences.

There is a very long pause. President KIREYEV doesn't know what to say. He is deeply affected by the sudden death. KIREYEV is staring at a box on his desk. He breaks the odd silence by pushing the box toward ALYONA one inch.

There is another long pause. ALYONA doesn't know whether to approach the desk, she is hesitant but does move forward.

KIREYEV

Photographs. And documents.

ALYONA opens the box and looks inside. There are ten or twelve family and military photographs of the President's brother. On the outside of the box there is a label - YEFIM KIREYEV. Also in the box are records and reports, everything she will need to write a feature story. She closes the box, takes the box and a step back.

ALYONA

Thank you.

Once the box is off the desk, President KIREYEV takes a deep breath and stands up. He begins to walk ALYONA to the office door.

KIREYEV

Do what you journalist do.

ALYONA

Yes, of course. I will do a good job and honour his memory. I understand he was a war hero?

KIREYEV

Yes. I've spoken with your editor.

ALYONA

I understand.

As they reach the office's door...

ALYONA

Again, I'm very sorry.

KIREYEV

Thank you.

**INT. HALLWAY - DAY - KREMLIN**

The AIDE to the Russian PRESIDENT meets ALYONA. It appears they are walking toward the exit.

MIKHAIL

You can't take those.

ALYONA

I'm sorry?

MIKHAIL

You can't take those.

ALYONA

He just...

MIKHAIL

He is in grief. In shock. Let me scan these photos and photocopy the documents. And we will place this back in the archives.

ALYONA

Okay. Yes. I see. I'm sorry this is all such a shock.

MIKHAIL

My office is just here.

They stop walking and enter an office. MIKHAIL takes the box and begins photocopying the paper contents of the box. While the photocopying is progressing, MIKHAIL sits at a computer and scans the photos. ALYONA sits in a chair and waits nervously.

On the back of each photo is a description of the people in the photo and the date and sometimes the location. MIKHAIL scans both sides of the photos and is about to email the images to ALYONA.

MIKHAIL

What is your email address?

ALYONA takes out her business card and hands it to MIKHAIL. MIKHAIL then emails ALYONA the photographs.

A SECRETARY brings MIKHAIL a typed letter. MIKHAIL glances over it; he seems to know what it says. It looks very official.

MIKHAIL

This letter might help you. President Kireyev wanted you to have it.

MIKHAIL hands the letter to ALYONA. She reads it and then MIKHAIL leads her downstairs to her car.

**INT. PRAVDA NEWSPAPER OFFICE - MOSCOW - DAY**

Later, ALYONA enters the office and walks directly to her desk. IVAN PICHUSHKIN, a "police-looking" FSB man, is in the office speaking with the EDITOR. They have a serious look on their face and ALYONA is not about to interrupt.

From her desk, ALYONA then looks to the EDITOR and FSB man. They aren't speaking. They are sitting, apparently waiting on her to finish.

When the EDITOR notices that ALYONA is watching and he waves at her to join them in the office. ALYONA doesn't like the editor and of course it is Russia and she is a journalist; she is afraid of the government. The attentive-public in the audience will know that numerous Russian journalists the last ten years have been murdered or disappeared.

EDITOR

Well?

ALYONA is baffled by the simple question.

EDITOR

What do you need?

ALYONA

Nothing, I just sent the photos to the web tech. She is publishing them on the web site.

EDITOR

What?

ALYONA

I just need time to go through these documents.

The EDITOR looks concerned at IVAN.

EDITOR

The Kremlin told me that wanted a full investigation and that money was no object.

ALYONA

Me?

EDITOR

That is what the man said.

ALYONA

President Kireyev? I spoke to him.

EDITOR

No, but I assume. It was a political aide.

ALYONA

Why me?

(pause)

Aren't there FSB and military investigators?

IVAN

I understand there is a problem.

ALYONA

What sort of problem?

IVAN

Who knows?

ALYONA

Now why exactly are you here?

IVAN

I imagine that the President respects your work and wants his brother remembered accurately.

ALYONA

Accurately?

(pause)

Accurately? This is Russia.

IVAN

They were very close.

ALYONA

So I gathered.

The EDITOR ducks out of the room. The two men were obviously speaking about this before ALYONA arrived. And clearly it is a dangerous assignment. The brother of the Russian president in an area recently in a civil war and a "problem" with the FSB and military investigators, of course it is a hazardous assignment.



EDITOR

You have a ticket for a plane that  
leaves in two hours.

The EDITOR hands her some papers, the information from the  
airline. He also hands her a large amount of crisp new  
money. It is a "LOT" of money.

EDITOR

The war with Ukraine is officially  
over. The airport has been open for  
over a week. Email us when you land in  
Uk ... er... uh... Donetsk.  
(pause)  
Russia.

IVAN

We should go. I'm taking you to the  
airport.

The EDITOR puts his head in his hands trying to hold in the  
headache. ALYONA and IVAN look worried. They leave the  
office.

**INT. FIRST FLOOR OF BUILDING - MOSCOW - DAY**

IVAN and ALYONA exit the elevator. We see a television on  
the wall of the lobby. Clearly, it is a breaking news  
report from Donetsk.

There isn't any volume; the television on the wall shows  
video from Donetsk. It seems to have been shot using a cell  
phone or digital camera. The television station evidently  
paid a great deal for the video.

Everyone, in the lobby, stops doing what they are doing.  
They become still and are deathly quiet. What they are  
watching is tragic and morose. It is yet another Russian  
tragedy.

We see that there is a parade celebrating the end of the  
Ukrainian-Russian conflict and we see the ADMIRAL waving.  
We see a puff of smoke from a building, high up and from  
behind the parade and to the right. Several people in the  
parade turn to look at the building. There is a second puff  
of smoke from a sixth floor window and the ADMIRAL clinches

his throat. He leans forward. There isn't a third puff of smoke from the window, but the head of the ADMIRAL explodes. A CAPTAIN in the same car slumps down in his seat.

A very pretty female NAVY OFFICER sitting beside the ADMIRAL tries to gather pieces of his skull, but it is impossible. The vehicles speed off for the hospital.

IVAN and ALYONA exit the building onto the street. There is an FSB car and driver waiting for them.

**EXT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY - 12:45 PM.**

Outside the emergency room, the follow-up vehicle pulls up. It parks only a ten meters from the admiral's car. There are roses on the back seat and blood and brain material all over the entire car.

The SOLDIERS disembark from the vehicle and some move slowly over to the admiral's car to get a better look. An army MAJOR SHUKSHIN notices and begins screaming at them.

SHUKSHIN

Idiots. Form up against your vehicle.

They form a line away from the limousine against the truck and trailer they just climbed down from.

SHUKSHIN finds Private VSEVOLOD **ZHILOV** in the line of soldiers.

SHUKSHIN

You. Piece of shit. You know what you just did?

SHUKSHIN slaps him on the side of the head. When VSEVOLOD then moves slightly forward, SHUKSHIN punches him in the stomach. VSEVOLOD falls and is kicked in the face. The other SOLDIERS don't move or react. VSEVOLOD struggles to stand.

SHUKSHIN

Not a damn word. Anyone. Not a word. Stand here and don't move. Don't say a word.

SHUKSHIN looks at VSEVOLOD again. There is a long pause.

SHUKSHIN is enraged but doesn't punch or kick VSEVOLOD again. SHUKSHIN is clearly contemplating this but turns and runs into the hospital.

**INT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY - 1:00 PM.**

An authoritative looking NAVY OFFICER enters the emergency room; he seems to have been the admiral's chief of staff.

SHUKSHIN picks up a cell phone and calls Moscow.

SHUKSHIN

This is Major Shukshin.

(pause)

We have an incident here in Donetsk.

(pause)

The Admiral and a Captain have been shot.

(pause)

We are at the emergency room at the Donetsk hospital.

SHUKSHIN seems to be receiving instructions and hangs up and notices a PRIEST enter the hospital. SHUKSHIN walks outside the hospital to the collection of soldiers STANDING there.

The NAVY OFFICER walks out into the hall to the crowd of people in Navy uniforms and we can tell what has happened by the expression on his face. There is a long pause. The Navy people are staring unbelievably at the Army personnel.

NAVY OFFICER

We need a coffin.

A PRIEST is praying over the dead body. A blanket is placed over the body. A crucifix is placed on the chest of the admiral.

NAVY OFFICER

There is a helicopter on the way. I want the body placed on it. The autopsy will be in Sevastopol.

The YOUNG FEMALE NAVY OFFICER holds the admiral's hand as they place him in an army military coffin.

SHUKSHIN is supervising the removal of the body. Two SOLDIERS have the coffin on a cart and they are wheeling it down the hall. An army truck that was in the parade is backed up to the emergency room entrance. The army wants to load the body on the truck.

NAVY OFFICER

He is a navy admiral. The navy will do the autopsy.

SHUKSHIN

This is a war zone. We have authority.

NAVY OFFICER

The war is over.

SHUKSHIN

Obviously the war is NOT over.

(pause)

Well, he is coming with us.

NAVY OFFICER

We will have that body!

Several navy personnel step up. There might be a pushing match or a fistfight.

SHUKSHIN

I'm Major Shukshin and I'm in charge of this sector. And we are taking the admiral to the nearest army field hospital for the autopsy.

A SECOND ARMY OFFICER turns and whispers into his radio. He summons the soldiers outside.

NAVY OFFICER

You are not taking him anywhere. There will be a navy autopsy without interference.

There is a physical altercation.

The SOLDIERS run into the hall brandishing weapons. An ARMY DOCTOR steps forward.

ARMY DOCTOR

President Kireyev wants this done.

NAVY OFFICER

No. I don't believe that.

ARMY DOCTOR

Now this is the brother of the President of Russia. Some consideration should be given.

NAVY OFFICER

No, that doesn't matter. This is a navy man.

SHUKSHIN pulls his pistol and chambers a round and points it at the head of the NAVY OFFICER.

SHUKSHIN

Now you move or I'm going to shot you and run this body right over you.

NAVY OFFICER glances around. There are three NAVY OFFICERS (four if you count the GRIEVING mistress). And there are at least 20-25 army SOLDIERS all with weapons drawn.

The NAVY OFFICER swallows hard and steps aside.

The navy people move outside to watch the SOLDIERS load the body into the back of a truck.

The ARMY finishes loading the coffin in the truck and they (with all the soldiers) speed away from the hospital. They are leaving the area as a navy helicopter lands.

The UKRAINIAN DOCTOR has been watching the entire ordeal.

The NAVY OFFICER looks left and then right. The war has made the city an eye sore.

NAVY OFFICER

What an ugly place to die!

**INT. SOUTHEAST RUSSIA - DAY**

Russian short and medium ranges missile battalions go on alert. Submarines and bombers go on alert. Fighter pilots scramble and from their expression they are looking for an excuse. The war, which ended only a week or two previously, could easily resume at any time.

**INT. FSB AUTOMOBILE - DAY**

IVAN

We are going to drop you at the airport.

IVAN gestures to the driver. ALYONA doesn't speak. She is watching the assassination a second and a third time on her device.

IVAN

It isn't so strange.

ALYONA

What?

IVAN

Your stories on corruption.

(pause)

Eleven Mafia bosses in prison. Four oligarchs, three were friends of the President.

ALYONA

What are you talking about?

IVAN

The reason you are here.

ALYONA

Okay. Sure.

(pause)

And why are you here?

IVAN

I told you. I'm taking you to the airport.

IVAN shows ALYONA his weapon.

ALYONA

And why do I need protection? It was never necessary before today.

IVAN

Well like you were told there is funny business involved.

ALYONA

Really and you know this.

IVAN

I know we don't know where the body is.

ALYONA

We?

IVAN

FSB.

(pause)

It is on a military flat bed truck, but we don't know where it is going.

(pause)

It is coming here?

ALYONA

Someone as stolen the body? Who?

IVAN

Who?

(pause)

The military?

ALYONA

Yes. The Navy. Well that makes sense.

IVAN

The Army, but I don't really know that for a fact.

ALYONA

Get on the phone and find out. You are the FSB for Christ's sake.

(pause)

Forget that. It isn't your job.

IVAN

I can try.

ALYONA

There are probably 100 FSB agents there already.

IVAN

Probably not that many.

They proceed in the car to the Vnukovo airport.

**INT. AIRPORT - VNUKOVO AIRPORT - DAY**

ALYONA experiences air travel in Russia. Given the recent war in Eastern Ukraine, there is an incredible amount of security before boarding the plane. ALYONA is interviewed and thoroughly searched.

**INT. POLICE STATION - DONETSK - DAY**

There is a new civilian authority, a Russian POLICE CHIEF. DIMA MELNYK enters the office. DIMA is ethnically Ukrainian and nervous about keeping his job. He looks 100 percent competent but the future of the police force is unclear. Donetsk is now part of Russia. We see a flag and photos in the office of the Russian president.

DIMA

Chief Investigator Dima Melnyk reporting, sir.

POLICE CHIEF

You are Ukrainian?

DIMA

My father. Yes sir. My mother was Russian.

POLICE CHIEF

Have you been in a fight this morning?

DIMA

Sir, I...



POLICE CHIEF

The President of Russia wants to know your initial...

(pause)

Did you put some ice on your face?

(pause)

Your initial reaction to this. What are the prospects for an early resolution?

DIMA

I am confident we will apprehend all of the criminals involved, sir.

POLICE CHIEF

Yes, yes, yes. I hope so, young man.

(pause)

It's nearly four hours since the incidence. Who did it?

CUT TO: Sixth floor. We see DUQVAAKHA TABARIK fire two shots out the window. Two shell casings are left ejected onto the floor. TABARIK is about to fire a third but isn't able to do so quickly enough. The parade speeds out of his line of sight.

DIMA

(V.O.)

We have a Chechen man who fired two shots from the sixth floor.

BACK TO: Police office.

POLICE CHIEF

Three shots.

DIMA

I'm not so certain.

POLICE CHIEF

There were three shots.

DIMA

When I arrived there were only two shell casings.

POLICE CHIEF

The third was still in the gun.

DIMA

No, sir.

POLICE CHIEF

You are in Russia now, son. You can't afford to be wrong.

DIMA

I'm very good at my job, sir.

The POLICE CHIEF frowns.

POLICE CHIEF

We shall see. Go on.

CUT TO: Second floor. Only a minute after the shots were fired, we see DUQVAAKHA TABARIK standing in a second floor break room holding a soda can. A policeman runs past him on his way to the sixth floor. He looks like an employee (computer programmer), so the policeman doesn't suspect him.

DIMA

(V.O.)

An armed policeman, running through the second floor café 60 to 90 seconds after the last shot, encountered Duqvaakha Tabarik. He didn't appear winded or excited.

BACK TO: Police office.

POLICE CHIEF

And this Chechen was employed there?

DIMA

A low level computer programmer.

CUT TO: Sixth floor. We see Investigator DIMA MELNYK enter the sixth floor room. It appears that he is the first to arrive. He instructs a policeman to stand in the doorway and deny entry to everyone. He slowly methodically surveys the room. He immediately looks out the open window and views the sniper's point of view. Clearly this is where the shots were fired. DIMA finds two shell casings near the window. He photographs the casings with his cell phone.

He searches a bit more and finds the rifle partially hidden between two rows of computer servers. He photographs the rifle with his cell phone. DIMA puts on latex gloves and examines the rifle. He opens the breach and smells. We can see he believes that the gun was recently fired. DIMA replaces the rifle in its original hiding place.

DIMA

(V.O.)

I arrived approximately 5 mins after the last shot. The scene seemed undisturbed. I found a Mosin Nagant M91/30. It fires a 7.62x54mm bullet.

BACK TO: Police office.

DIMA

And 5 mins after that Army investigators arrived.

CUT TO: Sixth floor. The EIGHT RUSSIAN SOLDIERS barge into the sixth floor and a soldier attempts to wrestle looking for evidence. The soldiers see two shell casings on the floor and move to pick them up. DIMA tries to block them and a fight begins. DIMA of course is the loser. DIMA is punched and is finally knocked to the ground. He is kicked several times in the face and ribs. A pistol is put to his head and he stops resisting.

A creepy soldier, CZAR DRESVYANIN, picks up the two shell casings and puts them in his pocket. There isn't an effort to preserve evidence or fingerprints. He simply picks them up and puts them in his pocket.

DRESVYANIN has a scar across his face. His neck and chin were seriously burned, perhaps his entire upper body was once burned. He is the roughest looking character in the Russian Army.

DIMA

(V.O.)

And that is when you had a fight?

BACK TO: Police office.

DIMA

They took the two shell casings.

CUT TO: Sixth floor. The EIGHT RUSSIAN SOLDIERS search the room but don't detect the partially hidden rifle. They give up searching but punch and kick DIMA a few more times for good measure.

DIMA

(V.O.)

They missed the rifle. It was obscured behind some computer servers.

BACK TO: Police office.

POLICE CHIEF

Really?

CUT TO: Sixth floor. DIMA of course is badly beaten and spits up blood. DIMA is barely able to sit up and then just remains still. There is a long pause and DIMA looks depressed.

BACK TO: Police office.

POLICE CHIEF

We have the rifle?

DIMA

Yes.

POLICE CHIEF

Good. Don't tell anyone this. Right?

DIMA

No sire. It is in a safe place.

DIMA puts on a single latex glove and goes to his CHIEF's filing cabinet and reaches behind it. He doesn't pick the rifle up but tilts it out to show it to the Russian POLICE CHIEF. There is a long pause.

POLICE CHIEF

Good. What happened next?

CUT TO: Donetsk street. We see TABARIK shot police officer TIPALOV. TIPALOV has tried to stop and questions TABARIK.

TABARIK pulls a pistol from his belt and fires. TABARIK runs away.

DIMA

(V.O.)

The Chechen man killed a policeman.

CUT TO: Movie theater. We see TABARIK run into a theatre without a ticket. The MANAGER of the theater calls the police.

RUSSIAN

(V.O.)

And ran into a theatre..

In the dark theater, we see a scuffle as TABARIK resists arrest. TABARIK is beaten rather badly.

BACK TO: Police office.

DIMA

Yes, sir. And was arrested after resisting arrest. His pistol jammed.

RUSSIAN

Well...

DIMA

You need tell me if the army is going to investigate. Or am I to proceed?

RUSSIAN

You Ukrainians can be so insolent, but then those days are over.

(pause)

You better be good at your job.

DIMA feels threatened by the words. There is a long pause. DIMA is trying to figure out what the Russian wants and how to keep his job.

RUSSIAN

Don't just stand there. I need a report to send to Moscow.

**EXT. AEROFLOT FLIGHT FROM MOSCOW TO DONETSK - DAY**

Everyone on the flight is tense. Many try to make eye contact with the other passengers, trying to detect any treachery. Others make no eye contact and sink low in their seats, simply hoping (praying) to arrive safely. There are many obvious security people on board - Russian air marshals. Many are ethnic Russians (war refugees) returning to their homes.

ALYONA pulls out her laptop and begins work. ALYONA notices the tension and makes a note of it.

ALYONA is juggling a computer and a box of documents. She is a "working" journalist and she doesn't relax on the plane. She reads a document and produces a story. She is typing feverously.

CUT TO: Moscow football field. We see YOUNG YEFIM, jump to head a ball into the net. He is interfered with and takes a terrible fall. He bravely gets up but clearly his back is seriously injured. The OLDER YEGOR runs at the opposition and wants to fight. YEGOR is restrained. Clearly they are brothers.

ALYONA

(V.O.)

Yefim graduated from high school and entered Moscow State University in 1982, where Yegor was already a student. Like his older brother Yegor, Yefim played football. Yefim was not as good an athlete as Yegor but he had a lot of determination and perseverance. Unfortunately, one day while playing Yefim ruptured a disk in his spine. Yefim never really recovered from this accident and his back continued to bother him for the rest of his life.

BACK TO: ALYONA who is working on the airplane.

ALYONA reads several official Russian Navy reports, love letters and police reports. We see family photos.

CUT TO: We see YEFIM KIREYEV'S WIFE and two CHILDREN in Saint Petersburg.

ALYONA

(V.O.)

Admiral Kireyev has a wife and two children (a girl 8 and a boy 3) in Saint Petersburg.

BACK TO: Airplane.

There are several photos showing YEFIM KIREYEV with various women, actresses, singers, any women in a skirt.

There is a long pause as ALYONA contemplates what to say about the adultery issue.

ALYONA

(V.O.)

While he was accused at various times in his life of being a serial adulterer, there are documents that suggest he never had an affair and was true to his wife of 10 years.

CUT TO: We see that in fact that he was a serial adulterer. We see him out in various locations apparently having an affair with many women. But primarily he is seen with a high profile film actress. One mistress is eerily a Russian version of Marilyn Monroe.

BACK TO: ALYONA who is working on the airplane.

In the documents, ALYONA finds an official military account of how YEFIM KIREYEV's spy ship was cut in two by a U.S. destroyer off Karachi in the Afghan conflict.

ALYONA reads the account of the ordeal. She can see on the photocopy certain phrases were highlighted with a marker. The report includes two important facts "the collision was at night with neither ship running with lights" and "after the collision Yefim Kireyev towed an injured sailor to Bundle Island."

CUT TO: A Soviet trawler being rammed in the middle of the night and YEFIM KIREYEV leading his crew to safety. YEFIM KIREYEV, who had been on the Moscow State University swim team, used a life jacket strap clenched between his teeth to tow his badly-burned senior enlisted machinist mate.

ALYONA

(V.O.)

Soon after graduating, both Yegor and Yefim joined the Navy. Yegor was a flyer and sent to Europe, while Jack was made Lieutenant (Lt.) and assigned to the Arabian Gulf as commander of spy ship. Yefim had a crew of twelve men whose mission was to listen and spy on American ships delivering supplies to Afghanistan. On the night of August 2, 1988, Lt. Kireyev crew patrolled the waters listening for enemy ships. An American destroyer suddenly became visible. But it was traveling at full speed and headed straight at them. Holding the wheel, Lt. Kireyev tried to swerve out of the way, but to no avail. The much larger American warship rammed the Russian trawler, splitting it in half and killing two of Lt. Kireyev's men. The others managed to jump off as their boat went up in flames. Lt. Kireyev was slammed hard against the cockpit, once again injuring his back. Pyotr Sizov, one of his crew members, had horrible burns on his face and hands and was ready to give up. In the darkness, Lt. Kireyev managed to find Sizov and haul him back to where the other survivors were clinging to a piece of the boat that was still afloat. At sunrise, Lt. Kireyev led his men toward a small island several miles away. Despite his own injuries, Lt. Kireyev was able to tow Pyotr Sizov ashore, a strap from Sizov's life jacket clenched between his teeth. It took four hours to reach the island, 5.6 km away. Six days later two Pakistani fishermen found them and went for help. The next day, the crew was rescued.

BACK TO: ALYONA who is working on the airplane.



ALYONA finds a citation for a medal.

CUT TO: Kremlin. YEFIM KIREYEV is shown receiving Russia's highest honor. It appears that GORBACHEV is making the presentation. YEFIM's proud family is there also.

ALYONA

(V.O.)

For his extra ordinary heroism, Lt.  
Kireyev was awarded Hero of the Soviet  
Union.

BACK TO: ALYONA who is working on the airplane.

ALYONA reads other newspaper articles and book reviews.

CUT TO: Moscow bookstore. A young navy officer is signing books. It is YEFIM KIREYEV. An insane person approaches him and accuses him of not writing it, but having a friend of his father write the book for him. Finally security comes and removed the man.

ALYONA

(V.O.)

In 2003, Captain Kireyev won Russia's most prestigious book award for writing a history of personal "courage" in the Russian Navy. The book is a volume of short biographies describing acts of bravery and integrity by eight sailors throughout the Russian Navy's history.

BACK TO: ALYONA who is working on the airplane.

As the plane lands in Donetsk, the tension ends. The passengers sigh in relief and applaud the safe landing. ALYONA pushes send and emails some preliminary work to her editor.

#### **EXT. AIRPORT - DONETSK - DAY**

ALYONA exits the plane. The passenger terminal is under repair. Construction workers are plastering over bullet holes. There is rather a lot of construction about, but the airport is open for the first time in over two years.

ALYONA looks left and then right. There are four or more planes that have arrived recently. Three are disembarking. One plane looks to be FSB from Moscow. One plane looks to be Navy, probably from St. Petersburg. And there is a chartered plane from Moscow with television journalists. ALYONA is on the commercial flight.

ALYONA makes eye contact with the FSB officers getting off their plane. It appears that the car poised to pick up ALYONA gets a phone call and pulls off to carry the FSB men.

ALYONA walks a healthy distance to a parked taxi.

ALYONA

I want to see the crime scene.

She climbs into the taxi.

**EXT. TAXI - DONETSK AIRPORT - DAY**

ALYONA enters the taxi and speaks to the DRIVER. ALYONA is recording what she sees with her digital camera.

ALYONA

Where were you when the shooting took place?

DRIVER

Yes. Here and there for a time. I took some refugees into the city at that time.

ALYONA looks out the window. She seems to be gathering in as much information as possible.

DRIVER

I will never forget how slowly the cars were moving -- not because of traffic but because clearly drivers were shocked by the news they were hearing on their car radios. I knew at that moment that the horrible radio bulletin was true.

The traffic is still moving slowly.

CUT TO: Airport. The parade leaves the airport gates and enters the street. We see the first car in the parade full of Russian ARMY OFFICERS. In the second vehicle we see Russian NAVY OFFICERS, including ADMIRAL KIREYEV. The third spot in the parade is a truck and trailer. The trailer has ARMY SOLDIERS. The fourth vehicle carries VETERANS from the Great Patriotic War. The fifth vehicle is carrying ethnic Russian CIVILIAN LEADERS. There is a number of vehicles that follow, all are unremarkable.

ALYONA

(V.O.)

The parade began here, at the airport?

(pause)

The sun was shining? The people were welcoming?

BACK TO: Taxi interior.

DRIVER

Some of the people, yes.

ALYONA

The top of the Admiral's limousine was down. Why? Was it that warm?

DRIVER

Maybe people like to be seen in a parade. Changing borders and annexation is always in the history books. Photographs.

ALYONA

And in newspapers.

DRIVER

This is a big historical event. The said it might necessitate a renewed war.

ALYONA

Yes, it might.

ALYONA is riding into the city. She is shown looking out various windows (left and right and even the rear window) trying to judge the weather and the political atmosphere. She is always afraid of being followed.

The TAXI DRIVER notices ALYONA looking behind them and it causes him to occasionally look in the mirror.

RADIO

(V.O.)

Authorities have under arrest a Chechen separatist, Duqvaakha Tabarik, who they suspect, after assassinating Admiral Kireyev, shot Donetsk policeman J.D. Tupalov.

(pause)

A recently fired 9mm pistol was found on Tabarik when he was arrested in the Kinokult Theatre. Authorities are still looking for the weapon that fired the three shots and killed Kireyev.

ALYONA

Are you listening to this?

TAXI DRIVER

Yes. Of course. They have been saying this news for several hours.

ALYONA

What happened?

TAXI DRIVER

I don't know, but you are the fifth person from Moscow who has asked me this question today.

**EXT. CENTER OF THE CITY - DONETSK - DAY**

ALYONA has her digital camera and she is shooting video. She has a omni-directional earset microphone. She is documenting everything as later she will write her newspaper story. She is speaking into the microphone and moving the camera about the location documenting everything.

ALYONA

Kirov Plaza is bounded on the south, east, and north sides by 30+ meter tall buildings. One of those buildings is a state owned warehouse, from which,

Tabarik fired a rifle that killed Admiral Kireyev. There is also a grassy knoll on the northwest side of the plaza. At the plaza's west perimeter is a triple underpass beneath a railroad bridge, under which the motorcade raced after the shots were fired.

ALYONA doesn't realize it yet, but the crime scene is mysteriously similar to Daley Plaza in Dallas. The most astute of the audience will probably notice the similarities, but we don't want everyone to realize this.

ALYONA

It all happened here.

(pause)

The parade turned and it all came to an end here.

(pause)

There is a quite pronounced down gradient.

(pause)

The street sort of snakes along.

(pause)

It would be seriously unusual and difficult terrain, to get two shots off, much less three. There isn't much time before the parade is under the overpass.

She puts the camera in her bag. She glances down to her electronic device, she replays the video from the parade. She notices many people in the crowd waving with one hand and a cell phone in the other.

ALYONA

There must have been ten or twenty cell phones recording the entire event.

(pause)

I have to find them.

Several passers-by look at her strangely as she seems to be talking to herself.

ALYONA

Well, let's go up there first.

She looks to a certain window on the sixth floor of the building.

**INT. SIXTH FLOOR - BUILDING - DAY**

ALYONA arrives at the room on the sixth floor. There was a police tape across the door but it has been torn by a previous visitor. ALYONA is recording again with her camera. ALYONA slowly edges into the room. The room is almost full of computer servers. She takes a few photos of the room. She goes to the window and looks outside, down to the street; she photographs the view out the window.

Suddenly ALYONA realizes there is another person in the room. DIMA MELNYK, a Ukrainian police detective, still on the force after annexation. He is sitting on the floor, waiting.

He has been waiting for the army to return. He is thinking they will return for the gun or to plant evidence. The gun has been removed of course, but DIMA feels that the army might not know this and will want to seize this evidence.

DIMA

You are a journalist?

We hear three distinct gunshots from downstairs. A SOLDIER has fired his weapon in the air, three times. ALYONA moves to the window and we see CZAR DRESVYANIN picking up three shell casings off the ground.

ALYONA and DIMA look at each other, trying to understand what has happened and what is about to happen.

Again, there are the sounds of EIGHT SOLDIERS running up the stairs. DIMA struggles to stand. ALYONA disappears behind a stack of computer servers. She pulls out her cell phone camera and finds a secluded position.

It is CZAR DRESVYANIN again. And again DIMA stands in the way blocking the SOLDIER's advance.

DRESVYANIN

You are still here?

DIMA pulls his weapon but chooses to take another beating rather than fire on the SOLDIERS. Primarily DIMA doesn't

fire because they are young RUSSIAN SOLDIERS and secondarily they have weapons and would certainly return fire killing him.

So the SOLDIERS take his pistol and beat DIMA again. Other SOLDIERS fan out to search the room more thoroughly.

While DIMA is down on the ground, he is taking in clues. He notices that the soldiers have the Kalashnikov AK-12, the newest assault rifles. DIMA is familiar with them, as eastern Ukraine area has just been the focus of a EU-Russian war. The gun fires a smaller caliber bullet.

DRESVYANIN

Make sure the rifle isn't still here.  
Search everywhere.

ALYONA barely escapes detection by climbing on top of a stack of servers. From her hiding loft, she tapes a video of DRESVYANIN throwing three shell casings under the shooter's window.

When the RUSSIAN SOLDIERS finally leave, DIMA puts on a latex glove.

DIMA

You can come out now.

ALYONA climbs down from her hiding location.

DIMA collects the planted evidence (three 5.45 mm casings) and places them in a plastic evidence bag.

DIMA pauses and looks ALYONA up and down; he is trying to evaluate her and judge her character.

DIMA

Moscow journalist?

ALYONA doesn't respond but has a curious look on her face.

DIMA

Your clothes and your device.

(pause)

You don't look like any journalist I  
ever knew here.

(pause)

Why do you have to be so...  
(pause)  
Different?

ALYONA  
Advanced?  
(pause)  
I'm Alyona Yolkov.

She extends her handshake. DIMA produces his identification and shakes her hand.

DIMA  
Dima Melnyk, homicide detective.

ALYONA  
Nice to meet you. Maybe you can help us.

DIMA  
Maybe you can help us. You videotaped the soldier throwing down the casings?

ALYONA  
Yes. Of course.

DIMA  
And you already sent it to Moscow?

ALYONA  
This is a big story.

DIMA  
Because this was the President's brother?

ALYONA  
The President isn't our only reader.

DIMA  
No. I'm sure.

ALYONA wonders about the room conducting her own search. This peaks the interest of DIMA.

ALYONA  
Why did they leave three shell casings?



DIMA

These are 5.45 mm and were fired from a soldier's AK-12. You just heard those shots just a minute ago.

ALYONA

So? Why?

DIMA

Tabarik fired two 7.63 mm bullets.

ALYONA

Help me understand. Why leave three casings.

DIMA

Well, I'm only guessing. They have to explain the three shots.

ALYONA

So it wasn't Tabarik?

DIMA

Not entirely.

ALYONA thinks. She takes a photo of DIMA to document his injuries. She walks to the window again.

DIMA

This Duqvaakha Tabarik, with a very old rifle, he probably was not good enough to fire three shots in less than 6 seconds.

ALYONA

He didn't fire three shots. There is a video, I saw it before I left Moscow.

DIMA

Yes, he only fired twice.

ALYONA

You can confirm this?

DIMA

I was the first in this room and I only found two casings.

ALYONA

There was a second gunman. Correct?

DIMA

It seems clear. Yes.

ALYONA

Who then?

DIMA

The army has beaten me up twice today, both times in this room. The first time they take evidence and then you just saw them return to leave evidence.

ALYONA seems to understand. But she continues to search the room. DIMA notices her legs and attractive features.

ALYONA

I have a letter from the President.

She is about to reach into her bag, but he stops her with a gesture.

DIMA

I will work with you regardless.

**INT. POLICE STATION - DONETSK - DAY**

When DIMA and ALYONA arrive at the station, the POLICE CHIEF blocks their progress.

POLICE CHIEF

What is she doing here? No journalists. You can't take her inside.

DIMA

(to Alyona)

Show him your letter.

CUT TO: Interrogation room.

A RUSSIAN DETECTIVE is questioning TABARIK. TABARIK has a cut on his head, a black eye nearly swollen shut and a fat lip. His neck is bruised. He is hand-cuffed to the chair with his hands behind his back.

TABARIK is a small man and a weak man. But, he is adamant he didn't do it, but this actor should make him appear so nervous he would be unable to complete such a task. He is jumpy and has been beaten, but his hands are very shaky... anything like marksmanship looks out of the question.

TABARIK

The only thing I have done is carry a pistol into a movie ... I didn't kill anybody ... I haven't shot anybody. I didn't shoot the admiral or officer Tipalov.

When the RUSSIAN DETECTIVE sees DIMA enter, he gets up and they leave the room and speak in the hall.

RUSSIAN DETECTIVE

He won't say anything. He has denied it 20 times.

(pause)

Why don't you try the Ukrainian angle? He's lived here for 20 years. Maybe he did it for Ukraine and not Chechnya.

DIMA agrees and enters the room. He gestures for ALYONA to follow him inside.

DIMA

I'm Dima. I was born in Kiev. I'm a Ukrainian just like you. Personally, I'm glad you have done this.

TABARIK

I didn't shoot anyone ... I never killed anybody.

DIMA

Relax, you are with a friend. After this war, I'm glad the Russian got what he had coming.

TABARIK

I don't know anything about what you are accusing me of.

ALYONA

How did you miss entirely with the first shot? But were dead on with the second? How is that?

TABARIK is taken aback. There is a long pause. A question from a woman and about his accuracy.

TABARIK

I'm just a patsy.

ALYONA

Did you shot at the Admiral?

TABARIK

No. I have not been charged with that. In fact, nobody has said that to me yet. The first thing I heard about it was when the TV reporters in the hall asked me that question. ... I did not do it. I did not do it. ... I did not shoot anyone.

ALYONA

You shot twice?

TABARIK

Nobody has told me anything except that I am accused of murdering a policeman. I know nothing more than that, and I do request someone to come forward to give me legal assistance.

ALYONA

But you had a rifle up on the sixth floor?

TABARIK

I didn't shoot Admiral Kireyev. ... I didn't even know Cpt. Charkov had been shot. ... I don't own a rifle. I didn't tell anyone anything about curtain rods. ... I did carry a package to work.

I carried my lunch, a sandwich and fruit ... I had nothing personal against the navy.

ALYONA

I saw you up there. It's on video. Two shots.

TABARIK

It's a mistake. I'm not guilty.

ALYONA

You are upset about the war? The Annexation? You hate the Russians? The police?

TABARIK

If you ask me about the shooting of Tupalov, I don't know what you are talking about. ... The only thing I am here for is because I popped a policeman on the nose in the theatre, which I readily admit I did, because I was protecting myself. ... I haven't shot a rifle since the Chechen war. ... The Russian people will soon forget the Admiral was killed (brother of the President or not), but I didn't shoot him.

DIMA

Come on, Ukraine is thankful just tell us and welcome the credit. You are a national hero!

TABARIK

I did not kill Kireyev or Officer Tupalov. If you want me to cop out to hitting, or pleading guilty to hitting a cop in the mouth when I was arrested, yeah, I plead guilty to that. But I do deny shooting both the admiral and Tupalov.

DIMA and ALYONA sit and look at the man.

**INT. HOSPITAL - DONETSK - DAY**

CAPTAIN CHARKOV is in a hospital bed. A UKRAINIAN DOCTOR is sitting beside him explaining to the FSB INVESTIGATOR the nature of his wounds.

UKRAINIAN DOCTOR

(to FSB investigator)

His wounds included an entry wound in the back near the right shoulder, a broken rib, an exit wound in the chest, a shattered wrist caused by a bullet entering from the dorsal (back) side, and an almost pristine fragment lodged in his thigh.

The FSB INVESTIGATOR is taking notes.

UKRAINIAN DOCTOR

You want to see the x-rays?

FSB INVESTIGATOR

Sure.

The DOCTOR leaves the side of CHARKOV and they walk into the hallway and then a different room. The FSB INVESTIGATOR looks suspiciously at ALYONA and DIMA as they arrive at the room. They stand in the doorway, hoping to interview CAPTAIN CHARKOV.

CHARKOV has been seriously wounded but has been taken care of expertly.

ALYONA

You are feeling better?

CAPTAIN CHARKOV

No not really.

DIMA

Can you tell us what happened?

CAPTAIN CHARKOV

The bullet went in my back and came out about here. Then it goes through my wrist and then into my thigh. Crazy, huh?

CHARKOV points to his wounds. DIMA has some diagrams he has received from the doctors.

ALYONA

In the video, you were looking back to the right. You heard the first shot?

ALYONA pulls out her device and shows CAPTAIN CHARKOV the video. It is a profile shot of the event. We see the shadowy figure with a gun in the window. We see two puffs of smoke form the window and of course we see the victim in the car. We don't see a third puff of smoke, but there is a building that obstructs part of the parade. It clearly blocks a follow-up vehicle with the soldiers.

It is painful for CHARKOV to watch but he endures it.

CAPTAIN CHARKOV

Yes, that is the way I remember it.

ALYONA

You weren't shot by the first bullet?

CAPTAIN CHARKOV

Must have missed. I was not shot by the first bullet. I know that I heard the first shot, and I turned to my right to see what was happening. Seeing nothing, I was in the process of turning to my left and I was struck by a second shot. The third shot struck the Admiral but did not strike me. I told this to the army investigator and I don't think he believes me.

ALYONA

Thank you. I appreciate your time. Get well soon.

In the hall, the two characters discuss the case.

DIMA

Something is funny about the army. They don't have Tabarik'a gun and they came back to plant shell casings.

ALYONA

They did this!

DIMA

People don't act this way unless they well are guilty. At the very least it appears suspicious.

ALYONA

How?

(pause)

Exactly how. Why?

No one has an answer.

**INT. RESTAURANT - DONETSK - EVENING**

Russian Navy Chief Petty Officer RURIK SHERKOV is at a table with a LOCAL GIRL. SHERKOV will contradict the Army's order of shots. SHERKOV is drinking heavily and the LOCAL GIRL is trying to console him.

SHERKOV

I was right there, I mean the blood was on me.

LOCAL GIRL

It is okay honey. You are clean now.

SHERKOV

But.

LOCAL GIRL

You did your job. There isn't any thing you could have done.

SHERKOV

It happened so fast.

DIMA and ALYONA are eating at the next table. DIMA who is nearest responds.

DIMA

Excuse me.

(pause)

You were at the parade?



LOCAL GIRL

Maybe.

SHERKOV

Yes. I was.

DIMA

Journalist, local police investigator.

SHERKOV

I'm not supposed to talk about it.

DIMA

You spoke to the Army investigators.

SHERKOV

No.

DIMA

No?

SHERKOV

I was told not to talk to anyone. By them. The army.

ALYONA

You want to talk to us?

There is a long pause.

SHERKOV looks around the restaurant.

SHERKOV

(lowered volume)

I driving in the Admiral's car.

(pause)

There was a pop, like a fire cracker. As I turned my head to the right to see what happened, I heard a voice from the back seat. It was the Admiral, "My God I'm hit."

(pause)

And I turned around and he has his hands up like this.

SHERKOV holds his hands up to his head.

ALYONA

If that first shot went through his back and throat, how did he say that?

SHERKOV

I don't know.

DIMA

Maybe the bullet hit the pavement and bounced up and hit him.

ALYONA

Is that even possible?

DIMA

And the second shot is what hit Kireyev and Charkov?

LOCAL GIRL

I saw a bullet bounce off the road.

DIMA

Where were you?

LOCAL GIRL

In front of the building on the sidewalk.

(pause)

As Rurik passed by I heard a noise, above me. It thought it was a firecracker and now I think I saw a shot that hit the pavement.

ALYONA

What did it look like?

LOCAL GIRL

I thought it was a firecracker because I could see the sparks coming off it.

DIMA

It is possible that a fragment from this ricocheted bullet hit the Admiral. Yes.

ALYONA

And that is what caused him to say he was hit.

**INT. POLICE STATION - DONETSK**

The POLICE CHIEF comes into a room full of media. There are television cameras and lights. It is chaos with reporters shouting questions. The POLICE chief holds the weapon up to the crowd of journalists. After a short time they become quiet.

POLICE CHIEF

This weapon was discovered in what we are calling the "snipers nest". It was hidden behind computer servers and was recovered by our investigators.

REPORTER #1

What is it?

POLICE CHIEF

It is a 1944 Mosin-Nagant. It is a very old bolt-action, internal magazine-fed, military rifle, developed and used by the armed forces of the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union. It fires a 7.62 x 54mm bullet.

REPORTER #2

Can you tell us anything more about the rifle?

POLICE CHIEF

We believe Finland employed this Mosin-Nagant as a sniper rifle. Ironically, there are all indications that they used it against Soviet soldiers in the Great Patriotic War. Unfortunately, they enjoyed with success with this design.

(pause)

It is a special sniper and marksmanship rifle, modified by the Finnish Army. This particular weapons is a modified M/39 rifle.

REPORTER #3

How did Tabarik get the weapon?

POLICE CHIEF

Experts have told me it is one of the most mass-produced military bolt-action rifles in history. And much like the AK-47 it has shown up in various conflicts around the world, despite its age and obsolescence.

REPORTER #4

What is the forensic link to Duqvaakha Tabarik? We know he fired the weapon.

POLICE CHIEF

We have photographs of Tabarik holding the rifle and there is a palmprint found upon examination of the rifle. His wife has told us that it was his rifle. He failed the paraffin test.

(pause)

On the day the Admiral Kireyev was killed, Tabarik was wearing a shirt of dark blue, grey-black and orange-yellow cotton fibers over a white T-shirt, the same type of fibers that were recovered from the rifle after close examination by experts.

REPORTER #3

Why are you showing us this weapon?

POLICE CHIEF

There are many reports and false news stories that a different weapon (a more modern weapon) with a smaller calibre was used. This is absolutely not true. So we are showing you the weapon we found and we are making photographs of the sniper's nest taken immediately after the shooting available.

**INT. ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL - RURAL AND REMOTE DONBASS REGION**

The autopsy is being conducted in a crowded room. It appears to be a former school classroom, but they have

wheeled medical equipment into the room. The ARMY DOCTOR is speaking into a microphone and making drawings on paper. The room is entirely too crowded it is loud and clearly the autopsy isn't being conducted correctly.

It is subtle but the army non-medical staff in the room is intimidating the doctors.

ARMY DOCTOR

The third obvious wound was a huge defect over the right side of his skull. This defect involved both his scalp and the skull underneath and the brain substance protruding.

(pause)

The wound extends 10-12 cm from front to back and from just behind the admirals ear to just above his hairline

(pause)

The wound is a total mystery. One bullet pierces the body of two men and emerges almost pristine and in one piece, yet the bullet that hit the admiral in the head explodes in a hail of lead.

(pause)

Why did these bullets perform differently?

The DOCTOR walks to the X-Ray of the skull that is hanging in front of a light.

ARMY DOCTOR

There are numerous minute fragments of radio-opaque material. These tiny fragments are dispersed throughout the brain. There are approximately 30-40 dusk like particles.

There is an ARMY GUARD at the door and he has instructions but there are 10 or 12 people in and out of the room. He can't keep track of who belongs there and who does not. In error the GUARD stops a NURSE who is returning from taking a blood sample to the laboratory and a NAVY DOCTOR slips into the room.

We see the NAVY DOCTOR looking over the ARMY DOCTOR's shoulder. This is not standard procedure but there are many other people in the room also a photographer, numerous military officers (both Army and Navy).

NAVY DOCTOR

This is not the work of a full metal jacket bullet.

We see on the DOCTOR's face and expression that suggests he would rather work in private. But still a second man arrives to look over his shoulder, an ARMY INVESTIGATOR. The ARMY INVESTIGATOR doesn't speak; he only takes notes. The ARMY INVESTIGATOR's body language is somewhat threatening.

ARMY DOCTOR

(to the microphone)

This is the work of a frangible bullet, designed to explode. Quite different from the other bullet that went through his neck.

The TWO DOCTORS begin to whisper.

NAVY DOCTOR

And the bullet that went through the Captain?

ARMY DOCTOR

Yes. It was not frangible.

NAVY DOCTOR

Two shooters?

ARMY DOCTOR

Clearly.

NAVY DOCTOR

Yes, why would one shooter use two different kinds of bullets? One bullet goes straight through and the other one explodes. That just isn't the way it works.

They walk back to the body. They are looking at the entry wound.

ARMY DOCTOR

(to the microphone)

The entry wound in the right posterior region has a diameter of 6 mm.

(pause)

And the bullet tunnels for 15 mm before fragmenting.

(pause)

The bullet always makes a hole slightly larger than the diameter of the bullet.

NAVY DOCTOR

Who fires such a weapon, say a 5.45 mm?

They look simultaneously at the ARMY INVESTIGATOR who doesn't respond. He simple stares at them.

The NAVY DOCTOR gestures to the ARMY INVESTIGATOR that they should speak in private. They move to a different part of the room.

NAVY DOCTOR

If the head shot had come from Tabarik's rifle the diameter of the entry wound would have to be at least 7.62 mm or bigger. It was not.

The ARMY INVESTIGATOR says nothing, but he seems to be transcribing the NAVY DOCTOR's words.

NAVY DOCTOR

It is impossible that Tabarik's bullet penetrated the admiral's skull.

The ARMY INVESTIGATOR says nothing. But writes in his note book.

NAVY DOCTOR

If the kill shot didn't come from Tabarik who did it come from?

The ARMY INVESTIGATOR refuses to speak and continues to write. The NAVY DOCTOR realizes that he is wasting his time and he returns to the body.

**INT. NAVY INVESTIGATOR'S OFFICE - SEVASTOPOL - DAY**

The Russian Navy has illustrated the entire crime on computer. Two NAVY INVESTIGATORS are discussing the crime.

NAVY INVESTIGATOR

Look at the angle. From the sixth floor down to the admiral's car it is 16 degrees. And from right to left it was about 6 degrees based on the mid-line of the car.

NAVY INVESTIGATOR #2

That right to left trajectory should have produced an exit wound on the left side of the Admiral's face or head.

The NAVY INVESTIGATOR obtains a Styrofoam skull from a wig shop. He drills a hole in it where the entrance and exit wound were located. He places a dowel through the two holes. He replays the video of the shooting and tries to line up the source of the shot.

NAVY INVESTIGATOR

The shot was fired directly from behind the Admiral, but from a much lower angle than the 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

NAVY INVESTIGATOR #2

It is impossible for the shot to have come from Tabarik.

NAVY INVESTIGATOR

There must have been a second shooter. It doesn't make sense any other way.

NAVY INVESTIGATOR #2

Basic ballistic science.

NAVY INVESTIGATOR

The shot came from behind and slightly to the left of the admiral.

**INT. CAFÉ - DONETSK - DAY**

DIMA and ALYONA are eating a meal. ALYONA phone chimes. ALYONA obtains an electronic copy of the autopsy from



Moscow. It comes to her phone. They race back to the hotel to use ALYONA's computer.

**INT. HOTEL - DONETSK - DAY**

We see various illustrations from the autopsy report. Especially important is that the audiences learn that the entry wound in the back of the admiral's head is 6 mm.

This is a long voice over but this will give the audience time take in the technical aspects of the assassination.

ALYONA

(V.O.)

The body is that of a muscular, well-developed and well nourished adult Caucasian male measuring 72 1/2 inches and weighing approximately 170 pounds. There is beginning rigor mortis, minimal dependent livor mortis of the dorsum, and early algor mortis. The hair is reddish brown and abundant, the eyes are blue, the right pupil measuring 8 mm. in diameter, the left 4 mm. There is edema and ecchymosis of the inner canthus region of the left eyelid measuring approximately 1.5 cm. in greatest diameter. There is edema and ecchymosis diffusely over the right supra-orbital ridge with abnormal mobility of the underlying bone.

(pause)

Situated in the posterior scalp approximately 2.5 cm. laterally to the right and slightly above the external occipital protuberance is a lacerated wound measuring 6 mm. In the underlying bone is a corresponding wound through the skull which exhibits beveling of the margins of the bone when viewed from the inner aspect of the skull.

**INT. HOME OF UKRAINIAN DOCTOR AND PATHOLOGIST**

ALYONA and DIMA arrive at the home of the UKRAINIAN DOCTOR that originally treated the admiral. He leads her into the

dining room and they sit at the table. They place the autopsy report in front of him. They show him a graphic video of the shooting.

UKRAINIAN DOCTOR

The entrance wound is misallocated and is much higher, maybe 4 inches higher. The doctors in the autopsy misplaced the entry wound. There can't be any other explanation.

(pause)

If the shot was from the sixth floor behind and to the right of the admiral, the exit wound would be on the left or in the face. It was on the right. The shot was left to right.

ALYONA

(to Dima)

Who was in the follow up car?

**INT. PRESS CONFERENCE - DONETSK - DAY**

ALYONA is there to ask questions of the MAJOR SHUKSHIN, army investigator.

REPORTER #1

Can we speak with the doctors who did the autopsy?

MAJOR SHUKSHIN

We will not allow them to be harassed.

REPORTER #2

Can we see the autopsy report?

MAJOR SHUKSHIN

No, a copy was sent to the Navy and to the Kremlin. The family has requested that this information be kept confidential.

REPORTER #3

Is the Army convinced that Tabarik acted alone?

MAJOR SHUKSHIN

Definitely. Tabarik fired three shots and two hit the admiral. One shot missed entirely.

ALYONA

Who were the soldiers ridding in the parade car directly behind the admiral?

MAJOR SHUKSHIN

Soldiers of course.

(pause)

Thank you for your time.

MAJOR SHUKSHIN begins to leave the stage.

ALYONA

Did any of them fire their weapons at Tabarik?

MAJOR SHUKSHIN pauses and glances back. He gives ALYONA a dirty look.

ALYONA

Was there an accidental discharge?

MAJOR SHUKSHIN looks guilty. The JOURNALISTS are paying attention and they may now see the conspiracy.

ALYONA

Who were the soldiers in the follow-up car? What weapons did they carry? What calibre were the weapons?

The JOURNALISTS continue to look at ALYONA and wonder what she knows that they don't know. ALYONA contemplates telling them everything that she knows. She does not.

MAJOR SHUKSHIN disappears from sight. CZAR DRESVYANIN suddenly appears next to ALYONA. He has no personality and certainly isn't in the army office of public relations. He has a very cold look in his eye. DRESVYANIN is a stone cold killer and he is there to intimidate journalists.

DRESVYANIN

For security purposes we do not disclose this information. You can

understand. We have been involved in a war here.

ALYONA

What gun were the soldiers in the follow-up car carrying?

DRESVYANIN

Each soldier is issued a 9 mm Makarov pistol.

ALYONA

(sarcastically)

Thank you so much. You have been so helpful. Everyone can see they carry rifles also.

DRESVYANIN

No soldier fired or returned fire. But in the future, I can't promise this.

ALYONA

Are you threatening me?

DRESVYANIN

This is a war zone. Things happen.

**EXT. CENTER OF THE CITY - DONETSK - DAY**

ALYONA is out on the sidewalk talking to people. She approaches a TRAFFIC POLICEMAN and she appears to ask him a question.

TRAFFIC POLICEMAN

I was standing down there near the overpass. I saw the entire thing happen. They drove right past me and when they did I could smell the gunpowder.

ALYONA

You were in the army before you were a policeman?

TRAFFIC POLICEMAN

Yes.

DIMA is working approaching potential witnesses. DIMA brings a woman to ALYONA.

DIMA

This is Jenica Blatov.

ALYONA

Nice to meet you.

DIMA

She is the Mayor's wife. She was in a car four back from the admiral.

ALYONA

Can you tell me what happened?

JENICA

Well I turned around to say to my husband, "That was a shot." And just as soon as I got the words out, two more shots rang out.

ALYONA

Do you remember anything else?

JENICA

I was acutely aware of the odour of gunpowder in the air.

ALYONA

Thank you. Thank you so much.

JENICA walks on and ALYONA and DIMA are left to talk.

ALYONA

(to Dima)

I've found ten witnesses that claimed at the time of the shooting they smelled gunpowder at street level.

(pause)

The wind was blowing 25 km per hour in the opposite direction and there is no way they smelled Tabarik's gun.

(pause)

The wind was blowing away from the traffic cop. Toward Tabarik's position. So for him to have smelled gunshot

residue the shot must have come from  
the parade cars.

DIMA

I agree. The people at street level and  
in the motorcade are adamant that they  
smelled gunpowder. This could not have  
come from the sixth floor window. The  
wind was wrong for them to smell  
anything from Tabarik's position.

(pause)

One final man to see.

**INT. VETERAN'S APARTMENT - DONETSK - DAY**

A young GRANDDAUGHTER opens the door and lets DIMA and  
ALYONA in. She is expecting them. Perhaps DIMA called ahead  
of their visit.

DIMA and ALYONA enter the apartment and there is a very old  
VETERAN in a chair. He has many war decorations on his  
black dress jacket and we see wartime photos on the wall.  
One decoration on his chest is the "Hero of the Soviet  
Union." It is an ounce of gold in the shape of a star. It  
gives the man instant credibility. This is the reason they  
are there. They want a credible witness.

The VETERAN still believes in Stalin as there are many  
symbols still in the room and still a "red" corner.

The VETERAN struggles to get up but insists on rising to  
shake hands. He is nearly 100 years old.

DIMA

You were with the other veterans in the  
car behind the soldier? This is ALYONA  
and she is a Moscow journalist.

ALYONA

Nice to meet you. What an incredible  
career you have had? I want to talk to  
you about the war and your life  
sometime.

VETERAN

I thought you came about the parade. I was two cars back from the admiral's car.

ALYONA

I did. Can you tell me what you saw or heard.

VETERAN

I've hunted all my life and I handled all kinds of weapons in the army. I knew they were rifle shots and there were three of them. A second or two and I smelled gunpowder.

(pause)

I'm thinking that is strange because I can't see how I can smell the powder from a rifle in that high a building.

The VETERAN leans forward with conviction and he looks squarely into ALYONA's eyes.

VETERAN

You don't smell gunpowder unless you are upwind from it and it blows in your face.

ALYONA

The army claims none of their guns were fired that day.

VETERAN

Well I don't know about what they say. I can't say. Ask my grandson. He was there, taking pictures.

ALYONA

Is he here?

VETERAN

Yes.

The young GRANDDAUGHTER goes to knock on a bedroom door. She opens it and we see the GRANDSON sitting at a computer.

GRANDSON

Send her in.

DIMA stays in the front room with the VETERAN. ALYONA moves toward the bedroom.

VETERAN

(to Dima)

There was a longer pause between the first and second then between the second and third shots.

ALYONA pauses and tries to think what this information means. DIMA writes the statement in his notebook.

ALYONA enters the room and we see the GRANDSON is an accomplished digital photographer. He has a very expensive digital camera on the desk. On the computer, he is looking at hundreds of photos from the parade.

ALYONA

Where were you standing? Can you show me?

ALYONA shows him a map. He points.

ALYONA

Okay, show me what you have.

GRANDSON

Can I get paid?

ALYONA

Show me and we will see.

GRANDSON

The first vehicle.

He shows them six or so frames taken in rapid succession. There is nothing remarkable. It appears the zoom lens is at 100 or 120 mm.

GRANDSON

The second vehicle.

He shows them six or so frames. This is the vehicle with ADMIRAL KIREYEV and CAPTAIN CHARKOV. There is nothing



remarkable. The photos were taken only seconds before the shots were fired. The occupants of the vehicle are all Navy; some are waving and have a smile. The GRANDSON pauses on the last of the six photos.

ALYONA

We will buy that one.

GRANDSON

The third vehicle is a military truck.

The truck is a Russian Army Ural-4420 with flatbed trailer. The soldiers are standing in the trailer.

We see again a succession of six photos. One soldier (VSEVOLOD ZHILOV) in the trailer has his AK-47 rifle resting at his side. The second frame shows a strange look on VSEVOLOD's face and movement of his hand toward the gun. He looks up and backward to his right. The next five frames show VSEVOLOD's bringing up the weapon. The series of photos end just as VSEVOLOD has brought up the weapon. The last frame shows the weapon is at an inclination and might be actually pointing at the vehicle in front of them.

ALYONA

We want all six of these.

GRANDSON

How much?

ALYONA

You will have to argue with my editor.

GRANDSON

What about the next six?

ALYONA focuses on the screen again.

GRANDSON

Here is where the shooting begins.

The GRANDSON had pulled back from the zoom. And the lens now is at 90 mm. The truck seems to be accelerating rapidly. Many of the soldiers are falling down backward as were progress through the six frames which are progressively from a wider lens, 80, 70, 60 mm. By the last frame there shots are from a 50 mm lens. The last frame

shows VSEVOLOD falling down but maintains his AK-47 pointing forward.

We see the SOLDIERS and the CROWD on the sidewalk all are looking up at the sixth floor. No one seems to be looking at the soldiers in the truck.

While it isn't totally clear from the photos (we can infer), it seems that after the first shot VSEVOLOD reaches for his weapon to return fire at the Tabarik. Not captured in the frames is the actual discharge of the weapon or a puff of smoke. The camera takes a second or so to record to the SD card before more photos can be taken. We are missing the important frames, because the camera was recording at that moment.

There are six frames of VSEVOLOD reaching for his weapon. And then there are six frames of the truck accelerating and the soldiers falling backwards.

ALYONA

Don't show these to anyone else.

GRANDSON

I need to take them off my website?

ALYONA

Immediately.

The GRANDSON brings up his Word Press program and deletes the post and then deletes the image files.

She immediately takes out her electronic device and begins messaging her boss. Her phone chirps; there is an immediate reply.

ALYONA takes out her card. On the back she writes her EDITOR's email. She shows him the front of the card with her information.

ALYONA

Email these to me. And to him.

She flips the card over and shows him the back.

ALYONA

He will pay you.

GRANDSON

How do I know?

ALYONA

He is in Moscow. Believe me he will pay you. You are going to be famous.

ALYONA leaves but stops to speak with the VETERAN.

ALYONA

Your grandson is a marvellous photographer.

VETERAN

I know. I know. He takes so many.

ALYONA

When this is done, I'm going to come back to visit with you.

VETERAN

You better hurry back; I'm an old man.

ALYONA chuckles.

ALYONA

Sure.

**INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE VETERAN'S APARTMENT**

DIMA

Any detective who has been involved in a number of cases will tell you the best way to solve a crime is through your witnesses. Don't look too far and keep it on the ground. Keep working your witnesses and they will solve it for you.

ALYONA

Same for journalists.

**EXT. PARKING LOT OF VETERAN'S APARTMENT - DAY**

Later, downstairs, the EDITOR calls ALYONA.

EDITOR

We can't use these photos.

ALYONA

You paid him for them right!

EDITOR

Yes, that kid was quite happy. But only to keep them from the other papers.

ALYONA

We have proven that the two bullets that hit the admiral did not come from the same gun.

(pause)

We have identified a soldier there in the follow up car. He is the second shooter.

(pause)

It was an accident. The second bullet hit the Admiral in the back, exited and then went into the Captain. The third bullet is from the soldier's gun. He was about to return fire.

(pause)

Look, I sent you the story. I also sent a copy to the Kremlin.

(pause)

Now what are you going to do?

EDITOR

This is highly volatile.

ALYONA

The President of Russia himself asked me to write that article.

EDITOR

He told you to investigate; he didn't say anything about publishing it.

ALYONA

It seems if they didn't want it published they would have called.

EDITOR

They called me.

ALYONA

You spoke to the President directly?

EDITOR

An aide.

ALYONA

You must be kidding? Who?

There is silence.

ALYONA

Don't you see this is all army and a cover up?

EDITOR

I'm going to sit on this story for a few days and see what shakes loose.

ALYONA

No!

EDITOR

Yes!

ALYONA

There is going to be a second article. I'm about to examine the behaviour of the army.

EDITOR

Well you can write it but I'm not saying I will publish it.

**INT. FSB OFFICE - DONETSK - NIGHT**

Nothing fancy. The office is in a partially burned building. The FSB is under a lot of pressure and scrutiny. It is obviously wearing on the face of these two agents.

DIRECTOR

Where the hell have you been?

AGENT

I was out doing my job.

DIRECTOR  
Doing your job, huh?  
(pause)  
What's this?

AGENT  
I interview five wives per day.

DIRECTOR  
This one's from Tabarik.

AGENT  
I've got 100 of these things.

DIRECTOR  
It says that she's afraid he is going  
to do something crazy.

AGENT  
Three times a week. I hear shit like  
this.

DIRECTOR  
But this was the wife the assassin of  
the brother of the President!  
  
And it has been sitting on your desk  
for ten days?

AGENT  
We had another goddamn delusional  
Muslim! A nobody.

DIRECTOR  
Yeah, well he's a somebody now!

AGENT  
She never said one word about killing  
the admiral!

DIRECTOR  
This might be, probably is, now that I  
think about it the biggest screw-up in  
the history of American law  
enforcement.

**INT. HOTEL - FRIDAY - LATE AFTERNOON**

ALYONA takes her shoes off and appears exhausted. She sits on the bed and watches television.

TV REPORTER

By all accounts the two hours at the hospital were sheer pandemonium. The lead car and the car carrying the admiral arrive at the hospital at 12:36 pm, 6 minutes after the shots were fired at the parade.

The TV station has secured new amateur video made on a cell phone. It shows the hospital personnel that are bringing the CAPTAIN into the hospital.

We see a very old VETERAN and the OTHER VETERANS approach the car with the ADMIRAL and CAPTAIN. The CAPTAIN is helped inside the hospital. The YOUNG FEMALE NAVY OFFICER is covering the ADMIRAL and we can't see the real carnage. Her head is bowed over him. She is weeping uncontrollably.

FEMALE OFFICER

They have murdered him. They have murdered him.

VERY OLD VETERAN

Come on dear. Let the doctors see him.  
(pause)  
Please.

The OLD VETERAN opens the car door and climbs into the back seat. He hugs the FEMALE OFFICER and pats her on the back. It takes a very long time, but we see the old VETERAN slowly coax her to give up the body. The FEMALE OFFICER hugs the OLD VETERAN and the HOSPITAL STAFF collect the ADMIRAL's body and put it on a stretcher.

There is blood coving most of the FEMALE OFFICER's white uniform.

An UNKNOWN MAN takes off his coat and puts it over the ADMIRAL's head.

Hospital personnel quickly cart the ADMIRAL's body into the emergency room.

In the background, we can see the truck full of SOLDIERS unloading. The SOLDIERS stand in awe. They look dumbfounded, until an OFFICER begins shouting at them. They line up and we can see one SOLDIER being stuck in the head and then punched in the stomach.

Then, we can assume the OFFICER is telling the SOLDIERS NOT to talk to anyone about the events.

TV ANCHOR

Clearly this is one of the most tragic days in this long and costly war.

(pause)

Admiral Kireyev leaves a wife and two young children in Saint Petersburg.

ALYONA no longer appears exhausted. She rises from the bed, puts her shoes on again. The investigation receives a second wind. ALYONA gathers her camera and recorder and leaves the room.

ALYONA is a tenacious journalist and the television reports only serve to energize her search for the truth.

#### **INT. NIGHTCLUB - DONETSK - NIGHT**

The SOLDIERS were out drinking the entire night before. ALYONA is going from bar to bar asking about SOLDIERS. The Russian army has been fighting Ukraine and Europe for over 18 months and the end of the war is of course a reason to celebrate.

WAITRESS

The soldiers?

ALYONA

Yes, there were here the night before the parade?

WAITRESS

Sure, they are in here until 4 am every night.

ALYONA shows her a photo of the VSEVOLOD ZHILOV. It isn't a particularly good photo.



WAITRESS

He looks like every other soldier in here. Except for the glasses.

DIMA arrives with an excited look on his face. It is assumed that ALYONA phoned him. He reads from his notebook. It is dark in the nightclub, but he manages.

DIMA

The night before the assassination many of the soldiers were out all night. The soldier in question was not with them. They have had problems with alcoholism, drug abuse and even suicide. But the kid is supposed to be a good kid.

ALYONA

How do you know this?

DIMA gestures to a COLONEL who is at the other end of the bar.

DIMA again reads from his notebook.

DIMA

A number of them were out on the town. They are a close-knit band of brothers. The down side is lots of pressure.

(pause)

The kid was in bed by midnight.

(pause)

The other soldiers were in the company of scantily clad women, or in other words strippers. The drinking went on until 5 am.

(pause)

Then they went back to the base to clean up for the parade. They started the day at 7 am.

ALYONA

The bar hopping must have added overtures to the next day. Most of those soldiers were hung over.

DIMA

Some people in the crowd saw Tabarik in the window. Wouldn't you think if a man went to bed at a reasonably decent hour and hadn't been drinking before, he would be more alert to see those things?

ALYONA

That didn't come from the colonel.

DIMA

No, but he is sure no one could have prevented the assassination.

ALYONA

The weapons in the follow-up vehicle could have been more secure.

DIMA

I know his name. I found out who that kid is...

ALYONA

Well?

DIMA

"Vsevolod Zhilov". He only entered the army four months ago. He was a driver, he drove a truck. His job was to wash, fuel, check the oil and water and prepare a truck for use.

ALYONA

It is an odd sort of luck, that he was expected to take the AK-47 and return fire at a sniper.

DIMA

They were not instructed about anything, including unloading the weapon.

ALYONA

Can we find this kid?

**INT. HOTEL - DONETSK - NIGHT**

ALYONA wants to meet with an ARMY GENERAL. He of course refuses. But she waits in the lobby. When the GENERAL arrives she approaches him.

ALYONA

Hello. I'm Alyona Yolkov and I'm a journalist from Moscow. Can I ask you some questions?

The GENERAL looks at Alyona, evaluating her body. He is clearly an arrogant and sexist pig. He smiles and it appears that he might talk to her.

GENERAL

Certainly, let's have a drink?

ALYONA

Vsevolod Zhilov. Can we talk to him?

GENERAL

Why? He is a totally innocent boy.

ALYONA

So you know who I'm talking about?

GENERAL

Certainly, let's have a drink?

ALYONA

No thank you. Has the autopsy been performed?

The GENERAL doesn't respond. He smiles and gestures to the bar.

ALYONA

Has it been done yet? Where was that?

The GENERAL doesn't respond. Again, he gestures to the bar.

ALYONA

I'm looking for information. I have a letter.

ALYONA shows him the letter from PRESIDENT KIREYEV.

The GENERAL's face turns to anger. Instead of opening doors the letter seems to have closed this one.

GENERAL

I'm sorry. I can't help you. Perhaps if you came up to my room, we can talk.

ALYONA politely refuses.

ALYONA

I'm sorry. Thank you anyway.

ALYONA walks away and we now see that CZAR DRESVYANIN has been watching the exchange from across the room. The GENERAL gives a stern look at DRESVYANIN.

**EXT. NIGHT - STREET - DONETSK**

ALYONA exits the hotel. She is walking on the street. DIMA is watching the hotel from a car. ALYONA is followed by a SOLDIER. DIMA notices and follows. The ALYONA enters a park followed by the SOLDIER. DIMA is nearing the SOLDIER and is about to overtake him, but is set upon by two OTHER SOLDIERS. There is a fistfight. DIMA if not overwhelmed is a formidable fighter. The OTHER SOLDIERS begins to lose and pull knives. DIMA pulls a pistol and shoots them each in the leg. They scream out.

ALYONA hears and once alerted begins to run from the SOLDIER still following her. DIMA runs to catch-up. The SOLDIER over takes ALYONA and struggles with her. He handcuffs her. The SOLDIER is about to inject her with a syringe. It is meant to be a drug overdose but DIMA arrives to shoot the SOLDIER at the very last moment.

**INT. HOTEL - NIGHT**

ALYONA and DIMA are in her hotel room. DIMA pulls the curtains back less than one inch and looks out the window. It is very late and the street is deserted. He looks more fearful than ALYONA, who simply turns on the television.

TV JOURNALIST

We're about to wind this up for tonight, because all that could happen on one day has.

(pause)

It has all been shocking. At noon today, Admiral Kireyev was alive as any human being ever gets, young, strong, vigorous, looking forward to a lasting peace.

(pause)

There is no more news tonight, and really no more to say, except that what has happened today has been just too much, too ugly, and too fast.

ALYONA and DIMA do not speak.

**INT. PRESS CONFERENCE - DONETSK - MORNING**

It is Saturday morning, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.

There are the traditional questions from the media.

REPORTER #1

What did the FSB know about the links between Tabarik and America?

REPORTER #2

What is known about the FSB aggressively tracking Tabarik's movements?

REPORTER #3

Are the Tabarik backyard photographs authentic?

REPORTER #4

Is it true Tabarik lived in the United States for a time?

ALYONA

Can we talk to private Vsevolod Zhilov?

ARMY INVESTIGATOR

Private Zhilov is on leave.

ALYONA

And how do you know this? You have 80,000 soldiers in this... in the newly annexation areas and you know personally this soldier by name?

ARMY INVESTIGATOR  
We are very close to the enlisted men.

ALYONA  
Come on. He was in the follow-up car  
and discharged his weapon?  
(pause)  
It was photographed!

ARMY INVESTIGATOR  
There are a number of faked photos  
online.

REPORTER #1  
The source of those fake photos has  
been reported to be the Army Cyber-  
warfare office in Moscow. Did the army  
alter those photos?

ARMY INVESTIGATOR  
No.

REPORTER #2  
Why are you trying to confuse everyone?

ARMY INVESTIGATOR  
Thank you for coming out and asking  
such interesting questions. The  
investigation is closed and a report is  
forthcoming.

Of course they don't like being lied to. The JOURNALISTS  
are disgruntled and show their disgust. Some JOURNALISTS  
laugh at the ineptness of the army.

It is almost as if the army is living in the 19<sup>th</sup> century  
and the JOURNALISTS are living in the digital age.

**EXT. SIDEWALK - DONETSK STREET - DAY**

ALYONA is emailed the link to an interview. ALYONA can't  
see for the glare and the street is noisy. She steps into a  
women's dress shop and watches the video on her smart phone  
from inside a fitting room.

Tabarik's MOTHER is being interviewed from a village in Chechnya.

MOTHER

Well, I always knew Duqvaakha was some sort of secret agent. Didn't you?

WESTERN REPORTER

What are you talking about?

MOTHER

They recruited him when he was in America.

WESTERN REPORTER

Who's they? And what possibly for?

MOTHER

They did. The U.S. government did. He was sent on dangerous missions.

(pause)

The first was to America.

WESTERN REPORTER

Okay, okay, let me get this straight. He has had six jobs in the last two years. Your son, from this village and a low-level computer programmer, is a top-secret government spy?

MOTHER

Yes.

WESTERN REPORTER

Mm-hmm. Do you have any proof?

MOTHER

Duqvaakha is a dangerous fellow. Don't you watch your own television channel? Duqvaakha Tabarik has done more for peace than any other living human being.

(pause)

He is a hero. As-salamu alaykum.

ALYONA exits the dress shop.

**INT. DONETSK POLICE STATION - DAY**

DIMA is interviewing a YOUNG WOMAN.

YOUNG LADY

The second shot was fired, the soldiers  
fell down and the truck took off.

DIMA is interviewing a young man.

YOUNG MAN

I saw a flash of pink like someone was  
shooting back at the guy up in the  
building and then everyone fell down.  
They got up about the time the truck  
was at the overpass.

DIMA

The flash of pink could have been a  
muzzle flash?

YOUNG MAN

I also saw either in the admiral's car  
stand up with an automatic weapon.

DIMA

Could it have been a soldier in the  
truck you saw?

YOUNG MAN

That is possible. I just have this  
image in my head of a man looking  
around with a machine gun.

DIMA

It took place very rapidly.

YOUNG MAN

I took three pictures but a soldier  
took my phone.

DIMA

Really?

DIMA is interviewing a middle-aged WOMAN.



DIMA

You were standing right here? About?

DIMA points to a point very near where the admiral was shot. She is on the sidewalk only 7 or 8 meters from the parade.

WOMAN

The admiral grabbed his throat and fell forward and I think I saw soldiers shooting back.

DIMA

Why did you think that?

WOMAN

I heard the first shot and there was a pause... like the terrorist was reloading or something, flipping that thing on a rifle. Loading it again... and then the second shot. And I thought he is reloading and going to fire again... but very quickly I heard a third shot.

DIMA

And?

WOMAN

A different shot. Louder. And then the shooting stopped. I thought a soldier shot the terrorist.

**EXT. ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL - DAY**

The Ural-4420 truck with flatbed trailer is parked outside a former school building. The trailer was in the parade but also brought the body of the admiral from the Donetsk to the field hospital for the autopsy. Inside the building is an army field hospital.

A NAVY INVESTIGATOR and a NAVY DOCTOR walk past several ARMY GUARDS and is not challenged. The war is over and things are seriously relaxed. If they even notice, the GUARDS probably assume he is there about the admiral's death and autopsy.

The NAVY DOCTOR walks into the hospital.

The NAVY INVESTIGATOR approaches the trailer. He climbs aboard the trailer and walks to the front. He pulls out a cell phone and photographs a single shell casing. He picks it up with a pencil and places it in a plastic evidence bag.

**INT. ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL - AUTOPSY ROOM**

We revisit the autopsy. Generally an autopsy is conducted with just a small team, but this is different. There are far too many non-medical officers in the room. There are two staff officers that were sent by the army generals. They are taking notes and they have their own photographer.

ARMY PATHOLOGIST

(to army investigator)

From the outset I can see basic forensic practices being ignored. There are people in here that should be treated as witnesses, and yet they refuse to leave.

The ARMY INVESTIGATOR simply looks at the doctor without response.

ARMY PATHOLOGIST

(to other doctors)

Despite the chaos in this room, I think we can agree that a bullet penetrated the lower region of the admiral's neck (upper back) just below the collar line at the shoulder. This is a very neat wound.

(pause)

The entry wound was only 8 mm in diameter, which suite a 7.62 mm full-metal-jacket round.

(pause)

This wound in the head is a different story. Nothing neat about this.

(pause)

The bullet responsible for this wound clearly hit the admiral in the back of the head, causing a massive wound 130 mm in diameter.

An X-RAY TECHNICIAN follows the instructions of the doctors conducting the autopsy.

**INT. ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL - PHOTOGRAPHIC LAB**

After exposing the film, he rushes back to his photographic laboratory to process the exposures and bring them back for the pathologists to review. He is followed by some soldiers who seem to be there to intimidate him.

X-RAY TECH  
You can't go in here.

The soldiers reluctantly wait outside.

Alone inside the dark room, the X-RAY TECHNICIAN hangs up the film in front of a light. He takes out his cell phone and take a digital photograph of each x-ray.

He gathers up the x-rays and returns to the hall. He lectures the SOLDIERS at the return to the autopsy lab.

X-RAY TECH  
And there is another thing. You shouldn't harass the doctors. It is far too loud in the room and all this debate is not your job, you aren't doctors.

The SOLDIERS are not amused at the lecture.

**INT. ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL - AUTOPSY ROOM**

An ARMY MEDICAL ADMINISTRATOR approaches the X-RAY TECH.

MEDICAL ADMINISTRATOR  
Keep your mouth shut.

X-RAY TECH  
Okay, that is perfectly blunt.

The ARMY INVESTIGATOR corners the autopsy PHOTOGRAPHER.

ARMY INVESTIGATOR  
How many photos have you taken?

PHOTOGRAPHER

About 100.

ARMY INVESTIGATOR

Good that is enough.

The ARMY INVESTIGATOR holds his hand out for the media card.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Hang on, I need several more that the pathologists have ordered specifically.

The ARMY INVESTIGATOR is suspicious and his eyes don't leave the PHOTOGRAPHER. The PHOTOGRAPHER turns his back and pushes a few buttons. He is copying the card onto another. It is a digital camera with two storage cards.

The PHOTOGRAPHER takes a few more photos and then gladly hands one of the cards to the ARMY INVESTIGATOR.

There is a MAJOR GENERAL (one star) and CIVILIAN and they seem to be giving orders to the ARMY PATHOLOGIST. The PATHOLOGIST and DOCTORS are about to remove and weigh each of the organs.

The PATHOLOGIST is called over.

MAJOR GENERAL

The family of the admiral would not like you to peruse this path any further.

While the PATHOLOGIST is away, the DOCTORS turn back to the body (with their back to the general) and whisper amongst themselves.

ARMY DOCTOR #1

What are they trying to hide?

ARMY DOCTOR #2

Alcoholism?

ARMY DOCTOR #1

He has a bad back from a football incident; I read that.

ARMY DOCTOR #2

Look plain and simple this autopsy must be done, it doesn't need to be done properly. It must be done for record purposes only. Finding the facts, forget it. The army already knows the facts.

ARMY DOCTOR #1

That is so wrong. If everything is on the up and up here, we will have a cause of death in a few hours. There is a full-metal-jacket wound in his neck and an explosive bullet wound in the head.

The ARMY PATHOLOGIST returns to the table.

ARMY DOCTOR #2

All the exhibits would be bagged and numbered. The proper continuity and signatures would have been secured. None of this is happening.

ARMY PATHOLOGIST

(whispering)

Do you know how many army officers are in this room? And their boss wants this finished.

The brain of the ADMIRAL falls out of the skull on the table. They place it in a container and store it in the refrigerator.

The blood sample was handed to a LAB TECH but it is intercepted by the ARMY INVESTIGATOR at the door.

The autopsy is over.

The ARMY INVESTIGATOR gathers up the microscope slides and the x-rays and everyone leaves the room.

An EMBALMER enters the room. One SOLDIER remains to watch the embalming.

**INT. ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL - HALL WAY**

The ARMY INVESTIGATOR approaches the PATHOLOGIST.

ARMY INVESTIGATOR

Do you mind if I have a quick word with you.

(pause)

We have a delicate situation. The President wants his brother's brain.

There is a long pause. The ARMY PATHOLOGIST contemplates refusing..

ARMY PATHOLOGIST

Sure, it is a container in the refrigerator.

They return to the autopsy room and the brain is turned over to the ARMY INVESTIGATOR.

**INT. STREET - DONETSK - DAY**

It is November and about to become very cold. A HOMELESS MAN is digging through the trash for clothes.

ALYONA interrupts his search to interviewing this HOMELESS MAN, who is in men's pants but also wearing a woman's blouse. He is possibly not the most credible witness, but still he helps clarify the story.

HOMELESS MAN

The soldier reached down and grabbed the Kalashnikov to bring it to his shoulder. He flipped off the safety and at that time he fell-over backward because the truck accelerated and the gun went off.

ALYONA

Accidentally?

HOMELESS MAN

Must have been. It is sad for him and it is sad for the country. I don't like the President, but I feel for him.

**INT. RUSSIAN MILITARY BASE - GUARD HOUSE - DAY**

ALYONA is interviewing a soldier about the war. She turns on "sexy" and approaches a SOLDIER with a camera and the potential he will be seen as a hero.

ALYONA

In the war, how fast were you called on to act?

SOLDIER

You must always be ready.

ALYONA

Your weapon was kept ready?

SOLDIER

Good to go.

ALYONA

What does that mean?

SOLDIER

It means loaded and cocked. You just have to release the safety and fire.

ALYONA

Is that dangerous?

SOLDIER

Sometimes it is more dangerous not to be ready to fire.

ALYONA

War is a fast event?

SOLDIER

It can be.

ALYONA

Is your weapon "good to go" now?

SOLDIER

Yes.

The hostilities are over. The soldier realizes his mistake and removes the bullet from the chamber.

ALYONA

The war is over. There aren't any hostilities.

SOLDIER

It is more of a habit. I'm afraid once you have been shot at, it is more of a state of mind.

ALYONA

Everyone now has their weapon "good to go"?

SOLDIER

The rookies probably not.

(pause)

I'm sorry that was probably a mistake. You are right the war is over. I'm just a little nervous still.

ALYONA

That is okay. I understand. I think people understand, you have been at war.

SOLDIER

True.

**INT. STREET CAR - NIGHT**

The street car is empty except for ALYONA and the X-RAY TECHNICIAN. It is very late at night or very early.

ALYONA

Thank for you emailing me the x-rays.

X-RAY TECH

Earlier today the pathologist got off the phone with Moscow. He comes to me with tape and some bullet fragments. He wanted an x-ray of the admiral's bone fragments.

ALYONA

He gave you metal fragments?



X-RAY TECH

Yes, varying sizes and he wanted me to falsify an X-ray.

ALYONA

Did you do it?

X-RAY TECH

Yes. I did.

ALYONA

Why?

X-RAY TECH

Are you kidding? They want to obscure the fact that it was a different bullet that killed the admiral.

ALYONA

Oh, okay. You are afraid.

X-RAY TECH

Damn right.

ALYONA

Okay, I didn't mean to be judgmental. I understand.

X-RAY TECH

I might regret it but I did it. I've been under a little pressure.

(pause)

They told me that no matter if I talked or not, if it got out I would spend the rest of my life in prison.

ALYONA

He had a call from Moscow and he just told you to tape the metal fragments to the bone?

X-RAY TECH

He came in and it was the first thing he said, "I want these bone fragments X-rayed with these metal fragments taped."

ALYONA  
Okay, clear. Thank you.

**INT. PRESS CONFERENCE DONETSK - DAY**

It is Sunday morning, November 24, 2017.

The next day, the ARMY SPOKESPERSON is handing out a report. It is approximately 100 pages and the journalists run for it. DIMA gets into the tussle for a copy. It seems like there are 12 reporters and only 10 reports. There is a scrum for the documents.

DIMA brings ALYONA a copy.

ALYONA  
(reading from report)  
Each of the soldiers were told to write a statement of their actions on the day of the parade.

She scans down to Vsevolod Zhilov name in the report.

ALYONA  
(reading from report)  
Vsevolod Zhilov's statement reads, "The last shot seemed to hit the Admiral in the head and cause a noise at the point of impact which made him fall forward and to the left again. At the end of the last shot, I reach for my weapon. I loaded and cocked it and I stood up looked around. At this point we crossed under the overpass and left the scene of the shooting."

(to Dima)  
This is wrong. There are 11 witnesses that say he had the weapon at the time of the third shot. Interestingly the photographs prove differently.

(pause)  
There isn't any of the soldiers from the follow-up car in this report. Only the shooter's statement, which isn't really a statement at all. The Veteran's statement isn't in here.

(pause)

There are 11 people we found who smelled gunpowder at ground level. They are in this report either.

(pause)

Dima, none of your witnesses, the people interviewed in your office.

(pause)

Behind the follow up truck with the soldiers are 12 other vehicles at the tail of the parade. All but 1 was open topped. They contained members of the press and dignitaries and they were all facing forward. There are six statements here of all those people. Four of the six smelled gunpowder. Where are the other statements?

DIMA gestures like this was to be expected.

ALYONA

This is a document of omission. Witnesses not questioned. Questions that aren't asked. Evidence that is ignored.

**INT. APARTMENT - DONETSK - DAY**

ALYONA knocks and is let in. There are at least ten teenagers in the apartment. The air is full of marijuana smoke. Five appear to live in the apartment. They seem to be a computer club, perhaps a group of hackers. One young GIRL has a video of the entire shooting.

The young GIRL shows ALYONA the video on her computer. We see only ALYONA's reaction. And then the GIRL asks everyone to leave the room. ALYONA remains.

GIRL

My father bought me this camera for my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. We worked hard, built a good, honest life for me.

(pause)

But for so long it was a Russian life.

ALYONA

We'd like to talk to you about making a deal.

GIRL

I wish I never took this film. But now I'm going to have to live with it.

ALYONA

I admire you, you know. I've been to war. Know what it's like to use a camera. You kept shooting.

GIRL

No. It wasn't a war; that has been over. I filmed a murder.

ALYONA

Pravda is just as anxious as you are to give your video a wide audience. Everyone will know what happened. It might avert more war.

GIRL

And I want to say very clearly I know what this is, and what it's done. What it is going to do. So if you want a chance to do the right thing with this film then you're going to have to pay for it.

(pause)

You have to pay to keep it safe from the army and to protect me.

ALYONA

I think I understand.

(pause)

Do you have a bank account?

GIRL

Yes.

ALYONA

I need those numbers so my editor can wire money from Moscow.

**EXT. AIRPORT - DONETSK - DAY**

There is freezing rain and the beginnings of a snow.

DIMA brings ALYONA to the airport. It is a small airport shared by the military and Aeroflot commercial flights.

Waiting for a flight to Moscow, ALYONA and DIMA are standing at the window over looking the tarmac. They are trying to perhaps have some romantic words. However, a small military plane (Yakovlev Yak-40) taxis up near the terminal.

Inside the terminal, we see DRESVYANIN there are about seven other well-armed soldiers and they seem to be surrounding an unarmed VSEVOLOD ZHILOV. VSEVOLOD is sitting with his hands covering his face. He looks to have been crying. He looks depressed. The other soldiers are not particularly alert, and some even appear to be boisterous.

ALYONA has been studying the photos and video of the parade and she recognizes Private VSEVOLOD. ALYONA points him out to DIMA.

DIMA speaks into his radio.

DIMA returns to looking outside. He is simply waiting for other policemen to show up.

When THREE ARMED POLICEMEN arrive, DIMA joins them and they move to confront the SOLDIERS. The several members of the AIRPORT SECURITY assist the police.

ALYONA sits down and begins recording video.

The POLICE draw their weapons and catch the GROUP OF SOLDIERS off guard.

DIMA  
You can't take him.

DRESVYANIN  
(flashing his weapon)  
The hell we can't.

MAJOR SHUKSHIN just arrives at the situation and sees that weapons are drawn and it seems to be a stand off. SHUKSHIN draws his weapon and sits beside ALYONA. He puts the pistol in her ribs. His coat obscures the pistol.

ALYONA begins to lower her camera.

SHUKSHIN

No. No. Continue to record this. It is your job, correct?

(pause)

Who do you think will win?

ALYONA

Neither side will win.

SHUKSHIN

You are probably right.

ALYONA

There must be some room to negotiate an end to this.

SHUKSHIN

You think you can tell the world what happened?

ALYONA

They already know. It is all on countless video cell phones and many digital cameras.

SHUKSHIN

They will not believe your story.

ALYONA

Some people will always side with the military. The sheep.

SHUKSHIN

You media are traitors to the nation.

ALYONA

How is that?

SHUKSHIN

You are about to threaten the Russian national security. The Russian army can't be made to look weak or incompetent. When people think of our great army, they don't need to think of this private.

ALYONA

You just won a war, you can afford a mistake or two. Russia is very thankful for your service. But this goes too far.

SHUKSHIN

We can't be made to look this way to outsiders and especially not to the President.

(pause)

What happened here must stay here for the good of Russia.

DRESVYANIN is nervously looking around searching for some sort of advantage, and he notices SHUKSHIN sitting beside ALYONA.

SHUKSHIN nods his head to DRESVYANIN, giving him permission.

DRESVYANIN raises his weapon and points it at VSEVOLOD.

The POLICEMEN fire on the soldiers who reach for their weapons. Several soldiers drop their weapons and put their hand up. Instead of shooting VSEVOLOD, DRESVYANIN takes a bullet to his shoulder and then takes a wild shot at DIMA. He misses and DIMA shoots DRESVYANIN dead. The only two soldiers to survive the shot out are VSEVOLOD and SHUKSHIN.

During the shooting, VSEVOLOD closes his eyes. ALYONA also closes her eyes and doesn't open them until the shooting is finished.

SHUKSHIN is frozen and with the bullets flying doesn't move. He doesn't kill ALYONA, while he certainly could have.

When it is over, DIMA slowly approaches SHUKSHIN and disarms him.

CUT TO: Later, we see all the POLICE INVESTIGATORS and JOURNALISTS photographing the scene. AMBULANCE PERSONNEL are packing off the three or four wounded SOLDIERS. One POLICEMAN was wounded.

There is a long shot of DIMA and ALYONA who are interviewing VSEVOLOD. They are in a remote and quiet area of the airport but still within sight of the location where the shooting took place.

It is a very informal interview and VSEVOLOD appears relieved to be talking. But, VSEVOLOD is still in fear for his life. He looks around nervously. It appears that the FSB men are guarding him now. There are two or three men standing around while DIMA and ALYONA speak to the VSEVOLOD.

We can observe from VSEVOLOD's gestures that he admits firing the fatal shot. He shows them how it happened - how he was going to fire at the sniper but the vehicle accelerated and his weapon discharged.

ALYONA hugs VSEVOLOD. DIMA shakes his hand and appears to be saying, "thank you" and "good luck".

#### **INT. KREMLIN STAIRS - DAY**

ALYONA is climbing the stairs. She is about to speak to PRESIDENT KIREYEV. She is apprehensive.

We see a series of one or two second flashbacks. ALYONA is running all these images and complex relationships through her head.

TABARIK poses in his backyard holding a rifle. His American wife takes the photo.

Russian military parade begins at the airport. The sun is shining. The people are welcoming. Several high-ranking ADMIRALS and GENERALS arrive on planes from Saint Petersburg and Moscow.

Admiral Kireyev takes a seat in a limousine with the top down. Beside him is a beautiful FEMALE NAVY OFFICER. She is obviously his mistress.

It is revealed that the parade is on the way to a luncheon and military decoration ceremony. We see tables being set and caterers preparing food. There are bomb sniffing dogs and security preparing for the event. There are several civilians, journalist and veterans in wheel chairs waiting. There is a military band warming up before the event.



We see TABARIK eating in the second floor lunchroom. He is laughing and joking with other employees. When the other employees leave (to watch the parade) he pulls out his smart phone and plays a game.

We see the video that Pravda has bought from the GIRL. We have seen other cell phone video in this film. This is a different video (High-Definition) and everything is totally clear.

In this new video, we see TABARIK fire two shots and we see VSEVOLOD fire the third and fatal shot.

It is similar to the Zapruder film from Dallas; only it reveals everything. It is shot from the left hand side of the parade. We can see clearly all three objects - the sixth floor window, the admiral's car and the truck with the soldiers.

We see the FEMALE NAVY OFFICER, on the trunk of the car, trying to gather the admiral's brain material and a particularly large bone fragment.

From another cell phone video, we see the fatally wounded admiral on a gurney with a military coat over his head covering the head-wound. He is being wheeled into the hospital.

At the hospital the FEMALE NAVY OFFICER follow the admiral's stretcher into the Emergency Room. In both hands she is cradling a large section of his skull and brain matter.

We see the FEMALE NAVY OFFICER collapsed and sitting on the floor while the doctors are working on the admiral. When it is over, a Navy officer extends his hand to help her stand.

We see the DOCTORS stop working to resuscitate the ADMIRAL KIREYEV. The DOCTORS and NURSES all look very defeated. A YOUNG DOCTOR refuses to stop CPR. An OLDER DOCTOR intervenes.

**INT. OFFICE OF THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENT - KREMLIN - DAY**

PRESIDENT KIREYEV is sitting with his palm over his chin. He is contemplating ALYONA's story.

ALYONA

I really believe this is what happened. Three shots were fired. The first is by Duqvaakha Tabarik. It missed but a ricochet bullet hits the admiral in the back of the head causing no real injury.

(pause)

It caused him to say, "My God, I'm hit."

(pause)

At the sound of gunfire Vsevolod Zhilov turns to look up at the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. He sees Tabarik.

(pause)

Tabarik fires again. The second bullet hits the admiral in the back, exits and then goes through Captain Charkov.

(pause)

In the follow-up vehicle, Zhilov has picked up his AK-12 and flicks off the safety. As the truck lunges forward, he loses his balance and accidentally pulls the trigger.

(pause)

The admiral is rushed to the hospital and a massive cover-up begins. Look at the heavy-handed part the army played on the sixth floor, at the hospital and at the autopsy.

There is a very long pause. PRESIDENT KIREYEV doesn't move.

ALYONA

The shots fired by Tabarik, while one did hit your brother in the neck, it was not fatal. He would have survived. A soldier accidentally killed your brother.

The door to the office is open only inches. The President glances out into a waiting area. We see a very worried VSEVOLOD wringing his hands. While it isn't clear, perhaps ALYONA has brought him to collaborate the story. Or the FSB has brought him to verify the story.

There is another very long pause. PRESIDENT KIREYEV doesn't move. We don't know if the PRESIDENT is still in shock or if he is just reasoning and trying to judge the ALYONA'S account of events.

PRESIDENT KIREYEV (like many chief executives) seems isolated; he has probably heard three versions of the events - the Army version, the FSB Version and ALYONA'S version.

The pause is so long that the AIDE gestures that they should leave the room. ALYONA leaves quietly.

ALYONA, half way out of the room, turns. She might expect a "thank you". PRESIDENT KIREYEV gives her a very slight nod.

**INT. PRAVDA NEWSPAPER OFFICE (MOSCOW) - SUNDAY - DAY**

ALYONA walks to her desk and puts down some things, her laptop computer. The TECHNOLOGIST gestures to her that her story is online. And we see that ALYONA'S story is just now published on the newspaper's web-site.

When she sits at her desk, ALYONA clears the web page of JFK photos, that she had up on the browser the last two days. The JFK photos were the last thing she was working on before she was sent to Donetsk.

She brings up the new web page just built with Admiral's KIREYEV photos. There is something wrong. The TECHNOLOGIST is looking for a reaction.

ALYONA has a negative reaction. Something is strange; there is an odd look on ALYONA'S face. She turns to a second computer on an adjacent desk. She brings up the JFK page to compare. The web pages are almost identical. The photos are very similar and what is most odd is they are arranged in the exact same order.

IVAN

Remember me?

ALYONA doesn't respond. She is comparing John Kennedy and Yefim Kireyev photos. ALYONA looks as if she has seen a ghost. She is pale and in a state of shock.

IVAN

I was wondering if you wanted to have dinner? I know you just got back but...

ALYONA points to the two computers.

ALYONA

Look at these two web pages.

IVAN

Similar.

ALYONA

No; it's more than similar. Nearly identical.

ALYONA motions for the TECHNOLOGIST to come look at the two web pages. She shows the TECHNOLOGIST one page and then the other.

ALYONA

(to technologist)

Did you notice this?

The TECHNOLOGIST looks at the JFK page.

TECHNOLOGIST

No, I've never seen this page.

ALYONA

(to Ivan)

Look at each photo. So similar.

Yegor P. Kireyev, Sr. with sons Yegor P. Kireyev, Jr. (left) and Yefim F. Kireyev (right). Odessa, USSR, 1977.

Yefim F. Kireyev in a police man costume and sister Eunice Kireyev, circa 1971. Gorky Park, Moscow, USSR.

Yefim F. Kireyev's 1986 Moscow State University yearbook entry.

The Kireyev Children, 1974. (L-R) Jean, Bobby, Patricia, Eunice, Kathleen, Rosemary, Jack, Yegor Jr. Sochi, USSR, 1928.

The Kireyev Family at Sochi, 04 September 1977. L-R: Robert Kireyev, Yefim F. Kireyev, Eunice Kireyev, Jean Kireyev (on lap of) Joseph P. Kireyev Sr., Rose Fitzgerald Kireyev (behind) Patricia Kireyev, Kathleen Kireyev, Yegor P. Kireyev Jr. (behind) Rosemary Kireyev. Dog in foreground is "Buddy".

Rose Kireyev and her children, circa 1969. L-R: Rose Kireyev, Eunice Kireyev, Kathleen Kireyev, Rosemary Kireyev (seated in foreground), Yefim F. Kireyev, and Yegor P. Kireyev.

Yefim F. Kireyev in his Dexter Academy football uniform.

Yalta, April 1936 Ted, Jack, Bob.

Letter from Yefim F. Kireyev to his mother asking if he can be his newly born brother Teddy's godfather, 1978.

Yefim F. Kireyev graduates from Moscow State University, Moscow, USSR, June 1986.

Yefim F. Kireyev with dog, Bobby, at Sokolniki Park, Moscow, USSR, 1971.

Yefim Filippov Kireyev and Yegor P. Kireyev Jr., Moscow, USSR, circa 1965.

Yefim F. Kireyev sits and studies at his desk at Moscow State, c. 1987.

Yefim F. Kireyev poses with "Dunker" the dachshund at Berlin, East Germany, during his tour of Eastern Europe.

Yegor P. Kireyev Jr., Yegor P. Kireyev Sr., and Yefim F. Kireyev arriving at Southampton, England, July 2, 1984.

Yegor P. Kireyev Jr., Kathleen Kireyev, and Yefim F. Kireyev, sons and daughter of Soviet Ambassador to England Yegor P. Kireyev Sr., arrive at the House of Parliament in London to hear Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's announcement that a state of war existed between England and Argentina, April 1982.

There are also two photos of YOUNG YEFIM while in the navy.

ALYONA

American President Kennedy was the second son. He was assassinated on November 22<sup>nd</sup> in 1963.

(pause)

Admiral Kireyev was the second son and was assassinated riding in a parade.

We see ADMIRAL KIREYEV's obituary and the first part of it reads, November 22<sup>nd</sup> 1963 - November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017.

ALYONA

President JOHN F. KENNEDY died in Dallas on Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1963 at 12:30 p.m. CST.

IVAN is listening and trying to understand. It is difficult however. ALYONA shuffles through some papers.

ALYONA

YEFIM KIREYEV, Russian Admiral, was born in Moscow, Friday, November 22, 1963 at 9:30 p.m. MSK.

There are a row of clocks on the wall of the news room - Los Angles, Chicago, Washington, London, Paris, Berlin, Moscow, Beijing, Tokyo. The audience should infer from this shot that the times are correct.

Or ALYONA can use the internet to calculate the time conversion. Either way, we learn that 12:30 pm in Dallas is 9:30 pm in Moscow.

IVAN

Coincidence.

ALYONA

A death and a birth to the very minute?

ALYONA is about to respond but doesn't. The TECHNOLOGIST has walked away. The EDITOR seems to be watching them from a distance.

Why does ALYONA stop? This might be a story and she is protecting it for herself. Also, it might be that the story sounds too farfetched to be true.

This film has been about a man that dies in Dallas and at the same exact time a man with a very similar fate is born in Moscow? It is reincarnation or some strange synchronicity. It is magical realism.

Everything in the film is plausible and is explainable, EXCEPT this link between JOHN KENNEDY and YEFIM KIREYEV.

ALYONA gathers up her things. Everyone in the office is watching them. IVAN and ALYONA leave the newspaper office.

**EXT. ELEVATOR - PRAVDA NEWSPAPER OFFICE - DAY**

They enter the elevator. The door closes to the elevator.

ALYONA

Coincidence?

(pause)

They were killed in the same way on the same day of the year. One in Dallas and one in Donetsk.

IVAN

It's possible.

ALYONA

I was taught there are no coincidences.

IVAN

Of course, you are a journalist.

ALYONA

Both families deep in politics. The 1963 death, 1963 birth. Family. Four brothers, five sisters.

IVAN is emotionless.

ALYONA

Both men had beautiful wives, serial adulterers. Wives each had a miscarriage and a stillborn daughter.

**EXT. STREET - MOSCOW - DAY**

IVAN and ALYONA walk and continue their discussion.

ALYONA

Want more?

(pause)

Both families. Third oldest child, a sister, mentally impaired.

(pause)

Both men entered wars at the same age. The Great Patriotic War and Afghanistan. Both Navy.

(pause)

Christ! The names of their dogs are the same.

IVAN

In the American family the second son was President. President Kireyev was the first son.

ALYONA

John Kennedy had an older brother "Joseph" that was killed in the war. His plane was shot down over the Atlantic. His father expected "him" to be President.

IVAN

So they aren't identical.

ALYONA

President Kireyev was shot down but survived.

CUT TO: Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

YEGOR KIREYEV is the pilot of a plane searching for American submarines in the Indian Ocean. The plane seems to be tracking one sub. Suddenly, a missile comes from nowhere (actually a U.S. missile destroyer). The plane is seriously damaged, but KIREYEV masterfully gets the plane back to Aden, Yemen. When it safely lands... the crew is very thankful. They examine the damage to the plane. It appears a miracle that it could fly at all. There are large sections of the plane missing - half the vertical and half of one of the horizontal stabilizers. He has to steer the plane with thrust from the left and right engines.

RETURN TO: the Moscow street.



ALYONA

President Kennedy's patrol boat was sunk. Admiral Kireyev lost a boat too.

IVAN

So what does this mean?

ALYONA

You should know that there was some funny business with Kennedy's death too.

IVAN looks very guilty. Evidently, he can't keep a secret.

ALYONA

What?

(pause)

Tell me.

IVAN

The admiral's body was whisked away by the army.

ALYONA

You knew?

IVAN

The Kremlin was livid.

**INT. RESTAURANT - MOSCOW - DAY**

ALYONA and IVAN take a table. There is a television on the wall of the restaurant. The volume is turned down and people are chatting and eating. We see the crawl at the bottom of the screen, "Duqvaakha Tabarik suspected terrorist sniper to be moved today."

CUT TO: Donetsk Police Station Garage. The news cameras are waiting in the garage of the Donetsk police station. They are waiting to get a glimpse of TABARIK. Evidently he is being moved from police custody to army custody. There is a military vehicle with a back door open and waiting for the prisoner.

BACK TO: Restaurant. ALYONA is facing the television and she glances up at the television as she speaks.

ALYONA

This is eerie.

(pause)

I've been on many a story, but this is strange.

ALYONA pauses... She thinks. ALYONA chuckles.

ALYONA

What a break?

IVAN

How?

ALYONA

I was at the Holy Grail.

IVAN

What?

ALYONA

The Holy Grail of crime scenes.

(pause)

We know what happened in Donetsk and if the events are identical or even similar. This is the answer to ...

ALYONA sees on television that the wait is almost over. They POLICE are leading a handcuffed TABARIK out to be photographed and to be handed over to the army.

CUT TO: Donetsk Police Station Garage. As TABARIK comes into the room, a man emerges from the crowd and shoots him with a single shot from a concealed revolver.

FREEZE on a still shot of TABARIK wincing in pain. It is much like Bob Jackson's iconic Dallas Times Herald photo of Ruby shooting Oswald.

END CREDITS ROLL:

We see TABARIK is taken unconscious by ambulance to the Donetsk hospital – the same hospital where doctors tried to save Admiral Kireyev's life two days earlier. TABARIK dies

at 1:07 p.m. TABARIK'S death is announced on TV news broadcast by DIMA's boss, the RUSSIAN POLICE CHIEF.

FADE OUT:

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