

FOOL'S GOLD

Written by

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Inspired by

Edgar Allen Poe's 'The Gold Bug'

EXT. BEACH (1701) - DAY

A wooden rowboat crashes onto the shore. FOUR PIRATES (dressed in rags, all men) get out and pull it onto the sand. CAPTAIN WILLIAM KIDD (50s and in dirty clothes) steps out of the boat and looks on at the forest in front of him.

The four pirates reenter the boat and pull out a large wooden chest. It's so heavy that it requires the four of them to lift it. In their free hands, they each carry a shovel.

EXT. FOREST (1701) - LATER

The four pirates carry the chest while Captain Kidd follows as he scribbles notes on paper.

EXT. MANOR HOUSE COMPLEX (1701) - LATER

The group carries the chest past an abandoned manor house with a large willow tree in front of it. Captain Kidd stops to make notes.

He looks up in the distance and sees a large rock that looks like a skull. He smiles slightly as he picks up his pace.

EXT. FOREST (1701)- LATER

The pirates strain as they carry the chest. Captain Kidd counts to himself as he walks.

CAPTAIN KIDD
Here will do.

The pirates drop the chest and take a breather. Captain Kidd makes a final note. He puts the papers in his jacket and opens the chest.

We don't see what's inside, but golden light from inside reflects on his face.

He removes a small tombstone and closes it. He places the tombstone on the ground. It says 'Bob Manson'.

CAPTAIN KIDD (CONT'D)
See you soon, Bobby.

The pirates pick up their shovels and dig.

EXT. LONG ISLAND SOUND (1701) - NIGHT

Captain Kidd's ship, *The Adventure*, sails away from the island he just visited. We can see the silhouettes of both in the light of the full moon.

INT. CAPTAIN KIDD'S CABIN (1701) - NIGHT

Captain Kidd is hunched over his desk with a small paint brush. A book of blank papers is opened on one side and his notes from the expedition are on the other. A lantern at the desk's edge provides light.

He dips the brush into a water solution and writes on a blank piece of paper. All that he leaves are wet marks.

He puts the brush down and looks over his work. The paper starts to dry, making it look untouched.

He takes his notes and rips them apart. He puts them in a bowl and lights them on fire.

He watches them burn into ashes.

BOOM. The ship SHAKES.

Captain Kidd looks up with an expression of worry. He rips the paper he just worked on out of the book and stuffs it into a log book.

EXT. THE ADVENTURE (1701) - CONTINUOUS

Captain Kidd runs onto the deck. His ship is surrounded by three British vessels. They take turns pummeling *The Adventure* with canon balls.

MEN scream and scramble. A FIRE breaks out on the port side. Captain Kidd is horrified.

Meanwhile, just a few hundred feet away, the ocean is calm and peaceful.

EXT. LONG ISLAND SOUND - NIGHT

A small Blue Bowrider Personal Boat speeds across the Long Island Sound. Ahead of them is the same island that Captain Kidd visited. Except now there are lights dotting parts of it.

INT. DAVE'S BOAT - CONTINUOUS

DAVE KENNEDY(45, in shape, bald) stands at the drivers seat as he pilots the boat. His eyes are firmly fixed ahead.

MAX VECCHIO (45, dad body, full head of hair) sits at the bow as the wind washes over him.

In front of them is Plum Island. It's a large forested island with the northern tip lit up as it hosts a military base while the rest looks like it could be virgin forest.

Max holds up his hand. Dave cuts the engine.

He pulls out an oar and passes it to Max. He takes another one and they silently row towards the island.

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Max and Dave pull the boat onto the shore. The motor is raised.

They use all their strength to get the boat close to the tree-line of the forest. They take out shovels and backpacks from the boat.

Dave grabs a couple of large camouflage nets from the rear. They cover the boat so it blends in with the forest and the darkness.

Max opens his backpack and pulls out two maps. One is modern and the other is a replica from 1741. He places the old map over the new and tries to align it.

Max finds what he is looking for.

MAX

Should be about three hundred feet
into the woods.

He takes out a compass and gets his bearings.

MAX (CONT'D)

That way.

INT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

Max and Dave blindly walk through the woods. They don't use a flashlight.

Max trips. Dave looks down on the ground and sees the ruins of a small foundation wall.

Max pulls out a map and turns on his tiny flashlight. He looks over the old map.

MAX

This was the black smith shop.

He checks the map.

MAX (CONT'D)

The manor house should be over there.

He walks and Dave follows.

DAVE

Watch out for that thorn bush.

Max almost walks into it. He carefully pulls a branch and passes. He holds the branch so Dave could follow.

The forest seems to open up a little.

DAVE (CONT'D)

I think this was the house.

Max turns on his flashlight. In front of them is a long mound of dirt. Dave pokes at it with his shovel. There's a stone foundation under it.

MAX

Now we just need to figure out where the front door was.

They walk the perimeter of where the building once was. Max continues to check his map while Dave is very alert about their surroundings.

MAX (CONT'D)

I bet it was here.

He takes off his backpack and puts it on the ground. Dave does the same.

DAVE

Next part. Four hundred years ago there was an old willow tree on the manor's front lawn.

They look where the front lawn once was. It's now an overgrown forest.

MAX

It's about forty feet from where the front steps were.

They walk into the woods.

MAX (CONT'D)

How long do you think it took nature to reclaim this place?

DAVE

The house would have been the last thing to fall apart, but the cleared land would have been unrecognizable within twenty years. The woods behind my house when we were growing up used to be a farmer's field.

MAX

I remember that. It's too bad that my kids are growing up in a different world. Imagine how screwed we would be if cellphone cameras existed when we were in high school?

DAVE

You would be fucked. I'd be fine.

MAX

You did some pretty crazy stuff. Especially when Olde English was there.

DAVE

O.E. Best five dollars you could spend. Now that's about all I can afford these days.

MAX

Just wait, Dave. Our lives are about to change.

DAVE

You think about how you're going to tell Paige yet?

MAX

I'll worry about that when I actually get my hands on it. Besides, she hasn't been herself.

DAVE

It's understandable though. But you're better off not keeping any secrets. Katie had secrets and look where that got us.

MAX

Katie was cheating on you.

DAVE

My point exactly.

MAX

Well, if this works out, you can finally afford to drown your sorrows in some nice whiskey that costs more than twenty bucks.

DAVE

Those empty bottles in my house aren't just all from me. Tia drinks too.

MAX

When am I going to meet the famous Tia? I'm starting to think your new girlfriend is made up.

Dave chuckles.

DAVE

This is about forty feet.

They stop and look. No willow trees here. In fact, every tree almost looks the same as this others.

MAX

You sure it's not thirty-nine?

Dave shoots him a look.

DAVE

These trunks are a little smaller than the other ones. Most likely, the forest retook the land and years later the willow died with these ones replacing it.

Max nods. Makes sense.

SHOUTING can be heard in the distance.

MAX

(whispering)

You think they found the boat?

Dave holds up his finger for Max to be silent. Dave carefully tries to listen. Aside from someone shouting, it's difficult to hear what exactly is being said.

DAVE
They're probably just doing drills.

MAX
(trying to reassure
himself)
Can't get rich without some risk.

DAVE
We can get rich but we just can't
get greedy. Greed is always what
causes these thing to fail.

Max nods. He opens his backpack and pulls out a typed set of instructions.

MAX
Time to know if you decrypted the
code correctly.

Max takes out his compass and carefully plots the direction they need to walk.

MAX (CONT'D)
Fifty paces that way.

Max and Dave walk in silence as they count their steps. They stop in a small clearing.

MAX (CONT'D)
From here we should see the
treasure marker.

Dave points to a large boulder covered in moss that is about fifty feet away.

DAVE
That has to be it.

They walk to it. Dave rips off the moss.

This boulder looks very much like a skull. It even has two hollow holes where the eyes would be.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Here's one part of the legend
that's true.

Max pulls out the typed instructions. Dave cuts him off before he can read them.

DAVE (CONT'D)
It's the right eye.

Max looks down at the paper anyway.

DAVE (CONT'D)
I remember what I wrote.

MAX
I just want to double check. We
didn't come all this way just to
make a mistake.

Max takes out a laser pointer and shines it through the right
side's hollow hole.

DAVE
Keep it centered and straight.

Dave walks behind the skull shaped boulder and disappears
into the darkness.

Max stays there holding the laser pointer as straight as
possible.

Two flashes blink from a flashlight in the distance.

Max turns off the laser pointer and follows the path Dave
walked.

Max navigates the forest trying not to walk into a tree or
get hit in the head with a branch.

Dave grabs Max.

On the ground is what looks like the remains of the tombstone
Captain Kidd placed. The inscription is long gone due to
erosion.

MAX
Are you sure?

DAVE
No, but it seems like the best
guess we can make.

Dave takes his shovel and digs. Max joins in.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

The hole they have dug together is about four-feet deep.

MAX
How much longer do we have?

Dave checks his wrist watch.

DAVE
Two hours until sunrise.

MAX
We might have to try a new--

Something shiny on the ground catches Max's eye.

He picks it up and brushes off the dirt. It's an old Moorish Gold Coin with Arabic writing.

DAVE
You were saying?

Max smiles. He is overfilled with joy.

MAX
We fucking did it.

He throws the shovel down and digs by hand. He easily finds another coin, and then another.

DAVE
The chest must have rotted away.

Dave joins in. He finds a ruby. It's the size of a walnut.

Max hugs Dave, full of joy.

MAX
My problems are solved.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

Max and Dave finish loading their backpacks with gold coins, jewels, and rubies. Max tries to stuff in another coin.

DAVE
If we overdo it then the backpacks might break.

MAX
We're going to be leaving a lot behind.

DAVE
And we can always return.

Dave climbs out of the hole.

DAVE (CONT'D)
There's a little bit more than one hour before sunrise.

He takes his shovel and starts to fill in the hole.

Max watches him for a moment. He closes his backpack, grabs his shovel and joins in.

VOOOOOMMMM

They duck down. It sounds like a golf cart is driving near them.

HEADLIGHTS appear through the trees. Whatever vehicle they belong to, it's moving slow.

Dave and Max look at the hole. It's not even one quarter filled in and the fresh piles of dirt next to it are very visible.

The HEADLIGHTS are getting closer and they start to illuminate the area around the hole.

The treasure site is ten feet away from a small dirt road.

The HEADLIGHTS are close enough to make out the vehicle's features. It's a long golf cart with SIX MILITARY POLICEMEN sitting on it, all of them are scanning the forest. They're on patrol.

Max and Dave hold their breath.

The golf cart drives away.

Max and Dave watch it disappear into the darkness.

DAVE (CONT'D)

We can't waste anymore time.

They jump up to their feet and get back to work.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

It's still dark out but orange light pokes out over the horizon.

Max and Dave push the boat back into the water. They throw their backpacks in and jump aboard.

They each grab an oar and row away from the island.

INT. DAVE'S LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Max and Dave enter through the front door. The lights are off but light from the sunrise spills through the semi-open blinds.

Dave hands his backpack to Max.

Max takes the backpacks to the coffee table. He moves a Sudoku book and puts it on the couch. Dave turns on a light and walks into the kitchen.

Max looks through the blinds at the street. It's empty. He closes the blinds.

Dave returns with two opened beers. He hands one to Max.

DAVE

To living the dream and not being
sarcastic about it.

They toast.

They each open their backpacks and take out the contents. Max scoops gold coins onto the table. Dave carefully pulls out rubies and jewels.

DAVE (CONT'D)

This is all thanks to you, Max.

MAX

It's a team effort. We split it
fifty-fifty. Without you, I
couldn't have decoded the message.

Dave picks up a gold coin.

MAX (CONT'D)

How much do you think this is
worth?

DAVE

Murray agreed to three thousand per
an ounce and this is definitely
heavier than an ounce.

He looks at the jewels and rubies.

DAVE (CONT'D)

I'm sure he can give us a fair
price for the other things too.
Maybe in the end we'll each get a
million.

Max's face lights up.

MAX

I could pay off my back taxes plus the mortgage, send my kids to college, and still have some left.

DAVE

You're going to have to tell Paige about where all the money came from now.

MAX

I will. I just kept it secret because she would have been against us going to Plum Island.

Dave puts his last ruby on the table.

DAVE

I'm going to call Murray to tell him the good news.

Max is really excited. He can barely contain his joy.

Dave gets up and opens a cabinet drawer. He tosses Max's phone to him and takes his own.

MAX

Six missed calls from her.

Dave checks his messages. His face drops and he goes pale. Max knows something is wrong.

EXT. UPSCALE HOME - DAY

MOURNERS enter and exit the house. There's been a recent death in the family.

Dave walks out the front door and gets into Max's car (an older BMW).

INT. MAX'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Max is sitting in the driver's seat. Dave looks shell shocked.

DAVE

It was a heart attack last night. They say he just dropped dead.

Max is disappointed.

MAX

I'm sorry. I know he was an old client of yours.

DAVE

He was a friend and mentor.

Dave is silent.

MAX

So what now?

DAVE

I don't know. I have no idea of who he was going to fence the gold to.

MAX

Some luck I have.

DAVE

I'll make a plan. Maybe I'll meet the person at the funeral.

MAX

Through chance?

DAVE

Do you have a better idea?

MAX

I don't know but I'm on a deadline here, Dave. If I don't pay the tax money by Friday then everything I owned and worked for with the restaurant will be auctioned off.

DAVE

You're not the only one who needs money. I'm forty-three with nothing to show for it because it wasn't enough just for Katie to ruin my life. She had to take everything I worked for too.

Max sighs in frustration.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Max, now is not the time to act emotional and do something without thinking it through. That treasure was buried on federal land. We don't have a legal claim on it.

MAX
I'll be careful.

DAVE
Good, because we could go to prison
for what we did.

Max shakes his head.

MAX
A victimless crime.

DAVE
You've been fucked over by the
state government. Imagine what
would happen with the feds? They're
much worse. Believe me, I'm a CPA.

Dave pats Max on the back.

DAVE (CONT'D)
We'll get you the money you need.
In the meantime, we should split
the take, get safe deposit boxes,
and keep out things there for now.

MAX
Can you hold on to my half for now?
I need go home first and check in.

DAVE
You got it.

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE - DAY

Max's home is upper-middle class with a double garage and two floors. The lawn and house are a little behind with their maintenance.

Max pulls into the driveway and gets out of his car. A Toyota Camry is parked next to him.

PAIGE (mid 40s, could be an aging former beauty queen and tired from life's challenges) bursts out of the front door. She is wearing a blue vest like she works in retail.

PAIGE
Where the hell were you?

MAX
You know where I was.

PAIGE

You couldn't return any of my calls?

MAX

I knew I would be home soon so I figured--

PAIGE

Jesus fucking Christ.

MAX

What's wrong?

PAIGE

Alexis is sick.

MAX

Should I take her to the doctor?

PAIGE

It's okay for now. I really don't want to spend three hundred bucks just to hear that it's a virus and there's nothing we can do.

MAX

I'm sorry. My phone was on silent.

PAIGE

Did you not see all the missed calls?

MAX

I did, but you didn't leave any voice mails or texts. And something came up. Dave introduced me to someone that wants to help me reopen the restaurant.

PAIGE

With the unpaid taxes and your debt?

MAX

He ate there before and had a great time. It was a meeting I needed to take.

PAIGE

Look, Max. The auction is this Friday. Maybe it's time you cut your losses and move on to something new.

MAX

It's bullshit. My employee steals from me, disappears, and I'm told that I still need to pay taxes on the money he took?

PAIGE

You're right. But we tried to fight it and here we are now.

MAX

And that money hangs over me personally, not the business.

She's heard this rant a million times.

PAIGE

I need to go now or I'll be late.

She walks over to her car.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

If you're not too hung over, you should go check on your daughter.

Paige gets in her car and starts the engine.

MAX

(under his breath)
I'm not hung over.

Max walks inside.

INT. MAX'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Max closes the door. He checks the mail on the end table. A few letters say 'Past Due'. He sighs and puts them down.

INT. MAX'S BASEMENT OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Max enters and turns the lights on. There is a bulletin board full of notes, a white board with chapters names written, and books about pirates plus papers with notes.

Max moves a book and under it is a yellowed piece of paper in a ziplock bag. It's been ripped on one side. It looks just like the paper Captain Kidd was writing on before he was attacked.

Max reaches into his pocket and pulls out one of the Moorish Gold Coins. He kisses it and walks out of the room.

INT. ALEXIS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

ALEXIS (14, braces) is laying in her bed, watching a movie on her lap top.

Max KNOCKS on the door. He enters.

MAX

How are you feeling, sport?

ALEXIS

Like dog shit.

Max touches her forehead.

MAX

Get some rest. Daddy needs to go to a meeting.

ALEXIS

A job interview?

MAX

A business meeting. I'll be back soon. And maybe I'll get some ice cream on the way back.

ALEXIS

I'm not a little kid anymore.

MAX

You'll always be mine though.

He kisses her on the cheek.

EXT. MAX'S RESTAURANT - DAY

Max's car pulls into an empty parking lot and drives up to the front door. A sign on the building says 'Max's'. Max gets out.

On the door is a sticker from the state saying that entry is restricted. The handles are chained and padlocked. There is a note taped to the window saying that the premises have been seized for back taxes.

Max looks at the place, longing to have it back.

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Max drives through what looks like the Main Street of a small Long Island town. There are a few high end luxury stores mixed in with empty store fronts.

There's not many people on the street nor is there traffic as it's early spring and not summer.

He pulls over in front of a trendy restaurant that is open and busy.

EXT. SOBU - CONTINUOUS

Max gets out of his car and checks out the place with admiration in his eyes. It's new and beautiful.

A GUY (50s) walks his dog. He waves hello to Max. Max waves back.

MAX

This new place any good?

GUY

No idea. Can't afford it.

Max is shoved from behind. He turns and watches EVELYN DALLIS (60s, glamorous) step out of the back of a Rolls Royce. The man that shoved him is her security guard MANNY (30s, jacked).

Evelyn enters the restaurant and his followed by Manny before Max can confront him.

MAX

She an actress or something?

GUY

That's Evelyn Dallis. An art dealer from the city who works with all those hedge fund billionaire assholes.

Max looks back at the restaurant, his admiration turning into jealousy.

MAX

Must be nice.

GUY

When are you opening again? I miss your veal parmigiana.

MAX

Soon.

Max goes back to his car.

INT. PAWN KING - CONTINUOUS

The place is full of shelves littered with random second hand items. A glass counter runs along the perimeter of the walls like a giant horse shoe. The store doesn't have any customers.

There's a bulletproof booth set up in the corner with a cash register. Inside it is CHUCK (30s, expensive clothes, big balls, and arrogant). He's watching a video on his phone that may or may not be porn and doesn't notice Max.

MAX

Excuse me.

Chuck is a little startled and that gets him annoyed.

CHUCK

What do you want?

MAX

I have a rare gold coin you might be interested in.

Max takes out his Moorish coin and puts it in the slot.

Chuck picks it up. His eyes briefly light up as this is something he's never seen before but he keeps a poker face.

Chuck places it on a digital scale. 2.58 Ounces. He takes it off.

CHUCK

A little more than two and a half ounces. You want to sell or pawn?

MAX

Sell.

CHUCK

Four thousand bucks.

MAX

The price of an ounce of gold is around three thousand five hundred. That coin is worth more than eight thousand bucks.

CHUCK
(chuckles)
I got bills and overhead to pay.
Plus I don't ask questions, buddy.

MAX
Maybe you should.

CHUCK
Is this stolen? Should I call the
cops?

MAX
Try a history expert. That coin is
about four hundred years old which
gives it historic value on top of
the scrap price.

CHUCK
Historic? You a professor or
something? How the fuck should I
know its history and why should I
care?

He chuckles and gives it a second look.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
Go find someone on Main Street. The
people that walk through that door
don't care about history.

MAX
Maybe you know someone that deals
to a more sophisticated type of
client? I have a few of these.

CHUCK
Where did you get them?

MAX
Old family heirlooms.

CHUCK
This reminds me of pirate treasure.
Like the local legends.

MAX
Have you've ever seen pirate
treasure before?

CHUCK
Not that I'm aware of.

MAX

This isn't that. Like I said, it's been in the family for years and I want to sell it for what it's worth.

He puts the coin back in the slot.

CHUCK

I don't give away my contacts. But if you want, I can broker a deal for say ten percent. If you got more.

MAX

If the price is right then I think we could do business.

Chuck steps out of the booth.

CHUCK

How many more coins are we talking about?

MAX

Twelve for now. But it needs to be a cash sale. No checks.

CHUCK

You prefer to keep the IRS out of this?

MAX

I'd just like discretion is all.

Chuck considers this.

CHUCK

If we work together then I need to hold onto this coin as a sample for my buyers.

MAX

That's fine, just write me a receipt.

CHUCK

Of course.

Max takes out his phone and shows Chuck a screenshot of a similar coin on eBay.

MAX

It's a seventeenth century Barbary Coast coin. Don't forget to put down the weight.

Chuck smirks. He doesn't like being told how to do his job.

He writes out the receipt while Max waits. He stamps it with a company seal and hands it to Max. Max looks it over.

MAX (CONT'D)

That's your number?

CHUCK

Yeah. And I'll need yours.

Max takes out a business card and gives it to Chuck.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

(referring to the card)
I thought this place closed down.

MAX

We're restructuring. How soon should I expect to hear from you?

CHUCK

There's only a handful of people that I can call for this deal so it won't be long.

Chuck holds out his hand. Max shakes it.

CHUCK (CONT'D)

One more thing. You want this sale off the record then we need to do it outside of this building. Otherwise I could lose my license.

MAX

I'll wait for your call.

INT. DAVE'S GARAGE - DAY

Max sits on a bench press while Dave organizes the treasure they took. The door to his gun safe is open.

MAX

I've seen the same coins selling on eBay and they were asking nine thousand dollars for ones in worse condition than ours.

DAVE

That's the price a collector pays.
When we're selling to the dealer
direct then the price is lower
because they need their mark up.

MAX

I'm not trying to be greedy, Dave.
The scrap value alone is over eight
thousand for each coin.

Dave isn't sure about this.

MAX (CONT'D)

You came up with a good plan for
making the money look legit. We've
come too far and we can make this
work.

DAVE

Okay but we need to be extra
cautious about this sale. We don't
need whoever we deal with to
suspect that we have more. And we
can never let anyone know about
what we found and where it is.

Max's phone RINGS.

MAX

It's the guy from the pawnshop.

DAVE

This one time we do business with
them and then that's it. All of our
sellers will be one time deals so
that no one is ever able to figure
out a pattern.

Max gives Dave a thumbs up and answers his phone.

MAX

Hello?

Max listens to what Chuck says. It's not good.

MAX (CONT'D)

That's still less than the scrap
value.

Dave's not happy to hear this either.

MAX (CONT'D)

And then on top of your cut. I was expecting more.

Max listens.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'll call you right back.

He hangs up.

MAX (CONT'D)

Eighty-four thousand for the twelve.

Dave considers it.

DAVE

Let's do it. It's a small amount of what we got and we know where we can get more.

MAX

I need a hundred and twenty grand to end my personal hell.

DAVE

What are they offering per a coin?

MAX

Seven K.

DAVE

Offer them eighteen coins at that price and tell them that's the entire lot. Use three from my half of the stash and pay me back once you have your grand reopening.

Max smiles.

MAX

Thanks, man.

He calls Chuck.

MAX (CONT'D)

Chuck? It's Max. I have a counter proposal.

Max and Dave look at each other. They're both excited.

EXT. BEACH PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Max's car drives into a dark and deserted parking lot. He pulls into a parking space close to the beach.

INT. MAX'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Max and Dave sit inside. Max turns off the engine and cuts the lights.

Dave checks the mirrors to make sure they're alone.

DAVE

I'm getting a bad feeling about this.

MAX

Why?

DAVE

It would be easy for two guys to sneak up on us from the beach and then put a bullet in each of our heads.

MAX

You think I should move the car?

DAVE

That would be a good idea.

Max starts the car and drives.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Park in the middle so we have a good view of the entire area.

Max does as told. He puts the car in park.

MAX

They're here.

A car pulls into the parking lot. It has its brights on.

The car whips around and pulls up next to Max's car. It's a dark BMW.

It idles there.

DAVE

How is this supposed to go down?

Dave has a clear view of the driver. His name is CROWLEY (50s, mean face). They stare at each other.

The passenger door on the other car opens and Chuck steps out. He walks to Max's window.

Max rolls it down.

CHUCK
You brought a friend?

MAX
My, uh, cousin. He owns the other coins and insisted on coming.

CHUCK
How you doing?

DAVE
Fine and you?

Chuck ignores him.

CHUCK
You got them?

Dave nudges Max. He hands Chuck the coins.

Chuck counts them.

MAX
They're all the same as the one I gave you. Seventeen there.

CHUCK
Not eighteen?

MAX
You have the eighteenth.

CHUCK
I need that receipt back.

Max reaches in his pocket and takes out his wallet. He pulls out the receipt and hands it back to Chuck. Chuck pockets it.

Chuck takes an envelope out of his jacket. He passes it to Max.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
Pleasure doing business. Let me know if you have anything else.

Chuck gets back into the car he came in. It drives away.

Max and Dave watch them disappear.

Max opens the envelope. It's full of hundred dollar bills. He breathes a sigh of relief.

He gives it to Dave. Dave counts the money. Max turns the ignition and drives away.

INT. BROADWAY JOE'S - NIGHT

It's not a dive bar but it's not high-end either. This is the place in the Hamptons where the middle class locals go.

Max and Dave enter and sit at the bar. Max is smiling.

MAX
(to the Bartender)
Two glasses of blue label.

The BARTENDER (30s, male) goes to get the drinks.

MAX (CONT'D)
They're on me.

DAVE
Thanks but I thought you needed
this money to pay off your back
taxes.

MAX
I do but...

He leans in so only Dave can hear.

MAX (CONT'D)
(whispering)
I never actually had this much
physical cash before in my life.

He leans away.

MAX (CONT'D)
Besides, we should celebrate. This
was a good thing.

The bartender brings their whiskeys.

MAX (CONT'D)
To Captain Kidd.

They CLINK glasses and take a sip.

DAVE

When are you going to tell Paige about the good news?

MAX

Soon.

DAVE

You should call her and ask her to join us. It's been a while since I've seen her.

MAX

She's working tonight. Getting a lot of overtime that won't need soon. Aw, shit.

DAVE

What?

MAX

I forgot that Alexis is sick at home. I'll be right back.

He gets off the stool and goes outside.

EXT. BROADWAY JOE'S - CONTINUOUS

The outside of the building looks less impressive than the inside. Max takes out his phone.

MAX

Hey, sweetie.

INT. ALEXIS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alexis is right where Max left her. The scene cuts between them.

ALEXIS

Hey Dad. How's your business meeting?

MAX

It's good. Almost done. How are you feeling?

ALEXIS

Better.

MAX

Is your brother home yet?

ALEXIS

Yeah, he got back from practice
half an hour ago.

MAX

Good. I'm almost done here. I'll
pick up pizza on the way home.

ALEXIS

Okay.

MAX

I love you both.

He hangs up and goes back inside.

INT. BROADWAY JOE'S - CONTINUOUS

Dave is talking to a TIA (30s, fit and practical).

Max eases back onto his stool.

DAVE

Max, meet Tia. My girlfriend.

MAX

So you are real.

He shakes hands with Tia.

MAX (CONT'D)

I've heard a lot of great things
about you.

TIA

Nice to meet you. Congratulations
on selling your old family
heirlooms.

MAX

Can I buy you a drink?

TIA

Dave already ordered for me.

Max nods. He takes a sip of his whiskey.

DAVE

Everything okay with Alexis?

MAX

She's fine. I need to get going though. With Paige at work I'm on dinner duty for the kids.

DAVE

Soon they'll be able to eat take out from your restaurant again.

He toasts Dave again, finishes his whiskey, and gets up.

DAVE (CONT'D)

I'll talk to you later.

MAX

Nice meeting you.

Max is out the door.

TIA

Is he okay? He seemed nervous.

DAVE

I think he's having family problems. He's the guy I was telling you about with the tax issues.

TIA

The one with the manager that stole money and disappeared?

DAVE

Yup. Robert Falzone. A real scumbag with a gambling problem that's probably dead.

Dave finishes his drink and motions to the bartender.

Crowley enters the bar. He notices Dave but Dave doesn't see him. He walks to the back where he meets up with THREE MEN.

INT. MAX'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Max, Alexis, and PETER (16, athletic) are watching a cooking competition on TV while eating pizza. Alexis and Peter drink cokes from the can while Max is drinking craft beer from the glass bottle.

MAX

Oh no!

PETER
What did he do wrong?

MAX
You can't add the sour cream
directly into the pan or it will
curdle.

ALEXIS
(sarcastic)
God Peter. Don't you know anything?

PETER
Shut up. You don't know how to cook
either.

ALEXIS
Dad said I can work in the
restaurant as soon as it reopens.

PETER
Can I get a waitering job?

MAX
Sure.

ALEXIS
When are you reopening?

Max pretends he didn't hear her.

Paige enters through the front door.

PETER
Hey Mom.

Max gets up to intercept her. She immediately registers the
situation.

PAIGE
Craft beer and pizza?

Max pulls her to into the kitchen, away from the kids.

INT. MAX'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

MAX
I got good news.

Paige isn't impressed. Max reaches into this pocket. He pulls
out a wrapped rubber band of hundred dollar bills. It's huge.

Paige looks at it puzzled.

MAX (CONT'D)

Ten grand.

PAIGE

For what?

MAX

An old customer that owed us money. One of Falzone's accounts that he never collected before he disappeared.

PAIGE

You know that the state-

MAX

They don't need to know about it, Paige.

PAIGE

I'm just saying that we don't need anymore trouble.

MAX

You're right. We don't. But I got a good feeling about this investor. We'll pay off the taxes and then we can open for business again.

PAIGE

You should report this income. We're being watched.

MAX

We got until April 15 of next year. In the meantime, this is a life line.

She sits down on a stool.

PAIGE

Get me a beer.

Max goes to the fridge, takes a beer, and opens it.

He passes it to his wife.

MAX

Things might not be great soon but they'll be better. I promise.

PAIGE

How's your book coming along?

MAX

You're interested?

PAIGE

I know you spent the past few months working on it while you were waiting for the Tax Division's verdict. Maybe I should have asked before.

Max takes a sip of his beer.

MAX

It's going great. The research phase is almost complete and next step is to start an outline. But I did find some interesting things at the historic society.

PAIGE

Like what?

MAX

Very old documents. Captain Kidd had a second treasure horde that he most likely buried on Plum island.

PAIGE

(not really meaning it)
Interesting.

Paige starts to take off her coat. Max helps her.

MAX

I thought you were closing tonight.

PAIGE

They cut my hours. I'm off for the next couple days because they want to restrict everyone's overtime.

MAX

Again?

She looks at the stack of cash.

PAIGE

Even if the restaurant opens back up. There's so much to think about. College for the kids, retirement for us.

MAX

We're still have time.

PAIGE

We're forty-five years old and everything we saved was spent on lawyers and government fines.

MAX

We're going to work it out babe, one step at a time.

She drifts into deep thought.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'm going to tell the kids they need to get ready for bed.

He walks out of the kitchen.

Paige picks up the cash. She knows it should make her feel better but for some reason, she doesn't like it.

INT. DAVE'S GARAGE - DAY

Dave carefully packs a briefcase with his share of the treasure.

His PHONE RINGS.

DAVE

Where are you?

EXT. BANK - CONTINUOUS

Max is standing outside of a bank on a busy Manhattan street. He has a folder in his hand. The conversation is intercut between them.

MAX

Listen, I'm caught up with something right now and I lost track of the time. Is the box you rented big enough to include mine with yours?

Dave checks out the loot.

DAVE

I'll pack in what I can, but anything that doesn't fit is coming back here and it's up to you to collect it. I won't be liable.

MAX

I appreciate that.

DAVE

What are you doing right now that's so important for you to forget about this?

MAX

Well this might be hard to believe, but I got a feeling that Falzone is going to be mailing me cashier checks that are all going to add up to the money I owe.

DAVE

We shouldn't be discussing this on the phone.

MAX

Yeah, well, it's just a feeling I have. I'll call you when I'm back in town.

He hangs up.

Max walks up to a mailbox. He pulls ten envelopes out of his folder and drops them into a mail box.

INT. SAFE DEPOSIT - DAY

Dave carries his briefcase and stands with a BANK CLERK. They turn their safe deposit keys and open a larger size box.

INT. BANK PRIVATE AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Dave looks over his shoulder to make sure no one is watching.

Satisfied that he is in the clear, packs the treasure into the box. It looks like everything is going to fit.

INT. LONG ISLAND RAILROAD CAR - DAY

Max sits by himself. He discreetly goes through his folder. There are multiple cashier and bank checks made out to him, each one for \$6000.

Max reaches into his inner coat pocket and pulls out a bundle of hundred dollar bills, wrapped in rubber bands.

He smiles to himself and puts it back.

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE - DAY

Max is painting his fence. It really needed a new coat.

Paige pulls into the driveway and gets out of her car.

PAIGE
Home repairs?

MAX
I've been neglecting them for a while.

PAIGE
How did your meeting go?

MAX
Really well. He's going to invest the money.

Paige smiles and hugs him.

PAIGE
That's great.

MAX
As soon as everything is finalized I'm going to pay off the tax bill and we'll be good to go.

PAIGE
We should celebrate.

MAX
We will. When the check clears.

PAIGE
So who is he exactly?

MAX
An angel investor for the restaurant industry. He's a partial owner at about a dozen places in the city.

PAIGE
And you met him through Dave?

MAX
Yeah. Dave did the accounting for one of the restaurants he partnered with.

PAIGE
What's his name?

MAX
Mario Cippoletti.

PAIGE
I never heard of him.

MAX
Well he's not a celebrity with a reality show. The guy is a professional and keeps a low profile.

PAIGE
And you're sure about him?

MAX
Everything he said has checked out and if Dave vouches for him then the guy is legit.

PAIGE
Okay. I'm going to go see what I can make for dinner.

MAX
Don't worry about dinner. I'm cooking tonight. Max is back, babe.

She kisses him and goes inside.

Max smiles to himself. Things are finally getting better. He gets back to work on the fence.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

A COUPLE HOUSES DOWN, a Ford Taurus is parked on the street. A MAN'S hand hangs out the window, smoking a cigarette.

We can't make out this man's face because of the reflection on the wind shield but it looks like he is watching Max.

INT. DAVE'S CAR - DAY

Dave turns onto a side street from the main road.

He glances in his mirror and sees that a Black BMW has also turned and is behind him.

Dave turns left down another street. He checks the mirror. The BMW is still behind him.

Dave turns right. The BMW is riding up his ass.

Dave hits the gas. In the mirror it looks like the BMW is also picking up speed. Shit.

Dave's fucking speeding. Hard right. Hard left.

He checks the mirror and the BMW isn't there, but it could be in a few seconds when it catches up. Fuck.

He turns left again and ends up in a cul-de-sac.

Dave spins his car around and parks behind another car on the street so its view is blocked from anyone driving down the street he just turned from.

He holds his breath for a few seconds. No BMW drives by.

He lets out a sigh of relief.

The Black BMW speeds down the road and doesn't see him.

Dave tenses up. He slams the gas and drives in the opposite direction of where the BMW was going.

INT. MAX'S KITCHEN - DAY

Max is sautéing shrimp in a pan while water is boiling.

Paige is sitting on a stool at the counter watching him. She googles 'Mario Cippoletti' but there aren't any results. It's like he doesn't exist.

She looks up at Max. He's in his zone. She's about to say something but stops herself.

She gets up and opens the door to the basement.

INT. MAX'S BASEMENT OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Paige enters. Like before, papers and books are everywhere and to her it appears slopping.

Paige opens the drawers on the desk. She finds a crisp new envelope.

She opens it and discovers the bank and cashier checks that Max took from Manhattan. There's also the large wad of cash.

What is this? She puts everything back and walks up the stairs.

INT. MAX AND PAIGE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Paige opens the drawer to her night stand. The original cash that Max gave her is in there.

Where did he really get all this money?

EXT. LAKE HOUSE RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Dave and Tia walk out of a fancy five-star restaurant. A VALET drives Dave's car to the entrance.

Dave tips him and they get in.

INT. DAVE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Dave drives away.

TIA

Thank you for the dinner.

DAVE

My pleasure. It's nice that I can take you out to eat every once and a while.

TIA

I appreciate it too. But you don't need to take me to places like this. I know money is tight.

Dave smiles.

TIA (CONT'D)

Sorry. I know it's a sensitive subject.

Dave merges onto the main road. He checks the rearview mirror.

DAVE

It's okay. At least I know that you're with me because of me.

TIA

I didn't mean anything bad by it.

DAVE
It's all right. I get it.

Dave checks the mirror again. Tia looks back. There's only darkness behind them.

TIA
Are you looking for something?

DAVE
No. Well, kind of. I could swear
that someone was following me
earlier today.

TIA
Really?

DAVE
I was driving fast and turning all
over the place and he stayed right
on my ass until I lost him.

TIA
What kind of car?

DAVE
A BMW.

TIA
It could be a coincidence. The
people with those cars are and tend
to drive like assholes.

Dave doesn't think that's the case. He checks the mirror again. There still isn't anyone there.

INT. DAVE'S GARAGE - NIGHT

The garage door automatically opens and Dave's car drives in.
Everything inside is trashed.

Dave turns off the car and steps out. He looks at his stuff in shock.

Tia walks in behind him.

TIA
I'll call the police.

DAVE
Not yet.

He goes to his gun safe. It's been pried open. He checks inside.

DAVE (CONT'D)

They didn't take my guns or the bullets.

TIA

You should close the garage.

He takes out the remote and pushes the button. It closes.

DAVE

I need to look around and see if there's anything they took.

TIA

I thought you put the alarm on before we left.

DAVE

I did.

TIA

How did they turn it off?

DAVE

I don't know.

He takes a pistol from the gun safe and inserts a loaded magazine.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Wait right there and if you hear anything; run and call the cops.

TIA

We should call them now and have them check the house to make sure it's safe.

DAVE

I got this.

He enters the house.

INT. DAVE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dave has his gun out. The living room is a mess.

He moves to a hallway and checks the bedrooms. All clear. Kitchen is also good. Whoever was here has left.

INT. DAVE'S GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Tia is right where Dave left her.

DAVE

They're gone. But before we call the cops I want to go through my stuff and figure out what was stolen.

INT. MAX'S BASEMENT OFFICE - NIGHT

Max is at his computer. He's on a college savings website looking at the FAQs to see if he can deposit cash directly into an account.

His phone RINGS. He picks up.

INT. DAVE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tia is sweeping while Dave sits on the couch.

DAVE

Someone broke into my house.

The scene cuts between them. Max is about to say something.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Don't worry. Your stuff wasn't here.

MAX

Are you okay?

DAVE

Yeah, we weren't home when it happened. My cash is gone but it doesn't look like they took anything else.

MAX

Holy shit.

DAVE

I think this is connected to the coins we sold.

MAX

Those guys only knew me. How would they even find you?

DAVE
Your guess is as good as mine.

Dave's DOOR BELL RINGS

DAVE (CONT'D)
I need to go. The police are here.

MAX
Stay safe.

DAVE
You too.

He hangs up and opens to the door. DETECTIVE JOHNSON (tall, shaved head, white, could be a neo-nazi without tattoos) stands there. He's plain clothed and holds a police badge.

JOHNSON
Detective Johnson. We got a call that there was a break in.

Dave examines the badge. Looks legit.

DAVE
Come in, please.

Dave steps out of the way.

Johnson enters the house. Dave goes to close the door but stops for a second.

There's SOMEONE ELSE waiting in the police Ford Taurus. Something about him looks vaguely familiar to Dave.

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE - DAY

The MAIL MAN puts today's mail in Max's mailbox. Max looks out the window and watches him walk away.

Max runs out of the house and grabs the mail.

INT. MAX'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Max goes through the mail. The envelopes he mailed to himself are there. He opens them. They're empty.

INT. MAX'S BASEMENT OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Max runs to his desk. He takes out the cashier and bank checks. He places one in each empty envelope.

INT. MAX'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Max runs through the house.

MAX
Paige! Paige!

Paige walks down the stairs.

PAIGE
What's wrong?

MAX
Look!

He hands her the envelopes. She looks through them and sees the checks she knows Max already had.

PAIGE
Where did you get these?

MAX
They came in the mail.

Paige doesn't smile. She gulps. What is Max into?

PAIGE
Are you sure?

He hugs her.

MAX
We don't need Dave's contact to be our partner. This will solve everything.

PAIGE
But where did this specific money come from?

MAX
It's says R.F. In the memo. It must be from Falzone. Like he's trying to make up for what he did.

PAIGE
Maybe we should call the police.

MAX
We can but first I need to speak with Richard and see what he thinks.

PAIGE

Talking to your lawyer is money we don't have.

Max takes the checks back.

MAX

Yes we do. The sooner we get back on our feet, the better off we'll be.

Max grabs his coat.

MAX (CONT'D)

I'll let you know how it all goes.

He's out the door. Paige looks on, worried.

INT. DAVE'S CAR - DAY

Max and Dave sit in a parking lot.

MAX

You think we're going to be good here?

DAVE

You photocopied all the checks before depositing them?

MAX

I made two copies.

DAVE

You'll be fine. The post marked envelopes back up your story.

MAX

Let's do this.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

They get out of the car and walks towards a New York State government building.

The parking lot is full of cars. Paige is about twenty feet away sitting in her car, watching them.

EXT. MAX'S RESTAURANT - DAY

A STATE TROOPER unlocks a padlock and chain while Max stands behind him.

The state trooper leaves. Max takes out his keys and unlocks the door.

He pauses and looks at a notice for the tax lien. He rips it off and throws it on the ground.

Max opens the door and steps inside.

INT. MAX'S RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Max heads to a light switch and tries to turn it on but the electricity is disconnected.

He takes out his phone and turns on the flashlight. His face drops.

There's water dripping from the ceiling and half the dining room is damaged.

Max enters. Paige is watching TV.

PAIGE

How did everything go?

Max sits down on the couch next to her. Defeated.

MAX

The good news is that the lien has been lifted. The bad news is that there was a leak in the ceiling so now there's damage and mold.

PAIGE

Oh my God.

She turns off the TV.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

So what do we do now?

MAX

I got a quote and I'm going to the bank tomorrow with Dave to ask for a loan.

PAIGE

Why does Dave need to come with you?

MAX

He's an accountant that knows his shit.

Paige puts her hand on Max's leg.

PAIGE

I'm sorry, hon.

MAX

It's one thing after another, but we'll get through it.

He pulls out the quotation and hands it to her.

PAIGE

Holy shit.

MAX

Yeah.

PAIGE

I guess you'll have to partner up with Mario Cippoletti after all.

MAX

Maybe.

PAIGE

Or maybe you can pay this in installments. You can use the money in the basement for a down payment.

MAX

The money in the basement?

PAIGE

That was in the drawer with the checks that didn't come in the mail. The ones you gave to the state when you went with Dave instead of your lawyer, Richard, like you said you would.

Max is dumbfounded.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

Can you explain all this to me?

MAX

Surprise! I was going to tell you after everything was settled.

He smiles. Paige is not amused.

PAIGE

Where did you get that money from?

MAX

I sold something for it.

PAIGE

What did you sell?

Max gulps. He was fearing this moment for days. Can't turn away now.

MAX

We found it, Paige. Captain Kidd's lost treasure. It was on Plum Island.

PAIGE

You found buried pirate treasure?

MAX

When I was at the historic society I found old documents from when this was still a British colony.

INT. HISTORIC SOCIETY LIBRARY - DAY (FLASH BACK)

Max sits at a table in an empty library. He is going through a binder full of old documents in plastic protective sleeves.

MAX (V.O.)

And I found a paper that was blank except something about it just felt kind of strange and random. Like how it was ripped just stuck out to me.

Max looks at the yellowed blank page with the ripped edge..

He looks over his shoulder to make sure no one is watching him. He opens the binder and takes out the paper.

INT. MAX'S BASEMENT - NIGHT (FLASH BACK)

Max sits at his desk with a cut up lemon. He squeezes the juice into a cup. He takes a paint brush and gently rubs the juice on the paper.

MAX (V.O.)

I remembered an old story so I brought it home on the chance that maybe there was a hidden message.

Hidden words appear.

MAX (V.O.)
And I was right. There was
something written in invisible ink.

He grabs his phone and takes a photo.

INT. MAX'S BASEMENT - LATER (FLASH BACK)

The paper is blank again. Max studies the photo he just took.

MAX (V.O.)
But it made no sense. It was
written in a secret code that I
couldn't crack.

He grabs his cell phone.

MAX (V.O.)
So I called Dave since he loves
doing logic puzzles for fun.

INT. MAX'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Max and Paige are right where we left them.

MAX
Dave and I used to fantasize about
finding this treasure since we were
kids so it was only right that I
brought him in. It took him a week
but he was able to crack the code
and he was right.

PAIGE
But how?

MAX
How much?

PAIGE
How did you sneak onto a military
base to do this?

MAX
With a boat. Plus only half the
island is a fenced off base and it
wasn't that hard really.
(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

The key thing was not to bring cell phones because they have alarm systems that can pick up the radio signals they emit.

PAIGE

So you broke the law to get this?

MAX

It was a victimless crime. We didn't hurt anyone. And if we didn't find it, no one ever would.

PAIGE

You could have been arrested.

MAX

But I wasn't. Was there a risk? Sure, but the reward was well worth it.

PAIGE

And what was the reward?

MAX

Gold, rubies, and jewelry. We never have to worry about money again.

PAIGE

Where is it? I want to see.

MAX

It's not with me. Dave has it in a safe deposit box.

PAIGE

You left your entire future financial security with Dave?

MAX

I trust him. Tomorrow I'm meeting with him to get my half.

Max moves closer to her.

PAIGE

So you were lying to me about the investor and what you guys were doing?

MAX

Yes and I'm sorry. I knew you wouldn't have wanted me to go to Plum Island to look for it and after we found it, it was so much and I was still mentally processing it. But now I'm telling you the complete truth.

Paige isn't so sure about that.

PAIGE

I need to think about this. You were lying and hiding money from me.

MAX

I didn't lie. I was just omitting the truth because I knew you wouldn't have let me go to the island. But I feel so much better now that everything is in the open.

PAIGE

And were you ever going to come clean if I didn't confront you?

MAX

Of course. Look, this past year I saw everything I spent my life working for just slip away. This was an opportunity I needed to take.

He takes her hand.

MAX (CONT'D)

I love you, Paige. I didn't want to hurt you. I did this all for us.

PAIGE

I love you too.

They look into each other's eyes. It's been a while since they were intimate.

MAX

Listen, you can not tell anyone about this.

PAIGE

I barely believe it except I saw the money you had.

MAX

I'm serious. Legally we don't have a claim on it so we need to stay quiet and when we sell pieces we do it slowly so no one suspects anything.

PAIGE

Who does it legally belong to?

MAX

Right now the federal government because it's their land.

PAIGE

So technically, you stole it?

MAX

These are objects that were underground for a few hundred years. If we didn't find them then no one else ever would. And now they're going to send our children to college and cover our retirement. We're set babe.

PAIGE

Not if you can't sell them.

MAX

We're close to the Hamptons. There's a lot of rich ass holes that love this historical shit.

He stands up.

MAX (CONT'D)

I always told you I will take care of my family and I always will. You don't have to worry about that or anything else again, babe.

He walks away from her.

PAIGE

Where are you going?

MAX

I'm opening a bottle of wine so we can celebrate.

INT. DAVE'S CAR - DAY

Dave drives his car through town. He makes a lot of turns and drives through streets he didn't need to drive through. Every time he turns he checks the mirrors to make sure no one is following him.

And no one is. He breathes a sigh of relief and continues on.

EXT. BANK - MOMENTS LATER

Dave parks his car. Max is standing out from with an empty duffle bag. Dave walks up to him.

DAVE

I thought you were going to open a safety deposit box?

MAX

I will. But at my bank.

Dave nods. They walk in.

INT. MAX'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

The door opens and Max enters. He's carrying a now full and heavy duffle bag.

He listens to hear if anyone is home but the house is quiet.

INT. MAX'S BASEMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Max removes a panel from the wall, revealing an empty space. He puts the duffle bag in there.

He opens the bag and looks inside. The gold coins and jewels are practically glowing.

He picks up a coin and looks at it for a moment.

He closes the panel but keeps the coin in his hand.

Max takes out his phone and makes a call.

MAX

Chuck? It's Max, the guy with those gold coins. I got more stuff if your buyer is interested.

Max doesn't realize that someone is watching him through one of the basement windows. It's Paige.

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE NIGHT - NIGHT

Max's car is alone in the driveway. Max steps out of his house and cautiously looks around to make sure that he is alone. Satisfied, he gets into his car.

INT. MAX'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Max reaches into his pocket and pulls out a stack of gold coins. He places them in the cup holder.

He throws the car in reverse and backs out of the drive way.

INT. PAIGE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Paige is parked down the street watching their house. She puts her car in drive and follows Max.

INT. MAX'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Max drives, oblivious that he is being followed.

INT. PAIGE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Paige keeps a large distance between her and her husband. Max turns onto a dark road. She puts on her blinker.

EXT. DARK ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Max's car drives past a gated driveway. A BMW pulls out behind him.

Paige turns onto the road.

INT. MAX'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Max looks up. He sees a flashing police light in his rearview mirror.

He gulps and pulls over. The BMW turns on its high beams and blinds Max's mirrors.

Max calmly takes the gold coins and puts them in the glove box. He pulls out his insurance and registration. He closes the compartment.

INT. PAIGE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Paige sees the police stop in progress. She pulls over and cuts her lights.

INT. MAX'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Max sits and waits. He can't see what is happening behind him because of the light.

EXT. DARK ROAD - CONTINUOUS

A dark figure exits the BMW and walks to Max's car.

INT. MAX'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Max sees the approaching figure and rolls down his window.

MAX

Good evening, officer. Was I speeding? Because I'm not really sure about what I did.

Max looks up and sees that the dark figure is Crowley.

MAX (CONT'D)

Have we met before?

CROWLEY

Step out of the vehicle, sir.

EXT. DARK ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Max opens the door and steps out. Crowley frisks him.

CROWLEY

Where's the coins?

MAX

Oh. You were with Chuck the other night. We are supposed to meet in the beach parking lot.

CROWLEY

Change of plans, Max.

Max is a little thrown off.

MAX

Okay. Sure. We can do it now.

INT. PAIGE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Paige watches them from the distance with confusion.

EXT. DARK ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Max goes to the passenger side and opens it. He reaches into the glove box and takes the coins.

He hands them to Crowley. Crowley drops them.

MAX

Shit.

Max bends down to pick them up.

A rope wraps around this neck. Crowley strangles him.

INT. PAIGE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Paige panics. She hits the horn. BEEP BEEP.

EXT. DARK ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Crowley keeps his grip on Max as Max struggles futilely. But Crowley is distracted. Where the fuck is that horn coming from?

Paige's car lights turn on. Crowley realizes he's not alone.

He slams Max head first into the hood of Max's car.

Paige's car speeds toward them.

Crowley grabs a few coins from the ground. He jumps back into his car and hits the gas.

INT. PAIGE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Paige glances at Max and sees that he's moving and still alive. She watches Crowley's car pick up speed.

Fuck it. She's not going to let him get away. She floors it.

EXT. DARK ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Max stumbles back up to his feet. He's confused about what just happened but he knows he is lucky to not be dead.

He rubs his neck in disbelief.

He grabs the remaining coins that he can see from the ground and gets back into his car.

His cell phone and a couple of coins are left behind.

INT. PAIGE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Paige drives with rage and determination. The road is dark and all she can make out are the yellow lines on the road and the tail lights of Crowley's car.

Crowley's tail lights suddenly shut off.

Paige picks up speed. She's not going to let this bastard go.

SOMETHING SUDDENLY APPEARS IN THE ROAD.

Paige SLAMS her breaks and comes to a screeching halt. She struggles to keep control of the car as it stops.

A LARGE DEER is standing in front of her. They stare at each other in disbelief.

Paige catches her breath.

EXT. DARK ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Paige's car drives back to the place where she pulled over happened. Max's car is gone.

She gets out of the car and calls Max.

RING. RING.

She sees his cellphone and coins on the ground.

EXT. DAVE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Max knocks on the door. Tia opens it. She can see that Max is hurt.

TIA
Oh my God.

INT. DAVE'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Max stumbles in. Dave runs over to him.

MAX

We need to get my car in your garage now.

Dave looks at Tia. She's on it. She grabs Max's keys and runs out the door.

MAX (CONT'D)

I was set up.

Dave notices that Max is holding golden coins in his hands.

DAVE

(disappointed)

Max.

MAX

I know. But I was desperate.

Dave shakes his head. But what's done is done.

TIA (O.C.)

Dave.

Dave looks up. Crowley is holding a gun to Tia's head.

CROWLEY

Now that I have you all together we can get down to business.

Crowley pushes Tia to Dave while keeping the gun at them. He takes out a coin.

CROWLEY (CONT'D)

Moorish gold from the 17th century. The pawn broker explained to me that these are pretty rare. And it's pretty incredible that two local guys would have such a stash from a family collection.

Crowley tosses the coin. Dave catches it.

CROWLEY (CONT'D)

But then again. If you knew the legend about Captain Kidd and his hidden treasure, you might come to the idea that maybe it's been recently found.

TIA
What the hell is he talking about,
Dave?

DAVE
I have no idea.

CROWLEY
Keep bullshitting me and I'll shoot
your girl.

MAX
Okay. We have it but it's not here.

DAVE
It's in multiple safe deposit boxes
all across Long Island.

CROWLEY
How many?

DAVE
I can give you the keys. They're in
the bedroom.

INT. DAVE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Crowley marches the group in. Dave and Tia share a look.

CROWLEY
Take them out.

Dave walks to the dresser and opens the drawer.

TIA
I need to pee.

Crowley keeps his eyes locked on Dave.

CROWLEY
It can wait.

TIA
It's an emergency.

Crowley glances at her.

BANG. Crowley crumbles to the ground.

Dave holds a smoking gun.

MAX
Holy shit.

DAVE
He was going to kill us.

MAX
I'm not complaining!

Tia searches Crowley's corpse. Crowley has a police badge attached to his belt.

DAVE
I guess we can't call them.

MAX
I think I'm going to be sick.

DAVE
If you're going to throw up, do it in the toilet. There's too much to clean up in here already.

Max runs out of the room.

Blood pools out from under Crowley's corpse.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Shit.

Tia's on it. She runs to the closet and grabs a towel. She tosses it to Dave and runs off to find more.

Dave soaks up the blood. Tia comes back with two more towels.

TIA
What are we going to do?

DAVE
I'm thinking.

An idea comes.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Did he have a phone?

TIA
Left pocket.

Dave reaches in and finds a wallet.

TIA (CONT'D)
The other left.

Dave finds it. He grabs Crowley's hand and uses his thumb scan to unlock the phone. Dave looks through it.

DAVE

His location services were disabled.

TIA

He probably didn't want anyone to know he was going to be at the scene of a triple murder.

DAVE

That's better for us that.

Dave continues looking through the phone. He takes out his own phone and takes photos of the screen.

DAVE (CONT'D)

We need to find out all we can about this guy quickly and then get him out of here.

Off screen we hear Max THROW UP.

DAVE (CONT'D)

I need a lot of garbage bags.

Tia runs out of the room as Dave combs through the phone.

EXT. SECLUDED ROAD BRIDGE - NIGHT

Crowley's car pulls over into the shoulder next to the bridge. Max gets out of the car.

Dave's car pulls up behind him. Dave and Tia get out.

MAX

I'm shitting a fucking brick.

DAVE

It's going to be all right.

MAX

I think I left my phone back at your house in my car. I'm worried that they might be in my home doing something to my kids.

DAVE

We'll check on them, but first we need to do this. Okay?

Max nods.

Tia gives them both 'garbage bag ponchos'. They put them on.

Dave opens the trunk to Crowley's car. Crowley's corpse is there, wrapped with garbage bags taped together to contain any blood.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Get him in the driver's seat.

Dave and Max lift Crowley's body out of the trunk and carry him to the driver's seat. They place him in it.

DAVE (CONT'D)
I got this from here.

Max steps back. Dave takes out a pocket knife and cuts the plastic bags off Crowley.

Tia arrives with another garbage bag. Dave stuffs the blood stained bags in there.

DAVE (CONT'D)
We'll burn these later.

Tia nods.

Dave leans in the car and puts his hand on the brake pedal. He shifts the car into drive.

The car starts rolling. Dave guides the steering wheel and slams the door shut.

The car rolls off the road and drives off a small cliff.

It falls into the water.

Dave, Tia, and Max watch as the glow of the tail lights disappears.

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dave's car pulls up. The lights inside Max's house are off but Paige's car is in the driveway.

Max, Dave, and Tia get out of the car. Dave has his handgun.

DAVE
The street looks empty.

Max runs to his house. Dave and Tia sprint to catch up.

They get to the front door. Max peeks through the window. Paige is on the couch watching the news on TV.

Max opens the door and steps into his house. Paige runs to him.

PAIGE

Max!

She hugs him hard. He hugs her back.

MAX

I missed you.

PAIGE

I was so worried.

Dave and Tia enter.

DAVE

Why were you worried?

PAIGE

I saw it happen. On Tuckahoe Road.

She breaks away from Max and gives him back his phone.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

That guy would have killed you if I didn't scare him off.

MAX

That was you?

PAIGE

How do you not recognize your own wife's car?

MAX

Everything happened so fast.

DAVE

You followed him there?

PAIGE

I did. And if you guys are going to try to sell this stuff you might try to do it in a more legitimate way.

Paige notices Tia for the first time.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

Who's she?

TIA

Tia.

She extends her hand. Paige shakes it.

PAIGE

Paige.

MAX

She's his girlfriend.

PAIGE

I put that together. Who the fuck was that guy that tried to kill you?

MAX

The buyers security guy I guess. Except he was double crossing everyone.

PAIGE

Should we call the police?

EVERYONE BUT PAIGE

No!

She steps back.

PAIGE

But what if this guy tries to come here?

MAX

He won't.

PAIGE

How do you know?

MAX

Don't ask questions you don't want the answer to.

PAIGE

What the fuck does that mean?

DAVE

If you guys don't mind, we're going to get going.

He waves to Paige.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Good seeing you again, Paige. I'll call you soon, Max. Once I know the next move.

MAX
Are you going home?

DAVE
Red Apple Rest. They accept cash
there.

Dave and Tia leave.

PAIGE
Who was that guy and how do you
know he won't come here?

MAX
He was a cop and now he's dead.

Paige takes this in.

MAX (CONT'D)
Dave shot him. We put him in his
car and pushed it into the bay, but
someone will find it soon. And when
they see his holes they'll know he
didn't drown.

PAIGE
Oh my God.

MAX
Where are the kids?

PAIGE
Pete has a game tonight and Alexis
went out with some friends to
watch.

MAX
We need to find them and leave the
state right away. Just until we can
figure out the next move.

Max grabs his phone.

MAX (CONT'D)
Go pack a bag. I'll take your car
and will pick them up.

Paige nods and runs up stairs. Max goes out the front door.

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Max runs to Paige's car. A car SCREECHES up to his curb.

Detective Johnson (the detective that responded to Dave's break in), DETECTIVE ROZANSKY (30s, strung out, scrawny), and DETECTIVE BALDUCCI (30s, porn star mustache, jacked) rush out with guns drawn.

BALDUCCI
Don't you fucking move!

Max raises his hands. Johnson runs to him and cuffs him.

JOHNSON
Anyone else here, scumbag?

Max shakes his head.

MAX
Just me.

JOHNSON
(to Rozansky)
Check and grab anyone you find.

Rozansky runs in.

MAX
What is this all about?

JOHNSON
You tell me, you fucking criminal
shit stain.

MAX
I don't know.

Johnson SLAMS him into Paige's car.

INT. MAX AND PAIGE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Paige watches the scene from the window. She hears a CREAK.

She runs and hides under the bed.

Rozansky's enters the room. She holds her breath.

Rozansky looks around. He walks out.

EXT. MAX'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Max is on the ground. Balducci has his gun pointed at him.

Rozansky exits the house.

ROZANSKY

House is clear. Looks like he was packing a bag to skip town.

JOHNSON

Where's your wife?

MAX

Out with friends. Am I under arrest?

JOHNSON

Something like that.

Rozansky and Balducci lift Max and drag him to the car.

INT. MAX AND PAIGE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Paige crawls out from under the bed and goes to the window.

She watches Max get loaded into the car. They drive away.

INT. RED APPLE REST MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Dave paces around the room while Tia listens to the police scanner via an app on her phone. Everything sounds normal.

TIA

It's weird that they haven't found the car yet. The bay water isn't that deep.

DAVE

I'm sure a jogger or dog walker will see it in the morning once the sun comes out.

DISPATCHER (O.S.)

(via scanner)

Does anyone have a twenty on Detective Crowley?

Dave ears perk up.

JOHNSON (O.S.)
(via scanner)
He is working on a stake out for
me. We had a tip about a heroin
stash house near the Indian
reservation.

PAIGE (O.C.)
(outside)
Dave?

DAVE
Shit. Open the door.

Tia runs to the door and lets Paige in.

PAIGE
Max has been arrested.

Dave holds up his hand for them to be quiet.

TIA
We're listening to the police
scanner but haven't heard anything
about Max.

CAPTAIN HIGGINS (O.S.)
(via scanner)
That you, Johnson?

JOHNSON (O.S.)
(via scanner)
Yes, sir.

Paige thinks she recognizes the voice.

CAPTAIN HIGGINS (O.S.)
(via scanner)
The Indian reservation is off
limits. You know better.

JOHNSON (O.S.)
(via scanner)
I said near the Indian reservation.

PAIGE
That's the cop that took Max.

CAPTAIN HIGGINS (O.S.)
(via scanner)
I think it might be best that you
come here to explain to me what you
got. I don't want any repeats like
last year.

JOHNSON (O.S.)
(via scanner)
We're already on our way.

CAPTAIN HIGGINS (O.S.)
And tell him to call his wife.
She's worried.

The radio chatter returns to normal.

PAIGE
He would bring Max to the police
station. Wouldn't he?

DAVE
Not if he was working with the dead
cop he is covering for.

Dave grabs his jacket and holsters his gun.

DAVE (CONT'D)
You two should go to the police
station and stay in your car. Look
out for this Detective Johnson, see
if he has Max, and if he doesn't
then follow him.

TIA
What about you?

DAVE
I'm going to follow up another
lead. The person Max was selling
these to betrayed him and I know
where to find that guy.

He walks over to Tia.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Keep your distance from that cop.
For all we know he could be more
dangerous than his friend.

TIA
You be careful too.

They kiss and Dave walks out.

EXT. PAWN KING - NIGHT

Chuck walks out of the shop unlocks his car, a Mercedes.

INT. CHUCK'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Chuck gets in. He all of a sudden tenses up.

There's a gun digging into the back of his neck. The person on the other end of that weapon is Dave.

DAVE

You set my friend up.

CHUCK

I thought he was your cousin.

DAVE

This is how you do business, Chuck? Because you better hope that he is still alive.

CHUCK

The fuck are you talking about? Your buddy was a no show. I spent half an hour waiting for him at the beach.

DAVE

While your cop friend went out of his way to rob him?

CHUCK

What? No. He said he couldn't be there because of a case. I swear.

DAVE

Uh huh.

CHUCK

I swear I don't know anything about ripping off your friend but no one knows where the guy is. One of his friends came by an hour ago looking for him.

DAVE

And you gave them Max's name?

Chuck meekly shrugs.

DAVE (CONT'D)

I want to meet your buyer.

CHUCK

I'm afraid I can't do that as I'm supposed to keep with discretion.

DAVE

I'm sure you can search your soul to find a moral loophole. Like you did an hour ago.

INT. PAIGE'S CAR - NIGHT

Paige and Tia sit in the car, watching the entrance to the station.

Johnson steps out.

PAIGE

That's him.

She starts her car. Tia types a text message to Dave: Eyes on subject. Following now.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Max is tied to a chair. Rozansky punches him.

ROZANSKY

What the fuck did you do to Crowley?

Max moans in pain. Balducci blocks Rozansky from hitting Max again.

BALDUCCI

Right now our friend is missing and we're worried about him. If he's hurt somewhere then time is of the essence. You can still get out of this.

Balducci gets real close to Max.

BALDUCCI (CONT'D)

But if he dies and you didn't say anything, then you're a cop killer and I will make sure you pay.

Max struggles to speak.

BALDUCCI (CONT'D)

Speak up.

MAX

You got the wrong guy.

Rozansky laughs. Balducci is not amused.

BALDUCCI

I offered you a chance to get out,
pal. And you blew it.

Rozansky steps in and punches Max in the face.

INT. PAIGE'S CAR - NIGHT

Paige and Tia follow Johnson's car from a distance.

PAIGE

So how long have you've known Dave?

TIA

A couple of months. He did my
taxes.

PAIGE

You started dating your accountant?

TIA

Yeah but he didn't come off as
boring. He was funny and I liked
that. What about you and Max?

PAIGE

College sweet hearts. Been together
for twenty five years and married
for twenty.

Johnson's car turns into a business park.

TIA

Pull over or else he'll see us.

PAIGE

What is he doing?

TIA

The police scanner is silent.

She opens her car door.

TIA (CONT'D)

Let's go take a look.

She gets out of the car. Paige follows her.

EXT. LARGE MANSION GATE - NIGHT

Chuck's car pulls up to a huge modern mansion.

INT. CHUCK'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

CHUCK
Well here we are.

Dave takes in the place. A large gate with large walls and behind that a large house most likely on the ocean.

DAVE
I told you I wanted to meet them.

Chuck rolls down his window. He reaches out the door and presses the button for an intercom.

It RINGS.

Dave and Chuck wait in silence for a response.

VOICE (O.S.)
(via intercom)
Yes?

CHUCK
It's Chuck Grison. I need to see Evelyn right away.

VOICE (O.S.)
(via intercom)
Miss Evelyn is busy at the moment, sir.

CHUCK
There was a major problem with a purchase we were supposed to make tonight that she needs to be immediately made aware of. And I'm afraid it's best that this information is said only in person.

The intercom clicks off.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
Well, I did my best.

The gate opens.

INT. WARE HOUSE - NIGHT

Rozansky is icing his fist. Max's face is bloodied.

BALDUCCI

With the way you're crying, you would think this prick has a metal plate in his skull.

ROZANSKY

Why don't you try putting in some work for a change?

Balducci grins.

BALDUCCI

I can't. I'm "good cop".

Johnson walks in.

JOHNSON

What the fuck are you guys doing taking a break? This is time sensitive.

ROZANSKY

Guy's not talking. Maybe we're wrong.

JOHNSON

We're not wrong. He's just not properly motivated. That's all.

Johnson inspects Max up close. Max stares at him.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

His son is on the varsity baseball team and they are currently playing a game at the high school.

Johnson turns to Balducci.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Go keep an eye on him and make sure he stays safe.

Johnson pats Max on the shoulder.

MAX

No, wait.

Balducci doesn't wait. He's out the door.

JOHNSON
Where the fuck is my friend?

Johnson cracks Max across the face.

EXT. WARE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

From a distance, Paige and Tia watch Balducci get into his car.

PAIGE
He was also at my house.

TIA
I think we found your husband.

She types a message to Dave.

INT. STUDY - NIGHT

Chuck and Dave sit on an expensive leather sofa. The room is huge with floor to ceiling windows that look out on the ocean. The walls look like an art gallery and the paintings are broken up with shelves that hold rare historic items.

Manny stands in the corner of the room watching Chuck and Dave. Off screen we hear the SOUNDS OF A PARTY.

BEEP. Dave receives a text message. He looks at it and puts his phone in his pocket.

The main door bursts open. Evelyn Dallis enters.

EVELYN
What was so important that you
needed to come to my house?

She notices Dave.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
And who the fuck is he?

CHUCK
One of the sellers.

Evelyn sits at her desk. She lights a cigarette.

CHUCK (CONT'D)
Your security man decided to go
rogue.

EVELYN
I'll have a talk to his supervisor.

DAVE
That's not good enough I'm afraid.

EVELYN
Excuse me?

DAVE
(speaking louder)
I said that's not good enough.
Things have escalated and we're
past the point where a talk with
someone's boss can patch everything
up.

EVELYN
Who are you again?

DAVE
My name is not important. But my
story is. Those gold coins we sold
you have more historical
significance than being Moorish
from the 17th century. You're going
to want to know how they got to
America in the first place.

EVELYN
I'm not interested in stories that
can't be proven.

DAVE
But I can prove mine. They're from
the pirate Captain Kidd's hidden
treasure. The site is about ten
miles from here.

EVELYN
His treasure was on Gardiner's
Island. It was dug up after his
execution.

DAVE
Captain Kidd was a careful man. He
didn't put all his eggs in one
basket as the expression goes. I
can take you to it. But I need you
help with something.

EVELYN
Your problem with the police
officer?

DAVE

It's a little complicated. Long story short, the man decided to kill my friend for the coins he was going to sell. That didn't work out and he had an accident.

Evelyn puts out her cigarette butt.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Now his friends are looking for him and they kidnapped my partner as retaliation.

EVELYN

Or maybe your friend killed a cop?

DAVE

Regardless of what the exact details are, this treasure is more than enough to make you richer and more than enough to make his angry friends spend the rest of their lives living at a level of luxury they never dreamed of.

EVELYN

Then go get it. You already know where it is.

DAVE

Like I said, I already took my piece. But I need my friend back and I want him safe. Me and him found it together before and I won't be able to find it alone. We work as a team.

Evelyn lights up another cigarette.

EVELYN

You might see a nice house but I'm not sure if you know who I am exactly.

DAVE

You're Evelyn Dallis. One of the largest art dealers in the city. You broker business agreements all the time. That's all this really is for you in the end. Just one more deal.

EVELYN

Yeah. That's me and I already have plenty of money so what's in this for me?

DAVE

An exciting adventure with a great story to tell.

Evelyn mulls that over.

INT. WARE HOUSE - NIGHT

Max is slumped in the chair looking more beat up than before. Johnson is keeping his cool but it's starting to fade.

JOHNSON

I ate at your restaurant once, Max. It was good but overpriced.

He leans in close.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

This isn't my first rodeo. Tougher guys than you have sat in your place and the longer they resisted, the more they lost.

Johnson lets that sink in. Max doesn't react.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

(to Rozansky)

Call Balducci and see if he's watching this douchebag's kid.

Rozansky takes out his phone to make a call.

MAX

Don't you hurt him!

JOHNSON

Or you'll do what?

ROZANSKY

He's got eye on him. He tells me your son is one hell of a pitcher.

JOHNSON

Sounds like he could have a promising career if his Dad does the right thing. What do you say?

Johnson's phone rings. He checks the Caller ID. He doesn't want to pick up, but he's conflicted.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Hello?

He steps away from Max. He listens carefully to the voice on the other end of that call.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

I see.

He walks further away from Rozansky and Max. His face gets red like he is about to rage, but he bottles it in.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

No, okay. We'll be there.

Johnson hangs up as he shakes his head. He walks over to Max.

He punches Max as hard as he can in the stomach. He hits him again and again.

ROZANSKY

What the fuck are you doing?

JOHNSON

Hoping I break one of this stupid motherfucker's ribs.

He hits Max again.

ROZANSKY

Who was that on the phone?

Johnson stops his assault and collects himself.

JOHNSON

That was Evelyn. Crowley is dead.

ROZANSKY

The fuck?

Rozansky aims his gun at Max.

JOHNSON

She says we can't kill him now.

ROZANSKY

We don't work for her.

JOHNSON

Apparently this cuck and his friend know where there's a buried treasure and they're going to take us all to it.

Max MOANS.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

Get him some aspirin and clean his ass up. I'm going to call Balducci and tell him to meet us at the marina.

EXT. WARE HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Paige and Tia watch from the distance as a handcuffed Max is placed in the back of Johnson's car. Rozansky and Johnson get in the front and drive away.

They run back to Paige's car.

EXT. MARINA PARKING LOT - NIGHT

The parking lot is mostly empty but there are a FEW PEOPLE here. People that are very serious about fishing.

Johnson's car pulls into a spot and idles.

INT. JOHNSON'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Max is slumped in the back. Johnson and Rozansky sit in the front. Johnson rolls down the window and lights a cigarette.

Rozansky looks back at Max.

ROZANSKY

Looks like today's this bastard's lucky night.

JOHNSON

So far it is.

Paige's car drives into the parking lot.

ROZANSKY

Is that them?

Johnson shakes his head.

JOHNSON
She drives a Mercedes.

INT. PAIGE'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Paige drives while Tia sits shotgun.

TIA
There they are.

Paige parks.

PAIGE
They're taking him to Plum Island
to get the rest of the treasure.

TIA
If they get on that boat then
there's a goof chance we won't see
them again.

PAIGE
We need to call the police.

TIA
It won't do any good. They are the
police.

PAIGE
Plum Island is a military base.
Can't we tip off the army?

TIA
(smiles)
You might be onto something.

INT. JOHNSON'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Another car enters the parking lot. A Land Rover.

Johnson tosses his cigarette out the window.

JOHNSON
She's here.

EXT. MARINA PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Johnson and Rozansky get out of the car. Rozansky opens the
back and drags Max out.

Paige and Tia watch from Paige's car without being noticed.

The Land Rover parks. Evelyn and Dave get out of the back. Dave has his backpack from the night when they found the treasure.

Chuck gets out of the front seat. Manny gets out of the driver's seat.

The two groups meet each other. Everyone is silent.

DAVE
(to Max)
You okay?

Max nods.

EVELYN
We'll take my boat.

Manny opens the Land Rover's trunk and pulls out shovels.

ANOTHER CAR pulls into the lot. The car parks. Balducci gets out and joins the group.

JOHNSON
Everyone needs to leave their
phone's behind.

EVELYN
Why?

JOHNSON
Radio surveillance. If the military
picks up a cell signal on Plum
Island then an alarm goes off and
we're going to be arrested.

Evelyn isn't too happy. She throws her phone into her car. Manny follows suit.

EXT. DOCK - MOMENTS LATER

The group makes their way to a large 12 Person Private Yacht. TWO MEN are prepping the boat for a journey.

JOHNSON
Private staff?

EVELYN
These things don't drive
themselves.

Johnson checks out the two guys.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
Something bothering you?

JOHNSON
How many more people are you
bringing?

EVELYN
Only them.

JOHNSON
When we get to the island they stay
on board. And when we land I want
to make it very clear that I am in
charge of this expedition.

EVELYN
Mister Johnson, This is a
partnership and for this to be
successful we need to work together
and have a level of trust. Haven't
I always made you a lot of money
before?

JOHNSON
Why are you doing this? You're
already rich.

EVELYN
Maybe this time it's for the
thrill.

JOHNSON
Just remember, me and my guys have
had enough adventures and we know
that all it takes is one bad day
and a couple opportunistic
politicians to ruin our lives. This
is our ticket out.

EVELYN
Dully noted and appreciated. I'm
glad to know that I can always
depend on your professionalism.

Evelyn walks away from Johnson.

Tia walks along the dock towards the group. Dave and Max see
her but they play cool.

TIA
(acting like she hasn't
seen him in a while)
Dave?

Dave looks up.

DAVE
(going along with it)
Hey Tia. How are you?

TIA
Great. Long time no see. Night
fishing?

DAVE
Something like that.

Rozansky grabs Dave's shoulder.

ROZANSKY
Boat's not going to wait forever,
Dave.

DAVE
I need to go.

TIA
It was awesome seeing you.

She hugs Dave. Dave hugs her back. She slips something into his pocket. He realizes it and stays quiet.

DAVE
I'll see you around.

ROZANSKY
(whispering)
Not if it's up to me, you're not.

Dave smiles.

DAVE
Glad to know where you stand.

Rozansky pushes him forward.

Everyone boards the boat. Dave grabs what was in his back pocket and moves it to the front one.

EXT. LONG ISLAND SOUND - NIGHT

Dallis' yacht travels across the water to Plum Island.

INT. DALLIS' YACHT CABIN- CONTINUOUS

Manny pilots the boat. Dave and Max sit next to each other.

Johnson, Balducci, and Rozansky sit across, ready for an excuse to kill them.

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Two inflatable rafts make their way to the beach from the yacht. The yacht has its lights off.

The rafts make landfall. Chuck and Balducci move the rafts from the shore to the woods.

Johnson and Rozansky circle around Dave and Max.

Evelyn approaches them. It's showtime.

INT. WOODS - MOMENTS LATER

Dave and Max lead the way, trying to retrace their steps. The entire group is right behind them.

Dave stops, he's not sure of himself.

Max realizes this. He gives Dave a look and shakes his head: Don't give these people any reason to doubt us.

MAX

That way.

Dave gets the message and they move.

EXT. BEACH - LATER

Dave and Max emerge on another beach. Shit. Evelyn immediately suspects something is wrong.

JOHNSON

What the fuck is going on?

DAVE

You started us on the wrong beach.

He points to his map.

DAVE (CONT'D)

This is the beach we originally landed on.

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)

The one your driver took us to is about half a mile south of here.

BALDUCCI

I think these guys are full of shit.

CHUCK

Someone was recently here.

The marks from Dave's boat are still in the sand.

MAX

This was where we landed. From here we can find the remains of the manor house.

EVELYN

Let's get this done before sunrise.

EXT. WOODS - LATER

The group treks through the woods again. Max and Dave find the foundations of the house.

They walk its perimeter and find the group of trees in the distance.

They walk to the trees and see the skull shaped rock.

Max and Dave look at each other. They're here again.

Evelyn sees the rock and can barely hide her excitement. Johnson, Rozansky, and Balducci are also taken back by it.

EXT. TREASURE SPOT - MOMENTS LATER

Max and Dave arrive at the spot where they found the treasure. The ground still looks disturbed. The group is right behind them.

DAVE

This is it.

JOHNSON

Dig.

Balducci and Rozansky hand Max and Dave the shovels.

Dave studies the group. Johnson and his boys are expressionless. Evelyn and Chuck seem a little nervous.

Dave takes the shovel and digs. Max joins in.

EXT. TREASURE SPOT - LATER

The hole is a few feet deep. Johnson checks his watch.

JOHNSON

The sun is going to rise in two hours.

EVELYN

Then we have another hour before we need to get back to the boat.

JOHNSON

These clowns are fucking with us. There's no treasure.

THUD. Something small hits Johnson's arm. He instinctively draws his gun and focuses his rage on the pit but stops.

There's a gold coin on the ground.

THUD. THUD. THUD. More coins fly out of the pit.

Evelyn and Johnson look in. Dave and Max have found the treasure again.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

I don't believe it.

DAVE

There's a lot more down here.

EVELYN

Keep going. We're taking everything.

MAX

I'm not feeling to well.

JOHNSON

She said keep digging.

DAVE

Let him have a break. Someone else can jump in.

Johnson doesn't give a shit and won't relent. He points the gun at Dave.

JOHNSON

I think you're misreading the situation here. I have the treasure and now the only value you have to me is to dig it up so we don't have to.

Dave stares him down.

JOHNSON (CONT'D)

If you want to wipe that value out then fine by me. We owe Crowley better.

MAX

It's okay. I got this.

Max continues digging. Johnson and Dave stare at each other.

Dave shovels more dirt. Johnson smiles and breaks his gaze.

Dave feels the cellphone in his pocket. He looks up and sees that Balducci is watching him like a hawk.

INT. TREASURE SPOT - LATER

The hole is much wider and is eight feet deep.

Dave passes up a gold pitcher. Chuck takes it and places it in a pile that's about ten times larger than Max and Dave's original haul.

DAVE

That's everything.

JOHNSON

Check again.

DAVE

We hit water. There's nothing left.

It's true. Max and Dave are up to the ankles in muddy water.

Johnson turns to look at the treasure. Balducci and Rozansky also stop to admire it.

JOHNSON

You weren't lying Evelyn.

EVELYN

We're all about to become very rich.

Dave is certain that no one is watching him.

He discreetly pulls out the phone and turns it on.

Max saw him. Dave mouths: I got this.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Forty-five minutes until sunrise. I think it's time to get out of here.

DAVE

Help us get out of this hole so we can refill it.

Balducci turns to Johnson for permission. He nods.

He takes out his gun. Dave and Max's faces drop.

EVELYN

I thought we had an agreement.

JOHNSON

I'm canceling it.

MAX

Anything you're angry about. It's all my fault. You don't need to take it out on anyone else.

Max pushes himself in front of Dave.

JOHNSON

And if you take it like a man, maybe your kids will end up okay.

Dave pushes Max to the side.

DAVE

Look, I'm sorry about your friend but it was self-defense.

JOHNSON

I believe you. Crowley was supposed to kill you and we were going to collect the little you had, but this is a much bigger pay day than any of us expected.

EVELYN

With more than enough to split.

JOHNSON
(to Balducci)
Tell Miss Evelyn about the problem
with large splits.

BALDUCCI
Someone on a large crew always ends
up opening their mouth at the wrong
time.

ROZANSKY
And then everyone else goes down.

JOHNSON
A score like this is best kept with
a tighter group. For security
reasons.

Chuck backs up. Balducci grabs him.

BALDUCCI
Where are you going?

CHUCK
I need to take a leak.

BALDUCCI
Hold it in. This is almost over.

JOHNSON
(to Evelyn)
You join them.

EVELYN
Without me you have no way of
fencing this stuff.

JOHNSON
I'm sure we'll figure it out.

Johnson aims his gun at Evelyn.

EVELYN
You shoot me and you'll alert the
military.

Balducci tries to push Chuck. Chuck won't move.

JOHNSON
Cut him.

Balducci pulls out a switch blade and slashes Chuck's throat.

Chuck touches his fatal wound in shock. Balducci throws him into the pit.

MAX
What the fuck?

Johnson grabs Evelyn and moves to toss her.

JOHNSON
Let's do this.

MILITARY POLICE (O.S.)
Freeze!

A DOZEN SOLDIERS converge on the treasure site.

Johnson turns and SHOTS at them. Soldiers RETURN FIRE from the dark.

Dave and Max crouch down.

The Crooked Cops and the Army SHOOT AT EACH OTHER.

Evelyn stays low and throws as much treasure as she can carry into a bag.

Max and Dave manage to climb out of the hole.

Balducci is KILLED. Max grabs his gun.

Evelyn runs into the darkness with her heavy bag.

Rozansky sees Max and Dave sneaking away. He points the gun at Dave.

Max SHOTS Rozansky first. Dave sees how close it was but there is no time to waste. He pulls Max away from the gunfight.

Johnson KILLS a Soldier. It infuriates the rest and the close in on him.

The site of the battle shifts as the Soldiers focus on Johnson.

Max tries to grab a bag full of treasure.

DAVE
We can't let it weigh us down.

Max knows he's right. They run like hell.

Johnson knows he is pinned down. He jumps out and goes down BLAZING.

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Evelyn runs to the shore still holding her bag.

In the distance she can see that her yacht driving away from the island.

She grabs a raft and drags it to the shore.

She takes a knife and cuts the other raft.

She runs back to her raft and pushes it into the water. She jumps in and paddles away.

Dave and Max get to the shore. Evelyn is getting away.

DAVE

Hey!

She keeps going. Max checks out the other raft.

MAX

She destroyed it.

They hear SHOUTING in the woods.

DAVE

The gun shots have stopped.

The SHOUTING gets louder.

MAX

They're getting closer.

Dave looks back at the ocean.

MAX (CONT'D)

They're going to think we were working with them if we stay.

Dave nods. They both run into the water.

The SHOUTING is almost on top of them.

Dave and Max swim as hard as they can. They disappear into the darkness.

The soldiers swarm the beach. Dave and Max are gone without a trace.

EXT. OCEAN - MORNING

The sun is still low but it has peaked over the horizon.

Dave and Max tread the water. Max is struggling.

MAX
I'm fucking tired.

Dave swims closer to him.

DAVE
We can take a break.

MAX
How? We're in the fucking water.

DAVE
Lean back and relax.

Max tries it. He somewhat back floats.

MAX
I can't do this anymore, Dave.

DAVE
We'll take our time and we can do it. It's only a couple of miles.

MAX
I can't catch a spot of good luck. This entire year has been fucking miserable and it just keeps piling up.

DAVE
Things can't stay bad forever. Let me know when you're ready to swim more.

MAX
With the fucking luck I have, we'll get caught by the military before we get close to land.

A SOFT HUM from a distant motor boat and can be heard.

MAX (CONT'D)
See?

He lets himself go. His head goes under the water.

Dave swims to him and pulls him back up.

DAVE

I'm not going to let you die.

The sound of the boat gets LOUDER.

MAX

Why? So they can charge us as thieves and murderers? We're better off letting it end here.

Max tries to get away from Dave.

DAVE

If you try to kill yourself then you'll have to kill me too.

Max stops struggling.

The MOTOR is getting closer.

DAVE (CONT'D)

We'll tell the truth.

MAX

Like anyone will believe it?

The boat pops over the horizon.

DAVE

Here it is.

It moves in an different direction.

DAVE (CONT'D)

We're going to be okay.

The boat changes direction and heads directly to them.

MAX

Shit.

Dave's optimism begins to fade.

DAVE

Serves us right I guess for taking something that was stolen. That treasure had bad karma.

MAX

Will you just let me die now?

Dave considered it. He loosens his grip. Then he suddenly tightens it.

Dave recognizes the boat. It's his. He tries to wave to it. Tia is driving the boat while Paige is standing next to her. Dave's boat pulls up beside them.

INT. DAVE'S BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Paige and Tia help Max get in. He's shivering. Paige gives him a towel.

Dave climbs in on his own.

DAVE

We need to get out of here now!

INT. DAVE'S BOAT - MOMENTS LATER

Tia drives while Dave sits next to her, wrapped in a towel. He smiles at how lucky he is.

Max is tired and hurt. Paige holds him.

MAX

The kids?

PAIGE

They're safe. My mother is at the house with them.

MAX

So we need to explain this to your mom?

PAIGE

Eventually we will.

MAX

I'm sorry for how everything turned out.

PAIGE

You had the right intentions.

She takes his hand and holds it.

PAIGE (CONT'D)

And we'll make it work.

Dave looks back at Max and Paige. After all they've been through it's clear their love is strong.

Dave turns and looks at Tia. She turns back and smiles at him.

Dave watches the sunrise in the distance and feels hopeful. Then he sees something.

DAVE
Hey. Slow down.

Everyone gets concerned. Tia slows the boat down.

DAVE (CONT'D)
There.

Evelyn is about a hundred feet ahead of them in her raft and it looks like she is having trouble. She keeps bailing water out by hand. There's a large and heavy bag on the other side that's not helping her situation.

Tia pulls up next to her.

MAX
You destroyed the other raft and
left us behind for dead back there.

Evelyn splashes water out of the raft as she talks. It's slowly sinking.

EVELYN
Yes and I can explain that. I
panicked and didn't want Johnson
and his goons following me. It was
poor judgement and completely
emotional. I apologize.

DAVE
You'd probably have an easier time
without that giant bag of treasure
weighing you down.

EVELYN
You're probably right, but I wasn't
sure about who I was going to need
to bribe on my way back home.

Everyone stares at her. She waits for someone to say something.

EVELYN (CONT'D)
Permission to come aboard?

DAVE
Granted.

She grabs the treasure bag and tosses it into the ocean. Everyone looks at her in shock.

She grabs Dave's hand and climbs in.

PAIGE

Do you have any idea how much that was worth?

EVELYN

Yes, but at this point it's a liability unfortunately. Anyone having a bag like that could be connected to Plum Island if they were stopped by the police.

She pulls a gold ring with a ruby out of her pocket.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

But now we're just five people out on an early morning recreational boat ride and at least I get to keep a souvenir.

She puts the ring back in her pocket and smiles at them.

MAX

So what happens now with all of us?

EVELYN

Best case scenario, my police ex-friends didn't survive and worst case is they're captured without anyone believing their story.

She pulls out a semi-wet cigarette and lights it.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

Either way, we set the narrative that they were acting on their own with Chuck and no one should be wiser than others were involved.

Evelyn gauges the group and no one seems to object

EVELYN (CONT'D)

They'll also catch the blame for killing Crowley before their misadventure too.

DAVE

This story will fall apart when someone realizes that somehow they got to Plum Island without a boat.

EVELYN

I don't believe that detail is going to matter very much.

TIA

Why?

EVELYN

Because there is a large amount of treasure laying on that island which no one misses or knew was there. It's unaccounted for and the more of it that disappears before it's officially received, the less questions that will be asked. That's how greed works.

Everyone processes what she said.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

I hate being curt but the longer we stay on the water, the bigger chance of us being spotted by the authorities.

DAVE

Looks like we better get going and move on.

Tia hits the throttle.

Max and Paige hold each other as they look at the horizon, ready for a new chapter in life.

Dave looks at them. He turns his gaze to Tia and smiles.

Evelyn looks at them all with some amusement.

The boat approaches the marina and slows down as the sun rises behind it.

FADE TO BLACK.