

WAR WITHIN A BREATH

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EXT. BUSY CITY STREET - DAY

Three beautiful black sedans pull up to a light. They sit in a perfect line. The sun glares off the black steel blinding all those around. Suddenly, the third car detonates breaking the quiet air and filling the street with screams. White smoke fills the air as the first car's tires struggle for traction but the car's forward momentum is halted by a beaten up blue suv. The two vehicles slam together raising the suv into the air. Two men step out of the suv wearing bullet proof vests and masks covering their faces from the nose down. Cradled in their arms, are modern assault rifles. Bullets tear into the men who stumbled from the wreck of the first car, their bodies flailing violently to the ground. From the second car, a middle aged black man with graying hair steps out, his head covered with the hands of a second man whose gun explodes to life as soon as the barrel passes the edge of the open door. The man has uncanny aim as his bullets hit the knees of one of the armored assailants. He drops to the ground and a young man steps out of the car from the driver's side of the car. He levels a shotgun at the second armored man and screams something to the pair on the other side of the car. They get back into the car and a shotgun round rains down on the armored man knocking him to the ground. The car starts to drive away as the other man walks up to the suv. A shot rings out over the roar of the burning car. The elder man looks back to see the man with the shotgun falling to the ground...

CUT TO NEXT
SCENE

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

PRESIDENT RICHARD CLARK sit at his desk in the center of the oval office. His back to the desk, he holds his phone in his rightt hand and talks as he looks out the window. National Security Advisor MARTIN BOOTH, White House Chief of Staff KELLY MCMANUS, and Director of National Intelligence COLLIN VASQUEZ sit in chairs directly in front of the president's desk.

PRESIDENT CLARK

(into phone)

Yes Mr. Ambassador. I'm putting my best people on it as we speak. We have to tread lightly and can not become directly involved in a military sense but I will assign some of the best people my country

(MORE)

PRESIDENT CLARK (Cont'd)
has to offer to the Interpol task
force.

PRESIDENT CLARK
(cont'd)
Of course Mr. Ambassador. You too,
goodbye.

President Clark turns around and places his phone back on the cradle. He wipes his face with his hands in frustration. Leaning back in his chair he addresses his advisors.

PRESIDENT CLARK
I've got the ambassador, the
president, and the damn UN
representative for Liberia calling
me on an hourly basis asking for
help. Tell me what we have and it
better be good.

Martin Booth takes a flat LCD screen pad from his lap and sets it on the President's desk, facing the president.

MARTIN BOOTH
(pushing a button in the
upper left corner of the
screen)
We've come up with three options
Mr. President. The first is to
commit one of our black ops units
to operations in the region under
the supervision of the CIA
substation in Monrovia.

PRESIDENT CLARK
How many men is that?

MARTIN BOOTH
Seven operators, two pilots, and a
tech specialist. Ten men in total.

PRESIDENT CLARK
What are the odds of success with
this unit?

COLLIN VASQUEZ
The unit we've picked is one of the
best units we have in service.
They're in Mexico City right now
but if we put them in Monrovia, I'd
say six to one. But this is the
(MORE)

COLLIN VASQUEZ (Cont'd)
messiest option Richard. They're
good but they are still a wetworks
unit.

KELLY MCMANUS
If it goes public, they're would be
backlash here, in the UN, and back
in Mexico for removing troops we
promised to the rebel suppression
effort.

PRESIDENT CLARK
Mexico is priority one right now.
What's option two?

KELLY MCMANUS
We move the joint ATF/FBI Smuggling
Task Force to Liberia. But I'll
tell you right now, that is a bad
idea. It's expensive and not a
garaunteed home run.

PRESIDENT CLARK
At least let me hear the entire
scenario before you convince me,
Kelly.

MARTIN BOOTH
Well sir, Ms. Rowland is pretty
accurate. This is the long shot of
the bunch. If we move the entire
task force, including the 75 agents
and the IP infrastructure, we're
looking at well over 2 million
dollars.

COLLIN VASQUEZ
Not to mention the time it would
take for the task force to become
accustomed to the country and how
the culture works.

KELLY MCMANUS
It'll take years if not more.

PRESIDENT CLARK
Seems like a lot of work without
much payoff. What kind of reaction
are we gonna get if we go with the
task force?

KELLY MCMANUS

At home, negative. Why are we sending domestic agents to handle a foreign problem, blah, blah, blah. The same reaction we got for Mexico basically. But it is pretty safe abroad.

PRESIDENT CLARK

Ok, option three. And please impress me.

COLLIN VASQUEZ

We take a seasoned undercover operator from the FBI, CIA, Army Intel, or DOD and assign him as special liason to the Interpol Task Force.

PRESIDENT CLARK

One man?

MARTIN BOOTH

Yes sir.

KELLY MCMANUS

It's the safest bet Richard. Shows faith in the UN's restructuring of Interpol as their policing arm and a sense of equal community. The only negative will be Liberia's reaction. We can promise future aid. Call this stage one.

COLLIN VASQUEZ

Information gathering for a future operation on a larger scale. We don't commit to anything that puts us at risk. And maybe we open space on an important op for younger blood.

PRESIDENT CLARK

So is this the consensus?

MARTIN BOOTH

Yes sir. It's the option with the least risk and best look.

PRESIDENT CLARK

So do we have someone in mind for this little operation?

MARTIN BOOTH

Yes sir.

Booth taps on the lcd screen and the picture of SPECIAL AGENT MICHAEL BARSTOW appears on screen.

PRESIDENT CLARK

Michael...

CUT TO

INT. SMALL OFFICE - LATER

Michael Barstow sits in a small cubicle going over information his his computer. Special Agent In Charge NICK YUAN comes up to the edge of Barstow's cubicle with a manilla folder in hand.

NICK YUAN

Barstow!

MICHAEL BARSTOW
(looking at computer
screen)

Yeah?

Nick Yuan throws the manilla folder onto Barstow's keyboard.

MICHAEL BARSTOW

Hey!

NICK YUAN

You're out of here. New assignment, thank god.

MICHAEL BARSTOW

(opening envelope)
New assignment? What the hell are you talking about? This is my assignment!

NICK YUAN

Not anymore. Interpol Task Force. Enjoy Berlin.

Nick walks away from Barstow's cubicle nonchalantly. Michael takes an airplane ticket out of the envelope and notices the date. He looks At the calender on his wall and the date on the tickets is for the next day.

ECU ON TICKET

FADE OUT

I/E. BERLIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - MORNING

Michael Barstow steps off of his airplane and into the international terminal of the Berlin International Airport. He makes the long walk thru the airport to the baggage claim. Meanwhile (VOICEOVER), the President and his advisors discuss the career of Barstow.

PRESIDENT CLARK

(VO)

Tell me about Barstow.

MARTIN BOOTH

(VO)

He enlisted in the Army in 2001, assigned to Criminal Investigations Division 4 years later after a tour in Iraq. Was hand picked for CID's black ops unit, Deep Eyes, not long after that. He single handedly broke up the CIA's arms deal with Iran and brought Colonel Mendena out into the open. After an attempt on his life during that whole mess, he went dark. When he came out, he was discharged from the Army and joined the FBI. His first assignment was to secure a witness who had fled after numerous attempts on his life during the Nolan Global trial.

PRESIDENT CLARK

(VO)

I remember that. The witness died.

MARTIN BOOTH

(VO)

Yes sir. A former CIA Special Activities Division operator got the witness first. After that, Barstow went undercover on the west coast to infiltrate a weapon smuggling ring that had known ties to terrorists. After no contact for 9 months, Barstow showed up at the task force hq with detailed info about the smuggling ring and it was subsequently broken. That's why we think he'd be perfect for the operation.

PRESIDENT CLARK

(VO)

Understandably. Continue.

MARTIN BOOTH

(VO)

After the smuggling case, Barstow was loaned out to the CIA for training and covert operations in Europe.

PRESIDENT CLARK

(VO)

What kind of training?

MARTIN BOOTH

(VO)

According to his CIA file: counter-insurgency, close quarters combat, electronic warfare, pretty much all the tradecraft they give their Non-Official Cover operatives.

PRESIDENT CLARK

(VO)

What operations was he a part of in Europe?

MARTIN BOOTH

(VO)

Just one according to the file. Tracking a prolific professional assassin codename: Grey Fox. After the British Contamination, and the lack of progress with Grey Fox, he was returned to active duty in the FBI; still tracking Grey Fox since a domestic operation of his had caught the FBI and Secret Service's attention. He's operating out of Seattle with the Secret Service-FBI Joint Task Force now.

PRESIDENT CLARK

(VO)

Is he reliable?

MARTIN BOOTH

(VO)

To be honest sir, he's become obsessed with this Grey Fox and putting him back into an undercover assignment has a 50/50 chance of

(MORE)

MARTIN BOOTH (Cont'd)
success. He's nearing the top of
the hill and he's about as frayed
as they come but he has the
experience and the availability for
the operation.

PRESIDENT CLARK

(VO)

Ok. I'm gonna sign off on this.
Get him to Interpol by the end of
the week.