



95415
PROMISES

Written by
Lawrence Shore

Highlander

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Production #95415

December 11, 1995 Final Shooting Script

Filmline International Highlander

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HIGHLANDER

"Promises"

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CAST LIST

DUNCAN MACLEOD

RACHEL MACLEOD
KASSIM

BOADIN AL DENEH
HAMAD
REZA
ALIYA
NASIR AL DENEH
INSPECTOR

JAILER
MESSENGER
OFFICIAL

HIGHLANDER

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SET LISTINTERIORS

MACLEOD'S BARGE
EMBASSY BALL
/LIBRARY

/NASIR'S ROOM
PALACE - DUNGEON CORRIDOR - 1755

/DUNGEON - 1755
/PARKING STRUCTURE
RESTAURANT
INSPECTOR'S OFFICE

EXTERIORS

DOJO
MACLEOD'S VICTORIAN
THEATRE
PARKING GARAGE
ENGLISH SUMMER ESTATE - 1712
/GARDENS
/PAVILION
POLICE STATION
POLICE STATION PARKING STRUCTURE

DESERTED ROADSIDE
OPEN AIR MEAT MARKET
MARKUM'S GROCERY STORE

HIGHLANDER

"Promises"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1501 EXT. COURTYARD - SOUTHERN SPAIN - 1460 - DAY - ESTABLISHING 1501

As ON SCREEN we see:

PALACE OF SULTAN BOADIN AL DENEK

SPAIN, 1460

In the square, two GUARD'S BODIES lie crumpled, their bodies fletched with arrows. From outside, the sounds of a desperate BATTLE: clashing swords, the screams of fighting and dying men fill the air. Town by town, the land of the Moors is falling under the invading hordes of Ferdinand and Isabella.

CLOSE - A HEAVY WOODEN GATE

the main entrance to the Courtyard. Suddenly the gates BURST OPEN as --

BOADIN AL DENEK himself stumbles into the courtyard. Fortyish, dignified, the grey-bearded SULTAN of the city is wounded, hunched over in pain. He is being helped, half-carried by the Immortal KASSIM -- Al Deneb's loyal bodyguard and Captain of the Guard . On one of Kassim's arms is a small SHIELD with several ARROWS embedded in it. He uses his body to shield his master as they flee the disaster outside the walls.

Behind them, two of Al Deneb's remaining GUARDS fight a running battle with three WARRIORS on their heels. They fight well, but the invaders are precise, impassive implacable fighting machines. As one GUARD falls with a cry --

ANGLE - KASSIM

as he lowers Al Deneb by a columned wall, and turns back to the battle. He winces in pain -- glances at an ARROW embedded in his thigh. With barely a BEAT, he SNAPS OFF the shaft, and charges the invaders.

ANGLE - THE GATE

as the invaders circle the last Guard. As one attacks from the front, the other slips behind, kills him with a quick thrust. As the Guard falls --

(CONTINUED)

1501 CONTINUED:

1501

KASSIM

is on them. Flooded with rage, he dances UNDER one invader's blow -- BACKSTABS him -- and with a vicious swing of his curved sword, drops the other one. Even as they fall, Kassim lunges to the GATE just as MORE INVADERS arrive. He shouldered the great gate shut -- slams the huge bar into place. Almost immediately, the sound of HAMMERING on the door. Kassim falls back, exhausted -- the gate can't hold, all he's gained is a few moments of time, and he knows it. He turns back to Al Deneb.

NEW ANGLE

as Kassim kneels by Al Deneb, props him up against a fountain. The Sultan is breathing hard, in great pain but his wits are still clear.

AL DENEB

The devil has a new name, Kassim.
And those are his demons.

Kassim doesn't answer. He carefully removes the Sultan's HAND from his chest, and sees buried in the robes there an arrow.

ON KASSIM

knowing it's a mortal wound. Kassim reacts with a surge of desperate rage.

KASSIM

Guards... GUARDS!

He starts to rise -- Al Deneb catches his sleeve. His manner is calm, matter of fact -- he wants to comfort Kassim.

AL DENEB

Kassim... There are no more guards.

They both know it's true. Kassim sinks down beside Al Deneb. He is pained, almost in tears -- the ruler he loves is dying, and the empire is dying with him.

Al Deneb sees his friend's face.

AL DENEB (CONT'D)

No need for sorrow. I don't fear
death.

KASSIM

(stubbornly)
Only God can say who is to die.

Al Deneb ARCHES in pain, then tries to force a smile.

(CONTINUED)

1501 CONTINUED: (2)

1501

AL DENEK

I think He just spoke to me.

(beat)

The arrow, Kassim... remove the arrow.

Kassim stares. He knows ripping out the arrow would only speed death, and cause more pointless agony.

KASSIM

My lord, no...

AL DENEK

(with force)

Would you have me die with an
infidel's shaft in my body?

Kassim's eyes well with tears. He grasps the arrow, pulls -- Al Deneb gasps in sharp agony as the arrow comes out. Kassim flings it aside. Al Deneb slumps back, bathed in sweat.

A booming CRASH from the gate: the invaders are battering down the door.

ANGLE

The gate as the large wooden bar begins to splinter.

BACK TO SCENE

Kassim turns, hand going for his sword --

AL DENEK

Stay. I would leave this world with
a friend in my sight.

(beat)

You will survive all this.

KASSIM

Not without my king.

AL DENEK

Must you always argue? I'm dying,
but I'm not blind.

(beat)

You are not made as other men. Your
wounds become whole.

(as Kassim objects)

No, I have seen it. God watches
over you, Kassim. He has given you
many lives.

KASSIM

All of them in your service.

(CONTINUED)

1501 CONTINUED: (3)

1501

Al Deneb is fading fast. Feels it. The POUNDING at the gate grows louder.

AL DENEB

One more task, old friend.

Kassim takes Al Deneb's hand.

KASSIM

Name it.

AL DENEB

You will watch over my family. And some day, one of my house will rule again.

(beat, fading)

Swear it...!

KASSIM

I swear. By all that's holy.

Al Deneb's hands go slack. Kassim does not let go. He raises the hand of his master, and kisses the ring.

KASSIM (CONT'D)

If it takes a thousand years, the house of Al Deneb will rise again.

Behind him, the GATE smashes open with a final crashing blow. Kassim does not move or turn. He waits for the arrow that finds its way into his back. He falls over his beloved master.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1502 EXT. NEAR QUAI DE LA TOURNELLE - PARIS - DAY

1502

MACLEOD and RACHEL cross the bridge, enjoying the day, the view, each other.

RACHEL

This city is unbelievable. Everything is beautiful. There's only one problem.

(beat, teasing)

My feet are killing me.

MACLEOD

I'll take care of that.

He scoops her up in his arms. She laughs, bats at his arm to make him stop.

RACHEL

(with a smile)

Put me down, Duncan. You're embarrassing me.

A couple of passersby look on with a smile.

MACLEOD

This is Paris, that's impossible.

RACHEL

(with a smile)

This may be Paris, but I'm from Glenfinnan.

MacLeod puts her down.

MACLEOD

Where to next?

RACHEL

(a little more serious)

Let's go home?

MACLEOD

The barge is at your service.

RACHEL

I didn't mean the barge... I meant home to the Highlands... Glenfinnan.

(CONTINUED)

MACLEOD

(beat)
Someday...

Rachel is a little disappointed but still smiles.

RACHEL

Someday, it is.

They move on together, for a moment each in their own thoughts.

MACLEOD

Rachel, you've been here almost two weeks, and you still haven't asked about me.

RACHEL

I know everything I want to know.

(beat)
Duncan, this time with you...
(beat)

It's like stepping into a legend and I've learned not to question magic.

MACLEOD

I'm not magic.

RACHEL

No? You're Duncan MacLeod of the Clan MacLeod, a myth from my childhood, a man who lived 400 years ago. And here you are.

MACLEOD

There's an explanation.

RACHEL

Time travel... ? Reincarnation... ?
You're a fallen angel?

(beat, sincere)
You don't have to tell me. I know who you are, I don't have to know what you are.

(beat)
Let's just be together for a little while. No promises, no explanations.

She snuggles in closer to him. MacLeod returns the embrace, enjoying the moment, letting worries and explanations recede.

As they're about to turn down the ramp to the Quai, MacLeod feels the BUZZ. He turns, looking for the source. Rachel notices his look, feels the tension.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL

What is it?

Down the block, a big black Mercedes sits waiting in front of an elegant building. A foreign flag hangs over the entrance, identifying it as the Embassy of a generic Arabian Gulf country.

KASSIM is part of an entourage moving toward the waiting limousine. HAMAD, a bear of a man with Stalin/Saddam Hussein looks, is the country's President. He is being ushered out of the building by Kassim and a couple of Guards. Kassim reacts to the Buzz, looks over at MacLeod. MacLeod's eyes are drawn to:

MAN IN A LONG COAT

moving along the street on the opposite side. There's something a bit 'off' about his gait -- he's carrying something under the coat.

MACLEOD

knows trouble when he sees it. He pushes Rachel back around the corner.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

Stay here.
(as she is about to
speak)
Just do it.

She doesn't argue, ducks around the corner as MacLeod sprints toward the group by the limousine. Time slows down as

THE MAN IN THE COAT

brings a sawed-off shotgun out from under the coat, starting to swing it up.

HAMAD

is right in the line of fire, Kassim and the other Guards out of position

MACLEOD

slams into the Assassin just as he fires. The shot goes wide, taking out the limousine window, shattering the glass.

HAMAD'S GUARDS

pull the President down while

(CONTINUED)

MACLEOD

struggles with the Assassin. The Assassin fights to bring the gun around and aim it at MacLeod. Another SHOT rings out and

THE ASSASSIN

jerks and goes limp, a surprised expression on his face as he crumples.

MACLEOD

turns to see Kassim lowering a pistol.

KASSIM

nods acknowledgement, but before the two Immortals can speak

HAMAD

interrupts, brushing aside his two fussing Guards to commend imperiously:

HAMAD

(at the Guards)

I'm all right... No thanks to you.

(Pointing to MacLeod)

If it weren't for that stranger, I'd be dead.

(beat)

Kassim... Bring him to me.

KASSIM

As you wish.

(to MacLeod)

The President would like to thank you personally for your service to our country.

(tight)

Without your intervention, he would surely have died.

Hamad approaches. MacLeod extends a hand.

MACLEOD

(to Hamad)

Duncan MacLeod. Glad I could help.

Hamad ignores MacLeod's hand and grabs him in a hearty bear hug.

(CONTINUED)

HAMAD

(expansive)

You are a hero, Duncan MacLeod. And Hamad Ben Salem is forever in your debt. I thank you and my people thank you.

MacLeod slips out of his grasp.

MACLEOD

It's okay... really.

HAMAD

(with largess)

In my country, when a man saves another's life, a debt is owed. You may call on me for any favor.

(to Kassim)

See to it. And get me another car, I can't very well travel in this.

KASSIM

Of course, Mr. President.

Hamad starts to turn; then, as an afterthought, he grabs the dead man by the hair and lifts his face.

HAMAD

(re the Assassin)

And find out who this was.

(pointed)

And who sent him.

KASSIM

I shall investigate it personally.

Hamad lets go of the dead man and wipes his hand on the front of a bodyguard's jacket.

HAMAD

Do that.

Kassim turns to MacLeod off to one side.

MACLEOD

Kassim.

KASSIM

It's good to see you alive, MacLeod.

MacLeod's eyes go to the wall of a nearby building, then
PULL BACK to find:

TRANSITION TO:

1503 EXT. OASIS - NORTH AFRICA - 1755 - NIGHT

1503

The walls of a modest mud-brick VILLAGE, partly crumbled from age and driving sand.

In the desert night, little can be seen except a flickering glow -- in the shelter of the wall, MacLeod squats by a small, open fire, cooking a leg of LAMB. As he turns the meat --

A COUGH

from the darkness beyond the fire. Then sudden silence. MacLeod's hand goes to his sword.

MACLEOD

You might as well come out.

Nothing happens for a moment, then REZA emerges hesitantly from the darkness. Ragged, maybe seventeen, he's a gaunt street-rat with a small dagger in his hand. MacLeod relaxes.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

Come.

(beat)

But lay your knife by the fire.

Reza hesitates, but hunger overcomes his fear. He squats by the fire, lays his dagger nearby. He's trying not to eye the food, but he can't help it -- he's starving.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

My name is MacLeod.

REZA

Reza. Son of Mekti.

(re: the dagger)

I mean you no harm.

MACLEOD

(ironic)

That's a great relief.

He follows the boy's gaze to the food.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

You're hungry?

Reza swallows his hunger. Pride comes first.

REZA

I don't take charity.

MACLEOD

Suit yourself.

(CONTINUED)

1503 CONTINUED:

1503

MacLeod continues to eat. Reza watches, almost chewing with him.

REZA

Perhaps it was hospitality and not charity.

MACLEOD

(with a smile)

Perhaps.

MacLeod nods seriously. He takes Reza's dagger, spears a large chunk of lamb from the fire.

REZA

Then I accept it.

He grabs the chunk, begins gorging ravenously.

MacLeod smiles, watches him eat a moment.

MACLEOD

So, Reza, son of Mekti... What keeps you out in the night?

A BEAT -- Reza swallows, answers guardedly.

REZA

A man may travel where and when he wishes.

There's a sound in the distance. Reza jumps in alarm, his hand reaches for the dagger he no longer has.

MACLEOD

Especially if someone is after him.

(beat)

It's just the wind.

Reza avoids MacLeod's eyes.

REZA

Who would be after me? I'm a nobody, just a bootmaker's son, from Tunis.

MACLEOD

Then you have nothing to fear.

(a smile)

May God smile on your journey.

He turns, dismissing him, starts to punch his bedroll into shape. Reza starts to get nervous.

REZA

It must get lonely traveling alone.

(CONTINUED)

MACLEOD

Not really.

REZA

(beat)

The desert can be dangerous for strangers. It would be better for you to travel with a companion.

MACLEOD

Would it?

REZA

Someone like me could be very useful.

He watches anxiously as MacLeod weighs this.

MACLEOD

Let's see. You don't have a horse.

(beat)

Perhaps you're a great warrior?

Reza shakes his head.

REZA

Not much of one.

MACLEOD

What exactly can you do?

REZA

I can make boots.

MACLEOD

Good boots?

REZA

There's no finer bootmaker in the land.

MacLeod nods, yawns, and belches loudly.

MACLEOD

I could use a new pair of boots.

(beat)

We leave in the morning.

Reza's face lights up with gratitude. MacLeod lays down on his bedroll to sleep, placing Reza's dagger casually beside him as he does.

REZA

MacLeod? Why do Egyptians ride their camels backwards?

(CONTINUED)

1503 CONTINUED: (3)

1503

MACLEOD

(beat; heard this one)

So they won't have to turn around
when the order comes to retreat.

REZA

(cracks up)

I am very funny.

MACLEOD

You are very funny.

REZA

Can I have my dagger back?

MACLEOD

No.

And OFF Reza, as he lies down on his own roll --

1504 EXT. OASIS - NORTH AFRICA - 1755 - NEXT MORNING

1504

MacLeod and Reza preparing for travel. MacLeod is buying provisions from a vendor -- dried beef, dates, figs, etc. Reza is nearby working on a pair of boots.

MACLEOD

How far are you going?

REZA

(shrugs)

We have a saying... "A man who travels
east will one day discover the sun."

MACLEOD

Meaning?

REZA

(grins)

I have no idea.

MACLEOD

In what direction are you going?

REZA

When I choose a direction, it's
usually the wrong one.

MACLEOD

So choose one direction, then take
another one.

(CONTINUED)

1504 CONTINUED:

1504

REZA

But there would still be three other directions to choose from. I'd have to choose two more directions, and then take the remaining one, the one I didn't choose.

(beat)

I think it's easier not to choose in the first place, don't you?

MACLEOD

I think I'm sorry I asked.

MacLeod glances up -- his face turns serious.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

We have guests.

MACLEOD'S POV

coming into view, a phalanx of the PALACE GUARD rounds a wall. At their head is KASSIM.

MacLeod and Kassim lock eyes as each feels the BUZZ.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

Very interesting guests.

He turns -- but Reza has disappeared, leaving his bedroll and pack behind. As MacLeod finishes putting his provisions in his saddlebags, Kassim approaches.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

I am MacLeod, of the Clan MacLeod.

KASSIM

Kassim. I am Prefect here.

(beat)

We're looking for a boy.

MacLeod eyes the tough, well-armed soldiers.

MACLEOD

He must be quite a boy.

KASSIM

(impatient)

Have you seen him?

MACLEOD

The world is full of boys. Short, tall, rich, poor... why this one?

KASSIM

That doesn't concern you.

(CONTINUED)

1504 CONTINUED: (2)

1504

MACLEOD

Then I'll be on my way.

He reaches for the bedroll on the ground. Kassim sees it, snatches it up first. He holds it up.

KASSIM

For a large man, you have a small bedroll.

(sniffs it)

A filthy one at that.

MacLeod smiles disarmingly.

MACLEOD

Water is scarce in these parts.

Kassim throws the bedroll aside.

KASSIM

He's here. Find him.

The GUARDS move along the wall. One moves around a corner -- comes out holding a struggling Reza at dagger-point. Kassim throws a look at MacLeod, then faces the terrified boy. A BEAT -- Kassim backhands him. As Reza sags --

KASSIM (CONT'D)

Take him.

MacLeod moves in the way.

MACLEOD

What was his crime?

KASSIM

He defiled the Emir's daughter.

(tight)

Spoke to her in public. As if she were a common whore.

REZA

It's a lie! I love her!

KASSIM

Cockroach. You're not fit to lick her shoes.

(tight, to MacLeod)

Stand aside.

A GUARD reaches for Reza. MacLeod hammers him aside, then punches the next Guard. He pulls his sword to fend off the others --

(CONTINUED)

1504 CONTINUED: (3)

1504

KASSIM (CONT'D)
Put up your blade!

Kassim holds Reza, his short dagger tight against the boy's throat. As MacLeod hesitates --

KASSIM (CONT'D)
It can end here just as easily.

His warning is clear. MacLeod puts up his sword. Kassim hands off Reza to the Guards. As they tie his hands, Kassim turns to MacLeod. There's nothing they're going to resolve here.

MACLEOD
Another time.

KASSIM
(beat)
Perhaps.

He signals the Guards. As they move off, Reza throws a helpless look back at MacLeod. As Kassim moves off, we PUSH IN on the crest he wears and it becomes --

TRANSITION TO:

1505 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE EMBASSY - THE PRESENT

1505

DAY RESUME

The crest on the FLAG by the Embassy. We PAN DOWN to find Kassim, MacLeod and Hamad.

KASSIM
(to Hamad)
Perhaps Mr. MacLeod would attend your party tonight.

MACLEOD
I don't think so.

HAMAD
Please. I insist. You will be my honored guest. A car will be sent for you at seven o'clock.

Kassim looks MacLeod directly in the eyes.

KASSIM
It would not be polite to refuse the President's generosity.

MacLeod shrugs, gives in.

1506 INT. BARGE - DAY

1506

Mid-scene. Rachel is reacting to the news of this invitation. She moves to the dresser and starts looking through her clothes.

RACHEL

An Embassy Ball?

MACLEOD

I didn't know how to refuse.

RACHEL

Especially after you'd just saved a president's life.

(beat)

This sort of thing happen to you a lot?

MACLEOD

(teasing)

Every day.

(beat)

C'mon, the champagne will be good.

RACHEL

I can't.

(off MacLeod's look)

I don't have anything to wear.

MACLEOD

(smiles)

Good thing we're in Paris, then.

(a slight bow)

One fairy godmother, at your service.

1507 EXT. EMBASSY - NIGHT

1507

The floodlit Embassy glows in the Paris night as decked-out guests make their way inside.

MacLeod, in evening clothes, emerges from a limo, turns to offer his hand to Rachel as she exits the car. She's a vision of sensuality and beauty.

She takes MacLeod's arm and looks around, taking in the splendor.

RACHEL

(glancing back at the limo)

Nice pumpkin.

The limo drives off and MacLeod and Rachel step onto a red carpet and head for the door.

(CONTINUED)

1507 CONTINUED:

1507

MACLEOD

Still wish you were in Glenfinnan?

RACHEL

Of course.

Rachel laughs and they move toward the entrance.

1508 INT. EMBASSY BALL - NIGHT

1508

MacLeod and Rachel enter a large, sumptuous lobby, typically French eighteenth century with huge chandeliers and gilded walls and ceilings, crowded with politicians in evening dress.

ALIYA, a uniformed servant, a young woman from Hamad's country, approaches with a tray of champagne flutes.

MacLeod takes two, gives one to Rachel.

RACHEL

(after a sip)

Mm. This is good.

MACLEOD

(teasing)

Paris.

RACHEL

(teasing right back)

Yeah, but how's the Scotch?

Hamad spots MacLeod and abruptly abandons a conversation to move towards them.

HAMAD

Mr. MacLeod.

(as he approaches)

I am so pleased you have come.

Unfortunately Aliya doesn't see his sudden approach and he jostles her arm, spilling her tray. Some champagne spills on Rachel's dress.

ALIYA

I'm so sorry --

HAMAD

What have you done?

RACHEL

(hasty)

It's all right, really.

(CONTINUED)

1508 CONTINUED:

1508

HAMAD

(to Aliya)

You will be punished.

NASIR (O.S.)

Allow me.

REFRAME to include NASIR AL DENEK, early 20s, one of Hamad's ministers, debonair in a well-tailored tailcoat with a sash of office across the breast. He holds out his handkerchief to Rachel as he smoothly inserts himself between Hamad and Aliya.

NASIR (CONT'D)

(to Aliya)

Aliya, perhaps you should assist
Mademoiselle in the powder room.(off her frightened
eyes)

It's all right. Go.

Rachel moves off with Aliya. Nasir turns to MacLeod:

NASIR

New help. She tries her best.

HAMAD

It's not good enough.

MacLeod is impressed by Nasir's defusing of the situation. It's apparent Nasir has some experience at handling Hamad.

MACLEOD

It's forgotten.

(a hand)

Duncan MacLeod.

NASIR

Nasir al Deneb.

HAMAD

Al Deneb is one of my more liberal
Ministers. He's in charge of the
people's education.

(beat; with a laugh)

They love him as much as they hate
me. Don't they, Nasir?

Nasir shrugs.

HAMAD (CONT'D)

He sends their children to school.

I send their children to war.

(beat; with a smile)

I think I would rather have his job.

(CONTINUED)

1508 CONTINUED: (2)

1508

NASIR

We can exchange jobs any time you want.

HAMAD

(with a smile)

For that you'd have to kill me.

(beat)

And you're much too moral for that.

NASIR

(to MacLeod)

I've heard we owe you our beloved President's life.

HAMAD

And he shall be rewarded. I have said so.

NASIR

Then it shall be so.

Hamad looks up and sees a new figure entering the door.

HAMAD

The U.S. Ambassador.

(sighs)

I suppose I'll have to be friendly.

He moves off. Nasir relaxes slightly, his smile to MacLeod seeming genuine.

NASIR

I don't think I'd settle for anything less than a Mercedes for your reward.

MACLEOD

It's not necessary.

Nasir meets his eyes, sizing him up. Nods.

NASIR

But you deserve thanks, all the same.

MACLEOD

So do you.

(off Nasir's look)

For stepping in when you did.

NASIR

(a shrug)

The President can be short tempered at times. And Aliya has seen enough trouble.

(CONTINUED)

1508 CONTINUED: (3)

1508

With an enigmatic bow, he moves off, leaving MacLeod pondering the meaning of his words. Then, the BUZZ, and Kassim joins MacLeod.

KASSIM

MacLeod. So tell me, were you impressed with our glorious leader?

MACLEOD

Not very.

KASSIM

(matter of fact)

Good. So then it won't trouble you too much when we kill him.

And off MacLeod's reaction --

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

1509 INT. EMBASSY BALL - NIGHT

1509

MacLeod stands dumbfounded by Kassim's stunning declaration.

MACLEOD

Kill your President? You can't be serious.

KASSIM

(with quiet passion)

You've met the man, MacLeod. He is a tyrant.

MACLEOD

Murder is not the answer.

KASSIM

It is the only answer.

(beat)

For 800 years I have served. Ruler upon ruler. Emirs and Governors and Presidents. Some have been fair men, even good men. Some have been like Hamad. But none have been fit to rule. None have been of the house of al Deneb.

MACLEOD

The young Minister.

KASSIM

You've seen him. You've met him. MacLeod, he is of royal blood. Last of Boadin al Deneb's line.

(beat)

In the year 1460, with the hordes of Aragon at the gates, I swore to my master that his descendants would one day rule again. This is my chance. Only Hamad stands in his way.

MACLEOD

(realizing)

That was your man this afternoon.

KASSIM

Your timing was unfortunate.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1509 CONTINUED:

1509

KASSIM (CONT'D)

(beat)

But providence has spoken; you shall
be her hand.

(beat)

You shall kill Hamad for me.

MACLEOD

I'm not an assassin, Kassim.

KASSIM

Hamad is a monster. His only claim
to power is the barrel of a gun.
Those who object to his rule are
jailed and executed. Five thousand
in four years -- doctors, professors,
newspaper publishers, anyone who
dared to speak freely. A man like
that does not deserve to rule -- or
to live.

MACLEOD

That's not for me to judge.

KASSIM

You are not his judge, MacLeod. I
am. You are his executioner.

MACLEOD

I can't.

KASSIM

You must.

(beat)

You gave me your word, MacLeod. You
owe me this.

MacLeod's expression freezes. Kassim is speaking the truth.
His eyes fall to the elegant rug on the floor, which becomes --

TRANSITION TO:

1510 INT. PALACE - DUNGEON CORRIDOR - 1755 - DAY

1510

The floor in a miserable narrow stone corridor. Dark,
torchlit, floored with excrement-covered straw that we'll
never have to examine too closely.

FOLLOWING

as a heavily robed GUARD -- we can't see his face, moves
along the corridor carrying a blazing TORCH.

As he moves into an open area --

1511 INT. PALACE - DUNGEON - 1755 - CONTINUOUS

1511

REZA is there, manacled to a wall. He's in rough shape - doubtful he even got to call his lawyer.

A large GUARD is playing some board game over a CHOPPING BLOCK with the JAILER. They barely look up as the NEWCOMER approaches.

NEWCOMER

Release the boy. He's to come with me.

BEAT -- the JAILER looks up suspiciously, stands.

JAILER

Kassim said he's not to be touched.

ANGLE - THE NEWCOMER

it's MACLEOD. He sees this isn't going to work.

MACLEOD

Have it your way.

He swings. The man goes down hard.

THE GUARD

jumps up, pulls his sword.

MACLEOD

grabs a SLOP PAIL from the floor -- tosses it straight in the man's face. As the Guard yells, wipes unmentionable glop from his eyes --

MacLeod grabs him, runs him headfirst into a wall. The Guard goes down and out.

THE JAILER

is coming to his feet. MacLeod grabs the pail again, slams the man, sends him down. He moves to Reza.

NEW ANGLE

as Reza recognizes him, flashes a confused, panicky look.

REZA

If they catch us, they'll kill us both! They'll gouge out our eyes! They'll flay our flesh! They'll burn our...

(CONTINUED)

1511 CONTINUED:

1511

MACLEOD
(stopping him)
Reza? Put your tongue in your mouth.
Keep it there.
(beat)
Put your arms out.

Reza stretches his arms against the stone wall. MacLeod pulls his sword, strikes them in turn, cutting the chains. Reza still can't believe he's being rescued.

REZA
Why did you come?

MACLEOD
Must be your camel jokes.

He grabs Reza and drags him back out into the corridor.

1512 INT. PALACE - DUNGEON CORRIDOR - 1755 - CONTINUOUS

1512

As they round a corner -- and MacLeod gets the BUZZ. He stops. Reza stares at him.

REZA
Why are you stopping?

MacLeod doesn't answer. A BEAT, as --

Kassim steps around the corner. Eyes the two of them.

KASSIM
I looked forward to this.
(beat)
Just not so soon.

MACLEOD
Let the boy go. You and I can settle this.

KASSIM
We will.
(beat)
But the boy goes nowhere.

MACLEOD
What purpose can his death serve?

KASSIM
You should know more than any.
(beat)
There is an order to things. The laws of God and man must prevail.

(CONTINUED)

1512 CONTINUED:

1512

MACLEOD

Against what?

(beat)

You must know what it is to love
someone. It takes away all reason.
He only obeyed his heart.

KASSIM

(beat)

The princess cannot ignore such an
insult.

MACLEOD

Did you ask her?

(off his look)

You serve the princess. What would
she feel if this boy died just for
loving her?

(beat)

Is this how you protect her?

Kassim feels the rightness of the argument, but doesn't see
a way out.

KASSIM

There is no other way.

MACLEOD

There is always a way.

(beat)

He could escape.

KASSIM

No one has ever escaped from here.

REZA

I could be the first.

A look from MacLeod silences Reza.

MACLEOD

We will ride off tonight... and you
will never see either of us again.

(beat)

He's only a boy.

KASSIM

And if I did this? What would you
give me in return?

MACLEOD

Except my sword... anything I have.
Anything that's mine to give.

(CONTINUED)

KASSIM

(amused)

What would that be? A rough pair of boots? A poor horse?

MACLEOD

My friendship.

(beat)

For as long as I live.

He's dead serious. Kassim realizes the enormity of the offer.

KASSIM

Your promise.

(MacLeod nods)

A favor for a favor. A life for a life. I will hold you to it.

MACLEOD

You have my word.

KASSIM

We live long, MacLeod. I will not forget.

MACLEOD

Nor will I.

Kassim nods. He stands aside, and MacLeod moves past him, pulling Reza out the corridor. As they move hurriedly past the CAMERA --

TRANSITION TO:

1513 INT. EMBASSY BALL - THE PRESENT - NIGHT - RESUME

1513

A couple dancing past. MacLeod and Kassim in conversation.

MACLEOD

You've waited all this time to ask me this?

KASSIM

Seems like yesterday to me, or has your memory become weak?

MACLEOD

I haven't forgotten.

Kassim reaches into his pocket, pulls out a formal card, writes on the back.

KASSIM

Be at this restaurant tomorrow night at seven-thirty.

(CONTINUED)

1513 CONTINUED:

1513

MACLEOD

Don't ask this.

KASSIM

You made a vow. A life for a life.

MacLeod can't argue with that. As he stares blankly at the card, tortured by his dilemma, Rachel slips an arm through his.

RACHEL

(bright)

Am I interrupting?

KASSIM

Shame on me. I've been keeping you from your friend.

RACHEL

(offering a hand)

Rachel MacLeod.

KASSIM

(to MacLeod, surprised)

Your wife.

RACHEL

Distant cousin.

MACLEOD

It's a long story.

KASSIM

So many of them are.

Kassim bows to Rachel.

KASSIM (CONT'D)

Please, enjoy the party.

(to MacLeod)

Until tomorrow.

RACHEL

I'm ready for that dance.

OFF MacLeod's face as he whirls her away into the crowd.

1514 INT. BARGE - NEXT DAY

1514

Rachel is at the table writing postcards. MacLeod sits next to her, disconsolately drinking tea.

(CONTINUED)

1514 CONTINUED:

1514

RACHEL

My nieces are going to love this story. Arabic potentates, a fancy-dress ball, the dashing hero.

She gives him a quick kiss on "hero." He barely responds.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

You've been awfully quiet all day.

MACLEOD

Just thinking about something.

RACHEL

Anything I can help with?

MACLEOD

I don't think so.

She looks at him a minute, decides not to push it.

RACHEL

I'm just going to the corner to mail these.

She pulls on her jacket, picks up her postcards, and moves to the door.

There's KNOCKING as she reaches the door and she opens it to find a MESSENGER.

MESSENGER

For MacLeod.

Rachel takes the package.

RACHEL

Thank you.

Rachel closes the door and comes back into the room, unwrapping the package.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Maybe I forgot my glass slipper.

(beat)

This is heavy.

MACLEOD

(realizing)

Let me see that.

He starts toward her but he's too late. She has the box open.

(CONTINUED)

1514 CONTINUED: (2)

1514

IN THE BOX

A Glock, silencer-equipped, sits gleaming amid the packing material.

RACHEL

Oh my God.

RACHEL

takes a beat, meets his eyes.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

(a little stunned)

I guess this is yours.

She mechanically hands the box to MacLeod.

MACLEOD

(beat)

I have to go out for a while.

RACHEL

Duncan...

There's a beat while he waits for her inevitable questions.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I shouldn't have looked.

It's not what he expected. He moves to her, tries to explain:

MACLEOD

Rachel, it's complicated.

RACHEL

I know what guns are for.

MACLEOD

I can't explain.

She looks up at him without condemnation, with a trust that is far more damning than any reproach could be:

RACHEL

I know you wouldn't do anything that didn't need to be done.

MacLeod remains silent, trying hard to believe she's right.

1515 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

1515

Hamad and his entourage, including Nasir and Hamad's Guards, are entering a ritzy Moroccan restaurant, empty except for them.

(CONTINUED)

1515 CONTINUED:

1515

The decor is very "Arabian Nights," with expansive silk curtains draped around the room. Hamad reacts grumpily to the decor. Kassim approaches.

HAMAD

Is this the best you can do?

NASIR

Mr. President... This is the food of our homeland.

HAMAD

I know that. When I am in Paris, I expect to eat French food!

KASSIM

I am sorry, Mr. President, but I couldn't take the chance after yesterday. I know this restaurant is secure. The people who own it are our loyal friends.

His eyes go to a curtain off to the side and behind Hamad.

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

MacLeod stands concealed in a hallway, hidden by the curtain. He watches as --

MACLEOD'S POV - FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Kassim carefully arranges the table, guiding Hamad to a chair in front of MacLeod's hiding place, putting Nasir off to the side, out of the line of fire. The Guards take up positions against the wall.

MACLEOD

He closes his eyes and takes a breath. This is hard. He forces himself to raise the weapon. Has a clear shot at Hamad's head.

KASSIM

looks over at MacLeod's hiding place with an impatient look. Sees

THE GUN BARREL

poking out from behind the curtain.

MACLEOD'S POV - SLO MO

Hamad, in profile, turns to say something to Nasir.

(CONTINUED)

HAMAD
(distorted)
The wine must be French.

The sound is distorted, MacLeod's own heartbeat and breathing drowning out any other sounds.

MACLEOD

Can't do it. Not in cold blood.

KASSIM

realizes MacLeod is backing out.

Hamad notices Kassim's strange expression and turns back to see what he's staring at.

HAMAD
What is it, Kassim?

Then Hamad sees

THE GUN

Peeking out from behind the curtain. MacLeod still doesn't fire.

HAMAD
What is this! Guards!

HAMAD

ducks down as his Guards rush to the table. Kassim, seeing that MacLeod isn't going to fire, screams out in anger.

KASSIM
Damn you!

KASSIM

pulls out his own gun and takes aim at Hamad. But it's too late. The moment has been missed.

THE TWO GUARDS

pull out rapid-fire automatics and open fire on Kassim. KASSIM goes down, "dead."

THE GUARDS

head for MacLeod's place of concealment.

1516 EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

1516

MacLeod steps hurriedly out of the restaurant and ducks into the shadows as he hears

TWO OF HAMAD'S MEN

approach. Their guns are drawn and they are wary.

MACLEOD

presses his back further into the wall as they move closer to him.

HAMAD

appears in the doorway of the restaurant.

HAMAD (CONT'D)

Anything?

The men shake their heads.

HAMAD (CONT'D)

Come... take me home.

Inches from MacLeod, they turn back and move away.

As MacLeod takes a deep breath...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

1517 EXT. BARGE - LATE NIGHT

1517

MacLeod moves tiredly up the gangplank. He stands for a moment on the deck, contemplating the gun he didn't use. He leans on the railing.

RACHEL

comes up the stairs from the interior, a blanket wrapped around her.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I thought it must be you.

He doesn't answer. Just looks at the river. She moves up beside him. She just waits, looking out at the water. They stand in silence for a moment. Finally:

MACLEOD

When I was young, I fought in one war after another. One day I met a man who'd given up killing. To him, it didn't matter who was right and who was wrong. Life was more precious than principles.

RACHEL

And you think he was right?

MACLEOD

I still think there are things worth dying for. And killing for, if you have to.

RACHEL

But not tonight.

He throws the gun in the water.

MACLEOD

No. Not tonight.

RACHEL

Then your friend would be proud.

MACLEOD

I wish I knew. I wish he was here.

(beat)

I made a promise to someone. I couldn't keep it.

(CONTINUED)

1517 CONTINUED:

1517

RACHEL

I'm sure you had a good reason.

She's hit at the heart of it.

MACLEOD

Is that enough? Maybe a man of honor does what he swears and says the hell with the consequences.

RACHEL

I think a man of honor lives with whatever he does.

He nods -- that's exactly what's eating at him. She wraps an arm around him.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Come inside.

1517A INT. BARGE - NIGHT

1517A

A series of soft dissolves of Rachel and MacLeod in bed making love with the gentleness of discovery and then with fiery passion.

DISSOLVE TO:

1518 INT. BARGE - MORNING

1518

Rachel is still sleeping. MacLeod, restless, is up and dressed. He gets the BUZZ and moves toward the door.

1519 EXT. BARGE - MORNING

1519

Kassim is approaching along the empty quay as MacLeod emerges from the barge. They meet at the foot of the gangplank.

KASSIM

(cold fury)

Do you know what you have done?

MACLEOD

I'm not a murderer. It was too much to ask.

KASSIM

Too much to ask you to honor your sworn oath?

(beat)

You've betrayed me, and betrayed yourself.

Ouch.

(CONTINUED)

1519 CONTINUED:

1519

MACLEOD

There's got to be another way. If he's as bad as you say, go public with his crimes, force him to step down. Have Nasir speak out.

KASSIM

Are you a fool as well as a coward? Nasir won't live out the week.

(with anger and sadness)

My support for him is well known. He'll be blamed for my part in these attempts, and Hamad will have him killed.

(harder)

And because of you, I'm dead. I can no longer serve him. No longer protect him. The last of the line of al Deneb will die out, because you wouldn't honor your word.

Kassim pulls out his sword.

KASSIM (CONT'D)

If I can't keep my promise, at least I can avenge him.

MACLEOD

Don't do this, Kassim. I'm not your enemy.

KASSIM

Don't you even have enough honor to accept my challenge?

MacLeod remains unarmed.

MACLEOD

I won't fight you, Kassim.

(beat)

And you won't kill me if I don't fight.

There's a moment when it looks like Kassim's anger will overwhelm the code of honor that MacLeod is counting on.

He backhands MacLeod hard across the mouth.

KASSIM

Fight!

MacLeod doesn't move. Just waiting. Like Kirin in "Blind Faith." And finally Kassim, like MacLeod did then, lowers his sword. But the hatred in his face does not alter.

(CONTINUED)

1519 CONTINUED: (2)

1519

KASSIM (CONT'D)

Make no mistake, MacLeod. You'll
fight me.

(dark)

And you'll die.

As Kassim walks away, MacLeod's eyes follow. They stop as
he sees

MACLEOD'S POV

RACHEL

standing mute, watching. As they share a look.

1520 INT. EMBASSY - LIBRARY - DAY

1520

An OFFICIAL leads MacLeod into a small library.

OFFICIAL

The President will be back from lunch
shortly. You may wait here.

(beat)

I hope you realize what a busy man
he is. He may not be able to see
you.

MACLEOD

The man who saved his life?

OFFICIAL

(terse)

If you were not, you would not be
allowed to wait.

The Official leaves.

MacLeod picks up a little book sitting on an end table and
checks the title.

MACLEOD

(sheesh)

"The Wit and Wisdom of Hamad."

(as he thumbs through
it)

Kind of short.

He puts the book down as Aliya enters, carrying a tray.

ALIYA

They thought you might want coffee
while you waited.

She bows slightly and starts to back out.

(CONTINUED)

1520 CONTINUED:

1520

MACLEOD

Aliya, wait.

She stops in the doorway, surprised.

ALIYA

You know my name, monsieur.

MACLEOD

The Minister told me. Nasir al Deneb... He seems to be a good man.

She comes back into the room.

ALIYA

He is a good man.

(beat)

I was a teacher in my country until my brother was arrested... I think him bringing me to Paris has kept me alive.

MACLEOD

If he needed your help, would you help him?

ALIYA

What help could he need from me?

MACLEOD

I have to speak to him. His life is in danger.

Aliya's look is fearful.

ALIYA

No, monsieur, you are to wait here.

MACLEOD

I'm not going to wait here. I'm going to find Nasir al Deneb. I'd rather not have to wander through the halls opening doors.

She hesitates, knowing the danger of crossing Hamad, but also knowing where her greater loyalty lies.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

He needs you.

And off her indecision --

1521 INT. EMBASSY - NASIR'S ROOM - DAY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

1521

Nasir sits at a desk in a corner of the chamber, going over papers. He's surprised by the door opening. MacLeod quietly slips in.

NASIR

(rising)

These are private quarters.

MACLEOD

All I want is two minutes.

NASIR

You don't have them... get out.

MACLEOD

(beat)

If you want to stay alive, you'll listen to me.

NASIR

Listen to you. I don't even know who you are, except for the fact that you saved Hamad's life. And you don't get a lot of points for that one with me.

MACLEOD

Kassim was a friend.

NASIR

Kassim was a dangerous man and a fool.

MACLEOD

He wanted to see you rule.

NASIR

As I will, some day.

MACLEOD

Not with Hamad around.

(beat)

He thinks you were involved in the assassination attempts. He'll have you killed.

Nasir just smiles at the notion, sits on his desk.

NASIR

He wouldn't dare. I have spent years cultivating the love of my people.

(CONTINUED)

1521 CONTINUED:

1521

Nasir's hand moves casually to a security button set in the desk. He pushes it.

MACLEOD

That's exactly why he needs to eliminate you.

NASIR

Thanks for your concern. Your two minutes are up.

The door bursts open and two Guards come in, guns out, summoned by Nasir's buzzer.

NASIR (CONT'D)

Mr. MacLeod was just leaving.

MACLEOD

You're making a mistake.

NASIR

(with a gesture to the Guards)

Good day, Mr. MacLeod.

As MacLeod leaves.

MACLEOD

(to the Guards)

I want to see Hamad.

1522 INT. EMBASSY - LIBRARY - DAY

1522

MacLeod waits edgily. This time, two Guards wait with him.

The door opens and Hamad comes in.

HAMAD

(to the Guards)

Leave us.

(to MacLeod, as they do)

I've heard you were with Nasir al Deneb.

MACLEOD

I was looking for you and ran into him.

HAMAD

Tell me... Do you like Nasir?

MACLEOD

Not especially.

(CONTINUED)

1522 CONTINUED:

1522

HAMAD

He's an arrogant little bastard when you get to know him.

(beat)

He wants to rule my country.

MACLEOD

Does he?

HAMAD

He thinks with his Princeton education and family tree that it's his right...

(angry)

I lost three brothers and two children fighting for my country. Before me there was anarchy. My people were starving. Now they go to sleep with full bellies and still they call me tyrant. I brought them order. I brought them strength. Our army is feared throughout the region.

(beat)

Now, why are you here?

MACLEOD

You said I was entitled to a favor.

I'm here to claim it.

HAMAD

Of course. Every man has his price. And yours is -- ?

MACLEOD

The life of Nasir al Deneb.

HAMAD

The life of a man you barely know? That is a strange request.

MACLEOD

All the same, it's what I ask.

(beat)

You promised me a favor. Will you honor your word?

There's a beat. Then Hamad nods.

HAMAD

Al Deneb is safe from me.

(beat)

I will not expect to see you again.

MACLEOD

You will only see me again if you are not a man of honor.

(CONTINUED)

1522 CONTINUED: (2)

1522

HAMAD

Should I be afraid of you, MacLeod?
The man who saved my life?

MACLEOD

A life for a life, Hamad.

MacLeod turns and leaves.

1523 INT. EMBASSY - NASIR'S ROOM - NIGHT

1523

Nasir is dressing for dinner when the door opens to admit Hamad, one of his big Guards trailing him.

NASIR

Your excellency.

Hamad waves off the bow.

HAMAD

I have just had the most unusual request.

(beat)

Why would Duncan MacLeod wish to protect you?

NASIR

I have no idea. The man is a stranger to me.

HAMAD

Of course. You know nothing of him, just as you knew nothing of Kassim's little plan to get me out of your way.

(beat)

You are a clever man, Nasir. I can't afford to have a clever man at my side.

He nods to the Guard, who moves toward Nasir.

NASIR

(still confident)

You wouldn't dare harm me.

HAMAD

You're right, of course. A man in my position can't afford to kill a man like you.

(beat)

But... When the truth came out about your hand in my assassination attempt, your guilt drove you to suicide.

(CONTINUED)

1523 CONTINUED:

1523

A hint of fear comes to Nasir's face as he realizes Hamad really means to do it.

NASIR

You'll be overthrown within a year.

HAMAD

Perhaps.

(beat)

But not by you.

He moves out, leaving Nasir with the Guard. As the Guard moves forward --

1524 EXT. EMBASSY - NIGHT

1524

Nasir's body hurtles out of the window and tumbles to the pavement below.

1525 EXT. QUAI DE LA TOURNELLE - NIGHT

1525

MacLeod heads down the steps from the street leading to the quay.

HIS POV

The barge listing badly, burning, full of smoke, surrounded by police and firemen.

MACLEOD

runs down the quay toward the wreck.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

Rachel!

But there's no answer.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

Rachel...

And off his horror...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

1525A EXT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

1525A

1526 INT. INSPECTORS OFFICE - DAY

1526

It's been a long night for MacLeod. A Police INSPECTOR is interviewing him.

INSPECTOR

An incident like this, monsieur, it raises many questions. We expect such an event to target public figures, or tourist landmarks.

(beat)

Why would someone target you?

MACLEOD

I don't know.

INSPECTOR

You have no idea?

MACLEOD

If I did, don't you think I'd tell you?

INSPECTOR

Not necessarily... Not if you were hiding something.

(beat)

Are you hiding something, Mr. MacLeod?

MACLEOD

What are you fishing for, Inspector?

INSPECTOR

Only the truth, Mr. MacLeod.

MACLEOD

The truth is someone I care about has disappeared and my home has been blown to hell.

(with feigned indignance)

I'm not the criminal here.

INSPECTOR

Not yet, you're not.

MACLEOD

Is there anything else?

(CONTINUED)

1526 CONTINUED:

1526

INSPECTOR

(beat)

A few days ago you stopped the
assassination of Hamad Ben Salem.

MACLEOD

I was in the right place at the right
time.

INSPECTOR

Maybe not everyone shares that opinion
with you.

MACLEOD

What do you think, Inspector?

INSPECTOR

I think there're things you're not
telling me.

(beat)

I think you've probably pissed off
some bad people and that you know
who they are.

(beat)

A smart man would tell me the truth
so I could protect him.

MACLEOD

I'm sure he would.

(beat)

Are we finished?

INSPECTOR

Go on... get out of here.

(beat)

For your sake I hope I get them before
they get you.

MacLeod looks at the Inspector and walks out. The Inspector
calls after him.

INSPECTOR (CONT'D)

Where will you be staying?

MACLEOD

I don't know.

1527 EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

1527

MacLeod is deep in thought as he walks down the street from
the police station. He reacts as a pedestrian bumps into
him, slipping something into his pocket.

MACLEOD

Hey!

(CONTINUED)

1527 CONTINUED:

1527

The Pedestrian runs, MacLeod on his tail. MacLeod gets a piece of the guy's jacket and holds on.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

Who sent you?

The Pedestrian slips out of the jacket and scrambles away. As he does, MacLeod's pocket RINGS. MacLeod reacts in surprise.

The Pedestrian takes advantage of MacLeod's distraction to jump onto a waiting motorcycle and speed away.

MacLeod fumbles into his pocket and pulls out the package the Pedestrian put there. A cellular phone. And it's ringing.

MacLeod cautiously answers the phone.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

What do you want, Kassim?

INTERCUT:

1528 INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

1528

The same place where MacLeod's attempt on Hamad failed. Empty now, but for Rachel sitting at one of the tables, Kassim across from her, his gun trained on her. She's scared, but unharmed.

RACHEL

(into phone)

Duncan? ...

ON MACLEOD

his face flooding with relief.

MACLEOD

Rachel! Are you all right?

RACHEL

I'm okay.

KASSIM

(taking the phone
from her)

For now.

MACLEOD

Leave her out of this, Kassim.

(CONTINUED)

1528 CONTINUED:

1528

KASSIM

I wish I could.

(beat)

Nasir al Deneb is dead. You are to
blame.

MacLeod reacts.

MACLEOD

Hamad.

KASSIM

(nods)

The last of my master's line is dead
because of you. Meet me and pay for
it, or one of your line will be next.

1529 INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

1529

Kassim awaits, sword in hand. MacLeod enters.

MACLEOD

Where is she?

KASSIM

You know, I actually wanted to kill
her. I wanted you to feel what I
felt.

MACLEOD

Where is she!

KASSIM

Locked in the freezer. It's a good
place for keeping perishable goods.
You see, I'm a man of honor. I'm
giving you a chance to save her life.
Which is more than you gave me with
Nasir.

MACLEOD

I tried to help him. He wouldn't
listen to me.

KASSIM

It changes nothing.

(beat)

All that I worked for, centuries of
waiting and planning, you have
destroyed with your treason.

MACLEOD

I did everything I could.

(CONTINUED)

1529 CONTINUED:

1529

KASSIM

But not what you had to! It is Hamad
who should be dead, not Nasir.
(raising his sword)
Give me your life in exchange for
his.

MACLEOD

(meeting the challenge)
I'm here. But if you want my life,
you'll have to take it.

Kassim lets out a war cry and comes at MacLeod, who
instinctively deflects the first few blows.

MacLeod backs around the table, using the furniture to his
advantage, keeping Kassim at a distance.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

Let it go, Kassim. I'm not your
enemy.

Kassim won't hear it. He climbs over the table and engages
MacLeod in close quarters. They grapple, hands locked around
one another's wrists, keeping their swords out of play.

MacLeod manages to slam Kassim against the wall and break
away. Kassim slashes at him, and MacLeod parries. The
billowing silk hangings are getting slashed to ribbons with
every cut of the swords.

A small woven rug slips under MacLeod and he almost loses
his footing, barely manages to deflect a blow. Kassim tries
to press the advantage, reaching down to pull the carpet out
from under MacLeod's feet. But MacLeod seizes the moment --
when Kassim bends over, MacLeod catches him with a kick in
the face and Kassim goes down.

MacLeod steps on his sword and stands over him, the katana
raised. Kassim's head is his. But:

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

No. I didn't want this.

KASSIM

Damn you, MacLeod! You can't even
win with honor.

MACLEOD

I won't kill you.

He steps back, allowing Kassim to rise.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

It's over. Go.

(CONTINUED)

1529 CONTINUED: (2)

1529

KASSIM

This changes nothing.

(beat)

I promise you, we will meet again.

MACLEOD

No more promises, Kassim.

Kassim storms out of the demolished restaurant.

1530 INT. RESTAURANT - KITCHEN - DAY

1530

MacLeod pries off a padlock and opens the freezer door. Rachel sits huddled in a corner, scared and shivering. She rushes into MacLeod's arms and he holds her tight, providing warmth for both her body and her soul.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT : TAG

FADE IN:

1531 EXT. HOTEL - TAXI STAND - DAY

1531

Rachel and MacLeod stand in front of a hotel. MacLeod hails a cab.

RACHEL

Will you be able to fix the barge?

MACLEOD

If I can get her hull patched, I can fix the rest.

The cab pulls up. A DRIVER gets out and loads Rachel's bags.

MACLEOD (CONT'D)

(to the Driver)

To the airport.

(re leaving)

You're sure about this?

RACHEL

No...

(beat)

I don't know what you are, but I know the last thing you need is a "wee woman" at home to protect.

MACLEOD

Nobody I know would ever call you a "wee woman."

(beat; with a smile)

At least nobody who'd want to keep their teeth.

RACHEL

When Kassim took me, I wasn't afraid. I knew you'd come for me. I knew you'd always come for me.

(beat)

I won't be used against you again.

MACLEOD

It was because of me. You can't blame yourself for that.

RACHEL

(with difficulty)

The next time you get to the Highlands, you can always pay a visit.

She kisses him and gets into the cab. The window comes down.

(CONTINUED)

1531 CONTINUED: 1531

RACHEL (CONT'D)
I love you, Duncan MacLeod of the
Clan MacLeod.

The car moves away. MacLeod stands there... alone, watching
her go.

1532 INT. EMBASSY - LIBRARY - NIGHT 1532

A pool of light from a desk lamp is the only illumination.
Hamad enters the room and goes to a bookshelf, scanning for
a volume. He reacts to

A SHADOW

on the balcony.

HAMAD
Who's there?

MACLEOD

steps into the room. His silence unnerving.

HAMAD

hastily reaches for the alarm bell on the desk. Rings it.

MACLEOD
It's disconnected.

MacLeod's hand comes down on Hamad's, twisting it.

HAMAD
What do you want?

MACLEOD
I told you I'd be back. You lied to
me.

HAMAD
What you asked was impossible.

MacLeod smiles grimly at the echo of his own excuses to
Kassim.

MACLEOD
You gave your word, Hamad. You should
have kept it.

He grabs Hamad and starts moving him toward the window.

HAMAD
Wh- what are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

1532 CONTINUED:

1532

MACLEOD

Keeping mine.

Before anything else can come out of Hamad's mouth, MacLeod jerks him over the balcony railing and off into the void. The thud of Hamad's body hitting the concrete echoes in the night.

ON MACLEOD

He looks neither pleased nor satisfied.

MACLEOD

A life for a life.

FADE OUT.

THE END