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The Terrorist Gene

A Thesis submitted in partial satisfaction
of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts

in

Creative Writing and Writing for the Performing Arts

by

C.V. Taylor Herst

June 2014

Thesis Committee:
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Committee Co-Chairperson

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University of California, Riverside
Dedication

To my parents, Jerry & Jeannde, for their love, guidance, and support. Truly they were "So Rare"!
FADE IN:

EXT. AERIAL SHOT OF SAN DIEGO - MORNING

The outline of the city, its proximity to the ocean...

The image passes over the airport, moves north... over Sea World... toward Torrey Pines... inland...

CLOSER

Freeways, buildings and streets become distinct...

CLOSER

To a group of buildings...

CLOSER

To a modern, two-story building. The parking lot is active; PEOPLE (various ages) walk up the steps toward the entrance.

IN THROUGH A SECOND STORY WINDOW

A tissue culture laboratory. KATHRYN (26), in lab coat and gloves, looks into a

MICROSCOPE

Ten round cells nestled together.

IN THE LABORATORY

Kathryn pipettes a drop of liquid onto the slide. Aims a small microwave cone transmitter at the slide. Looks back into the

MICROSCOPE

The cells are the same.

IN THE LABORATORY

Kathryn’s hand reaches for a button on the transmitter. Pushes it. A red light comes on. In the

MICROSCOPE

The cells ruffle. Rapidly swell and BURST. All but two.

IN THE LABORATORY
Kathryn frowns.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn PUSHES OPEN the swinging doors. Walks quickly along. In her hand, a rack of tubes.

  KATHRYN
  (muttering)
  This will not do, Katy. This will not do.

She rounds the corner.

INT. LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn YANKS OPEN the door.

  KATHRYN
  Amy?

AMY (23, technician) has headphones on. Doesn’t hear. Kathryn marches up beside her.

  KATHRYN
  AMY!

Amy jumps. Yanks off her headphones.

  KATHRYN
  When was the last time the C-O-2 incubator was calibrated?

  AMY
  I don’t know. Probably last month.

  KATHRYN
  Make sure it’s done today. Thank you.

Kathryn marches away.

  KATHRYN
  (mumbling)
  How anyone can concentrate with those damn things on.

She BANGS out the door.

Amy shakes her head. Puts her headphones back on.
INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Scowling, Kathryn YANKS open the door to the

EQUIPMENT ROOM

She goes to the counter. The sample tray is filled to
capacity. She looks at the display.

KATHRYN
Ten minute counts?!?

She presses the STOP BUTTON. Types in some commands. The
counter samples move backward.

She places her samples at the front. Presses START. The
counter loads her first sample. Kathryn walks quickly out.

INT. LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn enters. Goes to the display case. A sign overhead:
Recent Arrivals

Kathryn scans the titles. Frowns. Leaves.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn heads to her lab.

DR. ROSEN (O.C.)
Kathryn?

Kathryn stops. Turns. Sees DR. CANDICE ROSEN (40s) followed
by a TECHNICIAN (20s).

KATHRYN
Good morning, Dr. Rosen.

DR. ROSEN
Good morning. Laurence says you
moved his samples in the counter.

KATHRYN
I only had eight samples to count.
His were going to take all weekend.

DR. ROSEN
Kathryn, I have asked you before
not to move other people’s samples.
You wouldn’t like it if it were
done to you. Would you?
KATHRYN
No.

DR. ROSEN
And Laurence, please put long counts on at the end of the day so they count overnight. Is that clear?

Laurence nods.

DR. ROSEN
Fine. You may go.

Laurence exits.

DR. ROSEN
Big day today. How are you feeling?

KATHRYN
Glad I got an early start.

DR. ROSEN
How are the cell death experiments going? Are you still having trouble with resistant cells?

KATHRYN
No.

DR. ROSEN
Then that’s even more cause to celebrate.

Dr. Rosen presents Kathryn with two magazines: Science...

DR. ROSEN (O.C.)
Your article. And a tabloid.

And Newsweek. Kathryn GASPS at the

NEWSWEEK COVER
The Hunt For A Terrorist Gene

KATHRYN
Is this us?

Dr. Rosen nods.
DR. ROSEN
Congratulations. Quite a feather in your cap.

Dr. Rosen’s cell phone PINGS. She looks at it.

DR. ROSEN
Our guests have arrived. We’ll meet you in the lab at ten.

Dr. Rosen leaves. Kathryn goes to a window. Looks out at the FRONT ENTRANCE

Two police cars, one limousine, and four SUVs in a line.

EXT. FRONT ENTRANCE/TARGEN CORPORATION - CONTINUOUS

The limo doors open. SENATOR BASSETT (45, handsome) steps out of one side, PHILIP NOLAND (72, physically fit) out of the other. Philip comes around to the Senator’s side. Gestures to the news trucks in the parking lot.

PHILIP
Ready for a little publicity?

SENATOR BASSETT
I always am.

PHILIP
Just like your father.

They walk up the stairs past a large sign: Targeted Genetics Corporation. They stop on the landing. Philip points to a building behind the parking lot.

PHILIP
The manufacturing expansion.

SENATOR BASSETT
You’re going to need it.

AT THE SECOND FLOOR WINDOW

Kathryn pulls out her cell phone. Dials. Waits.

MOTHER (V.O.)
(answering machine)
Leave a message.
KATHRYN
Mom?... Mom, pick up! Can you come to the phone?... My article came out. We’re going to be on the news. Turn on the TV. And pay attention. I’ll call you later. Bye.

Kathryn hurries off to her lab.

INT. RADIATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sterile, stainless steel environment with large racks and gurneys. Hanging down, flexible X-ray cones.

A TECHNICIAN (20s), gowned and gloved, plays with a caged rat.

Kathryn walks by. Stops at the window. Holds up the journal.

KATHRYN
Ted! My article came out!

The technician smiles. Gives her a thumbs up.

INT. KATHRYN’S LAB - LATER

Kathryn paces back and forth. Stops. Opens the lid of squat gray box on the bench. Looks at the tubes inside. Closes the lid. Looks at the wall clock: 10:15. Frowns.

HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn turns the corner just as the door to the CEO’s office opens. The Senator comes out, followed by Philip.

SENATOR BASSETT
Don’t worry. I’m ready for the backlash.

TARGEN CEO TOM MARSHALL (50) and Dr. Rosen come out of the office, follow them into the hallway.

SENATOR BASSETT
You just make sure you’re ready to get this technology out there.

TOM
We’ve got an entire team working on the tech transfer. You’ve seen the plans for distribution.
SENATOR BASSETT
I’m just a Senator, Tom, not a...

He notices Kathryn standing in the hall.

SENATOR BASSETT
Scientist. Good morning, young lady.

Dr. Rosen walks past the Senator.

KATHRYN
Good morning, Senator.

DR. ROSEN
Senator Bassett, Dr. Kathryn Upshaw.

They shake hands.

DR. ROSEN
And Nobel Laureate Philip Noland.

KATHRYN
Dr. Noland. I read your article on genetic manipulation using transient viral vectors.

PHILIP
I’m glad somebody did.

The group CHUCKLES.

DR. ROSEN
Kathryn, we still have to give the Senator a quick tour of manufacturing.

KATHRYN
That’s fine.

Kathryn smiles. Leaves. The group moves down the hall.

SENATOR BASSETT
What type of doctor is she?

DR. ROSEN
P-H-D in cell biology. Her undergrad was in computer science.
PHILIP
Bioinformatics, actually. M-I-T.

Philip smiles at Dr. Rosen.

PHILIP
I did my research.

SENATOR BASSETT
She’s awfully young.

PHILIP
No doubt she’s very driven.

DR. ROSEN
That’s for sure. She’s about driven
everyone crazy.

They CHUCKLE. Walk off.

INT. KATHRYN’S LAB - LATER

Kathryn sits. Reads Newsweek. Looks up as

Dr. Rosen, Philip, and the Senator enter.

SENATOR BASSETT
All right, Dr. Upshaw, we made it.
I hope I understand this better
than that cryo-whatever it was.

DR. ROSEN
Cyto-toxin.

SENATOR BASSETT
Right. So what do we have here?

Kathryn holds up what looks like a fat marking pen.

KATHRYN
This is the device we use to sample
your blood. The sample goes in
here...

She lifts the lid of the instrument.

KATHRYN
The instrument extracts the DNA,
amplifies it, and the results are
shown over here.
She points to the monitor.

SENATOR BASSETT
And this is how you detect the terrorist gene?

KATHRYN
Yes sir. Would you like a demonstration?

SENATOR BASSETT
I don’t know. Do we have any terrorists around here?

PHILIP
I’m afraid the President couldn’t be here today.

CHUCKLES.

SENATOR BASSETT
Go ahead.

KATHRYN
Yes sir. First, I need a blood sample. Any volunteers?

SENATOR BASSETT
Does it hurt?

KATHRYN
No sir. The pen works like this.

Kathryn SNAPS OFF the cap. Pushes back the sleeve of her lab coat. Presses the top of the pen to her arm.

KATHRYN
Just press the button on the top.

CLICK. Kathryn blinks.

KATHRYN
There’s a tiny needle inside. It samples your blood, the needle retracts...

She holds up the pen so the Senator can see.

KATHRYN
And that’s it. The instrument does the rest.
She writes her initials on the pen. Places it in the instrument.

**SENATOR BASSETT**

That looks easy enough.

He rolls up his sleeve.

**SENATOR BASSETT**

So I don’t have to lie when I’m asked if it hurts.

Kathryn snaps off the cap. Places the top of the pen on his arm. Pushes the button. CLICK. Removes the pen.

**SENATOR BASSETT**

That’s amazing.

She writes his initials on the pen. Places it in the instrument.

**DR. ROSEN**

Tom led our engineering design team that developed the sampling device.

**SENATOR BASSETT**

How long before you get a result?

**KATHRYN**

About an hour. But this is what it will look like.

Kathryn moves to the monitor. Types in some instructions.

**KATHRYN**

We ran these samples yesterday.

**ON THE MONITOR**

A graph. Lines start at the bottom. Advance to the right. Incrementally jump forward. Some lines go up, some do not.

**KATHRYN (O.C.)**

If the gene is present, the fluorescence increases exponentially over time.

Senator Bassett nods. Points to the monitor.

**SENATOR BASSETT**

Why’s that line going up so fast?
PHILIP
Probably the positive control.

KATHRYN
Exactly. The negative control... here... stays on the bottom. That way we know the test is working correctly. These are the samples.

SENATOR BASSETT
How did you find this gene?

KATHRYN
M-P-S. Massive parallel sequencing. We examined millions of fragments of DNA, did regression analysis, behavior modeling--

AIDE (O.C.)
Excuse me, Senator.

The Senator’s AIDE (30) comes forward.

AIDE
The TV crews are here.

SENATOR BASSETT
Saved by the bell. Thank you Dr. Upshaw.

KATHRYN
You’re welcome, Senator.

The entourage leaves. Dr. Rosen gives Kathryn a ‘thumbs up’.

The Senator mentions something to his aide. She stops. Goes back to Kathryn.

AIDE
The Senator would like you to stand on the podium with him.

Kathryn is surprised, pleased.

HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Philip and Senator Bassett walk along.

PHILIP
It’s a pity you can’t stay for the G-20 summit.
SENATOR BASSETT
I want to get back and start
lobbying to get Gitmo reopened.

PHILIP
A very wise move, Bobby. Very wise
indeed.

EXT. ENTRANCE TO TARGEN - MOMENTS LATER

ON THE LANDING

The Senator is at the microphone. To his left, Kathryn, Dr. Rosen. To his right, Philip, his aide.

At the rear, ONE DOZEN Targen employees (various ages, some in lab coats) stand in a semicircle.

DOWN IN FRONT

An audience of fifty people, news crews and reporters. Behind them, police and security.

SENATOR BASSETT
Thank you. I am pleased to announce
that today, we have a new weapon in
the war on terror.

SMATTERING OF APPLAUSE

SENATOR BASSETT
Developed right here, at Targen.

The Senator glances at Kathryn. She smiles.

LATER

APPLAUSE as the Senator steps back from the microphone. The aide steps forward.

AIDE
Thank you, Senator. We have time
for a few questions.

REPORTER #1
Senator, the A-C-L-U has already
filed a lawsuit in Federal court,
claiming that this test violates
various Constitutional rights--

The Senator quickly retakes the microphone.
SENATOR BASSETT
We won’t have a Constitution if we allow terrorists to hold us hostage! The safety of our nation is at stake!

APPLAUSE.

Kathryn smiles. Blinks as reflected sunlight from the windows of the manufacturing building catches her eye. In a

FLASH-BANG

The back of the Senator’s head EXPLODES.

TIME STOPS in a mist of red...

Slowly Kathryn lowers her arm... hears SHOUTS, SCREAMS.

People, police run up the steps.

Kathryn looks at the Senator’s dead body. The blood...

She feels a hand on her shoulder. She looks up into Dr. Rosen’s worried face.

   DR. ROSEN
   Kathryn, are you all right?

   KATHRYN
   What?

   DR. ROSEN
   You have blood on your face.

Kathryn touches her cheek. Blood on her fingertips. Looks at her lab coat: speckled with the Senator’s blood.

AMBULANCE AND POLICE SIRENS approach...

INT. CORRIDOR/HOSPITAL - LATER

Kathryn, her lab coat tucked under her arm, sits hunched over. Watches the

TELEVISION MONITOR

Police cars surround the Targen building.
ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
As the manhunt for this killer continues.

DR. ROSEN (O.C.)
Kathryn?

Kathryn looks over. Dr. Rosen and AMIR HUSSEIN (35) approach.

DR. ROSEN
Kathryn, this is Special Agent Amir Hussein with the FBI. He’d like to ask you some questions, OK?

Kathryn nods. Dr. Rosen leaves.

AMIR
Hi Kathryn. How are you doing?

KATHRYN
Not exactly the day I had in mind.

AMIR
No, I am certain it is not. Would you like something to drink? Maybe a soda?

KATHRYN
That’s probably a good idea.

Amir puts out his hand to help her up. Kathryn flinches away.

KATHRYN
Sorry. I’m just a little jumpy.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Kathryn finishers her soft drink. Amir consults his notes.

AMIR
Did you see anyone who looked suspicious?

Kathryn shakes her head ‘no’.

AMIR
Someone acting in a strange manner, perhaps?

KATHRYN
No. It all happened so fast.
Amir looks at his watch.

AMIR
I need to be getting back. Can I walk you to your car?

KATHRYN
I came over in an ambulance.

AMIR
Then let me give you a ride.

Kathryn hesitates.

AMIR
Please. There are a lot of reporters outside.

EXT. HOSPITAL - MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn and Amir step outside. REPORTERS (various ages) shove microphones in her face, crowd in.

REPORTERS
Kathryn! Dr. Upshaw! May we have a word with you?

Amir leads Kathryn forward as best he can. TWO POLICEMEN (30s) push the crowd back.

REPORTER #1
Senator Bassett is dead! How do you feel about that?

AMIR
(to the reporter)
Oh come on!

KATHRYN
He was very nice to me.

REPORTER #2
Critics say your test is racism of the worst kind!

KATHRYN
My... test...?

REPORTER #2
That it doesn’t work!
REPORTER #3
That it’s flawed!

Kathryn stops. Amir reaches back for her. She avoids his grasp.

KATHRYN
My test... our test works! Whoever shot the Senator--

AMIR
Kathryn, come on!

KATHRYN
No! This bastard! He’s positive! He’ll be positive! You’ll see!

Amir grabs her. Drags her away. The policemen cut off the reporters.

KATHRYN
You wait and see!

INT. PARKING GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER
Kathryn gets in Amir’s brown Ford Taurus. SLAMS the door.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS
Kathryn SIGHS. Buckles her seat belt. Amir regards her.

AMIR
Do not worry. People have a short memory.

KATHRYN
I’m not worried. Can we go?

He STARTS the car.

EXT. SAN DIEGO FREEWAY - LATER
A white Prius zips along. Passes a sign: EL CAJON NEXT 3 EXITS

EXT. PARADISE RV PARK - MOMENTS LATER
The Prius turns into the park.

MOMENTS LATER
Parks in front of a trailer home.

INT. TRAILER - MOMENTS LATER

Cluttered. The television is on LOUD.

A LOUD KNOCK at the door. The door opens.

   KATHRYN
   Mom? MOM?!

Kathryn enters. Sees her mother sleeping on the sofa. Under the coffee table, an empty bottle of vodka lies on the floor.

Kathryn turns off the TV. Sits down beside her mother.

   KATHRYN
   Mom, it’s me. Kathryn.

Her mother rouses slightly.

   MOTHER
   (slurred speech)
   Katy?

   KATHRYN
   Yes, mom. Katy. I’m right here.

   MOTHER
   Oh honey. You were on the TV.

   KATHRYN
   Mom, what did I tell you about drinking?

Her mother doesn’t understand. Kathryn picks up the vodka bottle. Holds it in front of her mother’s face.

   KATHRYN
   Where did you get this?

Her mother gets teary.

   MOTHER
   Oh Katy, I’m sorry...

   SUZY (O.C.)
   MOM?!

The door opens. A BOY (6) and GIRL (4) enter, followed by SUZY (30) carrying grocery bags.
The children beam. Run to hug Kathryn. Then to their grandmother.

CHILDREN
Aunt Katy! Hi Grandma!

Suzy puts down the grocery bags. Goes to Kathryn. Hugs her. A beat later, Kathryn returns the hug.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn, arms crossed, leans against the stove. Suzy gazes out the window at the kids playing on the porch.

SUZY
So many crazies in the world.

She turns to Kathryn.

SUZY
You’re sure you’re all right.

KATHRYN
I’m fine.

Kathryn picks up the empty vodka bottle.

KATHRYN
But what’s this all about?

SUZY
(muttering)
Oh Jesus.

KATHRYN
I moved mom closer to us so we could take care of her.

SUZY
So I could take care of her.

KATHRYN
I asked you a question.

Suzy takes a pan out of the dish rack.

SUZY
The neighbors look in on her. If she wants something at the store...
KATHRYN
You’re supposed to make sure this doesn’t happen.

SUZY
What about you?! I have a job too, you know. And kids and a husband.

A THUD comes from the other room. Both daughters hurry into THE LIVING ROOM

Mother has knocked over the coffee table. They set it up on its feet.

SUZY
I’m going to get the kids. Mom, I’m going to cook us some dinner, OK? (to Kathryn)
Paul’s coming over. Why don’t you stick around?

Suzy goes out the front door.

MOTHER
Katy?

KATHRYN
I have to get back to work.

MOTHER
Aren’t you going to stay for dinner?

KATHRYN
I can’t.

MOTHER
Katy, please...

Mother grabs her sleeve. Kathryn YANKS her arm away.

KATHRYN
Stop it!

Mother starts to cry.

KATHRYN
You’re so mean to me. Why are you so mean to me?
KATHRYN

Guess.

Kathryn leaves.

INT. GYMNASIUM/TARGEN - EARLY MORNING

A FEW PEOPLE (30s) work out. Kathryn RUNS HARD on the treadmill. Watches the

TELEVISION

An ANNOUNCER (30) looks sternly at the camera.

ANNOUNCER

To remind our viewers that this image contains graphic violence.

VIDEO

The Senator speaks. Is shot. Falls. The camera pulls back to reveal

Kathryn, cowering.

BACK TO SCENE

Kathryn steps off the treadmill. Frowns at her image.

ON THE TV

Kathryn in the crowd of reporters.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The developer of the test, Dr. Kathryn Upshaw, was visibly upset.

KATHRYN

No! This bastard! He’s positive!
He’ll be positive! You’ll see!

In the news room.

ANNOUNCER

Many are reacting to the racial implications of this test--

BACK TO SCENE

Kathryn grabs her towel. Heads for the showers.
KATHRYN
(to herself)
Come on, Katy. Don’t be such a wimp.

INT. RADIATION ROOM/TARGEN - LATER

Kathryn and the technician examine the dead rat on the gurney. A KNOCK on the window. Kathryn looks up.

Amir waves at her.

MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn comes out, deep in thought.

AMIR
I hope I am not interrupting. What happened to your mouse?

She looks back into the room.

KATHRYN
Rat. We treated it with an anti-cancer drug.

AMIR
The rat had cancer?

KATHRYN
Mm-hmm. The drug is activated by microwaves.

AMIR
Unusual.

KATHRYN
It’s a polymer of our own design. Sometimes it’s too toxic, kills the cancer and the rat. Other times it balls up and does nothing.

She notices him for the first time.

KATHRYN
Is there something I can do for you?

AMIR
Did you think of anything else from yesterday?
She shakes her head ‘no’.

AMIR
Do you mind if I ask you a question about your research?

KATHRYN
Go ahead.

AMIR
Did you find that any one race is more likely to have this gene?

KATHRYN
There was a significant increase in certain Middle Eastern populations. Does that bother you?

AMIR
There is already so much prejudice.

KATHRYN
Wouldn’t you want to know if someone was a terrorist? For the safety of your family, your community?

AMIR
I am sure you are right. Was the Egyptian population one of those with an increase?

She studies him.

AMIR
I am from Egypt.

KATHRYN
We don’t categorize by country. Actually, Egypt had a low frequency of positives.

AMIR
And the highest?

KATHRYN
Yemen, Libya, Saudi Arabia...

AMIR
The countries you would expect to find terrorists in.
KATHRYN
Yes, but we were blinded to the identity of the samples. Our statistician made all the correlations. I just...

Her cell phone RINGS.

KATHRYN
Excuse me. Hello?... I’ll be right there. Thank you.

She puts away her phone.

KATHRYN
I have to go.

AMIR
Of course.

KATHRYN
Do you need help finding your way out?

AMIR
No, I have a few other follow-up interviews to conduct. Thank you.

She leaves.

IN THE HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

A SCIENTIST (30) approaches Kathryn.

SCIENTIST
K, can I use your amplifier?

Kathryn does not turn around. Keeps walking.

KATHRYN
Yeah, but get it going because I have a television interview in ten minutes.

SCIENTIST
Interview?Wow. Can I have your autograph?

She rounds the corner.
INT. KATHRYN’S LAB - LATER

Kathryn sits on a lab stool in front of the amplifier. The reporter consults his notes.

MALE REPORTER
Do you see your test being used by different countries?

KATHRYN
Of course. That’s the whole point. We’re trying to protect all sane people from these bandits.

MALE REPORTER
And you’ll screen children?

KATHRYN
Well, sure, why not?

MALE REPORTER
What if I was positive for this test?

KATHRYN
You wouldn’t be positive.

His cell phone RINGS.

MALE REPORTER
Are you positive about that? Excuse me. Dwight Sanders... Fantastic! We’re on our way!

He gets up.

MALE REPORTER
I’m afraid we’ll have to finish this another time. They just caught the man who shot Senator Bassett.

INT. CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn enters. Pushes her way to the front of the crowd.

TELEVISION

Byline: Suspect in Custody

Police push a handcuffed man into a car.
ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Where just minutes ago, police arrested 34 year-old Rashid Khouri...

PICTURE OF RASHID KHOURI

BACK TO SCENE

Kathryn smiles knowingly.

ON TELEVISION

ANNOUNCER
Trying to cross the border into Mexico. Two days ago, Khouri escaped from a minimum security prison...

PHOTO OF PRISON

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
In Fresno, California. Law enforcement officials added that even with this arrest, security would remain on high alert as members of the international community begin to arrive in San Diego for the G-20 finance summit.

BACK TO SCENE

Kathryn looks around the cafeteria. Sees Amir on his cell phone watching the television. She watches him turn around and hurry out.

INT. KATHRYN’S LAB – LATER

Kathryn enters. Meets the scientist on his way out.

SCIENTIST
Hey, thanks for the use of the box.

KATHRYN
Sure.

SCIENTIST
So they caught the guy, huh?

KATHRYN
Yep. Looks Middle Eastern to me.
SCIENTIST
So what do we need your test for?

KATHRYN
Thanks a lot.

He pushes open the door.

SCIENTIST
By the way, I ran the two samples you had in there. Hope you don’t mind. They were both positive.

He leaves.

KATHRYN
What?

She walks to the instrument. Looks at the monitor. Opens the lid. Examines the pen labels. Her cell phone RINGS.

KATHRYN
Kathryn Upshaw... Yes sir. I’ll be right there.

Frowning, she closes the lid.

INT. TOM’S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Electronic gadgets fill the credenza behind the desk. A remote control race car ZIPS along the carpet.

A KNOCK.

TOM (O.C.)
Come in!

Kathryn enters. The car ZIPS past her.

PHILIP
Tom, please.

TOM
Sorry.

Tom puts down the remote. Picks up a tube of blood. Hands it to Kathryn. She reads the label. Her eyes grow wide.

KATHRYN
Rashid Khouri?!
She looks from Tom to Philip. Philip smiles.

KATHRYN
Is this really his blood?

Philip nods.

PHILIP
This would validate our entire program.

TOM
When can you have the results?

KATHRYN
In an hour. I’ll call you.

PHILIP
No. We’ll come to your lab.

INT. KATHRYN’S LAB – MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn labels the pen. ‘Pens’ the blood tube through the septum. Places the pen in the instrument. She looks at the instrument monitor. Frowns.

Unwraps another pen. Labels it. Pushes up her sleeve. ‘Pens’ herself. Places it in the instrument.

KATHRYN
Too bad I don’t have any more of the Senator’s blood.

She looks up sharply.

HALLWAY – MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn hurries down the hall. Opens the door to the REAGENT PREP KITCHEN

Kathryn digs through the bag of soiled lab coats. Finds hers from yesterday. Leaves.

INT. KATHRYN’S LAB – MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn pipettes a drop of water on a spot of blood on the lab coat. Mixes it. Pipettes it into a tube. ‘Pens’ it.

AT HER DESK – LATER
Kathryn reads the *Newsweek* article. Stares at a

PICTURE

Kathryn working at a biological safety cabinet.

BACK TO SCENE

She looks out the window...

DAYDREAM – AWARDS CEREMONY

Kathryn stands on a stage. Well-dressed PEOPLE (various ages) sit behind her and in the audience. A MAN (50s) makes a speech. Gestures to Kathryn. She smiles. Steps forward. He presents her with an award. She raises it up shoulder height to show it off to the audience. Applause.

The TIMER RINGS.

REALITY

Kathryn shakes her head.

KATHRYN
Come on, Katy, stay focused.

AT THE INSTRUMENT MONITOR – MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn examines the results. She frowns. Opens the lid of the instrument. Picks up the pen with her initials.

KATHRYN
Damn it. What the hell--

TOM (O.C.)
How’s it looking?

Startled, Kathryn drops the lid with a BANG.

Tom and Philip approach.

PHILIP
Everything all right?

KATHRYN
Yes sir. The sample is definitely positive.

She points to one of the ascending lines on the monitor.
TOM
Excellent.

Philip points to the other ‘positives’.

PHILIP
What are those?

KATHRYN
Oh. I ran the sample in triplicate.

PHILIP
Good idea.

Philip closely studies the monitor.

PHILIP
Someday we’ll catch a terrorist in the act. He’ll be positive for the T-gene. And then...

Philip comes back to Earth.

PHILIP
Then we can affect some real and permanent change. Tom, we have some calls to make.

TOM
Right. Thank you, Kathryn. Great job!

They leave. Kathryn waits until the door is closed. She opens the instrument lid. Looks at the slots.

KATHRYN
Don’t do this to me, please.

INT. SEQUENCING LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Squat, square instruments line the benches. Kathryn pushes open the door. She holds a rack of tubes. Sees WINSTON (20s) loading samples.

KATHRYN
Hi Winston.

WINSTON
Kathryn! Jeez, how are you? Hey I heard they arrested the guy.
KATHRYN
Yeah. Can I give you some samples to sequence? I think there’s a contaminant in the amplifier.

She hands him the rack.

KATHRYN
Only one of those should be positive.

WINSTON
Do you have any of the starting material? That way I can tell if it’s the instrument or the samples.

KATHRYN
I’ll be right back.

INT. CAFETERIA – LATER
Kathryn sits, brow furrowed. She looks up at the
TELEVISION
America’s Test Kitchen: Making a cake
Kathryn adjusts her chair. Stares out the window...
DAYDREAM – YOUNG SISTERS COOKING FOR MOM
In a small kitchen, YOUNG KATHRYN (6), in an apron too large, stands on a step stool. Stirs a bowl of chocolate icing. YOUNG SUZY (10) takes the cake out of the pan.

YOUNG SUZY
Boy, is she going to be surprised.

Young Kathryn dips her finger in the icing. Licks it.

YOUNG SUZY
Katy, don’t! That’s gross.

Young Kathryn does it again. Holds her finger out. Young Suzy licks her finger.

YOUNG SUZY
Mmm!

YOUNG KATHRYN
That’s gross.
They LAUGH.

A DOOR SLAMS. They hear VOICES; a MAN’s and a WOMAN’s. The
VOICES grow louder then trail off. Another DOOR SLAM.

    YOUNG KATHRYN
    What if she doesn’t come out?

The sisters, forlorn, look at each other. Hang their heads.

REALITY

Kathryn’s phone PINGS. She reads the message. Gets up.

SEQUENCING LAB – MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn sits next to Winston. He points to the monitor.

    WINSTON
    The sequences are identical.

Kathryn relaxes.

    KATHRYN
    OK. So it is a contaminant. Is it
    the instrument or the samples?

    WINSTON
    Neither.

Kathryn frowns.

    KATHRYN
    But you said--

    WINSTON
    I know.

Winston changes the screen.

    WINSTON
    I took the starting material and
    amplified it using degenerate
    primers. Then sequenced that.

He points to the screen.

    WINSTON
    Two of the samples map to the same
    chromosome. The other one is
different.
KATHRYN
That’s impossible. They all have to be the same. It’s a gene.

WINSTON
You do have the exact same upstream viral element in all three.

KATHRYN
The same what?!

WINSTON
Adeno-associated virus. A-A-V.

Kathryn is speechless.

WINSTON
The gene in these three samples isn’t a gene. It’s a virus.

INT. CAFETERIA - MOMENTS LATER
Kathryn, deep in thought, sips a soda. Glances at the TELEVISION
Philip stands in front of the Targen building.

PHILIP
If we had only had this test sooner, my dear friend the Senator might still be alive.

REPORTER #1 (O.C.)
Critics are saying that the test violates human rights.

PHILIP
Tell that to his widow.

INT. TOM’S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER
A remote control helicopter hovers. A KNOCK at the door.

TOM (O.C.)
Come in.

The helicopter sets down on the desk. Kathryn enters. Hesitates.
TOM
Kathryn! The star of the hour. What’s up?

KATHRYN
Sir, there’s a problem with the sample you gave me.

TOM
You mean Rashid’s? It’s still positive for the T-gene, isn’t it?

KATHRYN
Yes, it’s positive.

Tom relaxes.

TOM
For a moment there, you had me worried. So what’s the problem?

KATHRYN
I wanted to do a more comprehensive analysis but... the tube broke. I broke the tube.

Tom smiles.

TOM
So our golden girl finally makes a mistake.

Concerned, Kathryn looks at him.

TOM
I’m kidding. I’ll make the arrangements.

He picks up the phone.

KATHRYN
Actually, sir, I was wondering if I could be present when the technician draws the blood.

Tom regards her.

KATHRYN
I want to make absolutely sure there’s no mix up.

(MORE)
KATHRYN (CONT'D)
We wouldn’t want this terrorist to
get off on a technicality.

TOM
Good point.

EXT. SAN DIEGO COUNTY MARSHAL’S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

News trucks line the street. Crews, pedestrians, mill about. Amir hurries up the steps.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Rashid, handcuffed, sits alone. Looks at the clock as Amir, dossier in hand, enters.

AMIR
Good afternoon. My name is Amir Hussein. I am a special agent with the FBI.

Rashid glares at him.

AMIR
Do you wish to converse in Arabic, or English?

RASHID
Are you nuts?

AMIR
I thought you might feel more at ease speaking in your native tongue.

RASHID
My native tongue is English. What’s yours, Hussein?

AMIR
Rashid Khouri, you have been charged with the murder of a United States Senator.

RASHID
I didn’t kill anybody. You’ve got the wrong guy.
AMIR
Three people identified you running from a building directly across from the scene.

RASHID
Because you paid them to.

Amir opens his folder. Takes out a photo. Holds it up.

AMIR
This is one of the security camera photographs.

RASHID
Probably doctored.

AMIR
And your fingerprints are on the rifle.

RASHID
I forget. Where did I buy that again? Was that with a VISA or Mastercard?

Amir puts the photo back. Takes out another. Places it on the table in front of Rashid. Rashid looks at the

PICTURE
Rashid, grinning, in paramilitary uniform, rifle in hand.

AMIR
Did you work with anyone?

RASHID
Sure. The C-I-A.

A KNOCK at the door. It opens.

AN ARMED GUARD (30s) enters, followed by Kathryn and a POLICE TECHNICIAN carrying a large plastic toolbox.

Amir frowns.

AMIR
Dr. Upshaw. What are you doing here?
KATHRYN
I came to get a blood sample.

AMIR
On whose authority?

Kathryn takes the paperwork from the guard. Hands it to Amir. He reads it.

AMIR
Who is General Douglas?

GUARD
(to Kathryn)
Doctor, let’s get to it.

The technician places her toolbox on the table. SNAPS it open. Inside

A compartmentalized tray of blood tubes, needles, swabs, syringes, scalpels.

AMIR
(to the guard)
Excuse me. I need to go outside to make a phone call.

The guard lets him out. Closes the door.

KATHRYN
Just one purple top, please.

POLICE TECHNICIAN
(to Rashid)
Hold out your arm.

Rashid holds his arms forward, elbows down.

KATHRYN
Can we take off his cuffs?

The guard hands the technician the key. His hand goes immediately to his gun.

Rashid offers his right arm.

RASHID
I prefer my right arm. My left arm has this tendon.

The technician uncuffs Rashid’s right wrist.
Kathryn looks at Rashid’s arms. She pauses. There are no needle marks.

The technician applies the tourniquet.

POLICE TECHNICIAN
Make a fist.

The technician swabs his arm with an alcohol swab. Prepares a needle.

A LOUD KNOCK at the door.

Everyone is momentarily distracted.

Rashid grabs the toolbox, turns over the table. It CRASHES to the floor.

Rashid jumps on top of the technician. Rips open a scalpel. Holds it to her neck. The guard has his gun pointed at Rashid.

RASHID
Put down your weapon! Or I’ll slit her throat!

The guard puts down the gun.

RASHID
Step back!

The guard obeys. Rashid grabs the gun.

RASHID
Open the door!

The guard obeys. Amir hurries in. Stops.

Rashid scrambles to his feet. Yanks the technician to her feet.

RASHID
All right! We’re getting out of here!

Rashid stops. Kathryn is frozen against the wall.

RASHID
On second thought, I’m taking you!
Rashid pushes the police technician away. Grabs Kathryn’s arm. Kathryn panics.

KATHRYN
NO!

RASHID
Cuff us!

KATHRYN
Stop! Let go!

RASHID
Do it!

The guard cuffs Rashid’s left wrist to Kathryn’s right wrist.

RASHID
Put the key in my pocket! Now!

The guard obliges.

Rashid grabs Kathryn’s shirt. Jams the gun in her ribs.

RASHID
Move!

Rashid pushes Kathryn forward. Sneers at Amir.

RASHID
Thanks for the help! By the way, don’t write your pin number on the back of your credit card!

INT. LOBBY/MARSHAL’S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

All eyes - and guns - trained on Rashid. He pushes Kathryn past a DOZEN GUARDS (30s) toward the door. He pushes her

OUTSIDE

People on the sidewalk SCREAM, YELL, some flee, some duck. Guards flood out of the building, weapons trained on Rashid.

KATHRYN
Now what are you going to do?? Call a cab?

Rashid SMASHES her in the mouth with his cuffed arm. Kathryn CRIES OUT. Drops to one knee. Rashid yanks her back on her feet.
RASHID
SHUT UP!

They hurry down the street. Round the corner.

A posse of guards follow.

MOMENTS LATER

Rashid runs into the street. Cars HONK. He waves the gun.

RASHID
STOP! STOP!

The cars avoid him. He hears a HELICOPTER.

Rashid looks up. A HELICOPTER SLOWS over the building across the street. Rashid realizes he is looking at

A HOSPITAL

RASHID
COME ON!

He yanks her violently across the street. Through traffic.

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Rashid and Kathryn enter. People SCREAM, SHOUT, flee. Rashid waves his gun. Yells at the RECEPTIONIST (60s).

RASHID
Where’s the elevator to the roof?

The receptionist points down the hall.

MOMENTS LATER

The elevator doors open. Rashid waves people away with the gun.

RASHID
OUT! EVERYBODY OUT!

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOF - MOMENTS LATER

The doors open. Rashid drags Kathryn toward the helicopter. Rashid fires TWO SHOTS in the air. The PILOT (40s) and the TWO NURSES (30s) freeze.

Rashid waves the nurses away.
RASHID
(to the pilot)
GET READY TO TAKE OFF!

Rashid hurries around to the passenger side. Opens the door.

RASHID
GET IN!

He pushes Kathryn
IN THE HELICOPTER

Rashid hoists himself up. Mashes her into the seat.

RASHID
ALL RIGHT! LET’S GO!

The pilot attempts to pick up the radio. Rashid STRIKES his hand with the gun.

RASHID
NO TOWER! HEAD SOUTH! GET US OVER THE BORDER!

The helicopter lifts off.

INT. TOM’S OFFICE - LATER

Tom watches the news on his
MONITOR

A replay of the helicopter flying off.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Leading to a dramatic escape from the roof of Sharp Memorial Hospital.

TOM
Jesus. How do we get her back?

Philip takes out his cell phone. Dials.

PHILIP
We don’t. They’ll shoot him on site now.

(into the phone)
General Douglas, please.

(to Tom)
(MORE)
Rashid’s done us a favor.
(into the phone)
General?... Yes, I agree. A hostage situation changes everything.

EXT. FBI FIELD OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON
A Ford Taurus approaches the parking garage. Stops. A CROWD OF REPORTERS blocks the way. Start YELLING.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS
Amir HONKS his horn.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE - CONTINUOUS
REPORTERS
Agent Hussein! AGENT HUSSEIN!

The car proceeds into the garage.

INT. DIRECTOR’S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER
The DIRECTOR (50s) turns away from his monitor. Shakes his head. Frowns at Amir.

DIRECTOR
We’re getting all sorts of flashback on you. You interviewed Kathryn, you interviewed Rashid--

AMIR
Sir.

DIRECTOR
You allowed Kathryn to come within Rashid’s sphere of influence...

AMIR
What does that mean?

DIRECTOR
Why did Rashid thank you?

AMIR
I have no idea. Sir, I have only been following my orders.
DIRECTOR
I know. And I’m sure it wouldn’t be so bad if you and Rashid weren’t countrymen.

AMIR
Because we are Egyptian?!

DIRECTOR
Conservative pundits want to give you the T-gene test. That’s what they’re calling it.

AMIR
This is absurd.

DIRECTOR
You need to keep a low profile. Got any vacation time?

AMIR
Sir, there is a hostage situation.

DIRECTOR
Not for you.

AMIR
Then I will investigate the assassination.

DIRECTOR
What’s to investigate? Khouri is an open and shut case. Bureau’s already collecting the evidence for the archives.

The Director shakes his head. Gets up. Goes to the window.

DIRECTOR
This T-gene is going to change due process. Probably already has.

EXT. ENSENADA, MEXICO - CONTINUOUS

A dry, dusty road. Rashid and Kathryn walk along. Every time Kathryn tries to keep her distance, Rashid YANKS her back.

Kathryn hears her own voice.

KATHRYN (V.O.)
Don’t be such a wimp.
She summons her courage.

KATHRYN
Why did you kill the Senator?

Rashid ignores her.

KATHRYN
I won’t tell anybody.

RASHID
Why should I talk to you? You won’t believe me.

KATHRYN
Yes I will.

RASHID
I did not shoot the Senator. I would not waste my life on killing such a piece of fluff.

KATHRYN
Can you prove your innocence?

Rashid turns on her sharply. Kathryn cowers. Does her best to un-flinch.

RASHID
When did you prove my guilt?

He glares at her.

RASHID
You take our pictures, you take our fingerprints, you put them where you want. You take our blood. You put in it whatever you want. And then you find it. And then you imprison us. Torture us. Maybe I will make you stand naked, a sack over your head, electrodes on your fingers.

KATHRYN
But I haven’t done anything!

RASHID
No?

He yanks her forward. She winces.
RASHID
MOVE!

EXT. PARKING LOT/TARGEN CORPORATION - CONTINUOUS

Rashid gets out of his car. Walks toward the manufacturing building.

EXT. MANUFACTURING BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Yellow POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS tape surrounds the area.

Amir ducks under it. Shows his ID to TWO POLICEMEN (30s) walking to their car.

POLICEMAN #1
Second floor’s where all the action was.

AMIR
Thank you.

Amir enters the BUILDING Unfinished. Stacks of dry wall.

Amir hikes up the stairs to the SECOND FLOOR
Open metal beams. Duct work. Wires hanging down all around.

Amir walks over to the window. Looks out at Targen. Pushes open the window at the bottom. He bends down. Tries to imagine the shot.

He stands up. Looks around. Picks up a piece of pipe. Goes back to the window. Pushes the pipe out the bottom. Looks through it.

POV - Through the pipe
The spot where the Senator was shot is not accessible.

AMIR
That cannot be right.

He pulls out his cell phone. Takes a picture.
He walks out. Passes wires hanging down from
A security camera.
Amir frowns. Takes a picture of the security camera.

DOWNSTAIRS - MOMENTS LATER
Amir goes to the exit. Looks up at the security camera. Wires hang down.

OUTSIDE - MOMENTS LATER
Amir looks around the building. None of the security cameras are functional. No other buildings are close.
He heads back to his car.

EXT. VILLAGE/MEXICO - EARLY EVENING
Rural. A shack, fifty yards ahead, is the only structure.
Rashid yanks Kathryn along the dirt road.

KATHRYN
Stop it, please! My wrist will break!

RASHID
Move!

INT. SHACK - MOMENTS LATER
The door BANGS open. Rashid drags Kathryn inside.

KATHRYN
Please! I have to go to the bathroom!

An OLD MAN (70s) comes out from behind a curtain. Rashid speaks rapid-fire Spanish.

The old man walks around to the counter. Reaches under it. Brings up a rotary dial phone.
Kathryn struggles.

KATHRYN
Please!
RASHID
All right!

Rashid pulls her over to small wooden door. Takes the handcuff key out of his pocket. Undoes his cuff. Cuffs her wrists together.

KATHRYN
But--

RASHID
You’ll figure it out!

He yanks open the door. Shoves her into the BATHROOM.

Tiny, filthy. The broken window is too small to escape.

IN THE SHACK
Rashid picks up the phone. Dials.

IN THE BATHROOM
Miserable, Kathryn looks out the window.

IN THE SHACK

RASHID
Rancho El Tule. Hurry!

He hangs up the phone. Reaches over to the old man. Grabs the pack of cigarettes out of his pocket.

IN THE BATHROOM
Kathryn pulls up her pants. A dirty towel falls to the floor.

IN THE SHACK
The door opens. Rashid comes back inside.

RASHID
All right! Let’s go!

No response. Rashid BANGS on the door. YANKS it open.

Kathryn, her back to him, whirls around, a piece of broken glass in her towel-wrapped hands. She slashes at Rashid.
He protects his face, but she slices his forearm.

RASHID
AH! JESUS!

She bolts past him

OUTSIDE

She runs.

ON THE ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn, in stride, goes off-road. Heads up a hill.

OUTSIDE THE SHACK - MOMENTS LATER

A black SUV pulls up. Rashid, a towel wrapped around his arm, gets in.

OFF ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Kathryn sees a dry vineyard. She runs toward it.

ON THE ROAD - CONTINUOUS

The SUV flies along. Rashid rolls down the window to search.

EXT. FARMHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn runs to the door. KNOCKS LOUDLY. Presses the doorbell. KNOCKS again.

KATHRYN
HELLO? HELLO?!

The door opens. An OLD WOMAN (70s), holding a broom, stares at her.

KATHRYN
Help me, please!

INT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Kathryn slips inside.

KATHRYN
Do you have a phone?

The old woman does not understand. Kathryn pantomimes.
KATHRYN
A phone. Call police.


OLD WOMAN
Policia. Policia.

INT. SUV - MOMENTS LATER
The cell phone on the dash rings. Rashid picks it up.

RASHID
Si?... Muchas gracias.

INT. FARMHOUSE - CONTINUOUS
Kathryn wipes her forehead. Finishes her glass of water.
Outside a CAR pulls up.
Kathryn gets up. The old woman goes to the door.

KATHRYN
Thank you. Thank you for everything.

The old woman opens the door. Rashid stands there.

INT. TOM’S OFFICE - NIGHT
Tom watches a video of the escape on his monitor. Philip stands at the window.

TOM
The pilot reported he left them just north of Ensenada.

PHILIP
They could be anywhere by now. What time are they voting tomorrow?

TOM
Mid-morning. What do you suppose he’ll do with her?

PHILIP
I don’t know.

Philip heads for the door.
PHILIP
But I know what I’d do with her.

EXT. BANDA, MEXICO - NIGHT

A rocky outcropping. The ocean CRASHES against the rocks.

The SUV GRINDS to a halt in front of a dark cabin. The doors fly open. FOUR MEN (30s) get out. Walk to the cabin.

Rashid gets out. Yanks Kathryn out. Shoves her forward.

The cabin lights go on.

Rashid and Kathryn enter. The door SLAMS closed. A SCREAM.

INT. FBI FIELD OFFICE - LATE NIGHT

Dim lights. Cubicles abandoned. TYPING.

AMIR’S CUBICLE - CONTINUOUS

Amir stares at his monitor. Watches replays of hand-held videos: Rashid and Kathryn running across the street; in the hospital; helicopter in flight.

Amir reads from a folder.

AMIR
Charged with making threats against the President... suspected member of the August militia...

Turns the page.

AMIR
Awards in marksmanship...

Looks at the photo of Rashid with his rifle.

RASHID (V.O.)
Don’t write your pin number on the back of your credit card!

Amir puts the photo back in the folder.

Amir TYPES at the computer. Writes down a number. Gets up.

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INT. EVIDENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Rows of shelves full of boxes. A large sign overhead: **DO NOT REMOVE MATERIALS WITHOUT WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION**

The door **POPS** open. Amir enters. Looks at the number he wrote down.

MOMENTS LATER

Amir pulls out a storage box. Carries it over to a table. Opens it. Removes evidence bag after evidence bag. Holds up a bag with a CREDIT CARD

Amir turns it over. The PIN number on the back.


INT. AMIR’S CUBICLE - LATER

The contents of the box are spread out on the floor.

On his desk, a map of San Diego. Amir retraces the lines drawn on the map as he recites.

**AMIR**

On the day of the shooting, subject mugs a man in Oceanside at 9 am. Drives fifty miles south to shoot the Senator at 11:15. Drives 50 miles north back to Oceanside to buy gas with the stolen credit card...

Amir holds up the credit card. Looks down at the floor. Picks up a folder: CREDIT CARD RECEIPTS

He opens it. Examines the single receipt. Puts it back down.

**AMIR**

Must have really good gas prices in Oceanside. The next day, subject drives south, tries to get across the border.

Amir puts down the pen. Frowns.
AMIR
How did he get the gun? Where did he get the gun?

INT. DIRECTOR’S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Amir enters. Goes around the Director’s desk. Opens a drawer. Takes out a key. Stops.


IN AMIR’S CUBICLE - MOMENTS LATER

Amir types the latitude and longitude into the computer. A map comes up, followed by a pop-up window covering the entire screen: WARNING: RESTRICTED AREA - DCO CLEARANCE REQUIRED

Amir examines the map.

AMIR
Banda, Mexico. Must be the place.

INT. ARMORY/FBI OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Amir swipes his key card. The door snaps open.

INSIDE

Amir steps to the window. Looks in the armory. No one there.

Amir opens the door with the Director’s key.

MOMENTS LATER

Amir walks past racks of guns; semi-automatic, rifles, incendiaries. He takes an assault weapon down from the rack. It is very heavy.

ARMORER (O.C.)
Can I help you?

Amir jumps. Turns. The ARMORER (40s) is not amused.

ARMORER
How did you get in here?

Amir holds up the key.

AMIR
Call the Director. Wake him up.
The armorer considers it. Shrugs.

ARMORER
What do you want?

AMIR
I would like to sign this out, please. For target practice.

The armorer studies Amir. Walks over to another rack. Takes down a different weapon.

ARMORER
This one is easier to handle.

Amir switches weapons with the armorer. Hefts the weapon. Smiles.

ARMORER
Seven hundred and sixty rounds a minute. That going to be enough? For target practice?

Amir nods.

ARMORER
You’d probably like some ammo.

Amir nods. The armorer brings out a box.

AMIR
Do you have any frangible ammo?

ARMORER
You can’t use exploding bullets in that. The piston will--

AMIR
No, I mean, just one bullet?

The armorer is annoyed.

ARMORER
Let me check.

He walks off.

Amir puts down the weapon. Wanders over to incendiaries, a display case full of throwing knives...
ARMORER (O.C.)
Here.
The armorer holds out a single bullet. Drops it in Amir’s palm.

AMIR
Thank you.

ARMORER
Will there be anything else?

INT. FBI GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER
Amir places the weapon in his trunk. SLAMS it. Gets in his CAR
He STARTS the car. Programs the GPS. Reads it.

AMIR
Eighty-five miles. Good. I have time to go shopping.
He backs out.

INT. TOM’S OFFICE - EARLY MORNING
Tom, on the phone, looks out at the Pacific. He frowns.

TOM
Thank you, sir. Thank you for trying.
He hangs up. Philip sits, legs crossed.

PHILIP
Don’t tell me.

TOM
Congress voted to expand the Patriot act, but...

PHILIP
But.

TOM
They still want more time to review the data on the T-gene.
PHILIP
Like teenagers at a dance. No one wants to go first.

TOM
I’m not so sure Rashid’s escape helped us.

PHILIP
Well, it really doesn’t matter. In another 24 hours, they’ll see the error of their ways.

Philip gets up.

PHILIP
Speaking of Rashid, it’s time we resolved the issue.

TOM
I’ll get right on it.

EXT. BANDA, MEXICO – EARLY MORNING
Sunrise on a calm Pacific Ocean.

INT. CABIN – CONTINUOUS
Rashid and the four men eat in silence. Kathryn, handcuffed to the floor, shuns her food.

POV – TELESCOPE LENS
The cabin. A thin trail of smoke rises from the chimney.

ON A BLUFF – CONTINUOUS

INT. CABIN – LATER
Rashid reads a newspaper. Smokes a cigarette. Kathryn, disgusted, sits on the floor.

KATHRYN
Can’t you go outside with that thing?

Rashid glares at her. Blows a puff of smoke in her direction.
KATHRYN
Are you going to keep me here forever?

RASHID
You are not important.

KATHRYN
Then why don’t you let me go?

Rashid gets up. Takes the paper. Goes to her. Kathryn cowers.

RASHID
Because you hate us. You think we are animals. So I keep you chained like one.

KATHRYN
I don’t--

RASHID
SHUT UP!

He shakes the newspaper at her.

RASHID
This test for terrorism you have invented. It is a lie. You want to kill us all. Exterminate us from the face of the earth!

One of the men comes out of the back.

RASHID
Watch her. I’m going into town.

He looks down at Kathryn.

RASHID
To buy more cigarettes.

KATHRYN
Please! Could I get up and walk around? My legs--

RASHID
Your legs?

He kicks her in her right leg.
KATHRYN
OUCH! STOP!

She cries.

RASHID
Now you won’t run so fast.
(to his man)
I’ll be back.

INT. DIRECTOR’S OFFICE – CONTINUOUS

Director Reid studies his monitor. The intercom BUZZES.

DIRECTOR
Yes?

SECRETARY (O.C.)
Sir, I have the armorer on line one.

The Director picks up the phone.

DIRECTOR
Yes, Robert... He what?!... When?

The Director opens his desk drawer.

DIRECTOR
Shit.

AMIR’S CUBICLE – MOMENTS LATER

The Director sees the San Diego map. The evidence box.

DIRECTOR
Oh my god.

MOMENTS LATER

The Director strides past his SECRETARY (30s).

DIRECTOR
Get Agent Hussein on the phone right away.

He goes into his
OFFICE

He sits down. Massages his temples. The intercom BUZZES.
DIRECTOR
Yes.

SECRETARY (V.O.)
I’m sorry, sir. He doesn’t pick up.

DIRECTOR
Nancy, do whatever you have to do to find him.

SECRETARY (V.O.)
Yes sir.

He releases the intercom.

DIRECTOR
Damn it!

EXT. SMALL TOWN/BANDA - CONTINUOUS
A few stores advertising tourist attractions.
Rashid, unarmed, trudges along the dirt road.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS
Amir puts down his binoculars. Gets out of his car.

ON THE ROAD
Amir moves quickly to the rear of the storefronts.

IN THE STORE - MOMENTS LATER
Rashid buys cigarettes. As he pulls his cash out of his pocket,

A credit card lands on the floor. Rashid looks around. Bends down to pick it up. Turns it over. Sees

The PIN number
Rashid looks up quickly. Amir SOCKS him with his handgun. Rashid is out cold.

INT. TOM’S OFFICE/TARGEN - CONTINUOUS
Tom TYPES at his computer. A KNOCK at the door.

TOM
Come in.
Dr. Rosen enters.

TOM
Good morning, Candice.

DR. ROSEN
Good morning, Tom. Is there any news?

TOM
Yes. Unfortunately Congress wants more time to deliberate. Philip wasn’t very happy.

DR. ROSEN
I’m talking about Kathryn.

TOM
Kathryn?

DR. ROSEN
Yes. Remember? She’s being held by terrorists?

TOM
I wouldn’t worry about Kathryn. I’m sure she can take care of herself.

DR. ROSEN
Tom, what’s going on?

His phone RINGS. He looks at the number.

TOM
Excuse me. I have to take this.

Dr. Rosen, confused, leaves.

HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Dr. Rosen, deep in thought, rounds the corner. Almost runs into Winston.

DR. ROSEN
I’m sorry Winston.

WINSTON
That’s OK, Dr. Rosen. I’m worried too.

She looks at him.
WINSTON

About Kathryn.

DR. ROSEN

Of course.

WINSTON

She was pretty bent out of shape yesterday.

DR. ROSEN

Why?

INT. SEQUENCING LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Winston points to the monitor. Dr. Rosen frowns.

DR. ROSEN

A virus? That’s not possible.

WINSTON

That’s exactly what Kathryn said.

DR. ROSEN

Do you know whose samples these are?

WINSTON

No. She did say only one of them was supposed to be positive.

INT. KATHRYN’S LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Dr. Rosen enters. Goes to the REFRIGERATOR

Opens the door. Pulls out a blood tube. Reads the name.

DR. ROSEN

Rashid Khouri?! Where did this come from?

INT. CAR/BANDA - CONTINUOUS

Amir takes a swallow of his water. Pours some on the back of Rashid’s head. Rashid stirs. Wincs. Struggles. Finds he is handcuffed to the steering wheel. Looks at Amir, who has his handgun trained on Rashid.
AMIR
For your sake I hope Kathryn is alive.

RASHID
What if she isn’t?

Amir CLICKS off the safety.

AMIR
Then I become a hero by shooting the man who did not shoot the Senator.

Rashid studies him.

AMIR
But I want to know who did.

RASHID
I can’t help you.

AMIR
Yes you can. Let’s go.

Rashid STARTS the car.

EXT. CABIN - MINUTES LATER

Amir’s car GRINDS to a halt. Dust flies. Rashid gets out of the driver’s side, still handcuffed to the wheel. Amir gets out, automatic weapon in hand.

AMIR
Call out your men!

Rashid BARKS a command in Arabic. A moment later the door opens. His men come out.

Amir levels the weapon at them. SNAPS OFF the safety.

AMIR
Have one of them go and get Kathryn. Do not make me press this trigger.

ON THE CLIFF - MOMENTS LATER

Rashid, handcuffed, and Amir, automatic weapon in hand, stand overlooking the ocean.
Kathryn sits on the ground. Wolfs down a sandwich.

AMIR
There’s a gap of about 24 hours. Could you fill me in?

RASHID
First of all, I didn’t escape from that prison. I walked out. The doors were open. Check the videos.

AMIR
I already have. You didn’t have to leave.

RASHID
Spare me your morality.

AMIR
You mugged a man in San Diego.

RASHID
No. Oceanside. Took his wallet, took his car. I stopped at a 7-11, bought some food. The next thing I know, I wake up in the back seat. And it’s eight o’clock in the morning. The next day.

AMIR
Yesterday.

RASHID
Yes.

AMIR
You’re telling me you were followed, made unconscious, somehow, and woke up a day later.

RASHID
It is the truth.

AMIR
And the rifle just happened to be in the trunk of your car.

RASHID
Surprise, surprise.
AMIR
And the ammunition?

RASHID
What ammunition?

Amir takes the exploding bullet out of his pocket. Tosses it to Rashid who catches it. Smiles.

RASHID
You’re joking, right? The muzzle velocity of that rifle is far too high.

He tosses the bullet back to Amir.

RASHID
That could explode in the barrel.

AMIR
Pathology confirmed that a frangible bullet was used. There’s no way to confirm the gun or the bullet.

RASHID
Convenient.

AMIR
I believe you were set up. The question is, why?

Rashid glares at Kathryn.

RASHID
So I can be the first terrorist to have the official terrorist gene.

Kathryn scrambles to her feet.

AMIR
Kathryn, careful.

KATHRYN
But you are positive!

AMIR
Kathryn, you’re confused. Don’t you remember? You didn’t draw blood from Rashid.

KATHRYN
No! No, I tested your blood!

Kathryn throws his arms down. Staggers back.

RASHID
It was not my blood.

KATHRYN
Then whose...?

She sinks to her knees.

KATHRYN
I don’t understand. Why is it a virus?

She looks up at Amir.

KATHRYN
We were all positive.

AMIR
Kathryn, you’re not making any sense.

INT. HALLWAY/TARGEN - CONTINUOUS

Tom rounds the corner. Dr. Rosen catches up with him.

DR. ROSEN
Tom, do you have a moment?

He stops.

TOM
Sure.

INT. SEQUENCING LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Dr. Rosen and Tom sit on lab stools. Look at the monitor.

TOM
I don’t understand. Are you saying this is an infectious agent?
DR. ROSEN
In these three cases it appears to be. And if that’s the case...

TOM
It won’t be any good as a marker for terrorism.

DR. ROSEN
Exactly. Anyone who caught the virus would be labeled a terrorist.

TOM
How did this happen?

DR. ROSEN
I haven’t figured that out yet. But don’t you think we better tell the D-O-D? Homeland Security wants to roll out this test as soon as possible. It would be a disaster.

Tom gets up.

DR. ROSEN
Do you want to call them, or should I?

TOM
I’ll call them.

He heads for the door.

INT. TOM’S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER
Tom enters. Closes the door. Picks up the phone. Dials.

TOM
We have a slight problem.

EXT. CLIFF/BANDA - CONTINUOUS
Kathryn stands as if she is about to be executed.

KATHRYN
I told them what they wanted to hear.

AMIR
That’s why you wanted another tube of blood.
She nods.

RASHID
But if you are positive for this test, what does that mean?

KATHRYN
It means either I am a terrorist, or the test is flawed.

She looks at Amir.

KATHRYN
A test I just spent a year of my life working on, a test I just published on, and a test... that I just lied about. Amir?

AMIR
Yes?

KATHRYN
I have to get back and let people know before it’s too late.

Amir looks at Rashid.

AMIR
Will you let us go?

A mortar shell EXPLODES fifty yards off the coast.

They duck, turn in the direction of the smoke trail.

RASHID
(yelling)
Maybe I should ask you that question. Are you planning an assault?

Another shell EXPLODES fifty yards inland.

AMIR
(yelling)
Not that I know of.

The four men come out of the cabin. Each carries an assault weapon.
RASHID
We can’t stay here! We are sitting ducks!

Amir hands Kathryn the weapon. Removes Rashid’s handcuffs.

KATHRYN
Wait! What are you doing?

Rashid beckons to his men. They run to the SUV.

RASHID
Follow us!

Amir runs after him. Kathryn follows.

KATHRYN
Amir!

AMIR
(to Rashid)
Where are we going?

RASHID
Somewhere where we can fight back!

Rashid and his men get in their SUV.

Amir and Kathryn get in the Ford.

INT. CAR – CONTINUOUS

KATHRYN
Are you crazy?! We’ll be killed if we follow them!

Another shell EXPLODES thirty yards ahead. Pebbles pellet the car.

AMIR
I am sorry! We have no choice!

EXT. AERIAL SHOT – HILLS OF BANDA – CONTINUOUS

The SUV flies through the rocky terrain. The Ford keeps up.

A half a mile behind, two Hummers pursue.

MOMENTS LATER

The SUV swings left toward a
HALF-DOME METAL WAREHOUSE

The Ford skids on the road.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Amir and Kathryn are thrown to the right. Amir almost loses control.

    KATHRYN
    CAREFUL!

EXT. WAREHOUSE ROAD - MOMENTS LATER

The SUV heads toward the structure. In front, a rolling door rises.

The SUV drives in. The Ford follows. The door closes.

INT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Rashid and his men hurry to pull back large steel plates leading to a tunnel underground.

Amir and Kathryn run over.

Rashid BARKS orders to his men. They head into the tunnel.

    RASHID
    Our arsenal! Drive your car to the rear of the structure! Then see what is happening outside!

Amir hurries back to the car. Kathryn heads for the rolling door.

    AMIR
    Kathryn!

    KATHRYN
    No! Go!

Kathryn runs to the door. Looks between the cracks

OUTSIDE

Two Hummers have blocked the road.

INSIDE
RASHID
How many men do you see?

KATHRYN
Eight!

Amir comes back. Sees Rashid’s men carrying large-caliber weapons.

RASHID
I want you and the woman ready to leave.

AMIR
I’m going to fight.

KATHRYN (O.C.)
So am I.

They both look at her.

RASHID
Don’t worry. Those men outside are trapped. They just don’t know it yet. We have tunnels that open up behind them. This is a--

A LOUD EXPLOSION rocks the structure. MACHINE GUN FIRE pellets the building.

RASHID
(yelling)
Solid structure!

One of Rashid’s men rolls a rocket launcher toward the front.

RASHID
Those two will keep them occupied. The other two--

A LOUD EXPLOSION on the roof. Dust rains down.

RASHID
The other two will slaughter them.

One of Rashid’s men OPENS FIRE with a Gatling gun. The NOISE is deafening.

Suddenly an EXPLOSION blasts a hole in the front corner of the building. The man with the rocker launcher is propelled into the air. Lands in a heap.
Amir and Rashid run toward him.

Kathryn quickly scans the area. Sees a First aid kit on the far wall.

As Amir and Rashid drag the man away from the debris, Kathryn darts past them.

**AMIR & RASHID**

Kathryn! No!

Kathryn runs through the rubble. A GUNSHOT ZINGS past her. She grabs the kit. Turns to run. Falls. Looks up just as

**OUTSIDE**

One of the Hummers **EXPLODES** in a ball of fire.

**INSIDE**

She gets up. Runs over to the men. Opens the medical kit. Pulls out a roll of gauze.

**KATHRYN**

Here!

(to Rashid)

One Hummer down. One to go.

Amir and Rashid work to bandage the wound. Outside, more **EXPLOSIONS**.

**RASHID**

All right. He will live. You must go.

**AMIR**

We’ll wait for you.

Rashid smiles.

**RASHID**

We are not going the same direction, you and I.

**AMIR**

But what about--

**RASHID**

No arguments.
He looks at Kathryn.

RASHID
Go and tell the truth. That is worth fighting for.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER
The Ford flies out of the rear of the structure.

EXT. AERIAL SHOT - HILLS OF BANDA - CONTINUOUS
The Ford speeds away.

SMASH CUT:
Three champagne glasses CLINK together.

INT. TOM’S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS
Dr. Rosen, Philip and Tom raise their glasses.

PHILIP
To Kathryn’s safe return!

DR. ROSEN & TOM
To Kathryn!

They drink.

DR. ROSEN
I can’t wait to hear what happened. Thank God she’s all right. Tom, what did the Defense Department say when you told them about the virus?

TOM
They asked us to investigate further and get back to them when we have an explanation.

DR. ROSEN
That’s very generous of them.

PHILIP
Yes. A toast! To the Defense Department!

DR. ROSEN & TOM
To the Defense Department.
They all take another swallow.

PHILIP
Drink up. There’s plenty more.

Dr. Rosen reflects.

DR. ROSEN
How did Kathryn get a sample of Rashid Khouri’s blood?

Philip smiles at Tom.

PHILIP
You see? Always the scientist.
(to Dr. Rosen)
How do you like the champagne?

Dr. Rosen takes another sip. Wrinkles her nose.

DR. ROSEN
I’m not used to it. Tastes a little bitter.

PHILIP
That’s because of the toxin.

DR. ROSEN
What?

He walks over to a table. Removes a linen napkin to reveal
A small microwave transmitter.

DR. ROSEN
What’s that doing in here?

Philip turns on the power supply. Adjusts the dial.

DR. ROSEN
Philip, what’s going on?

PHILIP
Candice, we lied to you. Kathryn has not returned. And it is unlikely she ever will.

DR. ROSEN
But you said--
PHILIP
Such are the hazards of sticking your nose in where it doesn’t belong. Also, Tom did not call the Defense Department. It is important that our work on the T-gene not be compromised in any way.

DR. ROSEN
But if the gene is a virus, people would be falsely accused of being terrorists.

Philip points the small cone transmitter at her.

PHILIP
Yes. That’s the idea.

Dr. Rosen is shocked.

PHILIP
We’ve modified the toxin to bind to various healthy tissues. Quite a list by now, isn’t it, Tom?

Tom nods. Fills his glass with champagne.

TOM
Lung epithelia, white blood cells, neuronal tissue...

PHILIP
Yours binds to the gastric mucosa.

DR. ROSEN
Philip?!

Philip presses a button on the transmitter.

Dr. Rosen WRETCHES. Drops to her knees. GASPS for air.

PHILIP
Sorry about the carpet, Tom.

Philip and Tom walk over to Dr. Rosen. Look down at her.

TOM
How long does the toxin stay in the gut?
PHILIP
It’s rapidly absorbed. Should be in the capillaries by now.

TOM
What would happen if you gave her another pulse?

PHILIP
A lot of blood, I should say. Shall we find out?

Philip walks back to the transmitter.

PHILIP
Better stand back.

Dr. Rosen MOANS. CRIES OUT.

Philip presses the button.

A fountain of blood erupts from Dr. Rosen’s mouth. She writhes, kicks for air.

TOM
That was impressive.

PHILIP
You’d better call the hospital.

INT. CAR - LATER

Kathryn watches the road go by. Sees a sign

US-MEXICO INTERNATIONAL BORDER - 2 MILES

KATHRYN
You were right.

AMIR
About what?

KATHRYN
Yemen, Libya, Saudi Arabia. We found exactly what we were looking for.

She shakes her head.
KATHRYN
That never happens in science. This whole thing’s been manipulated from the start.

AMIR
So was the Senator’s assassination.

KATHRYN
But why kill him? He was such an advocate of the program. It doesn’t make any sense.

AMIR
Kathryn, whoever set up Rashid wants him dead. And they were prepared to let you die with him.

Kathryn looks down at her lap.

AMIR
I have to show my evidence to the Director. Even if it gets me fired.

KATHRYN
It won’t get you fired. You rescued me. We’ll go together.

AMIR
What about this virus?

KATHRYN
I don’t know. I don’t...

FLASHBACK - HALLWAY/TARGEN

Dr. Rosen introduces Philip Noland to Kathryn.

DR. ROSEN
And Nobel Laureate Philip Noland.

KATHRYN
Dr. Noland. I read your article on genetic manipulation using transient viral vectors.

FLASHBACK - TOM’S OFFICE

She holds up the tube of Rashid Khouri’s blood.
KATHRYN
Is this really his blood?

Philip nods.

PHILIP
This would validate our entire program.

INT. CAR - REALITY

KATHRYN
Dr. Philip Noland.

AMIR
What?

KATHRYN
Our Nobel Prize winning program director. He’s at the center of this.

AMIR
Can you prove that?

KATHRYN
I think so. But I need access I don’t have. Can I use your cell phone?

Amir hands Kathryn his phone.

KATHRYN
Thanks. All my stuff is still at the Marshal’s office.

Kathryn looks up suddenly.

KATHRYN
Amir, I don’t have any ID.

AMIR
Don’t worry. You are who I say you are.

Kathryn dials.

AMIR
Who are you calling?
KATHRYN
My sister. Want to let her know I’m alive. Tell mom not to worry.
(into the phone)
Suzy? ... Yeah, no, I’m OK. I’m in California... Can we talk about it later? ... Thanks. Hey, tell mom...
What?! ... What happened?

INT. ADMISSIONS DESK/HOSPITAL - LATER

A NURSE (30s), on the phone, examines Amir’s ID. She looks at his dusty clothes. Kathryn is even more disheveled.

NURSE
(into the phone)
It says FBI... Very well.

She hangs up the phone.

NURSE
The doctor will be right out.

KATHRYN
Thank you.

NURSE
You can wait over there.

They walk over to a sofa. Sit down.

DOCTOR (O.C.)
Ms. Upshaw?

They bounce right back up. The DOCTOR (40s) approaches.

KATHRYN
Yes?

DOCTOR
I’m Dr. Peters. Your mother had a small stroke in the temporal lobe. There doesn’t seem to be any impairment, but we’re running a few more tests.

KATHRYN
Oh.
DOCTOR
She was also very dehydrated. Does she make a practice of drinking water every day?

KATHRYN
No. She makes a practice of drinking something else.

DOCTOR
I see. If everything checks out, she can go home tomorrow. OK?

KATHRYN
Thank you.

DOCTOR
Let me just make sure she’s back in the room.

AMIR
Thank you, doctor.

He turns to go. Turns back around.

DOCTOR
I’m sorry. You look familiar. Have we met?

KATHRYN
I don’t think so.

He smiles. Leaves. Kathryn and Amir sit down.

KATHRYN
My mother drinks too much.

AMIR
It is a common problem. My father also drank too much.

KATHRYN
I didn’t think Muslims were allowed to drink.

AMIR
Just because the words are written doesn’t mean they are easy to follow. He finally stopped.
KATHRYN
That’s good.

AMIR
He became a Mormon. Moved to Utah.

Kathryn bursts out LAUGHING.

KATHRYN
I’m sorry.

AMIR
So am I. Everyone was so hard on him. And he is a dear sweet man. Our religion is very intolerant.

KATHRYN
If more people were tolerant...

AMIR
We wouldn’t need a terrorist gene.

Kathryn hangs her head.

AMIR
I’m sorry, that was rude.

KATHRYN
No, you’re right. When you’re right, you’re right. My sister says our father used to say that.

AMIR
Is he still in your life?

KATHRYN
No.

NURSE (O.C.)
Ms. Upshaw?

They look at the nurse.

NURSE
The doctor says you can go in now. Room 104.

Kathryn gets up.

AMIR
I will wait here.
KATHRYN
No, please. She likes company.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM – MOMENTS LATER

They enter. Her mother lies in bed, an IV in her arm. Monitors blink and BEEP on the wall behind her.

Kathryn gives her mother’s hand a squeeze.

KATHRYN
Mom? Mom, it’s me, Katy.

Her mother’s eyes open. She looks around.

KATHRYN
Hi mom, how are you feeling?

MOTHER
Katy?

She makes a face.

MOTHER
My floor is dirty.

KATHRYN
That’s OK. I’ll clean it for you.

Mother smiles. Her eyes drift over to Amir. Her smile disappears. Groggily, she studies him.

KATHRYN
Mom, Suzy is coming over. She’ll be here soon, OK? Is there anything I can get you?

Mother, still looking at Amir, shakes her head ‘no’.

KATHRYN
OK. Then I’ll be back as soon as I can. I promise.

Mother nods. Lets go of Kathryn’s hand. Weakly, she points her finger at Amir.

MOTHER
Katy?

KATHRYN
Hmm?
MOTHER
Who is that handsome man?

AMIR
Thank you, Mrs. Upshaw. Thank you!

EXT. FBI FIELD OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON
People hustle down the steps. Amir and Kathryn go up.

INT. DIRECTOR’S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS
The Director works at his desk. The intercom BUZZES.

DIRECTOR
Yes?

SECRETARY (O.C.)
U.S. Customs Border Patrol just reported that Agent Amir Hussein entered into the United States.

DIRECTOR
When?

SECRETARY (O.C.)
Two hours-- Amir!

DIRECTOR
Nancy?

SECRETARY (O.C.)
WAIT! You can’t go in there!

The Director jumps out of his chair. Steps around the desk just as


DIRECTOR
You! Do you have any idea--

Kathryn enters.

The Director is stunned. He walks around them both. SLAMS the door.
INT. DIRECTOR’S OFFICE - LATER

The contents of Khouri’s file box – photos, maps, papers – are spread out over the Director’s desk. Amir, Kathryn, and the Director watch a satellite video on the

MONITOR

Rashid’s cabin. Explosions. Rashid and his men hurry to the SUV. Kathryn and Amir run to the Ford Taurus. All drive away.

DIRECTOR
(to Kathryn)
Why didn’t Rashid take you to the bunker in the first place?

KATHRYN
He said if I knew where it was, he’d have to kill me.

DIRECTOR
Yet he let you both go.

The Director turns to the desk. Picks up Amir’s photo of Wires hanging down from the security camera

DIRECTOR
Damn it. This case has been shoved up our...

Realizes Kathryn is present.

DIRECTOR
Down our throats from the start.

AMIR
Sir, who ordered the attack on Khouri?

DIRECTOR
I have no idea. But I intend to find out.
(to Kathryn)
Think you can get that clinical data?

KATHRYN
Yes sir, but not if people know I’m back.
DIRECTOR

OUTSIDE THE DIRECTOR’S OFFICE – MOMENTS LATER

Amir and Kathryn wait for the elevator.

AMIR
Yesterday I was a pariah. Today I’m the sparkle of old champagne.

Kathryn grins.

KATHRYN
Where did that come from?

AMIR
Benefits of a classical music collection.

The elevator door BINGS. Opens. They get in.

AMIR
So where are you going?

KATHRYN
There’s a Denny’s about a mile away from Targen.

The door closes.

EXT. DENNY’S RESTAURANT – LATER

KATHRYN (V.O.)
I’m meeting Winston there.

INT. DENNY’S RESTAURANT – CONTINUOUS

Kathryn and Winston sit huddled in a booth.

WINSTON
Christ, what a story. Kathryn, you almost got yourself killed.

She drinks her soda.

WINSTON
So you think Dr. Noland is behind all this?
KATHRYN
Yep. Tom too. He has to be involved. What’s going on inside?

WINSTON
Big stuff. Dr. Rosen was taken to the hospital this afternoon. Apparently she had a giant stomach ulcer and it burst.

Kathryn winces.

WINSTON
Yeah. Happened in Tom’s office.

KATHRYN
In Tom’s office?

WINSTON
Yeah. Gosh, I hope I didn’t screw up.

Kathryn stares at him.

WINSTON
I told Dr. Rosen about your theory.

KATHRYN
Winston?

WINSTON
And she told Tom.

KATHRYN
Winston!

A WOMAN (40s) walks by. Does a double-take on Kathryn. Continues on. Says something to her FRIEND (30s) at the exit.

Kathryn and Winston notice. Sink farther down in the booth.

WINSTON
I’m sorry. You think they did something to her?

KATHRYN
I don’t know. It’s not your fault, anyway. Is there any way you can get me into Regulatory Affairs?

He shakes his head ‘no’. Looks at his watch.
WINSTON
By now everybody’s gone home.

He brightens.

WINSTON
I do have a friend in Security.

INT. HALLWAY/TARGEN - LATER

Kathryn and Winston stride down the hall. They round the corner. Kathryn stops. Winston keeps going. Stops.

WINSTON
What?

KATHRYN
Tom’s office door is open.

WINSTON
I thought you didn’t want to see him.

KATHRYN
His car’s not in the parking lot.

Kathryn heads for the office.

WINSTON
Kathryn, what are you doing?

INT. TOM’S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Kathryn and Winston stare at the blood stain on the carpet.

CLEANING WOMAN (O.C.)
Excuse me.

They both jump. A CLEANING WOMAN (40s) steps around them.

CLEANING WOMAN
I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to scare you. We’d like to clean that before Mr. Marshall returns.

WINSTON
He’s coming back?

CLEANING WOMAN
Yes. He went to get some dinner.
KATHRYN
We’ll just be a couple of minutes.

The cleaning woman leaves. Kathryn bends down to examine the stain. Sees tiny shards of glass in the carpet.

WINSTON
Kathryn what are you thinking?

KATHRYN
I wonder if there’s any way to test this blood.

WINSTON
For what?

KATHRYN
Poison. Toxins.

WINSTON
You mean like one of our microwavable toxins?

Kathryn looks up sharply at Winston who points to The microwave cone transmitter on the desk.

They go to it. Kathryn examines it.

KATHRYN
It’s set to the right frequency.

She looks around the room. Sees the champagne bottle, two empty glasses.

KATHRYN
They were drinking champagne. Her glass broke. No way to test what was in it.

Kathryn smiles mischievously.

KATHRYN
I have an idea. Come on.

She heads for the door. Winston follows.

WINSTON
Where are we going?
KATHRYN
Manufacturing.

INT. MANUFACTURING SUITE - MOMENTS LATER

Twenty glass door refrigerators full of tiny glass vials.

Kathryn and Winston, gowned and gloved, enter. Kathryn walks to the nearest computer.

WINSTON
What are we looking for?

KATHRYN
Not sure. I’ll know when I find it.

She scans the monitor.

KATHRYN
There it is. At least somebody keeps records. Fridge 13, rack 4...

Winston moves to the refrigerator.

KATHRYN
Tray 2, position 21.

Winston opens the door. Checks the tray.

WINSTON
Missing.

KATHRYN
OK. Take the vial next to it and follow me.

INT. TOM’S OFFICE - LATER

The door opens. Tom enters with a carry-out box. He puts it on the desk. Sees the full champagne glass. Takes a good swallow. Smacks his lips. Has another swallow.

KATHRYN (O.C.)
You don’t find that bitter?

Tom spins around. Does a double take. Kathryn and Winston stand behind the desk. Tom forces a smile.
TOM
Kathryn! What are you doing here? I mean, welcome back! How about some champagne?

She CLICKS on the transmitter. Points the cone at him.

KATHRYN
I’ll pass. This is set for a wide angle. Should get you if you try to run.

TOM
What are you doing?

KATHRYN
Probably the same thing you did to Dr. Rosen. And you’re going to tell us why.

TOM
I don’t know what you’re talking about.

Kathryn looks at Winston. Winston nods. Kathryn presses the button.

Tom sinks to his knees. Throws up.

WINSTON
Yuck! We’re going to have to get the cleaning people back.

LATER

TWO POLICE OFFICERS (30s) escort Tom away. Amir watches him go. Kathryn comes from around the desk. Suddenly, she reacts.

KATHRYN
Amir! Could you stop them?

AMIR
Gentlemen! Please hold a moment.

He looks at Kathryn.

KATHRYN
I need his key card.

AMIR
Right.
Amir walks out. Five seconds later, he returns. Hands Kathryn a key card.

KATHRYN
Meet me in the cafeteria.

She hurries off.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Amir, Winston and Kathryn sit at a table. Kathryn scans documents in a folder.

KATHRYN
This is the master file. Access is denied except for top management.

She hands Amir a sheet. Winston looks over his shoulder.

AMIR
My God. Look at all the samples taken from prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

WINSTON
All the consent forms were signed the same day.

KATHRYN
Which means there was no consent at all.

AMIR
So they actually infected the prisoners?

Kathryn is about to answer. Winston interrupts.

WINSTON
I’m sure this is a synthetic sequence. That’s why Kathryn’s research found the gene in the same place on the same chromosome. The chromosome was synthetic too.

KATHRYN
Right. A virus can go anywhere. And the infection is transient.

WINSTON
That means it doesn’t last.
KATHRYN
Yeah, but it lasts long enough to get you tested positive. And that’s all they need. Tom said there would be a terrorist attack on the G-20.

AMIR
Then we must have the congress called off. If you believe him.

WINSTON
You don’t believe him?

AMIR
If it is as you say, that this man Philip Noland is behind all this, then we must stop him. Otherwise he will slip away like a snake.

KATHRYN
Yeah. And I’m T-gene positive. Word of that gets out, I’m in the cell next to Tom.

WINSTON
So how’s he going to do it?

Kathryn frowns. Remembers.

KATHRYN
It’s not how. It’s who.

FLASHBACK – IN KATHRYN’S LAB
Philip is fascinated by the graph on the monitor.

PHILIP
Someday we’ll catch a terrorist in the act.

BACK TO REALITY

KATHRYN
He needs a terrorist. Let’s give him one.

They look at her as if she’s crazy.

EXT. CORONADO HOTEL/SAN DIEGO – MORNING
A glorious morning. Staff prepare for the big event.
KATHRYN (V.O.)
It has to be a toxin.

I/E. CORONADO HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Bellboys drop newspapers in front of rooms.

AMIR (V.O.)
How will they deliver it?

Gardeners spray water on the flowers.

KATHRYN (V.O.)
Can’t be by aerosol. Too hit and miss.

WINSTON (V.O.)
How about in the blood? No. Forget I said that.

Bartenders prepare their bars.

KATHRYN (V.O.)
No, it has to be in liquid form.

Attendants prepare the lobby.

AMIR (V.O.)
All right, but when?

TV news trucks drive up the circular drive.

KATHRYN (V.O.)
He’ll want a grand event. Outside. In front of all the cameras.

Police spotters on the roof.

WINSTON (V.O.)
Can’t we just look for the microwave transmitter?

Grand ballroom with an equally grand chandelier.

KATHRYN (V.O.)
What if there’s more than one?

Kitchen staff preparing.

WINSTON (V.O.)
What if he doesn’t even show up?
AMIR (V.O.)
What if there really is another terrorist?

A bottle of champagne pops.

KATHRYN (V.O.)
Then we’re screwed.

EXT. CORONADO HOTEL/SAN DIEGO - LATE MORNING

Security is three deep around the stately hotel. Limousines proceed slowly around the drive. Behind them, a taxi.

INT. LOBBY/CORONADO HOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

Amir watches PEOPLE (various ages) mill about. The revolving door spins and

Kathryn (in disguise; dark hair, glasses, body-hugging dress. Carries a clutch) enters. She walks straight ahead to the

BAR
Orders a drink.

LOBBY
Amir steps

OUTSIDE

Surveys the crowd. Sees Director Reid walking toward him.

DIRECTOR
All set?

AMIR
Yes sir.

DIRECTOR
Where is she?

AMIR
At the bar. Sir?

The Director stops.
AMIR
She has disguised her looks. Too many people were starting to recognize her.

DIRECTOR
Right. Still no press.

The Director goes inside.

BAR - MOMENTS LATER

He looks around. Spots Kathryn standing at the window. He walks up next to her. Looks at the view.

DIRECTOR
It was a mercenary group out of Tijuana. Your CEO made the arrangements. Guess the NSA is good for something.

The Director looks behind him. Back to the window.

DIRECTOR
No link to the Nobel Prize so far. We’re taking an awful big chance here, young lady.

He moves to go.

DIRECTOR
By the way. Rashid escaped.

She smiles at his smile in the window’s reflection.

EXT. CORONADO HOTEL - MOMENTS LATER

A crowd waits outside. Watches members of the G-20 file out of the hotel. The members proceed to a grassy area overlooking the Pacific.

Kathryn exits the hotel. Walks toward the row of TV news trucks at the rear.

She scans the crowd. Turns. Looks at the transmitters on the trucks. Frowns.

IN FRONT OF THE GRASSY AREA

The PROGRAM DIRECTOR (40s) steps forward to a microphone.
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Ladies and gentlemen. If I may have your attention?

AT THE BACK
Kathryn moves toward the middle.

PHILIP (O.C.)
Dr. Upshaw.

Kathryn turns. Philip smiles. Runs his eyes over her body.

PHILIP
No lab coat. How nice.

IN FRONT OF THE GRASSY AREA

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
It is time to welcome the delegates from the twenty member states...

AT THE BACK

PHILIP
Congratulations on your extraction from the terrorist. Some day you must tell me how you did it. So, what brings you to the congress?

KATHRYN
There’s going to be a terrorist attack.

Philip smiles.

PHILIP
Really? And just how do you know that?

KATHRYN
I’m the terrorist.

IN FRONT OF THE GRASSY AREA

The Program Director holds up a shiny gold medallion.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
As each name is called, will the delegate please step forward to receive this commemorative medal.
AT THE BACK

Philip frowns.

PHILIP
I’m sorry. I don’t think I follow.

KATHRYN
Rashid. He turned me.

PHILIP
I see. And what did he turn you into?

KATHRYN
A terrorist. I’m T-gene positive.

PHILIP
What?

KATHRYN
Why did you give me the Senator’s blood? In the office?

FLASHBACK - IN TOM’S OFFICE

Kathryn accepts the tube of blood from Tom.

REALITY

PHILIP
(to himself)
You got it from his blood. When it splashed on you.

FLASHBACK - FRONT STEPS AT TARGEN

The Senator is shot. Blood flies onto Kathryn.

REALITY

PHILIP
Yes. That is one drawback of this virus. The next version won’t be so contagious.

IN FRONT OF THE GRASSY AREA
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
The delegate from Germany, Kristina Bonn. The alternate, Mr. Frederik Schimmel.

An AIDE (20s) steps forward. Slips a medallion over each recipient’s neck.

AT THE BACK

PHILIP
(thinking out loud)
I think we’ll put it in a vaccine.

KATHRYN
It hasn’t always been a virus. A gene needs a chromosome.

Philip smiles.

PHILIP
Quite right.

FLASHBACK - LABORATORY

A TECHNICIAN (20s) pipettes liquid into a tube of blood.

REALITY

PHILIP
We constructed an entire gene within a known chromosomal sequence. Spiked samples from suspected terrorists. And voila!

Philip considers.

PHILIP
Of course we knew we couldn’t always get blood ahead of time, and we couldn’t expect every lab to be as flexible, shall we say, with regard to the outcome of the test.

KATHRYN
But why did you have Senator Bassett shot?

Philip smiles at her.
PHILIP
You’re not wearing one of those wire things are you?

He admires her figure.

PHILIP
No, I can see you’re not. My nephew was...

Kathryn’s eyes grow wide.

PHILIP
You didn’t know that did you? No, I can see you didn’t. Indeed Bobby was the perfect spokesperson for this project. A finer bulldog I have never met. Or pet.

A WAITER (20s) comes up behind them. Offers them each a glass of champagne. Philip takes one. Kathryn declines.

PHILIP
(to the waiter)
Thank you.

KATHRYN
Then why?

PHILIP
I know this will sound petty. He was going to replace me. Five hundred and forty six peer-reviewed articles, twelve honorary doctorates, the Nobel Prize, and suddenly I’m not the right man for the job.

KATHRYN
So you had him shot. And you framed Rashid Khouri.

PHILIP
Yes. Tom’s quite good with all those remote-control gadgets. By the way, keep an eye out for Tom. He’s supposed to be here.

IN FRONT OF THE GRASSY AREA

APPLAUSE
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
To proceed with the traditional champagne toast.

FOUR WAITERS (30s) step forward, each carrying a tray of glasses.

AT THE BACK

PHILIP
So, newly minted terrorist, how would you do it? This attack?

KATHRYN
Toxin. In the champagne.

Philip frowns at her.

PHILIP
Kathryn, I’m disappointed. You haven’t done your research. Sixteen of the forty people in that group don’t drink alcohol.

KATHRYN
Put it in the glasses.

PHILIP
And if a glass broke? Or they decided to wash them again?

She shrugs.

PHILIP
You’re missing the point. This must be a grand event. All or nothing.

Philip takes a sip of his champagne.

IN FRONT OF THE GRASSY AREA

The members of the G-20 toast one another. Drink.

APPLAUSE

PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Thank you. And if we could now have each of you hold up your glass with your right hand and your medal with your left, we’ll get a picture.
The members follow orders. Photographers take photos.

APPLAUSE

AT THE BACK

Kathryn stares at the TV news trucks, the transmitters. She looks back to the members, still posing.

KATHRYN
(to herself)
It’s too fast. It needs time to absorb.

Philip’s words ring in her ear.

PHILIP (V.O.)
All or nothing.

Frantic, Kathryn looks at each member... personal effects... the glass... the medallion... fingers holding the medallion.

She sees

A medallion slip of out a member’s grasp. The member rubs her fingers together as if they were greasy.

KATHRYN
D-M-S-O.

Philip looks at her appreciatively.

PHILIP
Bravo. A highly concentrated toxin dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide will cross the skin’s barrier, going directly into the blood stream. The fingertips, being full of capillaries...

Philip sees Amir coming toward them.

PHILIP
Ah. Agent Hussein. Were you the one who...? Of course you were. Allow me to thank you. Such a lovely terrorist. It would have been a shame to lose her.

He looks directly at Kathryn.
PHILIP
Remember. You are positive.

Philip pulls out his cell phone.

Kathryn pulls a syringe out of her clutch bag. Uncaps it.

PHILIP
I’m afraid there’s not a lot you can do now.

KATHRYN
I’m afraid there is.

She sticks the syringe into his neck. Injects.

Philip reacts. Hand to his neck. Stares at her.

KATHRYN
Welcome to the club. As you said, quite contagious.

FLASHBACK - KATHRYN’S LAB - QUICK MONTAGE OF STEPS

- Kathryn takes the tube of blood out of the fridge.

KATHRYN (V.O.)
I remembered I still had that tube.

- At the biological safety cabinet. She pipettes a few drops of blood into a plate. Adds a reagent. Places the plate in the incubator.

KATHRYN (V.O.)
All I had to do was add a little mitogen to get things cooking.

- Morning: She takes the plate out. Pipettes off some liquid. Centrifuges it. Takes off a clear fluid.

REALITY

KATHRYN
By the way, how was the champagne?

She reaches into her clutch. Pulls out a

VIAL OF TOXIN
KATHRYN
To red blood cells. Should be in your blood stream by now.

Philip whirs around. Winston, in waiter’s uniform, bows.

Philip drops his glass. It SHATTERS on the ground.

AMIR
Dr. Noland, thank you for being so cooperative.

Philip turns on him. Amir points to a BALCONY
A telescoping microphone, camera, and microwave transmitter are in place.

Philip looks around. Police move in from various angles.

KATHRYN
You wanted to catch a terrorist in the act.

She looks from the balcony to Amir and Winston.

KATHRYN
It’s a narrow beam. Maybe we better stand back.

EXT. PARADISE RV PARK – DAY
In front of Kathryn’s mom’s trailer, Amir leans against his car. Talks on his cell phone.

INT. TRAILER – CONTINUOUS
Kathryn, Suzy, and the kids are gathered around Mother on the sofa. All watch the

TELEVISION
With a crowd looking on, police lead a handcuffed Philip away from the Coronado Hotel.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Where yesterday’s dramatic events transpired.

IN STUDIO
ANNOUNCER
The President has called on Congress to suspend the terrorist gene program, and has directed the FBI to launch an investigation into the Department of Defense.

PICTURE OF TOM MARSHALL

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Also in the news, Tom Marshall, CEO of Targen, has been charged with the murder of Senator Bassett.

BACK TO SCENE

KATHRYN
He always did like that remote control stuff.

Suzy picks up the newspaper: Kathryn’s picture on the front page.

SUZY
Looks good, Katy. The press is calling you a whistle blower.

KATHRYN
Yeah. Except I shouldn’t have had to blow it on myself.

IN THE KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Suzy and Kathryn serve the kids food. Mother comes in. Suzy hands her a cup of orange juice.

SUZY
Drink this.

Mother frowns.

MOTHER
Plain?

SUZY
Mom, I have your plate.

Suzy and the kids go back into the living room.
MOTHER
Thank you, dear. Katy, I never got to see your article. The science one.

KATHRYN
It had a lot of errors in it so we have to take it back and fix it.

MOTHER
Oh. That’s too bad. You bring me a copy when you think it’s right.

KATHRYN
I will, mom.

Amir comes in.

AMIR
Excuse me, I hope I am not intruding. Kathryn, we better get going.

She looks at her mother.

KATHRYN
I have a some statements to make.

MOTHER
Honey, you go right ahead. Come back as soon as you can.

KATHRYN
I will, mom. I promise.

Amir leaves. Mother stops Kathryn.

MOTHER
Katy, just one thing. Who is that handsome man?

Kathryn gives her mom a kiss on the forehead. They exit the room.

FADE OUT

THE END