

Slight Return

by

Neil Kenny

8 Hazel Lane, Gt. Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6GH  
+44 (0) 7979 861 702  
E: neilkenny@hotmail.com

EXT. PARK, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND - DAY

A sixty-seven year old man sits on a park bench, watching the world go by. He is eating some nuts. After he shells each one he throws the casing towards the bin. Some bounce in, others litter the ground around it. This is a game to pass the time. We can imagine that in his head each throw is accompanied by a basketball commentary. A kid walks along with a dog. The dog pauses to urinate on a tree.

LAWRENCE

Want a nut?

KID

I don't take things from strangers.

LAWRENCE

That's good advice.

Beat.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I'm a stranger to you?

KID

That's why I said it.

Beat.

LAWRENCE

I used to be President.

KID

I didn't vote for you.

LAWRENCE

Nope.

The kid is pulling on the dog's lead, but it has decided having started now is a good time to defecate also.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

You really don't know me?

KID

Jesus, how stupid do you think I am? I just don't want a nut. I was doing you a favour by playing dumb. Those two aren't very secret.

He indicates two secret service agents stood a slight distance away. In dark suits, with sunglasses and ear-pieces, they are very conspicuous.

LAWRENCE

No they're not.

The boy's phone rings. He walks on

KID  
Park. Walking Patch.

He listens  
I just met the President.

More listening.  
Hardly going to be the new one.  
What would he be doing here?  
There's not any Russians or  
anything. An old one.

Brief listen, looks back at Lawrence  
It began with a H or something.

Listens once more.  
Why would I ask for his  
autograph? That's so lame. He's  
not famous or anything.

One of the secret service agents has edged closer. Jon is a  
man of unflappable calm, and maturity.

JON  
I've got a kill-shot. We could  
blame the Iranians.

LAWRENCE  
Secret service humour.

JON  
You used to like it.

LAWRENCE  
You used to be good at it.

EXT. BUILDING SITE, NEW YORK STATE - DAY

A group of news crews cluster around a ceremonial mound,  
where Lawrence, his wife at his side, wears a hard hat and  
wields a spade. He digs in to the top surface and a flash  
of bulbs go off as he cuts in.

LAWRENCE  
I cut the first sod on the Evans  
Memorial Library.

A mobile phone rings in the crowd. There are a couple of  
disdainful looks at the owner of the phone, who answers it  
anyway.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)  
I hope that..

Another phone rings.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I hope..

A third and then a fourth phone rings. There is some news rippling through the crowd.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

It's okay. There'll be a press release. If you guys have somewhere else to be.

People begin to file away. They do have somewhere else to be. One of the Secret Service agents sidles up and whispers in his ear.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Goodness. No. I understand. For those of you without a Blackberry signal, a small earthquake in Utah, has caused two fatalities. My sympathies go to the families.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Lawrence is half watching the television as they both get ready for bed.

SARAH

They were interested.

LAWRENCE

I didn't recognise anybody bar what's-his-name from the Post. And he's semi-retired. Not one of them attended my inauguration. I'm old news.

SARAH

Darling.

LAWRENCE

It's fine. I just needed to know. I'm going away.

SARAH

The kids are busy this weekend.

LAWRENCE

I wasn't taking about the Cape. I meant away away.

SARAH

Hawaii?

LAWRENCE

Europe.

SARAH

We face the sub-committee in July. I can't get a week off right now.

LAWRENCE

It's a month trip.

She laughs.

Beat.

SARAH

You're serious? How am I supposed to manage that? I put everything on hold for twenty years, and just because you don't get to feel the Big Man anymore you're running off around the World? Well, don't expect me to come with you.

LAWRENCE

Sorry.

SARAH

(realises)

You weren't planning for me to come.

LAWRENCE

I've only ever seen Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower, the Segrada Familia from behind bulletproof glass.

SARAH

Maybe they're better that way.

LAWRENCE

You think so?

SARAH

There's a reason you had to be protected in those places.

LAWRENCE

There isn't now. I spent a lot of time looking after a lot of people. Maybe I should look after myself now.

SARAH

You think you did it for everyone else?

She lies down away from him and pretends to go to sleep.

INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, LANGLEY, VIRGINIA.

DIRECTOR  
It can't be done.

LAWRENCE  
We put a man on the moon.

DIRECTOR  
No one was trying to murder Neil  
Armstrong at the time.

LAWRENCE  
No one wants to murder me either.

DIRECTOR  
Until thirteen years ago we  
received dozens of letters daily,  
promising not only to kill you,  
but assorted members of your  
extended family.

LAWRENCE  
They were cranks.

DIRECTOR  
Most of them. I can't protect you  
in Europe. It takes months to get  
a fire-arms licence for one agent  
in one foreign country and you  
want to roam about the whole  
continent like a Gap year  
student.

LAWRENCE  
I don't need a gun.

DIRECTOR  
The agents with you will.

LAWRENCE  
I'll go alone.

DIRECTOR  
No you won't.

LAWRENCE  
You're sanctioning it?

DIRECTOR  
The only way I could prevent it  
is by arresting you and what  
attorney would let that play? I  
have one stipulation.

LAWRENCE  
Yes?

DIRECTOR

If your journey makes the press  
I'll force you to come home, for  
everyone's safety, no matter the  
legal ramifications.

LAWRENCE

Agreed.

DIRECTOR

Who are your daytime detail at  
the moment?

LAWRENCE

Squires and Welbeck.

DIRECTOR

Happy to take them with you?

LAWRENCE

Jon has been with me since I was  
just a state governor. The kid's  
good too, but they may not want  
to be away from home.

DIRECTOR

They don't get the choice.

LAWRENCE

I'd like them to have it.

DIRECTOR

When I asked who was looking  
after you I knew the answer.

LAWRENCE

You wanted me to think it's my  
decision. Is that how the whole  
trip unfolds?

DIRECTOR

Where are you planning to go?

LAWRENCE

Wherever whimsy takes me.

DIRECTOR

You're not a whimsical man.

LAWRENCE

London, Paris, Barcelona and  
Berlin.

DIRECTOR

Berlin's out.

LAWRENCE

Bad weather this time of year?

DIRECTOR  
G20 summit; no chance of  
anonymity. Madrid would be easier  
than Barcelona.

LAWRENCE  
Barcelona it is then.

DIRECTOR  
You want to see the Gaudi  
buildings?

LAWRENCE  
I want to go to the Nou Camp.

DIRECTOR  
I don't even know what that is.

LAWRENCE  
I'd imagine the moment I leave  
the office you'll have someone  
find out.

INT. DANNY SQUIRES HOME - MORNING

KELLY  
It's the school play.

DANNY  
I have to go.

KELLY  
A golfing trip to Colorado isn't  
a matter of National Security.

DANNY  
It's my job.

KELLY  
You get holidays.

DANNY  
This is important.

KELLY  
For your handicap. This is not  
important. Your daughter upstairs  
is important.

Beat.

Shouldn't you be packing?

DANNY  
It's fine.

KELLY

I'll help. Otherwise you'll have four black suits and nothing to wear in the sun.

DANNY

Agency procurement will outfit me.

KELLY

For golf?

DANNY

For golf.

KELLY

If the taxpayer knew. Your phone is upstairs.

DANNY

Yes.

KELLY

You're not taking it?

DANNY

No.

KELLY

You're not going to Iraq; why the hell are you going dark?

Beat.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Oh God. You're going to Iraq.

DANNY

I absolutely am not.

KELLY

You're going on a golf trip and you can't bring your phone?

DANNY

We talked about this.

KELLY

Disturbing the President's back-swing is not dangerous. It sounds like a bachelor party.

DANNY

I'll call every day. I just can't bring my cell.

INT. AGENTS CAR ON WAY TO AIRPORT - MORNING

JON

Ever been?

DANNY

Never left the continent except  
for Desert Storm.

JON

It's an experience.

DANNY

It's work.

JON

You might learn to enjoy it one  
day.

DANNY

Hasn't happened in the first two  
decades.

JON

The old man doesn't know we're  
carrying.

DANNY

How do we hide them?

JON

Ingenuity.

DANNY

He'll be annoyed.

JON

Further incentive to keep them  
hidden.

DANNY

You'd think he'd understand.

JON

He's used to having his own way.  
There's no need to upset him now.

DANNY

Sounds like a fun trip.

I/E. USAF AIRFIELD - MORNING

LAWRENCE

Gents.

DANNY & JON

Mister President.

LAWRENCE

Have you seen our noble steed?

JON

A Lockheed! I haven't flown in one of those since before the Berlin Wall fell.

DANNY

What wall?

JON

Please tell me you're not that young.

LAWRENCE

Maybe we're just that old.

DANNY

Man, what age do you think I am? I was already a Marine by then.

LAWRENCE

I hope it's not a problem, you two coming with me?

JON

We follow orders Sir.

LAWRENCE

That's not the same thing.

JON

It is to us Sir.

LAWRENCE

You're travelling light.

DANNY

Work packed for us.

LAWRENCE

That should be interesting.

INT. PLANE - AFTERNOON

LAWRENCE

(throwing down a bad hand of cards)

Lets see what they've packed you.

CUT TO:

Danny walks out from behind a crate wearing a 1930's era Golfing outfit.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)  
It's certainly on brief.

JON  
Not very inconspicuous. What else  
is in there?

DANNY  
(combing through bag)  
Usual. Four dark suits. White  
shirts. Black ties. A spare pair  
of Raybans, bluetooth headset.  
Wow a pair of shorts. And what  
the hell are these?

LAWRENCE  
Swimming trunks.

DANNY  
They appear to be missing  
material.

LAWRENCE  
It's a bit racier than my day.

LATER

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)  
You know this is probably the  
only airline in the world without  
a smoke alarm.

JON  
That's a nasty habit Sir.

LAWRENCE  
Probably why I enjoy it. Everyone  
in Europe smokes.

DANNY  
It mightn't be like you imagine  
it.

LAWRENCE  
Given how little time we have I  
can imagine whatever I fancy and  
probably see it, without being  
disappointed.

EXT. RAF NORTHOLT - EVENING

In a misty rain the plane rolls towards a hanger and then  
grinds to a halt about twenty metres from cover.

INT. PLANE - EVENING

The bay doors are open and Jon is conferring with a member of the ground crew by the tarmac. They walk up towards the others.

JON  
Small problem Sir.

LAWRENCE  
Oh?

JON  
There's a photographer at the Western perimeter in Roosleep?

GROUND STAFFER  
Ruislip.

DANNY  
Pap?

JON  
They think he's just a plane spotter.

DANNY  
Can you move him on?

GROUND STAFFER  
We hope so, but it's delicate. There is a way of hurrying up the process.

LAWRENCE  
Yes?

GROUND STAFFER  
We transfer high security prisoners through here. We could put you in an orange jumpsuit, bag your head and bring you through to the hanger that way.

LAWRENCE  
That isn't really a solution. Is it son?

GROUND STAFFER  
No sir?

LAWRENCE  
My record on Rendition isn't as bad as some, but I'm not untainted, which would make that the most valuable photo since the one Hoover had of Monroe.

DANNY  
You've seen it?

LAWRENCE  
If I'd been President a couple of  
decades earlier I might have seen  
the real thing. Let's just wait  
until the Man is cleared.

INT. HANGER - EVENING

GROUND STAFFER  
There's a mini-cab office about  
half a mile up the road. I can  
drop you when my shift finishes  
at ten.

The clock reads 8.30

LAWRENCE  
We'll walk.

JON  
Sir?

LAWRENCE  
You used to do ten k every  
morning.

JON  
I used to be fourth grade conkers  
champion.

LAWRENCE  
You too old for this?

JON  
Nearly. I'm more worried about  
you. And it's raining.

LAWRENCE  
Never travel without an umbrella  
in the land of Mary Poppins.

DANNY  
I hope it's a three man model.

I/E. CAB OFFICE, RUSILIP - NIGHT

CALLER  
Help you?

DANNY  
We need a car.

CALLER  
To?

DANNY  
(reading)  
Greville Street.

CALLER  
Post-code?

DANNY  
EC One.

The caller makes a tsk of disapproval.

CALLER  
How many stops?

DANNY  
As few as possible.

CALLER  
I mean how many

DANNY  
I know what you mean

CALLER  
(on radio)  
One three. Base to Central? Over.

1.3  
(over the radio)  
Joking aren't you? I'm off home.  
Over.

CALLER  
(shrugs at Lawrence)  
Two five? Over.

2.5  
(over the radio)  
Yes?

CALLER  
Are you free to take a fare from  
Base to Central? Over.

2.5  
Okay. Over. I am in Greenford.  
Over. I am close, yes?

CALLER  
(to the three in the  
office)  
He's new.  
(To the intercom)  
Yes. See you soon. Over.

EXT. CAB OFFICE, RUSILIP - NIGHT

OMAR  
You agreed a fee with the man  
inside?

JON  
No.

OMAR  
Oh.

Omar gets back in the cab.

OMAR (CONT'D)  
Two five to base. P.O.B. Over.

CALLER  
I can see that, although they're  
not strictly on board yet.

OMAR  
You agreed no fee.

CALLER  
Tell them sixty.

OMAR  
I am going a long way?

CALLER  
No.

OMAR  
That seems what it would be for a  
long way.

CALLER  
They're Yank tourists. They'll  
pay anything.

LAWRENCE  
(having heard this whole  
exchange from the back  
seat, where he'd got in  
unseen)  
I got in already.

OMAR  
This will cost sixty pounds.

LAWRENCE  
I heard what he said.

OMAR  
He said to charge you sixty  
pounds.

LAWRENCE

He also said we'd pay anything.

OMAR

I am glad.

(To the two outside)

Get in.

Danny gets in the front.

OMAR (CONT'D)

Here is a map. You can show me  
where we are going to.

LAWRENCE

And you want one hundred dollars?

OMAR

No. Sixty pounds.

LAWRENCE

It's the same thing.

OMAR

It is not. I do not accept  
foreign currency, American  
Express, Diners Club or Cheques.

DANNY

And you want sixty pounds for  
twenty miles.

Omar turns on the ignition and a Sufi lament screams from the radio. With a wheel-spin and an unchecked dash in to beeping traffic the Nissan pulls away.

LATER

Both Lawrence and Jon in the back look vaguely terrified. Omar is travelling at ninety on the inside lane, undertaking where possible.

OMAR

I love Formula One. Ferrari are  
my favourite. I would very much  
like a Ferrari. And you?

DANNY

I don't really watch it.

OMAR

Of course. You Americans have  
your own racing.

DANNY

Indy Car.

OMAR

Cars going around and around.  
Here they call that the M25.

Silence.

OMAR (CONT'D)

That is a good English joke. You  
should use it.

LAWRENCE

(muttered)  
If we survive.

OMAR

(looking around)  
I can not hear you.

LAWRENCE

(louder)  
Feel free to keep your eyes on  
the road.

A car one hundred metres ahead brakes suddenly. Omar is  
busily looking at a woman he is undertaking.

OMAR

She is very beautiful. I should  
like a woman like that as a wife.

JON

(urgently)  
Slow down.

OMAR

There are no speed cameras.

LAWRENCE

Slow down please.

OMAR

Don't worry. I'm a very good  
driver. I had very few crashes  
before I left Somalia. Oh.

He brakes viciously. The car slides a little, losing  
traction, but just about manages to stay straight. There is  
a shriek of brakes and the car comes to a halt, with a  
minor bump at the end, indicating he has pranged the back  
of the car in front. A man jumps out looking angry.

OMAR (CONT'D)

He stopped suddenly. He is  
dangerous. When the police come I  
shall tell them exactly that.

LAWRENCE

Is it necessary to call them?

OMAR

I must report it before I can claim.

JON

It was your fault. I can testify to that.

The man from the other car is banging on the window.

OMAR

(ignoring him)

You Americans. Always using your power. My country is a mess because of your money and your soldiers. Now you want to do similar things to my car insurance.

LAWRENCE

It's hardly the same.

OMAR

You are right. The World Bank will not loan me the fifty pounds excess.

LAWRENCE

Everyone always blames the Americans for their own mess.

MAN AT WINDOW

(outside)

Are you going to come out?

OMAR

While you Americans never blame yourselves. This man will want restitution.

DANNY

(getting out of the car)

I'll take care of it. Sir, I'm terribly sorry. Let me have a look at how bad the damage is.

From Lawrence's P.O.V. we see Danny and the man walk around the car and hunker down by the bonnet. Ten seconds later the man straightens up with an unusual smile, waves at the occupants of the cab, gets back in his car and drives off slightly too fast, bumping in to the car in front of him. He gets out again and starts shouting at the occupant of this other car. Omar has started up again and is overtaking the crash. The man stops his tirade to wave and smile at Danny and then continues once they pass.

OMAR

You paid him.

DANNY

No.

OMAR

You are Mafia. That is why you  
fear the police.

JON

You have everything mixed up.

LAWRENCE

Do you mind if I smoke?

OMAR

It is illegal to smoke in  
enclosed places but for Mafia I  
make exceptions. You Italians go  
to America, like us Somalians in  
England looking for a better  
life. I am glad you have  
succeeded. I too will succeed and  
one day will buy a Ferrari, from  
Italy.

LAWRENCE

I can't smoke in the wind at this  
speed.

(Quietly to Jon)

Great protection you're turning  
out to be.

JON

You want me to shoot him? You  
leave the kid who insults you and  
then mistreat the help. It's like  
the Civil War never happened.

They pull up at some lights and a Police car pulls  
alongside them.

OMAR

Don't worry. I won't give you  
away.

He smiles and waves at the police.

LATER

I/E. APARTMENT BUILDING, FARRINGDON - NIGHT

OMAR

This is it?

DANNY

Apparently.

They all get out of the car and Danny and Jon drag the cases to the door.

OMAR  
Forty pounds please.

LAWRENCE  
It was sixty?

OMAR  
I will not cheat men of honour.

LAWRENCE  
Here's two hundred, to fix any scratches.

OMAR  
You have seen my car. Don't waste your money.

LAWRENCE  
I have enough.

OMAR  
Thank you.

He gets in and drives off, beeping farewell in the quiet residential street. Thirty seconds later they hear the squeal of tires and a loud beeping that denotes anger.

LAWRENCE  
I need a drink.

DANNY  
Unpack and then the hotel across there?

LAWRENCE  
We can't come four thousand miles and drink in a bar exactly the same as one we left.

JON  
That pub the Prime Minister took you to isn't true to life.

LAWRENCE  
You think they set dressed it?

JON  
I know they did. I approved the security cordons.

LAWRENCE  
Real English pubs exist.

JON  
Not the kind you think.

LAWRENCE

Dump the bags and I'll prove it.

DANNY

We need to secure the apartment.

LAWRENCE

From what? The only person who knows we're here is the cabbie.

JON

Sir, give us ten minutes and then we'll find somewhere.

LATER

EXT. PUB, FARRINGDON - NIGHT

LAWRENCE

This looks about right. You'll see what I mean.

INT. PUB, FARRINGDON - NIGHT

The three walk in. There are three people inside, including the Australian barmaid Michelle. One of the two customers is the Tavern's resident drunk, Albert, who is perched at the end of the bar, with a collection of coins and tobacco in front of him.

ALBERT

Busy night.

MICHELLE

Shut up Albert. What would you like to drink Gents?

LAWRENCE

Ale please.

JON

Beer.

LAWRENCE

Pint, not a bottle.

JON

I'm working.

MICHELLE

Makes two of us.

LAWRENCE

Let me buy you a drink too.

MICHELLE  
(to Danny)  
You?

DANNY  
Sprite.

There is the loud clinking of coins as the sole remaining patron wins some cash on the Quiz machine, picks it up, and leaves.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
It's jumping.

The door opens again and the man who has just left comes back in and puts a fresh coin in the machine.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
Do you have any food?

MICHELLE  
Crisps.

DANNY  
Which are?

MICHELLE  
It's what the Poms call potato chips.

DANNY  
Poms?

MICHELLE  
English.

DANNY  
You're not...

MICHELLE  
Australian.

DANNY  
Crisps then please.

MICHELLE  
What flavour?

DANNY  
What've you got?

MICHELLE  
Cheese and onion.

DANNY  
And what else?

MICHELLE

That's it.

DANNY

Why'd you offer me a choice?

MICHELLE

Good customer service.

LATER

The three are sat around a table by the wall. Albert is buried in his crossword. Michelle is cleaning glasses and keeping half an eye on them. They have a couple of empty glasses in front of them.

LAWRENCE

Why do so many bar-maids have great tits?

JON

How much have you had to drink?

LAWRENCE

I'm perfectly sober.

DANNY

An African Cab driver, an Aussie bar-maid and this rocket-fuel is Belgian. I'm glad we passed up on the hotel for an authentic British experience.

LAWRENCE

We'll get the real deal for breakfast.

JON

I think it's a hiring strategy.

DANNY

What is?

JON

Buxom bar-staff. There's a direct relationship between beer consumption and cup size.

LAWRENCE

You think they teach that at Bar Management college?

DANNY

It's knowledge passed through the generations. Comely wench, revealing dress, drunken man parted from money.

LAWRENCE

You don't think it's because the Hops and barley in the air all day combine to make them grow bustier?

JON

I held you to be an intelligent man.

LAWRENCE

We can't discount it without scientific verification.

JON

You see that as a potential legacy to mankind?

LAWRENCE

I might struggle to get it approved by the House.

DANNY

And your wife.

LAWRENCE

Future generations of scientists would thank me.

JON

Research scientists don't need another excuse to sit at a computer poring over naked women.

LAWRENCE

I don't even own a computer.

DANNY

I love these crisps. How are you writing your memoirs?

LAWRENCE

By hand. Otherwise what would I do if there's a power cut?

DANNY

Cut yourself and write in blood.

JON

(to Lawrence)

It's how the Kid's planning to dissuade potential suitors for his daughter's hand.

LAWRENCE

I know how you feel. Six grandchildren.

(MORE)

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

That means those smiling little  
shits of son-in-laws of mine have  
defiled my beautiful little  
daughters six times.

DANNY

At least.

LAWRENCE

Whoa. Listen to what you're  
saying and who you're saying it  
to. Mind you I wouldn't trade my  
grand-kids for any professional  
achievement.

DANNY

That's just biology.

LAWRENCE

Everything is just biology,  
including your craving for potato  
chips.

DANNY

You're a smarter man than me Sir,  
but as I understand it we have a  
biological imperative to have  
kids, to keep the species alive,  
and if those kids have their own  
offspring that is duty double  
done.

LAWRENCE

Say what you want about this pub,  
but Danny Boy...

Albert starts singing Danny Boy wildly off key.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

I've never heard you say as much  
in all our years together.

DANNY

(getting up)  
Sorry Sir.

LAWRENCE

I wasn't admonishing you.

INT. PUB TOILET - NIGHT

DANNY

(on phone)  
Hi Hon.

He listens

Trying "What time is it where you are" isn't going to work. Nor asking me the weather. Even if I weren't wherever I am I've logged on to Weather.com And found three places where it's raining, two where's it sunny and one where it's snowing. Although that's not going to help, if there's only one.

More listening.

I do not sound drunk.

Albert comes in still singing.

I gotta go. Is Jess okay?

Listens.

No-one is singing. It's a TV. I really got to go. I love you.

BACK AT THE  
TABLE

The toilet windows open straight on to the street.

LAWRENCE

I'll make sure not to piss unattended. Always working?

DANNY

I thought that was the point?

JON

You don't have to hide phone-calls. You're amongst friends.

DANNY

You told me never get too close to the mark, and never ever drink on duty.

JON

(saying the following calmly, with focus and supreme knowledge)

Kid. There's one main entrance there, two fire exits, there and out there. By that exit is a combination locked door leading to a set of stairs up to the flat the barmaid lives in. The toilet windows are on a latch and anyone outside has to smash glass. And the street they border is overlit, because it has CCTV on one end and a Police station at the other.

(MORE)

JON (CONT'D)

Michelle has worked here eight months on a two year Visa. Apart from her we've got Albert who I'm confident I can subdue and the quiz guy who leaves the pub between games because he's under the impression the machine has a sensor identifying whether it's asking the same person questions or not. Which is why after twelve hours travelling I'm treating myself to liquor.

LAWRENCE

You knew I'd pick this place?

JON

Educated guess.

LAWRENCE

I'm being spontaneous for the first time since the sixties and you predicted it.

JON

My mortgage doesn't pay itself.

LAWRENCE

One for the road?

JON

I'm not even sure I know what that means. But I'll happily have something non-alcoholic.

LAWRENCE

Kid?

DANNY

I'm thirty eight.

LAWRENCE

Old enough to drink.

DANNY

I'm fine. I'll have another pack of potato chips.

LAWRENCE

Crisps. We're going native.

MICHELLE

Another Ale?

LAWRENCE

No thanks. It tastes terrible. I'll have a beer.

(MORE)

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

A packet of crisps and an Irish  
lemonade for my other friend.

MICHELLE

We only do Sprite and...oh. What  
do you want in it?

LAWRENCE

Something clear. And, not that  
I'm telling you how to do your  
job, but maybe pour it on the  
back counter.

MICHELLE

I'm not supposed to do this.  
You're not planning to date-rape  
him or anything?

LAWRENCE

Good God no. Do you know....No.  
No he's just reluctant to let his  
hair down on the first night of  
holiday.

CUT TO:

Jon is swigging from his drink. He tastes a gulp and looks  
at Lawrence who winks at him

DANNY

There's a mirror on the end of  
the bar.

LAWRENCE

Sorry Mom.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, FARRINGDON - NIGHT

Jon is walking around double-checking the locks while Danny  
has a set of jacks that he leaves under windows and doors.

DANNY

Don't go walking around in the  
dark Sir.

LAWRENCE

It's exactly this holiday feeling  
I was trying to capture. You guys  
know how to charm a girl. Don't  
stay up too late. We've an early  
start.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING, FARRINGDON - MORNING

LAWRENCE

Where am I planning to go to now?

JON  
 Lets maintain the facade of free  
 will Sir.

INT. CAFE - MORNING

The three are all staring at a menu made up of individual letters unevenly spaced on an adhesive background. Essentially, it looks very slapdash. A stern looking middle-aged woman eyes them suspiciously from behind the counter. Behind her, a rotund man, in an apron that has seen better days, is sweating over a number of frying pans and grills.

DANNY  
 (Quietly)  
 It doesn't seem to be in our  
 language.

LAWRENCE  
 Can I have a full English  
 breakfast.

JON  
 Same please.

DANNY  
 You do muesli?

The woman looks at her husband.

PROPRIETOR  
 Does he look like he knows what  
 muesli is?

HUSBAND  
 I know what it is. You use it for  
 the floor of hamster's cages.

DANNY  
 I'll have whatever they're  
 having.

PROPRIETOR  
 Three full for the American  
 gentlemen.

DANNY  
 Why'd you tell him our  
 nationality?

PROPRIETOR  
 Makes the place more  
 cosmopolitan.

Danny looks around. There are two workmen scoffing down food and a female pensioner staring out the window drinking a mug of tea. The three move to a table.

DANNY

They're going to spit in our food  
because we're American.

JON

(nodding towards  
Lawrence)  
His fault.

LAWRENCE

Why?

JON

You placed the nukes on Greenham  
Common?

LAWRENCE

I got plenty right.

JON

She'll probably appreciate it if  
you tell her. You know I didn't  
think the hair-dye and glasses  
would work but you look a  
different man.

LAWRENCE

Better looking?

JON

It'd be difficult not to be.

LAWRENCE

Maybe I prefer it when you're  
more deferential.

JON

Sorry, Sir.

One of the workmen looks up and stares.

LAWRENCE

(lowering his voice)  
I would suggest not calling me  
Sir in public.

LATER

PROPRIETOR

Here's your breakfast. A real  
slice of England.

DANNY

(as she walks away)  
Heart attack on a plate.

PROPRIETOR

Only if we're lucky Smart-arse.  
More tea anyone?

LAWRENCE

Yes please *Love*.

JON

Love? You studied up on local  
customs before we left.

LAWRENCE

You've got to pick a pocket or  
two boys.

JON

What do you fancy today?  
(He is distracted)  
What have they done to this  
bread? My God they've deep-fried  
it. These people are on the  
culinary front line.

LAWRENCE

That big wheel, The London Eye.

DANNY

Sorry.

LAWRENCE

Too dangerous?

JON

It's one of the three places in  
this town you're most likely to  
be recognised.

LAWRENCE

The other two are?

JON

Tell you when you ask for them.  
I've found somewhere else for  
that roof-top view but we'll have  
to wait until tomorrow evening.

LAWRENCE

Sounds like booze is involved. I  
like it.

JON

You never drank that much.

LAWRENCE

I was working.

JON

And you're catching up? Why don't we have sausages like these at home?

LAWRENCE

What do you think Kid?

DANNY

I don't like foreign food. There's a Starbucks across the street. I'll meet you outside in ten.

LAWRENCE

Lets take a trip down the River, today. Maybe hop off catch a couple of museums.

JON

You're the boss.

LAWRENCE

If only that were really true.

EXT. UPPER DECK OF CLIPPER ON THE THAMES RIVER - MORNING

Lawrence and Jon are looking in the direction suggested by the Tannoy voice, at various samples of architecture. Danny is facing backwards looking at the fellow passengers instead.

INT. TATE MODERN - AFTERNOON

Lawrence and Jon are staring at a work of art. Danny is looking at the rest of the people in the room.

EXT. EMIRATES STADIUM - EVENING

Lawrence and Jon are watching a match in progress. Danny is looking at the crowd.

INT. PUB, FARRINGDON - NIGHT

LAWRENCE

Evening Michelle.

MICHELLE

I may let the passing trade order from my chest, but regulars look me in the eye.

LAWRENCE

I apologise.

MICHELLE  
Usual?

LAWRENCE  
Great.

MICHELLE  
Them?

LAWRENCE  
Boys?

JON  
Beer.

DANNY  
Sprite. And Crisps.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING, FARRINGDON

We see the two agents holding up a very unsteady Lawrence at the end of the night.

INT. CAFE - MORNING

JON  
Two days and already we're creatures of habit.

LAWRENCE  
This stuff really works on hangovers.

JON  
And your life expectancy.

LAWRENCE  
It's no fun living to a ripe old age if you denied yourself every pleasure along the way.

JON  
That'll never be your problem Sir.

LAWRENCE  
You think I'm a bon viveur?

JON  
If that means a man who indulges in the finer things.

LAWRENCE  
Perhaps it's over-egging to call this fine dining.

PROPRIETOR

You're here two days in a row and all I've heard you do is complain. If you're trying to win our affections you'd be better off keeping your mouths shut. And you. You can't sit here if you aren't purchasing.

DANNY

It's not busy.

PROPRIETOR

Buy up or bye bye.

DANNY

Cheese and onion.

PROPRIETOR

Sandwich?

DANNY

Crisps.

LAWRENCE

You addicted?

DANNY

I'm not eating anything else on the menu. Sir.

JON

What're we doing today?

LAWRENCE

Your treat tonight and perhaps the Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace.

JON

Sorry.

LAWRENCE

Number two?

JON

Uh-huh.

LAWRENCE

What's the third?

JON

You don't ask I don't tell.

LAWRENCE

Lets go to the British Library. There's some things I want to read there.

EXT. BRITISH LIBRARY READING ROOM - AFTERNOON

DANNY  
A mid-life crisis?

JON  
Bit late in the day.

DANNY  
What're we doing here?

JON  
Our jobs.

DANNY  
That's hardly true. Apart from  
that little stunt knowing the  
details of the bar.

JON  
And the cafe.

DANNY  
I thought that was his choice.

JON  
So did he.

DANNY  
He's not safe like this.

JON  
He's not in danger like this.

DANNY  
He could be.

JON  
Do you think the chief believes  
we can do anything, just the two  
of us? We're good. I appreciate  
that, but this is cosmetic. He  
doesn't give a shit about the old  
man. He's not a target. This is  
just inconvenience.

DANNY  
That's a real morale boost.

JON  
Enjoy this. You're not likely to  
have a trip like it again.

INT. 42ND FLOOR NATWEST TOWER - EVENING

All three men are sipping champagne and staring out at the  
London night sky.

There are a few other people around, including one woman who is paying them particular attention.

LAWRENCE

And we're higher than the wheel?

JON

Without invoking Parliamentary privileges you can't get higher in London.

LAWRENCE

Cities blur in to each other at night. The same mix of sodium and neon, yellowy white and orange.

JON

This is a waste of time?

LAWRENCE

Hardly. The beauty is in the small differences.

The woman takes a final look at them and then sends a mail from her phone.

FADE TO:

INT. GOLF SHOP - MORNING

DANNY

Sir, I don't play.

LAWRENCE

Don't lie. I've read your file. Pick out some clothes. I'll pay. The good stuff. I want you to be able to use it again. Jon, arrange three sets of clubs.

JON

Taken care of. Do you really want me to join in?

LAWRENCE

Humble bollocks here plays off three. I need someone to beat.

EXT. FIRST TEE, STOKE POGES - MORNING

Jon hits a clean drive straight down the fairway.

LAWRENCE

There goes my win.

DANNY

They put my handicap on file?

JON

In case we go to War with a hostile golfing nation; You might be drafted. And Sir, that doesn't count as a practice swing.

LAWRENCE

You had your back to me.

JON

I was watching in the Kid's shades.

EXT. TENTH TEE, STOKE POGES - DAY

STAFF MEMBER

Libation gents?

LAWRENCE

Have you any Scotch?

STAFF MEMBER

Preference of age and distillery?

LAWRENCE

I'll take it on recommendation. And one for my colleague. Crisps for you Danny?

DANNY

I'll join in with whatever you're having.

JON

(to Lawrence)

I had a word.

LAWRENCE

We'd better let this party play through.

INT. LAWRENCE'S HOME - MORNING

The phone rings. It is answered by the house-keeper.

HOUSE-KEEPER

He's not here.

Listens

No I'm afraid I can't give you that information. I can take a message.

Listens

Doctor Greggs. He has your number?

INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, LANGLEY, VIRGINIA. - MORNING

The Director is examining a newspaper cutting through his reading glasses.

STAFFER

We picked it up from the London office. I presume it's a case of mistaken identity.

DIRECTOR

I can't believe they thought to bother me with this stuff.

STAFFER

Sorry Sir.

DIRECTOR

Not your fault.

Staffer leaves. Director picks up the phone.

EXT. TENTH TEE, STOKE POGES - DAY

LAWRENCE

What was it in?

INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, LANGLEY, VIRGINIA - CONTINUOUS

DIRECTOR

Some pissy evening paper gossip column. In a section which you'll be delighted to know is called 'Seen Out and About'. As in, somebody saw you.

CUT TO:

LAWRENCE

Does it have their name?

Listens

It's hardly a damning case. No pictures, and no attributable source.

CUT TO:

DIRECTOR

You're on very thin ice Mister  
President. I could order you home  
now.

Listens. Then slams down the phone.

EXT. TENTH TEE, STOKE POGES - DAY

JON

What did he want?

LAWRENCE

To wish us bon voyage.

JON

What did he really want?

LAWRENCE

Ring him? He's your boss.

JON

You're our boss.

LAWRENCE

And if I went to war with him?

Danny tees off crisply.

JON

If it's the mooted golf war I'll  
fight for whoever has the kid.

DANNY

I'd rather you didn't call me  
that.

JON

Operationally at Langley that's  
your code-name.

DANNY

That's ridiculous. There's got to  
be loads of people known as The  
Kid.

JON

There was one staffer. Joined the  
agency after the War in '45. He  
freed up the name by retiring the  
day you were sworn in. He spent  
his entire career, especially  
later on, hating it.

DANNY

That's terrible.

LAWRENCE

And because you're so gullible  
we'll be calling you it for a  
long time more.

DANNY

What? No. You shits. Excuse me  
Sir.

LAWRENCE

Win the round and I'll stop  
calling you it for the rest of  
the trip, but given the way you  
over-balancing on your heels your  
swing is seizing up.

Danny can't relax over the ball. Lawrence and Jon walk away  
to their balls lying across the fairway.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

There's nothing more destructive  
to technique than bad advice.

JON

Sir. Did you treat your job as a  
competition too?

LAWRENCE

Only the fun bits. Don't you  
think I took it seriously?

JON

I never had an opinion.

LAWRENCE

Why not?

JON

Opinions cloud judgement.

LAWRENCE

Are you happy with the life you  
lived?

JON

Are you Sir?

Beat. Lawrence addresses the ball.

JON (CONT'D)

Or is that why we're here?

LAWRENCE

Pop Psychology won't help you  
beat me out here.

Lawrence walks away.

INT. PUB, FARRINGDON - NIGHT

MICHELLE

You blokes have caught the sun.

JON

We'd have to see it first.

LAWRENCE

Although THE KID is a bit red in the face.

INT. DANNY SQUIRES HOME - MORNING

MRS. SQUIRES

(on the phone)

Yes there is a reason I'm home. I've been sick every morning this week and I'm two weeks over. I'm fucking pregnant Danny and you've pissed off on a drunken bachelors outing. But of course I don't mind when I'll see you next. After all, what other wife could be so lucky to have their husband closer to an ex-President than to his kids. Not the actual President of course. Oh no. An old one whom no-one cares about. Come home whenever you like. There's no rush.

She hangs up.

EXT. PUB, FARRINGDON - NIGHT

Lawrence and Jon are walking home propping up a drunken Danny.

INT. LOUNGE, APARTMENT BUILDING, FARRINGDON - NIGHT

LAWRENCE

Never seen him drink before.

JON

He's heavy.

Sound of snoring reaches the lounge.

LAWRENCE

I want to go to Cambridge.

JON

Uh-uh.

LAWRENCE  
That's the third place?

JON  
Not even, it's on an entire other  
list of no-nos. You can't leave  
London. That's where our support  
is, if we have to call the  
Agency.

LAWRENCE  
For what?

JON  
For anything.

LAWRENCE  
Like?

JON  
A plague of locusts. You just  
can't.

LAWRENCE  
Fine. Good night.

JON  
Don't be petulant.

LAWRENCE  
I'm tired.

INT. BEDROOM, APARTMENT BUILDING, FARRINGDON - MORNING

JON  
Wake up Kid. NOW.

DANNY  
(hungover)  
What is it?

JON  
He's gone.

DANNY  
Who?

JON  
Get up. We need to follow him.

INT. LOUNGE, APARTMENT BUILDING, FARRINGDON - MORNING

DANNY  
How did he get out?

JON

He either flew out the window, or turned the key and opened the door, like a normal person. He wasn't a captive.

DANNY

You know where he's gone?

JON

He talked about it last night.

DANNY

That's not conclusive. Call the embassy.

JON

He also left a note.

INT. TRAIN, ON WAY TO CAMBRIDGE - MORNING

DANNY

How far ahead of us is he?

JON

I don't know.

DANNY

All this grief and now we'll get fired.

JON

We won't, because no-one will find out.

DANNY

(ranting)

That's hardly fool-proof. The cabbie said a train is quicker; how slow does he drive? I can't believe he did this to us. One night drinking! This is the high water mark.

TANNOY

We apologise for the delay ladies and gentleman due to an incident involving a person under a train at Royston.

JON

Relax. He may be feisty, but he's not suicidal.

DANNY

(indicating out the window)

(MORE)

DANNY (CONT'D)

See that horse? He's stood there judging us. He's thinking those two muppets have one job to do, the only job they've ever done in their lives and they can't even carry that out successfully.

JON

That horse ate some funny tasting grass last night and is trying to have a dump. That's all. He's only a horse. Although he might wish we weren't staring. That's how I feel when I need to go.

DANNY

This isn't funny.

JON

I'm not laughing.

DANNY

And a fucking hangover. I need coke and some crisps.

Jon produces crisps.

DANNY (CONT'D)

What are you doing with them?

JON

Helping you manage your dependency.

DANNY

I'm not an addict. Oh Thank God we're moving.

JON

I can't help until you admit there's a problem.

EXT. CAMBRIDGE TRAIN STATION - DAY

DANNY

Where now?

JON

The river.

DANNY

Can I see the note please.

He reads.

DANNY (CONT'D)

What's punting?

EXT. BRIDGE STREET, CAMBRIDGE - DAY

Lawrence is sat having lunch on the terrace of one of the riverside bars.

LAWRENCE  
Fine day for it.

Beat

I obviously didn't want to  
jeopardise things by going  
without you two.

EXT. PUNT ROWING ALONG THE CAM - DAY

Danny is steering the thing. Lawrence and Jon are lying in the boat.

JON  
That was a stupid manoeuvre Sir.  
We'd get in less trouble taking  
you here than losing you  
altogether.

LAWRENCE  
I don't think you'll get in any  
trouble at all.

JON  
Your disappearing act isn't about  
you. It's about how well we do  
our jobs.

DANNY  
We could be sacked.

Beat.

LAWRENCE  
Of course. I'm sorry. It's pretty  
isn't it?

DANNY  
Reminds me of New England.

LAWRENCE  
New England is supposed to remind  
you of here.

DANNY  
How's that going to work? I've  
never been here before.

LAWRENCE  
I mean that.....

DANNY

I know what you mean. How stupid do you think I am?

LAWRENCE

Stupid enough to lose me for a morning.

JON

We're not ready to joke about that yet.

LAWRENCE

Let me know when you are. Don't you think it's a long way to come for a few hours? We should stay over.

DANNY

We've nothing secure set up.

LAWRENCE

C'mon. It's raining. I'll find us a good night out. All on me. Lets grab a movie, and see from there.

EXT. CINEMA - EVENING

LAWRENCE

That was so unrealistic. She'd have to have left school at 15 to be in her second term as President.

JON

I'm pretty sure the Alien invasion pushed it in to the realms of fiction.

LAWRENCE

And the crest on the Oval Office carpet was upside down.

JON

You're not much fun to watch a film with Sir.

LAWRENCE

Taxi.

A taxi pulls over

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

We need a hotel.

INT. FELIX HOTEL RECEPTION - NIGHT

RECEPTIONIST

And I'll need a passport of course.

LAWRENCE

Eh? Em, yes, okay. Passport. Danny?

DANNY

Mine's no good if I don't have a work Credit Card to pay with. And I'm not claiming on a personal card. It's traceable, plus have you ever tried to claim something back off the Government?

LAWRENCE

You want to discuss US Tax Policy now? With me?

DANNY

I'm just saying.

LAWRENCE

Jon?

JON

Mine's in London. I forgot in the rush.

LAWRENCE

Right, well, yes, Passport. Here you go.

All three watch anxiously

RECEPTIONIST

(unaware)

Great. Thank you very much Mister Evans.

LAWRENCE

Can you recommend anywhere for a bit of fun this evening?

RECEPTIONIST

A gentleman's club?

LAWRENCE

Good Lord no. Somewhere with drink and dancing.

RECEPTIONIST

Midweek I don't think the more mature places are open.

LAWRENCE

Lady, I'm not that mature. Where would you go?

RECEPTIONIST

Fez.

JON

(to her)

Relax. There's not a chance we're going dancing.

INT. FEZ CLUB - NIGHT

The President is ordering at the bar in the sparsely populated V.I.P. area. The other two are sat on the sofa.

DANNY

How'd you get us in here?

JON

Rhetorical persuasion.

DANNY

Showed your gun?

JON

Yes indeed.

DANNY

Did they believe you were an agent?

JON

Nope.

DANNY

Why is a life of crime so fruitful?

JON

That's how temptation works.

DANNY

I've to phone home.

I/E. FEZ CLUB - NIGHT

Danny walks past the Bouncer on the V.I.P. guy-rope who nods at him, past a few dancing bodies and past the bouncer on the front door, to whom he shows his phone.

DANNY

Hi Jennifer. What are you doing around this early?

INT. DANNY SQUIRES HOME - DAY

JENNIFER

(irate)

We've been trying to get hold of you. Your wife had a fall.

KELLY

Give me the phone Mom.

She takes the receiver

KELLY (CONT'D)

Relax. I'm fine. I misjudged a step at work, grazed my knees a little. Nothing that could have harmed the baby.

EXT. FEZ CLUB - NIGHT

DANNY

I'm coming home.

INT. DANNY SQUIRES HOME - DAY

KELLY

No you're not. We need you to provide our unborn genius's Harvard fees. I know that's not what I said a few days ago, but I've had thinking time. Where are you n...sorry, I didn't mean to ask.

I/E. FEZ CLUB - NIGHT

DANNY

I love you baby. If you need me I'm there in a heartbeat.

Listens

I promise I'll call every night.  
I love you. Bye.

He hangs up and then kicks a stone lying on the ground in anger. He walks back towards the club. The bouncer nervously fumbles with the rope and lets him in. At the seats Lawrence and Danny are amongst a group of ten women chatting.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Who's this?

JON

Jessica here gets married in three weeks. She's collecting kisses. I'm ready for mine.

Everybody is laughing as the two lean in to kiss. It lasts intensely for about ten seconds. Then breaks. There is much cheering and back-slapping. Jessica is smiling too, but the most obvious emotion is confusion. Meanwhile Danny is downing shots.

EXT. TAXI IN THE FELIX HOTEL CAR-PARK - NIGHT

Jon and Lawrence are carrying Danny.

LAWRENCE

He's heavy.

INT. NEWSPAPER WEEKEND SUPPLEMENT EDITORIAL OFFICE - EVENING

CATHERINE

(on phone)

From the Times. The New York Times. The Sunday section. I'm doing a piece, do you want to write this down? Yes, a piece about people who held high pressure jobs, and what they do afterwards. I was hoping to interview Former President Evans.

Listens.

He's on a golf trip. That's fine. I'll contact the Press Office and fly down.

Listens.

You can't tell me where? He's not at risk? There's not been a threat has there? No, I understand you're the housekeeper.

She types something on the computer. The screen shows the "Seen Out and About" column. Catherine picks up her phone again.

Put me through to the London bureau.

A tea boy comes by. She addresses the following to him.  
If Watergate happened in the internet age everybody would know but no-one would care.

INT. TRAIN, LONDON-BOUND - MORNING

LAWRENCE  
You alright kid?

Danny nods, but doesn't say anything.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)  
Got some crisps?

He nods again.

JON  
And Coke.

LAWRENCE  
I always fancy a Big Mac when I'm  
toasted.

JON  
He's still at the pre-food stage.

DANNY  
MacDonalds weren't easy to find  
when you were a kid.

LAWRENCE  
I meant more recently, after big  
foreign state dinners.

DANNY  
Couldn't you have provoked an  
incident?

LAWRENCE  
Unstable alcoholic Russian  
Premiers kept the Weapons  
industry in Missiles through the  
80s. I'm not superhuman; no  
governor is.

JON  
Catchy campaign slogan.

LAWRENCE  
You think people expect more from  
their President than themselves?

DANNY  
I'm sure of it.

LAWRENCE  
Sorry Kid.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, FARRINGDON - AFTERNOON

LAWRENCE

You two head out. I'm going to nap.

JON

And allow you another chance to disappear?

LAWRENCE

That's out of my system. I'm tired. Getting too old for so many late nights. And you need a cure.

CUT TO:

The two leave the flat. Once the door shuts Lawrence grabs the edge of a chair and unsteadily walks to the bathroom, where he takes a medicine bottle out of his toiletry bag and knocks back two tablets. He then moves back in to the kitchenette and locates a bottle of whisky which he pours himself. He sits down and stares.

INT. NEWSPAPER WEEKEND SUPPLEMENT EDITORIAL OFFICE - MORNING

CATHERINE

(on phone)

Mrs. Evans. It's Catherine Curtis of the Times.

Listens

I appreciate that. I'd love to talk about the School Age Bill, but that's not why I'm ringing.

INT. LAWRENCE'S HOME - MORNING

Sarah puts down the phone, stares at the work she was doing and throws some of the papers across the room.

LATER

SARAH

(on phone)

Maybe my work isn't destined to step out of your shadow, but you could at least let it see the light. Anyway, somebody knows about your sojourn. You'd better keep moving before the walls cave in. I love you, wherever you are. I'm going up to the Cape for the weekend. Call me.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, FARRINGDON - MORNING

JON  
Michelle asked for you.

LAWRENCE  
I might say goodbye tonight.

DANNY  
Goodbye?

LAWRENCE  
I want to tour the rest of the  
London sights today in a cab, and  
then we'll take the Eurostar to  
Paris in the morning.

JON  
Ahead of schedule?

LAWRENCE  
This former director of the  
Agency doesn't need his holiday  
movements dictated by the current  
incumbent.

Danny and Jon exchange glances.

INT. BLACK LONDON TAXI CAB - DAY

LAWRENCE  
I never remember the traffic here  
being this bad.

DRIVER  
Must have been a while since you  
were last here.

CUT TO:

I/E. LIMOUSINE, DRIVING ON SAME STREET, TWENTY YEARS  
EARLIER - DAY

Lawrence is sat talking to an adviser. Jon is sat beside  
him. Outside we see Police outriders stopping traffic.  
Lawrence looks out the window pensively, but the world out  
there is just floating by him. The only thing that  
penetrates the shell is when he sees a little boy stood by  
his father pointing out their convoy.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. BLACK LONDON TAXI CAB - DAY

LAWRENCE  
It's been an eternity.

INT. PUB, FARRINGDON - NIGHT

MICHELLE  
There are other pubs in London.

LAWRENCE  
We like this one fine.

JON  
You're supposed to want our  
business.

MICHELLE  
I worry that as visitors to this  
country you're not getting a  
broad perspective.

JON  
It's not even your country.

MICHELLE  
I know you three though.

LAWRENCE  
That's sweet of you, but we're  
seeing plenty. Join us in a  
drink.

MICHELLE  
You celebrating?

LAWRENCE  
Saying goodbye.

MICHELLE  
Whatever caper you're pulling  
finished?

JON  
We're not criminals.

MICHELLE  
Really?

JON  
We're on a golf trip.

MICHELLE  
Here? Of course. That's your  
cover story.

JON  
Why would we lie?

MICHELLE  
Three blokes dressed like you?  
How close is the nearest course?

LAWRENCE  
We played in Buckinghamshire.

MICHELLE  
Just the once?

JON  
I like you less as a detective  
than as a buxom barmaid.

MICHELLE  
It's my secret identity. And you  
can stop staring.

JON  
You can stare at my ass in  
retaliation.

MICHELLE  
I would if I knew where it  
finished.

LAWRENCE  
Touche.

EXT. PUB, FARRINGDON - NIGHT

The three are walking propping each other up.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING, FARRINGDON - MORNING

All three are stood with their cases, suited up, sunglasses  
firmly covering hung-over eyes. A white van pulls up beside  
them. The driver double takes.

WHITE VAN MAN  
Oi Mate. I've got the 80's on the  
phone. Robert Palmer wants his  
look back.

INT. BLACK LONDON TAXI CAB - MORNING

The three are slumped inside. Jon starts humming Addicted  
to Love.

FADE TO:

INT. EUROSTAR TERMINAL, ST. PANCRAS - DAY

The three walk towards Passport Control.

JON

Let us go first, Sir.

The Guard barely looks at Jon's passport. When Lawrence steps up he takes it and peruses it thoroughly. He double-takes the photo and the man in front of him. Danny is about to step forward, but Jon shakes his head. The Guard's supervisor says something and he waves Lawrence through distractedly.

INT. EUROSTAR - DAY

LAWRENCE

I've got to take a leak.

JON

Go to that Gents.

LAWRENCE

Isn't that one nearer?

JON

More Americans there.

DANNY

You checked the passenger list?

JON

Not personally.

LAWRENCE

Are you allowed to do that?

JON

Like I say, I personally didn't.

EXT. RUE DE SEINE, PARIS - AFTERNOON

The three are stood by a residential door.

DANNY

We're days early.

LAWRENCE

How many incognito ex-Presidents are roaming around Europe at any given time?

JON

More than you think.

LAWRENCE

Any chance of seeing the Eiffel Tower? Or is that on the list of banned sights?

JON

They told me not to.

LAWRENCE

I could go anyway.

DANNY

Not easily.

JON

(defusing a tricky situation)

Most tours finish by now. There'll be Americans, but not many. And it's your holiday.

Danny is unhappy.

EXT. EIFFEL TOWER BASE - EVENING

Lawrence is staring up while the other two are more concerned looking around. At another part of the tower the French Rugby Team are having their pictures taken while wearing their new kit. A little child chases a ball in Lawrence's direction, retrieves it and stops staring at them.

JON

Shoo.

DANNY

He's not a dog. Go back to your mummy.

LAWRENCE

And he probably doesn't speak English.

The following few lines take place in French, with subtitles

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Where's your mom?

CHILD

Over there.

LAWRENCE

What's her name?

CHILD

Eugenie.

LAWRENCE

Miss Eugenie, your boy is making friends.

EUGENIE

Jean-Hughes come here. Thank you.

Sub-titles finish.

JON

I'm in love.

EUGENIE

Pardon?

JON

You speak English?

EUGENIE

Of course.

JON

I was saying I'd like to take you to dinner, but I'm working and your husband wouldn't be happy.

EUGENIE

My husband made that choice once he slept with his Boss.

LAWRENCE

(to Jon)

And you can have a night off.

EUGENIE

(tellingly, she double-takes Lawrence)

I don't have a baby-sitter, and you're a stranger.

Suddenly there is a scream and a man comes dashing towards them. Danny steps in front of Lawrence, while Jon grabs the child and pulls Eugenie behind him. The man veers off to avoid the obstacle and is felled by one of the rugby players. Another three pile on top. The cameras that were filming the Kit launch head over.

DANNY

We need to roll.

Lawrence and Danny start walking away.

EUGENIE

(Handing Jon a business card)

That's my number. If you're lucky I'll cook dinner.

(MORE)

EUGENIE (CONT'D)  
I'm an excellent cook. Just leave  
the pistol at home.

INT. BAR IN ST.SULPICE - EVENING

DANNY  
(to Jon)  
That went well.

LAWRENCE  
Nobody got hurt.

JON  
I made a mistake.

DANNY  
More than one. This isn't a game.

JON  
Nobody says it is.

DANNY  
Because if we're here to have fun  
I could be home with my wife.

LAWRENCE  
Danny we're on holiday, that's  
precisely why we're here.

DANNY  
With respect Sir, that's why  
you're here. I'm addressing Romeo  
in Ray-Bans. My wife is pregnant  
again.

LAWRENCE  
Congratulations.

JON  
That's good news. Right?

DANNY  
I think so, but this stuff, it  
doesn't fly, not anymore.

LAWRENCE  
You want to give up?

Danny shrugs. Lawrence calls over the waiter.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)  
(in French)  
A bottle of the Chateau Cheval  
Blanc. The eighty two.

The waiter goes to get the wine.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)  
I'll give you a great reference.  
You'll be able to transfer  
anywhere.

The waiter returns.

WAITER  
Congratulations Gentlemen.

JON  
You should probably go private  
sector.

LAWRENCE  
Well, we're both celebrating  
then. Your last tour of duty, eh?

JON  
What are you celebrating?

LAWRENCE  
My holiday.

JON  
Sure?

LAWRENCE  
Completely.

DANNY  
I don't know anything about wine,  
but this tastes great.

LAWRENCE  
It should do for two thousand  
bucks.

DANNY  
Fuck off. I beg your pardon.  
You're joking Sir.

LAWRENCE  
Just don't rush it.

DANNY  
I'll drink it one drop at a time.

LAWRENCE  
As long as you don't wash it down  
with crisps.

DANNY  
Don't worry. These things are  
rubbish compared to the English  
ones.

LAWRENCE

Lets do this the proper French way.

(in French)

Monsieur, could you recommend some cheeses?

INT. APARTMENT, RUE DE SEINE - NIGHT

JON

It makes a change to go to bed sober.

LAWRENCE

I knew there was something not right.

DANNY

I would have ordered more but my realtor couldn't sell the house quick enough.

JON

If you'll excuse me, I've a phone call to make.

EXT. CAFE - MORNING

JON

I love industrial strength coffee.

DANNY

Chocolate pastries and pure butter croissants. Travelling with you Sir is broadening my waist more than my mind.

JON

Where to?

LAWRENCE

Where can I go that's underpopulated by Americans? The Louvre?

JON

Sorry.

LAWRENCE

Notre Dame?

Jon shakes head.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

Are De Triomphe?

JON

You can see a lot of these places  
at night.

LAWRENCE

Napoleon's tomb at Les Invalides?

JON

That's fine. One great leader  
seeing another.

LAWRENCE

Is that flattery or sarcasm?

JON

Your choice.

LAWRENCE

And this afternoon let's visit  
Pere Lachaise. A day of the dead.

JON

Avoiding Jim Morrison's Grave.

LAWRENCE

I've no desire. I saw him  
perform. And I've friends whose  
tombs I should be visiting ahead  
of his.

EXT. PERE LACHAISE CEMETERY - AFTERNOON

LAWRENCE

It's peaceful.

JON

I'm in no hurry to move in.

LAWRENCE

It feels like the world has  
stopped turning.

DANNY

It makes me wish the opposite.

LAWRENCE

You worry about dying Kid?

DANNY

No more than the next man.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Unfortunately the next man is  
him.

JON

Unfortunately the next man is  
me.

LAWRENCE

I ask for philosophers, I get comedians.

JON

The US government doesn't let men who carry guns worry about philosophy. It's considered an occupational hazard.

INT. DANNY SQUIRES HOME - MORNING

Danny's daughter Jess is eating breakfast with the kitchen television on in the background. a Good Morning America style programme is on.

ANNOUNCER

..while last night in Paris, France, a pickpocket got more than he bargained for when the French Rugby Team, doing a photo-call nearby, stepped in to foil an attempted bag snatch.

On screen a shaky camera runs over to the action. It stops on the event.

JESS

Mom. Dad's on TV.

KELLY (O.S.)

Don't be silly darling.

JESS

Or somebody has stolen his face and sold it on.

Kelly comes through to the kitchen with a towel over her drying hair. The story has moved on, and we can no longer see Danny.

KELLY

Where?

JESS

He's gone. It was in Paris.

KELLY

Texas or France?

JESS

France.

KELLY

Honestly?

JESS

I swear on grandma Squires life.

KELLY

I wish you wouldn't. She has such a tenuous grip on it without the added weight.

JESS

Is that a grown up joke I don't understand?

KELLY

Don't worry. No one's laughing.

JESS

Are most grown up jokes like that?

KELLY

They never tell you the bad stuff when you're a kid.

JESS

How did you get pregnant?

KELLY

Now is not the time, you've got school.

JESS

I mean, I understand how you got pregnant, but when was Dad home to help you conceive?

KELLY

It's quite the experience being accused of infidelity by my own child.

JESS

I'm not a child anymore.

KELLY

Clearly. Relax, the dates check out. There'll never be anybody else in my life, no matter how hard a time you hear me give him.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING, SORBONNE - EVENING

JON

(talking in to the  
intercom)

Bonjour.

(MORE)

JON (CONT'D)  
Je voudrais meet, em, see, no,  
voir Madame, Mademoiselle  
Eugenie. S'il vous plait.

EUGENIE  
(through the intercom)  
We need to fix this. It keeps  
breaking a once proud language in  
to a garbled mess. Third floor.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, SORBONNE - EVENING

JON  
I brought you these.

EUGENIE  
Thank you. I love lilies.

JON  
And this.

EUGENIE  
(laughing)  
An American wine? In Paris.

JON  
I know. It means we can steer  
clear of the local junk.

Eugenie looks taken aback.

JON (CONT'D)  
I'm joking. Given your reaction  
and the difficulty finding it I  
shouldn't have bothered.

EUGENIE  
Where did you get it?

JON  
A shop in the Marais.

EUGENIE  
Is it any good?

JON  
Of course it is. It's American.

EUGENIE  
You're joking again?

JON  
It cost enough, which I'm afraid  
is how I judge.

EUGENIE  
(reading)  
Pinot Noir. We can try that with  
dessert.

JON  
If you don't send me packing  
before then.

EUGENIE  
I hope your conversation is  
polished enough by now to last a  
couple of hours.

JON  
You're very trusting.

EUGENIE  
If they allow you to stay by the  
President I'm sure you've been..  
comment on dit; vetted.

JON  
You recognised him?

EUGENIE  
The guns helped.

JON  
It's a secret he's here.

EUGENIE  
Is my life in danger?

JON  
No more than it may have been.

EUGENIE  
Is this some matter of state?

JON  
Holiday.

EUGENIE  
And it's a secret?

JON  
Long story.

EUGENIE  
That gives us something to talk  
about.

INT. TAXI, CENTRAL PARIS - EVENING

LAWRENCE

Stop.  
(in French)  
Excuse me. Stop. STOP.

DRIVER

(in French)  
Here?

LAWRENCE

(in French)  
Please.

He gets out. Danny follows.

EXT. HOTEL MATIGNON - EVENING

DANNY

What are we doing Sir?

LAWRENCE

I recognise this. It's the Prime  
Minister's. I'm going to see if  
he's in.

DANNY

You can't just knock on a door  
and expect to see him.

LAWRENCE

Why not?

DANNY

There are protocols and rules.

LAWRENCE

He told me to call in anytime.

DANNY

That's why it's called diplomacy.

Lawrence approaches a guard.

GUARD

(in French)  
Halt.

LAWRENCE

(in French)  
Lawrence Evans of the United  
States for Mister Guermantes.

The sentry looks at him suspiciously, but picks up a phone and calls someone.

LATER

The two are stood staring at their toes, or other points of disinterest. The gate opens and a man rushes out.

ADC

Monsieur Evans, it's a great pleasure to meet you. Sorry to leave you waiting. Monsieur Guermantes had no idea you were expected.

LAWRENCE

I wasn't. The apologies are all mine.

ADC

Please follow me. His meeting finishes shortly and then he hopes you will join him for dinner.

DANNY

Unbelievable.

INT. BANQUET HALL, HOTEL MATIGNON - NIGHT

LAWRENCE

This is excellent Pierre.

PIERRE

It is unkind of you to turn up like this and catch me so unprepared.

LAWRENCE

Thanks for receiving us at all.

Danny is sat eating fastidiously and attentively, aware that his table manners must be as polished as possible. Opposite him the Prime Ministers wife is sat also.

SEGOLENE

And what brings you to Paris Monsieur Evans?

LAWRENCE

May I be frank?

PIERRE

We have come to expect it.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, SORBONNE - NIGHT

EUGENIE  
You must often end up in  
situations like this.

JON  
Less than you think.

EUGENIE  
Are you married?

JON  
You think I would cheat on my  
wife?

EUGENIE  
You will not be cheating with me  
tonight anyhow.

JON  
Never married.

EUGENIE  
Kids?

Jon shakes head.

EUGENIE (CONT'D)  
Not that you know of. Did the job  
stop you?

JON  
Was I supposed to?

EUGENIE  
Of course. Come look.

They walk in to the hallway and she quietly opens a bedroom door. The light cast in shows Jean-Hughes asleep, thumb in mouth with a teddy bear pressed up against him. Eugenie closes the door again.

EUGENIE (CONT'D)  
He means nothing to you, but I  
have never felt such intense  
emotion in my life.

JON  
I guess I'll not know.

EUGENIE  
You don't plan to settle?

JON  
I'll retire at some point of  
course. But by then  
(shrugs)

EUGENIE

You're older, but it's not too late yet.

JON

I thought the French were supposed to be charming.

EUGENIE

And Americans supposed to be fat.

JON

You asked me here to highlight my flawed existence?

EUGENIE

I asked you because you are an attractive man who put himself between danger and me.

JON

It's just instinct.

EUGENIE

Not for everyone.

JON

My life's work has been to seek out bullets and stand in their way.

EUGENIE

Not a task that ever ends.

JON

I try.

EUGENIE

You know how in movies every flat in France has a view of the Tour Eiffel?

JON

You don't?

EUGENIE

Cynic. It's like that because we do. Come.

EXT. ROOFTOP, RUE DE VAUGIRARD - NIGHT

JON

Liar.

EUGENIE

A reflection counts. This wine is better than I thought.

JON

A metaphor then, for you and I.

EUGENIE

Under-rated and quickly finished.

JON

Or maybe this isn't better than  
you thought?

EUGENIE

It won't work.

JON

What?

EUGENIE

Pretending to be vulnerable.

JON

I may not be pretending.

EUGENIE

I already have one boy looking  
for a mother figure in my life.

JON

I'm only here tonight.

EUGENIE

And then you're gone?

JON

You're beautiful.

EUGENIE

Thank you.

JON

Where are you going?

She holds up the baby monitor, there is the sound of a  
child faintly chattering.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, SORBONNE - NIGHT

EUGENIE

He's asleep again. I should too.

JON

It's good night?

EUGENIE

How did you see it ending? We met  
yesterday.

JON  
And tomorrow?

EUGENIE  
Then, or the day after, you'll be gone.

JON  
We have to grab on to moments.

EUGENIE  
You're asking to see me again?

JON  
Absolutely.

EUGENIE  
It's difficult, this. And getting Jean-Hughes looked after.

JON  
There's a reason why you asked me here.

(Jon has an idea)  
Lawrence has kids, and grand-kids.

EUGENIE  
You want the President of the United States to baby-sit my boy?

JON  
He's an ex-president.

EUGENIE  
He wouldn't. He wouldn't? Would he?

JON  
Will you see me again?

EUGENIE  
So Jean-Hughes can tell the story in later life.

JON  
No other reason?

EUGENIE  
I think that when he grows up he'll have little desire to know of every man his mother had two dates with.

JON  
Two?

EUGENIE

Two, three, a very small number  
when it all adds up and you're  
gone.

INT. BANQUET HALL, HOTEL MATIGNON - NIGHT

In stark contrast to the formal place settings earlier,  
Danny is sat close by Segolene, while Pierre and Lawrence  
are on the far side chatting conspiratorially. Danny has  
his phone in his hand.

SEGOLENE

She is lovely. You must miss her.  
Dad's cherish their little girls.  
Pierre used to treat Chantelle  
like a Princess, which is why she  
is so spoilt now, and in the  
process of ruining her marriage.

DANNY

I thought people in houses like  
this lived a different life to  
me.

SEGOLENE

Yet you work for him.

DANNY

I'd thought of him as an  
exception.

SEGOLENE

You are not encouraged to see how  
normal he is.

DANNY

You couldn't sacrifice yourself  
without seeing his life as worth  
more than yours.

OTHER SIDE OF  
THE TABLE

PIERRE

We all wish for freedom.

LAWRENCE

For the first time I have it.

PIERRE

You don't. That's why he is here.

LAWRENCE

I gave him the slip once already.

PIERRE

The reason you need him is because you had the ultimate freedoms, the Golden ticket. You got to be the Wizard of this Oz.

LAWRENCE

I never liked that movie.

PIERRE

It's natural to be disappointed when the curtain pulls back. But it's our privilege nevertheless. Walk five minutes out there and we could find groups of drunken old men having similarly confused conversations, and none would hesitate to swap positions.

LAWRENCE

You really believe that?

PIERRE

You really believe they wouldn't?

SEGOLENE

Darling, our guests are tired and you are due in Prague tomorrow. I'll call a car.

INT. MERCEDES DRIVING TO THE FLAT - NIGHT

Lawrence and Danny sit on separate sides just staring out at the sights deep in their own thoughts.

LAWRENCE

I only went overseas once with the agency. West Berlin. Back in the bad old days. I'd been there, maybe a week, when the Bureau chief called me in. He gave me a folder and told me to take it to a certain location immediately. I was to give it to a Marco and nobody else. I was thrilled, but the moment I left the building I sensed a tail.

DANNY

Stasi?

LAWRENCE

That's what I thought. I took evasive action, until I felt secure again. Then I headed to the address; an old bakery, and asked for Marco.

(MORE)

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

The woman there said he was ill. When I told her it was urgent, she just repeated that he was sick, and asked if she could help, which I thought was a test.

DANNY

Figures.

LAWRENCE

I guess she could tell I was desperate because she offered me his home address.

DANNY

And you went?

LAWRENCE

I thought if my boss had asked it couldn't be a trap. The man who opened the flat door in his pyjamas looked confused. He took the file, read it, started laughing, said sorry and handed back the opened message. It was a lunch order. Turns out the boss felt no-one else gave as good portions.

DANNY

I've a suspicion this story has a moral Sir?

LAWRENCE

Only that I asked for a transfer, and on my first day at Langley met Mrs. Evans. You've got to look after yourself. You shouldn't feel bad about wanting to finish this.

DANNY

That's a funny thing to say to someone looking after you.

LAWRENCE

Your ever-expanding family takes priority. I understand that. Don't walk away with regrets.

DANNY

I've just dined with the French Prime Minister's wife. There's plenty of things I won't regret.

LAWRENCE

Good.

INT. PATISSIERIE - MORNING

A waiter walks over from the counter with a tray of coffees and pastries.

LAWRENCE  
You're kidding?

JON  
Obviously if you're not free.

LAWRENCE  
Of course I'm free. It's a bit irregular.

DANNY  
I'm guarding him, while he's guarding the kid?

JON  
I'm hoping nobody has put a contract out on the kid.

LAWRENCE  
The child doesn't even know me.

JON  
Yet.

INT. NEWSPAPER WEEKEND SUPPLEMENT EDITORIAL OFFICE - NIGHT

CATHERINE  
(phone)  
It's hardly confidential. I'd just like to verify from whoever does the society gig that it was President Evans.

Listening

Nothing unusual, no. Just it fits in with an article I'm doing. I've got a pen.

INT. LONDON NEWSPAPER - MORNING

ADRIAN  
(on phone)  
Sorry to bother you, but I just got an interesting call. Does anybody down your way know about an official visit from an ex-Yank President.

Listening.

Which one? Evans. Lawrence Evans.  
Yeah, sure I'll hold.

LATER

No, nothing? No, it's fine.

He hangs up and dials again.  
Boss, I might have a little  
something.

EXT. PARC ANDRE CITROEN - DAY

Lawrence kicks a football thirty yards across the grass,  
where Danny traps it and lays it off to Jean-Hughes. Jon  
and Eugenie are gathered around a picnic hamper. Eugenie  
pours a glass of wine.

EUGENIE

You're not protecting him very  
well.

JON

I'm doing just fine. What is  
this?

EUGENIE

Pinot Noir. From Oregon.

JON

You lie.

EUGENIE

No. You're right, it's difficult  
to get hold of.

JON

That's sweet.

EUGENIE

I am capable of grand gestures.  
Just don't make me buy it again.  
I felt embarrassed.

Lawrence runs towards a wayward pass.

JON

(unwrapping another  
bottle)  
The boss picked this up, said it  
might help me make a good  
impression.

EUGENIE

Jesus. That's amazing.

Lawrence pauses.

DANNY  
You alright Boss.

LAWRENCE  
(with his back to them  
and his eyes closed)  
Fine. A little out of breath.

JON  
I'll take over.

EUGENIE  
It's okay. Jean-Hughes, viens  
ici. He is spoilt having a bunch  
of men running around for him.

Lawrence makes his way back slowly, but as the others are all looking at Jean-Hughes, who is trying to throw the ball as high as he can, no-one notices.

EUGENIE (CONT'D)  
No-one recognises you?

LAWRENCE  
Why should they?

EUGENIE  
You were, you are important.

LAWRENCE  
To who?

JON  
Don't answer, he just wants  
sympathy.

LAWRENCE  
(in French)  
Jean-Hughes, what do you think  
about my spending tomorrow night  
with you?

JEAN-HUGHES  
Super.

LAWRENCE  
We're a distracted species. It  
takes a bit to break through the  
shell.

EUGENIE  
I'm really the first person to  
see through the disguise?

LAWRENCE  
Apart from some writer in London.

DANNY

What?

LAWRENCE

We're cool.

EXT. BAR IN ST.SULPICE - EVENING

Jean-Hughes is eating hungrily at a table on the street, with all except Danny around him. Danny is across the street on his mobile.

DANNY

(on phone)

No way. Why would I be golfing in Paris?

INT. DANNY SQUIRES HOME - MORNING

KELLY

I understand if you can't tell me, but don't ever lie.

Beat.

EXT. SAINT SULPICE - EVENING

DANNY

Has anyone else pointed it out?

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR IN ST.SULPICE - EVENING

JON

Spotted in London, on TV in Paris, perhaps we should ring ahead to Barcelona and arrange radio and internet exposure.

LAWRENCE

Let's not go to Spain.

EUGENIE

(looking at Jon)

You want to go home?

LAWRENCE

Absolutely not. I'm the only President of the last six never to visit Ireland. Let's finish playing a round with the Atlantic blowing across the fairway.

JON

How do we get there?

LAWRENCE

Plane to Shannon.

DANNY

We'll be spotted at the airport,  
if not by Paps, definitely by  
Immigration.

LAWRENCE

Grown men tire of playing hide  
and seek.

DANNY

And body-guards grow tired of  
danger.

LAWRENCE

Kid, I will not get you hurt.

DANNY

Even if you could guarantee that  
Sir, it's not me I'm worrying  
about.

LAWRENCE

I had another idea to enhance our  
cover. We could travel as a  
family party. Eugenie, could I  
entice you and your son to a few  
days in the Emerald Isle?

EUGENIE

I have work.

LAWRENCE

Of course.

EUGENIE

And I imagine this is all very  
temporary.

LAWRENCE

It needn't be.

EUGENIE

In which case, Lawrence, you are  
not the one who needs to extend  
the invitation.

JON

I'd love you both to come.

EUGENIE

I am not impulsive, yet twice  
within a week I find myself  
agreeing to crazy whims with men  
who carry guns.

Beat.

LAWRENCE

I knew you were both packing.

DANNY

Since?

LAWRENCE

Washington.

DANNY

You didn't say anything Sir.

LAWRENCE

We all like to believe we're in  
control.

INT. LAWRENCE'S HOME - MORNING

SARAH

(on phone)

Why do I need to sit down? You  
haven't met someone have you, a  
relation of the Queen, and  
decided to stay? Because I'm too  
old for a messy divorce.

Beat.

Lawrence? Are you still there.

INT. APARTMENT AND HALL WAY, RUE DE SEINE - AFTERNOON

LAWRENCE

I just need to go somewhere  
private.

INT. LAWRENCE'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

SARAH

You're so melodramatic. What is  
there you can't tell your detail  
about? I'm sitting down.

LATER

SARAH (CONT'D)

That's why you wanted to go. I  
would have come with you.

INT. APARTMENT HALL WAY, RUE DE SEINE - CONTINUOUS

LAWRENCE

It's not a death sentence. More  
of a degenerative thing.

Listens.

I don't want them to be nurse-  
maids.

INT. LAWRENCE'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

SARAH

Jesus Christ, they're not your  
fucking kids. I should be  
worrying and instead I'm angry.

LATER

Sarah is sat in a kitchen, with a faint track of tears on  
her cheek. She ignores a ringing phone.

INT. RESTAURANT, QUARTIER LATIN, PARIS - NIGHT

LAWRENCE

(giving a toast)  
To tomorrow, and the hope it  
brings no more bollockings from  
our wives, or in your case Jon,  
new girlfriend.

JON

That's a bit premature.

LAWRENCE

It had better not be.

JON

We go home in a week.

LAWRENCE

You don't have to.

JON

With no language, no job, and,  
let's be honest, age is hardly on  
my side.

LAWRENCE

Do you like her?

JON

This isn't kindergarten.

DANNY

Answer him.

JON

Of course.

LAWRENCE

Then you've got a choice to make.

EXT. SIGHTSEEING DECK, TOP FLOOR, TOUR DE MONTPARNASSE -  
MORNING

JON

I like croissants, but they're  
useless for a hangover.

LAWRENCE

It's difficult to sight-see when  
it hurts looking towards lights.

DANNY

I'm alright.

JON

How the fuck did you get those  
crisps?

DANNY

We passed that English pub last  
night, remember?

JON

Not at all.

LAWRENCE

I'm sure this is every bit the  
equal of the view from the Eiffel  
Tower but I can't appreciate it  
now. Is it too early for a drink?

JON

It's not even midday.

LAWRENCE

I'm having wine with lunch. It's  
got to make me feel better than  
this.

DANNY

Any thoughts on how you want to  
spend the afternoon Sir?

LAWRENCE

What time are we baby-sitting  
from?

JON

Seven?

LAWRENCE

I have one suggestion. You won't like it.

INT. DRESSING ROOM, BOUTIQUE, SAINT GERMAIN - AFTERNOON

DANNY

I feel like Julia Roberts in Pretty Woman.

JON

I feel more like Baby-back ribs, when barbecue sauce is rubbed on.

DANNY

What's wrong with our old suits?

JON

Just make sure they're not matching.

DANNY

He said to the shop assistant that we're his lovers.

JON

For a generous man he'll work any angle for a discount.

DANNY

A place like this won't take money off.

JON

Sure they will. Rich people are rich because they know how to keep their money.

INT. BOUTIQUE - AFTERNOON

LAWRENCE

Now you just need shoes.

JON

We've more indignity to go through?

LAWRENCE

And I expect you to enjoy it.

JON

I thought we were here as equals.

DANNY

More like play-things.

LAWRENCE

If you had any manners you'd  
thank me for the generous gifts.  
Your wife will be grateful Danny.

DANNY

My wife will wonder what the  
catch is, and upon discovering  
there's none will barrack me for  
shopping when I could have been  
home.

LAWRENCE

Lets get a drink.

JON

I'm not allowing you to look  
after a child drunk.

LAWRENCE

You ask me to spend a night in  
and then ban me from drinking?

JON

Your liver will thank me.

LAWRENCE

The rest of me won't.

EXT. ROOFTOP, RUE DE VAUGIRARD - NIGHT

DANNY

I can hear him snoring.

LAWRENCE

We never had baby monitors when I  
brought up mine.

DANNY

You'd let a Pterodactyl squawk  
across the Serengeti if they  
awoke.

LAWRENCE

Funny.

DANNY

They said you can see the Eiffel  
Tower from here.

LAWRENCE

That was an old Parisian joke.

DANNY

No, look. Sir, sometimes you're  
too clever for your own good.

LAWRENCE  
Most of the time.

DANNY  
I managed some bootlegging.

LAWRENCE  
Me too.

DANNY  
Is Europe how you wanted it to be?

LAWRENCE  
Yes. You?

DANNY  
It's different.

LAWRENCE  
How?

DANNY  
The potato chips are better.

They laugh.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
Considering how similar to home everything is, it's not the same at all. God, I'm judging a continent after three towns and two railways. We're not seeing it as real tourists either.

LAWRENCE  
You don't have to be on an air-conditioned coach pointing a camera at everything.

DANNY  
We haven't taken one photo between us.

LAWRENCE  
There's no rules for proper holidays. You eating wild boar last night is as authentic an experience as climbing the Arc De Triomphe.

DANNY  
Boar?

LAWRENCE  
You liked it too.

DANNY

You may call me the Kid, but you don't have to treat me like one.

LAWRENCE

Then stop moping.

INT. RESTAURANT, QUARTIER LATIN, PARIS - NIGHT

EUGENIE

Why am I coming with you?

JON

Free holiday?

EUGENIE

Do you want me there?

JON

I really do.

EUGENIE

Have you ever threatened to settle down?

JON

Do you mean have I ever been in love?

EUGENIE

No.

JON

Yes to both. She died.

EUGENIE

You're not getting off the hook by being enigmatic.

JON

Last year. Breast Cancer. We split when we were twenty one and within a couple of years she had married. Her kids are late teens early twenties now. I'm God-dad to the third one.

EUGENIE

Why didn't you stay with her?

JON

I thought the job was more important.

EUGENIE

And since?

JON  
A few flings.

EUGENIE  
And this, is this a fling?

JON  
If we both work at it maybe, but  
I'm not committing.

EUGENIE  
Not funny.

JON  
It's early in our time for you to  
stop laughing.

EUGENIE  
It's not the wise-cracking that  
attracted me. Will we be safe  
with you in Ireland?

JON  
Yes. Please come.

EUGENIE  
And then?

JON  
Then, begins the rest of our  
lives.

EUGENIE  
That's very vague.

JON  
I've had to live like that.

EUGENIE  
Can you live another way?

JON  
I'm trying to find out.

EXT. ROOFTOP, RUE DE VAUGIRARD - NIGHT

JON  
What's wrong with him?

DANNY  
He passed out.

EUGENIE  
You need an ambulance?

DANNY  
He's just drunk.

JON  
Where'd the booze come from?

DANNY  
We smuggled it in.

JON  
Great baby-sitters.

DANNY  
I'm fine.

EUGENIE  
And if you'd had to look after  
Jean-Hughes also?

DANNY  
Ma'am, I'm a parent. I would not  
have let anything happen.

JON  
Lets get him home.

INT. APARTMENT, RUE DE SEINE - MORNING

JON  
I can't look after you like this.

LAWRENCE  
I look after myself.

JON  
And Jean-Hughes?

LAWRENCE  
I'm sorry.

JON  
Last night was juvenile. And  
that's before Eugenie gets going.

EXT. ROOFTOP, RUE DE VAUGIRARD - MORNING

Eugenie is coming out on to the roof.

EUGENIE  
(in French)  
Jean-Hughes come here. We've got  
to go.

She sees her son sipping from the discarded hip flask.

EUGENIE (CONT'D)  
Stop that. Now.

She grabs it off him and it spills, running clear. She picks it up and sniffs. She frowns.

EUGENIE (CONT'D)  
Don't ever do that again.

INT. NEWSPAPER WEEKEND SUPPLEMENT EDITORIAL OFFICE - MORNING

CATHERINE  
(on phone)  
Paris? Not London? Which Airport?  
And definitely not inter-  
continental. Fill me in on the  
rest when I get there.

INT. LONDON NEWSPAPER EDITORS ROOM - AFTERNOON

ADRIAN  
To Ireland? It's not that small a  
country. I need something more  
concrete. Get back to me.

INT. GALWAY HOTEL, LOBBY - EVENING

DANNY  
This is Galway.

LAWRENCE  
Certainly is.

DANNY  
And the golf course is in Kerry.

LAWRENCE  
So far, correct.

DANNY  
Aren't we in the wrong place?

LAWRENCE  
We've five days, some fellow  
travellers to entertain, and lots  
to see. First things first, it's  
dinner-time and this army is  
marching on an empty stomach.

INT. GALWAY BAY SEAFOOD RESTAURANT - EVENING

LAWRENCE  
We're slipping.

JON  
Oh?

LAWRENCE

We've been in this country four hours without a sip of Guinness.

JON

You should take a break after last night.

LAWRENCE

Have you ever tasted it?

JON

Yes.

LAWRENCE

In Ireland?

JON

Of course not.

LAWRENCE

(in French)

Danny? Eugenie? What would you like to drink Jean-Hughes?

JEAN-HUGHES

(in French)

Orange juice please.

LAWRENCE

(to waiter)

Four pints, an orange juice and a plate of crab-cakes.

EUGENIE

That reminds me. I have your hip flask.

She hands it to him. He looks at her to try and divine if she has rumbled his little secret.

LAWRENCE

Thank you.

EUGENIE

You should be more careful in future.

JON

That's all? I thought you'd devour him.

EUGENIE

You don't know me very well yet.

LATER

EUGENIE (CONT'D)  
It's so filling. How do Irish  
women drink this and stay thin?

LAWRENCE  
They don't.

EUGENIE  
They're not fat.

LAWRENCE  
They don't drink it. I like the  
irony of a Frenchwoman drinking  
the Black stuff while all around  
her Irishwomen are sipping wine.

JEAN-HUGHES  
(in French)  
Mum, your moustache!

EUGENIE  
(in French)  
I know love. That's what Irish  
beer does.

LAWRENCE  
They say it compliments oysters  
very well.

EUGENIE  
The last thing you men need is an  
aphrodisiac. I have already seen  
you check out the waitress, and  
Mister President, she could be  
your grand-daughter.

LAWRENCE  
Charming.

LATER

EUGENIE  
I must take my son home to bed.

JON  
I'll come with you.

EUGENIE  
It's fine. You're still working.

EXT. SALTHILL BEACH - NIGHT

LAWRENCE  
I've never gone skinny-dipping.

JON  
No.

DANNY

Sir, what are you doing?

LAWRENCE

(unbuttoning clothes)

There's no-one around. I may never get as good an opportunity again.

DANNY

If you go in one of us has to come with you.

LAWRENCE

That's your decision.

DANNY

Not really.

LAWRENCE

Sorry.

JON

I strongly advise against this.

LAWRENCE

Objection noted. Now which of you is it to be?

JON

(to Danny)

Stone, paper scissors.

They play. Jon plays Paper, and Danny plays a winning scissors.

JON (CONT'D)

Scissors, you started with scissors? You always start with stone. Ten years of playing and you always open with stone.

DANNY

I noticed.

JON

You've been letting me win for ten years?

DANNY

Lose the battle to win the war.

JON

(starting to undress)

He's a lunatic, but you. You play a ten year waiting game.

DANNY

You've got to be ready for moments like this.

JON

In-fucking-credible.

LAWRENCE

And your pants. Come on. It's cold.

DANNY

That's nothing compared to what the water's going to be like.

JON

You can shut up.

DANNY

Your testicles will retreat so quickly you'll have three Adam's Apples.

JON

And now the jokes?

LAWRENCE

You ready?

JON

Never.

LAWRENCE

Alright then.

The two make a mad dash down the beach with Danny the laughing sentry over their pile of clothes. Screams of horror as they hit the water, but they keep running and dive in.

JON

(floating in the water)  
I hate to say I'm enjoying this, but.

LAWRENCE

It's liberating.

JON

In the old days you needed to invade a foreign country for your kicks.

LAWRENCE

Not true. Galway looks pretty neat from here.

JON  
And out there, is home.

LAWRENCE  
Where's home for you?

JON  
I got a Chocolate Labrador my  
neighbours look after in Ann  
Arbor.

LAWRENCE  
And Paris?

JON  
Give it a rest Sir.

LAWRENCE  
No.

JON  
It's appealing. Are we going back  
in?

LAWRENCE  
You know we've no towels.

INT. HOTEL BAR, GALWAY - NIGHT

BARMAN  
I'd recommend a hot Jemie.

LAWRENCE  
If that doesn't involve cheating  
on Mrs. Evans I'm in.

Eugenie has been sitting on a couch reading a book with the  
baby monitor by her side. She sees a small puddle of water  
underneath both Lawrence and Jon.

EUGENIE  
You take very good care of your  
staff.

LAWRENCE  
Nothing like a full cardiac  
workout.

EUGENIE  
What age are you?

JON  
Fifty. You?

EUGENIE

It's not polite to ask. Mister President you take a fifty year old man swimming in the dead of night after eating and drinking?

LAWRENCE

He is technically on duty.

EUGENIE

That fifty year old man has other responsibilities now that you've extended your travelling party. Fifty?

JON

Thanks.

DANNY

He's very old.

EUGENIE

Fifty and not settled. Maybe I'm missing something.

JON

It's a number. That's all.

EUGENIE

My son can't even count that far.

JON

I'm really enjoying this.

LAWRENCE

You think he's too old?

EUGENIE

No. Just making sure he doesn't. Come upstairs and we'll get you respectable.

JON

What about Jean-Hughes?

EUGENIE

Your generous boss got me a suite with two bedrooms. If you're lucky I may even allow you a stretch of floor near the bed.

They leave.

DANNY

You think it will last?

LAWRENCE

I hope so.

DANNY  
That's not what I asked.

LAWRENCE  
Yes then, they will.

He raises his glass.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)  
To the lovers.

DANNY  
To the lovers.

Lawrence sways slightly and drops his glass.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
Are you alright?

LAWRENCE  
Probably the cold.

DANNY  
Sir, I need to get you to bed.

LAWRENCE  
Yes, yes, you're right.

INT. LONDON NEWSPAPER EDITORS ROOM - NIGHT

ADRIAN  
Definitely Galway? I'll see you  
there in the morning.

INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, LANGLEY, VIRGINIA. - DAY

STAFFER  
We're picking up chatter on the  
wires about Evans.

DIRECTOR  
Saying?

STAFFER  
Press who think they know where  
he is.

DIRECTOR  
I'm going to regret allowing  
this. Have they arrived in  
Barcelona yet?

STAFFER  
You're not going to like this  
either...

I/E. MINIVAN, ON THE ROAD OUTSIDE GALWAY - MORNING

DANNY

Did you see that sign? It wasn't  
in English.

EUGENIE

The Sat-Nav says we're going the  
wrong way.

LAWRENCE

Give me the map. I used to be in  
the Signal Corps. That thing is  
faulty. What's the name of this  
village?

JON

Carra-something.

JEAN-HUGHES

(in French, pointing at  
Lawrence)

Look mum.

EUGENIE

Monsieur President, I can't  
believe the signal corps allowed  
you to read the map by turning it  
upside down.

LAWRENCE

I was more in charge of  
provisions than map-reading.

JON

Sir, were you a cook?

LAWRENCE

What I couldn't do to a potato  
wasn't worth knowing.

Danny pulls the car over, gets out and walks in to a  
grocers shop.

INT. GROCERS SHOP, CARRAROE - MORNING

There are two women at the counter conversing in Irish.  
They take a look at him and continue chatting.

DANNY

Excuse me. Do you speak English?

MAEDHBH

Where do you think you are?

DANNY

That's exactly why I came in.

PEIG

Where are you trying to get to  
love?

DANNY

The Burren.

PEIG

You are lost then.

MAEDHBH

It's only ten or so miles that  
way. The problem being that  
between here and there lies the  
Atlantic.

PEIG

And you don't have an underwater  
car, do you love?

MAEDHBH

Ciuinas Peig.

DANNY

Maybe you could tell me another  
route?

PEIG

Did you come from Galway?

DANNY

Yes.

PEIG

Well, luckily that's not the last  
you'll see of the lovely city.

DANNY

We're going the wrong way?

PEIG

You'd get there eventually, but  
it would add days to the journey.

DANNY

And once we get to Galway again?

PEIG

Head for Limerick and along the  
route you'll see the Burren  
signposted.

DANNY

Where are your crisps?

INT. MINIVAN, ON THE ROAD OUTSIDE GALWAY - DAY

LAWRENCE

It can't all be my fault.

Everybody else in the car is silent and avoiding eye contact.

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)

It's an adventure.

I/E. MINIVAN AT THE AILWEE CAVES ENTRANCE - EVENING

WARDEN

We're shut.

DANNY

Fantastic. You can't make an exception?

WARDEN

Unless you're the President himself.

DANNY

Which one?

WARDEN

Be a good man and move. I need to close the gate.

LAWRENCE

We'll stay in the town we just drove through and come back in the morning.

EUGENIE

This is a hole in the ground, yes?

LAWRENCE

In the same way that the Eiffel Tower is a transmission mast.

JON

It's worth making the effort to see?

LAWRENCE

I certainly want to.

INT. BALLYVAUGHAN, RESTAURANT, NEAR THE BURREN - NIGHT

EUGENIE

Only two rooms?

LAWRENCE  
It was very last minute.

DANNY  
How many beds?

LAWRENCE  
A double in each room.

DANNY  
Cot for Jean-Hughes?

LAWRENCE  
Sorry.

EUGENIE  
He'll be sharing with me anyway.

DANNY  
Great.

LAWRENCE  
At least we have a room.

DANNY  
With respect Sir, given that  
we'll insist you have a bed one  
of us is getting intimate with  
the floor. And I'm the kid.

JON  
I'll take the floor. But Gini, do  
you think it would be okay if it  
was in your room?

EUGENIE  
(pointing towards her  
son)  
Ask him.

JON  
What's the word for sleep?

EUGENIE  
Dormir.

JON  
Jean-Hughes, je dormir

EUGENIE  
Dors

JON  
Je dors en votre

EUGENIE  
Chambre is bedroom.

JON  
Dors en votre chambre, okay?

JEAN-HUGHES  
Oui. Mais ne ronfles pas.

LAWRENCE  
He asks that you not snore.

JON  
Cool.

INT. BALLYVAUGHAN, HOTEL BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lawrence is in bed and Danny is getting in the far side.

DANNY  
A rewarding life in service they  
said. And now it peaks as I go to  
bed with the President.

LAWRENCE  
Turn the light off.  
(Lights turn off)  
Now give me your hand.

DANNY  
Sir?

LAWRENCE  
Just lie back and think of your  
Country.

DANNY  
Sir?

LAWRENCE  
Relax. I'm joking.

LATER

Danny awakes suddenly. The bed beside him is empty.

DANNY  
Shit.

He pulls on some clothes hurriedly.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
Shit. Shit.

He rushes out in to the hallway, pauses a split second, as  
though thinking of rapping on Jon's door and then runs down  
the stairs. He sees the night porter.

DANNY (CONT'D)  
Have you seen...

The porter nods towards the bar. Danny walks in. Lawrence is sat over a glass of whiskey.

LAWRENCE

Bushmills. The barkeep said it was Protestant whiskey. I said so was I and he told me that was alright so.

DANNY

It's quite a place that distinguishes the religious extraction of its booze. What about Anheuser Busch?

LAWRENCE

I'm ashamed to say I don't know.

DANNY

It's hardly a huge gap in your education.

LAWRENCE

I spent five years after the White House as a Board member.

DANNY

Oh.

The night porter walks in.

PORTER

Drink Sir?

DANNY

Same.

The porter pours it and leaves.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I don't really understand whiskey.

LAWRENCE

Let the first sting pass, and then inhale.

DANNY

You know you've got a drink problem if you're getting up for a tasting in the middle of the night.

LAWRENCE

I had a headache, couldn't sleep.

DANNY

Sounds like a hangover. Same problem.

LAWRENCE

It wasn't a hangover.

DANNY

You get these headaches much?

LAWRENCE

Honestly Danny, more than I'd like.

DANNY

See a Doctor.

LAWRENCE

I did.

DANNY

What did he say?

LAWRENCE

I'm getting old.

DANNY

Medical science has really advanced. Anything else?

LAWRENCE

They're going to get worse.

DANNY

And the binge drinking helps?

LAWRENCE

Psychologically.

DANNY

Glad to hear it's not a physical addiction. You're not going to die on us are you?

LAWRENCE

Eventually.

DANNY

That's a workable time-frame. I think Mister President we should go to bed.

LAWRENCE

I guess it's worth a try.

INT. MINIVAN. - MORNING

Lawrence and Danny are asleep at separate sides in the back, with Jean-Hughes bewildered between them.

JON

You think those two got amorous last night?

EUGENIE

They've been away from their wives for a while.

LAWRENCE

I heard that.

EUGENIE

I guess that is the problem when your wife gives interviews to Harpers discussing marital details.

(To Jon)

You won't have seen it, but it seems that Mister Evans is pretty insatiable.

JON

Woah

LAWRENCE

Woah

EUGENIE (CONT'D)

You must know your wife said it.

LAWRENCE

I try to ignore that aspect of things. I pray my kids don't share your reading habits.

JON

Nobody needs to know that about their dad and mom.

LAWRENCE

Everybody knows everything about me.

JON

Except your whereabouts.

INT. GALWAY HOTEL, LOBBY - MORNING

CATHERINE

(wielding a photo)

Sorry to bother you, but a friend of mine may have stayed here.

RECEPTIONIST

Mister Evans has a lot of friends  
who have mislaid his whereabouts.

CATHERINE

He was here? Who else was asking?

RECEPTIONIST

The other guy paid for the  
information.

CATHERINE

I'm not going to.

RECEPTIONIST

Just as well. I didn't know  
anything.

CATHERINE

Where is he now?

RECEPTIONIST

When I said nothing, I mean  
nothing. He could be on any golf-  
course in Ireland.

CATHERINE

Are there many?

The receptionist nods.

INT. THE AILWEE CAVES, THE BURREN, CLARE - MORNING

The five are all standing amongst a guided tour looking at  
an underground waterfall, except Jean-Hughes, who is asleep  
in Jon's arms. Lawrence is stood at the front where none of  
the others can see his face, and is gripping the railings  
too tightly.

EXT. THE AILWEE CAVES, THE BURREN, CLARE - DAY

EUGENIE

It is a while since I've been  
educated.

LAWRENCE

Feels good doesn't it?

DANNY

I presume you've thought about  
lunch?

LAWRENCE

Not this time.

JON

I've got a suggestion. I used Gini's phone last night.

EUGENIE

It is terribly romantic watching a grown man surf the internet.

(Exaggerated impression follows)

He even managed to keep his mouth closed some of the time.

JON

Sir, I'm worried that a dangerously imbalanced French woman could pose a real danger to your health. We could leave them for the wolves.

LAWRENCE

Courting seems a little different from my day. We used to have to be polite to each other.

EUGENIE

What happened when the truth was revealed?

LAWRENCE

Divorce.

INT. PUB, CLARE - DAY

There is a table of empty plates and pint glasses and a bottle of red wine.

INT. MINIVAN. - AFTERNOON

Lawrence is asleep. Gini is staring out while the two guards are in the front. They see a sign for Shannon airport.

DANNY

We could go home now. I mean look, he's drunk again. It might be the right time to do our duty and save him. There's bound to be an Air Force flight passing through we can jump on.

EUGENIE

And what about us?

DANNY

You're not my first priority.

JON

This is what he wants.

DANNY

And we question nothing?

JON

Kid, you've questioned everything. There's only a few days left.

They drive past the Shannon turning.

DANNY

And these headaches he keeps getting?

JON

What are you talking about?

EUGENIE

I found his hip-flask. It only had water in it.

JON

He's lying?

DANNY

His doctor says he's getting sicker.

JON

This is a last hurrah?

EUGENIE

Is this how you would spend it?

JON

Not to start with, but I'm pretty happy with how it's turning out.

DANNY

How do we protect him from this?

LATER

LAWRENCE

Why have we stopped?

JON

The Kid is ringing his wife.

EUGENIE

(to Jon)

Remember when you call him that that he's older than me.

EXT. LAY-BY, COUNTY CLARE - DAY

DANNY

I don't care which of your friends she knows. She shouldn't have our number...No, I know you'd never tell anyone. I love you darling. I'm going to see you very soon.

INT. MINIVAN - DAY

LAWRENCE

He won't send an extraction squad to Ireland.

DANNY

Only because we're supposed to serve the same purpose.

LAWRENCE

You're rogue now.

DANNY

That'll look great on my resume. We can't stay any longer.

JON

Lets have one round. Lahinch is just back there.

LAWRENCE

I've set my mind on the Old Course at Ballybunion.

EUGENIE

Is that a real name?

JON

(poring over a map)  
The quickest way is to cross the Shannon by ferry. We're not that far.

LAWRENCE

We can eat on the boat.

EXT. KILLIMER-TARBERT FERRY - AFTERNOON

LAWRENCE

That wasn't quite how I imagined it.

INT. MINIVAN - AFTERNOON

DANNY

(hanging up the phone)  
When I asked if he had any tee  
times tomorrow he laughed. A lot.

LAWRENCE

Did you tell him who it's for?

DANNY

Yes, I burnt our cover for a  
Golfing favour.

LAWRENCE

I guess we spend another day in  
Kerry and then play Thursday.

DANNY

Sir, he said he has nothing for  
non-members for three weeks.

LAWRENCE

(thoughtfully)  
Twenty one days?

JON

(thinking what the  
President is thinking)  
Don't even.

LAWRENCE

Did he say how much membership  
cost? Never mind, you probably  
have to be proposed or something.  
Kid, give me the phone. How does  
this thing work? Redial, there  
that's it. To whom am I speaking  
please? Donal, have you ever  
heard of former American  
President Lawrence Evans? No, I'm  
not calling from that radio quiz  
show...

INT. PUB, BALLYBUNION - NIGHT

LAWRENCE

It was part of the deal, that  
they get free publicity from my  
playing there.

JON

And if the Press find you?

LAWRENCE

What can anyone do? I'm going  
home the day after.

JON

What did Mrs. Evans say?

LAWRENCE

To come home safely.

JON

No press scrum is going to make that any easier..

INT. LAWRENCE'S HOME - DAY

SARAH

(on phone)

You hope they find you. I know it hurt when they ignored you at the library opening, but you can understand. Now though I guess you get what you wanted all along. The Doctor, your Doctor called, wouldn't tell me anything personal, shouldn't, no matter that I begged. I know that it's worse than you say. God how I hate these voice-mails. Sometimes it feels like a symbol of how we dealt with each other, taking time, listening and re-listening, before we respond. If you weren't coming home so soon I'd fly over. You know I love you, always have. God, listen to me, I'm almost crying and I barely know why.

INT. HOTEL RECEPTION - NIGHT

CATHERINE

How far is Ballybunion from here?

PORTER

Depends what time of day.

CATHERINE

I mean now.

PORTER

By road it's about six hours.

CATHERINE

(taking out her wallet)

I need to settle my bill. Is there another way? Can I fly there from here?

PORTER

You mean fly in to Ballybunion International Airport?

CATHERINE

If it's quicker.

PORTER

The problem is they haven't built it yet. One day maybe. That would definitely be quicker, although after you've checked in, and then the terminal probably wouldn't be that proximate to the centre of Ballybunion. Thinking about it, it probably wouldn't be much faster.

CATHERINE

Are you being serious?

PORTER

No more nor less than usual. Our guests tend to like humour.

CATHERINE

Instead, they get you.

PORTER

Sorry Madam, your credit card has been declined. Do you have another?

CATHERINE

You're doing this on purpose.

PORTER

What a scoop, eh?

INT. PUB, BALLYBUNION - NIGHT

There is a traditional band playing. Jean-Hughes is asleep on his mum's lap. There is no way for them to get out of their seats easily. One man stands up and starts singing unaccompanied. It is a piercing lament. As he sings we slowly linger over our central protagonists. Eugenie is stroking her son's hair, while Jon unnoticed stares at her. Danny is eating crisps. Lawrence is nodding languidly along with the music. Sarah Evans is sat at her desk typing. She stops and buries her head in her hands. Adrian is sat trying to get in to a comfortable sleeping position, in a car by a sign that says Ballybunion Golf Club. Catherine is driving, with intermittent orange halogen lights illuminating her concentrated look. Kelly Squires is having an ultrasound, holding her daughters hand and pointing to the screen.

EXT. FIRST TEE, BALLYBUNION OLD COURSE - MORNING

DANNY

I got Kelly to fax my resignation yesterday.

LAWRENCE

Gosh. You don't want a transfer then?

DANNY

Time to move on.

LAWRENCE

I still might be able to help as a reference.

DANNY

I've got about twenty calls on my messaging service telling me to get you home, which makes me insubordinate.

LAWRENCE

I'll square all that.

They all separate to go to their balls. We are with Lawrence's P.O.V. He addresses the ball and suddenly it blurs. He backs off and then gets in to position again. He looks from the ball to the green. The second time the light burns through.

DANNY

(off screen)

Sir, you alright?

LAWRENCE

Fine.

EXT. NINTH HOLE - MORNING

LAWRENCE

(holding hip-flask)

Mid-round refreshment?

DANNY

I'm good. And so are you if you'll allow me to say.

LAWRENCE

Jonny?

JON

I'm driving later Sir.

LAWRENCE

Well, I'll drink to that.

Once again they separate for their balls. This time the camera follows Danny whose ball has hit deep rough. He spends a few moments kicking through the undergrowth

DANNY

Fucking game. Can any of you help me?

He looks up and sees Lawrence lying down on the ground. He starts running. Jon who is a few feet ahead turns around when he hears shouting and starts running too.

CUT TO:

Danny is trying to resuscitate Lawrence.

CUT TO:

A long range photo lens taking shots of the emergency.

CUT TO:

An ambulance passes Eugenie, who is buying Jean-Hughes an ice cream in the town.

CUT TO:

Danny and Jon looking on grimly as an unmoving President is loaded on to the stretcher.

CUT TO:

Catherine stood by the course entrance on her phone.

CUT TO:

Sarah Evans collapsing to the ground, phone in hand.

CUT TO:

An aerial shot of Lawrence being loaded in to the back of the ambulance.

LAWRENCE

(this is said off-camera)

When it is said that death came quickly and painlessly it is said by those who have yet to experience it. If that moment is your last is it not as long as life itself? I'm not the first old man to die on a golf course, nor will I be the last. Maybe that's the game's appeal;

(MORE)

LAWRENCE (CONT'D)  
the hushed earthiness, not so far  
from the cemetery.

CUT TO:

I/E. SHANNON AIRPORT - DAY

Uniformed soldiers ceremonially carry the coffin aboard a USAF plane. Jon salutes and then turns around, he is outside the perimeter fence and he gets in a car with Gini and her son. Inside the plane the soldiers sit like silent sentinels over the flag-draped coffin. Further forward in the cabin Danny sits opposite the Agency Director. Danny hands him a package which he opens. Inside is his gun and I.D. card. The director looks askance, but there is resolution in Danny's eyes.

FADE OUT.

THE END