

Cool Gray Dawn

Season Two, Episode #9: "Ten Minutes"

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Cool Gray Dawn

"Ten Minutes"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY (MORNING)

An Indian Summer, October day. Stock footage of the Washington Monument and apartment buildings in the Brightwood Park neighborhood.

EXT. 3RD STREET, NW - APARTMENT BUILDING #704

A handful of people leave the building on their way to work.

INT. LATHAM'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN

Ambient light streams through the curtained window. WARREN LATHAM, dressed for work, is at the stove frying bacon and eggs. FIONA JEFFRIES enters - smartly dressed - and sits at the table where toast and a cup of Earl Grey tea await her.

FIONA

We need a new mattress.

LATHAM

What's wrong with the one we have?

FIONA

My side is all mashed down and hard as a rock.

Latham serves breakfast as Fiona sips her tea.

LATHAM

How come it's like that?

FIONA

Because you spend very little time on your side of the bed.

LATHAM

(grins then sits and eats)  
Used to be my side, you know.

FIONA

You want to wrestle for it?

LATHAM

And be late for work again?

Fiona grins slyly.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - BRITISH EMBASSY - DAY (MORNING)

Stock footage of the Union Jack flying atop the consulate.

INT. MI6 OFFICE

An empty desk sits in a corner. LAWRENCE JONES (SMOTH) speaks with a melancholy ALAN NEWTON, mid-30s and slim - both sit at Jones's desk. On the desk lies Newton's Ministry of Defence personnel file with "AGAI 67" in its Subject box. Next to it the clock reads 8:55. Fiona enters holding a few cablegrams. Jones checks his watch. Fiona is surprised to see Newton.

FIONA  
Mrs. Butterworth!

Newton stands; he and Fiona hug. Jones is befuddled.

JONES  
Is there some personal information  
you need to update, Newton?

NEWTON  
My family are all nabobs - and I  
used to be overweight.

FIONA  
That made Alan thick and rich -  
just like the syrup.

NEWTON  
Until I joined the 'Y,' that is.

Jones nods with an obligatory smile.

FIONA  
Are you visiting the station?

JONES  
(interrupts Newton)  
Newton's been transferred here.

FIONA  
Oh, that's wonderful!

Newton nods but his mood grows dour. Fiona is concerned.

FIONA (CONT'D)  
Should I step out?

JONES  
No, no.

Fiona sets the cablegrams on her desk and doffs her coat. Her phone RINGS. She answers it as Newton sits back down.

FIONA  
Security, Jeffries speaking...

Jones looks at Newton and subtly taps Newton's personnel file.

JONES  
We'll come back to this.

FIONA  
(into phone)  
Yes, sir, just a moment.  
(puts the caller on hold)  
Ambassador Fennell.

Jones picks up his phone as Fiona sits at her desk.

JONES  
Good morning, Sir William... Yes,  
of course, sir. On my way.  
(hangs up)  
Duty calls. Alan, you can use that  
desk in the corner until I get you  
set up downstairs. Fiona can start  
you off with today's cables.

Newton nods and settles in at the empty desk. Jones locks  
Newton's personnel file in his desk drawer and leaves. Fiona  
grabs the cablegrams and joins Newton at his desk.

FIONA  
Okay, let's see what we've got.  
(flits through the  
cablegrams)  
Service touchstones, replies to  
queries, requests from HQ...

Newton is clearly abstracted.

FIONA (CONT'D)  
We could do this later.

NEWTON  
Huh? Oh, no. Go on.

Fiona is skeptical but continues.

FIONA  
We also get reports on conferences  
with an intelligence aspect, like  
this one on diplomatic relations  
held in Vienna... Looks like they  
decided a diplomat's private  
correspondence should be inviolable.

NEWTON  
Maybe we could do this later.

Fiona nods. She stands and leaves the cablegrams on his desk.

EXT. MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE - DAY

Latham pays for lunch at the take-out window of "Joe and Nemo's Hamburger Stand." FRANÇOIS BISSET walks up. He nervously eyes the day laborers queued behind Latham. Bisset looks inside the eatery through the take-out window; he's repulsed by what he sees. Latham clears his throat and hands Bisset a hamburger. They eat and stroll down the avenue.

BISSET

Never had a steamed hamburger before.

LATHAM

What did you want to see me about?

BISSET

As you know, the president's had a rough go. He failed to roll back communism in Cuba, and Khrushchev embarrassed him at the summit meeting in Vienna. The press have had a field day with all this.

LATHAM

He should've been more like Ike and kept them at arm's length. Reporters used to complain he treated them like visitors from another planet.

BISSET

Anyway, that got the sharks at the Pentagon smelling blood. They drew up a first-strike brief called the Single Integrated Operating Plan, or SIOP. It wipes out the Soviets' nuclear arsenal and minimizes the chance of retaliation.

LATHAM

These the same idiots who risked starting World War III by calling for a full-scale invasion of Cuba?

BISSET

Yes, but this plan's a lot more detailed. It spells out the flight paths our bombers should take, the altitudes they should fly, and what targets to hit. It even lists the types of nuclear bombs to use.

Latham swears under his breath. Bisset pulls a thick manila envelope from his satchel and hands it to Latham.

BISSET (CONT'D)

They presented the plan to the NSC.  
Max Taylor added his two cents and  
gave it to the president.

LATHAM

The lone adult in the room. At least  
he'll see it for what it is - the  
work of shortsighted lunatics.

BISSET

Warren, that lone adult is seriously  
considering implementing it.

EXT. 2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY - DAY

A view of the compound through the chain links of Gate #1.

INT. BERARD'S OFFICE

WILSON BERARD, STEWART KENSINGTON, BILL NEALY and Latham are  
in an intense discussion.

NEALY

It's not just his failures in Cuba  
and at the summit that would have  
given rise to the plan; Kennedy  
also overplayed his hand on Berlin.

KENSINGTON

How?

NEALY

He undercut his bargaining position  
with Khrushchev when he hinted he'd  
concede to dividing Berlin.

KENSINGTON

Back in July he said if the Soviets  
or East Germans blocked access to  
West Berlin, it would mean war. So  
what changed his mind?

LATHAM

Common sense.

KENSINGTON

Your attempt at being glib, Warren?

LATHAM

No, I was trying for an explanation  
that wasn't too far over your head.

BERARD

Gentlemen!

LATHAM

Kennedy realized the Berlin Wall was a blessing in disguise for both the Russians and for us.

KENSINGTON

That's absurd!

NEALY

Stewart, the Wall accomplished two things for the Soviets: First, it stabilized an East German regime that was on the verge of collapse. The second thing it did was to preserve the status quo.

KENSINGTON

What status quo?

BERARD

A divided Germany.

Kensington is shocked - and embarrassed.

BERARD (CONT'D)

The truth is, both we and the Soviets are afraid of what could happen if Germany were to reunify.

KENSINGTON

But I thought Khrushchev created the Berlin crisis to humiliate the U.N.?

NEALY

No. He was forced into that position by East Germany's own weaknesses - its people kept fleeing to the West; their economy's in shambles...

LATHAM

And the Bundestag resolution.

KENSINGTON

What?

NEALY

West Germany's equivalent of our House of Representatives just approved the use of atomic weapons for defense.

Kensington finally gets it; he's anguished.

BERARD

The Marxists had hoped East Germany would become a worker's paradise.

(MORE)

BERARD (CONT'D)

Instead, the Communist regime there survives only through the sheer brutality of its repression.

NEALY

Khrushchev's gambit was that we wouldn't go to war over Berlin, and he was right. But in doing so he unintentionally brokered a truce. Given the gains both sides realize with the Berlin Wall, a nuclear war becomes far less likely.

LATHAM

That's what makes this first-strike plan so insane. It could blunder both sides into a nuclear holocaust.

KENSINGTON

So what do we do?

NEALY

Get Kennedy to reject it. Else...

He shrugs, leaving the sentence unfinished but understood.

EXT. THE PENTAGON - DAY

Stock footage of this landmark building.

INT. GENERAL STANS'S OFFICE

More sitting room-cum-library than office. GENERAL STANS, in uniform, is at his desk. The intercom BUZZES; he answers it.

STANS

Yes?

STANS'S AIDE (O.S.)

Colonel Easton is back, sir.

STANS

Send him in.

He gets up and crosses to a liquor cabinet. LT. COLONEL EASTON enters, also in uniform.

STANS (CONT'D)

Drink?

Easton nods. Stans pours two shots of bourbon. He hands Easton a shot glass then picks up his own. They raise their shot glasses in a toast. (Easton's toast is in Russian.)

EASTON

Nasdarovje!



STANS

Fuck you.

Easton grins impishly. They swig the shots and take a seat.

STANS (CONT'D)

So how'd the meeting with Rusk go?

EASTON

You know, I don't think he knows all the details of the SIOP.

STANS

He has to. Max Taylor gave them an annotated copy.

EASTON

I'm not so sure. Remember the summary he prepared for the NSC?

STANS

Yeah, they only like bullet points.

EASTON

I think that's what he gave to Kennedy and Rusk.

STANS

What makes you think that?

He gets up and pours another shot for Easton and himself.

EASTON

Rusk had some prepared questions for me, the kind he never would've asked if they'd read the full plan.

Stans hands a glass to Easton. Again, they swig the bourbon.

STANS

Such as?

EASTON

Would it be possible to fashion a limited attack on the Soviets' staging bases?

Stans is stunned. He sits in his chair.

STANS

I wrote that 26 of the staging bases don't need to be hit in the first wave. That is a limited attack.

EASTON

I know. The summary doesn't specify a number. It just says we'll hit the staging bases, meaning all of 'em.

STANS

If Kennedy and his team have only read the summary, then they don't know the full scope of the plan.

EASTON

No. And when he signs off on it, CINCSAC will follow the SIOP to the letter. They'll hit military and civilian targets in Russia, with simultaneous strikes in Eastern Europe, China and North Korea.

He grins like a Cheshire cat, but Stans is concerned.

STANS

We may have a problem though. In the brief I put the number of Soviet operational ICBM pads at 60. But the CIA estimates it's only 20.

EASTON

That from the U-2's last flight?

STANS

Yes. General Powers over at CINCSAC agrees with my figures. But how do we bring the Irish Mafia on board?

EASTON

I heard Kennedy feels the CIA lied to him about their invasion plans for Cuba. Maybe we can play on his mistrust of the CIA.

STANS

Maybe... Both sides know neither of our nuclear forces can survive a first strike. If Moscow believes an atomic war is inevitable, they'll try a surprise attack.

EASTON

Then we need to convince Kennedy that the risk of a Soviet first strike is greater than his pen pal Khrushchev has led him to believe.

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Stock footage of this landmark building.

INT. OVAL OFFICE

DEAN RUSK sits at the conference table, a phone lies before him. PRESIDENT KENNEDY walks about the room, very concerned.

KENNEDY

Eisenhower knew there was no missile gap with Russia. But he kept it from the public because he felt the best way to deter the Soviets from a first strike was through a public show of strength. That's why he poured money into our nuclear arsenal and the Air Force.

RUSK

Seems to have worked so far.

KENNEDY

For him.

RUSK

Jack, the CIA says Khrushchev has no similar Intel on our nuclear forces. We have a decided edge here, a superior nuclear force.

KENNEDY

And no one knows about it! The Pentagon's pushing SIOP on me... I've got Moscow and half the American people thinking I'm weak... And what was it Adenauer said?

RUSK

He's worried you won't respond to a crisis in West Germany.

KENNEDY

(acerbically)  
That damn wall in Berlin...

RUSK

It's a gauntlet he feels you should have taken up.

KENNEDY

What did he expect me to do, go to war over it?! The man doesn't see how it benefits us.

RUSK

What he sees is an immediate threat on his eastern border.

Kennedy broods. He looks out the window at the South Lawn.

KENNEDY

The Soviets' Party Congress meets soon. I need to send them a message, one that says I'll do anything to keep America safe.

RUSK

Including nuclear war?

KENNEDY

If necessary, yes.

RUSK

Christ... Couldn't you just write a letter to Khrushchev?

KENNEDY

No, it has to be public; something that'll reassure our Allies.

RUSK

That could provoke the Kremlin into taking preemptive action, Jack.

This gives Kennedy pause.

RUSK (CONT'D)

Don't let the JCS pressure you into a position you can't back away from.

Kennedy looks Rusk in the eye.

KENNEDY

So what would you suggest, Dean?

RUSK

I like the idea of crafting a statement. But I think it would sound less belligerent if it came from someone who isn't authorized to speak on your behalf.

KENNEDY

Like who?

RUSK

I don't know... How about Roswell Gilpatric at the Defense Department? You're friends with him.

KENNEDY

Gilpatric... Jackie called him the second most attractive man at the Pentagon.

This lightens the mood some as Rusk shows a hint of a grin.

RUSK

Anything coming from him could be interpreted as coming from you - unofficially. He's speaking to the Business Council tomorrow.

KENNEDY

Tomorrow? Come on, Dean - that's not enough time to draft a speech.

RUSK

Wait. There's this strategist at the Pentagon, Daniel Ellsberg. He's brilliant. Why not see what he can turn out? You have nothing to lose.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - BRITISH EMBASSY - DAY

More stock footage of the consulate.

INT. MI6 OFFICE

Fiona, Jones and Newton are reading reports. Jones writes something on a legal notepad and tears off the sheet.

JONES

I need these files from Archives.

FIONA

I'll get them.

JONES

No, let Alan go. He needs to learn his way around down there.

Newton gets up and crosses to Jones's desk.

JONES (CONT'D)

Go to the second floor, room 11, and see Shea Mallory, the station #3. He'll show you around downstairs.

He hands the sheet of paper to Newton who nods and leaves.

FIONA

Guess I'll go to lunch then.

JONES

No, I have something to discuss with you.

FIONA

What?

JONES

Your Mrs. Butterworth - Alan Newton.

Fiona is nonplussed.

JONES (CONT'D)  
Want some tea?

He doesn't wait for an answer. He gets up and pours two cups.

JONES (CONT'D)  
Hard to believe that only two  
months ago you could take the  
subway or the Elevated Line from  
West Berlin into East Berlin.

He hands Fiona a cup of tea and sits at her desk.

EXT. EAST BERLIN - DAY (DUSK) - PAST

INSERT: "East Berlin"

Stock footage of summer in the city: Slate gray concrete slabs of Brutalist architecture - some of it derelict - dominate the cityscape; humorless people determinedly walk the streets.

A CRUSH OF COMMUTERS

Exit the trains at the Friedrichstrasse Elevated Railway Station and the Unter ben Linden Subway Station.

INT. THE RATHAUS (GOVERNMENT OFFICE) - DAY

In one corner an East German flag hangs from a pole. Photos of Nikita Khrushchev and East German heads of state line a wall. HELGA MUELLER, 28, types at her desk. Her mid-50s BOSS puts a file in a combination-lock file cabinet, locks it, and grabs his hat and overcoat. He smiles at Helga and leaves.

JONES (V.O.)  
Newton was running Helga Mueller,  
an East Berliner who had moved to  
West Berlin but still worked at the  
Rathaus, East Berlin's City Hall.

Helga gets up. She unlocks the file cabinet, takes out the file and lays it open on her desk. She takes a Minox C (spy) camera from her handbag and photographs the file.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Newton and Helga are in bed and making love.

JONES (V.O.)  
Newton had gotten involved with her.

FIONA (V.O.)  
Was he supposed to play the Romeo?

JONES (V.O.)  
No, he'd broken protocol. Helga got  
pregnant and had a boy.

LIVING ROOM - DAY

Newton watches as Helga changes the BABY'S diaper.

EXT. WEST BERLIN - DAY

The MERCEDES-BENZ BADGE atop the Daimler building spins.

INT. DAIMLER BUILDING - UPPER-FLOOR CORRIDOR

A sign on an office door reads "British Export Board."

OFFICE

Typical. The Union Jack drapes around a flagpole. On the wall  
is a picture of Queen Elizabeth. Newton is being dressed down  
by MANTON, his station chief.

JONES (V.O.)  
Newton was reprimanded under AGAI  
67 by his station chief, Manton.

INT. THE RATHAUS (GOVERNMENT OFFICE) - DAY

Helga is back at her desk, busily photographing a document.

JONES (V.O.)  
A week after her son was born,  
Helga went back to work.

EXT. BAHNHOF FRIEDRICHSTRASSE - DAY (MORNING)

INSERT: "Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse - Elevated Railway Station"

Passengers exit the station. Among them is Helga, pushing a  
stroller. She hails a taxi.

JONES (V.O.)  
There was a weekend summer camp for  
toddlers in East Berlin starting on  
Friday, August 11th. So Helga took  
her son with her into East Berlin...

EXT. EAST BERLIN - BRUTALIST APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

The building's footprint covers most of a city block.

INT. SMALL APARTMENT

Filled with Bauhaus-style furniture. Helga leaves her Son  
with her doting MOTHER.

JONES (V.O.)

And dropped him off at her mother's flat. She had intended to bring the boy back to West Berlin on Monday.

INT. MI6 OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT

Fiona sips her tea as she listens to Jones.

JONES

For the last eight years East Germans have been voting with their feet, leaving for West Germany. In East Berlin alone, a thousand people left for West Berlin every day. But that weekend something was in the wind; the number of people passing into West Berlin had doubled.

EXT. BAHNHOF FRIEDRICHSTRASSE - NIGHT - PAST

East German troops roll out barbed wire, a tank rumbles past, and outside the station railroad tracks are missing.

JONES (V.O.)

Beginning late Sunday night, the East Germans sealed off all access into West Berlin. They put up three-foot high barbed wire and tore out the railroad tracks at the border.

INT. SMALL APARTMENT - DAY

It now has the clammy feel of a cave. Sweaty and anxious, Helga is on the phone while her Mother tends to the Baby.

JONES (V.O.)

A few days after the Iron Curtain had been drawn, Newton and Helga arranged to meet at the Bahnhof Friedrichstrasse checkpoint.

EXT. BAHNHOF FRIEDRICHSTRASSE - DAY

Barbed wire blocks access to the train station to all but one entrance. There, crowd-control barricades limit access to a long line of people.

JONES (V.O.)

The locals had started calling it 'der Tränenpalast,' the Palace of Tears, because of all the sad farewells there when friends and relatives went back to West Berlin.



ON THE EAST BERLIN SIDE OF THE BARBED WIRE

At a near-empty spot watched by a lone EAST GERMAN BORDER GUARD, Helga holds her Son and speaks to Newton, who stands on the West Berlin side, inches from the barbed wire.

JONES (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Helga found a sympathetic border guard who let her walk up to the barbed wire and speak to Newton.

ON A STREET BEHIND THE BORDER GUARD

A LOUD, ANGRY CROWD edges toward an East German tank. The Border Guard turns around, distracted by the commotion.

HELGA

Kisses her Son and hands him over the barbed wire into Newton's waiting hands. She weeps as Newton quickly leaves.

JONES (V.O.)  
When the border guard turned away, Helga handed the boy over to Newton. She wanted a better life for him - even if it meant she might never see him again.

INT. MI6 OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT

Jones gets up and refills their teacups halfway.

FIONA  
Was she arrested?

JONES  
No. In fact, she's back at work and living with her mother.

He hands Fiona her cup and sits back down.

FIONA  
The Stasi must be on to her, letting her float to see who contacts her.

JONES  
Explains why Newton twice tried to exfiltrate her.

FIONA  
Twice? And he failed both times?!

JONES  
Come on, you know better than that. Anything can go wrong on a bust-out.

FIONA

I also know Alan's better than anyone at getting people out. He got an asset out of Egypt during the Suez Crisis - right when the Israelis were attacking the Sinai.

Jones now has his doubts, but he quickly dismisses them.

JONES

Berlin's different. The barbed wire had just gone up. Neither side had had time to settle into a routine where one could find a border guard weak enough to exploit.

FIONA

So why was Alan transferred here?

JONES

His antics drew too much attention to the station.

FIONA

What about poor Helga? She risked her life for a man she loved and gave up her baby.

JONES

As far as London's concerned, it's NFA - No Further Action.

FIONA

What a gallant lot we employ here.

She BANGS her teacup on her desk, giving Jones a start.

JONES

London's worried Newton might stir up an already volatile pot over there by asking the CIA for help.

FIONA

Have you told Warren?

JONES

I will when I see him tomorrow. If Newton tries to strike a deal with any Five Eyes service, we're to send him back to London - in a trunk if necessary.

EXT. EAST BERLIN - BRUTALIST APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY (DUSK)

Parked across the street is a gray Wartburg 311 sedan. Inside, two brooding, plainclothes STASI OFFICERS sit and wait.

INT. SMALL APARTMENT

Helga's Mother rocks her tiny Grandson to sleep while Helga peeks out the window. She sees the two Stasi officers inside their Wartburg 311 and backs away from the window. Frightened, Helga collapses into a chair and draws her knees to her chin.

ACT TWO

EXT. BERLIN - DAY

INSERT: Pathé newsreel footage of Berlin, August 1961, after it was divided overnight into East and West by barbed wire.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Berlin - a city already divided by ideology is now divided by barbed wire as well.

EXT. BERNAUER SUBWAY STATION - DAY

A sign in French and German reads "Station de métro Bernauer/ Bernauer U-Bahnstation." EAST GERMAN BORDER GUARDS patrol the narrow grounds between the station and the barbed wire. Its entrances are shuttered...

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The Bernauer Subway Station, located in East Berlin, is now a ghost station, closed to the public.

Save for one that juts into West Berlin, just past the barbed wire. A West Berliner looks inside the station entrance.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

One of its entrances lies in West Berlin and is still open. But inside it's been sealed off where the border line runs through it.

INT. BERNAUER SUBWAY STATION - WEST BERLIN ENTRANCE

Partway down the steps the entrance has been boarded up.

EXT. BERNAUER STRASSE - DAY

Barbed wire stretches across the intersection of Bernauer Strasse and Wolgaster Strasse. EAST GERMAN BORDER GUARDS are stationed on the south side of the barbed wire.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Barbed wire stretches across the intersection of Bernauer and Wolgaster Streets, separating West Berlin from East Berlin.

Beginning at the intersection, house numbers 51-121 lie on the north side of Bernauer Strasse. Houses numbered 1-50 are on the south side of the street,

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Houses on the north side of Bernauer Strasse are in West Berlin, while those on the south side of the street are in communist-held East Berlin - but only the houses themselves. The pavement outside them is in West Berlin. And that means the communists must seal off any and all access from these homes to the street.

MASONS begin bricking up the doors and windows of houses numbered 1-50.

HOUSE #38

A WOMAN, 30, climbs out a second-story window and jumps to the pavement. Her HUSBAND tosses suitcases out the window.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Despite efforts by the communists to seal off access to West Berlin, a few still manage to escape.

INTERSECTION OF BERNAUER STRASSE AND WOLGASTER STRASSE

Two of the East German Border Guards there race behind the row of houses on the south side of Bernauer Strasse.

HOUSE #38 - STREET

The Woman grabs a suitcase. Onlookers scream at her to hurry - "Eile!" - as she runs across the street. A WEST BERLINER runs to her aid. He picks up the two remaining suitcases and brings them to the Woman. Her Husband jumps from the window, hurting himself. He LIMPS across the street.

HOUSE #48

A fourth-floor window opens. A quilt flies out, followed by an overnight bag. IDA SIEKMANN (her real name), 59, appears at the window. She climbs unsteadily out onto the ledge. WEST BERLIN FIREFIGHTERS race to the house hauling a jumping sheet to catch her.

A crowd has gathered. Some urge Ms. Siekmann to jump, yelling "Springen!" Others tell her to wait, "Nein, bleib dort!" Still others scream "Eile!"

Someone BANGS on Ms. Siekmann's room door. Anxious, she looks into the room then at the crowd below.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

For others though, the journey  
comes to an abrupt end.

Before the firefighters can fully unfold the jumping sheet,  
Ms. Siekmann JUMPS. She lies motionless on the pavement. The  
Firefighters rush to her aid but her injuries are fatal.

EXT. SAMUEL GOMPERS PARK - DAY

Latham and Jones munch on soggy hamburgers as they stroll.

LATHAM

What makes you think Newton will  
ask us for help?

JONES

Helga's the mother of his child. I  
assume he's still in love with her.

LATHAM

Was your Berlin station aware of  
his two attempts at a bust-out?

JONES

After he failed they were.

Latham SCOFFS. Jones grows more concerned.

JONES (CONT'D)

That still bothers me though.

LATHAM

Why?

JONES

Fiona knows him fairly well. She  
said he's excellent at bust-outs.

LATHAM

There's no such thing as being  
excellent at a bust-out.

JONES

Maybe, but during the Suez Crisis  
he got an asset out of Egypt while  
the Israelis were attacking the  
Sinai.

LATHAM

Yet he couldn't get Helga out of  
East Berlin. All he had to do was  
get her to one of those houses on  
Bernauer Street and throw her out  
the window. Soon as she hit the  
pavement she'd be in West Berlin.

JONES  
(sarcastically)  
Ever the romantic - that's you.

LATHAM  
You know, it could be he wanted out  
of the relationship. Then again...

JONES  
What?

LATHAM  
I was just thinking...

JONES  
Oh, I thought it was indigestion.

LATHAM  
(mugs, then seriously)  
What if he schemed to keep her in  
East Berlin?

Jones slows down and looks at Latham.

JONES  
That would mean he's doubling.

LATHAM  
It gives the Stasi an opportunity  
to see who contacts her, or see if  
anyone's watching her.

JONES  
Trying to flush out any other NATO  
Intel agents?

LATHAM  
Or Warsaw Pact services. They're  
always vying for favored status  
with Dzerzhinsky Square. The Stasi  
could also be waiting for Helga to  
make a move, see what she knows  
about the plumbing your people set  
up there.

JONES  
Hmm... Newton's met most of my  
staff. Any chance you could put  
eyes on him for me?

LATHAM  
Send over his photo and details.

Jones nods, then The Two part ways.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY - DAY

A view of the compound through the chain links of Gate #1.

INT. THE HOLE

PAUL "BAZZO" BARRY and CARLA DILAURIA are at their desks poring over the SIOP and making notes.

BAZZO

I can see the appeal of this first-strike plan.

DILAURIA

You need to go back to the hospital.

BAZZO

Come on...

DILAURIA

You obviously haven't recovered from that knock on the head.

BAZZO

Just hear me out.

DILAURIA

There's no way it can work. All the targets are land-based.

BAZZO

I know that, but-

DILAURIA

It also doesn't address the Soviets' airborne strategic bombers or their submarines.

BAZZO

I know that, too.

DILAURIA

Did you also know their subs have SLBMs, and each one has multiple nuclear warheads?

BAZZO

Yes, but-

DILAURIA

Then what more proof do you need?!

BAZZO

I didn't say I agreed with it! Geezus! Don't make me out to be some kinda simple-minded war hawk.

DiLauria shrugs apologetically. They both calm down.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

If anything, it proves how scared we are of nuclear war. That's why a first strike is so attractive to them.

DILAURIA

But there's no strategic defense system that can protect us when their subs and planes retaliate.

BAZZO

You can't expect frightened people to be prudent, Carla.

DiLauria nods, conceding.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

You read it - their plan doesn't even account for fallout. All that radioactive dust being spread around by prevailing winds... I read a Rand study that said, in a limited attack just on Soviet military targets, deaths from the blast, burns, and fallout could top ten million people.

A pained expression comes over DiLauria's face.

DILAURIA

I wonder how many people have to die before it's too many.

EXT. EAST BERLIN - RATHAUSSTRASSE - DAY (DUSK)

Helga leaves the Rathaus along with other government workers.

ALEXANDERPLATZ

Stock footage of construction of gray, dull structures that typify an architectural style called Plattenbau, transforming the bombed-out ruins into a pedestrian plaza.

HELGA

Wades through the crowds at an impromptu outdoor market within the roundabout. A man sidles next to her - it's Manton. He pulls out a pack of "Lifes" cigarettes. (They speak German.)

HELGA

'Lifes'... Woher hast du sie?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "'Lifes'... Where did you get them?"



MANTON

Von einem Automaten an der Grenze.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "From a vending machine at the border."

HELGA

Sie müssen ein Grenzsoldat sein.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "You must be a border guard."

MANTON

Nicht genau. Möchten Sie eine?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Not exactly. Would you like one?"

HELGA

Bist du sicher kannst du schonen  
eine?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Are you sure you can spare one?"

MANTON

Für dich? Vielleicht sogar zwei.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "For you? Maybe even two."

He gives her two cigarettes. They stroll (speaking English).

HELGA

How is my son?

MANTON

He's fine. He's with Alan's parents  
in Leicestershire, England.

HELGA

I miss him so much... When can you  
get me across?

MANTON

We've been over this, Helga.

HELGA

(growing impatient)

You could get me a passport saying  
I'm West German. That way I could  
cross back into West Berlin as  
someone who came here on a day pass.

MANTON

Every checkpoint has your picture.

HELGA

So give me a disguise.

MANTON

Are you serious? The Stasi have had you under surveillance ever since those two attempts to get you out.

HELGA

But I can't take this anymore!

A couple of people nearby take notice and stare at them. Manton hooks Helga's arm and leads her away.

MANTON

Let things quiet down some, okay?  
I'll see you on the 27th.

He walks away from Helga and disappears into the crowd.

EXT. FRIEDRICHSTRASSE - CHECKPOINT CHARLIE - NIGHT (EVENING)

A Mercedes limousine flying American flags on its fenders passes a kiosk with a sign reading "U.S. Army Checkpoint" and another sign on the sidewalk, "YOU ARE LEAVING THE AMERICAN SECTOR," in English, Cyrillic, French and German. The car pulls up to the gate at the border of East Berlin and stops.

East German Border Guards hold their rifles at the ready. The driver-side window rolls down. The DRIVER wears his U.S. Army dress uniform. BORDER GUARD #1 approaches (speaking German).

BORDER GUARD #1

Ihren Reisepass, bitte.

In the backseat are E. ALLAN LIGHTNER, JR., a U.S. diplomat in West Berlin, and his WIFE, both dressed in formal wear.

LIGHTNER

He doesn't have to show you his passport.

Border Guard #1 approaches the backseat passenger window. Lightner rolls it down.

BORDER GUARD #1

Ihren Reisepass, bitte.

LIGHTNER

What is this? You see the car; it has official tags. We're on our way to the opera and you have no right to stop us.

Border Guard #1 is at sea; his English is limited.

LIGHTNER (CONT'D)

(in German)

Um was geht es hierbei?

(MORE)

LIGHTNER (CONT'D)

Sie sehen das Auto; es hat  
offizielle Nummernschilder. Ich bin  
auf dem Weg zur Oper und Sie haben  
kein Recht mich aufzuhalten!

BORDER GUARD #1

(defiantly)

Ich fordere deinen Reisepass sehen!

LIGHTNER

No! I'm the senior U.S. diplomat  
here in West Berlin. Only Soviet  
officials have the right to check  
my passport.

Border Guard #1 is again at sea. Lightner grows frustrated.

LIGHTNER (CONT'D)

Ich bin der leitende US-Diplomat in  
Westberlin. Nur sowjetische Beamte  
können meinen Pass überprüfen.

BORDER GUARD #1

Dann musst du dich umdrehen und  
zurückgehen!

The Border Guards react to his anger and aim their rifles at  
the car.

DRIVER

I have to turn around, sir.  
Otherwise, they'll detain us.

LIGHTNER

Alright, go back to the embassy.

As Lightner picks up the handset to a radiotelephone, the  
Mercedes turns around and heads back to West Berlin.

MID-SHOW BREAK

EXT. 2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY - DAY

CIA Officers mill about the compound.

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM

The usual PURL of ringing phones, teletype machines and  
chatter. DUTY OFFICERS JARED STOKES and TOM PERCY man the Duty  
Desk with MISSION PLANNING'S REID NICHOLS. Latham enters.

LATHAM

What's up, Jared?

Stokes hands him a cablegram from the West Berlin Embassy.

STOKES

A couple of hours ago, Allan Lightner was denied entry into East Berlin at Checkpoint Charlie. He's our senior diplomat in West Berlin.

LATHAM

That's on Eastern Europe's watch. Why was Domestic Ops copied on this?

STOKES

Lightner's a holdover from the Eisenhower administration. If Kennedy were to replace him, you'd be doing his future debriefing.

LATHAM

Why was he going into East Berlin?

STOKES

He and his wife were on their way to the opera. They're regulars there.

LATHAM

Then why would the Border Guards deny them entry?

NICHOLS

Orders from the Kremlin maybe?

PERCY

It could be a response to that speech Gilpatric made. There's no mistaking Kennedy used him to send the Soviets a warning.

STOKES

If things went south, Kennedy could say Gilpatric's a private citizen whose remarks were intended to reassure a nervous business community.

Latham mulls things over.

LATHAM

If it is Khrushchev pushing back, then the question is, What's next?

As a pall settles over the faces at the Duty Desk, Stokes's Red phone RINGS; he answers it.

STOKES

0-4-3-3... Yes, he is... Right.  
(hangs up; to Latham)  
D-Int's in your office, sir.

LATHAM

Keep me posted on this.

Stokes nods. Latham leaves.

LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

COLLETTE DOWD is at her desk, earphones on, transcribing from a Dictaphone. Latham enters. She points to...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Nealy is sitting in a chair, leaning forward on his elbows; he is clearly upset. Latham enters and sits. Nealy leans back.

LATHAM

You heard Ambassador Lightner was denied entry into East Berlin?

NEALY

Yes.

LATHAM

The Duty Desk thinks it's a result of Gilpatric's speech.

NEALY

Partly. The latest report from HERO is that the Politburo isn't happy with Khrushchev's handling of the whole Berlin situation. They may have threatened to depose him.

LATHAM

So, is this just Khrushchev engaging in brinkmanship in an effort to reassert his credibility?

NEALY

I think so.

LATHAM

Another gambit... Is that what you wanted to see me about?

NEALY

No. I just learned NORAD had a nuclear close call last night.

LATHAM

Geezus...

EXT. ENT AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO - NIGHT - PAST

Vintage stock footage of the base.

NEALY (V.O.)

It was at their Command Center at  
Ent Air Force Base in Colorado.

INT. NORAD - COMMAND CENTER

Stock footage of the Command Center - it resembles an office complex but with steel walls. The NORAD emblem fills a 15-foot high wall panel. Adjoining panels contain active maps of North America's air defense systems, including radar networks across Canada - the McGill Fence, the Pinetree Line, and the Dew Line. Other panels show active maps of Europe.

Also on the wall is a row of clocks displaying global time: Norway, 05:20; Greenland, 01:20; Colorado, 21:20. U.S. and Canadian military monitor radar and telemetry screens.

NEALY (V.O.)

On the map monitoring Scandinavia,  
a warning light appeared over the  
east coast of Norway.

A RED LIGHT appears over the east coast of Norway.

MALE VOICE #1 (O.S.)

What color is that over Norway?

MALE VOICE #2 (O.S.)

Red. Oh, my God...

TECHNICIAN'S STATION

AIRMAN EAGAN, 30, is aghast as he peers at his screens.

NEALY (V.O.)

It was reported to the Duty Officer  
as a massive Soviet attack, most  
likely on New York and Washington.

Eagan picks up the telephone handset on his console.

EAGAN

This is Airman Eagan, sir. We have a  
Level One contact. Early warning  
radar in Thule shows a large object  
coming over the horizon, possibly a  
massive Soviet nuclear attack. The  
computer indicates the target is the  
east coast of the United States.

DUTY OFFICER'S STATION

Set on a raised platform in the Command Center. WILMAN, the DUTY OFFICER, 45, and JACOBS, the Deputy Duty Officer, 35, are surrounded by a bank of telephone handsets on a control console. Wilman speaks into a handset.

WILMAN

ETA?

EAGAN (O.S.)

30 minutes. Sir, is this an input?

WILMAN

No, it is not a simulation. Double-check your equipment; have Thule do the same. And tell them to recheck the warning data.

(hangs up; to Jacobs)

Blue Jay reports a large object coming over the horizon. Could be the Bear's bombers or his missiles.

JACOBS

Oh, God...

WILMAN

Alert SAC.

Jacobs quivers and hesitates.

WILMAN (CONT'D)

Do it now!

Jacobs fumbles for the RED handset.

NEALY

Once it was confirmed this wasn't a drill, NORAD went on high alert.

INSERT: A siren BLARES over stock footage of Strategic Air Command pilots scrambling to their planes; in the flight tower a senior air traffic controller peers through binoculars at U.S.A.F. bombers taxiing on the runway; B-52s soar above the clouds; missile launch sites prepare to fire.

NEALY (V.O.)

SAC scrambled crews to get more planes in the air, missiles went on hair-trigger alert, ready to launch.

COMMAND CENTER

Some personnel coolly execute their protocols; others fidget, sweat, chain-smoke or bite their nails.

NEALY (V.O.)

But these people weren't the coolly efficient officers you see in the movies. They were scared. Some of them panicked; a few just froze.

DUTY OFFICER'S STATION

A light above a handset on the control panel goes on, then that phone BUZZES; Wilman answers it.

WILMAN

Duty Officer...

Anxious, Jacobs turns to him and blurts out...

JACOBS

Shouldn't we call the president?

WILMAN

(into the handset)

One second, Airman.

(covers the mouthpiece)

We call him now and he'll have only ten minutes to decide whether or not to retaliate. I want to make damn sure the data's correct first.

(into the handset)

Go ahead, Eagan.

TECHNICIAN'S STATION

NEALY (V.O.)

Then came word...

Eagan speaks into a handset.

EAGAN

Blue Jay's check of the data indicates a false positive. It is not a Soviet attack. Repeat, not a Soviet attack.

DUTY OFFICER'S STATION

WILMAN

I'm going to put you on loud speaker.

(flips a switch)

Say again, Airman.

EAGAN (O.S.)

(echoes throughout the Command Center)

Blue Jay's check of the system and the data indicates a false positive; it is not a Soviet attack.

COMMAND CENTER

The personnel listen intently as Eagan's voice echoes.



EAGAN (O.S.)

Repeat, there is no Soviet attack.  
What the radar in Thule, Greenland  
picked up was a super blood moonrise  
over Norway - a very rare event.

Loud exhales and nervous murmuring can be heard.

DUTY OFFICER'S STATION

Wilman and Jacobs are visibly relieved.

WILMAN

Thank you, Airman.

He hangs up.

JACOBS

I guess we can reset the Doomsday  
Clock back to seven minutes before  
midnight.

WILMAN

For now, anyway.

LATHAM'S OFFICE - PRESENT

Latham is incredulous. Nealy reflects on his tale.

NEALY

We came within ten minutes of a  
nuclear apocalypse. Ten minutes.

The fear of what might have happened is evident on his face.

EXT. CORNER OF 7TH AND F STREETS, NW - DAY (DUSK)

Fiona and Latham enter Hecht's, a department store.

INT. BEDROOM FURNITURE

Filled with the latest period styles. The shoppers are a  
pleasant mix of Whites and People of Color. Fiona and Latham  
wander about, looking at beds and mattresses.

FIONA

Whom did you put on Newton?

LATHAM

The Special Ops team. They were  
just sitting around pushing paper.

FIONA

I hope you're wrong about him. We  
don't need another Burgess and  
Maclean making headlines.

LATHAM

So it's better if Newton just left  
this Helga in the lurch?

FIONA

No, of course not. But let's be  
honest, a lot of men do.

LATHAM

Not this one.

FIONA

(warmly)  
I know.

She hooks Latham's arm. They walk past a Civil Defense sign  
on the wall that reads "FALLOUT SHELTER IN BASEMENT." Latham  
stops and cringes.

FIONA (CONT'D)

What is it?

LATHAM

NORAD had a nuclear close call last  
night. We were ten minutes away from  
launching our missiles at Russia.

FIONA

Oh, my God...

LATHAM

Plus, the Pentagon gave Kennedy a  
first-strike plan that he's  
seriously considering.

Fiona follows Latham's eyes to the Civil Defense sign.

FIONA

And we're shopping for the future.

Latham looks at her; he shares her fear and uncertainty.

FIONA (CONT'D)

Can we just go home?

Latham nods. He puts his arm around Fiona and they leave.

EXT. ADAMS-MORGAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY (DUSK)

A racially-integrated, low-to-middle income Washington, D.C.  
area, featuring local stores, cafes, and bookstores.

18TH STREET, NW

Newton walks along the busy street and enters a three-story  
townhouse with a bookstore on the ground floor.

In the bookstore window is a flier announcing an upcoming meeting of the Adams-Morgan Neighborhood Committee for Social Change.

INT. STUDIO APARTMENT

Barely furnished, with a Murphy bed. Newton enters and sets the mail on the dinette table then doffs his coat. He sits and looks at his mail - two pieces of junk mail and a letter with a P.O. Box for a return address.

Newton opens the letter and pulls out a note that reads "26-10-61, 12th St. YMCA, 20:00. Basketball. Guest pass at desk." Newton checks his watch then jumps up.

EXT. 12TH STREET YMCA - NIGHT

Stock footage of the entrance.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT

Several half-court pick-up games are in progress. Overhead, a running track hangs over the perimeter of the court.

Newton enters wearing gray sweats and tennis shoes. He sits alone along the wall, across the court from several players waiting for a game. A Black man, 5'6", mid-30s - call him GARVIN - walks up to Newton.

GARVIN

You wanna run?

NEWTON

I don't know. These blokes look pretty good.

Garvin looks at Newton's feet.

GARVIN

Are those tennis shoes?

NEWTON

Yes, why?

GARVIN

Most everyone wears high-tops here. Where are you from?

NEWTON

Where they hung the Curtain.

GARVIN

Really... Which side?

NEWTON

Which one is the safe answer?

Garvin smiles. He sits alongside Newton and extends his hand.

GARVIN

Glad to see you got my note.

Newton shakes Garvin's hand. They speak sotto voce.

NEWTON

You're not what I expected.

GARVIN

You mean Black?

NEWTON

No, short.

GARVIN

Don't let that fool you. I can play. Helga's been in touch with your old station chief, Manton.

NEWTON

Anyone else?

GARVIN

I was told she contacted him. I wouldn't know about anyone else.

NEWTON

No, they wouldn't divulge that information to a contract agent.

GARVIN

I'm to ask you what you wanna do about the situation.

NEWTON

I didn't know I had a choice in the matter. What happens if I don't know what I want to do?

GARVIN

I'm told a choice will be made for you.

NEWTON

Then you can report that I have no opinion on the matter. When do we see each other again?

GARVIN

Here, a week from today. I'll give you a list then of dates and sites.

Newton stands.

NEWTON

Think I'll go for a swim instead.

He leaves.

ACT THREE

EXT. FRIEDRICHSTRASSE - CHECKPOINT CHARLIE - DAY

INSERT: "October 26th, 1961"

The official U.S. Mercedes limousine again approaches the gate, this time escorted by ARMED U.S. ARMY MILITARY POLICE IN JEEPS. The convoy stops at the gate. The East German Border Guards nervously raise their rifles to the ready.

Border Guard #2 carries a clipboard and approaches the car. The driver-side window rolls down.

DRIVER

We have a meeting with Mayor Walter Ulbricht.

Border Guard #2 looks into the car: Lightner and a MAN in a business suit, a CIA OFFICER, sit in back. Border Guard #2 checks his clipboard; he appears unsure what to do and looks back at his fellow Border Guards. The Driver is apprehensive. He looks at his escort then at Border Guard #2.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

If we don't arrive there within the next 30 minutes, you'll have to answer to Herr Ulbricht.

Border Guard #2 backs away and turns to the GATE OPERATOR.

BORDER GUARD #2

(in German)

Lass sie durchgehen!

The gate opens - the Mercedes passes alone into East Berlin.

I/E. MERCEDES LIMOUSINE

Lightner and the CIA Officer look out the window at the drab rebuilding efforts in East Berlin.

CIA OFFICER

You'd think the war was still on.

LIGHTNER

East Germany's too cash poor to do any better.

They pass two tanks without markings.

CIA OFFICER

Tanks?

LIGHTNER

To support the border guards.

CIA OFFICER

So why don't they have any East German markings on them?

Lightner shrugs; he doesn't know.

CIA OFFICER (CONT'D)

It makes a difference knowing whose tanks they are.

LIGHTNER

To you people in the CIA maybe.

CIA OFFICER

To all the policy makers. Driver...

DRIVER

Yes, sir?

CIA OFFICER

Let me out here at the corner.

DRIVER

Sir, I wouldn't advise it.

CIA OFFICER

Understood. Let me off here.

EXT. STREET

The Mercedes pulls to the curb. The CIA Officer alights and leans into the back seat.

CIA OFFICER

Tell Ulbricht you're #2 has the flu. When you're done, come back here and get me.

He steps back. The car pulls away. The CIA Officer walks back two blocks to where the tanks sit quietly among abandoned buildings. A few TEENAGERS muddle around. (The CIA Officer and the Teenagers speak German.)

CIA OFFICER (CONT'D)

Warum sind diese Panzer hier?

The Teenagers shrug; they are clearly at sea.

TEENAGER #1

Wer zum Teufel weiss das.

The CIA Officer mulls things over. Finally, he looks around. He sees a good-sized rock on the ground, picks it up and throws it at one of the tanks. The rock PINGS off the side of the tank as the Teenagers LAUGH and YELL "Beeindruckend!"

The top of the tank pops off. A LIEUTENANT comes up and looks at the Teenagers.

LIEUTENANT

Chto eta?!

INSERT TRANSLATION: "What was that?"

The CIA Officer and the Teenagers shrug and look at each other cluelessly. The Lieutenant drops back inside his tank and closes the lid.

CIA OFFICER

(too himself)

Russian.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

Stock footage of the Capitol Building and Washington Monument.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY

A view of the compound from the Guard Shack through the chain-link fence.

THE HOLE

Bazzo and DiLauria are still poring over the first-strike plan when Latham enters, sans overcoat.

LATHAM

Anything on the first-strike plan?

BAZZO

Carla's come up with an angle.

Latham takes a seat.

DILAURIA

You know a first strike's been suggested before.

LATHAM

Yes, but as far as I know, Eisenhower never seriously considered it. He didn't want to start the 'big war.' And the military-industrial complex he worried about would never advocate one. They make their money maintaining the status quo.

DILAURIA

Then the Pentagon's plan has to be a reaction to something other than Kennedy's failures in Cuba and at the Vienna summit meeting.

LATHAM

You sound like D-Int. Go on.

DILAURIA

Everything's zero-sum at the Pentagon. You declare war, defeat the enemy on the battlefield and you win. The loser gets to rebuild; he just has to bow to a new king.

BAZZO

That's her abridged version of 'The Art of War.'

Latham rolls his eyes.

DILAURIA

My point is these are uncharted waters being navigated by the crew on the Titanic. These aren't nuanced men. They can't quantify the value of shared interests, especially among enemies. And they're afraid of someone who can.

BAZZO

Like Kennedy.

DILAURIA

His approach not only reduces the Pentagon's role as arbiter, it exposes a fundamental weakness.

LATHAM

Which is?

DILAURIA

Remember the weekend the Berlin Wall went up?

LATHAM

You were on duty then, right?

DILAURIA

I was in the Ops Room. They were monitoring commo between the Berlin station and the Western Zone Ambassadors.

(MORE)



DILAURIA (CONT'D)

Even when it became clear that East Berlin was putting up barbed wire, it still took hours to convince the Allied commandants to at least have some uniformed people patrol the border. It was 24 hours before they got permission to send a weak-ass protest to their counterparts in East Berlin.

BAZZO

(to Latham)

You mentioned some of this when you came to see me in the hospital.

Latham nods.

DILAURIA

It took two days before the High Commissioners sent official protests from Bonn to East Berlin. And another three days before Washington, Paris and London finally sent their official protests to Moscow.

BAZZO

The military had no idea how to react to a situation where no shots were fired. They were humiliated.

DILAURIA

This first-strike plan is their way to recoup some lost dignity the only way they know how: Bamboozle Kennedy into a first strike by presaging nuclear war as imminent.

LATHAM

So your counter-argument, then, is that deterrence is the result of both sides having nuclear weapons?

BAZZO

That's one possibility.

LATHAM

What's the other?

DILAURIA

You can argue we've been spared nuclear war, not because both sides have the Bomb, but in spite of it.

This piques Latham's curiosity.

DILAURIA (CONT'D)

If West Germany were to defend itself by dropping H-bombs on East Germany, they'd end up destroying themselves as well! This Cold Truce we have is because neither side really wants to start a nuclear war.

Latham stands and meanders about, mulling things over

LATHAM

The Pentagon might argue that just because you can't hear the bear growling doesn't mean he isn't stalking you.

DILAURIA

And I'd say that's the sort of paranoia that shoots first, only to learn there's no one out there who wasn't there all along.

Bazzo's and DiLauria's Red phones RING; Bazzo answers his.

BAZZO

1-1-3-7... Yes... I'll tell him.  
(hangs up; to Latham)  
You're wanted in the Ops Room.

OPERATIONS ROOM

There is more tension than usual. Nealy is there, conferring with Stokes. Percy is on the Red phone. Latham enters.

LATHAM

What's going on?

STOKES

Ten of our M48 tanks have been moved to Checkpoint Charlie. It's all over the wire services.

LATHAM

Who the hell ordered that?

STOKES

General Lucius Clay. Kennedy sent him there to deal with the Russians after the Berlin Wall went up.

NEALY

The East Germans have continued their attempts to assert control over Western allied officials trying to enter East Berlin. This appears to be a retaliatory move.

LATHAM

Geezus...

PERCY

(hangs up)

It gets worse. The Berlin station reports an equal number of Russian T55 tanks are rumbling toward the border.

LATHAM

Are we sure they're Russian and not East German?

STOKES

The station had a man in East Berlin who confirmed that Russian tanks were massing near the border.

NEALY

If they were East German, we could localize the problem, keep it from escalating. But this... This stand-off between us and the Soviets looks like a prelude to war.

Stokes's Red phone RINGS; he answers it.

STOKES

0-4-3-3... Right...

PERCY

Our tanks are about 50 yards from the border.

LATHAM

Doing what?

PERCY

Racing their engines; sending plumes of black smoke into the air.

STOKES

(into phone)

Okay, keep me updated.

(hangs up)

Russian tanks have just taken up positions equidistant from the border. NATO and SAC have been put on high alert.

NICHOLS

Oh, God...

EXT. FRIEDRICHSTRASSE - CHECKPOINT CHARLIE - DAY

INSERT: Black-and-white wire footage of the first hours of the stand-off.

INT. CHECKPOINT CHARLIE - COFFEE SHOP

Now serving as an impromptu command post. A U.S. ARMY COLONEL speaks to senior officers and NCOs under his command.

ARMY COLONEL

The risk of a miscalculation of intentions by us or the Soviets is real. Therefore, no one under my command is to fire first. Is that clear? No one! Any order to fire will come directly from me, and will only be as a result of being fired upon. Under no circumstances are we to provoke the Soviets. I want to be very clear about this: One errant shot fired here could result in the launch of a thousand nuclear missiles. There won't be any air-raid sirens or klaxons or bomb shelters to save us.

EXT. EAST BERLIN - ALEXANDERPLATZ - DAY

Helga strolls past the vendors, wending her through the crowds to the center of the roundabout and the...

TROLLEY STOP

A trolley car pulls up and opens its doors. Helga boards it.

INT. TROLLEY CAR

Helga sits in a single seat and checks her watch. She's pleased and looks out the window. A long line of people still wait to board.

HELGA

Watches people suddenly JUMP aside to make way for a gray Wartburg 311 sedan. She stiffens as two familiar faces alight from the car - the brooding, plainclothes Stasi Officers. They motion for the crowd of people yet to board to step away from the doors.

The passengers on board the trolley car grow silent as the Stasi Officers push past them and stop at Helga's seat. STASI OFFICER #2 unbuttons his coat, revealing a Makarov semi-automatic pistol. He stands watch as STASI OFFICER #1 flashes his credentials to Helga. (They speak German.)

STASI OFFICER #1  
Kommen mit uns, Fraulein Mueller.

HELGA  
Warum? Was habe ich gemacht?

STASI OFFICER #1  
Wir haben einige Fragen, die wir  
Ihnen gerne stellen möchten.

Helga hesitates. Some passengers turn their heads away,  
afraid to look.

STASI OFFICER #1 (CONT'D)  
Wir ziehen es vor, Sie nicht von  
der Strassenbahn zu schleppen.

Helga's resolve begins to crack; she trembles as she stands  
up. Stasi Officer #1 leads her off the trolley car followed  
by Stasi Officer #2.

EXT. TROLLEY STOP

Stasi Officer #1 and Helga get in the back of the Wartburg  
311 sedan. Stasi Officer #2 gets behind the wheel. The car  
pulls away, passing the rest of the people waiting to board  
the trolley car.

There is a familiar face in this crowd - Manton. Shocked and  
worried, he stares after the Wartburg 311 as he boards the  
trolley car.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY

Another view of the compound from Gate #1.

INT. BERARD'S OFFICE - DAY

Berard, Nealy, Kensington and Latham are again in an intense  
discussion.

BERARD  
Where do things stand now?

NEALY  
Our ten tanks are standing about  
100 yards from their ten tanks.  
Sort of emblematic of how seriously  
out of hand things have gotten  
between us and the Soviets.

KENSINGTON  
More like a schoolyard game of  
chicken.

BERARD

Except this one has grave consequences. What do think the Soviets' intentions are, Bill?

NEALY

To undermine our legal status in Berlin. You have to remember that Kennedy inherited this mess. Khrushchev doesn't see him as formidably as he did Eisenhower.

BERARD

So he's testing Kennedy's will.

NEALY

Yes, a bit like poking a stick at a wounded animal. He's trying to see what level of force the West will use to defend its interests.

BERARD

Another gambit.

NEALY

Yes, but with far less an assurance probability of success. Kennedy's young but he's not a fool; nor is he deaf to the voices at the Pentagon.

LATHAM

If Khrushchev backs him into a corner, Kennedy may feel he has no alternative but to use force.

NEALY

I think you're right. It makes the odds of him changing his mind about implementing SIOP even longer.

The mood among them grows darker. Berard is particularly distressed to hear this.

BERARD

(pleading)

Has anyone come up with any suggestions on that front?

LATHAM

The mandarins have a couple of ideas I'd like to run by François Bisset, Kennedy's press secretary.

BERARD

When are you planning to see him?

LATHAM

As soon as possible, sir.

BERARD

Alright, keep us updated. I have to meet with the Director now.

Kensington, Nealy and Latham stand. As they start to leave...

BERARD (CONT'D)

Do your best, Warren.

Latham nods then follows the others out the door.

LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

Collette is at her desk - earphones on, pencil and paper ready. The Dictaphone runs. Collette pulls out her earphones. She is too upset to continue. Latham enters and nods at her. Collette does not look up at him as she usually does. Latham notices this as he passes by her.

LATHAM

Get François Bisset on the phone for me, please.

COLLETTE

Fiona called. The Stasi arrested Helga Mueller.

Latham stops; he sighs sadly.

COLLETTE (CONT'D)

Newton hasn't said a word either way about it, the bastard.

LATHAM

Anything from the Special Ops team?

COLLETTE

Their report's on your desk. As far as they can tell, he hasn't met with anyone yet.

LATHAM

Alright. Get Bisset for me.

She picks up the Gray phone.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Oh, and bring me the mandarins' SIOP notes.

COLLETTE

They're on your desk, too.

She dials. Unsure what to say, Latham continues into...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

He sits at his desk where two files lie before him. Latham opens the file entitled "Recommendations Against the Implementation of SIOP" and reads through it. The intercom BUZZES.

COLLETTE (O.S.)  
Bisset's on gray.

Latham hangs up the intercom and picks up the Gray phone.

LATHAM  
François, it's Warren Latham. I have a couple of promising arguments on SIOP I'd like to run by you. How soon can we meet?... I know what's going on there - that's why we need to meet ASAP!... That's fine. Where?... I'm on my way.

He hangs up then stands and puts on his coat. As he puts the SIOP file in his satchel, Collette enters.

COLLETTE  
Is it true this stand-off in Berlin could escalate into nuclear war?

Latham looks grim. He pauses a moment before answering.

LATHAM  
It's possible, yes.

COLLETTE  
It's even more likely with the president already thinking about using the nuclear option, isn't it?

LATHAM  
(trying to reassure her)  
I think the arguments the mandarins came up with are persuasive enough to change Kennedy's mind on SIOP.

Collette is not convinced. She's fighting her emotions.

COLLETTE  
You know, every day when I come in to work, I walk by Rizik's. I always look in the windows to see what's new. I know their stuff's way out of my price range but I don't care; I look anyway.

(MORE)



COLLETTE (CONT'D)

This morning when I walked by, I saw a Civil Defense sign on the door. It must have been there for years, but I never noticed it before. Now, it's all I can think about. We have a shelter here, too - that damn broom closet in the basement.

LATHAM

Collette...

COLLETTE

But I keep thinking if I use the one in Rizik's basement, it'll be safer. It's also large enough so you and Fiona and the mandarins - the people I care about - can be in there with me. Otherwise, I don't...

Latham hugs her before she can finish.

LATHAM

The next time you go by Rizik's, go inside and buy something you don't need. I'll expense it. Even better, I'll sign Kensington's name to the voucher.

Collette chuckles. Latham kisses her on the cheek. Collette follows him into...

LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

LATHAM

I'll be at the White House with Bisset in his office. Tell the mandarins. I'll check in with you in two hours.

COLLETTE

Alright.

Latham pauses by the door.

LATHAM

If Fiona should call again...

COLLETTE

(smiling gently)  
I'll tell her.

Latham nods gratefully and leaves. Collette picks the Red phone and dials.

OPERATIONS ROOM

Amid the usual PURL the mood is tense:

- Half-smoked cigarettes overflow the ashtrays;
- Fingers nervously knead foreheads;
- People are sweating, some profusely;
- Several eyes take note of the time on the "Berlin" clock;
- More people crowd around the wire service tickers.

INT. MI6 OFFICE

A 16mm film projector has been set up on the empty corner desk to project on a drawn window shade. Fiona and Jones intently watch a silent, 40-second Pathé News film, "Berlin: Check Point Charlie Patrols Intensified."

INSERT ON SCREEN: Apprehensive West Berliners watch U.S. tanks rumble past them along the streets; U.S. jeeps block an intersection; Soviet tanks mass along the border; and U.S. and Soviet tanks face off at Checkpoint Charlie.

INT. STASI INTERROGATION CELL

The walls are covered in the sort of tiles seen in subway stations. There are no windows. Light comes from a single lamp on a table in the center of the cell.

Helga sits on one side of the table; the sparse contents of her pockets are spread out before her. Above her a pair of wrist shackles dangle from the ceiling. Seated opposite her is Stasi Officer #1.

Stasi Officer #2 leans against the wall next to a table displaying what appear to be medieval implements of torture.

Stasi Officer #1 points to the torture instruments. Helga cringes as Stasi Officer #2 picks up what appears to be a fireplace poker.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Stock footage of this landmark.

WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING

Latham walks up, his satchel tucked underneath his arm. A composed but alert MARINE SENTRY in dress uniform stands outside the door. He opens it for Latham who enters.

END