

SCARECROW AND MRS. KING

"The Long Christmas Eve"

Written by
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SECOND DRAFT

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SCARECROW AND MRS. KING

"The Long Christmas Eve"

CAST LIST

AMANDA KING

LEE STETSON

DOTTY WEST

BILLY MELROSE

FRANCINE DESMOND

PHILLIP KING

JAMIE KING

TED RUDOLPH

IVAN KARIMOZOV (SANTA CLAUS)

DIMITRI KARIMOZOV

SERGEI PALINKOV

C. PAYNE LUCAS

AGENCY GUARD

AGENT #1

AGENT #2

NURSE

NOW SPEAKING: SECRET SERVICE AGENTS (2)

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF (3) SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE; COMMANDOS (6)

KGB AGENTS (6)

SCARECROW AND MRS. KING

"The Long Christmas Eve"

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

KING HOUSE:

Living Room
Kitchen

AGENCY:

Billy's Office
Bullpen

SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICE

HUNTING CABIN

WHITE HOUSE CORRIDOR

HOSPITAL ROOM

EXTERIORS:

DOWNTOWN STREET

RURAL HIGHWAY

WOODS (various locations)

HUNTING CABIN

SOVIET EMBASSY COURTYARD

VEHICLES:

LEE'S PORSCHE

N.D. SEDAN

CHOPPER (?) OR TRUCK

LAND ROVER

SCARECROW AND MRS. KING

"The Long Christmas Eve"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. STREET IN DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON - DAY 1

ON a charity SANTA CLAUSE in front of a department store soliciting funds for some cause. He stands there mutely RINGING his BELL as people pass by. One or two drop coins in a tin kettle as they pass. A man passes by without stopping. STAY WITH him as he CONTINUES down the street. He is TED RUDOLPH -- late fifties, average looking except for his face, which is a roadmap of a difficult life, furrowed with experience.

2 ANGLE - PHONE BOOTH 2

as Rudolph enters. He takes a dime out of his pocket, puts it in the phone, dials a number.

3 SANTA CLAUS 3

observing this.

4 RUDOLPH IN PHONE BOOTH 4

getting his connection.

RUDOLPH

3487X... 2791...

5 SANTA CLAUS 5

moving off toward a car parked in front of the store just as a MOTHER and a KID accost him, blocking his path.

KID

Santa, Santa...

Santa Claus stops, annoyed.

6 RUDOLPH IN PHONE BOOTH 6

RUDOLPH

This is Janus... I want to come in.

7 SANTA CLAUS, MOTHER AND KID 7

as Santa Claus tries to get clear of the Kid and his Mother.

KID

Santa, are you going to come down my chimney?

Santa Claus flashes a perfunctory smile, nods, tries to get past them to the car, but:

MOTHER

Tell Santa Claus what you want for Christmas, Joel.

KID

I wanna Igor Neptune Space Ship with retro rockets...

Santa Claus nods quickly.

8 RUDOLPH IN PHONE BOOTH 8

as he talks his eyes scour the street.

RUDOLPH

There's no time. It has to be immediately... Right away, dammit!

9 RUDOLPH'S POV - THROUGH PHONE BOOTH GLASS - THE STREET 9

as Santa Claus finally manages to extricate himself from the Kid and the Mother and moves quickly toward the car.

10 RUDOLPH 10

RUDOLPH

You bring me in, or you're going to be very sorry...

11 RUDOLPH'S POV - SANTA CLAUS 11

opening the door to the car.

12 RUDOLPH 12

leaving the phone hanging and running out of the phone booth.

13 INT. CAR - TIGHT

13

as a hand opens the glove compartment, reaches for a detonator.

14 EXT. STREET - WIDE

14

Rudolph, on the run, is now 20 feet from the phone booth as it BLOWS UP...

15 INT. AGENCY - BILLY'S OFFICE - DAY

15

ON a wall calendar reading December 23rd.

BILLY (O.S.)

Ted Rudolph...

TILT DOWN and WIDEN TO: BILLY is at his desk. FRANCINE sits on a chair and LEE stands by the bookshelf.

LEE

Did you get a trace on the call?

BILLY

Phone booth.

FRANCINE

What's left of it is in pieces in front of Martindale's Department Store. The Washington Police Bomb Squad says it was a very sophisticated device.

LEE

KGB?

FRANCINE

It wasn't The Salvation Army...

LEE

What does he want?

BILLY

He wants us to bring him in. If we don't, he says we'll be very sorry.

LEE

Can he hurt us?

BILLY

You familiar with his file?

(CONTINUED)

LEE

Not in any depth... Company man,
old school tie. O.S.S. Code
name... Janus...

Francine opens a file, starts to read:

FRANCINE

I'll just give you the broad
strokes: Ted Rudolph, a.k.a.
Kenneth Ciardi, a.k.a. Henry
Sturbridge, born 1925, recruited
1946. O.S.S. post-war Berlin.
Paris-Marseilles 1953-57...
Prague '61... Moscow '64 as New
York Times correspondent...
Brought back in '68. Since then
he's been in deep cover working
both sides of the street.

BILLY

As you can see, a very valuable
man. He brought in Bolinsky in
'72 and Kazimov in '77. He's
plugged in as high as Andropov.

LEE

If he wants to come in, he must
be in trouble.

BILLY

That's what I'm afraid of. My
guess is that they got wind of
it, tried to turn him, and when
that didn't work, they tried to
kill him...

LEE

Do we know where he is?

FRANCINE

His control hasn't heard from him
in three weeks. He said that
Rudolph has been acting strangely
over the last three months, thought
it might be burn-out syndrome.

LEE

I wouldn't be surprised. The guy's
been walking a tightrope for 15
years...

(CONTINUED)

BILLY

We're trying to locate his family. Wife died in '75, natural causes. There's a daughter, early 30's, but she's moved away and we have no leads on her.

LEE

What do we do?

BILLY

We wait. There's nothing we can do until he contacts us again...

as a uniformed security GUARD knocks on the glass. He has a large package under his arm. Billy motions for him to enter. The Guard comes in, hands Billy the package.

GUARD

This came in for you, Mr. Melrose.

BILLY

From where?

GUARD

Sixth floor... Would you sign here please.

Billy scribbles his signature on a clipboard; the Guard exits. Billy puts the package on his desk, seemingly trying to ignore it.

FRANCINE

Aren't you going to open it? It looks like a Christmas present.

Billy shakes his head, reaches for his coffee cup.

LEE

Sixth floor...? Let's see... Scenarios, Ciphers and... What's the euphemism for dirty tricks?

FRANCINE

Covert operations.

LEE

Come on, Billy, open it. Those dirty trick guys have a hell of a sense of humor.

(CONTINUED)

BILLY

Probably just some files...

Lee crosses to the desk, looks at the package.

LEE

It's not marked 'Eyes Only.'

Lee opens it, takes out a large Santa Claus suit, replete with beard.

FRANCINE

How adorable!

LEE

Those guys are a riot. What if we sent them down some phony ciphers...

FRANCINE

What's it for?

BILLY

(beat)

The office Christmas party this afternoon. I lost a bet on the Redskin's game.

LEE

Billy, I couldn't think of a better Santa Claus.

BILLY

There's no way I'm putting that thing on.

FRANCINE

Where's your Christmas spirit?

Lee holds the suit up, grinning.

LEE

It's a dirty job, Billy, but somebody's got to do it...

As Billy just glares at him, we are...

There is a Christmas wreath on the front door.

AMANDA stands on a ladder decorating a modest Christmas tree. DOTTY is at the foot of the ladder handing up ornaments to her. A large number of wrapped presents lie scattered around the base of the tree.

DOTTY

The tree seems a little smaller this year, don't you think, dear?

AMANDA

They get smaller and more expensive every year. You won't believe what the man outside of Grearly's wanted for the large ones.

DOTTY

Well, it looks lovely...

(then)

Missy, do you remember when you were a little girl and you used to go with your father to pick out the tree?

AMANDA

(nods)

And daddy would pretend that it was straight from the North Pole and that the man selling it was a personal friend of Santa Claus.

Both women smile at the memory as they remember a man they both loved; then:

DOTTY

I sometimes wonder if Jamie and Phillip will have those kinds of Christmas memories.

AMANDA

I doubt it. When Phillip was six, I was telling him about Santa Claus coming down the chimney and he said, 'Don't con me, Mom.'

Amanda climbs down the ladder, admires her decorating job.

DOTTY

They grow up so fast.

AMANDA

Not bad for fifteen ninety-nine...

Dotty clears her throat, having something that she obviously wants to say.

(CONTINUED)

DOTTY

Amanda, I think Christmas is always a good time to start thinking a little more... positively.

AMANDA

Do I look depressed to you, Mother?

DOTTY

No...

AMANDA

I mean, just because I got a little choked up watching 'The Way We Were' on TV last night. You have to admit that when he finds her outside the Plaza distributing leaflets...

DOTTY

That's not what I meant, dear.

AMANDA

Oh, what did you mean?

DOTTY

Amanda, I'm thinking about you, your life... and the boys...

AMANDA

Uh-oh, I have a feeling I know what's coming, and...

DOTTY

Amanda, dear, stability is very important for children.

AMANDA

And Dean is very stable. I'm very fond of Dean. He's a wonderful man. The boys adore him. He's got a good job, he's considerate, kind, etcetera... but I'm just not ready yet, okay?

DOTTY

Of course. I wouldn't think of pushing you. I just thought... it being Christmas.

AMANDA

Mother, he's coming for Christmas dinner.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA (CONT'D)

He bought Phillip an entire Washington Redskin football uniform complete with shoulder pads, and Jamie a Junior Weatherman's kit with a real barometer...

DOTTY

He's very considerate.

AMANDA

To a fault... now I have to go out for a few hours and drop off some presents to the people I walk dogs and water plants for.

DOTTY

You're not walking dogs today, I hope.

AMANDA

No... but giving little Christmas gifts to your customers stimulates business.

DOTTY

(nods)

Good client relations. Tell me something, what are they like, these people you work for?

AMANDA

Oh, they're just your normal, everyday sort of people...

CUT TO:

ON two AGENTS, a little tipsy, holding paper cups full of spiked punch and regaling a group of secretaries and clerks. The Agency office Christmas party is in full swing, and the atmosphere is convivial, if not a little raucous.

AGENT #1

... So there we were in this Brauhaus in Dusseldorf watching a fat barmaid name of Heidi...

AGENT #2

Her name was Helga and she wasn't that fat.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

AGENT #1

Yeah, but she was mean. When those two Ivans came through the door she laid both of them out with one punch...

AGENT #2

Along with two MP's, three of our guys and the liaison with MI6...

The Agents lift their glasses to toast.

AGENT #1

To Heidi and her size 12 lederhosen...

LAUGHTER as we PAN OFF them TO:

20 ANGLE - CORNER

20

where Lee stands with Francine taking in the festivities.

FRANCINE

You don't seem to be getting into the spirit of things.

LEE

I'm just not big on parties.

FRANCINE

Come on, it's Christmas. 'Tis the season to be jolly...

Lee forces a smile as:

21 ANGLE - TO INCLUDE DOOR

21

Amanda enters with presents under her arm.

FRANCINE

Well, speaking of jolly, there she is -- Our Woman In Suburbia, bearing gifts.

LEE

Don't be nasty, Francine.

FRANCINE

I wouldn't dream of it...

Amanda ENTERS SHOT, smiles:

<CONTINUED>

21 CONTINUED:

21

AMANDA

Hi. Merry Christmas.

LEE

Hi.

FRANCINE

And a Merry Christmas to you...

AMANDA

I just wanted to drop off a couple of presents.

FRANCINE

You really shouldn't have.

AMANDA

Well, you know, it's Christmas.

She hands each of them a gift.

AMANDA

(continuing)

Go ahead... Open them.

Lee and Francine exchange a look, then open their presents. Lee takes out a half-dozen pair of socks, stares at them.

AMANDA

(continuing)

I figured it was something you would never buy for yourself.

LEE

Thank you... it's just what I needed.

Francine takes out her gift: an eyelash curler.

FRANCINE

How very sweet of you, Amanda.

AMANDA

For your eyelashes... I got Billy a new cardigan sweater. Beige. I hope he likes it... I wasn't sure about the color. Billy's taste in clothes is a little conservative...

22 ANGLE TOWARD BILLY'S OFFICE

22

as he emerges, dressed up in the Santa Claus outfit.

(CONTINUED)

AD LIB applause, cheering, etc. Billy smiles dimly, crosses toward the corner where Lee, Amanda and Francine are standing, greeting people on the way...

LEE

Very conservative.

AMANDA

What a wonderful idea. Was it Billy's?

LEE

Not exactly. You see, there was this small wager with the boys in covert operations...

FRANCINE

Billy lost...

Billy joins the group.

LEE

Ho, ho, ho...

BILLY

Don't push it, Stetson...
(then; to Amanda)
Nice to see you, Mrs. King.

AMANDA

Merry Christmas, Mr. Melrose. I love your costume...
(off his embarrassed smile)
This is for you. I hope it fits.

She hands him the third package.

BILLY

Very kind of you.

LEE

Where'd you park your reindeer, Billy?

As Billy flashes Lee a look, a SECRETARY approaches.

SECRETARY

Excuse me, Mr. Melrose, but there's a call for you on six one.

BILLY

Thank you...

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

As Billy crosses to his office.

LEE

Must be the North Pole...

FRANCINE

So, Amanda, tell us -- what's new
in sinful Suburbia?

AMANDA

Oh, the usual -- backstabbing,
jealousy... adultery... Don't you
watch 'As The World Turns...'?

CUT TO:

23 INT. BILLY'S OFFICE

23

Billy, on the phone, has removed his hat and beard. His
face shows great concern as:

BILLY

The 25th is in less than two days.
We can't possibly --

(beat)

Be reasonable, man. Even if we
could find her, she may not be
willing --

(beat)

Where?

(beat)

Wait a second... Janus?

(beat)

Janus!

He has a dead line in his hand. He hangs up, crosses
quickly to the door, sticks his head out.

24 INT. BULLPEN - FAVORING LEE, AMANDA AND FRANCINE

24

as Billy motions for them to come into his office.

BILLY

Lee, Francine. In here...

LEE

Excuse us, Amanda...

Lee and Francine cross to Billy's office, enter. Amanda
stands alone for a moment until Agent #1 approaches, a
little merrier than before.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

AGENT #1

How many agents does it take to
change a light bulb?

AMANDA

I beg your pardon?

AGENT #1

Fifteen. One to change the light
bulb and fourteen to... debrief
the building...

And he breaks into hysterics at his own joke; Amanda
smiles sociably...

25 INT. BILLY'S OFFICE

25

Lee, Francine and Billy.

LEE

Rudolph?

BILLY

(nods)

He's holed up in a hunting cabin
in the woods in Virginia. He's
demanding relocation, a new
identity, some cash...

LEE

Or else?

BILLY

Or else he goes public with the
names of every American and Soviet
undercover agent working in this
country.

A beat, as this sinks in; then:

BILLY

(continuing)

You realize, of course, what that
would mean...

FRANCINE

Ted Rudolph is in the position to
jeopardize our most sensitive
intelligence programs, as well as
endanger the lives of a number of
our people.

(CONTINUED)

LEE

We can relocate him, can't we? We do it all the time.

BILLY

Unfortunately, that's not all he wants. He wants us to find his daughter and bring her to him.

LEE

Why his daughter?

BILLY

I don't know. He wasn't making a lot of sense. He babbled something about how the Agency took his life and family away from him and now he wanted something back.

FRANCINE

We've been trying to find Karen Rudolph to talk to her since the first call, but so far we've drawn a blank.

BILLY

All we have is a name and a birth date. He hasn't seen her in over 30 years.

LEE

Not much of a trail.

BILLY

We'll put it on top priority, but we've got less than 48 hours. Rudolph's deadline is Christmas day.

LEE

She could have moved, probably did. The odds are she's married, changed her name... Boy, talk about long shots...

They all look at one another, stymied; beat; then:

As Amanda appears outside the glass partition; she pantomimes saying goodbye, waves. Billy suddenly looks at Lee. Light bulb!

(CONTINUED)

26

CONTINUED:

26

BILLY

Scarecrow...

Lee shakes his head: he knows that look.

LEE

Wait a second... Billy, you're not suggesting that... Amanda.

BILLY

He hasn't seen her since she was three. She's about the right age. He knows all our other women agents.

LEE

He'll never buy it.

BILLY

It happens to be the only shot we have at the moment...

ON Lee, as he considers this without enthusiasm.

27

EXT. SOVIET EMBASSY COMPOUND IN WASHINGTON -
ESTABLISHING - NIGHT (STOCK)

27

28

INT. OFFICE IN EMBASSY - TIGHT ON TAPE RECORDER - NIGHT 28

Reels spinning as:

RUDOLPH (V.O.)

... I want her brought to me or else I go public.

WIDEN TO: Two Soviet agents, IVAN and DIMITRI -- men in their late 40's, early 50's -- physical, hardened types, sit listening to the tape in the office of SERGEI PALINKOV, head of KGB operations in the United States. Palinkov is a dapperly-dressed, professorial type, late 60's. His English is impeccable with just a trace of accent. He sips tea from a Sevres tea service in a plushly-furnished office, located within the Russian Embassy compound, with heavy brocade, antique samovar and a portrait of Yuri Andropov.

BILLY (V.O.)

Be reasonable, man. Even if we could find her, she may not be willing --

(CONTINUED)

RUDOLPH (V.O.)

(overlapping)

We have ways of convincing people,
don't we, Melrose?

BILLY (V.O.)

Where?

RUDOLPH (V.O.)

I'm in a hunting cabin in the woods,
40 miles out on route 84... You'll
find a map at the usual drop... Be
there.

Sound of Rudolph HANGING UP.

BILLY (V.O.)

Wait a second... Janus? Janus!

Palinkov turns the recorder off, takes a sip of tea;
then:

PALINKOV

Comrades, this a phone tap of
Rudolph's last conversation with
our American friends. It would
seem to me that we have no
alternative but to neutralize Mr.
Rudolph immediately.

IVAN

How do we find him?

PALINKOV

The Americans will lead us right
to him.

DIMITRI

Who will they send?

PALINKOV

I don't know, but you will follow
whoever they send directly to
Rudolph. Terminate him and then...
terminate the Americans... With
extreme prejudice...

As Ivan and Dimitri nod, MOVE IN TIGHT ON Palinkov as he
takes another sip of his tea, then:

(CONTINUED)

PALINKOV

(continuing)

The tea in this country is
abominable...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

29 EXT. TWO LANE IN RURAL VIRGINIA - LEE'S PORSCHE - DAY 29
rolling.

30 INT. LEE'S PORSCHE - DAY 30
rolling. Lee, driving, and Amanda are wearing ski jackets and hiking boots, dressed for a trek in the woods.

AMANDA

... Are you sure we'll be back in time? The boys always open their presents on Christmas Eve... and I still have to prepare the goose for tomorrow...

LEE

We'll be back by four o'clock, five at the very latest. This is a very simple assignment.

AMANDA

That's what you always say.

LEE

Amanda, all you have to do is play your part... You did study the scenario, didn't you?

AMANDA

Uh-huh. My name is Karen Rudolph. We lived in Silver Springs, Maryland. Daddy left when I was three. He sent birthday presents from all over the world. Mother told me that Daddy had a very important job with the government... Lee, it's so sad.

LEE

Sad? What's sad?

AMANDA

Growing up without a father.

LEE

(beat)

Some people manage to do very well without a father...

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

I didn't mean to get personal.

LEE

I wasn't speaking personally.

She doesn't buy this but knows better than to press it.
They ride in silence for a beat; then:

AMANDA

So, how do you usually spend
your Christmas?

LEE

On my living room couch with a
large bowl of guacamole, a properly
chilled bottle of Dom Perignon
'73 and a good football game.

AMANDA

All alone?

LEE

Not necessarily.

AMANDA

Oh... with one of your little
friends, huh?

LEE

Some of them aren't so little.

AMANDA

Don't you think Christmas is a
time to be with people you love?

LEE

My... little friends are very
lovable.

AMANDA

Cheryl or Kathy or Jan... some
airline stewardess who spilled
a Bloody Mary in your lap on
purpose?

LEE

I would never have anything to
do with a clumsy woman.

AMANDA

Isn't there anybody you really
care about.

(CONTINUED)

LEE

You don't tend to form deep attachments in this business.

AMANDA

It must get very lonely.

LEE

As you've probably gathered by now, Amanda, I like being alone.

AMANDA

I know, but on Christmas...

LEE

Christmas is just another day of the year. It's 24 hours long, the sun rises and sets... there're football games on TV and they don't deliver the mail. The next day is the 26th...

AMANDA

Boy, you sound just like Ebenezer Scrooge.

LEE

All right, Amanda, you want to hear a Christmas story... I'll tell you a Christmas story... I was undercover in the Middle East. Jerusalem, as a matter of fact -- funny place to be on Christmas Eve... I was waiting for a drop and had some time to kill, so I took a walk through the Old City. I wandered into a church. The place was packed -- Druse, Copts, English -- all together singing. I just stood there listening to the music. I felt peaceful and almost forgot for a moment what I was doing in Jerusalem... And then...

He stops abruptly; beat; then:

AMANDA

And then what?

LEE

And then someone tried to stick a six-inch blade in my kidneys.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (3)

30

Amanda looks at him, aghast.

AMANDA
In a church? On Christmas Eve?

LEE
A Mossad agent working for the
Russians had followed me in...

ON Amanda, for a long moment... then:

CUT TO:

31 EXT. EDGE OF WOODS NEAR THE TWO-LANE - DAY

31

as Lee and Amanda get out of the Porsche, prepare for their trek in the woods. Lee opens the trunk, hands items out to Amanda one by one.

LEE
Binoculars...

She takes them, strings them around her neck.

LEE
(continuing)
Flares...

She takes them, looks for a place to put them, sticks them in her belt.

LEE
(continuing)
Canteens...

She takes them, straps them around her waist.

LEE
(continuing)
Field shovel...

She takes it, not knowing what to do with it. Lee closes the trunk, turns to her.

AMANDA
I knew there was some reason you
wanted me along.

Lee relieves her of the field shovel.

AMANDA
(continuing)
What's the shovel for?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

LEE

You obviously have never been
in the army.

AMANDA

Obviously...

LEE

Okay... that should do it...

AMANDA

Lee, it says in my Wilderness
Survival course that you should
always have some way to maintain
contact with headquarters.

LEE

I'm wearing it.

He pats a small, camouflaged device on his belt.

AMANDA

Oh, how cute -- a radio transmitter
belt.

LEE

There's this mail order outfit in
Virginia that has everything for
the stylish spy. They even have
an attractive hollow tooth for
your cyanide cap...

She gives him a look as he consults the map; then:

LEE

(continuing)

It's about three miles in...
should take us an hour, hour and
a half if we keep up a good pace.

Amanda salutes smartly.

AMANDA

Yes, sir.

LEE

Let's go.

As they head into the woods... PAN OFF them TO:

32

ANGLE - ACROSS THE ROAD

32

where a Landrover-type vehicle has been parked, hidden
behind some trees.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

Ivan and Dimitri get out. They are dressed as hunters -- bright orange caps, vests, boots. They sling automatic weapons over their shoulders and head off into the woods, following Lee and Amanda.

33 INT. AGENCY - BILLY'S OFFICE - DAY

33

ON C. PAYNE LUCAS -- a high-up in Internal Affairs -- as he slowly stirs a cup of coffee with a plastic stirrer, choosing his words carefully.

LUCAS

The situation is tenuous... very tenuous.

34 REVERSE ANGLE

34

to reveal Billy at his desk.

BILLY

Stetson will have Rudolph back here this evening for debriefing.

LUCAS

Stetson's methods tend to be a little... unorthodox.

BILLY

He gets results.

LUCAS

Yes, but the bill is sometimes rather high... The Undersecretary of the Navy is still a little hot under the collar about his Jaguar... not to mention his daughter...

BILLY

He was just doing his job.

LUCAS

(smiles thinly)

I'm sure he was...

(then)

You are, I trust, aware of the downside risks involved in this Rudolph matter.

BILLY

Yes, I am.

(CONTINUED)

LUCAS

There are certain elements in the Agency who have advocated a more... permanent solution to the problem.

BILLY

Meaning?

LUCAS

I don't have to spell it out for you, do I, Melrose? The man is clearly unstable.

BILLY

He's given us 30 years of service.

LUCAS

Then why is he holding a gun to our head now?

BILLY

He's tired. He needs a rest... he needs medical attention.

LUCAS

The National Security Council is meeting this afternoon. This matter is on the agenda. I'd like the Director to be able to assure the President that there's no reason for concern.

BILLY

I'm sure Stetson will handle it.

LUCAS

Let's hope so... for Rudolph's sake...

ON Billy for a beat; then:

Lee leads the way; Amanda is lagging a few feet behind. After a moment Amanda pulls up beside a tree and calls to Lee:

AMANDA

Lee?

He stops, turns.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

LEE

What?

AMANDA

Could we take a little breather?

LEE

You're the one who wants to be back by five o'clock.

AMANDA

I know, but my ankle's bothering me a little.

LEE

What's wrong with your ankle?

AMANDA

I take this aerobic exercise class three days a week. It's really brutal... Leon -- he's the leader -- believes in total cardio-vascular involvement... Anyway, we were doing our fartlek stretches...

LEE

Your what?

AMANDA

Fartlek stretches -- stressful, leaping exercises for the ligaments and hamstrings... and I came down the wrong way on my ankle. Leon was very understanding...

During this, Lee's eyes have been scouring the country behind Amanda.

36 ANGLE - LEE'S POV - RIDGE

36

an orange cap and the barrel of a rifle.

37 LEE

37

suddenly diving for Amanda, wrestling her to the ground and rolling over on top of her. Amanda, totally misunderstanding his purpose, looks up at him and utters:

AMANDA

Isn't this a little sudden?

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

He says nothing, continues to look toward the ridge.

AMANDA

(continuing)

Lee, maybe we should talk about this.

38 ANGLE - RIDGE

38

where Ivan and Dimitri crouch, watching what is going on. They look at each other, puzzled.

39 BACK TO LEE AND AMANDA

39

AMANDA

It could compromise our professional relationship...

LEE

Amanda, would you please shut up...

(then)

They're gone.

He rolls off her, gets up. Amanda clears her throat, manages:

AMANDA

Who's gone?

LEE

There were two men up there with rifles. Probably just hunters... I'm sorry.

Amanda is simultaneously relieved and a trifle disappointed.

AMANDA

Oh, you were protecting me. That's what you were doing.

LEE

What did you think I was doing?

AMANDA

Nothing...

She gets up, brushes herself off, trying to regather her dignity.

(CONTINUED)

39

CONTINUED:

39

AMANDA

(continuing)

Thank you. That was very gallant
of you.

Lee is checking his belt.

LEE

Damn.

AMANDA

What's wrong?

LEE

I broke the transmitter.

AMANDA

Is that a big problem?

LEE

Only if we run into trouble...

He checks the map; then:

LEE

(continuing)

We'll take a short cut. The
terrain's a little rougher but
it'll get us there sooner...
Let's go.

And Lee heads off. Amanda takes a deep breath, trudges
off after him.

40

EXT. WOODS - RIDGE - DAY

40

as Ivan and Dimitri sling the Uzzis over their shoulders,
and head off in the direction that Lee and Amanda went.

CUT TO:

41

EXT. WOODS - DAY

41

Some time later... as Lee extends his hand, helps Amanda
up a steep incline. Then, as she catches her breath, he
consults the map.

AMANDA

Are you sure you know where we're
going?

(CONTINUED)

LEE

(he isn't)

Yes...

(studying the map)

It's north by northwest from here... Where's the sun...?

(looks)

There... so if that's due west...

Amanda shakes her head.

LEE

(continuing)

We go... that way.

AMANDA

You have to take into account the seasonal adjustment.

LEE

What are you talking about?

AMANDA

The sun is due west only at the equinox. We're three days past the winter solstice.

LEE

Who told you that?

AMANDA

Dr. Drabin in my Wilderness Survival Course -- Wednesday nights. You'd do better with the moss.

LEE

The moss?

AMANDA

The moss always grows on the north side of the tree. Just find a tree...

She checks a few nearby trees as Lee stands there, hands on hips, smiling indulgently.

LEE

Amanda, do you really think that some... Mickey Mouse spy course can replace actual experience in the field?

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

AMANDA

It's not from my course... it's
from the Cub Scout Handbook...

She finds a tree with moss, indicates the direction.

AMANDA

(continuing)

One thing about the Cub Scouts --
They know how to get out of the
woods... North is that way...

42 EXT. HUNTING CABIN - ESTABLISHING - DAY

42

a small, rough-hewn cabin in the middle of a clearing.

43 INT. CABIN - DAY

43

ON a pair of hands cleaning the parts of an old .22
hunting rifle. WIDEN TO: Ted Rudolph sits and finishes
cleaning the gun. The cabin has some handmade furniture,
a fireplace, wood stove. There is no electricity or
running water.

Rudolph gets up, goes over to the window, looks out:

44 EXT. CABIN - RUDOLPH'S POV

44

the clearing and the surrounding woods.

45 RUDOLPH

45

He takes the rifle and points it out the window, moving
the barrel from side to side, as if securing a defensive
perimeter. Then he looks down at his watch.

46 INSERT - WATCH FACE

46

a few minutes before three o'clock.

47 EXT. WHITE HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - DAY (STOCK)

47

48 INT. WHITE HOUSE CORRIDOR - DAY

48

ON wall clock -- five minutes to three. TILT DOWN TO:
Two Secret Service Agents flank the door to the National
Security Council conference room.

(CONTINUED)

- 48 CONTINUED: 48
 Various members of the Council approach and enter, carrying briefcases: the heads of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in their respective uniforms; the Secretaries of Defense and State, their aides, et. al...
- 49 INT. HUNTING CABIN - DAY 49
 as Rudolph puts a log on the fire, he suddenly hears O.S. the sound of FOOTSTEPS CRACKLING in the underbrush. He grabs the rifle, rushes to the window, looks out:
- 50 EXT. CABIN - RUDOLPH'S POV - CLEARING 50
 as Lee and Amanda emerge from the woods into the clearing.
- 51 RUDOLPH 51
 cocking the rifle, then shouting:
 RUDOLPH
 Stay where you are! Don't move!
- 52 EXT. CABIN - LEE AND AMANDA 52
 stopping in their tracks.
 LEE
 Janus, it's me... Scarecrow.
- 53 INT. CABIN - RUDOLPH 53
 as he moves from the window to the door, kicks it open. He stands on the threshold looking carefully out at Lee and Amanda. Then:
 RUDOLPH
 Don't call me Janus. My name is Rudolph...
 Rudolph steps out of the cabin...
- 54 EXT. CABIN (CONTINUOUS ACTION) 54
 as Rudolph walks a few steps closer to them, keeping the rifle carefully trained on Lee and Amanda. His attention is drawn to Amanda. He studies her carefully, probing into the dim cobwebs of 30 years ago. After a long moment in a voice edged with emotion:

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

RUDOLPH

Karen...?

AMANDA

Hello, Dad.

RUDOLPH

(beat)

You're not a little girl
anymore...

CUT TO:

55 INT. CABIN - DAY

55

A few minutes later. Amanda sits, a little uncomfortably, at a table across from Rudolph as he rolls a cigarette. Lee stands near the fireplace, watching nervously as Amanda acts out the scenario.

AMANDA

... So when the people from the government called, I was a little surprised. After all these years...

RUDOLPH

I'm sorry it had to be like this.

AMANDA

I understand, Dad.

RUDOLPH

I hope this isn't ruining your Christmas.

AMANDA

Oh, no.

RUDOLPH

I imagine it's been pretty lonely for you since your mother... passed away.

AMANDA

You get used to it.

RUDOLPH

Still, Christmas must be a little difficult.

AMANDA

I try to look at it like... any other day.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Twenty-four hours long, the sun rises and sets.

RUDOLPH

What do you usually do?

AMANDA

Nothing much... watch the football game, open a bottle of champagne, fix a guacamole dip...

RUDOLPH

Karen, I want to make it up to you.

AMANDA

Dad, you were just doing your job.

RUDOLPH

I want you to know that during all that time I never forgot you. I used to think about you a lot -- especially at Christmas when I was far away, alone in some place like Bucharest or Zagreb... Do you know what it's like to spend Christmas far from your loved ones?

Amanda, swept up in the emotions, nods...

AMANDA

It must have been terrible...

Lee grimaces; Amanda recovers:

AMANDA

(continuing)

I mean, it was terrible, not having you around.

RUDOLPH

I hope you got the gifts I sent... They probably got to you very late.

AMANDA

It's the thought that counts...

Lee clears his throat.

LEE

Uh, we should be getting back to Washington. The sun'll be gone in an hour and a half, and it's a long trek...

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED: (2)

55

RUDOLPH

(ignoring him)

Karen, I'm going to go away for
 awhile -- a year, maybe two.
 There are people who want to harm
 me and I need time to establish
 a new identity and a new life.
 But when this is over, I'll come
 to see you. I'd like to be a...
 father again... if you'll let me...

AMANDA

I'd like that.

RUDOLPH

Thank you.

AMANDA

I think Mr. Stetson's right. We
 should be getting back before the
 sun goes down.

During this, Lee has moved to the window. Now he looks
 out.

56 EXT. CABIN - LEE'S POV

56

as Ivan and Dimitri move behind cover, but not before Lee
 gets a clear view of the two AK-47 rifles.

57 LEE

57

quickly closing the shutter, turning as Rudolph gets up.

RUDOLPH

All right. Let's go.

LEE

Nobody's going anywhere.

Both Rudolph and Amanda stare at him in consternation.

LEE

(continuing)

Those weren't hunters back there.

AMANDA

What?

LEE

There are two men outside with
 AK-47 automatic weapons.

(CONTINUED)

RUDOLPH

KGB?

LEE

(nods)

And I don't think they've come
to wish us Merry Christmas...

ON Rudolph and Amanda as they react, then...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

58

INT. CABIN - DAY

58

Lee is at the window with Rudolph's .22 peering out through a crack in the shutter. Rudolph is wedging shut the remaining window. Amanda lights a kerosene lamp against the darkness. Lee turns away from the window, toward Rudolph.

LEE

Do you have a radio transmitter?

Rudolph shakes his head.

LEE

(continuing)

Any other weapons beside the .22?

RUDOLPH

Nothing but an axe for firewood.

LEE

Any gasoline?

Rudolph shakes his head again; Lee digests this for a moment; then:

LEE

(continuing)

All right... we sit tight. I don't think they'll make a move until it's dark.

RUDOLPH

(re: Amanda)

I don't want her hurt. I'll go out there...

LEE

There's no assurance that they won't kill us anyway. We're witnesses. Besides, I'm going to need you.

RUDOLPH

For what? We don't stand a chance -- one .22 gauge hunting rifle against two automatic weapons. What the hell are we going to do?

ON Lee; he really doesn't know. After a beat:

LEE

I'll think of something...

59 EXT. EDGE OF WOODS - LEE'S PORSCHE - DAY 59

MOVE IN TIGHT ON car radio receiver speaker as we hear:

FRANCINE (V.O.)
 Scarecrow, this is Flagship.
 Do you read me...?
 (beat)
 Scarecrow, this is Flagship...

CUT TO:

60 INT. AGENCY - BULLPEN - ON FRANCINE - DAY 60

headphones on, as she broadcasts into a radio transmitter. Billy stands over her shoulder.

FRANCINE
 Do you read me...?

Billy turns toward wall clock:

61 BILLY'S POV - WALL CLOCK 61

4:38.

62 BACK TO SCENE 62

as Francine takes off the headphone, rubs her neck wearily.

BILLY
 They should have been out of there by now.

FRANCINE
 I'll try another frequency.

BILLY
 Scarecrow knows better than to switch channels... I don't like it. In a half an hour they'll have lost light completely...

63 ANGLE - ENTRANCE 63

as Lucas walks in, approaches Billy and Francine.

BILLY
 We haven't been able to reach Stetson.

(CONTINUED)

LUCAS

It may be academic.

BILLY

What do you mean?

LUCAS

The National Security Council has decided to dispatch a commando squad if he's not back here with Rudolph by seven P.M.

BILLY

Now wait a second, Lucas...

LUCAS

This comes right from the Man himself, Melrose. He was very specific. Quote: 'I'm not prepared to compromise our entire Covert Operations network for the sake of one burnt-out agent.' End quote.

BILLY

I've got two people in there. One of them's a civilian, Mrs. King.

LUCAS

I'm sure you made the risks involved very clear to her.

BILLY

What kind of commando squad?

LUCAS

The best we've got... Seven o'clock sharp they'll take off from Fort Meyers in a chopper. Their orders are to shoot to kill...

BILLY

Wait a second -- this is overkill. Ted Rudolph is not a dangerous man.

LUCAS

Quite to the contrary. The man's unhinged and desperate. He happens to be a demolition expert. For all we know he's got the whole cabin wired. We're not taking any chances...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED: (2)

63

LUCAS (CONT'D)

(then)

Merry Christmas, Melrose...
Desmond...

And he turns, starts to exit. Just before he reaches the door, turns back:

LUCAS

(continuing)

Oh, by the way, Desmond, we're having a little cocktail party at six up on the eighteenth floor, if you'd like to drop by.

FRANCINE

Thank you, but I've got some work to clean up...

LUCAS

Pity. The Deputy Director will be very disappointed...

He winks and exits. Beat; then:

FRANCINE

Why is it always the married ones...?

CUT TO:

64 EXT. CABIN - DUSK

64

Night is falling rapidly.

65 INT. CABIN - DUSK

65

Rudolph is at the window, peering through a crack in the shutter, holding his .22. Lee sits at the table, sketching something on a piece of paper. Amanda comes over and sits down beside Lee. She looks over to make sure Rudolph is still at the window; then:

AMANDA

(sotto)

Lee, I've got to get home.

Lee looks up at her, as if to say, "What would you like me to do?"

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

(continuing; to
Rudolph; normal
voice)

Dad, is there any coffee in the
cabin?

Rudolph moves away from the window, approaches a trapdoor
as:

RUDOLPH

I'll take a look down in the
salt cellar.

He tosses Lee the .22, lifts the trapdoor, descends into
the cellar. Beat; then:

AMANDA

You promised I'd be home by five.
The boys can't open their presents
till I get there.

LEE

Amanda, there are two heavily-
armed men out there.

AMANDA

Can't we talk to them, explain
everything. I mean, it is
Christmas Eve?

LEE

What would you like to do --
invite them in for some eggnog?

AMANDA

Well, what are we going to do?

LEE

I'm trying to work something out...

AMANDA

I think this whole thing is
stupid. They can't get in... we
can't get out, and I'm getting
tired of playing this guy's
daughter.

LEE

You're doing a great job...

The trapdoor lifts, and Rudolph emerges with a bag of
coffee beans and some canned goods.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED: (2)

65

RUDOLPH

I found some coffee and a few other things down there.

LEE

Could you make us some coffee, Karen?

Amanda looks at him; then gets up and takes the bag of coffee and the canned goods from Rudolph, who goes over and sits down beside Lee at the table. Lee shows him his sketch:

LEE

(continuing)

Take a look at this...

66 INSERT - THE SKETCH

66

showing the cabin, the clearing around it... Two X's mark the positions of the two KBG agents.

67 RESUME LEE AND RUDOLPH

67

LEE

There are only two of them. They could be anywhere out there, but they're probably within sight of each other. The clearing is about two hundred feet in diameter...

68 AMANDA

68

as she peers out the crack in the shutter.

AMANDA

(softly)

It's starting to snow...

They ignore her, continue to plan. MOVE IN TIGHT ON Amanda and HOLD for a beat; then:

CUT TO:

69 INT. KING HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - ON DOTTY - NIGHT

69

as she looks out the front window.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED:

69

DOTTY

I hope she remembered to put the snow tires on her car last week. I told her the weather was going to turn bad...

WIDEN TO: PHILLIP and JAMIE are standing eyeing the presents beneath the tree.

PHILLIP

You sure we can't open up just one present now?

DOTTY

Your mother would be very disappointed. You know how sentimental she gets at Christmas.

JAMIE

Not even a real small one...?

DOTTY

Be patient, boys. She should be home any minute.

PHILLIP

Where is she anyway?

DOTTY

She went to drop off some gifts for her clients, and probably got held up at some Christmas party. People get very festive this time of year.

CUT TO:

70 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

70

as a match lights illuminating the singularly nonfestive features of Ivan, lighting a cigarette. Then he crouches back down and trains his rifle on the cabin...

71 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

71

Lee is going over his plan with Rudolph.

LEE

... You start firing out the front window covering me while I go out the back.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LEE (CONT'D)

When they return the fire, I'll get a bead on their positions and then try to sneak up behind and disarm one of them...

Rudolph nods; Amanda crosses from the window.

AMANDA

I think it's silly and it's dangerous.

LEE

It's our best shot.

AMANDA

Nobody's winning this... Can't we call some sort of truce?

LEE

They'll never go for it. They have the upper hand.

AMANDA

It's dark out there... and it must be getting very cold. And ... doesn't anybody realize it's Christmas Eve...?

LEE

The KGB isn't very big on holiday cheer.

AMANDA

How do you know? They're people just like us. They get cold... they have feelings. Maybe they even have wives and children somewhere...

RUDOLPH

Karen, you don't know these people like we do. You're just a civilian...

A beat, as Amanda seems on the verge of blowing her cover. Lee looks hard at her; then:

AMANDA

Can't we just try it? Put a white flag out and see if they respond...?

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED: (2)

71

LEE

Trust me -- it won't work.
 Now, please, crouch down against
 a wall. There's going to be some
 shooting...

(to Rudolph)

You ready?

Rudolph nods, goes to the front window with the .22. Lee takes up position at the rear window. He puts one hand on the shutter, then gives Rudolph a hand signal. Rudolph throws open the shutter and starts to FIRE out into the night...

72 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

72

Ivan and Dimitri, about twenty yards apart, start to return Rudolph's fire, blasting the cabin with AUTOMATIC WEAPONS' FIRE.

73 EXT. CABIN - LEE

73

as he gets out the window, runs across the clearing and dives for cover in the brush.

74 INT. CABIN

74

Rudolph is flat against the wall beside the shutter as BULLETS tear through the wooden shutter.

Amanda is crouched down in the corner.

75 EXT. CABIN - LEE

75

moving stealthily through the brush. He draws closer, stops, looks:

76 LEE'S POV - IVAN AND DIMITRI

76

continuing to FIRE at the cabin. Dimitri is closer, about ten yards from Lee.

77 LEE

77

determining his attack, then moving quickly behind to approach Dimitri from the rear.

- 78 INT. CABIN - RUDOLPH 78
trying to return the FIRE.
- 79 EXT. CABIN - LEE 79
as he gets an angle on Dimitri from the rear, then leaps through the air on top of him. They roll over, grappling for the AK-47.
- 80 IVAN 80
still FIRING at the cabin; then suddenly hearing:
DIMITRI (O.S.)
Ivan!
He turns and sees:
- 81 DIMITRI AND LEE 81
fighting for the weapon. Lee finally gets it, as Dimitri dives away into the brush. Lee stands there exposed for a moment.
- 82 IVAN 82
FIRING at Lee.
- 83 LEE 83
FIRING back. Lee is suddenly spun around as a BULLET hits his shoulder.
- 84 IVAN 84
hit in the leg, doubling over.
- 85 LEE 85
running for the cabin, with Dimitri's weapon, holding his shoulder.
- 86 DIMITRI 86
coming out of the brush, seeing that Ivan is hit. Dimitri runs to Ivan, grabs his weapon just as:

87 EXT. CABIN - LEE 87
 heading for the front door.

88 DIMITRI 88
 aiming.

89 INT. CABIN 89

as Lee comes crashing through the front door, slamming it back shut with his foot, as BULLETS chew up the wood.

Amanda and Rudolph start to rush toward him, but Lee waves them away. He throws the captured AK-47 to Rudolph.

LEE

I think I hit one of them. Keep firing.

Rudolph moves to the window, opens up with the AUTOMATIC WEAPON. After a moment, the FIRING from outside STOPS.

Amanda and Rudolph approach Lee, who is standing by the fireplace holding his shoulder.

RUDOLPH

Are you all right?

Lee nods, then looks down at his shoulder. Blood is soaking through his shirt and jacket.

LEE

It's the shoulder.

AMANDA

(to Rudolph)

Do you have any towels, sheets ... anything?

RUDOLPH

There are some rags in the cupboard...

As Amanda moves off to the cupboard to get the rags, Rudolph takes Lee's jacket off, rips his shirt sleeve to expose the wound.

90 AMANDA 90

rummaging through the cupboard, grabbing a couple of old rags and towels; she turns and heads back toward Lee as:

91

LEE

91

His knees give and he sinks onto the floor. Amanda rushes to him.

RUDOLPH

He's already lost a lot of blood.

Amanda starts to bind the wound.

AMANDA

Do you have any medical supplies at all in here? A tourniquet? Alcohol?

Rudolph shakes his head.

AMANDA

(continuing)

There's a medical kit in the car.

RUDOLPH

It's three hours round trip in the dark... That's, if we can get past them...

ON Amanda as she takes this in...

CUT TO:

92

EXT. SOVIET EMBASSY COMPOUND IN WASHINGTON - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT (STOCK)

92

93

EXT. COURTYARD IN RUSSIAN EMBASSY - NIGHT

93

Six KGB agents, in top coats with automatic rifles slung over their shoulders, stand around a car, smoking cigarettes as Palinkov exits the building. He approaches them, and:

PALINKOV

I have just received a transmission from Dimitri. Ivan is wounded, and there are two American agents with Rudolph. This is their position...

He hands one of the agents a slip of paper.

(CONTINUED)

93

CONTINUED:

93

PALINKOV

(continuing)

I am confident that you
fully understand just how...
inconvenient it would be if
any of them gets out of those
woods alive...

Palinkov offers a thin smile to underscore his point.
The men nod, pile into the sedan. The sedan pulls out
of the courtyard.

94

PALINKOV

94

standing there, watching them leave.

PALINKOV

(softly; in Russian)

Merry Christmas, Mr. Rudolph...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

95 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 95

a light snow falling on the cabin.

96 INT. CABIN - NIGHT 96

ON Lee as he lies on a field mattress on the floor, drifting in a state of semi-consciousness. WIDEN as Amanda wipes his brow. Then she stands up and faces Rudolph.

AMANDA

I'm going to the car.

RUDOLPH

What makes you think they'll let you pass?

AMANDA

One of them is wounded too, isn't he?

RUDOLPH

Karen, there's more at stake here than two men's lives. This involves National Security at the highest levels.

AMANDA

Well, I don't care about National Security right now. All I know is that I don't want him to die.

She crosses to a corner, takes an old broom and begins to attach a white towel to it as:

RUDOLPH

He's just another spy. Like me. We accept the risks as part of the job. Try to understand that...

AMANDA

What I understand is that there's at least one man, maybe two, in dire need of medical assistance. There's a kit with antiseptic, with gauze and tourniquets in the car. And I'm going to get it...

<CONTINUED>

96

CONTINUED:

96

And with that, she heads for the door with her improvised
truce flag. Rudolph moves to block her exit.

RUDOLPH

Karen, I can't let you do this.
You're my daughter...

AMANDA

(with sudden emotion)

No, I'm not! My name is Amanda
King. I work part time for the
Agency -- Rank, GS7, seasonal
Federal employee... And I have
spent more amusing Christmas
Eves... Now get out of my way...

Rudolph, shocked, lets his mouth hang open, as Amanda
moves past him, prepares to exit. Then, recovering, he
grabs the AK-47 and runs to the window to cover her...

97

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

97

as Amanda moves slowly outside, waving her flag. She
peers into the darkness trying to make out figures.

98

ANGLE - DIMITRI AND IVAN

98

Dimitri is leaning over Ivan, binding his leg wound with
strips from his shirt. Ivan is dazed, barely conscious.
Dimitri's head spins around as:

AMANDA (O.S.)

May I have your attention, please.

99

AMANDA

99

squinting into the darkness.

AMANDA

I know you're out there somewhere.
We have a wounded man inside who
needs help. There's a medical
kit in his car. I'm going to get
it. You can come in out of the
cold and wait for me in the cabin.

100

DIMITRI

100

listening.

101 AMANDA

101

waiting; no reaction; then:

AMANDA

Look, it happens to be Christmas Eve, in case you've forgotten. I don't know what that means to you but to me it means we should be thinking about peace and helping each other. I wish I wasn't here, but I am, so I'm asking you to call off this war for a moment so we can help each other...

Still no reaction. A long beat; then:

AMANDA

(continuing)

All right. Here I come. Please don't shoot...

WITH her as she walks slowly toward the edge of the clearing. TIGHT ON her face until:

SHOCK CUT TO:

102 DIMITRI'S ROUGH FACE

102

FILLS THE SCREEN. Amanda jumps reflexively. He looks down at her for a long moment; then:

DIMITRI

Give me car keys.

She hands him the keys.

DIMITRI

(continuing)

First you help me carry Ivan inside. Then I go to car for supplies...

Amanda takes a deep breath, nods.

103 INT. CABIN - RUDOLPH

103

peering into the night, trying to make out what's happening.

104 EXT. CABIN - RUDOLPH'S POV

104

as Amanda and Dimitri help Ivan to the cabin...

105 RUDOLPH

105

observing this incredulously...

CUT TO:

106 INT. AGENCY - BULLPEN - NIGHT

106

ON wal' clock as digits switch from 6:59 to 7:00. WIDEN TO Billy and Francine watching this with a helpless look.

BILLY

Dammit! I should have never sent them in.

FRANCINE

It's not your fault, Billy.

BILLY

Well, whose fault is it, then?

Francine looks at him; she has no answer for that question. Billy takes a deep breath; then:

BILLY

(continuing)

Look, you might as well take off. It's out of our hands now.

FRANCINE

I'll... stick around for a while.

BILLY

Francine, it's Christmas Eve. You must have made some plans.

FRANCINE

Just a party some letch-on the Far Eastern Desk at State is giving. Domestic champagne in paper cups. I'll pass... What about you?

BILLY

The usual... quiet evening with Jeannie. Dinner, open the presents... maybe watch Midnight Mass from Saint Patrick's on TV...

Francine nods; beat; they are both thinking of other things. Then:

FRANCINE

They'll be okay, Billy.

Billy nods, wishing he were convinced she was right...

107 INT. CABIN - NIGHT

107

ON a fire now going in the fireplace. PAN OFF TO both wounded men, Lee and Ivan, lying on field mattresses near each other. Amanda gives Ivan some water from a canteen. He drinks, grunts, hands it back to her. She moves to Lee as his eyes open, flicker, try to focus.

LEE

Wha -- what's happening?

AMANDA

It's okay -- just rest.

Lee's eyes close again.

108 ANGLE - TABLE

108

where Rudolph sits watching this. As Amanda crosses to get another canteen...

RUDOLPH

You know, you're really something.

AMANDA

I studied some nursing in college.

RUDOLPH

Can I ask you a question?

She stops, nods.

RUDOLPH

(continuing)

Did they try to find my daughter?

AMANDA

There wasn't enough time. They're looking for her, though.

RUDOLPH

The funny thing is they could have sent anybody. I can't remember what she looks like.

AMANDA

They'll find her.

RUDOLPH

Tell me something, how'd you get mixed up with the Agency?

Amanda sits down at the table for a moment, offers a bleak smile.

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED:

108

AMANDA

I was dropping my fiance Dean -- he's a weatherman -- off at the commuter train one morning when a man in a busboy's uniform -- Lee Stetson -- stuck a package in my hand and asked me to give it to a man in a red hat on the train... So I did.

RUDOLPH

Why?

AMANDA

I don't know... he looked like he was in trouble. Sometimes when I think about it, I say to myself, Amanda, what are you doing in the spy business? You have a nice life, two sons, a mother, a man who wants to marry you and take care of you...

Rudolph suddenly tenses, goes for the rifle as...

109 ANGLE - DOOR

109

it opens and Dimitri enters, medical kit in one hand, the AK-47 in the other. He edges slowly into the room. Rudolph has the rifle on him as Amanda gets up between them:

AMANDA

Stop it! No guns! There's a truce inside this cabin!

After a moment, Rudolph and Dimitri lower their weapons. Amanda goes to Dimitri, takes the medical kit from him.

AMANDA

(continuing)

Someone boil water...

CUT TO:

110 EXT. CLEARING NEAR ROAD - NIGHT

110

as a chopper (if we can afford one or get STOCK that matches) descends -- if not, a truck.

- 111 CLOSER - SIX COMMANDOS 111
 -- green beret-types in combat gear -- get out and head
 off into the woods.
- 112 INT. CABIN - LEE - NIGHT 112
 as he slowly opens his eyes, blinks.
- 113 LEE'S POV (FOGGY FOCUS) 113
 Amanda is pouring some coffee for Dimitri and Rudolph,
 sitting side by side at the table.
- 114 LEE 114
 incredulous, trying to clear his mind.
 LEE
 (muttering)
 Bad dream...
 He closes his eyes again, reopens them:
- 115 LEE'S POV 115
 SLOWLY UNFOG FOCUS to see that Dimitri and Rudolph are
 indeed sitting side by side, drinking coffee together.
 PAN TO two Uzzis and the hunting rifle standing unat-
 tended in the corner. CONTINUE PAN TO:
- 116 IVAN 116
 lying on an improvised mattress. Ivan returns Lee's gaze
 impassively.
- 117 LEE 117
 convinced he's died and gone to Bananaland.
 LEE
 Amanda...
 She crosses over to him, kneels.
 AMANDA
 How are you feeling?
 LEE
 Amanda, what the hell's going on?

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED:

117

AMANDA

We called a truce.

LEE

They agreed?

AMANDA

Ivan was wounded, too, and it's very cold outside. Dimitri went to the car and got the medical kit...

She hands him a canteen.

AMANDA

(continuing)

Here. Drink this.

Lee takes a swig; then:

AMANDA

(continuing)

Ivan and Dimitri are very nice...

LEE

I don't believe this -- I'm in the middle of the Brothers Karamozov...

Lee looks back again at Ivan, who nods politely. Lee shakes his head slowly...

CUT TO:

118 EXT. ANOTHER CLEARING NEAR HIGHWAY - NIGHT

118

as a car stops and the six KGB Agents get out and move quickly into the woods.

119 INT. CABIN - ON A POT - NIGHT

119

cooking on the wood stove. WIDEN as Amanda carries it to the table where Rudolph and Dimitri sit. As Amanda dishes out beans onto mess plates...

AMANDA

It's not much of a Christmas dinner, but it's all we have.

DIMITRI

No...

He gets up.

(CONTINUED)

AMANDA

You don't like beans?

Dimitri doesn't answer, goes to his field pack, takes out a large can and a flask, brings them to the table. As he starts to open the can with the attached key:

DIMITRI

Herring... You like?

AMANDA

(she doesn't)

Well...

Dimitri distributes the herring among all the mess plates.

DIMITRI

This is very good herring. From
Baltic Sea. Imported.

Then he opens the flask, takes a swig, wipes his mouth with his sleeve. After a moment, he reconsiders, offers the flask to Amanda.

AMANDA

What is it?

DIMITRI

Vodka. 100 proof. Makes herring
better.

AMANDA

No, thank you.

DIMITRI

I eat your beans. You drink my
vodka.

AMANDA

Well, maybe just a nip... to be
sociable...

She takes a sip, cheeks flaming, then hands the flask back to Dimitri, who hesitates, then passes it to Rudolph.

RUDOLPH

Thank you.

He takes a swig, hands the flask back to Dimitri, who takes it and carries it over to:

120 ANGLE - LEE AND IVAN

120

both are now sitting up near the fireplace. Dimitri hands Lee the flask.

DIMITRI

Vodka. Good for the blood circulation. Make you feel better.

Lee takes the flask.

LEE

You have any vermouth, we can make a vodka martini...

(off Dimitri's blank stare)

Just a joke...

Lee takes a drink, then hands the flask to Ivan, who takes a long pull; then:

IVAN

(stiffly)

Thank you.

LEE

Don't mention it...

(then)

Crazy business we're in, huh?

IVAN

I beg your pardon?

LEE

Here we are sharing a drink and we're supposed to be killing each other.

CUT TO:

121 EXT. WOODS - DAY

121

as the American commando squad moves swiftly through the woods.

122 EXT. ANOTHER PART OF WOODS - NIGHT

122

The KGB Agents heading for the cabin from a different direction.

123 INT. CABIN - DIMITRI - NIGHT

123

as he puts down another belt of vodka. WIDEN as he passes the flask to Rudolph, who shakes his head "no."

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED:

123

DIMITRI

Drink!

RUDOLPH

Why should I drink?

DIMITRI

Because you are very sad, Rudolph.
Tonight we drink together.
Tomorrow we make war again.

RUDOLPH

You were sent to kill me, weren't
you?

DIMITRI

Is nothing personal, you understand.

RUDOLPH

It never is, is it?

DIMITRI

Is business... I give my word to
lady that no guns in cabin. I
have honor. So tonight we drink,
no?

Rudolph hesitates, takes the flask, drinks...

124 ANGLE - LEE AND AMANDA

124

near fireplace. Ivan has dozed off. Amanda is feeding a
plate of beans to Lee. He shakes his head to indicate
that he's had enough.

AMANDA

You have to eat to keep your
strength up.

LEE

I hate beans.

AMANDA

Are you feeling better?
(off his nod)
You lost a lot of blood.

LEE

Amanda, how did you pull this off?

He looks toward the table to indicate his meaning.

125 AMANDA'S POV - TABLE 125

where Dimitri and Rudolph share the flask of vodka.

126 RESUME LEE AND AMANDA 126

AMANDA

I declared a truce... It's
Christmas Eve.

LEE

Christmas isn't very big in this
business.

AMANDA

Well, at least you're not killing
each other...

LEE

This is definitely the strangest
Christmas Eve I've ever spent.

AMANDA

I haven't had too many like this
one either.

LEE

Look, I'm sorry to have gotten you
mixed up in this mess.

AMANDA

Are you kidding? How often does a
suburban lady get to spend her
Christmas Eve drinking vodka with
the KGB?

LEE

Speaking of vodka...

AMANDA

Lee, you really shouldn't...

LEE

For medicinal purposes...

CUT TO:

127 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT 127

as the KGB Agents draw closer to the cabin.

CUT TO:

128 EXT. ANOTHER PART OF WOODS - NIGHT 128

The commando squad moving through the woods.

129 INT. CABIN - DIMITRI - NIGHT 129

as he raises his mess cup and declares:

DIMITRI

I propose toast.

Rudolph, Lee and Amanda raise their cups as:

DIMITRI

(continuing)

To Christmas... the Politburo and
... Mother Russia...

They all drink... Ivan opens his eyes, takes in the
curious sight.

130 LEE 130

raises his cup with his good arm, and announces:

LEE

A toast.

Cups are raised again.

LEE

To Christsmas... The President and...
the Washington Redskins...

They all drink. Dimitri raises his cup again, and:

DIMITRI

To Dallas Cowboys!

Laughter. More drinking... Then Amanda raises her cup,
and:

AMANDA

I have a toast.

Cups go up.

AMANDA

(continuing)

To peace on earth, good will to men.

A moment, as the laughter dies down, and they all drink...

CUT TO:

- 131 EXT. CLEARING IN FRONT OF CABIN - NIGHT 131
as the commandos emerge from the woods, take up positions in front of the cabin.
- 132 EXT. REAR OF CABIN 132
as the KGB Agents approach the cabin from the rear.
- 133 ANGLE - COMMANDOS 133
as a large floodlight is turned on, illuminating the cabin.
- 134 ANGLE - KGB AGENTS 134
seeing the light, confused.
- 135 ANGLE - COMMANDOS 135
The squad leader gives the signal, and the commandos start to move in on the cabin...
- 136 ANGLE - REAR OF CABIN 136
The KGB Agents moving cautiously in.
- 137 COMMANDOS 137
halfway there when suddenly they stop, hearing VOICES from the cabin.
- 138 KGB AGENTS 138
hearing the same VOICES drifting out into the clearing...
- 139 INT. CABIN - ON TWO AK-47 RIFLES AND .22 139
lying against the side of the cabin... as a capella voices sing:

VOICE (O.S.)
... Holy Night... All is clear...
all is bright...

WIDEN SLOWLY TO all five of them singing "Silent Night" in a vodka-warmed, off-key, half-English, half-Russian chorus...

(CONTINUED)

139 CONTINUED:

139

ALL

Round yon Virgin, mother and child...
Holy infant so tender and mild...

140 EXT. CLEARING - CABIN

140

The six commandos stand in the floor-lit clearing listening to the peculiar SOUNDS coming from the cabin.

141 EXT. CLEARING - REAR OF CABIN

141

The KGB Agents listening as well. PULL SLOWLY BACK TO:

142 WIDE CRANE SHOT - CLEARING AND CABIN

142

Twelve armed men standing in the snow surrounding the flood-lit cabin as they, one by one, let their weapons tilt toward the ground. We listen to the CAROL for a moment; then FREEZE FRAME.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

TAG

FADE IN:

143 EXT. KING HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - DAY 143

Christmas Day, wreath on the front door.

144 INT. KING HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 144

as Amanda opens the oven, takes out a large goose, carries it to the counter, where Dotty is finishing up the sweet potatoes.

DOTTY

It looks lovely, dear.

AMANDA

I've been basting it since seven this morning.

DOTTY

You must be exhausted. It was close to one when you got in.

AMANDA

I knew I should have put those snow tires on the car last week.

DOTTY

Well, the boys were very happy with their presents.

AMANDA

I know. Jamie's been running around all morning... predicting the weather...

DOORBELL RINGS.

DOTTY

Speaking of the weather, that must be Dean.

AMANDA

Would you get it, Mother. I'll be right in...

Dotty exits. Amanda picks up the phone, dials.

CUT TO:

145 INT HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

145

Lee sits propped up in bed, unenthusiastically picking at a hospital Christmas dinner. He picks up the phone.

LEE

Hello.

INTERCUT WITH AMANDA:

AMANDA

Hi. How are you doing?

LEE

You know how I feel about hospitals...
Do you know what they feed you...?

He looks down at the succotash and plastic turkey.

LEE

(continuing)

You could die from this stuff...

Amanda transfers the goose on to a serving platter, listening to Lee as:

LEE

(continuing)

And they'd never do an autopsy...

AMANDA

Lee, what's going to happen to Rudolph?

LEE

He'll be debriefed, then given his relocation. We found his daughter, by the way. Married, living in Portland, with three kids...

AMANDA

What about Ivan and Dimitri?

LEE

They'll be deported, probably spend their New Years in Moscow with all the herring they want... Yeah, it was one hell of a Christmas Eve...

AMANDA

It sure was.

LEE

You know, you'd think it being Christmas and all, they'd give you something decent to drink...

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED:

145

He looks down at his paper cup full of fruit juice.

AMANDA

I thought Christmas was just another day to you...

LEE

Yeah, but I'm a sick man and they give me... cranberry juice to drink. Cranberry juice!

AMANDA

I'm sorry.

LEE

I mean, they could make a little special effort. After all, it is Christmas...

AMANDA

Lee...

LEE

A modest little California chablis, a beer, cheap scotch...

AMANDA

Lee...

LEE

What?

AMANDA

Merry Christmas.

LEE

(beat)

Merry Christmas.

Amanda hangs up. Lee hangs up, sighs.

LEE

(continuing)

Merry Christmas, Amanda...

STAY WITH Amanda as the door to the kitchen opens, and Jamie bursts in.

JAMIE

Mom, Dean's doing chipmunk imitations and Phillip's eating all the bread sticks and Grandma's already had two glasses of wine...

(CONTINUED)

145 CONTINUED: (2)

145

AMANDA

Be right in.

Jamie exits. Amanda stands there for a moment, thinking about him. Then, softly:

AMANDA

(continuing)

Poor Lee...

CUT TO:

146 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

146

as Lee RINGS the bedside call BUTTON. After a moment, a pretty NURSE enters.

LEE

Kathy?

NURSE

Cheryl...

LEE

Right. Cheryl, do you think you could grant a dying man's last request?

NURSE

What is it?

LEE

Dom Perignon '73.
(off her blank look)
It's French champagne.

NURSE

We don't have any on the ward.

LEE

I happen to know there's a liquor store right around the corner that's open late. I have a charge account there.

NURSE

I'm on duty, Mr. Stetson.

LEE

Cheryl, it's Christmas.

(CONTINUED)

146 CONTINUED:

146

NURSE

I really shouldn't...

LEE

Cheryl, Christmas comes but once
a year...

NURSE

What was the year again?

LEE

1973. You're going to love it...

ON Lee as he smiles and FREEZE FRAME.

FADE OUT.

THE END