

CAPITOL HELL

An Original Story Treatment

by

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A Boeing 747 jumbo jet wings its way from N.Y. to L.A. There are 400 passengers on board. Captain TOM REMINGTON and his co-pilot DICK ARCHER, are in the cockpit. Remington, 35 to 38 years old is handsome and muscular. He is a seasoned professional with an excellent record first as a combat flyer in the service and now as a pilot with a leading commercial airline.

But today, something seems wrong. Remington just doesn't seem to be in control of the aircraft. Archer, who is seated at the instrument panel with him, senses that Remington is not in control of himself. Archer is becoming increasingly alarmed as Remington begins to push buttons on the control panel that could endanger the safety of the aircraft. Archer quickly reaches over and corrects Remington's mistake. Remington, seeing what has just happened, abruptly gets out of his seat, leaves the cockpit and locks himself in the crew's lavatory. He pulls a small bottle of Black and White scotch from his pocket and downs it.

Moments later, Remington is weaving his way back up the aisle to the cockpit. One look at him and Archer knows what's wrong. As soon as he is seated, Remington begins to fiddle with the controls again, this time causing the plane to drop a few hundred feet, so suddenly that the passengers in the cabin are severely bounced around and three of them are injured. The seat belt sign flashes on and panic sets in among the passengers.

Archer tries to talk to Remington about what's wrong, but Remington becomes belligerent and their verbal quarrel soon turns into a physical fight in the cockpit. Archer overpowers Remington and with a few swift blows knocks him on the floor, where he lies unconscious.

Officials are waiting for the plane as it lands and rush Remington off to an emergency inquiry at company headquarters. News reporters cluster around the gate, sensing a good story is about to unfold. Some are already preparing their copy: "DRUNKEN PILOT ENDANGERS PASSENGERS". "HEROIC CO-PILOT BATTLES PILOT, SAVES PLANE".

When the ordeal is finally over, Remington goes home to his wife NORA and five year old son BENJY. Nora cannot understand

how he acted so irresponsibly. She has no sympathy for him. They begin to quarrel. Remington hits the scotch bottle and pours himself way too many drinks. He's had it. He rushes upstairs, throws some clothes in a suitcase and angrily storms out of the house.

Nora stands at the door, shouting after him: "Go to your mistress, see if your whore wants a drunk like you. I won't put up with you any more".

Remington drives drunkenly away towards Westwood. He enters an expensive apartment house and is greeted at the door by NANA, his Iranian mistress. She is a student at USC, 28, majoring in business administration. Nana is beautiful, darkly oriental, very feminine and very much a real woman. She treats Remington like a king, pampering him and catering to his every whim. She settles him down with a body massage and they end up making passionate love.

The media continue to follow Remington's case: "VETERAN PILOT, VIETNAM HERO, FOUND GUILTY." Remington is fired. He's lost his job, he's lost his family. He's sued by the passengers who were hurt on the flight. He has nowhere to turn. No one will hire him. He falls into a deep depression. He is losing control of himself. His drinking is constant. His physical and emotional deterioration becomes more and more evident to Nana. Despite everything that has happened, she remains by his side. She begs him to let her take care of him, but his pride won't let him. He becomes more and more of a loner, prowling the bars in East L.A., picking up prostitutes, becoming a drunken bum. He becomes bitter and angrily tells Nana that he hates everything and everyone in his life.

One night, when he doesn't return to Nana's apartment, she becomes concerned and starts searching for him. She looks for him in one of his favorite haunts, a bar in Malibu. But she's too late. The bartender says he's just left. Alarmed, she rushes outside and finds him on the brink of suicide. She's able to stop him and quickly takes off for the emergency room of a nearby hospital. He's in very bad shape, but with proper care he can recover. Nana takes him home, and like a combination mother, nurse and lover, she brings him back to life.

But Nana is not as good as she seems. Unbeknownst to Remington, she continues to meet secretly with others from her country. They are part of a small, clandestine terrorist organization, firmly committed to the Ayatollah Khomeini, willing to live and die solely for the Moslem Revolution. Their orders have brought them to the United States to recruit certain individuals for their cause. Nana is their bait. Remington is the perfect target.

Nana, taking advantage of Remington's weakened physical, emotional and mental condition, convinces him to leave the States and return home with her. She takes him to Bal Back, an Iranian terrorist training camp, hidden in a rural part of Lebanon near the Syrian border.

Once they have arrived, Remington is immediately separated from Nana and taken to meet the camp commander ALI BAZARGAN. On his way to the command post, Remington takes in as much as he can about this strange place they have brought him to. He sees Moslem priests, mulas, walking amidst women dressed in typical, dark dress, complete with scraves wrapped around their heads. The priests and the women are a somber sight. All are dressed in black. Recruits and volunteers are in all parts of the camp. Some seem as young as fourteen years old.

The camp is surrounded by a fence with loud speakers mounted along it. From them, there is the constant blaring of a voice, a voice reciting passages over and over again from the Koran and mixing them with messages from the revolution's leaders: THERE IS NO GOD BUT ALLAH. GOD IS GREAT, GOD IS MOST GREAT. ARISE AND PRAY. GOD IS GREAT.

It is here at this camp that a new brand of fanaticism is born. A strict regime of physical brainwashing mixed with drugs and fanatic religious adherence to the Koran and the Ayatollah succeed in creating a new breed of terrorist. The camp is a factory for creating a new type of being, a human robot without a soul. A human robot with only one mission in life: To become an "Ansan Anthari", a kamikaze, a terrorist whose greatest achievement will be to commit suicide while destroying the enemy.

As they pass by one of the training installations, Remington notices how modern it seems in comparison to the rest of the camp. The equipment is modern, the weapons are modern. There is even a computer in use. As they pass the building, Remington sees a woman in full Moslem attire. She turns and he's surprised to see Nana. Surprised but thankful to see her, Remington rushes up as if to embrace her. There is a cold, cruel glint in her eyes. With a few, swift karate chops, she brings him to his knees. Leaning down to help him back on his feet, she tells him: This is the last time you will touch me. From now on you must follow orders.

Nana leads him to Bazargan, a man of great physical stature. His body is massive and well developed. He stands about 6'4" and has the head and neck of an athlete, a football player, in perfect condition. He, too, is dressed like a mula. This man is a seasoned professional. He's clever, educated and one of the Ayatollah's closest confidants.

As they are introduced, Bazargan catches a look in Nana's eye.

Something tells him that there may be more between Remington and Nana than he thought. Nana, though, says nothing. She performs totally as one who is committed, body and soul to Bazargan and their holy mission.

That night Remington discovers that Nana is Bazargan's mistress. She caters to him, acting as his personal slave. He sees them enter Bazargan's trailer and watches as he undresses her and throws her clothes off the bed.

Remington is put through a rugged training program. His day is filled with physical training, brainwashing sessions like those used by the Koreans on their American prisoners and religious indoctrination combined with the use of the Tabriz drug. This drug, invented in Tabriz, Iran, leaves its victims in a hypnotized state, making it easier to brainwash and program them.

Five times a day, Remington is brought to Bazargan to learn the Koran and recite a prayer over and over again:

PRAISE BELONGS TO GOD, LORD OF THE WORLD
THE COMPASSIONATE, THE MERCIFUL
KING OF THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT
'TIS THEE WE WORSHIP AND THEE WE ASK FOR HELP
GUIDE US IN A STRAIGHT PATH
THE PATH OF THOSE WHOM THOU HAST FAVORED
NOT THE PATH OF THOSE WHO INCUR THINE ANGER
NOR OF THOSE WHO GO ASTRAY

Each time he works with Remington, Bazargan removes a small pistol from his pocket and shoots Remington in the arm with a small arrow coated with the Tabriz drug. When Remington is in a hypnotized state, Bazargan begins to give him orders that he must follow. Only a code that Bazargan whispers to Remington will allow him to snap out of the trance. The code is hidden in the words from the Koran.

The technique is used by Bazargan on all the men being trained for suicide missions. The training is the same, but the code word is different for each man. Bazargan keeps a list of the codes on a card that he carries with him at all times.

Remington completes his training along with several other recruits. Among them are Mohammed Montazeri, Ardshir Yilani and Sadec Siragi.

Throughout the training, Remington is tortured by the sight of Nana with Bazargan. When they meet, her eyes tell Remington that she cares for him, but her actions clearly show her as a devout follower of the charismatic Bazargan. Remington sees what is going on, but he knows his place and does nothing.

Once a day, Remington is brought to Bazargan and they wrestle in hand to hand combat. Bazargan is the superior fighter. Remington suffers at his hand. Nana watches, silently. She says nothing, but she cannot stand to see Remington beaten.

Three weeks after his training began, Bazargan gives Remington his first assignment: To prove his loyalty to the Moslem Revolution and the Ayatollah, Remington must demonstrate his hatred for America and his past by killing each member of his family. Remington agrees to become a cold-blooded executioner.

Nana accompanies Remington on the trip back to the States. He relaxes on the plane, enjoying the fact that they are finally alone together. He reaches over and takes her hand. Nana quickly reminds him that she is with him only to help him arrange for the killings. This will be strictly a business trip. She tells him that according to Moslem law, unfaithful wives are targets for the firing squad.

The next day, Remington returns to his old neighborhood. He finds his wife and son at home and, without hesitation, he kills them both.

One of the neighbors sees him leave and calls the police. Remington is chased by the policemen. When they catch up to him, Remington is forced to fight them face to face. He knocks two of them out and finally manages to escape from the third.

He returns to the motel where Nana is waiting for him. She is pleased with his accomplishments. As a reward, she lets Remington sleep with her.

The next morning, Remington's sister is watching T.V. and reading the paper. She can't believe what she sees. There are pictures, stories and news reports about how an ex-pilot brutally murdered his wife and son. She becomes terrified that her brother will come after her as well. She lives alone and knows that she won't be able to stop him. Suddenly, she sees Remington approach her house. She tries to escape out the window, but he is stronger and faster than she is. He apologizes to her for what he is about to do. Then he strangles her with his bare hands.

By now the police are after Remington. They suspect that after killing his wife, son and sister, his next target will be his elderly father. The father lives in an old age home. The next day, the home is crawling with undercover cops. Remington suspects that they may be waiting for him, but he is determined to go to the home anyway and kill his father as planned.

Once inside the home, he is forced to fight off two of the guards on the way to his father's room. Wasting little time,

he enters the room and brutally stabs his father to death. His escape from the home is not an easy one. Cops are everywhere he turns. They chase him through the building. During a fight with one of them, he is wounded. But his wound is only superficial and he manages to find his way back to Nana.

With his mission a success, Remington and Nana celebrate by enjoying one last night of passionate love making. They then return to Lebanon. Back at the training camp, Remington is given a hero's welcome.

Bazargan takes Remington to a small secluded cell, pulls out his pistol to inject him once again with the Tabriz drug, and while he's in an hypnotic trance, orders him to begin training for the next mission.

Remington, Mohammed Montazeri, Ardshir Jilani and Sadec Siragi begin to train together on a regular basis. They are to be trained to function as a professional hijack team. They spend long hours practicing on the fuselage of a plane that's been brought to the camp for them. They become experts in the techniques and weapons needed to hijack a plane while it's in flight.

In another part of the camp, inside an airline hangar, two trucks are secretly being loaded with explosives. They are being prepared for a new suicide mission that the terrorists are planning.

Remington's training goes on almost twenty-four hours a day. Physical activity, hijacking training sessions, and religious prayer from the Koran fill his days. Nighttime brings propaganda lectures from the Mulas about how it is an honor to give your life for the cause; how someone who commits suicide in order to kill others will be assured of a good afterlife. One night he sees a film clip of the suicide terrorists who blew up the French and the 230 Americans in Beirut.

Remington seems to adjust well to all aspects of life in the camp. All but one. Nana. Each time he sees her with Bazargan and sees the way she's treated, it hurts him.

Finally the training is complete and it is the night before he is to leave on his new assignment. Nana, as usual, goes to Bazargan's trailer to spend the night with him. Innocently, she opens the door and is shocked to find Bazargan in bed and making love to another young girl. Angrily, she slams the door and runs away. She runs to Remington. They spend the night together.

Remington spends the next day preparing to leave the camp. This time though, he will be leaving under a new identity.

He's given a new passport and other documents under an assumed name. His facial features are disguised as well.

That same night, at Kennedy Airport, a truck is seen driving by one of the hangars near the runway. Shadows can be seen of people jumping from the truck. They enter the hangar and stand hidden near a jumbo jet. They wait as a cleaning crew finish their work and leave the aircraft. Then they emerge and enter the jumbo jet. Quickly and expertly they begin to work on the fuselage, placing two tons of explosives in hidden places throughout the plane. When the job is done, they disappear.

The next day, Remington is walking to a gate at Kennedy Airport. He is alone. He has a ticket for a flight from New York to New Orleans. He takes a boarding pass and enters the jet. It is the same jet that was wired with explosives the night before.

As Remington walks down the aisle to his seat, some of the other passengers seem to be watching him. Very discretely, they alert each other by talking into small microphones hidden in their clothing.

The flight is almost ready for takeoff. The stewardess is about to close the door when suddenly Nana appears and motions Remington to follow her up the aisle. As they are about to leave, the other passengers who were watching Remington, stand up and begin to chase him. The chase continues outside the plane, down the runway and around the other planes that are waiting for takeoff. Remington manages to escape with Nana. The men who tried to follow them are upset. It turns out that they are American CIA agents.

Remington keeps on running. He must not be captured and he cannot afford to be followed. He's taken to a waiting car, driven a short distance, switched to a second car, then a motorcycle, to a small plane and a trip to Philadelphia Airport. As he enters the terminal, he hears a page for Mr. Jack Garner. He knows it's for him. He goes to the counter and picks up a new set of tickets and a boarding pass. At the gate, he enters a plane headed for Houston. As he walks down the aisle to his seat, he is surprised to see the other members of his hijack team, five in all, seated inconspicuously throughout the plane. They are well dressed and blend in perfectly with the other passengers.

Remington is about to take his assigned seat by the window when a fat man behind him who's been assigned to the seat next to him asks if it would be possible to switch seats.

Remington doesn't mind. The fat man is very thankful to have the window seat.

Remington is preoccupied. He can't figure out why the other terrorists are on the plane. Something is wrong. Remington seems to be losing his self-confidence. He seems nervous.

A stewardess passes by with drinks. The fat man orders juice. Remington hands it to him and the man pulls down his tray to put it on. As he does so, Remington sees a tiny arrow which was hidden in the spring on the side of the tray, fly into the fat man's arm. The man doesn't know what happened to him, but suddenly he becomes dizzy and begins to act as if he were in a trance. All of a sudden, Remington realizes that this is how he used to act. He knows that the arrow was meant for him. He's angry.

Quietly, he covers the fat man with a blanket to make it look like he is sleeping. Then he stands up and moves quickly up the aisle. When he passes Siraji's seat, Remington motions him to get up and follow him to the bathroom. The two men enter the same lavatory together. Once inside, Remington kills him.

After removing a pistol and three hand grenades from Siraji's body, Remington leaves and jams the door so that no one else can get into that lavatory.

He walks down the aisle again and, this time, sits down in an empty seat directly behind Mohammed Montazeri. Remington leans forward to whisper something in his ear. At the same time, he stabs him in the back with a dagger and then props his body up to look like he's sleeping.

Remington continues his trip up and down the aisle and, unnoticed, kills off the remaining three suicide terrorists. Then he heads for the cockpit.

Just before he reaches the door, Nana and Bazargan appear out of nowhere. Like the others, they too are dressed like business executives. Bazargan grabs Remington. A fight takes place in the aisle. Bullets begin to fly. A few innocent passengers are injured. A small fire starts in the plane.

Finally, Bazargan is able to overpower Remington and drag him into the cockpit. He kills the co-pilot. Then he shoots a small drugged arrow into Remington and begins to whisper orders to him. Remington is helpless. He begins to obey Bazargan's commands. Bazargan orders him to take over the controls and then executes the pilot. Remington's first order is to change the course of the plane. The new destination will be Washington, D.C.

During the flight, Bazargan explains that he's known for quite some time that Remington has been working for the CIA. He suspected that Remington was a double agent back at the training camp. It seems that the night the trucks were being loaded for the suicide missions, Remington snuck in to take a look around. The next day his finger prints were found on some of the explosives. Seeing the agents on the flight from Kennedy to New Orleans confirmed his suspicions. That's why the plans were changed.

Remington knows that his secret is out, but he is powerless to break the trance he's in. He begins to think about how it all began. He remembers that CIA agents approached him when he began to see Nana. Nana had been under surveillance for some time and the agents convinced Remington to play along with her.

Back at CIA headquarters, a lot of top brass are huddled around a computer trying to figure something out. They've lost contact with Remington and they can't quite figure out what's going on. The situation is serious and they're worried.

As the plane nears its destination, Remington is given further instructions. HEAD FOR CAPITOL HILL AND CRASH THE JUMBO JET.

Remington continues to obey. The plane heads for Capitol Hill and begins to descend.

The door to the cockpit opens and a young girl in combat gear goes up to Bazargan and kisses him. He asks her to stand guard outside the door. Nana sees the kiss. She's angry. It seems that Bazargan has brought his new mistress along on the mission.

The plane continues to descend. Nana continues to become angrier and angrier. Suddenly, she bursts into the cockpit with a submachine gun and shoots Bazargan. He falls to the floor. He's seriously wounded, but not dead.

Nana shouts at Remington to turn the plane around, but he isn't listening. She knows that she must break his trance. She searches Bazargan and pulls the list of secret codes from his pocket. But she can't tell which one is for Remington. Frantically, she begins to chant all of the words from the prayer from the Koran, mixing up the order, trying to make every combination of words, hoping one will work in time.

Nothing seems to work. It is only a few seconds before the plane will crash. The situation seems hopeless. Nana has only two words left to try. She cries out "GREAT ALLAH" and Remington suddenly snaps out of the trance. Quickly he pulls the plane upward. Nana rushes over to kiss him.

Bazargan sees what has happened. With his last burst of strength, just before he dies, he grabs for his gun and fires a few wild shots. One hits the control panel, knocking out the electronic instruments. Another strikes Nana, killing her instantly.

Without instruments, Remington is unable to land the plane. He radios National Airport for help. The landing is a tense and difficult one, but finally the jumbo jet touches down safely.

Remington is given an official welcome by the CIA. He steps out of the plane, sees them and rushes past them into the waiting embrace of his wife, son, sister and father.

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