

BITTER HONEY

An original feature film

by

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August 2011

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1 EXT. DESERT PLAIN AFGHANISTAN - SUNRISE 1

Black birds, a cloud of dust rising underneath, hover in the cloudless sky.

CREDITS

Closer. The birds are seen to be figures, arms wide, black fabric billowing, paragliding, attached to vehicles.

Closer it is muslim women wearing jilbab and hijab, faces lit by the rising sun.

FINAL CREDITS

2 INT. DARK 2

Sound of breathing looking out through blue mesh fabric. Fear.

3 EXT. HARWICH DOCK UK - MORNING 3

A mast in the wind, ropes slapping. A tatty flag flutters nobly in the wind.

Attached to the flagpole is a rust-bucket of a boat that slowly makes its way into Harwich Dock.

JED (35) a UK Border Agency Officer, an immaculately turned out man of real presence, waits and scans around him.

The stevedores ready themselves to unload.

There's something about one, ADAM that makes JED look twice.

MJ (40) greying, cheerful, stocky stands alongside JED. Behind them two more BORDER OFFICERS.

They watch the boat come to a halt.

MJ
Any 5 by 5's?

JED shakes his head, taps his nose.

MJ (CONT'D)
Not another....(forgets)

JED
'Excalibur' - I wish. Lived off that for a while.

MJ
Looks like you still are!

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 3

JED laughs.

4 EXT SHIP - DAY 4

The captain signals for the walkway to be dropped.

The crew gather together uneasily on the deck their papers in hand.

5 EXT HARWICH DOCKS - MORNING 5

JED
Let's get going.

JED follows MJ onto the ship along with 2 BORDER OFFICERS.

6 EXT CONTAINER SHIP'S DECK DAY 6

They are met by the Turkish captain MAHMOUD(45), weathered, vigorous, grey haired with a black handlebar moustache.

Behind him are his motley CREW, all carrying their meagre belongings.

ONE MAN struggles to stand up unaided.

MAHMOUD
(holds out his papers)
Gentlemen. I salute you.

MJ
(takes the papers, looks
at them)
Thank you sir. With your
permission my colleague will look
around the ship.

MAHMOUD
Of course sir. No problem sir.

Mahmoud goes to follow.

JED
Alone.

JED sees the MAN struggling to stand upright.

He goes over and pulls his jacket open.

The man has a dressing over a wound.

MJ
What's wrong with your man?

(CONTINUED)

JED

This is fresh and clean. Who did
this to you?

MAHMOUD

No problem gentlemen. This man
had to have an operation sir.

MJ

(cheerfully)

Who performed the operation?

Mahmoud looks around.

He points to a CHINESE CREW MEMBER.

JED goes over to the intimidated man. Examines filthy
calloused hands.

He looks at MJ.

MJ (CONT'D)

A miracle! Very well gentlemen
follow me.

MJ nods at JED.

They disembark. A BORDER OFFICER remains on deck.

The other BORDER OFFICER goes to follow JED.

JED

Wait here. I'll do it.

JED, like a cat after a mouse, is all over the place.
Prodding, poking, lifting, looking amongst the containers.
The ship is carrying coffee.

He finds different crates with empty containers. Smells it.

Flicker of recognition.

He is meticulous, cautious, determined, ready for anything.

Notices a small door with a handle.

He opens it and looks in. He steps back swiftly.

JED

Would you please step out.

Nothing happens. He looks again.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

Inside is a seated figure in a floor length blue burqua, FARAHNAZ (30).

JED (CONT'D)

Out. (He indicates with his hand)

She steps out by herself.

FARAHNAZ

Asylum.

JED sees eyes flickering behind the burqua.

JED looks in and finds a small bag left on a dirty blue torn cushion.

He picks up the bag.

JED

(indicates)

Follow me.

8 EXT. CONTAINER SHIP - DAY

8

JED and FARAHNAZ disembark from the boat followed by the two other BORDER OFFICERS.

9 INT. IMMIGRATION HALL - DAY

9

They pass MJ.

JED

(aside)

Another bloody asylum seeker.

JED places her bag on the table.

He stands one side, she stands the other.

A COLLEAGUE stands and watches.

JED (CONT'D)

(loudly, slowly)

Where are you from?

FARAHNAZ

Afghanistan.

JED

Your papers?

Indicates with his hand.

She hands them to him, but they are unintelligible.

(CONTINUED)

JED (CONT'D)

You will be interviewed by one of my colleagues. An interpreter will be present. I am now going to search your bag.

Firstly he swipes for a drugs trace.

FARAHNAZ notices his knuckles are red and raw as if he has been bare knuckle fighting.

It is positive.

JED (CONT'D)

Ma'am I have found a trace of an illegal substance. Is there anything you wish to tell me?

FARAHNAZ just looks at him.

JED (CONT'D)

(louder)
Anything, tell me.

JED searches the meagre bag in expert and minute detail. Every conceivable hiding place is exposed.

He stops and looks at her certain there is something.

Her blue burqua.

FLASHBACK: The dirty blue cushion.

He turns to colleague.

JED (CONT'D)

Take her to interview.

JED runs through the Immigration hall and out.

10 EXT. DOCKS - DAY

10

JED runs towards the ship his eyes scanning all the time.

11 INT. CONTAINER SHIP - DAY

11

JED runs through the ship to the compartment where he found FARAHNAZ.

He looks through the open door. No blue cushion.

JED

Shit.

12 INT. SEARCH ROOM - DAY 12

FARAHNAZ stands rigid before two female officers ALICE (42) a former ladies rugby prop forward, TRACEY (30) 'seen it all' Essex. Both wear plastic gloves.

ALICE
Ma'am we have to search you.
Please, you must remove your
clothes.

FARAHNAZ observes them through the mesh.

FLASHBACK

13 EXT AFGHNISTAN HOUSE - DAY (ALL IN PUSHTU) 13

Soldiers hold onto a resisting DABIR (34). FARAHNAZ, her sister (his wife) HASNA and AKILAH (55) his elderly mother beg the soldiers not to take him.

Dabir is thrown to the ground. FARAHNAZ tries to cover him with her body.

She is dragged off. Her blue burqua stays on his body.

His body is sprayed with bullets.

14 INT. SEARCH ROOM - DAY 14

She removes her burqua and her long loosely plaited hair is exposed down her back. She wears a simple black shalwar kameez.

She hesitates. Alice indicates it must be removed.

She looks at her shalwar kameez.

FLASHBACK

15 EXT AFGHANISTAN HOUSE - DAY 15

Two soldiers take hold of AKILAH, dressed in a black shalwar kameez, and drag her into the house.

FARAHNAZ
(in Pushtu)
Let her go. I beg you.

INT AFGHANI HOUSE - DAY

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

They shove AKILAH in a room.

They pile papers in front of the door of the room.

They take embers from the open fire and set light to the papers. The door catches fire.

FARAHNAZ'S screams join Akilah's.

16 INT. SEARCH ROOM - DAY

16

FARAHNAZ is screaming.

ALICE
Get her a drink.

Tracey gets some water from the tap.

ALICE (CONT'D)
It's okay. We're not going to
hurt you. Shhhhh.

FARAHNAZ takes the drink gratefully.

She notices her top is off and her arms are bare.

FLASHBACK

17 INT WEALTHY AFGHANI HOUSE - DAY

17

KADAR (36), wiry, tough, weather beaten, FARAHNAZ's brother leads out GENERAL GADI (59)(their father) a small, noble figure. TALIBAN SOLDIERS wait. FARAHNAZ is desperate.

FARAHNAZ
(in Pushtu)
Brother, not our father. Where
are you taking him?

General Gadi is lead to a pick up truck.

Taliban soldiers haul him unceremoniously onto it.

KADAR
To prison. He will wait until
his time comes to answer before
the people in the stadium.

He looks at FARAHNAZ noticing her arms are uncovered.

(CONTINUED)

KADAR (CONT'D)
(angrily)
Cover yourself. Already you
dishonour me and our family.

Kadar mounts the pick up truck. The truck drives off.

FARAHNAZ watches the eyes of her father as they disappear in the dust.

18 INT. IMMIGRATION OFFICES OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY 18

JED watches FARAHNAZ through a 2-way mirror.

She sits in an interview room.

JAYNE enters and gives her a drink.

FARAHNAZ's fingers emerge, grasp the cup and take it under the burqua.

Suddenly she looks full at JED as if seeing him through the mirror.

It unnerves JED.

MJ walks into the observation room.

JED
They were carrying acetic
anhydride. Tried to disguise it
with coffee as usual. Can't
believe I missed the cushion.

MJ
You can't be sure.

JED
Trace showed up on her.

MJ
All Afghans have a trace. Does
she speak English then.

JED
Not to me.

MJ
Right.

He leaves.

NADA, the translator (45) thin as a rake, lived in face, fashionable, walks into the interview room followed by MJ.

(CONTINUED)

NADA simultaneously translates into Pashtu.

MJ (CONT'D)

I see your name is FARAHNAZ. Do you have a surname?

FARAHNAZ
(in Pashtu)
We have no surnames in Afghanistan.

NADA
We have no surnames in Afghanistan.

MJ (CONT'D)

What is your reason for coming to the United Kingdom?

FARAHNAZ
I wish to have asylum.

NADA
I wish to have asylum.

MJ (CONT'D)

You have so little luggage for someone who intends to stay in this country.

FARAHNAZ
Should I advertise that I am leaving? My sister's husband has been killed. Her mother was shut in her house and they tried to burn her alive. My brother Kadar is Taliban and has arrested my father General Gadi. I should stay while they decide what to do with me?

NADA
Should I advertise that I am leaving? My sister's husband has been killed. Her mother was shut in her house and they tried to burn her alive. My brother Kadar is Taliban and has arrested my father General Gadi. I should stay while they decide what to do with me?

MJ (CONT'D)

You say you are the daughter of General Gadi?

FARAHNAZ
Yes.

FARAHNAZ
My father has been captured by the Taliban. They will execute him. It is only a matter of time.

NADA
My father has been captured by the Taliban. They will execute him. It is only a matter of time.

MJ

Now, tell me about your father. Take your time. There's no hurry. I think perhaps it might be time to remove your full burqua. Do you have a hijab?

19 INT. UK BORDER AGENCY OFFICE - DAY

19

JED struggles with a blind, which refuses to lower itself properly.

Jayne's desk basks in full sunlight and she laughs at JED.

Suddenly the blind opens itself fully and crashes onto the floor, it's length far greater than the window.

JED turns and bows as MJ comes through the door.

JAYNE

Thank you.

MJ

What have you done?

JED

What your secretary wanted.

MJ goes over and sorts out the blind so that it falls correctly. Jayne watches obviously liking MJ.

MJ

How come women never ask me for help?

JED

Incompetence.

Suddenly a whirlwind interrupts. KATE (36), long curly red hair, a sensitive and vulnerable face looking good in a fab tight, knee length skirt arrives. She carries a package.

She throws her arms around JED's neck and gives him a kiss.

KATE

Hi.

JED, uncomfortable but pleased to see her.

JED

Careful.

MJ

Watch the merchandise he means Kate. Good to see you.

KATE

Chocolates for all you hard working people including myself.

She opens the chocolates, has one herself and hands them round. JED takes one.

(CONTINUED)

KATE (CONT'D)

You won't forget my birthday party will you? Did you get me a present?

JED

No. Why's the party so important?

KATE

Surprise.

MJ

Do you know who did that appendix operation on that seaman?

JED

Go on.

MJ

The woman. She's a doctor. Trained in Russia. Speaks a little English.

JED

Follow me she's all yours.

JED enters the interview room.

FARAHNAZ stands with her back to the door. Her blue burqua is removed and she wears a loose hijab.

JED sees the long hair loosely plaited.

FARAHNAZ turns, meets his gaze unwaveringly and JED is blown away by the woman in front of him.

KATE

Hi, I'm Kate, Asylum co-ordinator. Good to meet you. I hope they've been treating you well.

MONTAGE

KATE walks FARAHNAZ to a waiting van. JED watches unseen, through a window.

FARAHNAZ driven away.

- 21 INT. MAGISTRATE'S COURT - DAY 21
 FARAHNAZ in front of a magistrate.
- 22 EXT. HOLLOWAY PRISON - DAY 22
 FARAHNAZ driven through the gates at Holloway Prison.
- 23 INT. HOLLOWAY PRISON - DAY 23
 FARAHNAZ walks into her cell. The door is locked.
 She goes to the tiny window, looks out at the sky and sees
 a black bird flying.
 END MONTAGE
- 24 EXT WANDSWORTH ESTATE WALKWAY 3RD FLOOR - NIGHT 24
 JED walks shaking the rain off, stops at a flat and knocks
 on the door, it opens.
 Noise and music hit him.
- 25 INT KATE'S FLAT NIGHT 25
 He's walked into the United Nations and the tower of Babel.
 TWO CHINESE YOUNG MEN argue in Cantonese on the stairs.
 He passes the bedroom sees the rumpled bedclothes.
 JED is viewed with suspicion by his obvious authority.
 A stately BLACK WOMAN places a dish of steaming food on the
 table.
 KATE, looking very sexy, is deep in conversation with a
 ROMA (gypsy) asylum seeker.
 JED catches her eye and she jumps up with delight.
- KATE
 Have you got my present?
- JED hands her a package with a smile. He watches as she is
 delighted to find an iPad.
- JED
 Don't put it down anywhere.

(CONTINUED)

She laughs and kisses him.

KATE

Thank you. Just what I wanted.
Now my surprise. At last you can
meet him.

KATE takes him over to a man pouring himself a stiff
whisky.

KATE (CONT'D)

This is my brother Jed. Jed this
is Quinn my mystery man.

JED meets QUINN (45) enigmatic, crumpled, ruggedly
handsome.

QUINN takes a swig of his whisky.

QUINN

Care for a drink?

JED

Sure. (Takes a swig). Good
whisky, must be yours. Where'd
you two meet?

KATE

Coffee bar, near work. I threw
coffee over him.

JED

Novel. What do you do?

KATE

Okay big brother. Enough.

JED

Sorry.

QUINN takes a swig.

JED notices a SAS tattoo on his inner forearm. QUINN knows
he's seen it.

A fight breaks out between the two Chinese.

JED moves to intervene. KATE stops him.

QUINN steps in and separates them easily.

QUINN

Gentlemen, time to go.

One of them looks to want to start again.

(CONTINUED)

QUINN (CONT'D)

I wouldn't.

They leave.

KATE

(to JED)

My hero.

JED

Is he staying here?

KATE nods.

JED (CONT'D)

How long?

She shrugs.

QUINN comes over, winces as he puts his arm around her.

KATE kisses QUINN and pulls him back into the party.

JED watches.

MJ replaces the phone, throws down his pen in disgust and leans back in his chair. JAYNE looks at him.

JAYNE

Problem?

JED walks in carrying some paper.

JED

Nothing on those drugs.

MJ

Had report that General Gadi, the woman's father, was executed yesterday.

The phone rings and Jayne answers.

JAYNE

UK Border Agency. Can you hold please?

MJ

Supposed drugs.

JED

I tell you, she was sitting on a stash.

(CONTINUED)

JAYNE

Jed, your sister. She sounds terrible.

JED

(he picks up the phone)
No you can't. You're not competent. Who are you picking up? I'll drive you myself.
(replaces phone) Kate's car's broken down.

MJ

Kate is 32 years old, manages the placement of asylum seekers..

JED

And wants to borrow my car...that only I am insured to drive. She's picking up that Afghan woman.

JED starts to walk out of the door.

MJ

That quick! Out for good behaviour then?

JED

I'll find out.

MJ

You'd better tell her about her father.

KATE waits beside her car. She has a heavy cold.

JED drives alongside and she gets in.

She notices his hand on the wheel is bloodied. She gently places her hand over his and quickly removes it.

KATE

What exactly do you mean I am not competent?

JED

When was your last accident?

KATE

Two weeks ago and it was only small and the insurance company will pay for it.

(CONTINUED)

JED

Didn't know about that one.
Where are we going?

KATE

Holloway. We have to pick
Farahnaz up and take her to the
asylum seeker hotel.

JED

Very quick.

KATE

(hesitates)
Sometimes happens like that.

JED

3 weeks!

KATE

Love the ipad. Has all my photos.

KATE inside the car, JED outside leans against her open
window. They watch the door open and FARAHAZ steps outside
dressed in black shalwar kameez, black hijab on her head.

JED watches and steps towards her.

KATE

Farahnaz!

FARAHAZ looks up, steps and stumbles. JED helps her up.
She is surprised to see him

FARAHAZ

Thank you.

She moves away from him and goes to KATE now out of the
car.

KATE

Was it bad?

FARAHAZ

Yes. I am not a criminal.

FARAHAZ gets into the back of the car.

KATE, sees FARAHAZ'S eyes in the mirror and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

Unfortunately, this is my big brother.

JED drives off.

KATE sneezes very unwell.

Jed hands her a pristine handkerchief.

JED

You got anything for that? Keep the handkerchief. Please.

30 EXT ASYLUM SEEKER HOTEL DAY

30

JED and FARAHNAZ get out of the car in front of the high-rise hotel, a mere shadow of its former glory.

FARAHNAZ lets herself out of the car with her case.

JED

Let me.

FARAHNAZ holds onto her case firmly.

KATE

(to Farahnaz)

I'll be in touch.

FARAHNAZ walks into the lobby followed by an uncomfortable Jed.

31 INT LOBBY HOTEL DAY

31

There is an atmosphere of tedium and tension in this once good hotel. A multi cultural feel; many people and languages; chaos and dirty coffee cups.

FARAHNAZ

Why are you here?

JED

I have to tell....

FARAHNAZ

This bloody asylum seeker does not require your help.

Jed is shocked at his words returning and her English.

She goes to Reception where a large, forceful Kenyan lady, EUGENIE (36), proud and pedantic, greets her.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

EUGENIE

Jambo darling. Where's your papers?

FARAHNAZ hands them over.

Eugenie ticks a box and hands over the keys.

EUGENIE (CONT'D)

4th floor.

She walks to the lift.

EUGENIE (CONT'D)

(shouts)

It is not working today.

FARAHNAZ takes off up the stairs followed by JED.

32 INT STAIRWELL HOTEL DAY

32

FARAHNAZ walks steadily up the stairs. JED follows.

She pauses to catch her breath. JED reaches for the bag.

She holds onto it and continues walking.

JED

Why didn't you speak to me?

FARAHNAZ

I prefer to listen and watch.

JED

What could you see through that blue thing?

FARAHNAZ

Burqua. You amongst other things.

JED

And?

FARAHNAZ

It doesn't matter.

JED

And?

FARAHNAZ

I see a man who hurts inside and out.

(CONTINUED)

JED

Spoken by a woman with nothing
who wants everything.

FARAHNAZ

What do you know of real fear?
Fear that starts as a scream and
never closes its mouth.

They have reached the fourth floor.

They walk through the connecting door into the hallway.
She looks for her room number.

She reaches her room and unlocks the door and walks in.

There are two single beds, one of which is obviously
occupied.

JED hesitates at the door.

FARAHNAZ

(puzzled)

Your sister is a kind woman.

JED

Do you have a sister?

FARAHNAZ

Many sisters. At the moment, in
my country, there are only two
places for Afghan women: "in her
husband's house, unseen, and in
the graveyard."

JED

I must tell you.. your father..
has been killed.

FARAHNAZ

When?

JED

Yesterday. I'm sorry for ...

The door closes in JED's face.

FLASHBACK

34 INT BEDROOM JED AND BESS - DAY

34

JED watches BESS (34) lean, strong, and dark, on her knees on the floor. She is packing.

JED
I'll change, I'll do whatever.

Bess finishes.

JED (CONT'D)
It's my child. You're carrying
my child.

Bess puts on her coat. She walks out of the room.

INT HALL - DAY

In the hall she pauses and looks in the mirror to adjust her coat and hair.

JED (CONT'D)
Why?

BESS
This child was never yours. It
was ours. But you can't share
anything.

JED
I'm sorry, for everything....

Bess calmly shuts the door in his face. JED smashes his fist into the door.

END OF FLASHBACK

35 INT. HALLWAY - DAY

35

The smashed door to FARAHNAZ's room smacks open.

FARAHNAZ
You are no better than the
Taliban. No-one is allowed to
live their lives as they choose.
Always there is violence.

She looks at his bloodied hand.

JED
Sorry...I..

Gently she takes his hand and walks him to the room sink.

(CONTINUED)

She runs the water and puts his hand under. JED winces as it touches.

She turns the water off, dries his hand and expertly examines it.

FARAHNAZ

Why do this?

JED grabs his hand.

JED

Memories. Nice ring.

She wears a beautiful silver ring with a jet stone.

FARAHNAZ

It was my grandmother's. It is to ward off the evil eye.

JED

The what?

FARAHNAZ

If you admire something too much the evil eye will touch it and it will be damaged for ever. Memories I understand.

JED leaves.

JED walks out of the hotel and looks back up at the fourth floor.

He fingers his bloodied hand and crosses to a coffee shop.

OUTSIDE POV

A WAITRESS brings him a coffee.

Suddenly across the road he sees QUINN and FARAHNAZ emerge from the hotel.

QUINN hails a taxi and they drive off together.

JED leaves money and swiftly leaves the coffee shop.

38 INT BORDER CONTROL OFFICE DAY

38

MJ and JED sit at their desks.

JED, a list up on computer is leafing through information and pictures.

MJ throws JED a photocopy of a symbol.

MJ

You were right Special Forces. Apparently Quinn served in the Falklands, Northern Ireland and the Gulf War. It looks like the man could be a mercenary. He's turned up in Peshawar, Pakistan..

JED

Peshawar is full of Afghan refugees. Easy for Quinn to get into Afghanistan.

JED picks up a photograph of QUINN and ADAM.

JED (CONT'D)

That's him.

MJ

Who?

JED

The stevedore when the boat arrived.

MJ

You sure?

JED

Adam Priddy.

JED checks his computer.

JED (CONT'D)

No stevedore by that name. Yes I'm sure. Farahnaz is obviously involved in drug running along with my sister's new boyfriend!

MJ

Shit. Where're you going?

JED

To see Kate. Her job, everything is in jeopardy.

(CONTINUED)

MJ

Wait. You need proof.

JED

I've got it.

MJ

No you haven't. Jed, you're a professional. Be one. First, let's get a tail on Quinn and the woman.

JED

What about Kate?

MJ

Right now, the best thing for her is proof. Do your job man.

JED

Been out of uniform for too long.

MJ

Bloody right. That's why ID sent you back. Bit of discipline.

JED asleep in bed. Urgent knocking on his door.

JED wakes instantly alert.

Opens door to KATE.

KATE

Why do you turn your phones off?
I can't find her. She rang me.
She said she'd meet me in the
lobby. Someone's after her.

JED

Who are you talking about?

KATE

Farahnaz idiot.

JED gets dressed immediately. They leave flat.

JED

Who's after her?

KATE

I don't know.

40 EXT ASYLUM SEEKER HOTEL - NIGHT 40

They arrive in KATE's battered car.

JED

Stay in the car, keep it running
and wait. Watch the front. Tell
the police there are intruders.

JED runs into the lobby of the hotel.

41 INT ASYLUM SEEKER HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT 41

JED scans. One PERSON on mobile phone, ANOTHER dozing.
The desk is empty.

SOUND OVER: ALARM RINGING

JED runs through the lobby into dining room.

SOUND OVER: ALARM LOUDER

42 INT HOTEL DINING ROOM - NIGHT 42

The dining room is eerily empty. 2 chairs overturned.

Door open at far end. JED runs through.

43 INT HOTEL CORRIDOR - NIGHT 43

Cleaning cupboard with the door ajar. He whacks it open.
Empty. He grabs a broom.

End of corridor, emergency exit, open. JED throws open
door.

44 INT HOTEL EMERGENCY EXIT - NIGHT 44

SOUND OVER: EMERGENCY ALARM PAINFULLY LOUD

45 EXT HOTEL DELIVERY YARD NIGHT 45

A movement behind huge waste bins in the delivery yard.

JED steps out. A movement sensitive light floods the
space.

Suddenly he sees FARAHNAZ behind the bins.

(CONTINUED)

Dark, dangerous, wiry YOUSSEF steps towards the now fully illuminated JED.

Two other men AFGHANI 1, AFGHANI 2, step forward slightly behind him.

YOUSSEF and JED's eyes meet. JED watches as the man's hand slides into his jacket.

Suddenly the door alarm stops abruptly.

EUGENIE

Who is there? Who has opened
this door?

JED

Call the police.

EUGENIE

This is an emergency exit. What
do you think you are doing?

JED

I work for Border Control. There
are men trespassing. Call the
police now!

Eugenie disappears.

YOUSSEF holds a knife.

JED brandishes the broom.

YOUSSEF

(in Pushtu)
Get her.

Two men move towards the huge refuse collectors.

Slowly JED walks down between himself and FARAHNAZ.

YOUSSEF thrusts the knife. JED swings at him, connects.
Goes for him again.

Sound of a police siren.

The police car arrives cutting off escape route for the
men.

TWO POLICEMEN get out of the car.

JED

(shouts)
There are three and they have
knives.

(CONTINUED)

Suddenly a huge waste bin is hurled at speed and the men tip the bin over the policemen.

They scatter either side and out of the yard.

The policemen give chase. Farahnaz emerges shaking.

JED (CONT'D)

Did they touch you?

FARAHNAZ

No. I was in the bathroom. When I came out I saw them in my room.

JED takes her hands and stills them.

She leans her forehead on his hands.

FARAHNAZ (CONT'D)

Khudai de mal Sha.

JED

(embarrassed)

What?

FARAHNAZ

May God be with you.

JED

Kate is waiting. Come on.

JED

Slow down.

KATE

Who were they?

JED and FARAHNAZ' eyes meet in the mirror.

FARAHNAZ

My brother Kadar sent them.

KATE

Why?

FARAHNAZ

I have dishonoured and disgraced him. It is a killing of honour.

KATE

Jed you'll have to put her up.

(CONTINUED)

JED
Don't be ridiculous.

KATE
Quinn is staying.

FARAHNAZ reacts. Jed notices.

JED
Where is Quinn tonight?

KATE
No idea.

JED
She stays with you. End of.

KATE walks in purposefully followed by FARAHNAZ and JED.

JED
Why did you come to England?

FARAHNAZ
For asylum.

KATE
Farahnaz you can have this room.
I need tea.

JED steps into the room after Farahnaz and shuts the door.

JED
How do you know Quinn? I know you
understand everything.

FARAHNAZ
I speak four languages including
Russian.

JED
I know you're smuggling drugs.
Are you lovers?

There's a bang on the door. Jed opens it.

Kate stands with two mugs of tea.

KATE
What the hell are you doing?

JED
My job.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

KATE

Not in my flat. Not now. Go.

JED leaves.

KATE (CONT'D)

You alright?

FARAHNAZ

Thank you. For everything.

KATE

You and Quinn....?

FARAHNAZ

I'm tired. We talk later.

KATE

Okay.

FARAHNAZ shuts the door.

CUT TO:

48 INT KATE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

48

KATE suddenly wakes in bed. She hears a noise.
 She grabs a baseball bat beside her bed.
 The door opens softly... QUINN comes in.

KATE

Where the hell have you been?

He walks into the bedroom with a glass of whisky.

QUINN

(about bat)

I'm sure that's illegal.

He climbs on the bed, leans back and drinks.

KATE

My hero. Just when I needed you.

QUINN

Don't need me Kate.

KATE

What are you up to Quinn?

He finishes his whisky and puts the glass down.

(CONTINUED)

QUINN
Saving the world!

KATE jumps on him and starts pummelling him.

KATE
Talk to me.

QUINN holds onto her wrists, turns her over and starts to take off her top.

QUINN
Don't do talking.

QUINN starts to kiss her and remove other pieces of clothing. KATE enjoys him.

QUINN (CONT'D)
Is this what you needed me for?

KATE
Farahnaz's brother tried to get her.

QUINN
Her brother?

KATE
That's what she said.

QUINN
Where is she?

KATE is suddenly jealous.

KATE
In the next room.

QUINN
What?

KATE
Jed saved her.

QUINN
For now.

KATE
What's going on.

QUINN takes hold of her and they make love.

49 INT. BEDROOM 2 KATE'S FLAT - NIGHT 49

FARAHNAZ lies awake listening to the sound of KATE and QUINN.

50 INT OFFICE CORRIDOR DAY 50

KATE faces JED angrily.

KATE

For God's sake this is my work.
What are you doing here?

JED

What do you know about Quinn?

KATE

I'm not talking to you about him.

JED

Forget I'm your brother. He's
under investigation. What's the
connection between him and
Farahnaz?

KATE shakes her head.

JED (CONT'D)

(quietly)

Where's he been Kate?

KATE

I know he's been in Afghanistan.
And it's not the first time.

JED

What's the connection with
Farahnaz?

KATE

He owes her father.

JED

General Gadi? Did he fight for
him?

KATE shrugs.

JED (CONT'D)

You helped her get out to the
asylum hotel.

KATE

Stop.

(CONTINUED)

KATE starts to walk away. JED stops her.

JED
What did you do? Kate tell me!

KATE
I paid for her and gave surety.

JED
How? Of course. Quinn. Don't you understand. This could cost you your job you idiot. Quinn and Farahnaz are smuggling drugs.

KATE
Don't be ridiculous.

JED
He's using you. Get rid of him sis. Please.

KATE
Prove it.

KATE walks back into her meeting.

The bell rings. FARAHNAZ wearing a loose hijab, nervously opens the door.

JED
Don't ever open the door.

FARAHNAZ
But you...

He shows her a key.

They walk down the hall.

FARAHNAZ (CONT'D)
Do you like spices?

JED
I'm English. Of course.

FARAHNAZ
Sit.

She puts food on a plate and puts it in front of him.

(CONTINUED)

JED
Don't you eat?

FARAHNAZ
(sighs)
Usually the men eat first and we women have the left overs.

JED
Is that hard? Eat with me.

FARAHNAZ
Just normal. Normal is so good.

JED
Please.

She serves herself and sits opposite him nervously.

JED (CONT'D)
This is delicious.

FARAHNAZ
You're welcome. I love to cook it reminds me of my mother.

JED
Where is she?

FARAHNAZ
Dead like my father. We have a saying in Afghanistan: The jug is not always broken. It means, it only breaks once, but when it does, you can't fix it again."

JED
Is it true all Afghans have a trace of drugs?

FARAHNAZ
Abdul was 15 days old when he survived his first opium overdose. While nurses held his convulsing limbs I injected an antidote into his tiny body. And his mother? She watched with a drugged stare. She'd given him the opium that morning, to hush his crying. It's what all women in her village always do.

JED
I thought it was forbidden, like alcohol.

(CONTINUED)

FARAHNAZ

Forbidden yes, but expedient with
such wretched poverty and
constant warfare.

They have finished eating.

Jed clears and washes up. Farahnaz dries the plates.

JED

Why do you wear that? Here you
are free.

FARAHNAZ

Freedom is here (touches her
heart) and here (her head). I
choose to wear the hijab not
because of men, but because it is
a symbol of my surrender to
Allah. In Him I put my trust.

JED

I don't believe in anything.

FARAHNAZ

Maybe that is why you are someone
who is afraid of himself.

JED

Are you married?

FARAHNAZ

No. And now I am too old and
have too much education. I am
safe.

JED

But you're beautiful.

Embarrassed she turns away and puts the plates in the
cupboard.

She leans her head on the cupboard.

Slowly Jed reaches out, grasps her hijab and gently pulls
it from her head. He touches her hair. She slowly turns
around.

There is the noise of a letter dropping through the letter
box.

FARAHNAZ alert hears, breaks the moment and moves.

53 INT. KATE'S FLAT HALL - DAY

53

She goes to the door. It is from the Home Office.
She opens it tentatively. JED watches.

FARAHNAZ

(reads)

'Indefinite right to remain.' My
father's dream finally real.

JED

And what about your dream?

FARAHNAZ

Dreaming is not expedient.

JED

And what about lying? I saw you
and Quinn together. At the hotel.

FARAHNAZ

You were spying on me?

JED

Yes. There were drugs in that
blue cushion.

FARAHNAZ

It is time. I must go to the
mosque.

She takes her hijab from Jed and replaces it.
She picks up her keys and leaves. Jed follows.

54 EXT. MOSQUE - DAY

54

FARAHNAZ walks into the mosque JED beside her.

FARAHNAZ

My father loved him.

JED

A mercenary?

FARAHNAZ

He saved his life. He saved
mine.

JED

Adam took the drugs didn't he?

(CONTINUED)

FARAHNAZ

Why did you put your fist through
my door?

JED

Exercise.

FARAHNAZ

So we both choose to hide.

At the steps MUSLIMS entering look at him strangely.

He watches her walk inside. An unknown, alien world.

FARAHNAZ sits in front of IMAM ANSARI.

IMAM ANSARI

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullah,
I pray this finds you in the best
of health and faith.

FARAHNAZ

Thank you for seeing me. Will
Allah forgive major sins?

IMAM ANSARI

May Allah Most High facilitate
this matter for you and reward
you for your concern. Are you
sincerely repentant?

FARAHNAZ

It is wrong, but there is a
bigger right.

IMAM ANSARI

I can see that you are deeply
troubled.

FARAHNAZ

I believe that good deeds can
overcome sin.

IMAM ANSARI

Sincere repentance is a beloved
and noble form of obedience.

She stands.

FARAHNAZ

I should not have come.

Suddenly the door opens and Afghani 1 and 2 walk in.

(CONTINUED)

FARAHNAZ realises there is no way she can escape.

IMAM ANSARI

Allah is pure grace, generosity,
and favour. Be at peace sister.

FARAHNAZ

There is no peace for any Muslim
woman with men like you.

56 INT KATE'S FLAT - NIGHT

56

KATE walks into the flat. She looks in the bedroom.
QUINN's bag is packed.

KATE

Shit.

Furious she walks into the bathroom. QUINN is shaving.

KATE (CONT'D)

Did you target me for her sake?

QUINN

Yes. Forget me Kate.

QUINN goes into the bedroom. He finishes dressing.

KATE

So this is all a lie.

He picks up the bag and returns to the room.

Quinn walks up to Kate and kisses her deeply. He holds on
to her. He breaks away.

QUINN

I have done too much, hurt too
much.

He looks at his hands with disgust.

QUINN (CONT'D)

I should never have touched you.

KATE wants the truth.

KATE

(betrayed and hurt)
What is she to you?

QUINN

I've known her for two years.

He holds up his finger.

(CONTINUED)

QUINN (CONT'D)

She was working underground as a doctor. She operated on the gangrene. They've taken her. They will kill her.

KATE looks at QUINN.

KATE

Who's taken her?

QUINN

Her brother's men.

KATE

Do you love her?

QUINN

With her there is a chance for me.

She looks at QUINN as he puts on his coat.

KATE

Never walk back into my life again.

QUINN picks up his bag and leaves. KATE stares at the shut door.

JED waits immobile in the car.

JED

He's outside the old Shackleton building East London.

MJ

(in car)

Do nothing until we get there. Let's not have a repeat Jed. Do nothing!

JED

Understood.

EXT BUILDING SITE - NIGHT

A sleek black BMW 5 series drives up to the building site gates. AFGHANI 1 gets out, breaks the lock and opens the gate wide. The car drives in and disappears.

58 EXT JED'S CAR OUTSIDE BUILDING SITE - NIGHT 58

JED gets out of the car and follows the BMW.

59 INT BUILDING ON BUILDING SITE - NIGHT 59

AFGHANI 1 and AFGHANI 2 get out of the car.

YOUSSEF the driver waits. FARAHNAZ, tense and frightened, beside him.

QUINN steps forward into the headlights.

He walks forward and places a holdall on the bonnet of the car.

ADAM, sniper gun, telescopic lens, wearing infra red goggles, watches the proceedings from a height.

His gun picks out SAMSON opposite him, much closer.

YOUSSEF steps out. Walks to the holdall, unzips it, takes out a large package of heroin.

He nods to QUINN and picks up the holdall.

Swiftly QUINN stops him.

Two guns are cocked and pointed at QUINN.

QUINN

I want her.

YOUSSEF walks to the car and takes out a case.

YOUSSEF

(to Farahnaz)

Stay here.

He returns, opens the case on the car. It is full of money.

YOUSSEF (CONT'D)

This is what you want, not her.

QUINN

Her or nothing.

A red light appears on YOUSSEF's jacket over his heart.

FARAHNAZ is pulled out. A knife is held at her throat.

YOUSSEF takes the holdall and the money.

Neither ADAM nor SAMSON have a clear shot.

(CONTINUED)

YOUSSEF gets into the driving seat.

YOUSSEF
(in Pushtu)
Get her in the car.

JED breaks cover.

He grabs hold of the AFGHAN holding FARAHAZ.

QUINN takes off towards FARAHAZ.

The man turns on JED and knifes him in the throat simultaneously as ADAM takes his shot. The Afghan falls dead shot through the head onto JED.

SAMSON takes out the other two.

QUINN pushes FARAHAZ to the ground.

The BMW jumps to life. Tyres squeal. Shots through the back windscreen. The car disappears.

FARAHAZ frantically pulls the dead AFGHAN off JED who is bleeding to death. JED watches her.

QUINN
Samson. Take her out now!

FARAHAZ
No. He's dying.

QUINN
We have to go!

FARAHAZ
Wait!

FARAHAZ places JED's own hand on his neck.

FARAHAZ (CONT'D)
Hold it.

She tears fabric. She packs the wound.

She then moves her hands swiftly over him checking for other injuries.

JED lifts his hand to her head. She gently puts it down.

FARAHAZ (CONT'D)
(softly)
Allah will protect you. Be normal. Enjoy it.

She strokes his cheek with her hand.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM arrives at QUINN's side.

ADAM
Police.

QUINN
(to FARAHNAZ)
Leave him.

QUINN (CONT'D)
(to Samson)
Get her out now.

Samson half carries her on the run out of the building site.

QUINN and ADAM simply melt away into the darkness.

JED lies on the ground in the now empty site. He becomes smaller, his surroundings become larger and larger.

BLACKOUT

JED, his neck bandaged, is expertly packing a suitcase.

MJ
How did you persuade him to let you go?

JED
A favour, my old boss at Investigation Division. We're not getting the intelligence. We need lines of communication.

MJ
Why now? You've barely recovered. Or have you got something else on your mind?

JED
They're smuggling drugs. Although I don't understand why the woman was more important than the money.

MJ
We have no idea where she is.

MJ notices the battered bedroom door.

(CONTINUED)

MJ (CONT'D)

QUINN and co flew to Peshawar two days ago. What can you possibly achieve?

JED

I'm following the drugs. It's what I do. It's what I do well. Because of me a shed-load of drugs...

MJ

You nearly died.

JED

But I didn't. Lost a bit of blood that's all. These drugs fund the bloody Taliban. Pollute our streets. I have to go.

He's finished packing. They walk out of the flat.

JED (CONT'D)

Watch my back MJ.

61 INT AIRPLANE - NIGHT

61

JED takes his seat on the plane to Peshawar.

As the plane takes off suddenly..

FLASHBACK

FARAHNAZ leans her forehead on his hands.

FARAHNAZ

Khudai de mal Sha.

END OF FLASHBACK

62 INT. PESHAWAR AIRPORT - DAY

62

JED comes through arrivals.

FARID (34) a policeman waits with a sign 'MOORE'. JED goes up to him and shows his passport.

They walk out together.

63 INT. POLICE CAR - DAY

63

JED arrives at a bomb site.

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

63

FARID gets out of the car stiffly. JED follows.

64 EXT. ARMY BASE - DAY

64

JED follows FARID past the bomb site into a small building next to it which is attached to an army base with make-shift offices.

65 INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

65

JED is shown into a make-shift office. FARID waits patiently.

KHAN

Welcome to our somewhat temporary accommodation Mr Moore. As you no doubt saw our Criminal Investigation building was the target of a suicide bomber. Fell on Farid's head but chose only to break his collar bone. I was the deputy Police Chief now the Chief of Police after the unfortunate murder of my superior. And you have come to help us have you? How kind.

JED hands KHAN some paperwork.

JED

Sir, I am on a drugs trail headed up by a Quinn.

KHAN

Mr Quinn, ah yes.

JED

You know him?

KHAN

A sometime mercenary. I have copied some paperwork for you. Not an easy task at the moment. (hands it to him) He is however, a friend of General Ghadi. Saved the man's life. Nothing can now I fear.

JED

We heard he was dead.

KHAN

Almost. The Taliban have him. Now Mr Moore.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KHAN (CONT'D)

My instructions are to help you to Kabul. You are going to break a drug ring? How kind.

JED

I'm after intelligence. We need to know what we're looking for. Last time the drugs came by boat.

KHAN

Precisely. We wish you well in your fight against drugs. I have arranged for your passage to Kabul by army helicopter. Fast, efficient and will give you a chance to appreciate our fine country. (in Urdu to Farid) Get the bloody idiot out of my sight. (To JED) If you need further help please, do not hesitate.

FARID leaves. JED follows.

EXT. HELICOPTER - DAY

The helicopter blades begin to turn.

JED lowers his head and climbs into the army helicopter with his case.

FARID stands and watches as the helicopter rises into the sky.

As JED watches FARID raises his arm in a farewell salute.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

JED looks out over the vast and inhospitable terrain.

INT KADAR'S HOME, WOMEN'S QUARTERS NEAR KABUL - DAY

(The dialogue is now in Pushtu)

AKILAH FARAHNAZ's mother in law dressed in black, her face traumatised, plays with a young GIRL (2).

SHIRIN (18) the child's mother, Kadar's wife, watches.

The peace is shattered by the scream of jets.

They all rush to the window.

After a few moments there is the sound and smoke of bombs exploding in Kabul.

(CONTINUED)

The little girl covers her eyes with fear.

AKILAH picks her up and takes her into the room to continue the game.

AKILAH hides a thimble. Delightedly the CHILD discovers the thimble and AKILAH's sad face lights.

KADAR (O.S.)
Women cover yourselves.

AKILAH pulls her veil round her and becomes motionless with tension.

SHIRIN slips out of the room.

KADAR dark and dangerous, sweeps into the room a broad smile on his face. He carries a small package.

The CHILD runs to him with her arms outstretched.

KADAR sweeps her up with delight, his dusty face grinning broadly.

SHIRIN brings him some tea and he sits.

He motions to SHIRIN to join him. She is coy with delight.

KADAR hands her the package.

Enchanted she gently opens the package. Inside is some sweet cake.

The CHILD clambers off her father greedily.

Both laugh as SHIRIN feeds the girl.

KADAR motions to his wife to eat. She does delighted at the treat.

Another scream of jets. They all sit motionless. There is again the sound of bombing.

KADAR (CONT'D)
Wife you will pack. Today we
move to the caves with General
Ibrahim.

SHIRIN nods obediently.

KADAR (CONT'D)
How are you today Akilah?

AKILAH
Well, thank you.

(CONTINUED)

KADAR

And your legs?

AKILAH

The burns are recovering well on this old body. Allah is merciful.

SHIRIN

She has been playing with our daughter husband.

KADAR nods approvingly, his attention turning once again to the CHILD.

SHIRIN (CONT'D)

It reminded me of Farahn...

KADAR raises his finger. SHIRIN is silenced immediately.

KADAR

Never mention that name. Because of her our dishonour is great. Tomorrow will bring some honour back to this family

He rises and leaves the room followed by SHIRIN and their little girl bouncing along behind.

AKILAH sits.

A small canyon with 20 metre high rock face near the north of Afghanistan adjacent to the Pakistan border. Into the rock face are cut many caves. This is a Taliban base with electricity, mosque, library, bakery, hospital and living quarters.

Like ants from the ground, PEOPLE are emerging from the caves to gather in the centre of the canyon. Mostly MEN there are also WOMEN in full blue burquas. There is the hum of people.

Into the centre of the group walk some leading TALIBAN. It is difficult to see who is the leader until one man is spotted, with men around him.

Shots pepper the air, IBRAHIM (40) gaunt, bearded and intense army leader, raises his arms, the crowd break out into chants.

A prisoner appears, the charismatic and distinguished figure of GENERAL GADI (59) (FARAHNAZ's father) in full uniform.

(CONTINUED)

Silence. The crowd expectant.

The GENERAL'S hands are bound but he walks with presence and power.

The GENERAL stops in front of his accuser his eyes full of pain. His son KADAR looks into his father's eyes with equal pain.

GENERAL GADI

(Pushtu)

Be comforted my son.

IBRAHIM nods to KADAR.

KADAR holds the gun to his father, but it is shaking.

KADAR looks to IBRAHIM, who holds his gaze.

KADAR looks to his father once more and shoots him through the head.

The man falls to the ground dead.

IBRAHIM

Soon your shame will be at an end.

KADAR

Not until my sister pays with her blood.

The crowd erupts, ullulating, chanting as IBRAHIM raises his arms. Shots ring out.

EXT. FOOTHILLS OF THE MOUNTAINS ON TAJIKISTAN/AFGHAN BORDER
- EVENING

ADAM and QUINN finish unloading supplies from an old Russian Helicopter.

There is a string of pack mules already loaded.

There are boxes of syringes, medical equipment, cardiac arrest machines, portable scanners, computers, x-ray equipment.

ADAM loads another mule.

QUINN looks impatiently into the distance.

ADAM

That's the last of the supplies.

A pick-up approaches.

(CONTINUED)

WAQEEL
 (grinning widely from
 ear to ear)
 Gentleman I am here.

QUINN
 About bloody time.

WAQEEL of uncertain age, wiry, exuberant with a straggly beard, jumps wildly from the cab, takes hold of QUINN's hand and pumps it furiously. QUINN laughs.

WAQEEL
 (to each in turn)
 Assalamu alaikum.

QUINN
 Wa alaikum assalaam. What have you found out?

WAQEEL
 They should be at the hospital.

QUINN inspects the loaded mules.

QUINN
 (shouts)
 Waqeel we need our clothes.

WAQEEL grabs the clothes and they quickly get dressed in full Afghan dress.

QUINN (CONT'D)
 Let's go. Waqeel take the first aid.

QUINN and ADAM fully arm themselves.

WAQEEL puts the back pack on and goes at the head of the caravan with ADAM at the back.

The mules begin to move.

Without warning there is an incredible BANG and the helicopter shudders fatally.

PILOT
 Shit. We're hit.

JED terrified and bewildered looks to the PILOT who is fighting to keep the helicopter steady.

He sees blood splattered on the helicopter glass.

(CONTINUED)

The machine starts to turn round and round and round gradually falling out of the sky.

JED is terrified and falling, falling.

The ground closer, closer.

CRASH

BLACKOUT

JED slowly opens his eyes.

He tentatively moves his head.

He is on a field stretcher. He is shaded from the heat.

He tries to move.

ADAM (O.S.)

He's awake.

QUINN comes into view.

QUINN

You were damn lucky.

JED

What....?

QUINN

Shot down by Taliban. Pilot's dead. Gunshot. Bloody good man though. He got it down. Here.

Gives him a drink.

JED drinks gratefully.

QUINN (CONT'D)

You seem okay. Give him some food.

A plate is put beside him.

Slowly JED struggles to sit up. WAQEEL helps him.

He eats the food gratefully.

He looks around.

Sees the laden mules. The camp. A spiralling wisp of smoke.

WAQEEL

Your helicopter.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED: (2)

ADAM cleans a gun and watches him.

QUINN looks at a map.

QUINN
Can you walk?

JED
Dunno.

He gets himself to his feet. He's unsteady.

QUINN
You've got another 20 mins. Then
we move.

JED
Okay.

QUINN
Waqeel get him some clothes.

JED
Aren't you surprised to see me?

QUINN
Should I be?

JED
I guess not. No.

QUINN
(hesitates)
That building site. You did
well.

JED
Where is she?

QUINN
Safe.

Cut TO:

72 EXT. ROCKY TERRAIN - DAY

72

JED now in Afghan clothes walks holding onto a mule.

The motley caravan snakes following an ancient pathway.

QUINN and ADAM walk at a distance either side of the
caravan.

WAQEEL walks in front with the lead mule.

(CONTINUED)

JED

Who're we worried about?

WAQEEL

Bandits, Taliban, Mujihadeen,
terrorist bombs, British Troops,
German troops, Americans, land
mines - whatever flies kite.

JED

Floats your boat.

WAQEEL

As Afghan man I do not have a
boat. Only kite.

JED

Does the job.

The terrain is much more difficult now as they move into
the high mountain pass that they are taking.

JED'S breathing becomes laboured.

The heat and the height are demanding. JED stands and gets
his breathe.

There is the sound of a river roaring.

QUINN

River's up.
(signals to JED to
follow him)
JED.

ADAM

He ought to have a gun.

QUINN ignores him.

QUINN starts off at a jog up to the top of the large hill
to the side of them.

JED cannot match his stride and falls behind.

Suddenly QUINN, near the top of a hill drops to the ground.

He turns and signals to JED.

JED drops immediately.

QUINN signals to JED to stay where he is.

(CONTINUED)

He signals to ADAM to wait.

On his stomach using his elbows QUINN inches forward.

JED joins him.

QUINN annoyed puts his fingers to his lips. He gestures to listen.

TALIBAN SOLDIERS

(in Pushtu)

In the Name of Allah, the
Merciful, the Compassionate!
Praise be to Allah, who the three
worlds made. The Merciful, the
Compassionate, The King of the
day of Fate. Thee alone do we
worship, and of thee alone do we
ask aid.

QUINN lifts himself just so he can see over the top of the peak.

There are THREE SOLDIERS at prayer.

QUINN gestures to JED, 'three'.

He signals to ADAM 'three'.

QUINN signals to go back.

Very carefully they climb down and Quinn jogs over to the waiting group.

QUINN

They'll hear the mules. So let's
try and sort this at the river.
Adam you go ahead and take up
position on this side of the
river. Jed and Waqeel you get
those mules moving and into that
river.

WAQEEL goes to the front, and as a man possessed gets the lead mule moving as fast as possible.

JED tries to get the rest of the mules to follow speedily.

QUINN disappears into the land.

WAQEEL reaches the river. It is wide and very strong but shallow. He takes the lead mule across. The other mules follow.

(CONTINUED)

The last mule to cross is next to JED.

Without warning it loses its feet, smacks into JED who loses his feet.

He grabs hold of the rein, manages to get to his feet and with great difficulty tries to get the mule to stand up.

A shot rings out and the mule is dead.

JED frightened instinctively falls into the river using the mule as cover.

Waqeel clambers for cover.

Another shot rings out and hits JED's mule.

JED is suddenly aware of the silence except for the sound of the river.

JED
(shouts)
Where are they?

WAQEEL
High.

JED
High where?

A shot rings out and Waqeel screams in pain.

JED tries to move pulling the dead mule as cover.
Impossible.

SILENCE

Without warning TWO TALIBAN SOLDIERS emerge to stand on the riverside.

They walk into the river.

One of the soldiers grasps a grenade, takes the pin out and lobs it into the air towards JED.

JED watches fascinated as the grenade, in slow motion, flies through the air.

He is about to die.

There is a horrendous explosion. Water and debris fly into the air.

The soldiers laugh.

JED suddenly realises he's the game.

(CONTINUED)

JED (CONT'D)

O God.

The other soldier takes out a grenade, pulls the pin out and immediately a shot fires.

The soldier falls.

His companion tries desperately to get away from the grenade, but the water hampers him.

The grenade explodes the soldier flies into the air. The running soldier is blown over.

Blood and debris spatters all over JED.

JED stands up in bewilderment.

QUINN

GET DOWN.

JED falls like a stone.

The soldier gets to his feet.

A shot fires and he falls dead shot through the head.

Suddenly JED sees ADAM and QUINN break cover and run back the way they have come.

WAQEEL still screams.

JED looks at his blood spattered frame like a man in a dream.

The blood on his hands.

He feels his face. The blood of the mule. The blood of the man shot dead.

He sits down in the river and begins to wash the blood off his hands, his face, his clothes.

Two shots ring out.

JED wakes as if from a dream.

Finally he registers Waqeel's screams.

JED runs over to the injured WAQEEL blood pouring from his side.

Quickly he takes off the back pack and looks in first aid for some dressing.

He patches WAQEEL up as best he can.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM goes into the river and starts to unload the mule.

QUINN returns and crosses over the river towards JED and WAQEEL.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Missed.

ADAM

He's wounded, but he'll make it back to his group.

QUINN reaches JED and WAQEEL.

JED

You used me. You kept me in the river for target practise.

QUINN

We didn't know where the third man was. (to ADAM)
We'll keep going till nightfall or we won't make it before tomorrow night.

JED stands up and faces QUINN.

JED

How did you know he was going to miss?

QUINN

Split the equipment amongst the other mules. Waqeel will have to ride.

JED

(losing it)
How did you know he was going to miss?

JED hits QUINN as hard as he can across the chin.

QUINN taken by surprise staggers backwards but doesn't fall.

He returns JED's punch and both of them land in the river.

They exchange punch for punch.

Finally it ends with QUINN on top of JED.

JED (CONT'D)

(struggling)
Fuck you.

(CONTINUED)

QUINN

You're in my world now. My rules.

QUINN loosens him, gets up and walks away.

JED

Not if I can help it.

ADAM goes over to JED and gives him a hand.

JED accepts it. ADAM pulls him to his feet.

ADAM

You patched Waqeel up well.

ADAM gives him a nod of approval, turns and walks out of the river.

JED heartened follows him.

Suddenly he notices what the mules are carrying. Expensive medical equipment. Medical supplies.

JED takes the watch with QUINN. A beautiful sky, heavy with stars.

They each have a blanket around them.

The others are asleep. WAQEEL fitful and noisy in his pain.

JED

Will he make it?

QUINN

Depends. We've two more days travelling yet.

JED

Why the fuck are you here?

QUINN

Have you lifted your eyes from your navel yet?

JED

Of course.

QUINN

Then what do you see?

He looks up at the incredible vista of the cloudless night sky.

(CONTINUED)

JED

A drug dealer who carries medical equipment and supplies.

QUINN

The Afghan knows his drugs go to his neighbours who are his enemy and the infidels, who sent the guns. Drugs versus equipment and medical supplies. You have chosen your morality, I mine.

JED

So you never intended to keep the money. And Farahnaz?

QUINN

Farahnaz is the doctor. We are going to deliver the supplies to her. To the hospital I have financed and built with drug money, protected by Afghans from the Taliban. Without her the women have no-one to help them. They cannot go to a male doctor.

(to ADAM)

Problems?

ADAM

My watch.

QUINN

(to JED)

Get some sleep.

QUINN lies down.

JED takes his blanket.

QUINN is already asleep.

JED

So he never intended to keep the money. How long have you and Quinn been together?

ADAM

Long enough. Best soldier I ever served with. Sleep.

CUT TO:

76 EXT VILLAGE IN DISTANCE - LATE AFTERNOON 76

Exhausted, filthy and hot JED, his head encased in a scarf, raises his eyes to the village in the distance.

A pall of smoke rises.

The worn-out group make their way through the ruins of what was once a village.

ADAM peels off to look around.

77 EXT HOSPITAL COURTYARD - DAY 77

They enter the courtyard and the hospital is a shattered remnant of itself.

QUINN cannot believe it and wanders shocked.

JED looks for a sign of FARAHNAZ.

He finds incinerated bodies and hospital beds.

He returns to QUINN.

JED
The place is empty. Where would
they have gone?

QUINN doesn't answer.

ADAM
(returning)
Towards Chitral just across the
border, in Pakistan.

JED
Then we must follow.

ADAM looks at QUINN then JED.

ADAM
(concerned)
Quinn?

QUINN doesn't answer.

JED
Let's water and feed the mules.
(He glances at Quinn) Then we'll
leave.

ADAM nods in agreement. He looks at a fading WAQEEL.

(CONTINUED)

77 CONTINUED:

77

ADAM

One hour.

JED waters the mules.

ADAM takes a look at WAQEEL, changes his dressing.

QUINN stands bereft in the middle of the ruined hospital.

78 EXT VILLAGE - DAY

78

ADAM and JED prepare to leave.

JED picks up a gun.

QUINN

Not you.

ADAM watches.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Do you know how to use one?

JED shakes his head.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Then you don't practice on us particularly at altitude.

JED

I can learn.

QUINN

No.

ADAM puts the gun back in the pouch.

They move apart - JED one side of the mules, ADAM towards the back, WAQEEL riding with great difficulty.

JED moves to help WAQEEL stay on the animal.

The group leave the outskirts of the village and head towards the border of Pakistan.

79 EXT ROCKY LANDSCAPE - VERY LATE AFTERNOON

79

The group passes the still body of a WOMAN by the side of the path.

Next to her is a young boy MOHAMMED of about 7.

JED about to pass, looks at the boy.

(CONTINUED)

He takes his water bottle and walks towards the boy.
 The boy looks at JED fearfully as he approaches.
 JED holds out some water.
 The boy accepts and drinks thirstily.
 JED stops and checks the woman's pulse. She is dead.
 JED motions he can keep the bottle of water.
 He hold out his hand to the boy.
 The boy puts his hand in his hand and walks with him.

QUINN

He'll steal anything he can get
 his hands on.

JED

Let him.

JED picks the BOY up and hoists him onto his shoulders and keeps walking still helping WAQEEL stay on the mule.

Eventually they reach the top of the path and look down over the brow.

They are astonished to see the area teeming with people.

They walk down into the melee.

People watch them as they walk through the mini exodus.

QUINN

Adam, Wageel - keep watch on the
 equipment.

Carts, mules, bicycles, makeshift tents, chickens, goats, small fires, crying children, crying adults, laughing children, people making themselves as comfortable as possible for the night.

As they pass through JED watches as QUINN stops occasionally to ask questions.

As he asks people point in a consistent direction.

They walk on.

Ahead of them is the only real tent amongst the people. It is large and dominates the space.

(CONTINUED)

There is lamplight within and figures moving about.
SAMSON stands outside.

ADAM

Hey man.

They slap a handshake and body check.

SAMSON

Where'd he come from?

ADAM

Fell out of the sky.

JED opens the flap and walks through.

Inside people are laid out in various stages of sickness.
Men in one half divided by a sheet. Women the other side.

Men and women move about the space helping where they can
in their appropriate section.

JED holds the women's curtain aside.

On a makeshift table and FARAHNAZ examines a pregnant
patient.

FARAHNAZ

(in Pushtu)

Put her over with the other
women. She is in labour.

WOMAN

(Pushtu)

It is too early.

FARAHNAZ

(Pushtu)

I am sorry. There is nothing I
can do.

FARAHNAZ looks up and is astonished to see Jed.

FARAHNAZ (CONT'D)

Get out. This is for women.

A nurse rips the flap from him.

He waits.

FARAHNAZ emerges furious.

(CONTINUED)

FARAHNAZ (CONT'D)
You disrespect the women.

JED
That was not my intention.

FARAHNAZ
What are you doing here?

JED
My job.

QUINN and ADAM have brought in the injured WAQEEL and placed him on the table.

ADAM leaves.

QUINN looks at FARAHNAZ, she smiles at him.

FARAHNAZ
Thank you for Samson.

QUINN nods.

FARAHNAZ puts on fresh gloves and examines WAQEEL.

FARAHNAZ (CONT'D)
How long ago did this happen?

JED
About 2 1/2 days.

As she examines him WAQEEL writhes in agony.

FARAHNAZ
You two, be useful, hold him down for a moment.

She quickly sets up a drip.

She gives WAQEEL an injection and the man gradually calms and is still.

FARAHNAZ (CONT'D)
Go now. Leave us!

She and JED look at each other for a moment, seen by QUINN.

FARAHNAZ (CONT'D)
QUINN have you got the supplies?

QUINN
Of course.

(CONTINUED)

FARAHNAZ

Good. Bring some of the general stuff over. We've run out of so much.

QUINN pulls JED out.

FARAHNAZ works quickly.

ADAM and SAMSON have organised the mules and set up camp.

QUINN and JED arrive followed by JED's shadow, MOHAMMED.

They offer QUINN and JED some food.

QUINN

We need to set up watch over the mules and equipment. She needs general supplies now.

ADAM and SAMSON get up immediately to get two crates to deliver to the Hospital Tent.

JED

How much food have we got?

QUINN

A week.

They are interrupted by the MULLAH ABD AL BARI (55) a short, energetic and charismatic figure who greets them. He sits with them.

MULLAH

(to QUINN)

Assalamu alaikum Quinn. It is good to see you again my brother.

QUINN

A alaikum assalaam Mullah Bari. It is good to see you too.

MULLAH

These are dark days and yet you have arrived with much. Allah be praised.

JED gives Mohammed some of his food.

QUINN offers the Mullah some food which he takes delicately although he is obviously hungry.

(CONTINUED)

QUINN

Why did they have to destroy all
that work?

MULLAH

It is the will of Allah my
friend.

QUINN

Allah is not a good god.

MULLAH

Allah is not required to be good,
only to be God and we, we must
live in his shadow.

QUINN

No-one can breathe under such a
shadow.

MULLAH

(laughs and gestures at
the people around them)
Without breathe there is no life.

The Mullah gets up.

MULLAH (CONT'D)

Allah be praised for using you
for his purposes.

QUINN bows politely as the Mullah gives what is left of his
food to MOHAMMED and goes.

The BOY tries to eat slowly but is overcome with hunger and
bolts it down.

FARAHNAZ arrives passing the MULLAH who greets her warmly.

FARAHNAZ

Waqeel will live.

QUINN stands to join her. JED stares at her.

She looks at QUINN gratefully.

QUINN

What happened?

FARAHNAZ

The Taliban. Fortunately we were
warned. The Afghans got the
Americans to bomb. They got
untidy. All our work.

(CONTINUED)

QUINN

We must build again.

FARAHNAZ

For God's sake where Quinn? Our only hope is the border. The Pakistani's will protect us.

QUINN

Perhaps. But they also protect the Taliban.

FARAHNAZ

At least we can set up a hospital. There is also the possibility of food aid. Chitral has an airport.

She puts her hand on QUINN's arm.

FARAHNAZ (CONT'D)

It's not what we wanted, but it is something. The people will find us. And you, will you help us?

JED

Help you?

FARAHNAZ

Welcome to my world of grey.

QUINN

It will only be a matter of time before Kadar finds out.

FARAHNAZ

I know but until then. I have my papers. When the time comes I will fly back to the UK. I am no martyr.

QUINN

(about JED)

So perhaps he will yet be of some use.

He turns away to the crates.

JED

I misjudged you all...

FARAHNAZ

(to JED)

I am Muslim and proud of it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FARAHNAZ (CONT'D)

I follow a God who cares about his people, so I care. And so does Quinn in his own way.

JED

I thought you and Quinn were drug...

FARAHNAZ

We are. Go home Jed there is nothing for you here. Go. I must go back. There is so much work.

JED

Let me help you.

FARAHNAZ

I think you will be of more use to Quinn than to me.

She turns away back to the hospital tent.

QUINN hands JED a crate.

QUINN

Leave when we reach the border. Meanwhile here is another crate that must go to the hospital tent.

FARAHNAZ checks on WAQEEL.

WAQEEL

You are an angel.

She takes his temperature. He smiles up at her weakly.

She notes it on her chart.

She brings some water to his lips and he sips gratefully.

He lies back and closes his eyes.

Startled FARAHNAZ walks in on JED delivering a crate of dressings.

FARAHNAZ

What the ...?

(CONTINUED)

JED

Dressings. Quinn told me to.....
Thank you for saving my life.

FARAHNAZ

Let me see.

She looks at the wound.

FARAHNAZ (CONT'D)

It needs a fresh dressing. Sit.

JED

Here you are so different.

She takes a fresh dressing pack, removes the old dressing,
cleans it and puts on a new dressing.

FARAHNAZ

Here I'm in charge. I can do what
I want. What I was born to do.

JED

I've never met anyone like you.

The dressing is finished.

FARAHNAZ

A drug smuggler?

JED

Yes.

Slowly she pulls her hijab off.

JED covers her mouth with his. They give in to each other
and kiss deeply and passionately.

They cling to each other.

JED (CONT'D)

I'll stay. Put me to work -
anything.

FARAHNAZ

People will guess.

JED

I'll marry you.

FARAHNAZ

You can't you're not a Muslim.
And besides I have to agree.

JED

I'll become a Muslim.

(CONTINUED)

FARAHNAZ
Ridiculous man.

They laugh. Everything is possible in this moment.

JED
I love you.

FARAHNAZ responds by kissing him passionately again. Then she pulls away.

FARAHNAZ
Enough. I must work.

85 EXT TALIBAN CAVE BASE - DAY

85

A solitary exhausted and wounded SOLDIER makes his way to the Taliban base. He is taken into a cave.

Inside IBRAHIM, his commanding officer rises to meet him with KADAR. IBRAHIM has prayer beads in his hand.

IBRAHIM
Assalamu alaikum. Get him some refreshment.

A SOLDIER brings the man some water. He drinks it greedily.

SOLDIER
My general, there was a caravan in the Northern Eastern Territory. The mules were carrying much. They crossed the river. These men were not Afghans except for one. On their feet were army boots.

KADAR
Were they making for the hospital?

SOLDIER
They had medical supplies.

KADAR
Quinn and my sister the traitor. Allow me to serve Allah.

IBRAHIM
Time is short my brother. It is not a priority.

(CONTINUED)

KADAR

But my sister has broken the Shariah law and my family is dishonoured for ever by her life. Mullah Omar himself said "We call on all to abide by the Shariah. There is no possibility of us changing our position on this". And I will also bring us medical supplies for the people.

IBRAHIM

You speak truly. Take 10 men and two pick ups. They will make for the border. You have one week. Kill all who have defiled the law.

IBRAHIM kisses a delighted KADAR on both cheeks.

IBRAHIM (CONT'D)

May Allah be with you and bring you back to me.

KADAR leaves with the soldier.

IBRAHIM stands in an empty cave, his prayer beads moving in his hand.

In the midst of magnificent mountain countryside colour, chaos and the utter desperation of displaced HUMANKIND meet.

Mothers, one carrying two children, one at the breast, with three following.

Fathers hauling hand carts carrying aged parents.

A son alongside desperate to help his own father.

Old, young, infirm all walking. Whatever is dropped remains on the roadside to be left or retrieved by another's need.

People squatting for the toilet.

Those from the hospital hauled by willing hands.

Horses pulling carts impossibly full of precious possessions.

A CHILD pulling a toy.

(CONTINUED)

MOHAMMED walks holding onto the skirt of JED.

JED, QUINN, SAMSON and ADAM take responsibility for the mules and a recovering WAQEEL rides.

JED lifts Mohammed and places him on a mule.

The mule hauls a small cart that carries a resting FARAHNAZ too precious to be allowed to walk.

She cuts some food for JED and the others.

JED passes it on, bites a little of his and hands the rest to MOHAMMED.

Those near them look on hungrily.

Planes suddenly scream past.

The exodus freezes and all look fearfully to the sky.

Some start to whimper. In the distance the sound of bombs. MOHAMMED starts to cry.

JED comforts the child.

The walking continues.

JED sees the MULLAH walking behind beside a cart filled with books.

He separates himself from MOHAMMED and goes up to join him.

The Mullah beckons him over.

MULLAH
Assalamu alaikum.

JED
A alaikum assalaam.

MULLAH
Very good. What can I do for you?

JED
I want to know if it is possible for a non-Muslim to marry a Muslim.

The Mullah takes up the Koran from the cart, and looks for a page in the text The Cow. He translates.

MULLAH
"and wed not your daughters to idolaters until they believe".
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MULLAH (CONT'D)

Who does the man who has blessed
us with provision wish to marry?

JED

Tell no-one. Farahnaz.

The Mullah nods.

MULLAH

And does she wish the same.

JED

Perhaps.

MULLAH

Did she send you to me?

JED

No, she does not know I ask.

MULLAH

She is a woman of great
intelligence and skill. Can oil
mix with water? Can fire burn if
the wood is wet?

JED

Time shortens.

MULLAH

Indeed. Who knows what tomorrow
will bring?

JED

I could become a Muslim.

MULLAH

A man could not change inside
(patting his chest) for a woman,
but he could for God.

JED

I know I could change. I want
to.

MULLAH

A woman touches the heart, but
God touches a man's very being.
Do you really want a God that
does that?

JED does not know how to answer the man.

MULLAH (CONT'D)

If tomorrow comes, inshallah, we
will talk again.

(CONTINUED)

JED, bows politely and walks forwards to MOHAMMED.

Suddenly a MAN tries to seize one of the mules.

QUINN shoves him away and holds a gun at him.

The man lets out a torrent of words.

JED

What does he want?

QUINN

The mule for his wife who is pregnant.

JED

Give it to him.

QUINN

I will not abandon our equipment.

JED goes over to the mule with the electrical equipment. He starts to undo the pack.

A gun is raised to his head.

JED hesitates and continues to undo the pack.

JED

Without electricity it is worthless.

The gun cocks ready to fire. JED turns and faces it.

JED (CONT'D)

Will you kill me for an x-ray machine!

The pack falls, the man takes the mule.

JED goes along the line of pack mules. He dumps only electrical equipment, and holds onto the mules.

There is a dangerous scrum.

JED is in the middle and in danger as people try to wrest the mules from him.

QUINN fires into the air. The people stop.

JED has four mules. Who does he hand them too?

Eyes plead around him.

A MAN with children.

(CONTINUED)

A CHILD with a sick MOTHER.

A LAME WOMAN.

He looks at QUINN.

QUINN

You wanted to play God.

JED

I can't.

He drops the reins and walks away.

JED forgotten, the people look at QUINN who has the gun.

He motions to several strong looking people who grab their prize.

JED stands and watches the steady tide of humanity that passes; sees the abandoned expensive x-ray equipment, against a backdrop of mountainous awesome beauty.

Humanity. Argument. Queues. The border is closed. Panic. Emotion. Fear.

JED pushes his way through people to the border.

JED

I'm British. I'm a British citizen. Let me through...

He waves his British passport.

The BORDER GUARD reads it incredulously.

He shows his SUPERIOR.

JED is allowed to pass through the melee at the checkpoint into Pakistan.

JED looks for the hospital tent in the camp established by the refugees on the Afghan side.

PEOPLE sleep in groups all over the site.

A MOTHER lying on her possessions with her THREE CHILDREN asleep all over her.

A makeshift cover with blankets and a family underneath.

(CONTINUED)

A chicken roosting with A CHILD.

An OLD WOMAN on a blanket under a cart.

Finally the hospital tent.

FARAHNAZ is asleep alone in a small tent alongside.

JED checks no-one sees, then lies down beside her.

FARAHNAZ wakes with a start.

JED

Shh.

JED pulls the cover over them both.

He kisses her tenderly, she responds passionately.

JED (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Hello you.

FARAHNAZ

(whispers)

Where have you been? Did anyone see you?

JED

No. In Pakistan.

FARAHNAZ

You British can go anywhere.

JED

So can you.

FARAHNAZ looks at him.

JED (CONT'D)

You have your papers. I have arranged for you to come with me. We can fly to England away from this God forsaken place.

FARAHNAZ

Where would we live?

JED

I don't know. Buy a flat, a house, who cares.

FARAHNAZ

With a garden?

(CONTINUED)

JED

If you want. Anything you want.

FARAHNAZ

Anything I want. I would grow okra. I would make real Afghan food like my mother used to make. I would take a bath and wash my hair with something sweet smelling.

JED

Is that all?

FARAHNAZ

No. You know my father prepared for this. There is money for me in England.

JED

I can get us across the border right now.

FARAHNAZ

Here I am a doctor.

JED

But it will never stop.

FARAHNAZ

I can do a little. So can you. Just for now.

JED

I can't even give away a mule.

FARAHNAZ

Tonight, in this moment, there is us.

She takes hold of him and kisses him.

FARAHNAZ (CONT'D)

I am who I am.

JED

Let's be together.

FARAHNAZ

When the time comes yes. I don't want to die.

JED

Promise.

(CONTINUED)

FARAHNAZ

I must sleep. Go before someone
sees.

JED slips out of the tent and lies down across the
entrance.

QUINN stands guard unseen. He slips away.

89 EXT HOSPITAL TENT JUST ON AFGHAN SIDE OF BORDER - DAY 89

To great excitement, a food relief truck drives through the
refugees and sets itself up near the hospital.

Guarded by some Pakistani SOLDIERS it has relief workers
riding on the top.

People start to mass around the truck holding out desperate
hands.

QUINN walks out of the hospital tent.

MOHAMMED waits outside the hospital tent like a sentinel.
He has in his hand a small bag containing stones.

ADAM, SAMSON, QUINN go towards the truck to collect the
food for the hospital.

They push their way through.

QUINN

(pushtu)

It is for the hospital, for the
hospital.

Food is handed out to them.

ADAM, SAMSON and QUINN bring the collected food to the
tent.

90 INT HOSPITAL TENT JUST ON AFGHAN SIDE OF BORDER -DAY 90

FARAHNAZ organises what they deliver in a small holding
area.

QUINN

Where is Jed when you need him?

FARAHNAZ

Keep him alive. For me.

Suddenly they hear an excited jabbering. FARAHNAZ, ADAM,
SAMSON and QUINN stop and look outside.

91 EXT HOSPITAL TENT JUST ON AFGHAN SIDE OF BORDER - DAY 91

JED has a delighted MOHAMMED surgically attached to him. The boy's feet around his waist. He is laughing at the sheer outrageous delight of the child.

He catches FARAHNAZ'S eyes as she comes out of the tent.

JED

All yours.

He smiles at her and she at him.

FARAHNAZ

I know.

Mohammed wriggles down and shows him the stones.

He sits down and gestures for JED to sit with him.

FARAHNAZ watches MOHAMMED and JED play the Afghan game.

QUINN

Did I ever tell you.....?

FARAHNAZ

No - but I understand and I thank you, for everything.

MOHAMMED wins so JED picks up the stones and walks away.

MOHAMMED runs after him.

JED picks up speed and keeps himself just out of reach as MOHAMMED tries to catch him.

Other children join the chase.

Suddenly JED races round the area followed by a small group of children.

People point, watch, laugh. An unexpected and delightful moment of fun.

MOHAMMED cleverly cuts across, runs at JED who drops the stones, picks him up and throws him into the air.

MOHAMMED'S sharp eyes pick up two Taliban pick-up trucks roaring towards the camp in the distance.

MOHAMMED

(in Pushtu)

Taliban. They are coming. They are coming. I see them. They are coming.

(CONTINUED)

JED is at a loss. People start to scatter. They gather children.

QUINN jumps onto the food truck as high as he can.

QUINN

Taliban.

One of the trucks carries KADAR.

Suddenly the food truck is isolated in a dust ridden space.

The Pakistani soldiers take cover behind the truck.

QUINN runs over to ADAM and SAMSON.

JED runs to FARAHNAZ.

ADAM, SAMSON and QUINN begin to arm themselves with guns and as many bullets as possible.

92 EXT BORDER - DAY

92

Some REFUGEES start talking excitedly and pointing the Taliban out to the BORDER GUARDS.

The guards, set up their guns and watch from a distance, anxious to protect their soldiers with the food truck.

93 EXT HOSPITAL TENT JUST ON AFGHAN SIDE OF BORDER - DAY

93

ADAM and SAMSON race to gain strategic position on either side of the area.

ADAM manages to get fairly high on a rock.

FARAHNAZ

It is Kadar.

JED

Let's go.

QUINN arrives beside them.

FARAHNAZ

Go. The border.

JED

No.

QUINN

Both of you come with me.

They follow him into the hospital tent.

(CONTINUED)

93 CONTINUED:

93

A tense silence descends.

QUINN has positioned himself so that he can see the maximum.

He checks ADAM and SAMSON are both in place.

94 INT HOSPITAL TENT JUST ON AFGHAN SIDE OF BORDER - DAY 94

FARAHNAZ shakes. JED holds onto her.

FARAHNAZ

I thought I would have more time.

JED

We will.

FARAHNAZ

You do know there are worse things than dying?

JED

No.

She kisses him passionately.

FARAHNAZ

Promise me you'll live.

JED

Of course I will, so will you.

FARAHNAZ

Promise me. Whatever happens.

JED

I promise.

QUINN

They're here.

95 EXT HOSPITAL TENT JUST ON AFGHAN BORDER - DAY

95

KADAR, with 4 SOLDIERS drives into the clearing in front of the food truck and the hospital tent with a flourish in a fancy Toyota Hilux pick-up, in mint condition with plates from the Emirates.

Alongside an intimidating GROUP OF SOLDIERS in another pick-up

KADAR gets down from the Toyota.

Some men stand behind him.

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED:

Others remain in their pick-up their guns cocked.

The MULLAH walks out to greet him.

(They speak in Pushtu)

MULLAH
Assalamu alaikum. You do know you
are in great danger here my son.

KADAR
Where are the infidels?

The MULLAH shrugs his shoulders.

96 INT HOSPITAL TENT - DAY 96

QUINN, his gun ready, translates.

QUINN
He wants to know where we are.

97 EXT HOSPITAL TENT AFGHAN SIDE OF BORDER - DAY 97

KADAR
Put him on his knees.

They grab the MULLAH and throw him to the ground.

KADAR (CONT'D)
Put out both your hands.

The Mullah looks horror struck.

KADAR (CONT'D)
Both your hands.

Kadar signals to one of his men who takes out a machete.

98 INT HOSPITAL TENT - DAY 98

QUINN, FARAHNAZ and JED watch with increasing horror.

JED
What's he doing? What?

99 EXT HOSPITAL COURTYARD - DAY 99

The MULLAH shakes with fear.

(CONTINUED)

KADAR

If you do not tell me where the infidels are I will cut off both your hands.

The MULLAH cannot speak.

KADAR nods at his man.

The machete is brought down and a hand is severed.

The Mullah groans and faints.

KADAR looks around.

100

INT HOSPITAL TENT - DAY

100

JED, completely stunned, shakes his head.

JED

No.

QUINN stops JED moving.

QUINN

The hand is gone, the man has fainted. Wait.

101

EXT HOSPITAL TENT JUST ON BORDER - DAY

101

KADAR directs another SOLDIER.

KADAR

Lift him up.

A soldier lifts up the MULLAH. ANOTHER smacks him round the face until he comes too.

KADAR (CONT'D)

(in Pushtu)

Hold out his other hand.

The soldier holds out the hand.

102

INT HOSPITAL TENT - DAY

102

FARAHNAZ goes to leave the tent. JED grabs her.

JED

No. (He looks at QUINN) There's no point waiting.

JED takes one last look at FARAHNAZ.

(CONTINUED)

JED (CONT'D)

Stay here.

He steps outside.

QUINN

Shit.

QUINN lowers his gun and follows him, catches him and walks beside him.

ADAM and SAMSON reposition themselves as both JED and QUINN walk towards KADAR.

The MULLAH is kicked away.

KADAR ignores JED.

(Kadar now speaks English)

KADAR

Where is my traitorous sister.

QUINN

The doctor is unavailable.

Kadar takes out his gun and points it at QUINN who raises his arms swiftly.

QUINN (CONT'D)

We brought supplies and equipment for a hospital. A hospital the Afghan people, particularly the women, so badly need. Sadly though there is now no hospital.

KADAR

It is because of your country that Afghanistan has nothing, but true Afghans are proud of their country.

JED

If that is true how come so many are here waiting to leave?

Kadar translates this to his men who explode into anger shouting abuse.

QUINN looks for ADAM and SAMSON.

(CONTINUED)

Unseen to begin with FARAHNAZ courageously walks into the middle of the group, they part for her, her head is covered.

KADAR grabs her, slaps her.

KADAR
(in Pushtu angrily)
Where is your full burqua? You
bring shame on our family.

FARAHNAZ
Where is our father Kadar?

KADAR cannot meet her gaze. He fires his gun into the air angrily.

JED moves to intervene. A SOLDIER's gun stops him.

QUINN's eyes are everywhere looking for possibilities to fight their way out.

He catches ADAM's eye.

FARAHNAZ (CONT'D)
It is dangerous for you here
brother.

KADAR
You will come with me after I
have killed these infidels.

She shakes her head.

FARAHNAZ
(in English)
Brother I fear you will be
killed.

FARAHNAZ takes a step back towards JED.

Kadar sees immediately the intimacy.

KADAR
What is my sister to you?

QUINN
Nothing.

QUINN looks for ADAM.

ADAM nods ready.

KADAR
You.

(CONTINUED)

JED looks KADAR straight in the eye.

KADAR (CONT'D)
(enraged)
What do you want from her? Have
you had sex with her? I disown
her. She is worthless.

He grabs FARAHNAZ by her hair and forces her to kneel.

KADAR (CONT'D)
What man would want a woman who
has been with an infidel?

He looks at FARAHNAZ.

KADAR (CONT'D)
(in Pushtu)
What is this man to you?

FARAHNAZ
(looking at JED)
I love him.

KADAR
Whore.

He takes hold of his gun and holds it at FARAHNAZ's head.

She looks at JED with resignation.

A shot and one of the Taliban soldiers falls dead.

The Pakistani guards behind the food truck have started
shooting.

Some of the border guards have encroached inside the border
and they too begin to shoot.

All hell breaks loose. There is complete confusion as the
Taliban start returning fire.

JED jumps KADAR. His gun fires.

QUINN lets a knife slip into his hand.

Without warning QUINN grabs KADAR and slits his throat.

KADAR falls dying on the ground. His blood pouring out on
the ground beside him.

JED flings himself over FARAHNAZ.

The soldiers without KADAR are confused. They fire
indiscriminately.

(CONTINUED)

QUINN defends himself.

All the soldiers are dead.

The silence descends.

As the smoke and dust clears, JED lifts himself off FARAHNAZ.

JED
You're safe now.

She doesn't move.

SILENCE

Time stands still for JED. He watches as her blood pours out of her body and seeps over the dirt.

She is dead.

JED (CONT'D)
No. No.

He cradles her in his arms.

Little MOHAMMED keeps watch over them. In his hands is a water bottle.

QUINN gets down on his knees beside FARAHNAZ and puts his hand on her neck to check if there is any sign of life.

For the first time emotion breaks out of QUINN and anger fills his face.

QUINN
Don't touch her.

JED doesn't move.

QUINN hauls JED off her.

QUINN (CONT'D)
No you don't. You killed her.

QUINN has his knife in his hand.

QUINN fuelled by pain, anger and despair lunges at JED and goes for his chest.

Reflex movement JED lifts his arm. It is badly cut.

JED realises QUINN wants him dead.

JED
It's finished.

(CONTINUED)

QUINN cannot hear. JED will not fight.

ADAM and SAMSON start to run towards QUINN.

QUINN comes at him again. JED is cut on the cheek.

JED (CONT'D)
I won't do it Quinn. I can't.

QUINN catches him again, this time in his thigh.

JED falls down. He will not fight.

QUINN goes for the kill.

ADAM and SAMSON grab QUINN.

QUINN throws everything against them, but they are too strong as a team.

Efficiently they disarm him.

JED gets unsteadily to his feet.

QUINN goes again for him.

ADAM and SAMSON take QUINN's legs from under him.

They grab and hold him expertly so he is unable to move.

ADAM
(shouts)
QUINN.

QUINN comes to himself.

JED
Our problem isn't dying Quinn,
it's working out how we're going
to live.

FLASHBACK

JED sees FARAHAZ'S face.

FARAHAZ
Promise me you'll live.

Shots from the border guards ring out and she falls to the ground dead in the crossfire.

END OF FLASHBACK

JED wearily gets to his feet.

(CONTINUED)

JED

She was caught in the middle.

He holds out his hand to QUINN.

QUINN drags himself to his feet and exhausted, takes the offered hand.

QUINN and ADAM lift FARAHNAZ onto their shoulders and walk towards the hospital tent.

JED limps after them.

104 INT HOSPITAL TENT - NIGHT

104

Alone JED watches over FARAHNAZ laid out on her consultation table.

She is formal, unfamiliar. Her black hijab is disarranged.

JED leans over and very gently rearranges her hijab properly.

JED

There. Free at last. Go with God.

He sees her hand with her ring on it.

Gently he takes hold of the hand and kisses it.

Emotion breaks, tears fall.

He removes the ring and holds it in his hand.

JED (CONT'D)

Forgive me, but I need to remember.

He leans over and gently kisses her on her lips.

105 EXT BORDER - DAY

105

JED, QUINN, ADAM and SAMSON prepare to cross the border.

A pick-up waits for them.

The MULLAH, his hand gone, his arm bandaged, waits with MOHAMMED.

JED gives the MULLAH all the money he has.

MULLAH

Thank you. It was God's will.

(CONTINUED)

JED
God be with you.

MULLAH
We have much to learn from each
other. Allahu akbar.

JED and QUINN bow respectfully.

JED
The boy?

MULLAH
He will be as my son. May Allah
be merciful and guide you to your
home.

MOHAMMED hands JED the water bottle he gave him, now full.

Respectfully JED takes it.

JED takes off his watch and gives it to the boy who
ecstatic, jumps into JED's arms.

JED kisses him and puts him down beside the MULLAH.

The four men show their passports and pass through the
border.

JED looks back and catches MOHAMMED's eyes looking at him.

JED, still in Afghan dress is sitting on the deck of a rust
bucket, an excuse for a ship with a GROUP of Afghan men and
women.

TWO WOMEN sit and watch JED with a YOUNG GIRL.

JED struggles with cloth, string and sticks.

JED
(pointing to himself)
JED. JED

The young girl giggles shyly.

Finally he hands her the kite and gestures that she must go
some distance away.

He motions to hold it up. The child obeys.

(CONTINUED)

JED (CONT'D)
 (in Pushtu)
 Throw it.
 (he signals again)

The young girl does so and the wind takes it.

JED lets the string out and the kite blows high.

The child comes over to him and he helps her hold it.

The kite flies bold and free in the wind.

A black bird flying amongst the seagulls hawking after the boat.

107 EXT TILBURY DOCKS - DAY

107

At Tilbury docks the different flags are still flying, pristine and correct.

There is the sound of the wires slapping against the flagpole.

108 EXT SHIP'S DECK - DAY

108

QUINN joins JED looking at the docks.

JED
 What are you going to do?

QUINN
 I want something clean in my hands.

JED
 You had it.

QUINN
 We both did.

JED looks at him.

The ship docks and the gangplank is lowered.

MJ and another BORDER OFFICER walk onto it.

They walk up to the assembled group of Afghanis.

MJ
 Does anyone speak English?

JED
 Hello MJ.

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED:

MJ looks at the hairy Afghan in front of him.

MJ

JED? JED Moore? You gone native
or what?

JED shakes him by the hand.

JED

These people are looking for
political asylum. I'll be happy
to help.

109 INT DETENTION CENTRE - DAY

109

JED walks into the familiar reception area with the GROUP
of Afghans.

He watches KATE, there to meet the asylum seekers.

Finally she registers her unrecognisable brother.

She flings herself at him.

He hugs her like he has never hugged her before.

She is surprised and delighted.

JED

Love you. I've brought you a
present. I hope you still want
it.

KATE

You know I love presents.

She looks over his shoulder and as the people part there
stands QUINN vulnerable and nervous.

She looks at JED questioningly.

He simply shrugs and smiles.

JED

I think he deserves another
chance.

KATE takes a deep breath and starts to walk towards QUINN.

JED turns and watches her.

Suddenly he feels a tug on his trouser leg and turns back.
It is the LITTLE GIRL.

(CONTINUED)

He picks her up and sees that she is still holding the kite he made.

JED, still in Afghan clothes, though clean shaven, is on the balcony with KATE who holds a letter. Both have drinks in their hands.

JED fingers the ring that's strung on leather around his neck.

JED
How's Quinn?

KATE
Coping, just about. We'll see. I have something to show you.

Kate hands him the letter.

JED opens it and starts to read.

KATE (CONT'D)
It seems Farahnaz made a will before she left. Her father prepared for her to live here. Prepared to the tune of £300,000. She left it for Afghans. We are the executors.

JED
You are.

KATE
No. She obviously had more faith in you than I ever did.

JED
Remember when we were small how I used to completely ignore you.

KATE
Oh yes.

JED
I didn't like you, you were in my space.

KATE
Do you still think that?

JED shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

JED

I grew up thinking everyone was
in my space. I was wrong.
We're all in the same space,
together.

KATE

What are you going to do?

JED

I don't know. I can't go back.

KATE touches the ring that he is fingering.

KATE

You won't.

KATE puts her arm through her brother's and they stand
looking out over the city lights.

A flock of birds wheel and turn in the night sky.

THE END

DEDICATION:

That Muslim and non-Muslim might find in each other a
spirit of generosity, friendship and peace.

May we all be open to change.