

SAMBALANGA

Screenplay
By
James Cage

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Adaptation from The Novella
Back From the Bardo
Three Short Stories

By
James Cage

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FADE IN:

EXT. GATES - SAMBALANGA RANCH, GUATEMALA - DAY

TITLE CARD: SAMBALANGA RANCH, GUATEMALA - SEPTEMBER 1971

DREAM SEQUENCE: The tranquil, dreamy Guatemalan countryside has beautiful rolling hills with banana and coffee fields.

The SIGN above the gates of the ranch says: BIENVENIDOS A SAMBALANGA.

MOVING

Two jeeps, one following the other, slowly drive through the gates of the Sambalanga Ranch onto a road. There are two men in each jeep. The jeeps pick up speed.

INT. - SECOND JEEP

CLOSER

A large man with thick, dark, wavy hair drives the jeep. This big man is known as THE BEAR.

In the passenger seat is a young man, average height and weight, with short cut brown hair. He is called JAIME. Jaime is twenty-two years old. Jaime turns his head and peers at the SAMBALANGA sign.

CUT TO.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - HOTEL QUATTRO FONTANI - EARLY MORNING

TITLE CARD: JULY 4, 1980 - ROME, ITALY - NINE YEARS LATER

VARIOUS ANGLES

There is a desk in front of a large window with slightly opened wooden shutters. There is a small radio, pen and stationary on the desk.

INSERT

On the desk the Hotel Card Flyer says in large letters:
 "HOTEL QUATTRO FONTANI - ROMA, ITALIA."

There are twin beds in the room. Jaime, now 31 years old tosses and turns uncomfortably in bed. He wears boxer briefs. His body is lean and muscular.

NICK, Jaime's first cousin, is awake in the other bed. Nick is twenty-four years old. Nick is fair skinned, slight build, has light brown hair and is very handsome. He looks over at Jaime.

JAIME

Aaah!

Jaime wakes up. He rubs his face, looks around the room and composes himself.

NICK

Are you OK, cousin? You were having one of your nightmares.

JAIME

I'm alright Nick.

CUT TO:

EXT. SPANISH STEPS - ROME, ITALY - DAY

Jaime stands next to Nick at the foot of the Spanish Steps. He has taken Nick on a vacation to Italy for a couple of weeks.

Nick is Jaime's first cousin. They have lived together with their GRANDMOTHER for many years. The relationship is that of very close brothers.

Nick is in his final year of Medical School in New York City.

Nick scans the area around the Spanish Steps.

NICK

Great vacation, Thanks.

JAIME

You need a break before you start your last year of medical school.

(Pause)

And I wanted to get away from New York for a couple of weeks.

CLOSER

Jaime holds a MAP in hand. He opens the map and points directions to his cousin.

INSERT

STREET MAP OF ROME, ITALY.

NICK

The American Embassy is over here
on the Via Veneto.

He points directly onto the map.

JAIME

The embassy is closed Nick. It's
the fourth of July.

NICK

Let's walk over there anyway.

JAIME

OK.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jaime and Nick walk through the streets of Rome. It is a pleasant, warm summer's day.

VARIOUS ANGLES

A PARADE of YOUNG COMMUNISTS march down the Via Vittorio Veneto in front of the American Embassy. There are SIGNS in Italian and English: "PARTITO COMUNISTA dell'allievo di ROMA," "STUDENT COMMUNIST PARTY OF ROME." The parade is orderly and not noisy. A fair sized CROWD watches the activities. Traffic is blocked off.

NICK

Let's get something to eat.

JAIME

OK.

They slowly walk up the Via Vittorio Veneto observing Roman Citizens and European Tourists who fill the streets. It is summertime in Europe and everybody is on vacation. Jaime and Nick stop at the Excelsior Hotel.

EXT. STREET - EXCELSIOR HOTEL - DAY

An Italian MOVIE CREW shoots a scene. A young, blond, ACTRESS performs in front of the CAMERAMAN. She is over acting.

Jaime and Nick pause to watch the action. They continue walking through the streets of Rome to the Treve Fountain.

EXT. STREET - TREVE FOUNTAIN - DAY

The background MUSIC plays Italian Pop Music similar to "Volare."

A FRENCH WOMAN walks over to Nick and Jaime. She speaks Italian with a French accent.

THE FRENCH WOMAN

A dove e la Piazza Quattro Fontani?

NICK

(Speaks Italian with a New York City Accent)

E otto o nove stradi, sud.

Nick points southward, the proper direction.

THE FRENCH WOMAN

Arragh!

She walks away briskly.

Nick and Jaime laugh.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Jaime and Nick have finished eating a late lunch. The WAITER brings them the check and a purple color after dinner drink.

NICK

Great meal.

Jaime sips the purple liquor.

JAIME

Drink the Grappa.

Nick takes a sip and makes a face.

NICK
 It's too bitter.
 (Pause)
 When are we leaving for Florence?

JAIME
 Tomorrow morning. Let's go back to
 the hotel and rest.

NICK
 Can we catch a movie tonight?

JAIME
 Sure.

Jaime finishes his drink and pays the check. As they get up to leave the restaurant, The Waiter waves good-bye.

NICK
Ciao.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREET - MOVIE THEATER - PIAZZA QUATTRO FONTANI - NIGHT

Jaime and Nick stand outside a movie theater located at the Piazza Quattro Fontani. The THEATER MARQUEE reads in English, "SOME LIKE IT HOT."

NICK
 That was really a very funny film,
 even dubbed in Italian.

JAIME
 Great voice overs, especially the
 guy that imitated Tony Curtis
 imitating Gary Grant.

NICK
 Let's get some ice cream.

EXT. STREET - ROME, ITALY - NIGHT

MOVING

It is a busy Friday evening. The streets are filled with cars and the sidewalks are packed with pedestrians. Jaime and Nick walk through the streets and arrive at the Excelsior Hotel on the Via Veneto.

EXT. INSIDE THE OUTSIDE CAFE OF THE EXCELSIOR HOTEL - NIGHT

The cafe is not quite full. Jaime signals a WAITER. The Waiter gives them a decent table. Jaime and Nick sit down facing the street. The view of the sidewalk and street are clear. They can see all the people stroll by. The waiter is ready to take their orders.

Italian POP MUSIC softly plays in the background.

NICK

*Un cappuccino e un gelato chocolate
per piacere.*

The Waiter turns toward Jaime.

WAITER

E lei signor?

JAIME

Un espresso e un gelato chocolate.

Nick watches all the ITALIAN GIRLS strut by. The girls wear light, tight blouses, skirts, sandals and have bare legs.

Jaime, slightly tense, watches the street.

The Waiter brings the ice cream and coffee. Nick and Jaime begin to eat and drink.

A warm breeze blows through the scene.

NICK

Do you feel that warm breeze? It's coming from the south.

JAIME

It comes from Africa.

(Pause)

It is so heavy, I can taste the air.

In the background a POP MUSIC station now plays, "Hot Stuff" by Donna Summer.

Nick wolfs down his ice cream and licks his lips as he eyes the girls.

NICK

(Excited)

Those freaking girls are really sexy.

Nick and Jaime laugh. They finish the ice cream. Nick drinks the cappuccino. The Waiter refills Jaime's cup of espresso. Jaime puts some sugar in it.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Jaime watches a group of people pass by. He notices a Large, Older MAN, impeccably dressed in a light summer Italian tailored suit. He escorts an extremely, beautiful YOUNG WOMAN clothed in a tasteful evening dress.

CLOSER

Jaime is alert and his facial expression turns tense.

The MAN is THE BEAR. He is the man in Jaime's nightmares. The Bear is nine years older than The Bear in Jaime's dreams. The Bear still has a flat stomach but his curly, thick, dark hair has turned white.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Nick takes a long stare at the exquisite Young Woman. She is a knockout: flawless skin, large eyes, dirty blond hair and perfect legs. She is tall, about five ten. She is a model or an actress.

NICK (CONT'D)

What a gorgeous woman, how old do you think she is?

JAIME

I'd guess a couple of years older than I am.

Suddenly The Bear turns around. He looks at Jaime and grins. Jaime smiles slightly and nods back at him. Nick does not notice the exchange between them. He is too busy looking at the woman.

The Bear and the beautiful Young Woman walk from the scene.

CLOSER

Jaime signals the Waiter. Jaime slips into speaking Spanish instead of Italian.

JAIME (CONT'D)

Dos Gallianos por favore.

The Waiter returns with two large brandy glasses filled with the green colored liquor. Jaime orders a pack of cigarettes from the Waiter.

JAIME (CONT'D)
(Speaks in English)
Cigarettes.

The Waiter sends a GIRL over. She carries a tray with different brands of cigarettes. Jaime picks out a pack of GAULOSIS and pays the girl.

INSERT - GAULOSIS

ANOTHER ANGLE

Jaime opens the pack, lights a cigarette and puffs out some smoke. He places the cigarette into an ashtray. Nick and Jaime sip the Galliano.

NICK
I haven't seen you smoke in a long
time. Not even on the airplane.

JAIME
I took ten milligrams of Valium
before I boarded the flight.
(Pause)
I need a smoke.

Jaime pickups the cigarette from the ashtray, slowly puts it in his mouth, inhales and blows out smoke.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - QUATTRO FONTANI HOTEL - NIGHT

Jaime sits at the desk in front of the large window. The wooden shutters are closed.

Nick is sound asleep in his bed.

CLOSER

Jaime turns on a small radio and tunes into an AMERICAN POP MUSIC station. The VOLUME is soft and low. Linda Ronstadt SINGS, "I feel so bad I got a worried mind; I'm so lonesome all the time, Since I left my baby behind, On Blue Bayou."

Jaime opens the shutters slightly and lights a cigarette. He puffs smoke out the window. He stares and is in deep thought.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. STELLA MARIS HOTEL DINING ROOM - MEXICO CITY - 1971-NIGHT

TITLE CARD: STELLA MARIS HOTEL, MEXICO CITY JULY 4, 1971. NINE YEARS EARLIER.

The dining room is small, with a typical Mexican atmosphere. RANCHERO MUSIC softly plays in the background. There are eight tables, Couples occupy four of them.

Jaime sits alone at a corner table reading a paperback book. His physical appearance is different. His face is younger and he is a few pounds heavier. He is not wearing glasses.

On the table is a large glass of red wine and a cigarette in the ashtray.

INSERT

The BOOK is, "THE THIRD EYE" by T. Lobsang Rampa.

ANOTHER ANGLE

At the table across from Jaime, THE BEAR and a young, brown-skinned, well, built Mexican Woman, MARTA, are having dinner. Both are well dressed.

The main difference in The Bear's appearance, from the Rome sequence, is his hair color. His hair is dark brown, without any white or gray. The Bear's physical appearance is exactly the same as in Jaime's dreams.

The Bear walks over to Jaime's table. Jaime closes the book, places it on the table and looks directly at The Bear.

The Bear speaks with an educated British accent.

THE BEAR

Are you into astral projection? The author Rampa say's he can astrally project himself anywhere.

JAIME

Maybe he can but I don't know anything about astral projection.

(MORE)

JAIME (CONT'D)

(Pause)

I don't think the author, Rampa, is really a Tibetan monk as stated in the text.

THE BEAR

Why's that?

JAIME

Because the author, Rampa, mentions God and Buddhists do not believe in one all-powerful God.

The Bear extends an extra, large, hairy hand to Jaime. Jaime gets up from his chair and shakes The Bear's hand.

THE BEAR

My name is George Foster.

JAIME

My name is Andy.

THE BEAR

Are you on holiday?

JAIME

Yes.

The Bear glances toward the Mexican Woman at his table.

THE BEAR

Well, sit and have dinner with Marta and me, instead of being alone.

JAIME

No thanks. I'm finished with dinner.

THE BEAR

Then have an after dinner drink and a cup of coffee with us.

Jaime slightly shakes his head up and down.

JAIME

OK.

Jaime crushes his cigarette in the ashtray. Gulps down the red wine and places the glass on the table. He picks up the paperback book.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Bear and Jaime go over to The Bear's table and sit down with Marta.

WAITERS clear both tables.

THE BEAR
What would you like, Andy?

JAIME
Just black coffee.

The Bear turns his head towards a Waiter.

THE BEAR
Please bring three black coffees
and two brandies.

MARTA
My name is Marta.

Marta speaks English with an American accent and extends her hand to Jaime.

Jaime and Marta shake hands across the table.

JAIME
My name is Andrew Jackson Como.

The Bear smiles.

THE BEAR
Is that really your name?

JAIME
No. I wanted to say Andrew Jackson
or Perry Como. But it came out
Andrew Jackson Como.

The Bear and Marta laugh.

A Waiter brings a pot of coffee and two brandies. He pours three cups of coffee and walks off.

Marta and The Bear pour brandies into their coffees. Jaime sips his coffee.

THE BEAR
Andy how is your holiday going in
Mexico City?

JAIME

I did not really come here for a vacation.

THE BEAR

What did you come here for?

JAIME

I came to Mexico City to sign up for a Spanish language class at UNAM, the University here. But I was a week late.

THE BEAR

That's the National Autonomous University of Mexico?

JAIME

Yeah that's right.

Jaime takes another sip of coffee.

THE BEAR

Are you a language major in college?

JAIME

No. My degree is in biology.

(Pause)

I have minors in math and general elementary education.

THE BEAR

So, you are just going to hang out in Mexico?

JAIME

Yeah. I'd like to see some Mayan ruins.

THE BEAR

Andy, are you busy tomorrow morning?

JAIME

No. Why?

THE BEAR

Would you like to accompany me to my club? You can meet me outside the hotel lobby at 10 AM. We can have brunch.

Jaime looks at The Bear and slowly answers.

JAIME

OK.

Marta lights a cigarette. Neither Jaime nor the Bear light up.

Jaime finishes his cup of java. He gets up, shakes Marta's hand, then shakes the Bear's hand.

JAIME (CONT'D)

See Ya in the morning. Thanks for the coffee.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE STELLA MARIS HOTEL - DAY

The Bear stands outside the hotel. He reads a newspaper.

INSERT

The NEWSPAPER is an English language paper. It says, "MEXICO CITY NEWS, Monday July 5, 1971."

VARIOUS ANGLES

Jaime exits the Hotel Lobby. He walks up to The Bear. The Bear lowers the newspaper and looks at Jaime.

Jaime is wearing glasses.

THE BEAR

Nice glasses, you were not wearing them last night.

JAIME

I'm near sighted. I don't wear glasses all the time. I don't need glasses to read.

THE BEAR

I am a member of a Gun Club. I thought you might enjoy an activity like shooting targets. It doesn't matter that you wear lenses. There are some excellent marksmen that wear glasses.

Jaime is startled that he is going to a Gun Club.

JAIME

A gun club?

THE BEAR

Don't worry this will be fun.

Jaime and The Bear walk over to a taxicab a few feet away. The Bear opens the door for Jaime.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

MOVING

The cab travels through the crowded streets of Mexico City, passing from high class neighborhoods through slums.

THE BEAR (V.O.)

Just enjoy the ride. We can talk when we get to the club.

RANCHERO MUSIC plays on the taxi radio.

The cab enters a modern four lane highway and travels West. The Gun Club is located on the outskirts of Mexico City, a ten kilometers ride.

EXT. GUN CLUB - DAY

The taxi pulls in front of a building. There is no sign stating this is a gun club. The gun club's appearance is the same as any private golf club with a parking lot in front for the members.

The Bear and Jaime exit the taxi and walk through the entrance of the building.

INT. THE GUN CLUB - DAY

The Bear goes to the front desk. He speaks to the MANAGER.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Jaime waits for him a few feet away. He HEARS the CRACK of GUNSHOTS coming from the range outside.

The Bear signals Jaime to follow him. They walk through the interior of the club to an outside target range.

CUT TO:

EXT. TARGET RANGE - DAY

The target range is similar to that of any golf club driving range. There are fourteen stalls. The targets for each stall are located at 25, 50, 100, 150 and 200 meters on an incline plane (slightly uphill). The range ends against the backdrop of a large hill.

Half the stalls are filled with SHOOTERS. The Bear and Jaime enter a stall.

INT. STALL - TARGET RANGE - DAY

THE BEAR

Have you ever fired a rifle before?

JAIME

Yeah, when I was seventeen years old.

THE BEAR

About five years ago?

JAIME

Yaup.

THE BEAR

Who taught you how to shoot?

JAIME

Two of my friends were deer hunters. They taught me to shoot at a target range.

The Bear methodically interrogates Jaime.

THE BEAR

Where was this target range located?

JAIME

In Totowa, New Jersey.

THE BEAR

So you were never in the military?

JAIME

No. I had a student deferment and high draft lottery number.

An ATTENDANT brings binoculars, a rifle and a box of ammunition. He hands the binoculars and rifle to The Bear and the box of ammo to Jaime. The Attendant exits the stall.

THE BEAR

This is a Remington model 40X,
single shot, twenty-two calibre
rifle.

CLOSER

The Bear shows Jaime how to load the weapon, point the rifle,
sight the target and squeeze the trigger.

Jaime takes a single shot at the large 100 meter target.

BINOCULAR POV - TARGET

The target has not been hit.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Bear puts down the binoculars. Jaime already knows that
he completely missed the target. The Bear corrects his form.

Jaime aims the rifle and slowly fires three more shots, a
single shot at a time, reloading for each shot.

BINOCULAR POV - TARGET

All three shots hit the target inside the outside circle.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Jaime aims the rifle again and fires a fourth shot.

BINOCULAR POV - TARGET

The fourth shot is dead center, a bull's-eye.

INT. STALL - TARGET RANGE - DAY

Jaime puts the rifle down. He is very excited that he has
finally hit a bull's-eye.

THE BEAR

Excellent shot.

JAIME

(Proudly)
Thanks.

THE BEAR

Let's grab a taxi back to the city
and have a bite to eat.

JAIME

Fine with me.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

The Bear and Jaime sit, facing each other across a table. They drink from large mugs of beer. The other tables are empty.

JAIME

Where are all the customers?

THE BEAR

The Mexicans don't come in until
two o'clock.

A WAITER comes to the table. The Bear speaks in accentless Spanish to the Waiter.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)

*Mas cerveza, quesadillas, sopa de
frijoles y tacos de carne, por
favor.*

The Bear thinks for a second. He speaks to Jaime.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)

You said yesterday that you majored
in biology and had a minor in math
and general elementary education?

JAIME

Yeah.

THE BEAR

Are you interested in being a
schoolteacher?

JAIME

Yes.

THE BEAR

Do you have a teaching job?

The Bear stops speaking and drains his mug of beer.

JAIME

No. I'll find a job when I get back to New York City.

THE BEAR

Do you have a large family?

JAIME

No. I live with my Grandmother and my cousin Nick.

Jaime finishes his beer.

Two WAITERS bring lunch and more beers.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY - A LITTLE LATER

The table has been cleared. The Bear and Jaime drink coffee.

A few MEXICAN PATRONS are seated at the surrounding tables.

THE BEAR

Andy, I can offer you a job.

JAIME

Why would you offer me a job? You don't even know me.

(Pause)

What kind of job?

THE BEAR

It's a teaching job. I have a friend with two young children. The boy's name is Tony, he is eleven years old. His sister's name is Beatrice, she is ten.

(Pause)

The children can speak English. But they need to be taught formal English and a higher level of mathematics.

(Pause)

There is more to the job than just teaching.

JAIME

What else is involved?

THE BEAR

You'd have to be able to protect them. You would be their bodyguard as well as private tutor.

JAIME

The target practice was with a rifle. A body guard carries a handgun.

THE BEAR

The rifle practice was a training exercise.

Jaime studies The Bear for a few seconds. Jaime is very skeptical about this offer of employment.

JAIME

What is the actual deal? And don't bull-shit me.

THE BEAR

I own an international security organization. Some employees are ex-soldiers. But I have employees that work as electronics experts, interpreters and analysts. All are trained in the use of firearms.

(Pause)

I have a personal friend, Antonio Cunha, that needs a tutor for his children. You also have to be capable of protecting them. That is the job I am offering you.

JAIME

What is the salary?

THE BEAR

Twenty thousand dollars. But I have to train you. Training will take eight to ten weeks. The job requires travel.

JAIME

Well, I like to travel.

Jaime rubs the hair on his head. He is nervous.

JAIME (CONT'D)

Twenty thousand dollars is a lot of money. Is the job for one year?

THE BEAR

The teaching assignment begins the end of September and finishes before Christmas. Your job training will start immediately.

JAIME

I can't tell my Grandmother that I am being trained to be a bodyguard.

THE BEAR

You can tell her that you are taking a two months course in Spanish.

(Pause)

I'll arrange for you to have a post office box here in Mexico City. All your letters will be postmarked from Mexico and any letters from your Grandmother or cousin Nick will be brought to you at my ranch in Guatemala.

JAIME

(Surprised)
Guatemala?

THE BEAR

Look, if you don't like the training you can quit. If your academic credentials don't check out or I feel you don't have the ability to perform the job, I'll discharge you.

The Bear reaches into his pocket and pulls out an envelope and hands it to Jaime.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)

Here is two thousand dollars. I'll pay you another eight thousand dollars at the end of your training. You get another ten thousand when the tutoring job is complete. All expenses, travel and living are covered.

JAIME

If this doesn't work out, do I get to keep the two thousand dollars in this envelope?

THE BEAR

Yes, you keep the two thousand and
I'll pay for your plane ticket
home.

Jaime rubs his hair and looks at the envelope filled with
money. He hands it back to The Bear.

JAIME

What happens if I get killed
working as a bodyguard?

THE BEAR

A check for twenty thousand dollars
from a life insurance company will
be sent to your Grandmother. She
will receive a document stating you
died in an accident and your body
was cremated.

JAIME

I need to think about this.

THE BEAR

Give me your decision tonight.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BEAR'S HOTEL SUITE, STELLA MARIS HOTEL - NIGHT

Jaime sits at a table with The Bear and Marta. They drink
coffee. Jaime accepts the job offer.

JAIME

OK, I'll take the job. What's next.

The Bear pulls the envelope filled with money from his sports
jacket pocket. He gives it to Jaime.

Jaime opens the envelope and counts the two thousand dollars.
He puts the money in his jacket pocket.

THE BEAR

I'll make arrangements for us to
leave for Guatemala. I need your
passport now. I'll supply you with
another one. You get the original
passport back when the training
period is over.

Jaime stands up and takes the passport from his front pants
pocket. He hands it to the Bear.

The Bear looks at Jaime's picture and name on the passport.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)

Do you want Andrew Jackson Como on
your new passport?

JAIME

Put whatever name you like on it.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIME'S HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

TITLE CARD: THE NEXT EVENING

The Bear and Marta stand with Jaime inside his hotel room.

The Bear hands Jaime the new passport.

THE BEAR

Your name is James Andrews; you
were born in Toronto, Ontario
Canada.

Jaime looks at the passport.

JAIME

This is a British passport. My
picture is the same but I'm a year
older.

THE BEAR

The birth month and day are the
same. It'll be easy for you to
remember your new birth year.

Marta hands Jaime a plane ticket.

MARTA

Your plane ticket is dated
Wednesday, July 7, 1971. You will
be traveling with us tomorrow
morning. It is Mexicana Airlines,
one way to Guatemala City.

THE BEAR

Meet us in the lobby at 8:00 AM.
(Pause)
Oh, would you like to have a late
snack with Marta and me?

JAIME

No. I need to pack.

THE BEAR

See you in the morning.

The Bear and Marta leave Jaime's room.

Jaime looks at the passport and plane ticket and places them on the desk. He sits in the desk chair. There is a basic Spanish textbook on the desk.

INSERT

The BOOK COVER says, "BASIC SPANISH."

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LA AURORA AIRPORT, GUATEMALA CITY - DAY

TITLE CARD: LA AURORA AIRPORT, GUATEMALA CITY

The Mexicana Flight lands. PASSENGERS exit the airplane directly onto the airfield and walk a short distance to the terminal.

INT. AIRPORT - CUSTOMS INSPECTIONS LINE - DAY

Jaime, The Bear and Marta stand in the Customs Inspection line with other Passengers.

The CUSTOMS INSPECTOR checks Jaime's new passport and looks at him. There is no problem. The inspector stamps the document.

Marta and The Bear follow routinely.

EXT. STREET - AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

There are TWO MEN standing directly outside the exit of the airport terminal. They are dressed in plain white short sleeved shirts, tan chino pants, plain black shoes and white socks. Taxicabs are parked at the curb.

The Two Men walk over to The Bear and Marta.

The First Man takes Marta's luggage. He is tall, thin and wiry. He has sun-tanned skin. His eyes are oriental. He is a Filipino-Greek. His age is approximately thirty-eight years old. He speaks in a Cajun accent suggesting he is from New Orleans. His name is LUKE TWO.

The Bear turns his head towards Jaime and points at Luke.

THE BEAR

This is Luke Two.

The Second Man takes The Bear's suitcase. He is taller than Luke and more muscular. He is about forty-three years old. His skin is brown. His speech pattern is definitive New York City. His name is JOHNNY WALKER.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)

This is Johnny Walker.

The entire group walk across the street to the parking lot.

Jaime follows in the rear, carrying his one suitcase.

EXT. AIRPORT PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

They stop at a passenger van.

Johnny opens the back of the van and places a suitcase inside. Luke and Jaime follow and put the luggage into the van.

The Bear addresses Luke and Johnny and points to Jaime.

THE BEAR

This is Jaime.

Luke and John nod hello to Jaime.

Jaime nods back.

ANOTHER ANGLE

They all enter the van. Luke gets into the driver's seat, while Johnny gets into the passenger's front seat.

Jaime enters through the side door and sits in the far back seat with the luggage.

Marta and The Bear follow and sit in the middle section seats.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN GUATEMALA HIGHWAY - DAY

MOVING

The van travels on a main highway from the airport. The highway runs outside Guatemala City. The road follows the countryside and turns into a private road. The journey covers 20 kilometers from the city through areas of cultivated farm land.

EXT. RANCH GATE - SAMBALANGA RANCH - DUSK

The van slows at the entrance gate to a ranch. The ARCH at the top of the gate reads, "BIENVENIDOS A SAMBALANGA." The van drives through.

CLOSER

There are MALE and FEMALE GUATEMALANS working in the coffee and banana fields on the plantation. It is late in the day, just about dusk.

EXT. FRONT OF MAIN SAMBALANGA RANCH HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The Bear, Marta and Johnny exit the van. Marta enters the main ranch house. Luke stays in the driver's seat and Jaime remains in the van. Johnny opens the back of the van and grabs Marta's and The Bear's bags.

The Bear takes the two bags from Johnny.

THE BEAR

(Speaking directly to Johnny)
Go with Luke and take Jaime to his
room.

The Bear, carries the bags and enters the main house.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF MOTEL TYPE BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Johnny, Luke and Jaime exit the vehicle in front of a motel type building. Johnny retrieves Jaime's bag from the van and hands it to him.

JOHNNY

(New York City Accent)
Follow Luke and me.

They walk to the motel rooms.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
 This is your room, Jaime, and this
 is your key.

He hands him a key then points to other rooms.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
 My room is over here and Luke's is
 over there.

LUKE
 (Cajun Accent)
 You are in the middle. If you need
 us for anything just knock on our
 doors.

JAIME
 OK.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIME'S ROOM - EVENING

This is a simple motel room that contains, one single bed and
 a chair, desk, electric lamp and kerosene lamp. A bottle of
 water and drinking glasses are on the desktop. There is a
 small bathroom and shower. There is no television or radio. A
 windup alarm clock sits on the desk.

Jaime checks the time on his wristwatch with the windup alarm
 clock.

INSERT

The windup alarm CLOCK shows 7:00 o'clock.

JAIME
 Woo.

Exhausted Jaime lies down on the bed.

EXT. DOORWAY JAIME'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Luke BANGS on the door.

LUKE
 (Shouting)
 Jaime it's dinner time.

The door opens and Jaime comes out.

Luke and Jaime walk a few yards across the ranch compound to the dining hall building and enter.

INT. DINING HALL - NIGHT

The Bear and Marta sit at the front table with a young, lean, muscular, Latino man, SERGIO.

There are FIVE MEN eating at a nearby large round table. Johnny sits alone at a separate table. There are a few empty tables.

The five men are seated at the round table: ALAN, PAUL, MARCOS, THE COLONEL and THE MAJOR. They are all dressed the same way: plain white short sleeved shirts, tan chino pants, plain black shoes, white socks.

Alan and Paul are brothers. They speak with Eastern Canadian accents. Alan is six feet tall and thin. His younger brother Paul is two inches shorter and more muscular. They are in their twenties.

Marcos is average height and slim. He is the youngest member of the group. He is about 20 years old. He has a more lively personality than the others. He speaks with a Brooklyn accent.

The Colonel and The Major are spit shine military men.

Luke and Jaime sit down with Johnny.

There are TWO WAITERS. The FIRST WAITER is middle aged, small stature, brown skin, slight moustache. He speaks to the SECOND WAITER in Spanish. The Second Waiter is a younger man, possibly the son of the First Waiter.

FIRST WAITER

Eso es para el Oso Sonrisa. (This is for the smiling bear.)

He hands the Second Waiter a bottle of wine.

Jaime listens to the First Waiter's Spanish and looks at Luke.

JAIME

El Oso Sonrisa, that means the funny bear?

LUKE

Not exactly, it means the smiling bear.

Luke glances over at The Bear, Marta and Sergio.

LUKE (CONT'D)

The Latino guy sitting with The Bear is Sergio. Sergio leaves on assignment tomorrow.

Johnny looks at Jaime, then glances at the large round table.

JOHNNY

The three young guys at that table are Alan, Paul and Marcos. The older guys are instructors. The bald headed guy is the Colonel and the one with the short-cropped hair is the Major. You'll meet them tomorrow during your training.

JAIME

Do you guys teach anything?

JOHNNY

I'm the physical training instructor. I teach karate and boxing.

LUKE

I teach knife fighting and basic karate. The Major over there will teach you Spanish.

JAIME

What about the Colonel?

LUKE

He teaches electronics. He'll show you how to operate a ham radio.

JAIME

That sounds cool.

The Second Waiter comes over.

SECOND WAITER

(Speaks in English to the Table)
Tonight you have a choice of either a chicken or fish dinner.

LUKE

I'll have chicken.

JOHNNY

Me too, chicken.

JAIME
The fish, please.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RIFLE RANGE - DAY

TITLE CARD: THE NEXT DAY

Jaime and The Bear look at a number of firearms placed upon a table.

The Bear picks up a rifle.

THE BEAR
This is a Remington 22 caliber,
single shot rifle similar to the
one you shot in Mexico. I want to
go over basics using this rifle.

He places the rifle down and picks up the machine gun.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)
This is a Russian Kalashnikov
assault rifle known as the AK47.

He removes the clip.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)
The clip holds thirty rounds of
ammunition. You can use this
machine gun as an automatic weapon
or as a semi-automatic weapon.

JAIME
What about those guns?

Jaime motions toward the other guns on the table.

The Bear jams the clip back into the AK47 and puts the machine gun down. He grabs two handguns from the table, one in each hand.

THE BEAR
(In his left hand.)
This is a Smith and Wesson 38
caliber long barreled policeman's
special revolver with a silencer.
(In his right hand)
This is a Colt Commander 45
automatic.

The Bear places the Colt automatic on the table. He unscrews the cylinder shaped silencer from the Smith and Wesson and shows it to Jaime.

JAIME

Why do I need to know how to use a silencer?

THE BEAR

It's part of the training.

He places the revolver and silencer on the table and picks up the Colt automatic.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)

This is a Colt Model 1911, Commander 45 caliber, semi-automatic pistol with seven rounds in the magazine.

He disengages the magazine.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)

I'll teach you how to shoot all these weapons.

The Bear places the Colt Automatic on the table. Next he uncovers a long barreled rifle with a large scope.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)

This is a sniper's rifle, with scope. You'll be able to easily hit any target up to 500 meters. The rifle has a rotating bolt action. The magazine holds ten shots. You can set this as a single shot weapon or a semi-automatic.

JAIME

What's the name of the sniper rifle?

THE BEAR

There are no markings on this rifle. It is a Russian Dragunov. The cartridge is 7.62 mm by 54. It is longer than the cartridge used in the AK47 machine gun, which is 7.62 mm by 39.

JAIME

When do I start shooting?

THE BEAR

Right now.

The shooting lessons begin. The Bear instructs Jaime. Jaime fires the Remington rifle.

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

KARATE MONTAGE BEGINS

A.) Jaime stands next to Luke. They are all dressed in white karate uniforms with white belts. Johnny and Luke wear black belts. Everyone is barefoot. They watch as Johnny teaches basic karate moves to Alan, Paul and Marcos. Each has mixed success in replicating the moves.

B.) Johnny pairs off with Alan. Paul and Marcos are paired. Luke instructs Jaime. The others look on, out of the corners of their eyes as the new guy begins to practice.

C.) Karate training begins. Each group thrusts, blocks and throws punches at each other. Jaime is a quick study and perfectly executes the moves Luke shows him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAIME'S ROOM - DAY

SOUND. KNOCK at the door.

JAIME

Come in.

Luke and Johnny enter the room.

JOHNNY

I have your personal schedule for the next two months.

(Pause)

Life at the ranch is orderly and disciplined.

He hands Jaime the schedule.

JAIME

OK.

JOHNNY

This is the main rule. Do not tell any of the other trainees about your assignment. All assignments are classified. You can tell another trainee that you are leaving on an assignment but give no detailed information. You got that?

JAIME

Yeah.

Johnny looks at Luke.

LUKE (RAPIDLY)

Each evening wind the alarm clock in your room. Every morning at 6:00 AM the three of us will run three miles. We'll begin with a slow jog. In two months you will be running three miles at 7 minutes per mile. If you smoke, you'll be limited to three cigarettes per day. We supply the smokes, Marlboros from the states. No smoking at breakfast. You can have one cigarette after lunch and two cigarettes after dinner. There is no smoking in the motel rooms.

JOHNNY

After the morning run, come back to your room, shower and relax. Breakfast will be served at 8:00 AM. It is overtly hot and muggy here. You'll need to shower often. Lunch will be served in a few minutes at 12:45 PM. You can socialize with the other trainees at lunch-time.

JAIME

OK.

LUKE

At fourteen hundred hours, that's 2:00 PM, you report to the classroom building.

Luke walks to the window and points. Jaime follows.

EXT- CLASSROOM BUILDING - SAMBALANGA RANCH - MOMENTS LATER

LUKE (V.O)

The classroom building is over there next to the gym. Go to Room Number 1. The Major will teach you Spanish until sixteen hundred hours that's 4:00 PM. You report there Monday through Thursday. On Friday at fourteen hundred hours, report to Room Number 2. The Colonel will show you how to operate a ham radio.

INT. JAIME'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Luke and Jaime walk back over to Johnny.

JOHNNY

After sixteen hundred hours you are free to do what you like. You can study your Spanish, work out with weights at the gym, read a book.

LUKE

There is a phonograph and an eight track tape player in the recreation room where you can listen to music. Dinner is served at nineteen hundred hours.

JAIME

Yeah, nineteen hundred hours, that's 7:00 PM. I got it.
(Pause)
Hey, do I ever get to visit Guatemala City or the countryside?

LUKE

We want you to stay within the compound during your entire training period.

JOHNNY

Remember, you can quit the program at any time and go home. It is up to you.

JAIME

I'll stay.

LUKE

One more thing. Keep profanities at a minimum even when socializing with the guys.

JAIME

OK.

LUKE

Let's go to lunch.

CUT TO:

INT. SPANISH CLASSROOM - LATER SAME DAY

Jaime sits in a chair. The Major stands in front of the room at the blackboard.

Marcos, Alan and Paul are seated in booths at the back of the classroom. They have headphones on and listen to language tapes.

The Major speaks directly to Jaime.

MAJOR

Let me explain why we teach Spanish. In the United States, Spanish is a second language. Spanish is spoken throughout Central and South America, in Spain, North Africa and the Philippines.

(Pause)

Spanish is a good basis for the other Latin languages. Once you learn Spanish, it will be easy for you to pick up Italian and Portuguese.

(Pause)

Have you studied any foreign languages?

JAIME

I had two years of Latin in high school. I know a little Italian and I've been studying Spanish on my own.

MAJOR

The background in Latin is good.
That will make things much easier.
Let's start your Spanish lesson.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The lesson begins. The Major writes the verb, TO BE on the blackboard: **SOY, ERES, ES, SOMOS, SOIS, SON. I AM, YOU ARE, HE IS, WE ARE, YOU ARE, THEY ARE.**

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HAM RADIO CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY

Jaime is with Marcos and The Colonel. Marcos is two years younger than Jaime. He is slightly smaller in height and frame. Marcos is finishing a conversation with a MAN in AUSTRALIA. They speak in English.

AUSTRALIAN (V.O.)

Signing off from Perth, mate.

MARCOS

(Slight Brooklyn Accent)
Signing off from Central America.

The Colonel exits the room.

MARCOS (CONT'D)

Jaime do you want to talk on the Ham Radio?

JAIME

No. I don't like speaking to strangers.

MARCOS

This radio is a lot of fun. I really enjoy it.

JAIME

How old are you Marcos?

MARCOS

I just turned twenty years old.

JAIME

You speak like you come from Brooklyn?

MARCOS
Yeah I'm from Brooklyn,
Bensonhurst.

JAIME
Where did The Bear find you?

MARCOS
Last year, at Saint Louis
University. I had a job as a
student Disc Jockey.
(Pause) One evening, my Spanish
professor brought The Bear to the
radio station. We all went out for
pizza. One thing led to another and
I wound up here.

JAIME
Do you like working for The Bear?

MARCOS
Yeah, I learn more here about Ham
Radios and electronics than I would
in school. Plus, I get to travel.
How are things going with you?

JAIME
I've only been here a few days. I
have to adjust to the routine.

MARCOS
Don't worry. You fit in with us.

CUT TO:

ACTIVITIES MONTAGE BEGINS

EXT. - SHOOTING RANGE - DAY

Jaime shoots targets with The Bear.

INT. - SPANISH CLASSROOM - DAY

Jaime, Marcos, Alan and Paul listen to language tapes. The
Major watches them.

INT. - HAM RADIO CLASSROOM - DAY

The Colonel, Marcos and Jaime adjust and listen to the Ham
Radio. They listen to SAMBA MUSIC on the Ham Radio.

THE COLONEL
This is a Brazilian station.

Marcos dances the Samba by himself. Jaime and The Colonel laugh.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD INSIDE THE RANCH - DAWN

TITLE CARD: EIGHT WEEKS LATER

Jaime, Johnny and Luke are jogging. Jaime has lost at least ten pounds.

LUKE
Jaime, it's time we speed this run up.

Luke and Johnny take off and sprint the last quarter mile of the three miles run. They leave Jaime in the dust. At the completion of the run, Jaime is puffing, hot and sweaty. Luke and Johnny are relaxed, waiting for him.

JAIME
Geez.

CUT TO:

INT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

Luke teaches a knife fighting class. He demonstrates using a wooden knife. He gives basic instruction jabbing, slashing and defending.

Jaime, Marcos, Alan, Paul and Johnny silently watch the demonstration.

Luke extends the knife in his left hand and proceeds to jab and slash with the knife. He keeps the right hand close to the body in a blocking or punching position.

Jaime pairs off with Johnny. Alan pairs off with Paul. Luke pairs off with Marcos. They begin practice.

Another Angle

Sergio has returned from his assignment. Sergio, The Bear, The Colonel and The Major observe the knife fighting demonstration from the back of the gym.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHOOTING RANGE - THE NEXT MORNING

Jaime sits on the ground in firing position. He aims the sniper rifle at a target 200 meters in the distance. The Bear spots for him. Jaime aims and squeezes the trigger. The Bear looks at the target with binoculars.

BINOCULAR POV - TARGET

The target is hit dead center.

THE BEAR

Excellent.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HAM RADIO CLASSROOM - THAT NIGHT

The Bear, The Colonel and The Major are seated at a table with Sergio.

THE BEAR

I want the background information on Jaime.

SERGIO

He was brought up in New Jersey and New York. He graduated from college in Jersey City this past June. His grades were slightly above average. He is intelligent and a bit lazy, an underachiever.

THE BEAR

What's his family like.

SERGIO

Both parents are dead. His father died of cancer in 1965. His mother died with her brother and sister-in-law in a car accident on the New Jersey Turnpike in 1968.

(Pause)

(MORE)

SERGIO (CONT'D)

He lives with his Grandmother and his younger Cousin Nick in New York City. They live in an apartment complex on the East Side, at First Avenue and East Fifteenth Street.

THE BEAR

What does his Grandmother do for a living?

SERGIO

She is an elementary school teacher nearing retirement.

THE BEAR

Are there any other relatives?

SERGIO

He has one unmarried uncle on his father's side. The uncle served an eighteen months prison sentence for manslaughter. Two mob guys tried to kill him in his bar in 1966. He was shot in the shoulder but managed to blow the assailants heads off with a double barrelled shotgun. According to the New York Police Department it was self protection. But he did some time anyway.

(Pause)

Uncle Jerry is an organized crime associate. Jaime works for him at his bar and grill in Greenpoint, Brooklyn every weekend. The NYPD have followed Jaime. Jaime loses them in the subway every time. Here's the report.

Sergio flips the report to The Bear.

The Bear looks at the paper and smiles.

THE BEAR

What about Jaime's friends?

SERGIO

He has two close friends. One is in the Marines serving in Vietnam. The other is doing a four years stint in the Navy.

THE BEAR

Does he have college friends, girl friends?

SERGIO

No college buddies. He has taken a few college girls out on dates. Just pizza and beer. Nothing serious.

THE BEAR

What are his work experience and personal habits?

SERGIO

Besides working at his uncle's bar Jaime tutors math. He minds his own business and stays out of trouble. He is quiet by nature. He likes movies and walks through Central Park with his cousin Nick. Occasionally he'll drink a beer and smoke a cigarette. He has no known drug use.

THE BEAR

I want everyone's opinion about Jaime's aptitude for this type of work.

SERGIO

He has excellent potential. His Uncle is a life long criminal and he trusts Jaime.

THE COLONEL

He enjoys working with the Ham Radio. I think he likes the training and discipline here.

THE MAJOR

He gets along with the other guys. He studies his Spanish diligently. He is intelligent. Jaime is a good recruit.

THE BEAR

I agree with you. Thanks gentlemen.

The Major and the Colonel exit. Sergio stays with The Bear.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)

Sergio, what's the full story on the killings in Uncle Jerry's bar back in 1966?

SERGIO

Jaime may have killed the mob guys
to protect his uncle.

CUT TO:

INT. RECREATION ROOM - NIGHT

Jaime, Marcos, Alan and Paul sit at a card table. They drink
beer and smoke Marlboros.

Rock and roll MUSIC plays in the background.

There is a projector and a screen set up. A dozen chairs are
placed in front of the movie screen.

MARCOS

What is the movie tonight?

PAUL

(Canadian Accent)
Andy Warhol, "Trash".

Marcos laughs. Jaime speaks to Alan.

JAIME

Alan, I've been at this ranch for
two months. Some of the girls who
work here are decent looking.

ALAN

(Canadian Accent)
Forget about that. Two years ago,
one of the guys got caught with a
girl. They sent him right home.
(Pause)
Hey, Paul play that new tape.

Paul leaves the table. He returns with a tape.

PAUL

You'll like this Jaime. It's the
Allman Brother's Band.

Paul removes the rock and roll tape and puts the new tape
into the eight track recorder. The MUSIC plays, "Wake up
momma, turn your lamp down low; Wake up momma, turn your lamp
down low, You got no nerve baby, to turn Uncle John from your
door. I woke up this morning, I had them Statesboro Blues."

Everyone enjoys the music. Marcos starts jiggling around.

VARIOUS ANGLES

Luke and Johnny enter the recreation room.

LUKE

We're going to run the movie. Nice music but turn it off.

Lights turn off and the SOUND of the movie projector begins.

The movie begins. A fat, sloppy BROAD dances and SINGS on screen, "And he burnt my coolly with a big cigar, Hey Momma look at me now."

Marcos busts out laughing.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIME'S ROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Jaime sits at his desk. There is a calendar on the desk.

INSERT

The days on the monthly CALENDAR are marked off until the present date, Friday, September 3, 1971.

KNOCK at the door.

JAIME

Come in.

The Bear walks into the room, he leaves the door open.

THE BEAR

I want to show you something. Meet me in the rec-room in fifteen minutes.

CUT TO:

INT. RECREATION ROOM - DAY

The lights are out and a film runs. The movie screen shows a pile of dead bodies burning. The film shuts down and lights turn on.

VARIOUS ANGLES

Sergio turns off the projector.

Luke, Johnny, Jaime and The Bear have just watched the film.
Sergio walks over and joins them.

THE BEAR
This is Sergio.

Sergio and Jaime shake hands. The Bear directs his attention to Jaime.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)
Jaime, the three men that caused this atrocity are right here in Guatemala. Luke, Johnny and I are going after them.
(Pause)
This is your first assignment. Before you make a decision to participate, I want you to talk to Sergio.

The Bear, Luke and Johnny leave Sergio and Jaime in the recreation room.

SERGIO
Did you like the training here at the ranch?

JAIME
In all honesty, yes.

SERGIO
OK.
(Pause)
The three men responsible for burning the peasants are Guatemalan Military Officers.

JAIME
So our group has the contract to kill them, right?

SERGIO
That's right.
(Pause)
But Jaime, you don't have to do this. You can pack your bags. I can drive you to the airport right now.

JAIME
I'll take the assignment but I need to ask you a question.

SERGIO

Ask.

JAIME

When I want to quit this organization, can I walk away without any repercussions?

SERGIO

Yes. I give you my word that you can walk away.

(Pause)

If you become a valuable asset and quit, someday The Bear will show up and ask you to come back.

JAIME

Fair enough.

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD THROUGH THE RANCH GATES - LATER THAT DAY

MOVING

Luke, the driver, and Johnny, the passenger, sit in a Jeep. They drive through the ranch gates.

The Bear drives a second Jeep with Jaime seated beside him.

CLOSER

Jaime turns and looks at the gates of the ranch, "BIENVENIDOS A SAMBALANGA." This repeats the first scene in the movie.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

MOVING

Both Jeeps travel north passing the town of Zacapa. There are peasants and traffic in the town. They cross the Montagua River. The Jeeps go off road into a dense forest. The sun is blocked by foliage. It is hot and steamy. The Jeeps come to a stop, one behind the other.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

Luke, Johnny, Jaime and The Bear walk through the Guatemalan jungle. Luke, Johnny and Jaime are armed with sniper rifles. The Bear is armed with his Colt Commander Automatic.

THE BEAR

Set those rifles for a single shot.

EXT. HILL - DAY

They walk up a hill through a heavily wooded area. Two hundred meters below the hill stands a cabin in a clearing.

The Bear points to his watch. Luke, Johnny and Jaime synchronize their watches.

THE BEAR

Four minutes.

Johnny and Luke take off to the east side of the cabin.

The Bear points to a forward area and walks briskly. Jaime follows.

EXT. FRONT OF CABIN - DAY

SCOPE POV - THREE MEN

THREE MEN stand at the front door of the cabin. They are all dressed in camouflage field uniforms. They light cigarettes, stand and talk.

EXT. BRUSH - MOMENTS LATER

Jaime, looks through the scope and aims the sniper rifle. The Bear spots for Jaime.

THE BEAR

The range to the cabin is seventy-five meters. Shoot the tall thin guy on the right side.

EXT. BRUSH - MOMENTS LATER

Johnny and Luke are in the brush 100 meters east of The Bear and Jaime's position. Johnny aims his sniper rifle at the middleman. Luke points his rifle at the fat guy on the left.

Three shots are fired simultaneously.

EXT. FRONT OF CABIN - DAY

Heads explode. Three smoking bodies lie dead in front of the cabin.

EXT. BRUSH - DAY

Jaime and The Bear stand after the shots have been fired.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT OF CABIN - DAY

VARIOUS ANGLES

The Two Jeeps drive into the clearing in front of the cabin. Luke and Johnny exit the first jeep. They walk over to inspect the three dead bodies. The Bear and Jaime jump out of the second Jeep and wait. Johnny turns toward Luke.

JOHNNY

Go get the body bags.

Luke takes three body bags from the back of his jeep. Jaime walks over to Luke and grabs a bag. Luke carries the other two body bags.

Johnny and The Bear, Luke and Jaime proceed to place the bodies into the bags. They load two bodies into Johnny and Luke's Jeep and one body into The Bear's Jeep. They quickly clean the area in front of the cabin.

The cars drive away from the scene.

CUT TO:

EXT. SINK HOLE - DAY

Johnny and Luke dump the three bodies, one after the other, into a large, deep sink hole. The bodies disappear into the darkness.

Jaime and The Bear stand and watch.

EXT. ROAD BACK TO THE RANCH - DUSK

MOVING

The two Jeeps ride down the highway.

INT. THE BEAR'S JEEP

The Bear drives and Jaime is the passenger.

THE BEAR

There are Mayan ruins, a couple of kilometers down the road in that direction.

The Bear nods his head toward the passenger side of the Jeep.

JAIME

Fuck the Mayan ruins.

The Bear smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. STELLA MARIS HOTEL, MEXICO CITY 1971 - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: - STELLA MARIS HOTEL, MEXICO CITY - FOUR DAYS LATER

Jaime sits at a desk. He reads a Spanish language newspaper, The EXCELSIOR.

INSERT

EXCELSIOR, martes, 7 de septiembre, 1971.

KNOCK at the door.

JAIME

Come in, it's opened.

Luke walks over to Jaime.

LUKE

Do you have the James Andrews passport?

JAIME

Yeah, right here.

He pulls the passport from inside his sports jacket pocket and hands it to Luke.

LUKE

Here are your passport and plane ticket to New York City. You take an Eastern Airlines flight tomorrow morning.

(Pause)

I got eight grand for you.

He hands Jaime the passport, plane ticket and envelope containing eight thousand dollars.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Did you like that steak dinner?

JAIME

Yeah, great steak.

LUKE

Johnny will call you in New York City next week.

JAIME

OK.

LUKE

I need to make a call.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Luke takes the telephone from the desk, places a call and hangs up.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Now you should relax.

KNOCK at the door. Luke opens it. A tall, light-eyed GIRL, light brown hair with fantastic legs walks in. She is about twenty years old.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Enjoy yourself.

Luke leaves the room and closes the door. Jaime stares at the beautiful Girl.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - MANHATTAN, NEW YORK CITY - DAY

TITLE CARD: MANHATTAN, NEW YORK CITY - ONE WEEK LATER

INSERT

Street SIGN: E. 16TH STREET AND 5TH AVENUE

Johnny Walker and Jaime walk east toward Union Square.

Johnny goes into a drug store while Jaime waits outside. The SIGN on the store says CITY DRUGS.

In a few seconds Johnny is back on the street. Johnny takes a swig from a bottle of Robotussin AC cough medicine.

INSERT

ROBOTUSSIN AC

JOHNNY

I have a little cough. This stuff helps.

JAIME

Right.

They walk back west on East 16th Street and go North up 5th Avenue. They enter a diner.

INT. DINER - DAY

Seated in the diner at the counter and in booths are: a few Business Men, some New York University Professor Types, old Beatniks and young College Hippies.

A jukebox plays HARD ROCK MUSIC.

Jaime drinks a cup of coffee.

Johnny dips a tea bag into a cup. He adds milk and sugar. He sips the tea. Johnny then gets up, goes to the jukebox and drops a few coins in. MUSIC by the Temptations begins, "You got a smile so bright."

When he returns to the booth, Johnny pulls a large envelope from inside his jacket. He removes some documents.

JOHNNY

(Slightly slurred speech)
Plane ticket, first class, Air
France to Paris.

(MORE)

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
Connecting coach flight Alitalia,
Paris to Rome. You got your
passport?

JAIME
Yes.

JOHNNY
You leave Kennedy Airport, Friday
September seventeenth at six PM.
You go through immigration and
customs in Paris.

JAIME
OK.

JOHNNY
I have a thousand dollars traveling
money for you inside this envelope.

Johnny puts the plane tickets back inside the big envelope
and hands it to Jaime.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)
What did you tell your Grandma?

JAIME
I told her I have a teaching job in
the private American School in
Rome. I'll be home for Christmas.
(Pause)
What do I do when I get to Rome?

JOHNNY
Take a taxi cab from DaVinci
Airport in Rome to the Hotel
Quattro Fontani. Luke will be at
the hotel. Luke will take care of
you.

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDMOTHER'S APARTMENT - MANHATTAN - THE NEXT NIGHT

Jaime sits at the kitchen table with his cousin NICK and
GRANDMOTHER They sip red wine and eat little cakes.

Nick is fifteen years old, a typical teenager.

Grandmother is sixty-four years old short, plump in good
physical condition.

GRANDMOTHER

Are you packed for your trip?

JAIME

Yeah, Grandma, I'm all packed.

GRANDMOTHER

I was the first one in my family to be born in the United States. I have never been to Italy.

JAIME

Don't worry, Grandma, I'll tell you all about it when I get back.

NICK

Hey, I want to go to Italy.

JAIME

I'll take you there sometime.

GRANDMOTHER

Good night boys.

She gets up and leaves the room.

JAIME

Nick, I bought you a tape. It's the Allman Brothers.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Jaime walks across the room and puts the tape into the eight track. The MUSIC plays softly; "Well, my momma died and left me, My poppa died and left me, I ain't good looking baby, Want someone sweet and kind. I'm goin to the country, baby do you wanna go? But if you can't make it baby, your sister Lucille said she wanna go."

Nick smiles. He enjoys the music.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVINCI AIRPORT, ROME, ITALY - DAY

TITLE CARD: DAVINCI AIRPORT ROME, ITALY - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1971

Jaime gets into a taxi.

JAIME (V.O)
(In Italian)
Hotel Quattro Fontani, per piacere.

EXT. ROME HIGHWAY - DAY

MOVING

The taxi travels down the road to Rome.

INT. TAXI - DAY

POV - TAXI WINDOW

Jaime looks at the crowded streets of Rome. The cab passes around piazzas, turns down a side street and arrives at the hotel.

EXT. HOTEL QUATTRO FONTANI - ROME - DAY

Jaime stands in front of the hotel. It is a small second class, unassuming place. There is a SIGN, HOTEL QUATTRO FONTANI.

INT. JAIME'S ROOM - THAT EVENING

KNOCKING at the door.

JAIME
Come in the door is open.

DOORWAY

Luke walks through the door and closes it. He carries documents.

VARIOUS ANGLES

LUKE
Give me your passport.

Jaime hands him his passport.

LUKE (CONT'D)
OK. Your passport will stay here in Rome for safekeeping.
(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

Here is the James Andrews passport
and plane tickets.

Luke hands Jaime the James Andrews passport and plane
tickets.

LUKE (CONT'D)

James Andrews flew from Toronto,
Canada to London, England then to
Rome. You got that.

JAIME

Yeah.

Jaime inspects the passport and turns to Luke.

JAIME (CONT'D)

There are no exit or entry stamps
for Mexico or Guatemala. The
passport is clean.

(Pause)

What is this? A visa for Angola?

LUKE

Yes, Angola, Africa. We leave
tomorrow.

JAIME

So we travel together?

LUKE

Yes. We travel Air Afrique. The
flight leaves from Rome through
Dakar, Abidjan and finally Luanda,
Angola. We will change planes a
couple of times. We leave tomorrow
morning.

(Pause) Johnny and The Bear will
join us there in a few days.

Jaime rubs his head. He is nervous.

JAIME

Wow, Africa.

LUKE

Let's get dinner.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TRAIN - HILLS, ANGOLA, AFRICA - TWO DAYS LATER

TITLE CARD: ANGOLA, AFRICA TWO DAYS LATER

A train slowly chugs up a hill.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

Jaime and Luke sit together in a crowded train. Windows are open and a hot breeze blows through. Jaime twists his nose a little. The odor is pungent.

There are PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS in nearby seats. There are AFRICANS speaking different languages. There are some young, brown skinned MEN speaking Spanish.

JAIME

What language do those guys speak?

Jaime nods towards a group of Africans on the train.

LUKE

They speak Bantu.

Luke nods toward another group.

LUKE (CONT'D)

That group speaks Kimbundu.

The train rumbles along.

JAIME

Geez.

CUT TO:

EXT. SKY - LATER THAT DAY

THUNDER and LIGHTNING roll in from the distant clouds.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

The PATTERN of rain hits the train. Passengers close the windows half way. The heat is sweltering and stinky.

JAIME

Is this what Africa smells like?

LUKE

No, the smell is from the people on the train.

Luke laughs. Jaime sighs.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE PLANTATION OF ANTONIO CUNHA - DAY

TITLE CARD: THE PLANTATION OF ANTONIO CUNHA, ANGOLA, AFRICA -
THURSDAY DECEMBER 2, 1971 - TWO AND A HALF MONTHS LATER

AERIAL POV

The plantation is immense. There is a large main house in the center of the complex.

The plantation runs many kilometers in each direction. The far North is dense wooded jungle. To the South is the district capital city of Ndaltando. There is a distant view of the Cuanza River.

There are four watchtowers on the perimeter of the plantation.

There are many motel type buildings.

A big generating plant is located five hundred meters from the main home.

There are barns, silos, heavy tractors and jeeps.

CLOSER

The fields of rolling hills grow coffee, corn and beans. The animals include: many chickens, sheep, goats, pigs. There are a few milking cows, cattle and horses.

There are African WORKERS and Portuguese SOLDIERS in the fields and on the grounds.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SMALL CLASSROOM INSIDE THE MAIN PLANTATION HOUSE -

- MORNING

Jaime stands in front of a desk. An eleven-year old boy, TONY, and a ten-year old girl, BEATRICE, sit in front of him. They are clearly brother and sister.

Both children have light brown hair and light eyes. They are average height and weight for their ages. They are neatly dressed and well groomed.

Jaime is dressed in a white short sleeved shirt, tan chino pants, plain black shoes and white socks.

JAIME

Tony, what time are you and your sister Beatrice leaving for Portugal?

TONY

We leave at noon. A soldier and Sergio will drive my mother, Beatrice and me to Ndaltando.
(Pause)
Sergio will fly with us to Luanda and then to Portugal.

JAIME

Well, I enjoyed teaching you and your sister. I shall miss you.

BEATRICE

We shall miss you too.

Beatrice gives Jaime a hug and kiss and scoots from the classroom.

TONY

When do you leave?

JAIME

Tomorrow with The Bear, I mean Senor Foster.

SENORA CUNHA, a tall, thin, attractive, middle-aged woman walks into the room. Sergio is with her.

Sergio stands at the door and nods to Jaime. Jaime nods back.

Tony walks quickly to his mother. He turns and waves to Jaime.

TONY

Bye.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MAIN HOUSE - LATER IN THE DAY

The Bear and Jaime sit at a table drinking coffee. There is a large COOK, wearing an apron and making pancakes. The Cook has close cropped hair and a military demeanor. He is dressed the same way as Jaime and The Bear, white shirt and tan pants. Everyone is tense.

THE BEAR

We are going to be attacked by those revolutionary groups.

JAIME

Which group? The FNLA, the MPLA or the UNITA?

THE BEAR

All of them.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANTATION OF ANTONIO CUNHA - SAME DAY

The plantation is bustling. The Portuguese soldiers continually drive back and forth across the farm. They are excited and ready for action.

The African Workers are leaving the compound in an orderly manner.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BARN LOFT - DUSK

Luke and Johnny are in the loft armed with machine guns. They look out the large window.

FAST CUT TO:

EXT. BARN LOFT - DUSK

There is no activity below. The soldiers are stationed at the perimeter in the fields. Everything is quiet. The landscape is picturesque and the sun sets in the West. It is the calm before the storm.

FAST CUT TO:

INT. BARN LOFT - EVENING

Jaime and The Bear enter the loft armed. The Bear speaks to Luke and Johnny.

THE BEAR
Go see The Cook and get some
dinner. Jaime and I will relieve
you.

Luke and Johnny exit.

Jaime is worried but controls his fear in front of The Bear.

JAIME
How long before the attack?

THE BEAR
A couple of days, maybe sooner. The
soldiers will take over for Luke
and Johnny later on tonight.

The Bear thinks for a second.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)
Luke and Johnny, SENOR CUNHA and
The Cook will leave with us early
in the morning.

JAIME
Good.

DISSOLVE TOO:

INT. JAIME'S ROOM - VERY EARLY THE NEXT MORNING - BEFORE DAWN

Jaime is tossing in bed unable to sleep. Three SOUNDS,
gigantic BOOMS, rock the entire plantation. He immediately
gets up and looks at the windup alarm CLOCK next to his bed.

INSERT

The CLOCK shows FOUR FORTY-FIVE.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Jaime ducks down, crawls to the window and peers out.

EXT. PLANTATION - MOMENTS LATER

VARIOUS ANGLES

The generating plant has blown up and is on fire. Two watchtowers are down in the distance. The sky is ablaze. Artillery shells hit the compound and the ground shakes. The barn and silos are burning.

Suddenly the artillery barrage stops.

The REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS attack. The plantation is a battlefield. The PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS continually shoot at swarms of Revolutionary Soldiers. Fires light up the sky and the Revolutionaries advance down the hilly fields.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIME'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jaime is dressed. He places the revolver inside the backpack. He puts his backpack on and grabs the AK47.

There is a KNOCK at the door. Luke, Johnny and The Bear enter the room.

THE BEAR

Do you have your passport?

JAIME

I put it in my backpack with some clothes.

JOHNNY

Is there a full magazine in your rifle?

JAIME

Yes.

Johnny hands Jaime two more thirty round magazines for the AK47 rifle.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLANTATION - DAWN

VARIOUS ANGLES

It is daybreak. The sky is covered in fire and smoke. The sun begins to rise in the East. Jaime and The Bear are crouched behind a vehicle.

Luke and Johnny are in a forward position. They stand behind a Jeep for cover.

The battle rages on as the advancing Revolutionary Soldiers meticulously kill the Portuguese Soldiers. Rapid bursts of machine gun fire continue.

The big Cook runs from the main house carrying a rifle. He is hit and goes down. The Cook is dead.

The Bear looks at Jaime.

THE BEAR

These are seasoned Cuban Revolutionary troops, as well as Africans attacking us. Aim at the group of Soldiers coming down that hill.

The Bear points his finger at the hill. Jaime aims the rifle.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)

Take one shot at a time. Hit your target.

SCOPE POV

Jaime and The Bear fire, the attacking Cuban soldiers are killed one at a time.

SOUNDS are TAT, TAT; TAT, TAT.

Another Angle

Luke and Johnny also have success shooting the Revolutionaries.

VARIOUS ANGLES

Everyone switches magazines. Rifle firing continues.

Even though The Bear, Jaime, Luke and Johnny kill many Revolutionary Soldiers, the large numbers of Revolutionaries overwhelm the plantation. Almost all the Portuguese Soldiers are killed. The Cubans and African forces move forward.

Jaime looks at The Bear.

JAIME

I have only four shots left.

THE BEAR

We have to run for the main house.

The Bear signals Luke and Johnny.

EXT. MAIN PLANTATION HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

VARIOUS ANGLES

Luke and Johnny run for the house. The Bear and Jaime take off a few meters behind them.

SOUND of a mortar shell BLAST. Luke and Johnny are hit. They are dead. Their bodies lie next to the dead Cook.

Jaime freezes in his tracks. Bloody body parts are strewn all over the place.

The Bear taps Jaime on the shoulder and they keep moving. They reach the front door of the main house and enter.

INT. MAIN PLANTATION HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

MOVING

Jaime follows The Bear through the house, down the stairs into the wine cellar.

INT. WINE CELLAR - MOMENTS LATER

The Bear grabs a bottle of Portuguese Port wine from a wine rack. He puts the bottle in Jaime's backpack.

They walk to a hidden door behind another wine rack. The Bear presses a panel and opens the door. The door leads to a tunnel.

THE BEAR

Run through the tunnel, Jaime.

Jaime flies through the door into the tunnel. The Bear follows. As the door closes, a gigantic BOMB BLASTS the main plantation house above.

INT. TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

Jaime and The Bear are inside a tunnel illuminated by kerosene lamps. The tunnel runs for a long distance.

THE BEAR
Senor Cunha had this tunnel built
for an emergency like this.

Jaime and the Bear keep moving.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BANK OF A RIVER - A LITTLE LATER

VARIOUS ANGLES

Jaime and The Bear stand at the riverbank.

THE BEAR
Give me your backpack.

Jaime removes his backpack.

The Bear pulls out the bottle of Port Wine and places it on the ground. He takes Jaime's revolver from the backpack and flings it into the river.

Jaime hands The Bear his rifle.

The Bear throws Jaime's rifle into the river. The Bear removes his shouldered rifle and throws that into the water.

The Bear keeps his Colt Commander pistol in his belt holster.

The Bear pulls out a Swiss army knife and uses the cork screw. He removes the cork from the bottle of port wine. He takes a long drink and hands the bottle to Jaime. Jaime drinks the wine.

THE BEAR (CONT'D)
There is a small airfield three
kilometers up the river. Senor
Cunha will be there with an
airplane. Take another swig of
port.

Jaime takes another drink and hands the bottle back to The Bear. The Bear has another long swallow of wine then tosses the empty bottle into the river.

SKY POV

The entire Plantation burns in the background.

CUT TO:

EXT. SMALL AIRFIELD RUNWAY - LATER IN THE DAY

VARIOUS ANGLES

There is a single engine aircraft. The propeller is running with the PILOT in the cockpit. SENOR ANTONIO CUNHA is standing outside the plane.

Senor Cunha waves to The Bear and Jaime. The Bear and Jaime run to the aircraft. As the three men board the airplane, The Bear speaks to Senor Cunha.

THE BEAR

The Cook, Luke and Johnny didn't
make it. Your Portuguese soldiers
have been killed.

Senor Cunha says nothing and closes the airplane door. The plane takes off.

EXT. SKY POV

In the distance, smoke bellows into the sky from the burning plantation.

INT. SMALL AIRPLANE - DUSK

Jaime wearily stares out the airplane window.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TRATTORIA - ROME, ITALY - EVENING

TITLE CARD: ROME, ITALY - THURSDAY DECEMBER 9, 1971 - SIX
DAYS LATER

The Trattoria is located on a side street near the Treve Fountain. The Bear and Jaime have just finished dinner. They drink espresso.

THE BEAR

I'll be leaving for Paris tomorrow.
Are you sure you don't want to come
with me?

JAIME

No. I want to go home. I like New
York City during Christmas.

THE BEAR

It's not Christmas for two weeks. I
can show you Paris. The French
ladies are lovely.

JAIME

Thanks, but I'm homesick.

THE BEAR

I have your plane ticket for you.
You can go home tomorrow.

JAIME

Great.

THE BEAR

You're a good soldier, Jaime. When
do you want to work again?

JAIME

Not for a while. I need to get over
seeing the Cook, Johnny and Luke
being blown away.

THE BEAR

I'll have Sergio contact you in a
couple of months. I want you and
Sergio to work together.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

The Bear and Jaime walk by a Cinema.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The Cinema MARQUEE has the actor's name, "UGO TOGNAZZI" and
the film "VENGA A PRENDERE IL CAFE? DA NOI" in bright lights.

The Bear glances at the marquee.

THE BEAR
Have you seen that movie? Ugo
Tognazzi is a great actor.

JAIME
I saw the movie this afternoon. It
was really funny.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIME'S HOTEL ROOM - HOTEL QUATTRO FONTANI- LATER THAT
NIGHT

KNOCK at the door.

JAIME
Come in.

VARIOUS ANGLES

The Bear walks into the room.

THE BEAR
Here is your airplane ticket. You
leave early tomorrow. It is first
class Pan American from Rome to
Kennedy Airport. You'll be home
tomorrow night.

The Bear gives Jaime the ticket.

JAIME
Thanks.

THE BEAR
Here is something extra for you.
Senor Cunha wanted you to have
this.

The Bear hands Jaime an envelope. There is a check for twenty
thousand dollars. Jaime looks at the check.

JAIME
This check is for twenty thousand
dollars. That is an extra ten
thousand.

THE BEAR
Yeah, Tony Cunha was very
appreciative of the work you did
with his children.

JAIME

Tell Senor Cunha thanks.

THE BEAR

I shall.

They shake hands. The Bear leaves the hotel room.

Jaime goes to the window and stares out.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. JAIME'S BEDROOM - GUADALAJARA, MEXICO - DAWN

TITLE CARD: JULY 4, 1976 - GUADALAJARA, MEXICO - FIVE YEARS LATER

Jaime, now twenty-seven years old, asleep in bed, wakes up startled. He is an American medical student studying in Mexico.

JAIME

Aaah!

Jaime rubs his face, looks around the room and composes himself. He leaps out of bed.

Jaime is lean and muscular from years of weight training and exercise. He exits the bedroom into the bathroom. The sound of a shower is heard.

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - THAT EVENING

It is early evening, dusk. It is the middle of the rainy season a hot, muggy July Saturday night.

Jaime exits a movie theater. As he walks away, the Marquee TEATRO REFORMA is shown. The name of the movie and actor, VENGA A TOMAR UNA TAZA DE CAFE CON NOSOTROS, con UGO TOGNAZZI are displayed in Spanish.

VARIOUS ANGLES

Jaime strolls down the street moderately crowded with Mexicans. He is a little tense. His eyes watch everything. Jaime blends into the streets of Guadalajara.

The background MUSIC is MEXICAN RANCHERO.

Jaime passes half a dozen men eating tacos at a typical street cart. A joker has lightly scribbled CARNE DE PERRO on the side of the cart.

Jaime smiles a little. He stops at the street corner SIGN, REFORMA and AVENIDA MUNGIA. Many cars drive by.

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - MOMENTS LATER

A brown 1972 Volkswagon Beetle with California license plates pulls up and a voice shouts.

TOM (V.O.)

Jaime.

TOM JENNER, the driver of the Volkswagon, sticks his head out the window. He makes a quick U-turn and pulls the car in front of Jaime.

Jaime opens the door and gets in.

INT. TOM'S VOLKSWAGON - NIGHT

Tom Jenner is also an American medical student studying in Mexico. He is in his early thirties. He is large in height and weight. He has dark eyes and brown hair. Tom is working his way through medical school by selling marijuana to the American community in Guadalajara. Tom is arrogant and sure of himself.

TOM

(Midwestern accent)

Jaime, what do you know about cocaine?

JAIME

Not too much, Tom.

American Rock and Roll Music plays on the radio.

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - NIGHT

Tom drives the VW through traffic down Avenida La Paz, spins the car around the FIRE-EATER in the middle of the road, cuts a right turn, then zigzags through side streets, passes the PLAZA DEL SOL shopping mall and finally reaches his house. He pulls the car into the driveway. Tom and Jaime get out of the car.

EXT. TOM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tom's home is located in a quiet community behind the Plaza Del Sol shopping mall. His newly built house has chopped glass cemented into the roof with iron bars covering the windows.

INT. LIVING ROOM - TOM'S HOUSE- NIGHT

It is a clean, new room with a sturdy couch, chairs, table and TV set. Mexican rugs hang from the walls and draperies cover the windows. There are medical textbooks in Spanish and English in a bookcase.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Tom is upbeat. He turns on the phonograph. His favorite group, War performs "Slipping into Darkness."

TOM

Hey, Jaime, how did your exams go?

Jaime is serious and unsmiling. He shows little emotion.

JAIME

I passed. How did you do?

TOM

I aced them all.

JAIME

Good.

Tom disappears into his bedroom.

Jaime inspects the Native American rug hanging from the wall.

Tom reappears with a RICAMESA shopping bag. He pulls two large white bricks from the bag and places them on the table.

TOM

Each brick is a kilo and ninety-five percent pure cocaine, they cost ten grand each. Do you have ten thousand dollars? We can go partners.

Jaime looks at the bricks of cocaine. He is surprised and shows some emotion.

JAIME

Selling coke is a lot more dangerous than selling pot. What the hell are you doing with this stuff?

TOM

I can make a lot more money selling coke in the states then selling marijuana to Americans down here.

(Pause)

I'll need money after I graduate medical school. When I do my residency back in the states, I want money and a nice place to live. Resident physicians don't get much of a salary.

Jaime thinks for a moment.

JAIME

I'm not interested in selling drugs.

(Pause)

Hey Tom, how are you getting this stuff on the other side of the border?

TOM

That won't be a problem.

Tom excited.

TOM (CONT'D)

Once these bricks are in the USA, I can cut two bricks into four and get thirty or forty thousand dollars each.

JAIME

Hmm.

Tom goes into the kitchen. He comes back with two TECATE beers. He hands Jaime a can. They sit at the table and drink.

TOM

Remember that guy, ROB LOESSER. Last summer he lived in the apartment next to you.

JAIME

The rich, blond kid from Ohio. The Mexican girls loved Rob and the Mexican guys despised him.

TOM

Well, I sold him two kilos of marijuana.

JAIME

I know.

TOM

I've been in contact with him. He'll go for the deal. Are you sure you don't want a piece of this?

JAIME

No way.

Jaime sips the beer.

JAIME (CONT'D)

You got these bricks from Sergio didn't you?

TOM

Yes, I did. He and his gang from Culiacan are setting up a coke distribution center here in Guadalajara.

Tom points to the bricks on the table.

TOM (CONT'D)

Those two bricks are the first samples.

Jaime looks at Tom and speaks slowly to him.

JAIME

Sergio is a very dangerous man.

TOM

He's just a businessman who has good connections with the Federales.

JAIME

OK. The coke is safe on this side of the border but if you get caught smuggling cocaine into Texas, you go to jail forever.

Tom fluffs off Jaime's warnings. He pauses a second and finishes drinking his beer.

Jaime downs the rest of his beer. Tom gets up and returns with two more Tecates. He throws one to Jaime.

TOM

Look, I want you to do me a favor. Keep these bricks for me. I am driving to Puerto Vallarta very early in the morning. I have a meeting with Sergio there Sunday night.

JAIME

Why do you want me to hold the bricks?

TOM

Sergio told me to have you hold the bricks until the deal is complete.

Tom stops talking and thinks.

TOM (CONT'D)

You have known Sergio for a long time haven't you?

JAIME

I was introduced to Sergio by a mutual friend. I've known him for five years.

TOM

That's longer than you've been in medical school.

JAIME

That's right.

Tom shrugs and smiles. They drink.

TOM

I am taking a semester's leave of absence. I need to make a distribution connection in the USA. That will take some time.

JAIME

When will you contact me?

TOM

Sergio will contact you when everything is setup.

JAIME

OK, I'll hold the bricks. Give me a ride to Minerva Circle and I'll walk to my apartment from there.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - MINERVA CIRCLE - GUADALAJARA - NIGHT

Tom drops Jaime off at Minerva Circle in the center of the city. Traffic is light.

Jaime walks a few blocks down Avenida Vallarta to his upscale hotel apartment in Suites Andreas. He carries the cocaine bricks in the Ricamesa shopping bag.

INT. JAIME'S BEDROOM - GUADALAJARA - NIGHT

Jaime's apartment has a small living room, kitchen and large bedroom with a king sized bed. Draperies cover the windows.

Jaime uses a key to unlock the bedroom closet door. He places the Ricamesa bag on an upper shelf and covers it with clothes. The lower shelf stores a few medical texts. He locks the closet.

Jaime undresses. He is worried. He turns off the lamp on the dresser and gets into bed. He Dreams.

DISSOLVE TO:

SOUND. Two large EXPLOSIONS and a FIREBALL SWOOSH into the sky.

Luke and Johnny lie dead, body parts all around.

THE BEAR (V.O.)

GET UP.

Jaime wakes up in a cold sweat.

JAIME

Aaah!

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT, PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO-NIGHT

TITLE CARD: CAMINO REAL HOTEL, PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO

Tom Jenner is seated at a table with SERGIO and ROB LOESSER. The restaurant is not crowded. July is offseason in Puerto Vallarta.

Rob Loesser is early twenties; long blond hair, blue eyes, thin build. He is extremely good looking. He takes one look at Sergio and keeps his mouth shut.

SERGIO
(Very Slight, Mexican Accent)
OK, Tom. The deal is settled.

TOM
Five thousand is in the briefcase.

Rob hands Sergio the briefcase. He quickly looks away from him.

TOM (CONT'D)
I'll wire you the rest of the money
in a few months.

SERGIO
As long as Jaime holds the bricks.
I'll trust you for the rest of the
money.

Sergio shakes hands with Tom and Rob. He leaves the table and exits the restaurant.

ROB
(Midwestern Accent)
That guy Sergio is one dangerous
fuck.

TOM
Don't worry about him. He's nothing
compared to guys I know in Chicago.

ROB
Why did he want Jaime to hold the
coke?

TOM
Because Jaime is an easy going
jackoff, who does not do drugs.
Sergio is just using him.

ROB
Then we should use Jaime to bring
the drugs across the border into
the United States.

TOM
Exactly.

CUT TO:

EXT. MEDICAL SCHOOL BUILDING - GUADALAJARA - DAY

TITLE CARD: GUADALAJARA MEDICAL SCHOOL - OCTOBER 1971

Jaime stands in front of a medical school building. There are Many STUDENTS walking from one building to another. The Students are young and active. The mixture of Students is sixty five percent Mexican and thirty five percent American. These percentages are about the same for male and female students.

All the Male Students have short haircuts. All the Female Students wear dresses. The sun is shining but the weather is cooler in October. Everyone wears a light jacket or sweater.

A Male Student stops to talk to Jaime.

MALE STUDENT
Jaime, do you know anyone that
sells pot?

JAIME
No.

MALE STUDENT
Tom's not here this semester is he?

JAIME
He took the semester off.

MALE STUDENT
Fucking Tom.

The students walk into an auditorium.

INT. MEDICAL SCHOOL CLASS AUDITORIUM - GUADALAJARA - DAY

Jaime sits far back in the auditorium. A lecture in cardiology is presented.

There is a screen. THE PROFESSOR points at the human heart and explains the circulatory system. He speaks in Spanish.

INSERT

A LARGE CALENDAR on the blackboard shows OCTUBRE, 1976.

PROFESSOR (V.O)
El circulacion de la corazon...

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - LE TRIGNON - GUADALAJARA - EVENING

TITLE CARD: TWO DAYS LATER

It is early Friday evening. Jaime has dinner in an upscale French restaurant, Le Trignon, located a few blocks from his apartment on Avenida Vallarta. The restaurant is not crowded. There are THREE WAITERS serving CUSTOMERS.

The MUSIC playing is something like Charles Aznavour.

Jaime sits alone. There is a full glass of red wine on the table. He holds a box of matches in his hand.

INSERT

LE TRIGNON is written on the box of matches.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Sergio enters the restaurant with a Young Blond WOMAN. She is mid twenties and very beautiful. Both Sergio and the Woman are well dressed. Sergio carries a briefcase. A Waiter escorts them to a table on the opposite side of the room from Jaime.

Sergio, with briefcase in hand, walks over to Jaime's table. Jaime stands up and they shake hands. Sergio places the briefcase on the floor. They sit down.

SERGIO
Jaime, I just heard from Tom.

JAIME
Good.

SERGIO
In the summer, when I saw Tom in Puerto Vallarta, he had this blond kid named Rob fly down. They paid me five grand for the bricks.

JAIME

Tom said the bricks cost twenty.

SERGIO

Tom wired the rest of the money last week to my bank in Mexico City.

Jaime and Sergio both light cigarettes.

SERGIO (CONT'D)

There is a problem with Tom and this kid Rob.

JAIME

What's the problem?

SERGIO

They are informants for a rival drug network.

Sergio blows smoke. Jaime crushes his cigarette in the ashtray.

SERGIO (CONT'D)

Tom wants you to take the bricks across the border and deliver the cocaine to him. He doesn't trust my Mexican men.

JAIME

I really don't want any part of this. I don't like this drug business.

Sergio looks directly at Jaime.

SERGIO

I saw our friend The Bear in Mexico City last week.

Jaime's eyes open wider. He knows what Sergio is talking about.

JAIME

I haven't seen him for a long time. What does he want me to do?

SERGIO

The Bear wants you to eliminate Tom and Rob.

Jaime is in deep thought. He looks down at the table. Sergio rubs his cigarette butt into the ashtray. Jaime lifts his head and speaks directly to Sergio.

JAIME

(Calmly)

Where do I cross the border?

SERGIO

Laredo is the best place, lots of traffic and your safety is guaranteed. When you get to the states, I have a number for you to call that *cabron* Rob.

He pushes the briefcase on the floor over toward Jaime.

SERGIO (CONT'D)

Rob's telephone number is in the briefcase with traveling money.

JAIME

How much traveling money?

SERGIO

Fifteen thousand dollars.

(Pause)

This should not be too difficult for you. Tom and Rob think you're a first class *pendejo*.

JAIME

Yes, I know.

SERGIO

Do you need anything else?

JAIME

No, I'll take care of things myself. Tell The Bear this is my last job.

Sergio turns towards the Young Blonde Woman and smiles. Then he looks at Jaime.

SERGIO

I'll tell him you are out after you complete this assignment.

Sergio stands up and shakes Jaime's hand.

SERGIO (CONT'D)

Bueno suerte. Have a safe trip.

Sergio nods his head and returns to the Young Blonde Woman. Jaime sips the glass of wine.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIME'S APARTMENT - GUADALAJARA - NIGHT

It is Saturday evening. Jaime sits at his desk. He reads a medical textbook and writes some notes. He stops writing, takes a swig of Coca Cola and looks at his DESK CLOCK. There is a large CALENDAR on the wall.

INSERT

Days are marked off on the CALENDAR up to SABADO, 9 DE OCTUBRE 1976. The DESK CLOCK shows 10:00 PM.

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - NIGHT

Jaime enters his car a red and white Chevy Malibu.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Jaime plays an eight track tape. The MUSIC is an album by the EAGLES.

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - NIGHT

Traffic is light.

MOVING

The Chevy drives down Avenida Vallarta, which turns into Avenida Juarez. The car goes through the downtown center of the city. Then it continues onto Avenida Javier Mina to the RED LIGHT DISTRICT.

EXT. STREET - RED LIGHT DISTRICT - NIGHT

Jaime parks his car and walks a block. He knocks at a house door with a red light hanging from above. A small window opens. An eye peers through the window. A MAN unlocks the door and Jaime walks into the house.

INT. WHOREHOUSE - NIGHT

Jaime gives the Man a twenty-peso bill. Jaime walks up one flight of stairs and enters the main room. The room is smoky and crowded. There are WAITERS, BOUNCERS, GIRLS and CUSTOMERS standing and sitting. A radio plays MUSIC in English. Olivia Newton John sings, "Come on over, put a smile on my face."

There are no American medical students in the place. There are only Mexican Men, young and old. Jaime is the only American in the room. There is a large bar. One of the Waiters comes up to Jaime.

The dialogue is in Spanish with English translation.

HOUSE WAITER

Que pasa? (What's happening?)

JAIME

Ester esta aqui? (Is Ester here?)

HOUSE WAITER

Si. (Yes)

The House Waiter calls a GIRL over. The Girl leaves the room.

HOUSE WAITER (CONT'D)

Una toma? (A drink?)

JAIME

Una cerveza. (A beer.)

The House Waiter brings Jaime a SUPERIOR beer. Jaime pays ten pesos and gives him ten pesos tip.

ANOTHER ANGLE

ESTER walks behind Jaime and taps him on his back. She is about twenty-six years old. She is heavily made up but wears a very plain dress. Ester is five-feet-two inches tall, dark hair, dark eyes, very pretty, well built. Ester understands and speaks some English with a heavy Mexican accent.

JAIME (CONT'D)

Por toda la noche, Ester. (For the entire night, Ester.)

ESTER

Un mil-pesos. (One thousand pesos.)

Jaime hands her two five hundred peso bills. Note: One thousand pesos is the equivalent of eighty dollars in 1976.

ESTER (CONT'D)

Un momento Jaime. Ya me voy a conseguir mi chaqueta. (One moment Jaime, I am going to get my jacket.)

Jaime waits a second. Ester returns with her jacket. MUSIC, Linda Ronstadt sings in English. "You're no good, you're no good, you're no good, baby you're no good."

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - RED LIGHT DISTRICT - NIGHT

Jaime and Ester are about to enter his car. He opens the door for her.

ESTER

Donde vas Jaime? (Where are you going, Jaime?)

JAIME

El motel. (The motel.)

MOVING - CAR POV

The car drives through the streets of the red light district.

EXT. MOTEL - RED LIGHT DISTRICT - NIGHT

Jaime pulls the car into the motel driveway. A PARKING ATTENDANT signals him to park the car beneath a motel room.

Jaime parks the car in the garage space below the room. The Parking Attendant closes a curtain so the car cannot be seen.

Jaime and Ester exit the car. The Parking Attendant hands Jaime a key to the motel room. As Jaime and Ester walk up the stairs to the room Jaime turns and speaks to the Attendant.

JAIME

Dos cervezas. (Two beers.)

PARKING ATTENDANT

Si, como no. (Yes, of course.)

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The room has a bed, chair, small dresser table. The window is covered with cloth. There is a radio on the table. Ester turns on the radio. She sets the sound very low. The MUSIC is in Spanish, "*Ya no me cantes cigarra, Que acabe tu sonsonete.*"

SOUND. KNOCK at the door.

Jaime goes to the door and opens it. The Parking Attendant gives Jaime two beers. Jaime places the beer on the dresser table and pays the Parking Attendant some money. The Parking Attendant closes the door when he exits.

The beers are already opened, Jaime hands Ester a beer and keeps one for himself.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Ester kicks off her shoes and sits on the bed. She sips the beer. She lights a BARONET cigarette and gives it to Jaime. She lights another cigarette for herself. They smoke and drink for a moment.

ESTER

Perdistes peso, Jaime? (Have you lost weight, Jaime?)

JAIME

Si, un poco. Come estas Ester?
(Yes, a little. How are you Ester?)

ESTER

Mas o menos bien. Porque no me llamas Jaime? (More or less well. How come you have not called me Jaime?)

JAIME

Tengo estudios muchos. (I had a lot to study.)
(Pause)
Ester, me conoces por mas de tres anos, verdad? (Ester, you have known me for more than three years, correct?)

ESTER

Si, casi cuatro anos. (Yes, almost four years.)

JAIME

Necesito salir de Mexico y esta vez, yo no puedo regresar.

(Pause)

I am leaving Mexico, Ester and I am not coming back to Guadalajara. Ever.

ESTER

Tu regresas siempre.

(Pause)

You always come back.

JAIME

Esta vez, no.

(Pause)

This time no.

Ester looks at Jaime and touches him. They go to bed.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - DAY

TITLE CARD: TUESDAY OCTOBER 12, 1976

Jaime stands in front of an auto service, Servicio Jose Vallarta, which is located across the street from his apartment building. His red and white Chevy Malibu is shown being serviced in one of the bays.

There is a large SIGN: SERVICIO JOSE VALLARTA.

Jaime walks from the auto service, one block down Avenida Vallarta to a taxicab stand. He wears a khaki army backpack.

INT. TAXI - DAY

JAIME

Tlaquepaque por favor.

TAXI DRIVER

OK.

EXT. STREET - GUADALAJARA - DAY

MOVING

The taxi drives up Avenida Vallarta, around Minerva Circle to Avenida Las Americas, to the highway Mariano Otero, to Avenida Lazaro Cardenas into the town of Tlaquepaque. There is plenty of traffic.

EXT. STREET - TLAQUEPAQUE, MEXICO - DAY

The town of Tlaquepaque caters to tourists and Mexicans. There are many small shops that make custom goods to order. There are leather goods stores, jewelry shops, silversmiths, and arts and crafts shops. There are PEOPLE walking on the street but it is not overly crowded.

Jaime walks a few blocks then enters a store.

CUT TO:

INT. COPPER PLATES STORE - TLAQUEPAQUE, MEXICO - DAY

This store sells brass and copper plates, pots and pans. Goods are displayed in the windows and throughout the shop.

There are a couple of AMERICAN WOMEN TOURISTS buying copper kettles.

A Mexican CRAFTSMAN mid thirties, moustache, large, sweaty and dark, greets Jaime as he enters the shop. They walk into a back room.

INT. BACK ROOM COPPER PLATES STORE - DAY

Jaime removes a revolver and silencer from inside the backpack and hands it to the Craftsman.

JAIME

Test the gun and silencer for me.
Adjust the silencer if the sound is
too loud.

CRAFTSMAN

(Heavy Mexican Accent)
Come back in two hours Jaime.

Jaime shakes the Craftsman's hand and leaves the shop.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - TLAQUEPAQUE, MEXICO - DAY

Jaime walks the streets of Tlaquepaque. He peers into the different shop windows. The Mexican Girls in Tlaquepaque are very pretty. They have blue-green eyes and dark hair.

Note: The town of Tlaquepaque was a French outpost when Maximilian was Emperor of Mexico. Thus the inhabitants have blue-green eyes.

Jaime enters a Sweater Store.

CUT TO:

INT. SWEATER STORE - MOMENTS LATER

This is a large store with cases of sweaters. Jaime purchases three different colored sweaters.

At the cash register, The SALESGIRL places the merchandize in a shopping bag.

Jaime pays cash. She hands him the stuffed shopping bag. Jaime exits the store.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTDOOR RESTAURANT - SAME DAY

Jaime eats tacos and drinks a CORONA beer. He enjoys the food. His backpack and a shopping bag lay at his feet.

He watches the Pretty MEXICAN GIRLS walk by. He checks his watch.

CUT TO:

EXT. COPPER PLATES STORE - DAY

Jaime wears his backpack and carries the shopping bag. He enters the copper crafts shop to retrieve the gun and silencer.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Jaime exits the shop with the Craftsman. The Craftsman waves goodbye as Jaime enters a taxi.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIME'S BEDROOM - GUADALAJARA - THAT EVENING

MUSIC by SANTANA plays in the background.

Sergio's briefcase is on the bed. Jaime opens the briefcase. He takes the paper with Rob's phone number and studies it for a second. Then he rips the paper and throws it into a waste basket.

Jaime removes money from the briefcase. He places five stacks of bills wrapped in rubber bands on the bed. He quickly flips through thirty, one hundred dollar bills in each of the five stacks. He throws the money into an open suitcase. He goes into a closet and retrieves one of the large sweaters he recently purchased in Tlaquepaque. He covers the money with the sweater and shuts the suitcase.

INT. JAIME'S KITCHEN - A LITTLE LATER

Background MUSIC is COUNTRY WESTERN.

The two bricks of cocaine are on the table. Jaime takes a brick and chops it with a hammer and screwdriver. He gets a blast of cocaine powder directly in his face. He breathes the coke in and is stunned for a second. He sneezes.

Jaime grabs a towel and wipes his mouth and nose. He opens a suitcase and pulls out a green surgical mask. He ties the mask over his mouth and nose.

Jaime proceeds to chop the bricks of cocaine. He makes twelve individual piles. He wraps the first pile in cellophane. He gets a white gym sock and pads the sock with a small sponge and cotton. He places the cellophane bag of cocaine into the sock and rolls it up. He mechanically repeats the procedure.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - DAWN

TITLE CARD: THE NEXT MORNING - WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13, 1976

Jaime closes the trunk of his Chevy Malibu, walks around and enters the car.

INT. CAR - DAWN

Jaime pops two pills into his mouth and washes them down with a Coke. He places the pill bottle on the passenger seat.

INSERT

The LABEL on the pill bottle reads LOMOTIL.
NOTE: LOMOTIL is a mild opiate derivative that prevents diarrhea.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAWN

MOVING

The Chevy drives east into the mountains.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The lights of Guadalajara are seen on the Western plateau.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - TABASCO, MEXICO - MORNING

MOVING

Driving around the mountains, the car slowly passes a SIGN marking the town of TABASCO. Tabasco is a small, dreary town. There are MEXICAN PEASANTS on the side of the road, waiting at a bus stop. These men look like movie extras in films about Emiliano Zapata. Jaime pulls the car into a PEMEX gas station at the far end of town.

EXT. HIGHWAY - ZACATECAS, MEXICO - DAY

MOVING

The car continues the trip and finally comes out of the mountains into a town. A SIGN shows the town ZACATECAS.

The sun shines.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - DAY

Jaime now drives the car wearing sunglasses.

The car passes a SIGN on the road, 54 NORTE. The drive continues through the flat desert. There is sparse traffic.

MUSIC by WAR plays from the car. "The Cisco Kid was a friend of mine, he drinks whiskey Poncho drinks the wine."

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - SALTILLO, MEXICO - DAY

MOVING

The car enters the city of SALTILLO. The traffic is heavy and driving is slow. There is steady highway traffic all the way into the larger city of MONTERREY.

EXT. PEMEX STATION - MONTERREY, MEXICO - DAY

Jaime pulls the Chevy Malibu into the gas station at the north end of Monterrey. A Gas Station Attendant fills the tank.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Jaime gets out, stretches and yawns. He takes off the sunglasses and rubs his eyes. He drinks another small Coke, while the car drinks gasoline. He looks at his wristwatch.

INSERT

The WRISTWATCH TIME shows 2:15 o'clock.

CUT TO:

EXT. FEDERALE PERIMETER CHECKPOINT - MEXICO - TEN KILOMETERS FROM THE UNITED STATES BORDER - DAY

The car is stopped at a Federale checkpoint. Jaime gets out of the car.

Jaime hands the FEDERALE a Mexican student visa, an American passport and his car documents. The big, fat Federale, authoritatively looks at Jaime's documents and ambles to the front of the Chevy Malibu. He checks the date on the Mexican car permit sticker at the driver side front window. Everything is in order.

The Federale peers inside the car and speaks to Jaime in Spanish.

FEDERALE
Andale pues.

Jaime gets going.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - NUEVO LAREDO, MEXICO - DAY

MOVING

The Chevy Malibu travels through the busy border town of NUEVO LAREDO and crosses the bridge into LAREDO, TEXAS.

CUT TO:

EXT. USA CUSTOMS STATION - LAREDO, TEXAS - DAY

The car idles in a line at the US frontier entry point. There are many cars and vans entering the USA at Laredo, Texas. In the adjacent car line, three Customs Agents are thoroughly checking a Ford van. A different CUSTOMS AGENT approaches Jaime's car. He is middle aged, tall and slightly overweight. He looks into the car.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Jaime rolls the window all the way down.

CUSTOMS AGENT
(Heavy West Texas drawl)
Get out of the car.

Jaime gets out.

CUSTOMS AGENT (CONT'D)
Driver's license and registration.

Jaime hands the Customs Agent his license, Texas car registration, American passport and Mexican Student Visa.

The Customs Agent checks these documents. He walks toward the back of the car.

Jaime opens the driver side door and exits the car. He walks around the front of the car to the other side. Jaime opens the passenger door. He reaches into the car and grabs a Coke from the bag on the floor. He opens the bottle, with his Swiss Army knife can opener. He takes a sip of soda. Jaime relieves tension by sipping Coca Cola.

CUSTOMS AGENT (CONT'D)
Open your trunk. Do you have
anything to declare: fruits,
vegetables, alcohol?

Jaime opens the trunk.

JAIME
I have nothing to declare.

The Customs Agent does a half-ass job checking the baggage in
the car trunk. He does not open any luggage.

VARIOUS ANGLES

The Customs Agent turns and looks at Jaime.

CUSTOMS AGENT
When was the last time you were in
Texas?

JAIME
About six months ago.

CUSTOMS AGENT
Are you carrying contraband?

JAIME
No contraband, just this Coke.

Jaime holds up the bottle of Coca Cola that he has been
drinking.

CUSTOMS AGENT
(Speaking Slowly)
Get the fuck out of here wise-ass.

Jaime quickly finishes the coke and puts it in a garbage can.
He gets back into his car. Jaime turns his head to look at
the large clock in the Customs Station Office.

INSERT

The CLOCK shows 5:45 o'clock.

EXT. ROAD - LAREDO, TEXAS - MOMENTS LATER

MOVING

The Chevy goes down the road North, as the sun sets in the West.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - GRAND HOTEL LAREDO, TEXAS - EVENING

The extreme tension of the day has gotten to Jaime. He vomits into the toilet.

INT. BEDROOM - GRAND HOTEL - A SHORT TIME LATER - NIGHT

Jaime wears pajamas. He gets into bed. A nightmare begins.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN - BROOKLYN, NY - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: JERRY'S BAR AND GRILL BROOKLYN, NY - 1966

Jaime is seventeen years old. He sits on a kitchen chair. He wears an apron. The kitchen is clean, the dishes and glasses are properly in place. Jaime drinks a glass of milk. Everything is quiet and peaceful.

INT. BARROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The barroom is empty. A middle aged man wearing an apron wipes off the bar. He is Jaime's UNCLE JERRY. Uncle Jerry has snow white hair and is average height and weight.

The CLOCK on the wall shows 3:00 o'clock. It is 3 AM, closing time.

TWO LARGE MEN in casual dress quietly enter the barroom. Uncle Jerry turns and recognizes the men.

UNCLE JERRY
(Brooklyn Accent, Speaking Friendly)
Hey guys, what's up.

VARIOUS ANGLES

The Two Men draw revolvers and shoot at Uncle Jerry. Uncle Jerry quickly dives under the bar. He is not fast enough and one of the bullets hits him in the shoulder. He groans.

As the Two Men move around the side of the bar to kill Uncle Jerry, Jaime enters the barroom from the kitchen.

Jaime aims a double barrel twelve gauge, pump action shotgun at the Two Men. He unloads both barrels. There are two loud BLASTS. Jaime motionless, stares at the dead men. He has blown their heads off.

Uncle Jerry comes from around the bar. There is blood on his right shoulder. With his good left arm, he grabs the shotgun from Jaime.

UNCLE JERRY (CONT'D)

Get out. Don't ever say a word about this to anyone. I will take care of everything.

(Pause)

Thanks Jimmy.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - GRAND HOTEL LAREDO, TEXAS - DAWN

Jaime wakes up. He just shakes his head. He jumps out of bed and goes into the bathroom.

SOUNDS of a shower running water are heard off camera.

Jaime re-enters the bedroom. He is very slim. He has lost fifteen pounds since July. He dries his face and torso with an extra large towel. He looks at the towel.

INSERT

Written on the towel: GRAND HOTEL LAREDO, TEXAS.

CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY ROUTE 35 NORTH - AUSTIN, TEXAS - DAY

TITLE CARD: AUSTIN, TEXAS - THURSDAY OCTOBER 14, 1976

MOVING

The Chevy Malibu drives up ROUTE 35 into AUSTIN, TEXAS.

EXT. MCDONALD'S RESTAURANT - DAY

The car pulls into McDonald's.

VARIOUS ANGLES

Jaime walks from the car parking lot toward the entrance of McDonald's.

GUYS with cowboy hats, sitting in trucks with shotgun racks are eating hamburgers and drinking beer. A Country Music station plays Roy Orbison, "I feel so bad I've got a worried mind, I'm so lonesome all the time."

Three very pretty TEENAGED GIRLS in jeans and boots are walking into McDonald's. They are happy, having a gleeful conversation. One of the girls, a good-looking Blond about five feet eight inches tall, has a pair of well-endowed breasts. She smiles at Jaime.

Jaime nods his head and silently smiles back at her. He walks over to a phone booth.

INT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY

Jaime dials. SOUNDS of COINS are heard.

SOUND of RINGING.

ROB (V.O.)
(Midwestern Accent) Rob here.

JAIME
Rob this is Jaime. How are things
in Cincinnati?

ROB (V.O.)
The Reds are in the World Series
against the Yankees.

JAIME
That's great. Where's Tom?

ROB (V.O.)
Tom is in Chicago. Can we all meet
there?

JAIME
No. I am not driving to Chicago.
(Pause)
Today is Thursday. I'm in Austin,
Texas. I'll make Little Rock by
Saturday. I'll meet you and Tom, at
the Ramada Inn on Highway 30 West
at 2:00 PM. Make the reservation
in your name, so I can call you at
the motel.

ROB (V.O.)
OK, that's Saturday, October 16,
2:00 PM, Ramada Inn, Highway 30
West, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Jaime hangs up the phone.

CUT TO:

EXT. WAFFLE HOUSE - LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS - DAY

TITLE CARD: LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16,
1976

Jaime stands next to his car in the WAFFLE HOUSE parking lot.
He has the backpack on and holds a canvas gym bag in his left
hand.

He walks to a phone booth on the side of the restaurant. He
makes a call.

INT. PHONE BOOTH - LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS - DAY

SOUND of RINGING.

HOTEL OPERATOR (V.O.)
Ramada Inn.

JAIME
Hello, can you please connect me to
Mr. Rob Loesser.

HOTEL OPERATOR (V.O.)
Yes, I'll ring him.

Phone RINGS once.

ROB (V.O.)
Hello.

JAIME
What's your room number?

ROB (V.O.)
Two fourteen.

Jaime hangs up the phone.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jaime walks two long blocks to the Ramada Inn.

EXT. RAMADA INN - DAY

The motel building and SIGN, RAMADA INN are seen from the highway. Jaime walks through the parking lot of the Ramada Inn wearing his backpack and carrying the gym bag.

He enters the Ramada Inn from a side entrance. It is obvious that he is familiar with the hotel layout.

INT. RAMADA INN - DAY

Jaime goes up one flight of stairs, walks down the hallway and stops at Room 214.

DOORWAY

Jaime knocks at the door. Rob opens the door and lets Jaime in.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Tom sits on one of the twin beds. He sees Jaime and smiles.

Rob stands by Tom.

The television set is on. There is a campaign commercial that explains what a great guy Jimmy Carter is.

JAIME

Who's that guy?

TOM

That asshole is Jimmy Carter and he's running for President against Ford.

Tom walks over and turns the television off.

Jaime is tense but conceals it.

Tom and Rob are perfectly comfortable with Jaime. They think Jaime is an asshole.

JAIME
Here's the stuff.

Jaime places the canvas bag on a bed.

TOM
Have any problem at Customs.

JAIME
No. The Customs Agent barely checked the car.

Jaime opens the canvas bag. He removes a large sweater and places it on the bed. Next he pulls out a sock and puts it on the bed. He rapidly pulls out the remaining eleven socks placing each one in a row, across the twin bed.

Jaime replaces the sweater into the bag and zips it shut. He has his backpack on.

JAIME (CONT'D)
I had to chop the coke up and wrap it in cellophane, cotton and sponge. Then I placed the stuff inside these socks. It's all here.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Tom begins to check a sock. He puts his finger in and tastes the coke. He smiles at Rob.

Rob goes over to the closet and pulls out two stacks of one hundred dollar bills. He hands the bills to Jaime.

ROB
That's two thousand dollars.

Jaime does not show much emotion. He takes the money and places it into the gym bag.

Rob walks to the radio located between the two twin beds and turns it on. The station plays MUSIC by Jim Croce.

TOM
We are going to cut this stuff, and make it into four kilos. I have a guy in Chicago that will pay thirty grand a key.

Rob goes into the closet. He brings back a small scale and a jar that contains a white substance that looks like powdered milk. Tom places a sock on a table.

Tom and Rob put on green surgical masks.

ROB

Let's get to work and cut this stuff.

Tom puts a sock full of coke on one scale. Rob pours powdered milk onto the opposite side scale until the weights are equal. Tom empties the sock of cocaine into a mixing bowl. Rob pushes the milk powder into the bowl and mixes.

Jaime stands a short distance from them.

JAIME

I need to use the bathroom before I leave.

TOM

Sure, go ahead.

Jaime takes the gym bag and goes into the bathroom with his backpack on.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Jaime places the canvas bag on the floor. He takes off the backpack. He removes a different sweater from the backpack. He pulls a 38 caliber Smith and Wesson revolver and silencer from inside the sweater. He removes a baseball cap from the backpack and puts it on his head.

CLOSER

He screws the silencer onto the revolver. He aims the pistol at his reflection in the bathroom mirror.

In the background the radio station now plays COUNTRY WESTERN MUSIC.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

BATHROOM DOORWAY

Jaime stands in front of the open bathroom doorway. He aims the revolver.

Tom and Rob are busy cutting cocaine. Their backs are shown.

VARIOUS ANGLES

Jaime quickly shoots Rob and Tom in the back of their heads. The silencer works but there are two large THUD SOUNDS when Rob and Tom go down.

Jaime walks over. He shoots Rob in the heart. Then he shoots Tom in the heart.

Blood, brains and cocaine are spread across the room.

Jaime inspects his outer jacket for blood. He puts the gun on the bed and removes the jacket. He takes the sweater from the canvas bag and puts it on. He throws the soiled jacket into the canvas bag.

Jaime disengages the silencer from the revolver and places them in the canvas bag. He removes his backpack and puts it into the canvas bag. Jaime zips the bag shut. He goes to a desk and turns off the radio.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE - MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: MISSISSIPPI RIVER, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE - SATURDAY NIGHT

The Chevy Malibu is parked alongside the Mississippi River. The BRIDGE is a few hundred yards to the north. A HOLIDAY INN is seen in the East.

VARIOUS ANGLES

Jaime gets out of the car. He walks to the riverbank. He carries the canvas bag. He removes the gun and silencer from the bag and flings them into the river. He walks down river twenty yards, removes the soiled jacket and throws that into the river.

Jaime walks a few more yards, removes the backpack from the bag and throws the backpack into the water. Finally the canvas bag gets launched into the muddy Mississippi river.

CUT TO:

INT. CAR - MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE - NIGHT

Jaime turns the radio on.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O)
Tomorrow The New York Yankees play
the Cincinnati Reds in the World
Series.

Jaime presses buttons on the radio and changes channels.

MUSIC by The Eagles. "Don't let the sound of your own wheels, drive you crazy."

Jaime has a blank expression on his face.

EXT. HIGHWAY 40 EAST - MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE - NIGHT

MOVING

The Chevy travels down HIGHWAY 40 EAST out of MEMPHIS.

DISSOLVE TO.

INT. JAIME'S HOTEL ROOM QUATTRO FONTANI - ROME, ITALY - JULY 4, 1980 - NIGHT

TITLE CARD: BACK TO PRESENT - ROME, ITALY JULY 4, 1980

Jaime sits relaxed. He lights a cigarette and blows smoke out the window. MUSIC plays softly on the radio. The song is by Steely Dan.

The phone RINGS. Jaime picks it up. It's THE BEAR.

THE BEAR (V.O)
Que paso Jaime.

CLOSER

Jaime, smiles slightly.

Steely Dan SINGS on the radio, "You go back, Jack, do it again. Wheel turning, round and round."

FADE OUT.