

RUSH HOUR

"Pilot"

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Revised Writer's Draft

1.22.15

TEASER

EXT. PORT OF HONG KONG - NIGHT

We're on the docks of a massive port lined with boats and shipping containers. It's late and empty, save for a large group of men quietly removing crates from a boat. We find a small unit of Hong Kong police officers hiding behind a large container. DETECTIVE LEE (30s, handsome, a man of few words and a total bad ass) studies the boat, then turns and gives hand signals to his unit, waving them forward. He stops one - we realize the officer is a woman, KIM LEE (20s, cute but edgy and tough, a playful shock of dyed blue in her hair), the only female in the unit. Lee signals her: stay back. She grabs his arm and shoots him an angry look: she doesn't like this. Lee AGAIN SIGNALS her to stay. She does. He moves on.

Lee's team moves quickly, staying low, their guns drawn. One of them is noticed and a FIREFIGHT BEGINS. Only Lee DOES NOT HAVE A GUN. He sees the boat untying and trying to quickly leave. Lee wades through the melee like an emotionless terminator, occasionally using MARTIAL ARTS to incapacitate thugs without ever losing focus. HE MUST GET TO THE BOAT. He moves like a missile blazing toward its target, but the boat is now detached from the dock and drifting away. He leaps onto a crate, and then with a SPRINT AND JUMP, grabs onto a winch hook that swings him over the water, dropping him onto the boat. He lands hard but is instantly on his feet. Success. Except that he's now drifting away, no backup, and surrounded by TEN ANGRY IMPOSING MEN.

Lee's officers, having subdued the gunmen, stand on the edge of the dock, concerned as the boat drifts off. SUDDENLY, the BOAT BEGINS TO TURN. As it RETURNS TO THE DOCK, we see Detective Lee standing on the deck. The bodies of the thugs lay motionless around him and a frightened boat driver guides the boat back. The officers cheer. Lee immediately silences them as he hops onto the dock, all business. Subtitled:

LEE

Catalog the narcotics. Get to work,  
I want to get home.

KIM

(mocking Lee, gruff voice)  
*Get to work, I want to get home...*  
(then off his look)  
Oh smile, big brother. We all know  
you're a badass.

Lee locks eyes with her. She cracks a grin.

LEE  
(still intense)  
Is anyone else looking?

She shakes her head no. He GIVES HER A BIG SMILE.

WE THEN SEE this scene THROUGH BINOCULARS, focusing first on Lee's officers, then holding on Kim and Lee. A hundred yards away, a 30s Asian Man lowers the binoculars with a look of well-restrained anger. This is JAWLONG (dyed BLONDE HAIR, cold eyes and steely demeanor, all in black, a true badass). It's obvious he's more than just a hired thug. He goes back to his car, an underling holds the door open for him and he is driven off. We will SEE HIM AGAIN.

INT. HONG KONG POLICE STATION - THE NEXT DAY

Detective Lee and the whole department stand before CAPTAIN CHEN, 50s. Sitting next to Chen is an American Federal officer, THOMAS WARD, 40s. A male TRANSLATOR whispers into Thomas' ear. Everyone but Thomas is subtitled.

CAPTAIN CHEN  
The seizure of the narcotics is a significant blow to the Quantou criminal organization. Excellent work, Detective Lee.

As Lee bows his appreciation, Thomas stands and speaks:

THOMAS  
The United States is grateful as well. When the FBI sent me here two years ago, the Quantou was growing in strength and starting to infiltrate the US. Now that you are crippling them financially, for the first time I can report back to my government that we are winning.

INT. HONG KONG POLICE STATION - MAIN FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Lee is at his desk. His sister Kim is there mid-conversation. It is cordial, at first:

KIM  
I'm proud of you. But if you keep holding me back, how can I ever make you proud of me?

Lee continues reading a file, not taking this seriously.

LEE

C'mon, Kim. There will be other cases--

She SLAMS A FIST ON HIS DESK, shutting him up. Lee knew she was unhappy, but he didn't expect this level of anger.

KIM

It's never going to change, is it? It doesn't matter that I'm smarter and better than any man on your team. You'll never give me a chance. You only see me as a woman.

LEE

(sincere)

No. I see you as my little sister... I just don't want you to get hurt.

Thomas (with translator) approaches. He sees from Kim and Lee's face that he's walked into an argument.

THOMAS

Sorry, seems I've walked into a family squabble.

Kim responds to Thomas in flawless English (we'll notice that Kim is very Westernized, a stark contrast to her brother).

KIM

The usual. Overprotective brother being an ass.

THOMAS

It drives him crazy when you use English, Kim.

KIM

I know. That's why I'm doing it.

Thomas then addresses Lee, through the translator:

THOMAS

Captain Chen needs you to assign a few officers to escort a collection of terracotta soldiers to Los Angeles. The statues are going on a museum tour.

Lee looks at his sister.

KIM

No! Don't you dare.

LEE

It's an important job.

KIM

It's a babysitting job, and you know it. Don't do this to me.

LEE

Do what? You should be proud of your culture. These statues are a historical treasure, protecting them is an honor. Besides, we need officers who will make us look good in front of the American police.

KIM

American law enforcement is a joke.

Lee's response to her BRIDGES THE CUT:

LEE

I'm sure officers in LA are just as professional as we are here...

EXT. VACANT PARKING LOT - DAY

CLOSE UP on CARTER (black, late 20s, not sure what's higher, his energy or his confidence). He walks over to a gruff looking Hispanic guy, CARLOS. They stand next to Carlos' car, but while Carter is relaxed, Carlos is all business, keeping a watchful eye on his surroundings.

CARTER

Hey, muchacho! Como esta and whatnot. How you been?  
(as Carlos doesn't reply)  
I love our talks, Carlos. You get me. Let's leave all this behind and go somewhere with a beach and just drink margaritas and be about us. What do you say?  
(off Carlos' silence)  
Your loss. Where the hell is your guy? I'm ready to do some shopping.

CARLOS

He's here.  
(as Carter scans the area)  
Look higher.

Carter looks up to see a HELICOPTER approaching. It lands and Carlos opens a compartment and displays an assortment of HI-TECH GUNS. Carter marvels at them and picks one up.

CARTER

Where did you get this thing? Did you fly here from the future? Does this fire laser beams out or does it shoot bullets? It's beautiful.

A single police patrol car pulls in and flashes its lights. Though it only registers on his face for a brief moment, we can tell Carter is shocked by the intrusion. As Carlos slowly reaches for his gun:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Easy, I got this.  
(as two officers step out)  
Hey, how you doing? We're actually all good, but I appreciate you stopping to check on us, and y'all have a great day.

OFFICER 1

What's going on here?

CARTER

Weekly meeting of the Black and Mexican Helicopter Enthusiasts of Southern California. It's a small group, but we're growing - a month ago it was just me.

OFFICER 1

I need all three of you to get on the ground.

The pilot gets out of the helicopter. Carlos is edgy. Carter tries to signal the two cops with his eyes:

CARTER

You sure you don't want to just get back in your car and go?

Carlos GRABS HIS GUN and FIRES. Carter shoves him to disrupt his shot. The officers scramble behind their car.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Don't shoot you idiots, I'm a cop!

He shows his badge, then sees Carlos STARTING THE CHOPPER. Carter points his gun at Carlos, SHOUTS over the noise:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Shut it down and step outside!

Carlos points to his ears: "What? Can't hear you?"

CARTER (CONT'D)

Don't play me! Shut it down before  
I put a bullet in your ass!

CARLOS

You can't shoot me!

CARTER

Why not?! I love shooting people!  
It makes me happy!

CARLOS

No, I meant you can't shoot me or  
we'll crash!

Carter looks - he's standing on the copter's LANDING GEAR, now TWENTY FEET off the ground. Any sensible cop would jump off immediately. As they go higher, Carter looks back to Carlos, who grins.

CARTER

Carlos, it is nice to finally be  
doing something together, but you  
set it down right now!

(Carlos shakes head no)

Do you have any idea how unsafe  
this is?! Are you even a pilot?!

Carter clings to the side of the helicopter as Carlos tries to shake him. Carter tries not to panic, talks to himself:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Nothing about this scares me--

(as the chopper dips)

AHHHHH!!!

(then, off Carlos' smile)

Not scared! This is a great view. I  
was just trying to say "AHH yeah!"

CARLOS

I never liked you, but this is the  
most fun I've had in--

CARTER SHOOTS him through the door, in his knee. HE SCREAMS.

CARTER

What was that? You were saying  
"most fun you've had in..." but you  
didn't finish the thought!

As the chopper starts to PLUMMET, Carter sees a backyard POOL approaching, and JUMPS, heading straight for the water... The helicopter hits the ground at a low angle into a giant backyard, and then slides, crashing into the side of a house.

ANGLE ON THE SWIMMING POOL. Carter's head emerges from the water. He catches his breath, amazed to realize he's okay, and then laughs. He calls out, to no one in particular:

CARTER (CONT'D)  
That's right! I shoot bad men out  
of the sky!

He laughs, then realizes something and turns his head - six adults sit at a table with food, staring at him in awe.

CARTER (CONT'D)  
How're you folks doing? Beautiful  
home.

INT. LOS ANGELES POLICE STATION - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - LATER

CAPTAIN LINDSAY COLE (40s, by-the-book, proper, attractive when she wants to be) sits behind her desk, reading a file. Carter stands across from her. As he starts to sit:

CAPTAIN COLE  
No.  
(he stands back up)  
How should we do this? You want me  
to start or would you like to go  
first?

CARTER  
I realize that at first glance,  
that report looks bad--

CAPTAIN COLE  
You ran an undercover operation  
without approval, got two patrol  
officers in a shootout with a  
Mexican gun smuggler and crashed a  
helicopter into the 3.8 million  
dollar home of an LA city  
councilman.

CARTER  
(processes all that, then)  
I'd like to address those  
allegations one at a time, if I may--

CAPTAIN COLE  
They aren't allegations, Carter,  
they are what happened!

CARTER

Allegedly. Captain, I would've had it under control if those idiot patrol cops didn't get in my way--

CAPTAIN COLE

It's always someone else's fault, isn't it? Is that why you insist on working alone? Every other officer in the entire department is completely worthless, while you are incapable of making mistakes.

CARTER

Right?! I'm so glad you see it. Sometimes Superman wishes he was normal 'cause it's lonely being all-powerful in a world of normal people, and I get that--

CAPTAIN COLE

Oh my God, do you hear yourself?

CARTER

I only hear myself.  
(then, realizing)  
And you. I always listen to you.

CAPTAIN COLE

I could have prevented any patrol units from interfering if you hadn't done this behind my back.

CARTER

Which I did so you couldn't be held accountable if anything went wrong. So I guess what I really need to say here is "you're welcome."

CAPTAIN COLE

(frustrated)  
I can't tell you how many times I've let you talk your way out of something like this...

CARTER

I've definitely lost count, myself--

CAPTAIN COLE

And yet I keep sending you back out there. Does that make me crazy? Do I need help?

CARTER

Probably. But you send me back out because I get results and I'm worth the risk--

CAPTAIN COLE

Not anymore. I don't know how to defend you this time, even if I wanted to. You're riding a desk until further notice.

CARTER

Captain, come on--

CAPTAIN COLE

We're done.

Carter looks surprised and stung as he exits.

INT. CARGO PLANE - NIGHT

Kim Lee looks out the window. Four other Hong Kong police officers are onboard, all men. The TERRACOTTA ARMY STATUES are secured, but are an imposing, threatening image, all staring back at Kim. The plane begins its descent.

EXT. PRIVATE VAN NUYS AIRFIELD - NIGHT

The airfield is dark and quiet as the plane touches down. Two HUGE TRUCKS are here, ground transport for the statues, along with FOUR POLICE CARS, lights flashing. As the Hong Kong Officers rise from their seats to step off the plane, Kim Lee realizes her seatbelt is stuck. As she tries to undo it, one of the male cops smirks at her: typical woman. In ENGLISH:

KIM

Smile again and I'll kick your ass.

She gets it unstuck as the other men step off the plane. The LA Officers (partially shrouded in darkness) step out of their cars but don't walk ahead to meet the Hong Kong cops. As the head of the Hong Kong unit approaches to greet them, a lone LA Cop steps up to meet him, his hat pulled low.

LAPD OFFICER

Hey, hope you had a good trip.

HONG KONG OFFICER

(heavily accented English)  
Thank you. Have we arrived late? I thought we were going to load the trucks, then call for your escort.

LAPD OFFICER

Those are some heavy statues. We thought we'd give you a hand.

As he gets a better look at the LA Officer and his team, the Hong Kong Officer is a little surprised as he notices:

HONG KONG OFFICER

You are all Asian?

A MAN IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES STEPS OUT FROM THE BACKSEAT OF A CAR. THIS IS:

JAWLONG

Chinese, actually.

JAWLONG, from our opening scene in Hong Kong, RAISES A GUN AND SHOOTS THE HONG KONG COP POINT BLANK. From the shadows behind him, the other LA cops OPEN FIRE ON KIM'S ENTIRE TEAM. Kim steps off the plane just in time to see it happen. She reaches for her gun but it's too late. Jawlong and the others slowly approach, guns trained on her heart. He flashes a sick grin as he mutters, HIS WORDS NOT SUBTITLED:

JAWLONG (CONT'D)

*Jiaru huo si.*

He POINTS HIS AUTOMATIC WEAPON AT HER HEAD. As his finger starts to squeeze the trigger, we SMASH TO:

INT. TRUCK - MOMENTS LATER

As the loaded truck pulls away from the plane, Jawlong hits the trigger on a handheld detonator.

ON THE TARMAC, THE PLANE EXPLODES IN A HUGE BALL OF FIRE as Jawlong and his men drive away.

INT. MODEST HONG KONG APARTMENT - LATER

Detective Lee stands in his kitchen with a drink. His cell phone rings. He answers it, listens... devastation hits his face as he's given the news of his sister's death. His drink drops from his hand and shatters on the floor.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. COMMERCIAL PLANE - DAY

Detective Lee sits on a commercial flight. He sadly looks at an old picture of himself and Kim when they were younger. He puts it away and stares off, lost in thought. FLASHBACK TO:

INT. HONG KONG POLICE STATION - THE PREVIOUS DAY

Lee is with Captain Chen. Thomas enters (with translator), and first approaches Lee.

THOMAS

I am truly sorry, my friend.

Thomas and Lee each put a hand on the other's shoulder, not quite a hug, but a sincere expression. Lee nods sadly, showing his gratitude. Thomas then address Lee and Chen:

THOMAS (CONT'D)

A ransom demand of two hundred million US dollars was received for the safe return of the statues, with a deadline of 72 hours to pay it. The FBI is looking into every name tied to a major art heist in the last 10 years, but in the event they fail, the Chinese government plans to send me to Los Angeles to facilitate the ransom payment.

LEE

Captain, send me to Los Angeles, I can help the FBI.

CAPTAIN CHEN

You have an emotional connection here that cannot be ignored--

LEE

(impassioned, respectful)  
Six of my officers are dead. The statues are gone. Let me get them back and bring these killers to justice. You know I'm your best chance. Sir.

As Chen looks Lee over and weighs this, we RETURN TO PRESENT.  
The plane lands in LA.

INT. LAPD STATION - BULLPEN - DAY

Carter walks to his desk, eyes down as he reads a file. We see pictures: It's crime scene photos from the airport heist. He arrives at his desk to find a large toy helicopter on top of his computer, propeller spinning. A GI JOE figure - a black guy - hangs off the side. Carter looks up, trying to find the culprit. Every cop seated here is snickering.

CARTER

Seriously... you couldn't find a black GI Joe? This is brown marker on a white guy! That's just lazy. And if it's lazy, it must be you, Donovan. Look at yourself.

WE ANGLE ON A LAZY-LOOKING, PUDGY WHITE COP (DONOVAN, 40s) at his desk. His hand is below the desk.

CARTER (CONT'D)

I'll kiss your fat white ass if you show me that hand and it's not holding a cheeseburger.

Donovan smirks "please," then raises his hand, REVEALING a BURGER. He angrily gestures with it:

DONOVAN

You're an asshole, Carter.

Donovan turns to SERGEANT "DIDI" DIAZ (late 20s, Hispanic).

DONOVAN (CONT'D)

Didi, you should thank God he dumped you as a partner or your career would be toast.

CARTER

(to Donovan)

You just got hungry for toast, didn't you?

Carter goes back to his file. Didi looks over his shoulder.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Private airport, plane arrives from Hong Kong with a bunch of Chinese cops and a few hundred tons of statues. Somebody's waiting for them and shoots the guards, steals the statues, throws the dead guards back in the plane, and torches the thing to destroy any possible evidence. As your son would say:

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)  
(high-pitched young boy)  
That is cray-cray, mommy.

DIDI  
That's not how my son talks.

CARTER  
Yes it is. But it's adorable, so  
you're good...

DIDI  
And why are you reading a case file  
when you're not allowed to go  
anywhere near any case?

CARTER  
I'm currently on vacation. And I  
like reading. Also, see those very  
very very white guys?

He gestures toward two clean-cut guys in suits and shades  
entering Cole's office.

CARTER (CONT'D)  
Those are feds. I guarantee they're  
here about this.  
(shakes file)  
They probably came to ask for my  
help.

DIDI  
Did you know that narcissism can be  
an actual psychological disorder? A  
person can be so arrogant and  
delusional that it's an illness.

CARTER  
(eyes on Cole's office)  
Didi, I can't have sex with you  
right now. I'm busy.

Cole pokes her head out and waves Carter to her office:

CAPTAIN COLE  
Carter?

DIDI  
No way.

CARTER  
I'm needed. It might be easier for  
you if you don't watch me walk  
away.  
(starts off, turns back)  
(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

But I'll shake it a little in case  
you do.

Every cop watches as Carter heads to Cole's office. He smiles  
and rubs it in as he walks:

INT. CAPTAIN COLE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Carter enters, already talking as he closes the door and  
shakes hands with the FBI agents.

CARTER

FBI guys, nice to meet you,  
Detective Carter, briefed and ready-

CAPTAIN COLE

Carter. Quiet time. This is Agent  
Murray and Agent Weiss. Agent  
Murray is an old friend of mine.

CARTER

Ooh - I know what that means...

Carter gives Murray a nod and thumbs up: "Nice. She's hot."

CAPTAIN COLE

You one thousand percent do not.  
They're here regarding the incident-

CARTER

At the Van Nuys airport. I'm happy  
to assist. I'd also like to commend  
you on your keen eye for talent.

CAPTAIN COLE

You're not assisting them. At least  
not in the way you think.

AGENT MURRAY

This crime was committed on U.S.  
soil so we're under no obligation  
to include the Chinese in our  
investigation. But as a courtesy,  
the Bureau agreed to allow a  
detective from Hong Kong to come  
consult. The FBI is juggling  
multiple counterterrorism  
operations all over the country -  
we're spread thin, and we need  
every agent we have working at full  
capacity. That's where you come in.

AGENT WEISS

We need you to handle the Chinese cop.

CARTER

Understood.

(nods for a moment, then)

I thought I could stall for a few seconds and figure that out. Didn't work. What am I doing?

AGENT MURRAY

Like I said, he's here as a courtesy. We can't have that courtesy becoming a distraction, nor can we risk him compromising our investigation by reporting back to the Chinese government.

CAPTAIN COLE

Agent Murray asked if I had anyone doing absolutely nothing that I could spare, and I thought of you.

CARTER

Okay, in that case, I require six dollars an hour and full access to the fridge, because that's the going rate for a DAMN BABYSITTER! I'm not doing this.

CAPTAIN COLE

I know this must seem like some sort of miserable punishment....

CARTER

And?

CAPTAIN COLE

That's it. I hope it makes you miserable. But you'll do it if you ever want to get back to work.

INT. LAPD STATION - MAIN FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Carter walks up annoyed and sees a rigid, stoic Asian man who is very clearly not from around here.

CARTER

Hey man, I'm supposed to be meeting some Chinese cop from Hong Kong. Have you seen anyone like that?

(off Lee's silence)

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

Oh good, you've got a sense of humor. I'm Carter.

LEE

(nods)  
Carter.

CARTER

It's my name. Detective Carter.

(Lee nods)

Why are you nodding at that? You don't understand a word I'm saying, do you? Forks rule, chopsticks are for losers.

Lee nods again. Carter, annoyed, gestures for him to follow.

DONOVAN

This isn't right. It's not fair they stuck you with him. What a huge pain in the ass.

CARTER

No kidding, man.

DONOVAN

I'm talking to the Chinese guy.

Donovan and a few other cops laugh as Carter and Lee exit.

INT. CARTER'S STINGRAY - MOMENTS LATER

Carter drives a convertible RED STINGRAY. On phone:

CARTER

...Yeah, Cole's making me run around town with a Chinese man who came to America by himself and DOESN'T SPEAK ENGLISH!

REVEAL Lee in the passenger seat. He holds a slip of paper up to Carter. Carter ignores. We INTERCUT to DIDI'S DESK:

DIDI

You can't see me but I want you to know I'm smiling.

CARTER

I was gonna let you borrow him. After that, I will not. Find your own Chinese man.

DIDI

So where are you two going? To a movie or something?

CARTER

Well, I have some free time, may as well be resourceful. I need to get Cole back in my corner, and I have a feeling that cracking open a huge international robbery and gruesome multiple homicide just might do it.

DIDI

You're gonna get your ass fired, you stupid, arrogant--

CARTER

Think I feel a compliment coming... but so sad for me, I've gotta go.

Carter hangs up. Lee holds the scrap of paper out again.

CARTER (CONT'D)

What? What is this? The address for the airport in Van Nuys? We're not going there. No go-ey. FBI has already been all over there.

EXT. SEEDY POOL HALL BAR - LATER

Carter stops his car in front of the bar and turns to Lee.

CARTER

I have to run in here for a minute, you wait in the car. Stay.

(Lee follows him)

C'mon, even my dog knows "stay."

They both enter.

INT. SEEDY POOL HALL BAR - CONTINUOUS

Carter walks in with a grin and confidently crosses to a back table. SEVEN THUGGISH GUYS play cards. Stacks of cash and gold jewelry are on the table, along with a few guns.

CARTER

Check y'all out: gambling with gold chains, guns on the table, drinking forties, just hanging out, perpetuating negative stereotypes.

As a few thugs look at their guns, Carter quickly draws his:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Let's not.

A thug slowly rises from the table. He's a mountain, six and a half feet tall and looks pure mean. This is GERALD.

GERALD

What the hell you want, Carter?

CARTER

Shoot, that's a good question. I guess I just want be to loved, same as everyone else. Wait - you mean what do I want at this moment? Sorry, that's embarrassing. At this moment I want to drag your big ass out back and slap you around a little. You mind, Gerald?

(as Gerald just glares)

Or I could just arrest you for the drugs on the table and take you into the station. Your call.

Gerald weighs this, realizes he's beat, then sags his head and SUDDENLY GRABS AN ALUMINUM BASEBALL BAT and turns to strike Carter - but finds Carter's gun pressed hard into his nose, an almost impossibly fast reaction from Carter.

CARTER (CONT'D)

It's a sweet thought, but I can't play ball with you right now. But soon, okay?

He gestures to the back door. As Gerald exits, with Carter behind him, Lee moves to follow. The big thugs block his way.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Good for you, Gerald - making a smart decision so I don't have to beat the ugly off of you with a--

EXT. POOL HALL BAR BACK ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Carter follows Gerald out, and as the door slams behind them:

CARTER

What's up, Cuz?

GERALD

Good to see you.

They hug, instantly warm and chummy.

CARTER  
How's grandma doing?

GERALD  
She's alright. Aside from that  
thing with her foot.

CARTER  
Yeah, I saw that, it's nasty. Is  
that a new gun? May I?

GERALD  
I insist.

INT. SEEDY POOL HALL BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Inside, Lee hears A GUNSHOT. He immediately goes into action mode and moves for the back door. The thugs block him. In a blink, he drops the first one. He carves through them, devastating them with rapid-fire PUNCHES and KICKS. They come at him with chairs, pool cues and bottles, he effortlessly evades every weapon. One points a gun at Lee, but in A MOVE WE'LL SEE OFTEN, Lee snatches it, ejects the clip and hands it back in an INSTANT. The thug is stunned, then charges. Lee kicks him hard in the chest, sending him flying with such force that he leaves an imprint in the drywall. The room is still. Only Lee is standing. He darts out the back door to:

EXT. POOL HALL BAR BACK ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Lee charges out and stops - he sees Carter and Gerald hanging out like pals as Carter shoots target practice with Gerald's gun. Lee looks them over, then, in accented English:

LEE  
This is unacceptable.

CARTER  
It's cool, I was just -  
(then, realizing)  
You speak English?! Could you  
always speak it or did you just  
learn it?

Off Lee's judgemental glare:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. POOL HALL BAR BACK ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

Everybody is where we left them.

CARTER

It's cool, he's my cousin. That act we do is just so his people don't know we're connected.

GERALD

Hi, nice to meet you.

Gerald extends his hand. Lee stares at him, not taking it, then looks to Carter:

LEE

He's a criminal, what are you doing?

CARTER

(defensive)

I am working. I am doing my work. And what are you doing? You're not supposed to speak English!

GERALD

That sounds kinda racist--

CARTER

That's what he told me! And he lied. You lied.

LEE

I never lie. And I never said I didn't speak English, you assumed. I let people talk who like to talk. It makes it easy to see how full of shit they are.

GERALD

Burn.

CARTER

(to Gerald)

I can shoot you, you know. I won't even get in trouble.

LEE

This has to be a mistake. I assumed I'd get a competent officer to assist in my investigation.

CARTER

Okay, first off, I assist no one. I'm the man in charge. Of everything. See that bird up there? I'm in charge of that bird. I'm letting it do what it wants right now, because I'm busy - but he knows who calls the shots. And two, you're not even part of this investigation.

LEE

I am. I'm here on behalf of the Chinese government--

CARTER

The FBI does not want the Chinese government up in their American business. That's why the feds made me - asked me - why they asked me, nicely, to get you out of the way.

(as Lee considers)

Man, if the FBI wanted your help, why did they stick you with a cop from LAPD?

LEE

I don't have time for this.

CARTER

Wait, hang on. I need to solve this thing same as you. You give me the intel you have from the Chinese side, maybe I'll let you work with me.

LEE

Please. You're unprofessional, careless, dishonest, apathetic--

CARTER

Are you reading from an invisible thesaurus right now? Five minutes ago you didn't speak English.

LEE

I don't need you.

CARTER

Cool. I work alone, too, so no hard feelings. Now you go solve your case. I'm rooting for you. Just head back out to your car - wait, you don't have a car.

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

But you'll be fine, you know the city pretty well, don't you?

As Lee takes this in and realizes he's low on options...

INT. POOL HALL - MOMENTS LATER

Carter, Lee and Gerald enter from the back alley. Carter pushes Gerald ahead of him, continuing the ruse from before. They take in the injured thugs scattered around the room like ragdolls as they pass.

CARTER

What happened here?

LEE

I tried to leave. They tried to stop me.

GERALD

Hold on - you did this? To my guys? You're the bravest man I've ever seen.

CARTER

Please, he just fought some guys. I flew over the city on a helicopter. Not in. On.

GERALD

I know. I saw it on YouTube. You screamed the entire time.

CARTER

Scream? That was a battle cry. I was like those naked dudes with the abs in The 300.

(demonstrates)

SPARTA!! AHHH!

INT. DINER - LATER

They sit in the back, out of view. Lee SCOWLS at Gerald, sitting next to Carter. Gerald LOOKS THROUGH CARTER'S FILE from the airport as he shovels food into his mouth.

CARTER

Yes, my cousin is a low life criminal, but he's also a source. He gives me information that allows me to take down real criminals.

GERALD

I'm also his weed guy.

CARTER

(quickly to Lee)

It's a gardening thing.

LEE

I don't care if he's your cousin,  
there are rules--

CARTER

Okay, I can see you have a very  
personal relationship with  
following rules, and I respect  
that. Not really.

(shows fingers crossed)

Fingers were crossed, that's an  
American thing. You're not in Hong  
Kong right now. You are in my town,  
so you need to calm down and let me  
do things the way I do things.

Lee quiets but glares at Gerald, who looks up from the file.  
Lee takes the file and LOOKS THROUGH IT during the following:

GERALD

Whoever did this is stone-cold.

CARTER

They got on the runway by beating  
the crap out of the security guard  
and locking him in his trunk. At  
the hospital, he said they got the  
drop on him because they were  
dressed like cops. Now, anyone can  
get a cop outfit. You can go to a  
costume store, or Lee can just use  
the one he wears when he jumps out  
of birthday cakes and dances for  
the ladies, but it's tougher to get  
your hands on a realistic-looking  
cop car. Then I remembered hearing  
people talk about you driving a  
fake cop car around town "busting"  
dope dealers and taking their cash.

GERALD

What? I wouldn't do that. You can't  
trust people.

CARTER

(takes out phone)

Alright.

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

I didn't want to have to do this.  
I'm telling Grandma you skipped  
church last week.

Gerald rolls his eyes as Carter puts the phone to his ear.  
Gerald thinks he's bluffing, but soon gets nervous, and--

GERALD

Fine! Damn.  
(as he writes on a napkin)  
The guy I used went out of  
business. On account of going to  
jail. But I know a few other guys  
who do jobs like this.

He hands the list to Carter, who takes a look:

CARTER

These names don't scream  
"friendly." I'm going to take a  
guess and say I don't want to  
offend "Crazy-Ass Jay."

GERALD

You do not.

CARTER

(as he and Lee stand)  
Gerald, thank you. You've been a  
big help. Lee, you want to say  
anything to my very helpful cousin?

LEE

When I have the authority to do so,  
I'm coming to arrest you.

As they walk off and Gerald goes back to eating:

CARTER

You were supposed to say something  
nice. What's wrong with you?

EXT. VENICE JUNKYARD/ AUTO PARTS - LATER (DAY)

Carter's Stingray parks outside a quiet, abandoned shop.

INT. VENICE JUNKYARD/ AUTO PARTS - CONTINUOUS

Lee and Carter look frustrated as they enter a messy garage.

CARTER

Okay, fifth time's a charm...

LEE

Cousin Gerald's illegal junkyard  
tour of LA has been a wonderful use  
of our time.

As Carter steps over to the doorway of a small office to peek  
inside, Lee follows a few feet behind him.

CARTER

I know you're being sarcastic, but  
I have a feeling this is the place.

LEE

What makes you so sure?

CARTER

That.

Carter points, and we REVEAL A 50s man SLUMPED ON the DESK,  
DEAD. A full ashtray sits next to him. Carter moves closer to  
get a look at the body.

CARTER (CONT'D)

One shot, back of the head. Oh,  
man... this is even worse.

Incredibly sad, Carter looks down to an untouched burrito.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Dude had just sat down to a  
burrito. Didn't even get to taste  
it. Bet he had been looking forward  
to that burrito all morning. Damn.

LEE

This has given us nothing.

CARTER

Don't be cynical - it's given us a  
chance to spend some time together.  
That wasn't nothing. It also gives  
me a chance to teach you something  
about relationships in America.

(grabs a photo off desk)

Behind every man who got himself in  
a mess of trouble, there's a woman  
who can not wait to say...

As Carter holds it up, we go CLOSE UP on the photo of the  
man's STERN, ANGRY 50s WIFE, and SMASH CUT TO:

The STERN, ANGRY 50s WIFE, with same expression from photo:

STERN WIFE

I knew it. I *knew it*. I tried to tell him. But did he listen?

CARTER

I don't think he listened.

STERN WIFE

Stay away from bad people. I told him.

We are:

INT. STERN, ANGRY WIFE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Carter and Lee look on as the stern wife gets sad:

STERN WIFE

Nick wasn't a bad guy. Just a bad judge of character.

CARTER

He had a few sketchy friends, huh? Guys dragging him down a bad path?

STERN WIFE

Just one. That broke, no-good, sonofabitch Dickie.

CARTER

Do you have a last name on that broke, no-good, sonofabitch?

STERN WIFE

Sterling. Dickie Sterling.

As Lee registers the name, thinking, we CUT TO:

EXT. VAN NUYS AIRPORT - LATER

RICHARD STERLING (sketchy, but wimpy, black-eye, bruised face, 30s) leaves work, walking home from the airport.

INT. CARTER'S STINGRAY - SIMULTANEOUS

Carter and Lee are parked and watch from a short distance away as Sterling leaves work.

CARTER

So, the security guard who got beat up and tossed in a trunk during the heist - you saw his name once, all the way in the back of that giant file. How did you remember that?

Lee has the case file open to a photo of Richard Sterling.

LEE

How did you not?

Lee looks at Carter. Carter glares back for a beat, then:

CARTER

Words can hurt, Lee. Cut deeper than any knife. Remember that.

Carter drives. He slowly pulls up next to Sterling and rolls down the windows, flashing a big smile:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Dickie, my man. Bummer of a name. What's up? How you doing?

STERLING

Do I know you?

CARTER

I was just seeing if you needed a ride. I saw you walking, and here I am with this nice car, seemed like the polite thing to do. You want a lift home?

STERLING

Nope.

CARTER

(holds out his badge)  
How about now? Why don't you go ahead and hop in for me?

STERLING

(points to face)  
Look, man. I already told the Feds I didn't see a thing. Those guys beat the crap out of me and locked me in my trunk.

CARTER

Yeah, I know. Still, seems a little weird that you're pals with a man who supplies fake police cars to bad guys. You think that's weird, Lee?

LEE

It is peculiar.

CARTER

Lee thinks it's peculiar. Now get in the car or I might get mad.

Sterling stops walking. Carter stops driving. Sterling leans down, hands on the passenger side door, and looks in.

STERLING

I'm not getting in the car, so unless I'm under arrest, you can get the hell out of here.

Sterling stares them down for a beat, then:

INT. CARTER'S STINGRAY - MOMENTS LATER

Carter drives. Lee gives him a judgemental look.

CARTER

What?

LEE

That was not remotely ethical.

CARTER

Sure it was. I told him to get in or I might get mad. He didn't get in. I got mad. Now he's in. Not my fault this car has no backseat.

REVEAL there's no backseat and no one else in the car. As they drive on, we ANGLE ON the trunk of the car.

EXT. SMALL, ONE-STORY HOUSE - LATER

Carter's car pulls up and stops. Carter looks at the address on Sterling's driver's license to make sure they're at the right house and the guys get out.

CARTER

Hey man. We're at your crappy home.  
(opens trunk)  
(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

You good? That's like twice in one week you've been locked in a trunk.

Sterling's crammed in the tiny trunk, furious. He shouts:

STERLING

You're gonna pay for--

Carter closes the trunk and looks to Lee.

CARTER

We'll give him another second.

Carter waits a moment, then opens the trunk again.

STERLING

(same as last time)

I'm gonna call my lawy--

Carter closes the trunk again and looks to Lee.

CARTER

He wasn't done.

INT. SMALL, ONE-STORY HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Sterling is seated in a chair, hands cuffed behind his back. Lee stands back and looks him over as Carter questions him.

STERLING

This is illegal, man. You could go to jail for this.

CARTER

Check you out, Sterling - being all informed of your rights and whatnot. Unfortunately, you lost those rights when you let bad guys onto the tarmac to shoot people and steal old statues.

STERLING

I don't know what you're talking about.

CARTER

I think you do. You were the inside man on the airport heist and you sent these guys to your pal Nick for some phony police cars.

STERLING

Man, I wasn't involved. They almost killed me!

CARTER

Yeah, but they didn't.  
(looks around, then moves to a wall mounted TV)  
Okay, the only thing of value in this shithole is your flat screen. I am seriously considering having my cousin Gerald come by later to steal it. Now TALK!

On "talk," Carter slams his fist against the wall. A second later, the TV falls and SMASHES ON THE FLOOR.

CARTER (CONT'D)

I did not mean for that to happen. But I'm glad it did. Why are you protecting these guys? We went by the junkyard. Hate to break it to you, but your buddy Nick is dead.

STERLING

Nick had lung cancer, he knew he didn't have much time.

CARTER

He didn't die of lung cancer. He got "shot-in-the-face" cancer. Now are you going to start talking?

Sterling seems nervous, almost frightened. His eyes take a quick, subtle glance at Lee. Lee picks up on it.

LEE

He won't talk because he thinks I'm one of them. These men were Chinese. Weren't they?

Sterling slowly nods. Lee grabs a marker off a table and draws a Chinese symbol (THE CHINESE LETTER Q) on the wall.

LEE (CONT'D)

Did any of them have this mark?

Sterling hesitates, but then slowly nods. Yes.

LEE (CONT'D)

They are Quantou. You're in serious danger.

CARTER

I used to mess around with a girl who had that tattoo right above her buttcrack. Am I in danger?

LEE

The Quantou don't leave loose ends and they don't make mistakes. They knew killing an American citizen would make the FBI work that much harder to find them. That is why they kept you alive, but it doesn't mean you've been spared. Soon enough, they will kill you. Just like they killed your friend Nick... and my sister.

CARTER

Lee... is that for real?

LEE

She was one of the officers on the plane...

(hard to say)

I put her there.

This hangs for a quiet beat. Sterling is starts to panic.

STERLING

I don't know anything. They offered me a bunch of cash to get them onto the tarmac. And yeah, I sent them to Nick for the cop cars. But they just said they were robbing a plane, I didn't know they were gonna kill anyone.

CARTER

How do they contact you? Where did you meet?

STERLING

Some restaurant in Chinatown. Those Chinese guys flip out for the noodles at this place. And it's got a smokin' hot-ass hostess. It's called, um... it's this weird Chinese name, like--

They hear a creak from another room. They turn to see JAWLONG. HE RAISES HIS GUN AND SHOOTS STERLING IN THE HEAD. (Keen eyes notice it's the same HIGH-TECH GUN we saw IN THE HELICOPTER in Act One). Carter and Lee dive for cover as he fires on them.

Carter fires back - doesn't connect. Jawlong runs out the back. Carter rises and sees him through a window.

CARTER

Lee! He's out back, let's--

Carter then sees Lee through the window already sprinting after him. Carter is amazed, then checks Sterling and sees that he's dead. He scans the ground, spots a shell casing and picks it up. Carter then turns and sprints for the door.

EXT. STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Jawlong sprints for his motorcycle. As he mounts up, Lee catches him with a horse collar and yanks him back onto the ground. Jawlong gets up and is surprisingly ALMOST Lee's equal in martial arts. Carter sprints toward them and suddenly stops - he sees Lee in action for the first time, and it blows his mind. Lee is lightning-fast and a total badass. Carter snaps out of his stupor and joins the fray.

CARTER

Don't worry, I'm coming!

Carter holds his gun on Jawlong, looking for a shot, but he and Lee are too closely engaged. Carter gives up and closes in to tackle Jawlong, but as he's about to make contact, Lee kicks Jawlong's chest and sends him flying back. Carter whiffs. He's annoyed, then grabs him from behind. Jawlong, outnumbered, is in bad shape. GUNSHOTS RING OUT as a SECOND gunman speeds up on a motorcycle. It's a warning shot as the gunman, helmet on, gets off his bike, keeping his gun on Lee and Carter. The gunman pulls Jawlong up, motioning him to get on his bike and take off. He does. Helmet gunman takes his eye off Lee just enough for Lee to knock the gun away. They start to trade blows. Lee knocks his helmet off. He staggers back. As Lee charges, he looks up - Lee freezes, shocked. The helmeted gunman is LEE'S SISTER, KIM. Kim quickly grabs her gun, holds it on Lee, and gets on her bike. Then, in ENGLISH:

KIM

Go home, Brother.

She speeds away. Lee watches her go, stunned. Then:

CARTER

Why'd she tell me to go home?

Off Lee's shock, confusion, and devastation, we:

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. UNKNOWN HOUSE - LATER

Carter and Lee sit at a kitchen table. Lee is still stunned from seeing Kim.

CARTER

Sometimes you just gotta recharge  
and figure out your next move.

(then, calls out)

What's taking so long! We're  
hungry!

WE REVEAL Carter and Lee are at Didi's house. She cooks nearby in the small kitchen. She calls over.

DIDI

Lee, I'm only making food for you.  
If you want to share it with that  
jackass, it's your call.

LEE

I'll share.

CARTER

She's gonna feed me. She's just  
busting my balls. Don't take  
everything so literally.

Lee just looks off. Carter speaks sensitively:

CARTER (CONT'D)

You okay, man?

LEE

I wasn't hurt in the fight.

CARTER

What did I just say about  
"literal?" I meant that you've had  
a heavy week. You hear your  
sister's been killed, come halfway  
around the world to find out she's  
alive and running with some very  
bad people. I can see you're going  
through a lot right now. I mean, I  
can't actually see it. Because you  
seem to only have the one face.  
Yeah, that one right there. But for  
what it's worth, I just want to say  
I'm glad your sister isn't dead.  
And also - HA!

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

(suddenly very happy)

You gave me a hard time about my cousin - he just steals shit. Your sister runs with a motorcycle kill squad! She's a billion times worse!

(off Lee's non-reaction)

Guess you don't find that as amusing as I do. Or maybe this is also your amused face, I don't know. But at least you get it now. You don't want to see Kim go to jail any more than I want Gerald locked up.

LEE

Kim has to go to jail. My sister betrayed her country and family.

CARTER

That's cold, man. Are you a robot? I won't tell anyone. Are you an Asian robot cop from the future?

LEE

No.

CARTER

Sounds like what a robot would say.

Didi sets a home-cooked meal down in front of them.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Now we're talking.

Carter digs in, barely acknowledging Didi. Lee, warmly:

LEE

I'm grateful for your kindness.

DIDI

You are very welcome.

(smacks Carter's head)

You need to learn from this man.

CARTER

Hey, grab me a beer.

DIDI

Grab it yourself.

CARTER

I'm sitting, you're up.

(as she ignores him and walks off, to Lee)

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

Women are rude in this country. I don't know why, they just are.

Lee, having watched the entire exchange, seems perplexed.

LEE

You don't wear rings? You and your wife?

CARTER

My what? Didi?  
(laughs)  
Why would you think that?

Right then, Didi's SON, DERRICK, (5, with HIGH-PITCHED VOICE just like Carter's earlier impression) runs up.

DERRICK

Carter's here! It's cray-cray!

Carter sweeps him up on his lap.

CARTER

What's up little man? It's late, let's get you back in bed.

As he carries Derrick out on his shoulder, he stops.

CARTER (CONT'D)

I stopped to grab a shell casing, by the way. Back at Sterling's. That's the only reason you got to fight Blondie before me.  
(off Lee's blank look)  
You're not braver than I am.

DIDI

Picking up that piece of metal was very brave. It was probably still hot.

CARTER

Shush.  
(then, re: shell)  
I know I'm not supposed to be working anything official, but think you can get the ballistics on this for me? Thanks, Dee.

But Carter's still holding it - she hasn't taken it.

DIDI

Did you think that pre-emptive "thank you" would make me say yes?

CARTER

This case is my golden ticket. Gets me right back to work.

(a beat, holds out bullet)

Thanks again for doing this.

He smiles. She rolls her eyes and reluctantly takes it.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Lee, tell her about the Kung-Pao.

LEE

Quantou.

CARTER

(walks off with Derrick)

Right. Just tell her.

LEE

The Quantou is a violent criminal group based in Hong Kong. I run a task force whose sole mission is to bring them down. We ran dozens of raids that had crippled them financially. If they collect this ransom it will give them everything they lost and more. They're ruthless.

DIDI

How'd your sister get caught up with them?

LEE

I don't know.

(the rest is hard to say)

She always felt I was holding her back. But this was such a foolish choice... Kim was a great officer, I should have let her do more.

DIDI

Why didn't you?

LEE

(getting lost in thought)

Our father was a cop. He was so tough. All about rules and order. Mom was more of a free spirit, like Kim. She made him human... they died in a car accident. Kim was just 15. And I had to be more than just a brother.

DIDI

So you started being a Dad.

LEE

I just wanted to protect her.

His sadness sits there for a moment. Then:

DIDI

You and Carter both worry so much about everybody else. I was his partner. Everybody thinks he dumped me and got me stuck on a desk. The truth is, once I had Derrick, I didn't want to be on the street anymore. I got scared of him growing up alone. But if I asked out, all the other cops would never let me hear the end of it. So Carter took the heat. He doesn't have many people in his life, but he takes care of the ones he has. Like you, with your sister.

This lands on Lee.

DIDI (CONT'D)

You and Carter are a lot alike.

LEE

I consider that the greatest insult of my life.

They share a smile. Carter comes in, covering cell-phone.

CARTER

We gotta go.

INT. LAPD STATION - BULLPEN - NEXT MORNING

Carter and Lee hustle to Cole's office.

CARTER

My Captain wants to know what we've been up to, which probably isn't good. Whatever comes up in there, we have not been involved in this investigation. Cool?

LEE

But we've been very involved.

Annoyed, Carter stops walking and pulls Lee to the side.

CARTER

I could get in serious trouble.  
Just lie.

LEE

Absolutely not.

CARTER

Man, a cop is supposed to go to bat  
for his partner! That's not an  
American thing, that's universal.

LEE

I thought you don't work with a  
partner.

CARTER

You're right, I don't.  
(then, new idea)  
Okay, what if you don't hear me  
lie? When I'm talking, I'm probably  
gonna be lying, so just think of  
your favorite song and play it in  
your head. Can you give me that one  
little thing? Knowing she could end  
my career?

As they resume walking toward Cole's office:

LEE

She?

CARTER

Oh, right. I guess female police  
chiefs aren't real common in China.  
You should know that here in the  
US, when you meet a woman in power,  
she still strives to hold onto her  
femininity. So it's customary to  
compliment her body.

Lee looks confused, but has no time to process as Carter  
gives a quick knock and then enters:

INT. CAPTAIN COLE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Carter and Lee enter. Cole is at her desk.

CARTER

Captain. This is Detective Lee.

CAPTAIN COLE  
(stands to greet him)  
Detective Lee. Lindsay Cole.

LEE  
A pleasure to meet you, Captain.  
You have beautiful legs.

CARTER  
Lee, what are you doing?  
Disrespectful. Sorry, Captain. We  
should go, I'll talk to him.

CAPTAIN COLE  
No, I appreciate a compliment when  
it comes from a man like him.

CARTER  
Wait, what's happening?

CAPTAIN COLE  
I respect Detective Lee's honesty.  
(returning to her desk)  
Agent Murray called me--

CARTER  
Booty call?

CAPTAIN COLE  
No. A security guard from the Van  
Nuys airport, one Richard Sterling,  
was killed yesterday. The last  
known sighting of Sterling came  
from a co-worker who saw him leave  
work, then stop to talk with--  
(reading)  
"A black guy in a cool car." You  
wouldn't know anything about that?

CARTER  
While I'm touched you heard "black  
guy, cool car" and thought of me...  
(leans forward, sotto, as  
if hiding it from Lee)  
We haven't been near this case.

Carter then notices Lee is very subtly bopping his head and very slightly moving his lips, reciting song lyrics. Carter tries to push through so Cole doesn't notice.

CARTER (CONT'D)  
We should go.

Carter and Lee walk for the door. As they're about to exit:

CAPTAIN COLE

(to Lee)

And my new honest friend? You don't know anything about the murder of Richard Sterling?

A tense moment as Carter looks at Lee, worried. Carter gives him a subtle look, pleading: c'mon... Lee hesitates for a moment, then gives a small shake of his head, "no."

INT. LAPD STATION - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

Carter and Lee exit the office. Carter looks incredibly relieved. Lee looks like he just killed someone.

CARTER

Man, you lied right to her face!  
I'm proud of you. How do you feel?

LEE

(shows crossed fingers)  
This did nothing. I'm consumed by shame.

CARTER

You can walk that right off. No big thing at all.

They see THOMAS, Lee's FBI friend from Hong Kong, passing. Thomas and Lee greet each other warmly.

THOMAS

Detective Lee.

LEE

Thomas. It's good to see you.

THOMAS

I wish it was under different circumstances. But the ransom deadline is less than a day away.

CARTER

What about the investigation? Does the FBI have anything?

Thomas hesitates, then motions them to a quieter area.

THOMAS

I'm very frustrated with this. The Chinese have prioritized the recovery of the statues over seeking justice for the officers who were killed. And the FBI hasn't devoted the resources to this I would have hoped because--

LEE

No American citizens were killed, so it is not a top priority.

THOMAS

(hesitates, but nods)  
And with the Chinese ready to pay the ransom, the FBI is - unofficially - viewing this as case closed.

LEE

Thomas, the FBI deliberately pushed me to the side.

THOMAS

But knowing you, I'm betting you've found a way to get involved.

LEE

Detective Carter and I have been... busy. The Quantou is behind this.

THOMAS

The Quantou? Are you sure?

LEE

Yes. But I don't have solid proof.

THOMAS

I can't get involved until you have something real, but if and when you do, contact me. I'll back you up, my friend.

LEE

Thank you, Thomas.

THOMAS

And again, I'm so sorry about Kim.

CARTER

Yeah, but--

Lee motions Carter to stay quiet. They walk off. We follow.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Why didn't you want him to know  
your sister's still alive?

LEE

Kim is for me to deal with.

CARTER

(studies Lee, then grins)  
You changed your mind about sending  
her to jail, didn't you? You want  
to give Kim a free pass, just like  
I do with Gerald. You're learning  
to feel! Just like a real human!

LEE

If the FBI is chasing her, Kim  
could get killed. She's going to  
jail, but I don't want her dead.

CARTER

"I don't want her dead." That's the  
nicest thing I ever heard you say.  
That's progress, Lee.

(then)

Don't give up on family, man. If  
you keep believing in them, they  
can surprise you.

Lee takes this in. Then:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Still, we better find her before  
the ransom gets paid. Once that  
cash changes hands, poof-- all the  
bad guys are gonna disappear.

LEE

Sterling said he met his contact at  
a restaurant in Chinatown.

CARTER

A spot with great noodles. Donovan,  
you know any great noodle places or  
do you only eat at places that  
serve cheese and butter?

Donovan gives the finger. They keep walking.

LEE

Sterling also made reference to -  
if I'm recalling it correctly - a  
"smoking hot-ass hostess."

CARTER

Right, we find her, we find the Pai-Gow.

LEE

Quantou.

CARTER

Yeah, we should look for them too.

EXT. CHINATOWN - DAY

Carter and Lee look out on a scene that fascinates Lee and deeply confuses Carter.

CARTER

Thirty seconds ago we were in my country. And then something must have happened... because this is not LA.

We then see that they're looking out on a traditional outdoor market area with dozens of little grocery stores, small shops and outdoor vendors. Lee is impressed by the authenticity.

LEE

It's exactly like a Chinese market. Beautiful.

He takes a DEEP BREATH, inhaling the scent of it as if it was a clean mountain breeze. Carter looks almost nauseous.

CARTER

Did you just vacuum that dead-fish-rotten-egg smell into your brain? That might never come out. We don't have a lot of time. Let's just ask around for the best noodle place.

(to a passerby)

Excuse me, do you know--

(as he's ignored)

Excuse me--

(each person blows by)

What's wrong with these people?

LEE

(quoting Carter)

You are in my town. Let me do things the way I do things.

He gives Carter a subtle smug grin and walks ahead.

CARTER

Did you just smack talk me with my own words? That is flat-out rude.

WE TIME CUT AS:

Carter waits as Lee talks with three locals in their 50s nearby. Carter turns to the woman working at a food stand a few feet away, a tiny, 90-year-old woman Chinese woman:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Hey, you know where I can find an inside-out rabbit?

Carter then looks to his right, where a gruesome collection of skinned rabbits hang upside down.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Hey, look at that! You have some.

LEE

Carter!

Lee waves for him to follow. Carter catches up. FURTHER AHEAD, they approach several restaurants.

LEE (CONT'D)

They were all quite sure of the best spot for noodles. Unfortunately, none of them chose the same spot. We'll have to try all three.

Lee nods to the first restaurant, and they approach.

INT. FIRST RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

Carter and Lee enter and take a look around. Lee sees a passing waiter carry plates of food and seems impressed. Carter then sees a hostess just to his left - a HEAVYSET WOMAN in her 70s with horrible teeth. He jumps, spooked.

CARTER

Whoa! Hi there. How are you?  
(she hands them menus)  
Oh, thank you. Let's take a look.  
(scanning menu, casual)  
So, are you the regular hostess? Or just filling in for someone...  
drastically different looking.

HOSTESS

No, just me.

Carter hands back the menu and exits. Lee follows.

INT. SECOND RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

They step in to the next restaurant. Lee scans the room, and Carter suddenly notices:

CARTER

Hey! How about that. Look at you.

The hostess is GORGEOUS.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Now *she* is what I was looking for. She's also what I'm talking about every time I've said "that's what I'm talking about."

LEE

This doesn't feel right. The room is small, no access to exits--

CARTER

Those are great observations, Lee, but I'd like to turn your attention back to the booty over here.

As Carter gestures and looks back to the hostess, he gasps a little when he sees her again. He turns back to Lee:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Note the booty. Note it!

LEE

(annoyed)

The booty is noted. But there is no place here to run from an enemy or police. A Quantou member wouldn't risk this.

Carter considers this, but then turns back to the hostess. He looks back to Lee, then the hostess, then does it again:

CARTER

I don't even remember why we're here. But do not ask me to leave.

Lee exits. Carter sighs, frustrated, and follows.

INT. THIRD RESTAURANT - MOMENTS LATER

They enter and look around. This looks like the place to Lee - a large, two floor restaurant with multiple exits visible.

LEE

I believe this could be--

He sees Carter staring in awe at the STUNNING HOSTESS across the room. She's more beautiful than the last.

LEE (CONT'D)

Carter.

Lee nudges him and Carter snaps out of it.

CARTER

How long have we been here?

LEE

Wait here. Don't do anything.

Lee walks off. Carter, annoyed, speaks to himself.

CARTER

"Don't do anything?" Who are you talking to? You think you're so brave. I'm brave. I'm a brave man.

As Carter waits, he catches a glimpse of a man (20s, sharply dressed, looks tough) on the second floor entering a private room. Carter gets suspicious and moves to the Hostess:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Excuse me, miss?

(she turns, he looks away)

Sorry, you shine so bright I'm not sure I can look directly at you. I was hoping to check out some of your private rooms. I'm throwing a noodle-themed bachelor party for my gay friend, Barry - he calls his fiance, Terry, his "noodle." Barry and Terry. Noodles for life. It's adorable, you feel me.

Unbeknownst to Carter, the hostess notices his gun. She presses a BUTTON on the hostess stand, then:

HOSTESS

Follow me.

CARTER  
(as she walks ahead)  
You could say that as you walk into  
a volcano and I'd still do it.

IN ANOTHER AREA, Lee walks through as if heading for the restroom, taking a subtle look at the clientele.

The hostess leads Carter up a set of stairs. He sees a guy duck into a room. He shows the hostess his badge, signals her to be quiet, and moves off on his own.

INT. RESTAURANT PRIVATE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Carter rounds a corner and stands before a group of six tough-looking Asian guys in suits.

CARTER  
Am I in the wrong room? She was  
supposed to take me to the room  
with my Aunt Cheryl's sixtieth  
birthday. I don't see any balloons  
in here, so I must be in the wrong--

He moves to exit, but two guys block his path.

INT. RESTAURANT LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Lee returns to the front and sees that Carter isn't here. He then sees the hostess walking down the stairs, and looks up to see a closed door on the second floor.

INT. RESTAURANT PRIVATE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Carter stands and faces the six guys.

THUG  
Why are you here?

CARTER  
I didn't have a choice - the one  
and only time I skipped Aunt  
Cheryl's birthday, she spanked me  
so hard I cried. And I wasn't a  
kid, either, this was last year.

Another man enters from a smaller room in the back - it's JAWLONG. He recognizes Carter. He says something to the others in Chinese and they react, standing from their seats.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Did he say something about me? Was  
it nice?

(two guys grab his arms)  
So it wasn't nice.

They take Carter's gun. This is not good. THE DOOR COLLAPSES TO THE FLOOR with Lee on top of it, and like that, Lee is already taking people out, DISARMING THEM. Some SHOTS are fired, but Lee keys on those guns, knocking them away. He takes out a thug about to shoot Carter. The bullet hits one of the thugs holding Carter. One arm free, he then decks the other guy.

The room becomes a big, violent BRAWL. Outnumbered, Lee calls to Carter, motioning him to come closer:

LEE

We're stronger together!

CARTER

I'm doing fine on my own!  
(takes kick to face)  
I'm coming over!

They work together, BACK TO BACK. Occasionally, Lee swings Carter around, using him as a weapon. They manage to mow through the underlings. Thrown furniture sends candles to the ground, and a window DRAPE CATCHES ON FIRE. The fire spreads slowly, creating enough smoke to affect visibility. Carter soon sets his sights on Jawlong and calls out to Lee:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Lee! I'll grab the leader!

Carter goes after Jawlong, while Lee fights off the remaining thugs. Carter and Jawlong trade a few blows. Carter tries to hang, but he's getting his ass kicked. Jawlong knocks Carter back on his feet, creating space between them. Lee, still engaging two thugs, spots Jawlong across the room and realizes he's standing in an opportunistic spot. Lee deftly slips away from the two thugs and charges Jawlong, SPEAR TACKLING HIM THROUGH THE WINDOW BEHIND HIM. They DROP THREE STORIES and land hard in a large pile of trash.

STILL INSIDE, Carter struggles to see through the smoke, but finds the opening Lee created and moves for it. ON STREET LEVEL, Lee and Jawlong get to their feet, dazed but not badly wounded. Lee moves to grab him - CARTER SUDDENLY DROPS IN FROM ABOVE, TAKING LEE OUT. Jawlong sprints off. Carter rolls off Lee, gasping, having trouble speaking:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Forgot... we were on... third floor.

Lee pops up and TEARS AFTER Jawlong. As Lee pursues, we hear the ROAR OF A MOTORCYCLE ENGINE. The bike appears from a side street, screeching to a stop next to Jawlong. Lee sees that the driver is Kim. She has A GUN TRAINED ON HIM and gets off the bike, calmly. Jawlong gets on. Kim walks slowly toward Lee. Their eyes lock.

KIM

I told you to go home, Brother.

LEE

Kim, you don't have to do this. You don't have to be this person.

KIM

It's too late for me. You know that.

LEE

It's not.

He steps toward her. She raises her gun again.

KIM

Don't.

For a moment, neither of them moves. Kim's eyes WELL UP. As we hear approaching police sirens, Jawlong urges Kim in CHINESE (with subtitle):

JAWLONG

Do it!

Kim FIRES. Carter watches helplessly from behind as LEE DROPS TO THE GROUND. Kim dutifully gets on the back of Jawlong's motorcycle and they speed off.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. CHINATOWN NOODLE SHOP - LATER

Patrol cars are here, cops cleaning up the scene and talking to witnesses. We find Carter sitting by himself, dejected, bruised and worn out. He's silent for a moment, then:

CARTER

A shot from that close, and she just misses?

REVEAL LEE, sitting by Carter, alive.

LEE

She couldn't kill me. I saw it in her eyes before she fired. But she needed her boss to think she had. When I heard the shot, I reacted as I needed to. For her.

CARTER

That is a complex sibling dynamic the two of you have. Things are going to be very awkward at Christmas.

Then, off Lee's thoughtful look:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Still, she didn't kill you. She's not all-the-way bad. Yet. There's still a chance for you to save her.

Carter waits for Lee to respond. Lee says nothing.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Silence? Does that mean you agree with me? It does, doesn't it?!

(Lee is silent again)

I knew it! I am in your head, Lee! Walking around in your brain! And it's a very boring place: all kung fu practice and going to bed early, not a woman in sight, but I'm in there.

(then)

Man, how scared were you when you tackled Chinese Eminem through that third-story window?

LEE

Fear is the enemy of focus. I have no use for it.

CARTER

I rode on the outside of a helicopter. Way higher than three stories.

PATROLMAN

(walks up)

Captain Cole wants to see you two.

CARTER

He's not braver than me.

INT. CAPTAIN COLE'S OFFICE - LATER

Carter and Lee sit across from Cole's desk.

CAPTAIN COLE

Is there a single thing that you could possibly say in your defense?

(Carter starts to speak)

And I should mention, if I detect the slightest degree of dishonesty, insincerity or sarcasm in any word leaving your mouth, I am going to have your testicles mounted on the wall behind my desk.

Carter hesitates to carefully consider his words, then:

CARTER

We were following what we believed was a solid lead on the people who killed the Chinese cops and stole--

CAPTAIN COLE

Stop. That's plenty.

LEE

Captain Cole, this was my fault. I made Carter help me.

CAPTAIN COLE

Right. Because everybody can make Carter do lots of things.

CARTER

I get weak around Asian men. When he starts talking, it's like I'm not in control of my own thoughts.

CAPTAIN COLE

Go home, Carter. You're on full suspension, and you'll be lucky if that doesn't become an outright dismissal. Detective Lee, you're going back to Hong Kong.

(picks up her phone)

You can put him through.

Cole hands the receiver to Lee. He takes it, and in CHINESE, SUBTITLED:

LEE

Captain Chen. Sir, I respectfully request more time. I believe there is still a chance for us to--

(he's cut off, then)

Yes Sir. I understand.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Carter and Lee (with suitcase) approach Carter's parked car.

CARTER

They weren't kidding about the immediately part. I won't even have time to show you the strip club by the airport before your flight leaves. Doesn't seem right. It's an American landmark.

They get in the car. Carter looks to the tiny suitcase Lee holds in his lap.

CARTER (CONT'D)

You sure you don't want to put that shaving kit in your suitcase?

LEE

This is my suitcase.

CARTER

I'm going to miss these moments.

Carter starts the car and pull away.

INT. CARTER'S STINGRAY - MOMENTS LATER

They drive. Carter speaks sincerely.

CARTER

For what it's worth, I didn't hate working with you. I didn't like it. But I didn't hate it either.

He gives Lee a friendly grin. Lee gives him an appreciative nod. Carter waits for a beat, then:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Anything you want to say to me?

LEE

You're driving well over the posted speed limit.

As Carter gives Lee a dirty look, Lee just stares ahead, blank and expressionless.

CARTER

I'm gonna let that slide because your sister pretend shot you in the chest.

Carter's phone rings. He answers. We INTERCUT TO DIDI, calling from her desk at the station:

DIDI

The bullet you had me take to ballistics - they just handed me the report.

CARTER

I think you can probably pass that information on to someone who's currently a police officer.

DIDI

Suppose that information happened to be very, very, very interesting - would you still want me to pass that on to someone else?

CARTER

Was that two verys or three?

DIDI

Three, and I could have gone with four.

CARTER

Let's hear it.

DIDI

The report shows a direct connection between this bullet and someone you recently had a very strange encounter with.

CARTER

Your friend Lisa? I can see that, that girl is crazy. She bit me. I can still see the mark.

DIDI

No. Did you have sex with my friend, Lisa?

CARTER

What? No. Who's Lisa? Come on, Didi, just give me the name.

DIDI

You ready for this?

We then cut back to Carter as Didi tells him the name:

CARTER

No shit.

INT. CARTER'S STINGRAY - MOMENTS LATER

Carter has pulled to the side of the road.

LEE

I'm supposed to be getting on a plane. I can't violate a direct order from my Captain.

CARTER

Was that the end of that sentence? Sorry, I thought you were about to add "...so make sure you don't tell anyone." Look, if you choose to fly back now, you'll make it back to Hong Kong with your code of honor all shiny and intact--

LEE

It is not a choice, it is an order--

CARTER

(pushing past it)

--but those Quantou punks will still be out there killing people, when they aren't swimming laps in their giant piles of ransom money. You'll never catch Blonde Boss Man, and you'll probably never hear from Kim again. Look, I know in your head, this seems like it's just about you. It's not. If I can close this case out, I can prove myself to Cole and get back on the job. And I wouldn't admit it to a lot of people, but this job is all I have. I'm going all in to finish what we started, but I don't know that I can get it done without you. You do have a choice, Lee. You just have to be willing to make it.

Lee considers this, conflicted. Then:

EXT. COUNTY JAIL - LATER

Carter pulls into a parking space. As he and Lee get out:

LEE

You have corrupted my soul.

CARTER

(laughs)

Yeah, I have that effect on people.

INT. COUNTY JAIL MEETING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Carter and Lee sit in a jail room. CARLOS, (Carter's helicopter friend from first act) ORANGE JUMPSUIT, HANDCUFFED, is dropped into the seat across from them.

CARTER

Hi, Carlos. I don't know if you remember me--

CARLOS

Man, fuck off.

CARTER

You do remember! It's good to see you, buddy. So, jail. How's that been going? You look amazing.

CARLOS  
(calls out to guard)  
I'd like to go back to my cell!

CARTER  
Take it easy. Look, you're here,  
you're staying here, I can't change  
that. But I can make your stay a  
little nicer if you help us out.

LEE  
We have a shell casing from a  
murder scene that was fired from a  
very rare gun.

CARTER  
Yeah, it's a gun I haven't seen  
anywhere - except in the stash of  
weapons I was about to buy from  
you. Were you also selling those  
weapons to a Chinese gang?

CARLOS  
That depends. Will you really help  
me out? I need a TV in my cell.

LEE  
Maybe your cousin Gerald can help.

CARTER  
Don't make jokes, Lee, it doesn't  
suit you. But yeah, I'll have him  
get you one.  
(Carlos looks skeptical)  
C'mon, have I ever lied to you  
before? Aside from the time I  
pretended to not be a cop and  
bought a bunch of guns from you and  
shot you in your leg.  
(takes out his cell)  
Call your cell. I'll leave a  
message.

Intrigued, Carlos does so. Carter speaks into the phone.

CARTER (CONT'D)  
This is detective James Carter  
leaving a message is for my friend  
Carlos' very cheap attorney. If the  
information Carlos gives me pans  
out, I'll make sure it's considered  
state's evidence and I'll lobby to  
get him a reduced sentence.

Carter hangs up. Carlos is impressed.

LEE

What are you doing? You shouldn't be asking for more trouble now.

CARTER

(shrugs)

It's your sister, man.

Lee nods, appreciative. Then, to Carlos:

LEE

We need anything you can tell us.

CARLOS

I delivered the guns to this laundry place near Chinatown.

CARTER

Cool, that narrows it down to a billion laundry places.

CARLOS

This is the only one big enough to land a helicopter on.

CARTER

Big enough to house a bunch of Chinese guys made of stone?

CARLOS

Weird question, but sure.

Carter and Lee exchange an intrigued look, then we CUT TO:

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Lee sneaks up to the deserted building by jumping across scaffolding, ACROBATICALLY ending up at a second-story window. He waits impatiently as Carter climbs the stairs up to where he is.

CARTER

Sorry, I'm not in Cirque Du Soleil.

They look in the window and see the TERRACOTTA SOLDIERS spread out, some being loaded onto trucks, and various Quantou underlings.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Jackpot.

Lee is already on his cell phone.

INT. ND BUILDING - ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Thomas listens as Lee explains. We intercut:

LEE

Thomas, do not let them pay the ransom. We've located the statues. Brick warehouse at one-four-seven-five Western Avenue.

THOMAS

Outstanding. Are you there now?

LEE

Yes.

THOMAS

Wait for backup. I'll bring the FBI, I'll bring LAPD, hell, I'll bring the whole damn cavalry!

Lee hangs up.

INT. ND BUILDING - ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Thomas hangs up his phone, hurries across the hallway and opens the door to another room.

IN THE NEXT ROOM, the TWO FBI AGENTS FROM COLE'S OFFICE, along with a THIRD AGENT, sit at tables with cash counting machines and STACKS OF CASH, packaging the ransom payment.

AGENT MURRAY

We're getting close. Maybe ten minutes from having the money packaged and ready to go.

THOMAS

Okay. That'll have to do.

As the agents turn back to their work, Thomas PULLS OUT A GUN AND SHOOTS THEM one by one. The three agents slump over, immediately dead, and Thomas grabs all the packaged cash, then slips out of the room. We go BACK TO:

EXT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Lee and Carter are where we left them, looking in the window:

LEE

Let's go.

Lee immediately jumps on a scaffold pole and slides to the ground like a fireman. Carter hurries down the stairs.

CARTER

Wait-wait-wait - I wasn't eavesdropping, but I think I heard "wait for backup."

LEE

Kim could be inside. I have to go.

CARTER

See, this is the real reason I work alone. You get caught up in each others' emotional stuff, it just gets complicated. I don't want you to die, but I also very much don't want to die.

LEE

If you're scared and don't want to come with me, I understand.

CARTER

You sonofabitch. I see what you're doing. There's been a lot of talk about who's braver.

LEE

All from you.

CARTER

Yeah, but if we're gonna do this, I think we can be honest and admit that we're both scared.

LEE

Okay.

CARTER

So you're scared, too?

LEE

No. But it's okay that you are.

CARTER

You know what? If you're not scared at all, then going in there is no big deal for you. That's not courage. Me, I'm terrified.

(MORE)

CARTER (CONT'D)

So going in there for me is  
incredibly brave. I'm so much  
braver than you.

LEE

I'm sure you're right. It can't be  
easy to act when terrified. I  
remember being scared once, as a  
small child. It was unpleasant.

Lee enters the warehouse. Carter hesitates.

CARTER

You're the worst partner ever.

Carter follows.

INT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Lee and Carter quietly enter. The TERRACOTTA SOLDIERS are here, spread out amongst scattered junk, and old, broken-down machinery. The assembled clutter creates the effect of a creepy, shadowy maze that Carter and Lee move through.

LEE

Be careful not to touch them. The  
soldiers are priceless, but their  
value to my country is greater than  
you can comprehend.

Carter, who holds the FINGER OF A STATUE he just accidentally snapped off, quickly hides it from Lee:

CARTER

Definitely. I respect that a lot.

They see a group of a dozen or so QUANTOU THUGS. Carter then spots Jawlong:

CARTER (CONT'D)

There's Blondie.

LEE

But no sign of Kim.

Right then, Carter LOCKS EYES WITH A THUG a short distance away. The thug runs off, shouting in Chinese to the group.

CARTER

That might be bad.

The thugs grab weapons and scramble into positions around, but not within, the rows of statues. But none of the Quantou attempt to take a shot.

CARTER (CONT'D)  
Why aren't they shooting at us?

LEE  
Even men of character this low  
won't risk damage to the statues.  
Here, they won't fight with guns.  
Only--

A THUG SUDDENLY APPEARS right next to them - Lee delivers a quick, swift shot to his face, knocking him out.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Fists.

We now see A GROUP OF QUANTOU coming at Lee and Carter. In a CHOREOGRAPHED BATTLE AMONGST THE STATUES Lee takes on a wave of thugs, while simultaneously going to great lengths to prevent the statues from falling or being damaged. Carter also fights, and after knocking out a thug, he steps outside of the cluster of statues, and is IMMEDIATELY FIRED UPON by a Quantou man on the catwalk. He quickly ducks into the statues for cover.

CARTER  
You said they wouldn't fire!

LEE  
(mid-fight)  
Within the statues, no! Outside,  
yes!

Carter looks up to a handful of bad guys in the rafters above. To himself:

CARTER  
Then I guess this might qualify as  
fighting dirty.

From within the statues, Carter stands and fires at the elevated men, taking them out one by one. Carter then TAKES A VICIOUS SHOT TO THE FACE from an attacker. He stumbles and drops his gun, then looks up to see Jawlong.

As Carter and Jawlong fight, Jawlong has the upper hand and knocks Carter down. Before Jawlong can give Carter a final shot, he's blindsided by Lee, who joins the fight. Jawlong gets control of Lee, choking him from behind.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Lee! Here!

Lee looks to see Carter bracing one of the soldiers that has a spear protruding from its hand. With great effort, Lee frees himself and shoves Jawlong toward the soldier. He falls into the spear and slumps over, dead. Carter leans in:

CARTER (CONT'D)

Not so scary now, are you?

Jawlong flinches alive for a split second and grabs Carter.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Oh God!!!

Jawlong dies. Carter moves on as if nothing happened. As the dust has somewhat settled, Carter steps out in the clear, gun in hand. The gun is suddenly kicked out of Carter's hand. He turns and realizes he's FACING KIM LEE.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Easy, Kim. Police will be here any second.

Kim hesitates for a moment. Lee steps out. Carter spots his gun on the ground nearby and grabs it.

LEE

Kim, stop. My friend has tried to convince me there is still a chance for you... I think he's right.

CARTER

Boom! Sorry, this is a very big victory moment for me. But I'll gloat later. It's over, girl. Your boss is dead.

Carter nods and Kim turns to see Jawlong, dead.

KIM

He was not my boss.

THOMAS

Toss the gun.

REVEAL THOMAS as he APPROACHES and joins Kim, his gun pointed at them. Carter tosses his gun.

LEE

Thomas? What are you doing?

CARTER

Yeah, you're late. And you forgot to bring backup. And you are pointing your gun at me. None of those things is helpful.

THOMAS

You never saw her real potential, Lee. Fortunately I've always been good at spotting talent. I knew what she would say when a gun was pointed at her head and she was told "*Jiaru huo si.*"

CARTER

What?

LEE

Join or die.

THOMAS

The helicopter's on the roof. We need to go.

LEE

This isn't you, Kim. This is not who you are.

KIM

Who am I? I should have died. But I'm a coward.

LEE

You're not. I know my sister. You're brave and you're strong.

KIM

You don't know me anymore.

LEE

I know you couldn't kill me.

There's a beat as Lee and Kim look at each other, then:

THOMAS

Luckily, I can.

As Thomas shifts his eyes toward Lee, Carter charges him. Thomas takes a few wild shots, CLIPPING CARTER IN THE ARM. Carter goes down. Before Thomas can get off another shot, Lee pounces and takes him out, knocking him unconscious.

Carter lunges to grab his gun off the ground. He gets a hand on it, and moves to turn it on Kim. She has already taken off, running in the opposite direction.

CARTER

Kim! Stop!

He holds the gun on her, but she doesn't stop. Carter has a shot, but DOESN'T TAKE IT. He lowers his gun. Lee, seeing this, nods gratefully. Kim jumps and climbs acrobatically onto the rafters and leaps out a window.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Is everyone in your family a gymnast?

Carter slumps over. Lee rushes to him.

LEE

Are you okay?

CARTER

Nope. Got shot. Which only stung at first. Adrenaline must be dropping, 'cause HOLY CRAP THIS HURTS!

LEE

(tending to his wound)  
You'll be alright.

CARTER

You gotta admit, man. This is pretty brave. I took a bullet. But I'm toughing it out.

LEE

You are truly brave. I'm impressed.

CARTER

(seeing Lee's side)  
Why are you covered in blood?

LEE

I was shot.

CARTER

(then, seeing)  
Why are you covered in blood in two places?

LEE

(looks and notices)  
I was shot twice. But clearly, it's more painful to be shot once.

CARTER

Why do you keep doing this to me?!

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAYS LATER

Didi wheels Carter in a wheelchair. He wears a hospital gown.

CARTER

These robes don't close in the back. I am butt naked on this wheelchair. And not in a sexy way. My cheeks are sweating pretty bad.

DIDI

If you want me to wheel you down the stairwell, keep talking.

INT. DETECTIVE LEE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They enter to find Captain Cole there, laughing and smiling as she talks to Lee. She may even seem a little flirty.

CAPTAIN COLE

Get better fast, Daniel.  
(seeing Carter,  
straightens up)  
Detective Carter.

CARTER

Who is Daniel? Wait - did you just call me Detective? Do I have a job again?

CAPTAIN COLE

I expect you back tomorrow.

CARTER

I got shot!

CAPTAIN COLE

You got six stitches.

CARTER

Very deep stitches.

Cole exits.

DIDI

How you feeling, Lee?

LEE

Fine. A little weak from surgery.

CARTER

We get it, you got surgery, why do you have to brag so much?

DIDI

When are you going back to China?

LEE

I have no family there to go back to. Kim is here, and so is the Quantou. Fortunately, Captain Chen saw the benefit of relocating me to Los Angeles to consult with the FBI on the Quantou when needed. And Lindsay - Captain Cole - has offered me a full-time position as a detective with the LAPD.

(then, sincere)

And I would be honored to work with you as a partner.

CARTER

Maybe, if I'm in charge...

LEE

I was actually talking to Didi.

CARTER

That was cold, man. I miss when you didn't speak English.

They grin and continue to talk...

END OF SHOW

\*