Cool Gray Dawn

Season Two, Episode #5: "The Eleventh Hour"

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## Cool Gray Dawn

## "The Eleventh Hour"

# ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. STATE DEPARTMENT AUDITORIUM

INSERT: "State Department News Conference, April 12, 1961" Stock footage of President John F. Kennedy's press conference.

### REPORTER #1

Mr. President, has a decision been reached on how far this country would be willing to go in helping an anti-Castro uprising or invasion in Cuba? And what could you say with respect to recent developments as far as the anti-Castro movements in Cuba are concerned?

PRESIDENT KENNEDY Well, first I want to say that there will not be, under any conditions, be an intervention in Cuba by United States armed forces, and this government will do everything it possibly can, and I think it can meet its responsibilities, to make sure that there are no Americans involved in any actions inside Cuba.

EXT. CUBA - DAWN

Stock footage of an aerial view of the island.

MARIANAO, CUBA - DAY

INSERT: "Marianao, Cuba (Suburb of Havana)"

Stock footage of beautiful residential tracts and attractive beach clubs. Early risers leave their homes to go to work.

IN THE SKIES OVER MARIANAO

A low-flying propjet plane drops leaflets.

ON THE GROUND

The leaflets flutter and land. A MAN IN A COTTON SUIT leaves his home and picks one up off his lawn. It reads:

S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act I 2.

# SALVOCONDUCTO

A TODOS LOS COMPANEROS PATRIOTAS - Para unirse a las Fuerzas de Liberacion, deben ser seguidas con toda precision y exectitud las instrucciones siguientes:

1. En el momento de aproximarse a nuestros puestos de vigilancia, usted va a ser interrogado por nuestros centinelas. Siga las instrucciones que los centinelas le den EXACTAMENTE.

2. Cuando le ordene accrcarse, hagalo con ambos manos levantadas sobre su cabeza. Lleve esta hoja suelta en su mano derecha. Avance muy despacio. Si tiene un arma, llevela colgando de su cinto o de su hombro, DE NINGUN MODO LA LLEVE EN SUS MANOS.

3. Si forma parte de un grupo, no se acerquen juntos a menos de 50 metros del centinela. A partir de esta distancia, debe avanzar uno a uno.

4. Para su major seguridad, uno de los que forman el grupo debe llevar y ondear una bandera blanca en un palo largo que sea facilmente visible a una considerable distancia.

5. No debe tratar de penetrar en nuestras lineas en las horas de oscuridad. Tampoco debe tratar de unirsenos en el curso de una botalla, a no ser que forme parte de las fuerzas enemigas y desee rendirse.

6. Una vez dentro de nuestro lineeas debe obedecer todas las ordenes rapida y correctamente. Para evitar las traiciones sera necesario registrarlo y retirarle sus armas. Cuando sea bien sabido que usted es un verdadero patriota, usted, sera uno de los nuestros.

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GUARDE ESTA HOJA. ES SU PASAPORTE Y SALVOCONDUCTO A LA LIBERTAD.

Mario Zuniga

CONSEHO REVOLUVIONARIO

INSERT ON SCREEN: (A SAFE-CONDUCT pass that gives instructions on how to surrender during the upcoming exile invasion. Warns against carrying arms or crossing lines during the night.)

EXT. REGLA, CUBA - DAY (MORNING)

INSERT: "Regla, Cuba"

S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act I 3.

Stock footage of a seaside fishing village. Men prepare their fishing boats. People queue at the dock by a sign that reads "Ferry a la Habana."

The SOUND OF PROPJETS overhead gets everyone's attention. Leaflets rain upon them - but these are quite different from those dropped in Marianao.

Excited people gather Banco de Nacional de Cuba TEN PESO NOTES with Fidel Castro's likeness. On the back of each note is a message written in script: "Guajiros! Tienes derecho de tener tu propio pedazo de tierra. Combate por ello contra INRA!"

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Peasants! You have a right to have your own piece of land. Fight for it against INRA!"

EXT. 2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY - DAY (MORNING)

It's early spring. CIA OFFICERS enter through Gate #1.

INT. BILL NEALY'S OFFICE

BILL NEALY is at his desk, reading a report. His 24-hour wall clock reads 07:55; on his desk the calendar reads "Friday, April 14, 1961." Nealy's DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, MAX WATERS, 35, hurries in holding a telex. His face is grim.

WATERS I just pulled this off the wire. JMATE's dropped leaflets around Havana.

He hands the telex to Nealy, who grows frustrated.

WATERS (CONT'D) I guess even Latham couldn't stop it.

NEALY No. Have my P.A. come in here, Max. I don't want to be seen as being in league with Kensington and his gang.

WATERS Bill, putting something on paper... You know what could happen to you.

NEALY What's going to happen to that brigade will be a helluva lot worse.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - 1100 CONNECTICUT AVE, NW - DAY

With briefcase in hand, WARREN LATHAM walks among others on their way to work. Passing the picture windows of RIZIK'S DEPARTMENT STORE, something catches Latham's eye. He stops. S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act I 4.

The window display features female mannequins in single and two-piece MATERNITY WEAR selling for \$3.45.

Latham muses over this. He smiles then leaves.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

The 24-hour wall clock reads 08:10. COLLETTE DOWD busily arranges files into three piles. Latham enters and smiles at her. Collette smiles back.

LATHAM What are you smiling about?

COLLETTE You smiled at me, so I smiled back. You do a lot of it these days.

Latham is slightly bemused. Collette picks up the files and follows Latham into...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Collette places the files into three piles on Latham's desk. He doffs his trench coat; she hangs it up for him.

> COLLETTE It's getting warmer out.

> > LATHAM

Uh huh.

He skims through the files. Collette grins archly.

COLLETTE In here, too.

LATHAM You forecasting the weather now?

COLLETTE Just noting the milder climate.

Latham glances at her, barely hiding a grin.

COLLETTE (CONT'D) Kensington and the DDP are at the White House again.

LATHAM No doubt taking advantage of their breakfast special.

COLLETTE Kensington's Aide said they were summoned there for an 08:00 meeting. S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act I 5.

LATHAM JMATE again... Let's hope Kennedy cancels the damn thing.

COLLETTE I'll get you some coffee.

LATHAM No... Bring me a cup of Earl Grey.

COLLETTE

Earl Grey?

LATHAM You know, the tea. From England?

Collette nods. A knowing smile curls her lips as she leaves.

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

The Union Jack flies over the embassy roof.

INT. MI6 OFFICE

LAWRENCE JONES (SMOTH) reads The Times of London. FIONA JEFFRIES enters carrying a cable. She puts it on Jones's desk.

FIONA Our cousins have dropped leaflets over Havana's suburbs.

JONES They're in it up to their necks now.

Fiona arches her back and WINCES.

JONES (CONT'D) Your back sore?

Fiona nods. Jones takes a green tin of Doan's Pills from his desk drawer and hands it to her.

JONES (CONT'D) Here. Take two of these.

FIONA Do they really work?

JONES No, they just take your mind off the pain by making you nauseous. Of course they work.

Fiona gingerly sits at her desk. She pops two of the pills and washes them down with some tea.

S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act I 6.

JONES (CONT'D) Last time I suffered from a sore back was when I was married.

FIONA Really. I guess now it's just your right hand that suffers most.

Jones is shocked and embarrassed. Fiona tosses the tin back to Jones who then buries his nose back in the newspaper.

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Stock footage of the building.

INT. THE CABINET ROOM

A series of French doors topped with arched lunette windows line the east wall; transom bookcases line the opposite wall.

Sitting around a long conference table cluttered with official papers are PRESIDENT JOHN KENNEDY, his brother ROBERT, DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERT MCNAMARA, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR MCGEORGE BUNDY, PRESS SECRETARY FRANÇOIS BISSET (pseudonym for PIERRE SALINGER), SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT ARTHUR SCHLESINGER, CIA'S CARL BETHUNE and STEWART KENSINGTON, LT. COL. EASTON, GENERAL STANS (pseudonym for GENERAL LEMNITZER) and a STENOGRAPHER.

#### PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Secretary Bowles calls the Cuban Project a grave mistake. Others at this table still have doubts about your operation's chances for success.

EASTON

Mr. President, if we don't launch this invasion, we're gonna find ourselves going to hell in a hand basket against Castro <u>and</u> the Sovs!

ROBERT KENNEDY Seems to me that's where this operation's already headed, Colonel.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY Let's get back to some of these new details of the operation. What's this contingency plan with Admiral Dennison?

STANS That's only if a bail-out is needed.

This gives President Kennedy a start.

# PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Explain to me how we can deny U.S. involvement with the Atlantic Fleet steaming off Cuba's southern coast.

#### STANS

Sir, our naval base at Guantanamo regularly conduct maneuvers there.

### ROBERT KENNEDY

But they're not usually followed by a landing force attempting to overthrow the government.

Stans seethes. Bethune quickly chimes in.

# BETHUNE

Mr. President, U-2 reconnaissance photos show a shipment of heavy Czech military equipment delivered to Cuba - at least 30,000 tons of it.

### KENSINGTON

Making it necessary to engage our military.

# PRESIDENT KENNEDY

And throw plausible deniability right out the window! No, it's far too late in the game for this.

# KENSINGTON

Sir, if Castro uses any of this weaponry, it can be construed as a provocation against our base at Guantanamo, justifying a retaliatory strike. That's why the Atlantic Fleet was added to the plan.

#### BUNDY

General Stans, is it true that a subordinate naval commander faced with a substantial Russian military action can launch a nuclear weapon on his own initiative?

## STANS

That's correct, Mr. Bundy.

President Kennedy and his entire staff are shocked at this.

STANS (CONT'D) The Soviets need to understand that, if necessary, we <u>will</u> exercise our nuclear advantage. BUNDY

And you think a relatively small invasion by exile Cubans justifies a nuclear holocaust?

STANS I thought the idea was to kill the bastards.

ROBERT KENNEDY I thought the idea was for the exiles to regain control of Cuba.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY I want everyone hereto be clear on this: Under no circumstances is the Atlantic Fleet to be involved. And no one outside my office has the authority to launch nuclear weapons in this operation!

Silence. Bethune tries a softer tack.

## BETHUNE

Mr. President, seven years ago the Director and I stood right here at Ike's desk and told him our Guatemalan operation would succeed and it did. Today I believe the prospects for success in Cuba are even better than when we deposed General Arbenz.

#### KENSINGTON

At the very least, sir, it'll cause a damaging civil war that will not require the United States to commit itself to overt action there.

### BETHUNE

Whatever embarrassment any alleged U.S. support might cause, it'll be far less than that resulting from the continuation of the Castro regime. If we delay, any future action will have to be more drastic, making it clearly attributable to the United States - and all we'd do is achieve the same result.

President Kennedy sighs, pondering these words.

### KENSINGTON

The simplest thing to do here is to let the exiles go where they want to go - and that's back to Cuba. S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act I 9.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Two limousines are waiting. Stans and Easton exit and get into the first one; Bethune and Kensington get into the second one.

I/E. SECOND LIMOUSINE

As it pulls away, Bethune is pensive; Kensington is enthused.

KENSINGTON Everyone around Havana should have read the leaflets by now. Plus, the Times is carrying the Homestead story in today's morning edition.

BETHUNE

What story?

KENSINGTON Our supposed 6000 Cuban exiles invading three northern ports.

## BETHUNE

Oh, right...

KENSINGTON That should keep Castro's forces away from the southern coast.

#### BETHUNE

The president's reserved the right to stop JMATE up to four hours before the air strike. No one in that goddamn Irish mafia of his better try and change his mind.

EXT. EL HELVETIA, GUATEMALA - DAY

INSERT: El Helvetia, Guatemala"

Stock footage of coffee plantations. Workers load beans onto trucks that then rumble over a cobblestone road. They pass an abandoned plantation abutting an alligator-infested swamp.

FORT TRAX

INSERT: "Fort Trax, CIA Training Base for Brigade 2506"

A passenger train passes behind the flag of Brigade 2506. Some scruffy brigade members do calisthenics while others welcome a truckload of prostitutes and usher them into the barracks.

Several brigade members pack pistols and ammunition into knapsacks, all the while CHATTING nonstop. TWO U.S. SPECIAL FORCES ADVISERS observe them.

ADVISER #1 Christ, don't they ever shut up?

ADVISER #2 It's been like this since Day One.

ADVISER #1 Before you break camp, introduce these morons to a razor. Otherwise the dissidents will end up shooting at them thinking they're Castro's men.

EXT. PUERTO CABEZAS, NICARAGUA - DAY

INSERT: "Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua"

Stock footage of this poor village and its jungle environs.

AIR BASE

INSERT: "JMTIDE - CIA Staging Area and Air Base for the Bay of Pigs Operation"

Stock footage of Quonset huts and an airfield carved out of the jungle. Unmarked B-26B bombers - the ones with a <u>metal</u> <u>nose</u> - are parked on the tarmac.

INT. QUONSET HUT

The AIR COMMANDER stands behind the lectern and reads from a TOP SECRET memo as he addresses the PILOTS.

# AIR COMMANDER

I have a policy directive from KUBARK regarding the New Frontier: 'B-26 mission commanders are reminded of their responsibilities in reference to pre-invasion target assignments, José Martí Airport and Antonio Maceo Airport. No other targets may be attacked.'

The Pilots GROAN and SCOWL.

PILOT #1 What the hell brought this on?

AIR COMMANDER Headquarters is concerned you'll go beyond your brief.

PILOT #2 Bunch of armchair warriors... You don't assess a fluid situation from behind a desk. S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act I 11.

AIR COMMANDER I hear you. But if you should target innocent civilians or hit non-tactical targets, the world will condemn our efforts here. It could even mean an attack on the U.S. So don't stray from your assignments. <u>No one flies inland</u>.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

Stock footage of the Reflecting Pool at the Lincoln Memorial.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY

A view of the compound from outside Gate #1.

INT. THE HOLE

The 24-hour wall clock reads 09:10. PAUL "BAZZO" BARRY puts shaving items in his locker; CARLA DILAURIA takes clothes from hers and puts them in a laundry bag. Latham enters jauntily.

LATHAM How'd your training go?

BAZZO

Okay.

DILAURIA He didn't have to gut a water rat!

LATHAM They had you preparing dead drops.

DILAURIA Since when did 'dead drop' become so literal?

### LATHAM

(amused) My problem was the scavengers always got to the carcass before I could service it.

# DILAURIA

No more. We put hot sauce on 'em now to keep the critters away.

LATHAM Hm, wonder who came up with that?

DILAURIA Probably a vegetarian.

Bazzo shuts his locker and crosses to his desk.

#### BAZZO

Before we left, we heard some Costa Rican official complain about us using their country to train exiles to invade the <u>northern</u> coast of Cuba. I thought the landing was at the southern coast?

## LATHAM

Disinformation, by way of JMATE's propaganda minister, Phillips.

# DILAURIA

Like Operation Fortitude on D-Day.

#### LATHAM

Yes. The Miami station's loaded arms and ammunition on a banana boat flying a Costa Rican flag. She'll set out for Guantanamo with 160 exiles dressed like Castro's men. Before the brigade lands at the Bay of Pigs, that group will launch a diversionary strike in Baracoa.

# DILAURIA

A fake attack on Guantanamo?

#### LATHAM

The idea being to make Castro look like the aggressor and unfortunately justify us sending in the Marines.

### DILAURIA

Whatever happened to that small, exile operation...

# BAZZO

I thought Kensington shut you out of JMATE. How'd you learn all this?

### LATHAM

I run Domestic Ops; JMWAVE's based in Miami, a domestic base. So their SITREPS come across my desk.

#### BAZZO

Kensington probably forgot all about that.

The Red phone RINGS; Bazzo answers it.

BAZZO (CONT'D) 1-1-3-7... Yes, he is... I'll tell him, sir. S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act I 13.

BAZZO (CONT'D) (hangs up) Kensington - he wants to see you.

LATHAM Soon as I'm done I'll bring you guys up to date.

He leaves. Bazzo is surprised.

BAZZO He seems in a really good mood.

DILAURIA You need a tin cup and some pencils.

BAZZO

What?

DILAURIA He's in love. You can't see that?

KENSINGTON'S OFFICE

Kensington is scowling as Latham enters.

KENSINGTON

Sit down.

Latham sits. Kensington brandishes a memo.

KENSINGTON (CONT'D) D-Int sent this to the Director, Berard, and the four of us running JMATE.

LATHAM What's it got to do with me?

KENSINGTON Quite a lot, it seems. For one thing, there's its tone... (reads from the memo) 'The original concept has been adulterated to the point where success is unachievable. Reports in Latin American newspapers of an exile Cuban brigade training in Guatemala have all but eliminated any chance of surprise.' Echoes your claim that JMATE's been compromised.

LATHAM That's D-Int - right to the point.

KENSINGTON Yes... He goes on to say thatLATHAM Are you going to read the entire memo?

#### KENSINGTON

Just the relevant parts. 'Without the element of surprise, one Cuban aircraft armed with .50 caliber machine guns could decimate the invasion force. I'm convinced the brigade will be incapable of securing the airstrip without significant input from D.o.D. The overt air cover required will make it clear to any observer that the United States is behind the landing at the Bay of Pigs.' A bit strident for D-Int, wouldn't you say?

#### LATHAM

No, it sounds like a sober assessment to me.

### KENSINGTON

It would - if I were looking at it from an <u>operational</u> standpoint.

LATHAM

(growing antsy) Where is this going?

# KENSINGTON

You'll see. 'The use of sonic booms to break windows and create confusion as was done in Guatemala is ill-advised here. Soviet technical advisors in Cuba will easily attribute this action to the U.S.' As I recall, using sonic booms in Guatemala was your idea.

### LATHAM

It was...

#### KENSINGTON

And finally, 'The suggested use of napalm is an inexplicably egregious ploy that will not only turn world opinion against the U.S., but most certainly will insure retaliatory action from the Warsaw Pact, and from our NATO allies.'

(lays down the memo) This may have D-Int's signature, but your handwriting is all over it. LATHAM D-Int doesn't need my input.

KENSINGTON Nor do we! We've got the JCS and some of the same people from the Guatemalan operation on board. That's more than enough.

# LATHAM

You still don't get it, do you? It's not the same scenario. You've got leaks everywhere. All of Latin America knows what you're up to!

KENSINGTON No doubt thanks to some <u>internal</u> opposition.

LATHAM

(scoffs) You're in over your head, and now you're desperate for a scapegoat.

He gets up. Kensington leans forward, seething.

#### KENSINGTON

The fact remains that JMATE is on. And when it succeeds, you and D-Int will have walked these halls for the last time.

#### ACT TWO

EXT. SAMUEL GOMPERS PARK - DAY

Latham and Fiona sit on a bench. She arches her back.

LATHAM Back still bothering you?

### FIONA

Mr. Jones gave me some pills he had. They haven't taken effect yet.

Latham reaches behind Fiona and massages her lower back.

FIONA (CONT'D) We're supposed to be a polite couple, dear.

Latham pauses.

FIONA (CONT'D) But I'm not wedded to the idea. Latham grins and resumes the massage. Fiona moans softly.

FIONA (CONT'D) Our Havana station reported your people dropped leaflets earlier.

## LATHAM

Phase one. Kensington had me in his office. He threatened to have Bill Nealy and me fired after the invasion succeeds.

# FIONA

He should be the one updating his CV. Cuba's Foreign Minister is about to address the General Assembly on the invasion.

LATHAM So, what else is new?

FIONA This will be the first time Cuba claims the invasion is imminent.

LATHAM You sure about that?

### FIONA

Our Intel has it that Raul Roa plans to embarrass Ambassador Stevenson with details about the invasion.

# LATHAM

(sighs) The mole...

FIONA

Proves you were right. That should be enough for Kennedy to cancel it.

## LATHAM

Kensington'll claim it's all part of his master plan. No, for Kennedy to cancel the invasion there'd have to be something that reveals our hand in this, something embarrassing.

Latham ponders what he's said. Fiona checks her watch.

#### FIONA

Well, I have to get back. I'm supposed to have gone to the chemist for something stronger.

They get up and go their separate ways.

S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act II 17.

EXT. UNITED NATIONS PLAZA - DAY

Stock footage of the plaza and the U.N. tower.

INT. GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL

Stock footage of the delegations. Cuba's FOREIGN MINISTER RAUL ROA addresses the General Assembly in Spanish.

ROA

El gobierno cubano acusa a los Estados Unidos de actos de agresión; siendo una inminente invasión de Cuba respaldada por los Estados Unidos. Exigimos que el Consejo de Seguridad tome medidas inmediatas en nombre de Cuba.

Stock footage of U.S. AMBASSADOR ADLAI STEVENSON listening to the translation.

TRANSLATOR (O.S.) The Cuban government charges the United States with acts of aggression; that being an imminent, U.S.-backed invasion of Cuba. We demand that immediate action be taken on Cuba's behalf by the Security Council.

An AIDE whispers to Roa who glares at the U.S. delegation.

EXT. TURTLE BAY (NEW YORK CITY) - TAILOR SHOP - DAY

The small shop sits in the shadow of the U.N.

INT. TAILOR SHOP

A sewing machine HUMS as a SEAMSTRESS alters a suit coat; a CUSTOMER hands a ticket to a CLERK; a steam press HISSES as a SWEATY MAN in a T-shirt irons a pair of pants.

IN THE BACK

Roa stands on a footstool before a full-length mirror. The TAILOR adjusts the cuffs on his pants.

TAILOR Okay, Mr. Roa. I'm done.

Roa steps off the footstool. He walks to a curtain and slides it open, revealing a tiny Dressing Room. Roa enters the...

DRESSING ROOM

And closes the curtain; his old suit is on a hangar.

As he changes into it, a pair of BROWN OXFORD SHOES appear outside and beneath the curtain. (The men speak sotto voce.)

> ELIAN (0.S.) Something new for your change of venue?

ROA Huh? Oh, it's you.

ELIAN (O.S.) You'll be happy to know the State Department has agreed to supply you with a letter certifying our defection offer.

Roa is reticent and doesn't answer. He continues dressing.

ELIAN (O.S.) (CONT'D) Just to confirm, the lift is on for tomorrow when you're at the U.N.

ROA Stevenson did not back down.

ELIAN (O.S.) We told you he wouldn't.

ROA Yes... When the invasion fails, the CIA will have me as a propaganda coup. And Castro will know my defection was part of your plan.

ELIAN (O.S.)

So?

ROA You bastard... That means a death sentence for my family and me!

ELIAN (O.S.) I meant, what are you worried about? You'll be protected.

ROA By whom, the CIA?

ELIAN (O.S.) Of course. Who do you think?

ROA

You don't want to know what I think. Look, let's just say I've changed my mind. I'm not coming over. ELIAN You can't do that! It's all set up!

ROA I'm sure it is.

ELIAN What's going on here, Roa?

# ROA

(has had enough) The U.S. needed a bogeyman in Cuba, so they got one in Castro. The Soviets needed one, too - but you already knew that, didn't you?

ELIAN (O.S.) What are you talking about?

ROA When the CIA learns you're a double agent, I'll be suspect - a dead man. That's not going to happen.

ELIAN You've got this all wrong, Roa.

ROA Just shut up and get out of here! And don't contact me again!

The Brown Oxfords quickly retreat from under the curtain. The TAP of the shoes on the floor quickly grows faint.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - DAY

Stock footage of the Washington Monument.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY

Another view of the compound.

INT. MOYLAND'S OFFICE

KEVIN MOYLAND is on his Gray phone, clearly angry. On his desk is a SECRET memo entitled "Is Time on Our Side in Cuba?"

> MOYLAND So he cancels at the last minute?! That goddamn spic...

ELIAN (O.S.) I tried to change his mind but...

MOYLAND What if I talk to him? S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act II 20.

ELIAN (O.S.) He said not to contact him again.

MOYLAND (huffs and flips through the memo) This couldn't have come at a worse time. Alright, get back here.

He hangs up and picks up the Red phone.

INT. KENSINGTON'S OFFICE - DAY

Kensington is harried as he listens on the Red phone; the same SECRET memo "Is Time on Our Side in Cuba?" lies on his desk.

KENSINGTON I can't deal with this now, Kevin! Just take care of it, alright?!

He hangs up. There's a KNOCK on the door; KENSINGTON'S AIDE peeks in.

KENSINGTON'S AIDE Mr. Bethune is here.

Bethune enters wearing a trench coat and sits. Kensington's Aide leaves, closing the door.

BETHUNE I just got back from the Pentagon. JCS will monitor events from there.

Kensington nods absently. Bethune studies him.

BETHUNE (CONT'D) Did the Cuban Revolutionary Council finish their mission statement?

KENSINGTON Yes, they're calling it a manifesto.

BETHUNE What is wrong with these people?

KENSINGTON I sent it over to Schlesinger. Let him deal with the damn thing.

BETHUNE You should've let me see it first... Anything else I should know about?

KENSINGTON I just spoke with Moyland. Raul Roa canceled the lift. BETHUNE

Why?!

KENSINGTON He doubts JMATE will succeed. He's also worried Castro will mark him and his family for assassination.

BETHUNE Dammit! Roa's the centerpiece of Phillip's propaganda strategy.

KENSINGTON I know! But that's not the half of it. Here.

He hands Bethune the memo.

KENSINGTON (CONT'D) The Board of National Estimates just sent that out. They've concluded Castro is likely to grow <u>stronger</u> rather than weaker as time goes on.

BETHUNE Can anything else go wrong here?

# KENSINGTON

The BIGOT list is restricted to us and the third floor. But Moyland's worried word will still get out.

### BETHUNE

I don't blame him. With all the leaks around here, Kennedy could have his own copy by now. So where is Moyland?

KENSINGTON He went to see Schlesinger.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Stock footage of the West Wing.

INT. ARTHUR SCHLESINGER'S OFFICE

Typically plush. Schlesinger is there with Moyland.

SCHLESINGER Why wasn't someone at this Board of National Estimates told about the Cuban Project?

MOYLAND So they could disseminate eyewash.

# SCHLESINGER Huh? What the hell is eyewash?

# MOYLAND

It's an internal communication that contains false information about an operation. It's a security measure, a way of protecting secrets by inserting fake communications into routine cable traffic. It's another form of compartmentalization.

# SCHLESINGER

You deceive your own people?

### MOYLAND

And anyone else who might intercept the cables.

SCHLESINGER

So how do you know what's eyewash and what isn't?

# MOYLAND

A second communication with the real instructions gets sent to a restricted list of people, what we call a BIGOT list.

# SCHLESINGER

Spookspeak... Orwell warned us about you people. This better be the last snag, Moyland.

He stands; Moyland does the same.

MOYLAND It is. Thank you, Mr. Schlesinger. I'm just trying to keep us all on the same page.

Schlesinger nods; Moyland leaves. MISS POTTER, Schlesinger's secretary, enters carrying a folder.

POTTER This came from Stewart Kensington.

Potter hands Schlesinger the folder and leaves. He opens it. The top page reads "Cuban Revolutionary Council/Manifesto."

> SCHLESINGER Manifesto? (reads it, appalled) This thing reads like an assignment at some communist reeducation camp! (MORE)

S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act II 23.

SCHLESINGER (CONT'D) What sort of people are we sending back to Havana?

POTTER Are you going to tell the president?

SCHLESINGER Yesterday I asked him what he thought about the invasion. Know what he said? 'I think about it as little as possible, Art'... Get Plank over at Harvard Law School on the phone. I'll ask him to rewrite this mess.

EXT. STREET CORNER - PHONE BOOTH - DAY

The U.N. tower looms in the background. WE SEE the back of Elian as he hangs up the phone. He steps out; his BROWN OXFORD SHOES disappear among the footwear in the crowd of people.

EXT. COLUMBIA HEIGHTS (WASHINGTON, D.C.) - STREET - DAY

Familiar middle-class rowhouses line the street. Almost everyone is at work, leaving the street virtually empty.

ROWHOUSE - SECOND-FLOOR WINDOW

The VENETIAN BLINDS are pulled halfway up.

INT. ROWHOUSE - FIRST-FLOOR

Elderly MR. ROSE watches "The Price Is Right" on TV. He barely pays attention to the Man climbing the stairs.

SECOND-FLOOR ROOM

Ambient light from the window fills the room. On the table the R-350M Burst Transmitter/Receiver sits with its Message Puncher and numeric keypad. A roll of 35mm film advances through the Message Puncher as THE HANDS of the Man press the numeric keys.

EXT. SOVIET EMBASSY - DAY

The sign on the gate of the compound reads "Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics" in English and Cyrillic.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

YURI GVOZDEV meanders about the room; he's clearly worried. DINA stands at his desk. (They speak Russian.)

GVOZDEV Posol Roa rasskazhet TSRU ob Elian? S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act II 24.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Will Ambassador Roa tell the CIA about Elian?"

DINA Ya tak ne dumayu. On volnuyetsya, yesli on chto-nibud' skazhet TSRU, on vernetsya v Kastro.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "I don't think so. He's worried if he says anything to the CIA, it will get back to Castro."

GVOZDEV I Roa ne peredumayet?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "And Roa won't change his mind?"

DINA Nyet. Vot pochemu Elian skazal svoim khozyayevam v TSRU.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "No. That's why Elian told his CIA masters."

GVOZDEV

Amerikantsy nuzhdayutsya v otstuplenii Roa, chtoby pridat' legitimnost' ikh zayavleniyu, chto kubinskiye chinovniki ustali ot Kastro.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "The Americans need Roa's defection to give legitimacy to their claim that Cuban officials have tired of Castro."

DINA

I my tozhe.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "So do we."

GVOZDEV Gde seychas Elian?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Where's Elian now?"

DINA On vozvrashchayetsya v Vashington.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "On his way back to Washington."

GVOZDEV Planirovshchiki, veroyatno, budut dvigat'sya, chtoby obespechit' vtorzheniye.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "The planners are likely to move to insure the invasion takes place."

S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act II 25.

DINA Imeyu li ya vashi polnomochiya protivostoyat'?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Do I have your authority to countermove?" Gvozdev nods. Dina leaves.

MID-SHOW BREAK

EXT. FOGGY BOTTOM (WASHINGTON, D.C.) - OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Stock footage of a period office building.

INT. CORRIDOR - OFFICE DOOR

A stenciled sign reads "Organization of Retired Air Force Officers." The phone RINGS O.S.

DEAN (O.S.) Organization of Retired Air Force Officers, Dean speaking...

# OFFICE

Typical. DEAN is at his desk, speaking into the phone.

DEAN Yes, I remember. What can I do for you?... When?... Five o'clock's fine. Where? (writes the address on a notepad) Right, I'll see you then.

He hangs up and tears off the sheet with the address. He looks up at the TWO MEN sitting opposite him - the same Two Men he met outside the Congressional Dining Room.

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

Another view of the compound.

INT. THE HOLE

Latham speaks to Bazzo and DiLauria, who eat lunch.

LATHAM Fiona believes Kensington's already made deals, using Dean as his conduit.

BAZZO Why did Kennedy approve JMATE if he already felt it was too big?

### LATHAM

Initially, Kensington and Bethune soft-pedaled the plan, presenting it as an exile operation assisted by six B-26 bombers without tags. When Kennedy learned the full scope, he forced them to scale it back.

#### DILAURIA

But you and D-Int believe the Op's intended to fail.

# LATHAM

With the blowback being the impetus to increase defense spending.

# DILAURIA

You think Kensington and his pals are in on it?

## LATHAM

No. They're convinced Cuba will be a repeat of Guatemala.

### DILAURIA

Then that's it, isn't it? There's no way to stop it.

# LATHAM

<u>We still have to try</u>. Now, I want you two to start digging through the Miami station's SITREPS.

BAZZO What are we looking for?

# LATHAM

A timeline - any phase of the Op occurring after the leaflets and before the brigade lands. Look for something embarrassing enough to force Kennedy to cancel JMATE. Call Brent Hayden over at Security. He'll bring over the SITREPS.

#### BAZZO

Hayden? What if he tells Kensington?

#### LATHAM

He won't. I've convinced him there's a mole. Now get a move on. I want something on my desk before close of play.

Bazzo and DiLauria push their lunch aside. Bazzo picks up the Red phone as Latham leaves.

S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act II 27.

EXT. "JOE AND NEMO'S HAMBURGER STAND" - DAY

Latham pays for his lunch at the Take-out Window. As he leaves, a WELL-DRESSED MAN walks by and bumps into him.

# WELL-DRESSED MAN

Sorry.

He walks away. Latham crosses the street, and enters...

SAMUEL GOMPERS PARK

He reaches into his coat pocket and pulls out a folded slip of paper. He pauses and reads it: "JMA, AMA - COUNT THE PLANES." Puzzled, he pockets the slip of paper and walks deeper into the park to a...

WOODEN BENCH

Where Jones sits eating a Chunky.

LATHAM What are you eating?

JONES A Chunky - it's great. It's got chocolate, raisins, peanuts...

LATHAM

I know what's in it.

He hands Jones a fountain drink then a hamburger. Jones eyes the hamburger.

JONES That's more than I can say for this.

LATHAM Then let me give you a hint. Back when it was alive, it said 'moo.'

JONES So that's what I keep hearing... By the way, I got one for you.

He hands a Chunky to Latham who pockets it. Jones sips the fountain drink and SQUINCHES.

JONES (CONT'D) What is this?

LATHAM Diet Rite Cola. You've been looking a little 'chunky' yourself lately.

Jones sticks out his tongue at Latham then starts eating.

JONES You heard what happened at the U.N. today between Stevenson and Roa?

LATHAM Let me guess... Stevenson was asked if he knew anything about plans to invade Cuba. He said no.

JONES But what if he's telling the truth?

Latham arches an eyebrow.

JONES (CONT'D) What if everything Stevenson has said about the invasion is a lie but he doesn't <u>know</u> he's lying?

Taken aback, Latham stops eating.

LATHAM You think Kennedy hasn't told him about the invasion?

JONES

No, I don't.

#### LATHAM

Why?

# JONES

He doesn't trust him. And there's certainly no love lost there. Remember when Stevenson wouldn't select him as his running mate?

LATHAM That was five years ago, Larry.

JONES I'll bet Kennedy hasn't forgotten.

LATHAM Stevenson's weak, but I can't believe Kennedy would go that far.

JONES Look, when the invasion fails, Stevenson will be humiliated.

LATHAM Yeah, and Kennedy too. JONES Exactly. And when it's all over, who do you think will end up looking like heroes, Kennedy or his military hardliners?

LATHAM (realizes...) Geezus, both men are being played.

JONES The people want heroes, Warren. They could care less if their government is being hijacked.

Latham suddenly remembers something and reaches into his coat pocket. He takes out the slip of paper and hands it to Jones.

LATHAM What do you make of it?

# JONES

(reads it aloud) 'JMA, AMA - COUNT THE PLANES'... 'Count the planes' is obvious enough. JMA and AMA...

# LATHAM

What if they're José Martí and Antonio Maceo Airports? They're targets for the air strike to take out Castro's air force. If the mole's passed this information on...

JONES

Castro might wait until the last minute to move his planes. I'll ask Havana to check them both.

Both men quickly stand and leave in opposite directions. Jones tosses his lunch into a trash basket.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

Bazzo is there holding a notepad and looking over Collette's shoulder as she transcribes. Latham enters.

BAZZO (enthused) I think I have something.

Latham looks hopeful. He and Bazzo enter...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Bazzo sits. As Latham doffs his coat...

BAZZO Remember that Marxist group that supported General Arbenz?

# LATHAM

(sits) The Guatemalan Workers' Party. Four million people in that leftist country and they barely had 5,000 members.

#### BAZZO

Their financial dealings with the Soviets weren't exactly the stuff of Wall Street legend - \$22.95 for some Marxist pamphlets they ordered. But, it was enough to convince Ike that Arbenz was a communist.

#### LATHAM

No, that was United Fruit. They stood to lose 40% of their land under Arbenz's land reform policy. The Guatemalan Workers' Party was just a convenient excuse for regime change. So, what do they have to do with Cuba?

### BAZZO

One of the SITREPS cites an item from their newsletter.

(refers to his notepad) It said 200 tons of bombs, explosives and arms were taken off an American ship docked in the port of Champerico and delivered to the U.S. training base in Retalhuleu.

This gets Latham's rapt attention.

#### BAZZO (CONT'D)

I checked with D-Int and he said that three Latin American newspapers had picked up the story.

#### LATHAM

I don't know if that's enough.

#### BAZZO

There's also a Times reporter who told Ed Murrow, head of the U.S. Information Agency, that operations are underway to invade Cuba, backed and planned by CIA.

Latham shakes his head in disbelief.

BAZZO (CONT'D) Murrow called the DDP, who confirmed the story.

LATHAM

Great.

BAZZO But he didn't go into detail.

LATHAM Oh, that'll keep the press guessing.

BAZZO Anyway, the Times said it would hold off printing the story if Murrow could be persuaded to hold press briefings in Miami, following the landing at the Bay of Pigs.

LATHAM (sighs resignedly) Okay, write it up.

Pleased, Bazzo nods and leaves. Latham presses the intercom.

COLLETTE (O.S.)

Yes?

LATHAM Call the White House. Tell Bisset I need to see him tonight. And tell him it's urgent.

EXT. HAVANA, CUBA - BOULEVARD - DAY

On a main thoroughfare, an early 1950s CHEVROLET SEDAN passes beneath a banner suspended over the roadway. It bears a Cuban flag and reads "REVOLUCION/ES UNIDAD, ES INDEPENDENCIA."

JOSÉ MARTÍ AIRPORT

A sign over the Control Tower reads "AEROPUERTO INTERNACIONAL/ JOSE MARTI - HABANA."

RING ROAD

The Chevrolet Sedan travels around the perimeter of the Airport, stopping at the farthest reach of the tarmac.

INT. CHEVROLET SEDAN

TWO MI6 OFFICERS in Guayabera shirts surveil the Airport. The driver, MI6 OFFICER #1, uses binoculars.

S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act II 32.

MI6 OFFICER #1'S P.O.V. - TARMAC - BINOCULARS MATTE

Three B-26C planes are parked. The nose on these planes is TRANSPARENT PLASTIC. Two more B-26C planes are towed onto the tarmac, their engines removed for servicing.

MI6 OFFICER #1 (O.S.) Three bombers, plus two more being towed onto the tarmac. They're all Douglas B-26C Invaders. The two being towed don't have any engines.

BACK TO SCENE

MI6 Officer #1 lowers his binoculars. MI6 OFFICER #2 writes the information in his notepad.

MI6 OFFICER #2 When the CIA flew reconnaissance here two days ago, there were 18 planes in Castro's air force.

MI6 OFFICER #1 Hmm... Let's get back and see what they counted at Antonio Maceo.

EXT. RING ROAD

The Chevrolet Sedan drives off.

EXT. 2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY - DAY (DUSK)

Several CIA employees leave work while the evening shift enters through Gate #1.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE

The door is open. Latham is on the Gray phone.

LATHAM Only 12 planes total?

INT. MI6 OFFICE

Jones is there on the phone. Fiona is busy writing.

JONES At both airports. They were all bombers, Douglas B-26C Invaders.

CROSSCUT LATHAM WITH JONES

LATHAM Wait - B-26C's? They're the ones with the transparent nose, right? JONES That's right.

LATHAM Damnit! Kensington ordered  $\underline{B-26B's}$  for the air strike, the ones with the solid nose.

JONES

No way now you can say Castro's air force turned on him and hit their own airfields.

LATHAM I'll talk to you later, Larry.

JONES (0.S.)

Right.

Frustrated, Latham hangs up. Collette enters.

COLLETTE Bisset's tied up in meetings. The earliest he can meet you is 22:00 at his house. Is that enough time?

LATHAM

Barely. The air strike's at 04:00. Why don't you go on home.

COLLETTE I can stay around for as long as you need me.

LATHAM Thanks, but no. I'll see you Monday.

Collette nods sympathetically and leaves.

EXT. "BOB AND EDITH'S" DINER - DAY (DUSK)

An enticing greasy spoon situated in the suburbs. In a window booth, Dean meets over coffee with a MAN whose face is obscured by a support post.

COLUMBIA PIKE - ACROSS FROM THE DINER

Parked in a 1957 FORD SEDAN watching the meeting are the Two Men from Dean's office.

DINER

Dean gets up and leaves. He crosses the street and gets into the backseat of the Ford Sedan, which drives off.

I/E. FORD SEDAN

As they drive along Columbia Pike ...

DEAN

He spoke with Bisset's Admin. She told him Latham asked to see Bisset, but he's tied up until late. So he agreed to meet Latham at his place at 22:00. That gives you until 21:00.

EXT. EL HELVETIA, GUATEMALA - FORT TRAX - DAY (DUSK)

Near the flag of Brigade 2506, a BRIGADE MEMBER sits alone, his back against a tree, writing in his journal:

### MI TESTAMENTO POLÍTICO:

INSERT TRANSLATION: "MY POLITICAL TESTAMENT"

Esta lucha que estamos emprendiendo puede marcar un nuevo período en la historia de Cuba. No buscamos derrocar una tiranía más; buscamos extirpar las raíces de un monstruo internacional que intenta absorber el mundo libre.

(The English translation below is spoken as he writes.)

BRIGADE MEMBER (V.O.) This struggle that we are undertaking may mark a new period in Cuban history. We do not seek to overthrow one more tyranny; we seek to extirpate the roots of an international monster that intends to absorb the free world.

## ACT THREE

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - BRITISH EMBASSY COMPOUND - NIGHT

Stock footage of the 1950s structures. Fiona leaves the main building and boards a bus on Massachusetts Avenue.

3RD STREET, NW - NIGHT

Fiona gets off the bus, a block from Latham's apartment building, #704. It's the hour when traffic is light; people are inside eating dinner and glued to their TV sets.

She passes a 1957 Ford Sedan parked near the corner. The car is empty. Fiona approaches the side of the building where the Service Entrance is buried in darkness. S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act III 35.

Suddenly, seemingly from nowhere, the Two Men grab her. MAN #1 covers her mouth tightly. MAN #2 quickly punches her in the stomach. Fiona doubles over. They drag her through the Service Entrance door.

INT. BASEMENT

Barely lit by one low-wattage bulb. The door CREAKS as it closes. Man #1 pins Fiona's arms behind her back. Man #2 pulls a switchblade from his pocket. Fiona STOMPS a spiked heel on the foot of Man #1. He YOWLS in pain and releases her.

Before Man #2 can react, he is distracted by someone racing in through the Service Entrance door - Dina. She WHIPS A BLACKJACK across his wrist. He drops the switchblade. Dina smashes the blackjack across Man #2's face several times then kicks him in the groin. He falls to the floor.

Meanwhile, Fiona whirls around and jabs Man #1 in the eyes, karate chops him across the throat and kicks him in the groin. Dina smashes Man #1 over the head with her blackjack - he crumples to the floor. Fiona STOMPS and GRINDS her high heels into his groin. Both Men writhe in excruciating pain.

> FIONA (to Dina, panting) Thank you. (recognizes everyone) I know these two - and I know you. The Soviet Rezident... Dina, right?

DINA (panting but hyper) We have to finish them off.

FIONA We can't do it here!

DINA No, I mean we have to make sure they never try this again. But first I want to ask them something.

Dina grabs the switchblade Man #2 dropped. She SLAPS him until he comes around, then puts the knife to his left eye.

DINA (CONT'D) Why did you attack her?

MAN #2 (struggles to speak) Send Latham a warning: Don't stop the invasion.

FIONA How does that send him a warning? MAN #2 We cut your face all up, tell the boss. He calls Latham. If he doesn't stop, then we kill you.

FIONA You sick bastards.

Dina pulls brass knuckles from her pocket.

DINA

Here.

She hands them to Fiona who puts them on. Dina VICIOUSLY BEATS Man #2 with the Blackjack until his face is a bloody pulp. Fiona pummels Man #1. Both men lie barely alive - and unrecognizable.

Exhausted, Dina goes to the door, opens it and peeks out. She looks back and motions to Fiona to follow her outside.

EXT. 3RD STREET, NW

Fiona and Dina walk by the front of the apartment building.

FIONA Were you following me?

DINA No, those two.

FIONA Who put you on to them?

DINA Yuri Gvozdev. But now I think you must tell Latham not to interfere with the Bay of Pigs invasion.

FIONA

Why?

### DINA

Escalating this Cold War means increasing weapons production. We can sell them on the world market at enormous profit, just as both your countries intend to do.

FIONA Really. And I thought your slogan was 'peace, bread and work.'

DINA I could have let them disfigure you, Fiona. (MORE) DINA (CONT'D) But you have a saying in English, 'Blood is thicker than water.' And Gvozdev believes he and Latham share the same blood.

FIONA (ruefully) Latham is trying to stop this escalation by himself.

DINA

He can't; no one can. Cuba is the flashpoint - and these men will do anything to keep it that way. What happened to you and more will happen to anyone who stands in the way of these profiteers.

Fiona relents and nods. She understands the dilemma they face.

DINA (CONT'D) Now go, call your man. Tell him everything. I have to call police and anonymously report an attempted rape.

Dina enters a phone booth on the corner while Fiona turns and walks to the front door of apartment building #704.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham is on the Gray phone; he's very upset but trying to control himself.

LATHAM Where are those two now?

INT. LATHAM'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

Fiona sits on the sofa, speaking into the phone. She holds a pillow to her stomach.

FIONA

In hospital.

CROSSCUT LATHAM WITH FIONA

LATHAM

Which one?

FIONA

I don't know.

LATHAM Never mind. I can find out myself. FIONA Don't. I told you, Dina and I already took care of that.

LATHAM Yeah, and now I owe Gvozdev.

FIONA This isn't quid pro quo, Warren.

### LATHAM

No?

FIONA (annoyed) No! Dina was relaying the facts of life. And I believe Gvozdev genuinely is your friend. You're going to have to deal with your own jaded views on this and decide for yourself what to do!

There's a CLICK - Fiona has hung up. Latham is in a quandary. Fiona's words have struck a nerve. After a moment, Latham hurries to his desk. He puts a sheet of paper into his typewriter and starts typing.

INT. BUILDING - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

It's after business hours - dim, interior night lights are on. WE FOLLOW behind a Man as he walks to an office door on which "Organization of Retired Air Force Officers" is stenciled. He tries the doorknob - it's unlocked. He opens the door and enters an anteroom. The lights are on behind the closed, frosted glass of an OFFICE DOOR. "I've Got You Under My Skin" sung by Frank Sinatra comes from inside the...

## OFFICE

A portable radio sits atop a file cabinet. Dean sits at his desk reading the Washington Evening Star. His office door opens with a CREAK. Dean looks up and lowers the newspaper his face a mask of abject terror. Latham stands there holding an M1911 pistol with a silencer.

#### LATHAM

Get up.

Dean drops the newspaper and stands. Latham glances about.

LATHAM (CONT'D) Hands behind your head.

Dean clasps his hands behind his head.

S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act III 39.

DEAN Latham, don't...

LATHAM Go over and face the wall, the one with Kennedy's picture.

Dean nervously stands and crosses to the wall.

DEAN

Please...

LATHAM

Take a step back. Lean forward, hands and face on the wall.

Latham shoves him in the back. Dean's head and hands THUMP on the wall. Latham puts his M1911 to the back of Dean's head.

LATHAM (CONT'D) Spread your arms...

Dean spreads his arms.

LATHAM (CONT'D) Now your feet.

Dean awkwardly slides his feet apart. Latham keeps the M1911 on Dean and pats him down. Dean has no weapons. Latham pulls a pair of handcuffs from his pocket. He cuffs one of Dean's wrists and yanks it behind Dean's back. He grabs Dean by the collar and stands him up.

> LATHAM (CONT'D) Give me your other hand.

Dean puts his other hand behind his back. Latham cuffs the wrist and spins Dean around.

LATHAM (CONT'D) Take a seat.

Dean flops on the floor, his back against the wall. Latham pulls a switchblade knife from his pocket and FLIPS it open.

LATHAM (CONT'D) Your boys never got to use theirs.

DEAN

Oh, God...

LATHAM Time for some Q and A, Dean. Why'd you choose tonight to sic your goons on Fiona? S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act III 40.

DEAN To stop you from talking to Bisset.

LATHAM

How'd you know about that?

Dean is so frightened he shakes. Latham suddenly realizes...

LATHAM (CONT'D) Someone from the Agency told you... That's where you get your marching orders, isn't it?

DEAN

Yes.

Latham mulls things over then pulls two envelopes from his suitcoat pocket.

LATHAM

Here's two letters of resignation
for you to sign - one's for your
job here, the other's for North
American Aerospace. You're also
going to tell me who you report to
at the Agency. Otherwise...
 (brandishes the knife)
No one will recognize you.
 (moves the knife to Dean's
 crotch)
They won't even know you were once
a man.

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

Most of the apartment windows are either dark or have glints from late-night television shows.

INT. LATHAM'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

The 1945 film "Dead of Night" is on television. The toilet FLUSHES O.S. Fiona enters in her pajamas and sits on the couch. She grabs a throw pillow, holds it against her stomach and draws her knees up to the pillow. The apartment door lock CLICKS; the door SQUEAKS open and shuts. Latham enters. He hangs up his coat and sits on the couch. There is still tension between them from their last conversation.

> FIONA What did Bisset have to say?

LATHAM I called it off. Kennedy already has enough to cancel the operation but he let it go on anyway. (MORE) S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act III 41.

LATHAM (CONT'D) Anything I have to say wouldn't matter.

FIONA That's why you didn't meet with Bisset?

LATHAM Geezus, I wanted to stop this. Why is that so wrong?

FIONA No one's saying it is. But you're not Almighty God, even though you people think of yourselves that way.

The truth embarrasses Latham.

FIONA (CONT'D) The world doesn't march to your tune. Not anymore.

LATHAM (ruefully) How does it feel to have to teach an adult the facts of life?

Fiona hooks Latham's arm and leans against him.

LATHAM (CONT'D) I'm sorry.

FIONA At least you still have faith that what you do is right.

LATHAM I have faith in you. Right now that's all that matters.

He kisses her hand.

LATHAM (CONT'D) How's your back?

Fiona suddenly grows melancholy.

FIONA Better. Warren... I just got my period.

LATHAM

So late?

Fiona starts to cry.

Latham puts his arm around her and holds her close - close enough so she can't see his disappointment.

LATHAM (CONT'D) It's alright, hon.

# FIONA

I'm sorry.

# LATHAM

No, no, don't say that. There's nothing to be sorry about.

FIONA You were so happy when you thought I was pregnant.

LATHAM It'll happen. We have plenty of time. As long as we're together, I'm happy. I'm very happy.

BEDROOM - LATER

It's still night outside. Latham lies on his back; Fiona has her head on his chest. Both are asleep. The phone RINGS, waking them both. Latham looks at the clock - 4:15 AM. He knows something is wrong and quickly gets up.

LIVING ROOM

The Red Light on the phone BLINKS as it RINGS. Latham toggles the switch and answers the call.

## LATHAM

Latham...

INT. COCKROACH ALLEY - OPERATIONS ROOM

A louder than usual PURL of ringing phones, teletype machines, and chatter - augmented over the loudspeakers by anti-aircraft fire, explosions and the harried voices of the predawn air strike of Cuba.

NIGHT DUTY OFFICERS JAMES OWENS and PETE FARRELL man the Duty Desk. Behind them, MISSION PLANNING'S WILSON BRADLEY is on an open line. Across the room sit Kensington and Bethune. Both are anxious and focused on the air strike chatter.

> OWENS It's Owens in the Ops Room, sir. Something's gone wrong with the air strike.

CROSSCUT LATHAM WITH OWENS

S2, Ep. #5 "The 11th Hour" Rev. 3/18/2023 Act III 43.

PILOT #1 (O.S.) There's a lot of flak. More than expected. I've been hit!

Farrell walks over to Bethune and Kensington.

### FARRELL

Mr. Kensington, do you want the planes to pull back and regroup?

Kensington appears too overwhelmed to respond. Farrell turns to Bethune.

FARRELL (CONT'D) Mr. Bethune?

BETHUNE We can order a follow-up strike later, Stewart.

Kensington hesitates.

BETHUNE (CONT'D)

Stewart?

KENSINGTON I know! Let's wait and see.

PILOT #2 (O.S.) I can see holes in both wings!

Bethune looks up at Farrell who nods slightly. Farrell then looks at Owens and quickly nods.

LATHAM Did Kensington ask for me?

Owens puts a finger to his open ear to better hear Latham.

OWENS No, but there is consensus that he could benefit from your experience.

PILOT #1 (O.S.) Let's get out of here and go home!

LATHAM Alright, I'm coming in.

Latham hangs up. He goes into the ...

BEDROOM

Fiona is sitting up.

LATHAM There's a problem with the Cuban Op. The duty Desk has asked for my help.

FIONA I guessed as much. What about Kensington?

LATHAM He can fire me afterwards.

Latham hurries into the bathroom.

EXT. MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAWN

INSERT: "Miami International Airport"

Stock footage of a bullet-riddled B-26C landing.

ON THE TARMAC

POLICE, REPORTERS, AIRPORT OFFICIALS and Montoya greet the plane. It's CUBAN PILOT and his THREE COMRADES walk down the plane's steps and up to the assembled throng.

REPORTER #1 You're Cuban air force pilots?

CUBAN PILOT Yes. My comrades and I stole one of our planes to come here.

REPORTER #1 You mean you defected?

CUBAN PILOT

Que?

MONTOYA Has desertado a los Estados Unidos.

CUBAN PILOT Yes, we have defected. During the attack on Castro's airfields, we decided to join in and help the exiles. We were hit by antiaircraft fire. We were also low on fuel, so we aborted our attack and flew here to Miami.

REPORTER #2 walks up to the plane. He's clearly dubious.

REPORTER #2 You know, I flew B-26's in The War. Your guns don't look to me like they've ever been fired. The Cubans look nervously at each other.

REPORTER #1 You say you defected in one of your own bombers. Is that correct?

CUBAN PILOT

Yes.

REPORTER #2 Really. Castro's planes are B-26C's; they have that clear plastic nose. Yours are solid metal.

Montoya hurries over to the Airport Officials. (He speaks to them in Spanish.)

MONTOYA Saca a estos hombres de aquí! Asegúrelos en la torre de control. Pon los reporteros en la terminal.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Get these men out of here! Secure them in the control tower. Put the reporters in the terminal."

AIRPORT OFFICIAL #1 Sorry, but we need to get these men off the tarmac for safety reasons. If you'll go inside the terminal...

Airport Official #1 and his men escort the "Cuban Pilots" to the Control Tower while the Police guide Reporters into the terminal.

INT. COCKROACH ALLEY - OPERATIONS ROOM

The 24-hour wall clock reads 05:30. Everyone is tense and worried. Bradley still has his Red phone to his ear. Latham enters to an obvious show of relief among the staff. Bethune nods at Latham but Kensington is furious.

> KENSINGTON What are you doing here?

LATHAM As long as I'm head of Domestic Operations I'll oversee what happens here.

AT ONE OF SEVERAL TELETYPE MACHINES

A CIA OFFICER rips a report off the teletype and hands it to Latham who reads it aloud.

### LATHAM

'The Cuban delegation at the U.N. has received instructions to accuse directly the government of the United States for this aggression against Cuba. Castro announces that all militia and army units have been mobilized and placed on a state of alert.' This is a quote from Castro: 'If this air attack is the prelude to an invasion, the country is ready to struggle and will resist and destroy with an iron hand whatever force tries to land in our country.'

Berard enters. Kensington is mortified.

#### BERARD

My Aide called me at home. He told me there are problems with the air strike. I want to see if I can help.

#### LATHAM

I just got here myself, sir. It looks as though Castro's air force was prepared for the air strike.

#### BRADLEY

(announces) Our planes are pulling back.

KENSINGTON We should order a follow-up strike.

## LATHAM

First, order a fly-over to assess how much damage was inflicted. There might not be anything left to bomb there.

Bradley waves his hand to get attention.

### BRADLEY

Mr. Latham, Nino Diaz is about to lead a group of 160 men in a diversionary landing 30 miles east of Guantanamo. He's told JMWAVE that three of his boats have been sunk, his reconnaissance boat hasn't shown up, and there are no dissidents waiting for him on shore.

Kensington and Bethune are aghast.

LATHAM Abort the landing.

KENSINGTON How dare you?!

LATHAM It's an ambush, damnit! Castro's forces are waiting for them! Tell him, Wilson.

BRADLEY (into phone) Abort the landing. Repeat, abort the landing.

Berard sees that Latham has taken over control.

BERARD I'll be in my office.

He leaves.

KENSINGTON We needed that diversion, Warren.

LATHAM

It's already lost. The best you can do now is have them regroup with the main invasion force.

BRADLEY

JMWAVE reports that a B-26 landed at Miami International claiming to have four defectors from the Cuban air force.

KENSINGTON Ah, good! They made it.

#### BRADLEY

The Cubans say they've switched allegiance, joining the exiles in the air strike to bomb their own airfields.

Kensington beams proudly and smugly. Bethune looks relieved.

BRADLEY (CONT'D) One of the reporters who met the plane piloted B-26's in The War. He says the plane's guns hadn't been fired.

KENSINGTON He's made a mistake. BRADLEY He also says the Cubans arrived in a B-26B, the one with a solid metal nose. Castro's air force only uses-

LATHAM <u>B-26C's</u>, the ones with a clear plastic nose.

BRADLEY I'm told Montoya hustled the Cubans out of there, but now the press believe the whole thing was staged.

Kensington turns pale. The Red phone RINGS; Owens answers it.

OWENS

0-4-3-3...

Latham turns to Kensington and Bethune.

LATHAM I think it's time you brought me up to date on your Cuban Project.

Bethune nods his agreement.

OWENS (into phone) Alright, I'll tell him. (hangs up) That was MI6's Havana station. Havana radio reports an arrest of an internal resistance group led by an American, Howard Anderson.

Kensington is crestfallen.

OWENS (CONT'D) The police have recovered about eight tons of arms consisting of rifles, automatic weapons, Thompson sub-machine guns, mortars and plastic explosive.

Latham turns to Kensington.

LATHAM I hope you have a Plan B.

Latham leaves, followed by Bethune and Kensington.