

Cool Gray Dawn

Season Three, Episode #4: "The Farthest Reach"

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"The Farthest Reach"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - NIGHT

Stock footage of the Capitol Building and Washington Monument.

3RD STREET, NW - APARTMENT BUILDING #704

The light from television sets flickers in a few windows;  
otherwise, all is dark.

INT. BEDROOM

FIONA JEFFRIES and WARREN LATHAM lie in bed snuggled together  
under a top sheet.

LATHAM

I saw Minh.

FIONA

You did? Is that what you had to  
take care of?

LATHAM

Yeah. Why?

FIONA

Just asking... How was he?

LATHAM

Okay. I guess he really resembles  
me, from the way his teacher kept  
staring at us.

FIONA

So you two got a chance to talk.

LATHAM

More like a monologue. I sounded  
like one of those first-grade  
primers: 'Hi, I'm Warren Latham. I  
know your grandpa, Kao-Ly De, and  
your mother, Anne.' His teacher  
must've thought I was retarded.

FIONA

Well, those French teachers are  
pretty perceptive.

LATHAM  
(feigns being wounded)  
Don't you start now.

Fiona grins.

FIONA  
You think Anne told him about you?

LATHAM  
I doubt it. Even if she did, he would've been too young to remember. But I did give his teacher my card. I told her if Minh needed anything to call me.

FIONA  
Hmm... And you sent Moreau back to Paris?

LATHAM  
Marseilles.

FIONA  
That's right, you told me. I'm surprised you were able to get him on a plane. I'd have thought once he got to the airport, he'd scream bloody murder; declare he's being kidnapped and ask for asylum.

LATHAM  
He probably would have if he hadn't gone home in a trunk.

Fiona arches an eyebrow. Latham pulls her toward him. They kiss, and make love.

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

CIA personnel show their badges to the GUARD at the Guard Shack then enter the compound through Gate #1.

INT. BERARD'S OFFICE

WILSON BERARD, STEWART KENSINGTON, Latham and PAUL "BAZZO" BARRY are in a debriefing, with Bazzo taking the lead. Berard appears abstracted.

BAZZO  
It seems Sophia Loren and her director Vittorio de Sica were at the Berliner Ensemble.

BERARD  
I'm sorry, what did you say?

BAZZO

Sophia Loren and Vittorio de Sica  
were at the Berliner Ensemble?

BERARD

Oh, yes. Go on.

BAZZO

Dom thought all the hubbub was the  
Stasi looking for him, so he  
panicked.

KENSINGTON

And how did mandarin Two get away?

BAZZO

Carla had to kill a Grenzer to get  
outta there.

Kensington is sobered by this, while Berard appears unfocused.

BERARD

How, um, did she cross back?

BAZZO

She crawled along a dead power cable  
across both Walls and the Death  
Strip - 'till she fell off.

Berard looks perplexed.

BAZZO (CONT'D)

Her foot had slipped earlier while  
she was climbing a telephone pole.  
A spike went through her left hand.  
She held on as long as she could.

BERARD

I see. What hospital is she in?

BAZZO

Charité Hospital in West Berlin  
under the name Greta Sattler, one  
of her German working names. She  
has a broken right leg, a bruised  
lung, and that contusion on her  
left hand.

Berard winces.

KENSINGTON

Does the station know about this?

BAZZO

No, sir.

KENSINGTON

Then how did we learn where she is?

BAZZO

She made a collect call to the 600 exchange reserved for our Montreal station, then had it routed here.

BERARD

The phones in those old hospitals have no rotary dial; the hospital operator places the call for you. I'd think a long distance call would raise a few eyebrows.

BAZZO

She used a pay phone in the hall. Probably slipped an orderly a few Marks to wheel her over there.

BERARD

Hmm... Speaking of phone calls, have you heard from the NSA?

LATHAM

Is this about the telex you sent to the Berlin Number One?

BAZZO

Yes. A preliminary analysis of the trunk line shows a call was made around 4:41 AM to Lichtenberg.

BERARD

(sighs)

Stasi Headquarters... You'll prepare that brief for the I.G., Stewart?

Kensington nods. The Red phone RINGS; Berard answers it.

BERARD (CONT'D)

3-5-0-1... Yes, he's right here.

(hands Latham the phone)

It's your P.A.

LATHAM

Latham...

COLLETTE (O.S.)

SMOTH wants you to meet him at the embassy; says it's urgent.

LATHAM

Alright, tell him thirty minutes.

He hangs up.

BERARD  
Problem, Warren?

LATHAM  
SMOTH wants to meet at his office.

KENSINGTON  
It's always a problem with SMOTH.

LATHAM  
No, not always.

KENSINGTON  
Name the last time it wasn't. Every  
time you turn around MI6 has a  
Maclean or a Burgess leaking  
classified information to the KGB.

LATHAM  
Like our Berlin Number One?

BERARD  
Alright. You all have work to do,  
so let's get to it.

Kensington, Latham and Bazzo get up. Latham stays behind as  
the others leave.

LATHAM  
Sir, is everything alright?

BERARD  
An old friend of mine was kidnapped  
in Milan last night, Nate Gillis.  
He's a general. We served together  
in the Army Signal Corps in the War.

LATHAM  
Why was he in Milan?

BERARD  
He and his wife were on vacation. He  
left the hotel to buy a newspaper.  
Witnesses say three men shoved him  
into a car and drove off.

LATHAM  
I'm sorry to hear that.

BERARD  
The police and the Carabinieri are  
looking for him.

LATHAM  
Any ransom demand?

Berard shakes his head no.

LATHAM (CONT'D)  
If I can do anything, just let me  
know.

BERARD  
Thank you, Warren.

Latham leaves.

THIRD-FLOOR CORRIDOR

Bazzo is waiting for Latham who leaves Berard's office.

BAZZO  
Everything okay?

LATHAM  
I'll tell you on the way downstairs.  
What I want you to do now is call  
Cyrus Vance's office.

BAZZO  
The Secretary of the Army?

LATHAM  
Yes. I need a file photo.

EXT. 3100 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW - BRITISH EMBASSY - DAY

The Union Jack flies over the roof of the main building.

INT. MI6 OFFICE

LAWRENCE JONES (SMOTH) is at his desk. The door opens; Latham  
enters. Jones looks concerned as he shakes Latham's hand.

JONES  
Thanks for coming right over.

LATHAM  
No, thank you. Another minute and  
I'd have strangled Kensington.

JONES  
You owe me then. Want some tea?

LATHAM  
Sure. You hear any chatter about a  
kidnapping in Italy yesterday?

Jones pours Latham and himself a cup of tea.

JONES  
No, why?

LATHAM

A friend of Berard's, General Nate Gillis, was snatched in Milan.

JONES

Any ransom demand?

LATHAM

Not yet. I just thought you might've heard something.

JONES

Sorry. I do need your help though.

LATHAM

I hope it doesn't involve a mandarin; I'm one short.

JONES

Ever hear of Southern Television?

LATHAM

As in below the Mason-Dixon line?

JONES

As in broadcaster for the south of England.

LATHAM

No, but that could explain its absence from my channel listings.

He sips his tea as Jones throws him a sidelong glance.

JONES

I was referring to the time you lived in London. I thought you might have tuned into ITN.

LATHAM

I might have, if they ran cartoons.

JONES

Actually, they do. Anyway, I'm told three days ago, the news presenter Alex Graedon was reading his 5:00 news broadcast when, at 5:10, the picture starts to flutter and blur. There's a repetitive thump, like a bass drum, then Graedon's audio is overridden by this deep, mechanical voice. It delivered this message that... Well, you've got to hear it for yourself.

Jones trembles - an unconscious spasm.



LATHAM

You alright?

JONES

I'm fine... London enhanced the audio a bit and sent me a copy in the diplomatic pouch.

He pulls out a flat cardboard box from his desk drawer.

LATHAM

So you've heard it already.

JONES

Over the phone. I asked WRC-TV if they'd host playing the videotape for you and me, and they agreed.

LATHAM

Any reason other than curiosity why you want me to see it?

JONES

It may involve the CIA.

LATHAM

How?

JONES

Wait until after you've seen it. It'll make more sense to you then.

EXT. WRC-TV STUDIO FACILITIES - NEBRASKA AVENUE - DAY

A post-modern, two-story building set in a glen, with a rotary driveway. Behind it is the transmission tower.

INT. LOBBY - RECEPTION DESK

MARTY ROSS, 45, in a short-sleeve white shirt, tie and slacks, meets Latham and Jones who carries a satchel.

JONES

Marty Ross, this is Warren Latham, my friend and colleague.

Ross and Latham shake hands.

JONES (CONT'D)

Marty's worked with us before.

ROSS

I'm the head studio engineer.  
(points to the satchel)  
Is the tape in there?

JONES

Yes.

ROSS

Okay, then. Sign in and follow me.

Jones and Latham sign the Visitors Log Book; Ross countersigns then leads them through a set of double-doors.

INT. BROADCAST STUDIO

Ross, Jones, and Latham pass by a news desk set with two television cameras labeled "WRC-TV 4/NBC" and Klieg lights.

INT. CONTROL ROOM

TV monitors are arrayed side-by-side. Beneath them are several reel-to-reel, two-inch videotape recorders and players. Ross, Jones, and Latham enter.

ROSS

Like I told you, I can only give you fifteen minutes. Any special reason you didn't want anyone else here?

JONES

Until I know what's going on, I just want yours and Warren's impressions.

ROSS

Okay, let's have the tape.

Jones pulls the cardboard box from his satchel. He hands it to Ross who loads the videotape onto a player. Latham and Jones sit in chairs at the console flanking Ross who starts the videotape player.

ON A VIDEO MONITOR

ALEX GRAEDON, a 50-ish, gray-haired news presenter, sits at a desk in a simple studio news set; a TV monitor is over his left shoulder. He wears glasses and reads from a script he holds on the desk.

GRAEDON

(British accent)

...Including one man, one vote, but there are conditions. These include stopping the execution of all prisoners of war...

The image ROLLS and FLUTTERS. ELECTRONIC STATIC overlays the audio and video, which grows fuzzy. Then the THUMP, THUMP, THUMP begins.

Graedon's commentary continues, along with a commercial, all somewhat unintelligible and overridden by what follows: a deep, electronically altered voice with a British accent that, at times, competes with the newscast for clarity.

VRILLON (O.S.)

This is the voice of Vrillon, a representative of the Ashtar Galactic Command, speaking to you.

LATHAM

Ashtar Galactic Command?

JONES

Just listen.

VRILLON (O.S.)

For many years you have seen us as lights in the skies. We have watched you, as you have watched us. We speak to you now in peace and wisdom as we have done to your brothers and sisters all over your planet. But we have also come to warn you. To warn you of the fate of your race and your world if you continue on your course to disaster, one which threatens not only your world, but beings on other worlds around you.

LATHAM

I think I heard Klaatu say this in 'The Day The Earth Stood Still.'

JONES

Come on, Warren...

VRILLON (O.S.)

For you to share in this great awakening, you must pass into a New Age - a time of peace and evolution - but only if you are made aware of the evil forces that can overshadow the judgment of your rulers. Be still now and listen, for your chance may not come again. All your weapons of evil must be removed. The time for conflict is now past. Human beings may only proceed to their higher stages of evolution if you show yourselves worthy. You have but a short time to learn to live together in peace and goodwill. Some groups on your planet are learning to do this. They wish to pass on the light of this New Age.

(MORE)

VRILLON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Their teachings will help you pass to higher realms of spiritual evolution. You are free to accept or reject this. I, the voice of Vrillon, a representative of the Ashtar Galactic Command, warn you to beware of the many false prophets in your world. Their intent is evil. Listen to your inner voice; it tells you what is truth, and what is confusion, chaos and untruth. There are many beings like us already on your planet. We have done all we can to help you, but the time to accept this help and move forward is running out. Seek to live in peace and harmony, or that choice will be taken from you. We of the Ashtar Galactic Command now leave the planes of your existence. May your future be one with the Cosmos.

Graedon's distorted image is replaced by a distorted Merrie Melodies cartoon logo, followed by the Bugs Bunny cartoon "Falling Hare." The THUMP grows higher in pitch and frequency then finally stops. The video is clear and free from incident. Ross stops the videotape player.

JONES

So, Marty, what do you think?

ROSS

I've heard these gloom-and-doom intrusions on radio, but this is the first time I've seen one. Did your people do this?

JONES

No.

ROSS

Then someone's hijacked the broadcast signal.

JONES

Okay, bear with me. I was told the station's transmitter in Hannington rebroadcasts an off-air signal received from another transmitter. That's instead of being fed one directly by a land-line, whatever that means.

ROSS

It means the transmitter's susceptible to a signal intrusion.

(MORE)

ROSS (CONT'D)

But it'd have to be real close by  
to override the intended signal.

LATHAM

What type of equipment would you  
need to pull it off?

ROSS

Well... In theory, a really powerful  
ham radio could do it. But...

JONES

But what?

ROSS

I know the U.K. has a law just like  
ours that says radio and TV stations  
have to have insertion test signals.

LATHAM

What are those?

ROSS

On TV it's that test pattern you  
see, the one that reads 'Please  
Stand By.' That's so the station  
can stop the transmission in case  
there's a problem.

LATHAM

Like this.

ROSS

Yeah, like this. I wonder why the  
station didn't stop it.

JONES

I was told the Broadcast Commission  
found that neither the main TV  
transmitter at Southampton nor any  
of the engineers who monitor  
Hannington registered an illegal  
signal. In fact, they weren't even  
aware of one until they were  
informed by the commission.

ROSS

Really. We're in Twilight Zone  
territory now, folks.

EXT. WRC-TV STUDIO FACILITIES - PARKING LOT - DAY

Latham and Jones, carrying his satchel, leave the building.

JONES

That's something, huh?

LATHAM

Yeah, well, now that the show's over, what were you gonna tell me?

JONES

A month ago, Sir Douglas Whiting was at a meeting in Chelsea.

LATHAM

Whiting... The race car driver?

JONES

Yes. Also at that meeting was Albert Marvitz. You know him?

LATHAM

I know of him but never met him.

JONES

He told Sir Douglas that he had worked with a Dr. Ballard Alton on developing biochemical weapons.

EXT. FORT DETRICK, MARYLAND - MAIN GATE - DAY - PAST

Stock footage of a sign that reads "U.S. Army Fort Detrick."

INT. WARD D - DAY

BALLARD ALTON, a short, 60-ish White man in a suit, addresses a group of shackled Black Men in jeans and T-shirts who are guarded by two White military policemen.

ALTON

I'm Dr. Ballard Alton. I know you volunteered in exchange for an early release. Just the same, I wanted to thank you for participating in this polio vaccine trial.

SEALED LABORATORY CHAMBER

Several anxious convicts sit on a bench, fidgeting.

LABORATORY

A TECHNICIAN turns a valve on a gas cannister. Through a two-way mirror, the convicts can be seen growing nauseous. They fall to the floor, vomit and convulse.

JONES (V.O.)

The work was funded by the CIA.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - STATLER-HILTON HOTEL - DAY (DAWN)

Alton and his associate, PIERCE, leave the hotel.

Each carries an aluminum attache case. They head for the subway entrance.

INT. 125TH STREET SUBWAY STATION - UPTOWN PLATFORM

A train pulls into the station. Alton, Pierce and a handful of riders alight. As the train leaves, Alton moves to the end of the platform where the trains enter. Pierce crosses over to the downtown platform, packed with mostly Black people.

JONES (V.O.)

They were working with BZ, a chemical banned by NATO.

LATHAM (V.O.)

And for good reason.

The loud POP of a light bulb breaking on the platform grabs everyone's attention.

ALTON

Watches a commotion on the downtown platform as a subway train approaches. He sees a WISP of gas rise. Pierce and many others on the platform flail about, lose their balance and vomit violently, as though they were all having the same seizure.

LATHAM (V.O.)

It attacks the central nervous system. You convulse, hallucinate and then become violent.

Pierce rolls off the platform and onto the tracks in front of the oncoming train. He is run over amid SCREAMS for the conductor to "Stop the train!"

LATHAM (V.O.)

Worse, the subjects become sterile.

UPTOWN PLATFORM

Alton focuses on an approaching uptown train. As he reaches into his attache case for a light bulb, a hand TWISTS his wrist. He SCREAMS in pain and looks up to see CARLA DILAURIA yank the attache case from him. Two burly CIA OFFICERS quickly strong-arm him up the exit stairs as DiLauria follows.

JONES (V.O.)

What a bastard. Marvitz said the research ended when Alton disappeared three years ago.

EXT. WRC-TV STUDIO FACILITIES - PARKING LOT - DAY - PRESENT

Latham and Jones head toward Jones's Ford Galaxie 500 sedan.

LATHAM

TSD released Alton from his contract. Anyway, go on with this meeting.

INT. FORD GALAXIE

Jones and Latham get in.

JONES

It was at Marvitz's flat in Chelsea. There was a channeler there and-

LATHAM

Wait... A channeler?

JONES

Someone whom the spirits speak through.

LATHAM

I know what they do, Larry. So, whom was this person channeling, Vrillon?

JONES

She was, according to Sir Douglas.

LATHAM

Geezus, Larry...

JONES

I'm just telling you what happened.

LATHAM

Yeah, like you don't believe it.

JONES

I'm trying to keep an open mind. It wouldn't hurt if you did too.

LATHAM

(frustrated)

So what happened next?

JONES

Vrillon said something like, 'We conveyed to Sir Douglas Whiting and Dr. Marvitz our intent to interfere with your television systems. We will relay when we are coming close to landing on your planet. It is now in motion.' Then Vrillon said he loved them.

LATHAM

That was nice of him.



JONES

The point being, this all happened a month before Vrillon or whoever hijacked Southern TV's broadcast.

LATHAM

Presaging a network intrusion could all be part of some elaborate hoax. Why else would this Vrillon say he was contacting those two?

Jones shrugs sheepishly.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

It's a hoax, Larry. The question is, for what reason?

JONES

Is Marvitz still with you?

LATHAM

He's consulting with TSD on audio technology and remote viewing.

JONES

I heard he's working with a private group on ESP and audio technology. He's attracted some wealthy benefactors.

LATHAM

Well, if he's using patents submitted while working for TSD, that would interest us; whereas, I take it, your concern is that he's part of an alien invasion.

JONES

If Vrillon and his mates do invade us, I'll remind them you're not ready to advance to the next stage of evolution.

He starts the car and they drive away.

## ACT TWO

EXT. FORT DETRICK, MARYLAND - MAIN GATE - DAY

Stock footage of a sign that reads "U.S. Army Fort Detrick."

INT. ROOM

Windowless and well-lit, with taupe-colored walls. "GARY," 35, sits at a table with several legal pads before him.

He sips coffee from a mug labeled "This End Up" with an arrow pointing the wrong way. An Army Sergeant in uniform, the MONITOR, comes in and hands GARY a brown envelope. The Monitor sits opposite him and picks up a legal pad and a pencil.

GARY opens the envelope and pulls out a file photograph of a MAN, 60-ish, in an Army dress uniform. The photograph is captioned "General Nathan Gillis."

GARY

I have a file photograph of an older man, maybe 60, and the name 'General Nathan Gillis.'

The Monitor takes notes in shorthand.

MONITOR

Describe where the person is located, please.

GARY writes and speaks aloud his impressions.

GARY

The sun's shining... A giant crane rolls back and forth over my head... It's so noisy. Not the crane, a bulldozer. It's so loud there!

He draws a picture of a crane hoisting a metal I-bar. He adds a skeletal building structure and a trailer.

MONITOR

Where is this?

GARY

A city.... Not here... Padua.

He draws a detailed street map of the construction site, a fountain, a park, a rotary, homes and apartment buildings.

GARY (CONT'D)

Padua, Italy... A construction site has... A fountain? There's a house.

MONITOR

Go inside the house.

GARY sketches a living room and adjacent kitchen. He marks an 'X' at the adjoining wall.

GARY

There are stairs here. I can't see them clearly... Something's there... They're behind something... It's wood... It has holes or spaces... An étagère?... It's an étagère.

(MORE)

GARY (CONT'D)

The stairs go down to the basement... To a room... It's dark in there. I can barely see... There's a man there... It's hard to breathe... His wrists hurt. It's cutting into his wrists.

MONITOR

What is?

GARY

A rope. No shoes... He's barefoot.

He draws a man sitting with his hands bound behind his back.

GARY (CONT'D)

A tent... He's inside a tent.

He adds a triangular pup tent around the man.

MONITOR

Where is the tent?

GARY

In the room, downstairs... Headphones. He wears headphones.

He draws headphones on the man.

GARY (CONT'D)

The music is loud. I can't think.

MONITOR

Come out of the room. What street is the house on?

GARY marks a 'Y' on the detailed map he drew. He lays his pencil down, leans back in his chair and exhales, exhausted.

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

CIA personnel stroll across the compound.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

COLLETTE DOWD wears earphones connected to a red Dictabelt machine. She types the transcription. Bazzo enters; he points toward Latham's office. Collette nods. Bazzo KNOCKS on the door and enters...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham pores over a report as Bazzo shuts the door and sits.

LATHAM

Any trouble?

BAZZO

No. They were planning a double-blind test anyway. I told them we could verify their remote viewer's results. They said the general's picture was a perfect opportunity.

LATHAM

So they don't know what we know.

BAZZO

No.

LATHAM

Good. I asked D-Int to come and give us some background on Dr. Marvitz.

BAZZO

That consultant on MK-ULTRA?

LATHAM

Yes. You didn't happen to run into him over there at Fort Detrick?

BAZZO

No.

The intercom BUZZES; Latham answers it.

LATHAM

Yes?

COLLETTE (O.S.)

Bill Nealy's here, Sam.

LATHAM

Send him right in, Effie darling.

He hangs up. BILL NEALY enters.

NEALY

What's with the 'Sam' and 'Effie darling' bit?

Bazzo grins.

BAZZO

It's from 'The Maltese Falcon.' Sam Spade and his secretary?

NEALY

Oh. I hope movie trivia isn't the reason you wanted to see me.

LATHAM

No, Bill. Have a seat.

Nealy takes a seat.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

I believe you and Security vetted  
Albert Marvitz, the TSD consultant.

NEALY

That was a few years back. Why,  
what's up?

LATHAM

What can you tell me about him?

NEALY

Let's see... He's published a number  
of scientific papers, and he holds  
several patents. But some of his  
peers call his work fringe science  
or even pseudoscience. I've heard  
others say he's sloppy.

LATHAM

In what way?

NEALY

Take his remote viewing work... He  
left clues in target descriptions  
that allowed practically anyone to  
locate an object. And one of his  
psychics turned out to be a fraud.  
Tonight he's hosting a meeting with  
one of his private ESP subjects in  
Georgetown. I've been invited. I'll  
let you know what happens.

LATHAM

I appreciate it.

BAZZO

As I understand it, remote viewing  
isn't necessarily ESP.

NEALY

You're right. It seems to be a skill  
that can be taught. But think of it  
this way - you can teach anyone how  
to play the violin, but that doesn't  
mean they're going to end up being  
another Jascha Heifetz.

LATHAM

Hmm... You hear about that signal  
intrusion in England?

NEALY

Yes, that was a couple days ago.

LATHAM

That's not something we'd do, is it?

NEALY

No. If it were us, we'd hijack  
Russian or Cuban television.

LATHAM

But we have the capability.

NEALY

I don't know. I'm sure the NSA does.

Latham nods and presses the BUZZER on the intercom.

COLLETTE (O.S.)

Sí señor.

Embarrassed, Latham waves off Collette's greeting.

LATHAM

Call Jerry Rudd at the NSA. Ask him  
if he can see me right away.

He hangs up.

NEALY

Last thing, señor. Some group called  
The Nine claim to be behind all UFO  
sightings dating back to Kenneth  
Arnold's in '47. We asked Marvitz  
about a statement he made claiming  
The Nine had altered his life's  
mission. Now he's to alert the world  
to an imminent mass landing of  
spaceships on Earth.

LATHAM

Where the hell did that come from?

NEALY

Security heard it from a Patricia  
Klein; she says she's a channeler.  
Marvitz denies he ever said it.

I/E. INTERSTATE 295 EAST - DAY

Latham is at the wheel of a gray Chevrolet sedan. He leaves  
the highway at "Exit 32 - Fort Meade."

INT. NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY - CORRIDOR

A MILITARY POLICEMAN escorts Latham to a door labeled  
"National SIGINT Operations Center." Above it are four titled  
emblems:

**National Security Agency  
Army Security Agency  
Office of Naval Intelligence  
United States Air Force Security Service.**

INT. SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS ROOM

Rows of workstations have analysts poring over printouts. Telex and teletype machines TAP nonstop. Overhead, a sign reads "SURVEILLANCE OFFICER." Beneath it, JERRY RUDD, 40, greets Latham. They sit at his workstation which has his nameplate, beat-frequency oscillators and scanners.

RUDD

So, what's this test you wanna run?

LATHAM

You hear about that signal intrusion on Southern Television in England?

RUDD

Pretty cool, wasn't it?

LATHAM

Yeah. Who could've done something like that?

RUDD

Anyone with the right equipment could tap a land line. But that's not what happened in England.

LATHAM

Because the Hannington transmitter rebroadcasts an off-air signal received from another transmitter?

RUDD

Ding! Ding! Ding! Warren Latham wins today's jackpot!

LATHAM

Hey, you keep that up and I'm gonna rescind your TV privileges.

Rudd mugs like a child being scolded.

RUDD

Hannington gets a UHF transmission from Rowridge on the Isle of Wight. Someone swamped their audio signal, but let me tell you, that's not easy to do. You ever see where Hannington's located?

Latham shakes his head no.

RUDD (CONT'D)

Imagine a 500-foot mast surrounded by countryside and not one but two high perimeter fences.

LATHAM

The point being...

RUDD

You can't get within a quarter mile of that tower. Even if you had the most powerful ham radio out there, you'd still need to get within thirty yards of it to do anything.

LATHAM

Could the intrusion have occurred at - where is it - Rowridge?

RUDD

No, they have other customers. Someone else would've been affected.

LATHAM

What about from a satellite?

RUDD

What satellite? Telstar won't be launched for another month. Where you been?

LATHAM

Busy. So why didn't the engineers at Hannington or Southampton see what was going on?

RUDD

(animatedly)

Beats me. Their consoles should've lit up like a Christmas tree. Plus, an alarm should've gone off. They'd put up an insertion test signal and then switch to another uplink.

LATHAM

That's the test I want you to run.

RUDD

Wait a second. You wanna hijack a network broadcast signal and scare half the city to death.

LATHAM

I want to show it's possible to send a signal intrusion that can't be detected.



RUDD

That won't prove anything because all three networks use land lines, I told you that. Of course, there's the educational channel, WETA.

LATHAM

What about them?

RUDD

They've got the same set-up as Southern TV except they're on UHF, channel 26. Half the TV sets here don't even have a UHF tuner.

LATHAM

(exasperated)

Geezus, Jerry! So you're saying you can replicate what happened there?

RUDD

Oh, yeah! We got the most advanced equipment on the planet here. But don't do it during the broadcast day. Do it after midnight when they're off the air.

LATHAM

Fine, we'll do it then.

RUDD

So, you want me to send an intrusion signal that cannot be detected.

LATHAM

I want to show the engineers in England had no warning of a signal intrusion, which is what they said. It'll also prove that what happened there had a terrestrial origin.

Rudd looks disappointed.

RUDD

Too bad. WETA can have a dummy news broadcast, then we'll run a signal intrusion, pending clearances from the station and the FCC.

LATHAM

Why the FCC?

RUDD

You want to replicate what happened in England, right? Well, the FCC monitors broadcasts here.

(MORE)

RUDD (CONT'D)

We need to know if their engineers detect a signal intrusion, as well as the station's.

LATHAM

I don't want anyone to know ahead of time and prepare for it.

RUDD

Okay, we'll say it's a Civil Defense drill. After what happened in England, we need to verify that our similar broadcast systems aren't vulnerable to being hijacked.

LATHAM

Good. How long will it take for you to set things up here?

RUDD

We could be ready to go by two AM.

LATHAM

Okay, present it to your people and get set up. I'll contact the FCC.

RUDD

They'll need that okay from them.

LATHAM

I'll get it! Who do I call here?

RUDD

Me. I'll hang around and tell them. I wanna see what happens. One thing though... Say we send the signal intrusion and despite everything we do to mask it, all the alarms go off and the engineers see it. Does that mean the origin isn't terrestrial?

LATHAM

Let's just run the test, okay?

Latham gets up. Rudd follows suit and escorts him out.

MID-SHOW BREAK

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

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

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

Latham enters. Collette picks up a manila envelope from her desk and hands it to him.

COLLETTE

A courier from Fort Detrick dropped  
that off for you.

LATHAM

Where are Berard and Kensington?

COLLETTE

Kensington's with the I.G. Berard's  
in his office.

LATHAM

Ask Berard if I can come up.

Collette picks up the Red phone and dials. Latham goes into...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

And sits. He opens the envelope and removes several sheets of  
Xerox-copied typewritten paper. The title on page one reads  
"Transcript: Remote Viewing Session with GARY Re: Photograph  
of General Nathan Gillis." Latham leafs through the pages...

INSERT EXCERPTS FROM THE PAGES:

- "A city.... Not here... Padua, Italy... A fountain."
- "The stairs go down to the basement... To a room."
- "There's a man there..."
- "A tent... He's inside a tent."
- GARY marks a 'Y' on the map he drew. Near a rotary, park,  
construction site, fountain, apartment buildings and homes.

BACK TO SCENE

The intercom BUZZES; Latham answers it.

LATHAM

Yes...

COLLETTE (O.S.)

He can see you in ten minutes.

Latham hangs up the intercom. He puts the pages back in the  
envelope and takes it with him as he hurries out his office.

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. He  
hands Stokes the manila envelope.

LATHAM

I need one copy right away, Jared.

Stokes points to a CIA OFFICER nearby and motions for her to come to the Duty Desk.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Then have the Comm Room send it FLASH precedence to the Milan Number One. Subject: Location of General Nathan Gillis. Forward to the police and the Carabinieri.

The CIA Officer comes up to Stokes.

STOKES

One copy of the contents, PDQ.

The CIA Officer nods, takes the envelope and leaves.

LATHAM

Looks like one of our remote viewers may have found him.

PERCY

I hope the cops take it seriously.

LATHAM

Why wouldn't they?

PERCY

We heard some psychic pointed the cops to a vacant lot in Rome.

STOKES

According to the station, there've been more leads like that. One said he was on a fishing boat headed for Sazan Island in the Adriatic.

LATHAM

What, Albania?

STOKES

The psychic claimed the general was trying to escape his marriage.

LATHAM

By going to a Soviet submarine base.

STOKES

But he wasn't defecting, mind you.

The CIA Officer returns with the envelope and Xerox copies. She hands them to Stokes and leaves. He keeps the copies and hands the originals in the manila envelope back to Latham.

LATHAM

I'll be in Berard's office.

He leaves. Stokes gets up and goes to the Communications Room.

BERARD'S OFFICE

Berard puts papers in a folder as Latham enters.

BERARD

I have a meeting with the Director.

LATHAM

This is the transcript of a remote viewing session. It looks like the remote viewer's located the general.

This gets Berard's rapt attention. Latham hands him the envelope. As Berard opens it and scans the pages...

LATHAM (CONT'D)

He's likely being held in a basement room of a house in Padua.

BERARD

How reliable is this remote viewer?

LATHAM

By chance alone, anyone would be right ten percent of the time. The average accuracy for all six of our remote viewers is about 45 percent. But GARY, who located the general, is accurate 80 percent of the time.

BERARD

Then there's a chance...

LATHAM

I sent this to the Milan station with instructions to forward it to the police and the Carabinieri.

BERARD

I'm very grateful, Warren. Is there anything I can do for you?

LATHAM

Yes, there is. Do you know about that signal intrusion on the Southern TV network in England?

BERARD

I heard something about it.

LATHAM

I want to run a test with the NSA replicating the signal intrusion. If it doesn't trip all the warning mechanisms, then someone with similar equipment is responsible. But I need FCC approval to allow WETA to run a dummy news broadcast after they've signed off. And I need the FCC to monitor the test. I don't know their commissioner; you do.

BERARD

When is this supposed to happen?

LATHAM

Tonight. The cover story is a Civil Defense drill to see if similar stations here are vulnerable.

BERARD

You'd stand a better chance if it came from a higher authority. I'll talk to him but I'm not optimistic.

LATHAM

I understand.

Discouraged, Latham puts the pages back in the envelope and takes it with him as he leaves.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

Collette is typing away. Latham enters determinedly and walks up to her. Collette stops typing and looks up.

LATHAM

Get Françoise Bisset on the phone. If he's not in his office, have someone go through the West Wing and find him. Tell him it's urgent that I come there and see him. I'm gonna call that educational station WETA right now.

Collette picks up the Gray phone; Latham goes into his office.

EXT. THE WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING - DAY

A taxi pulls up. Latham alights and is met at the door by a MARINE CORPS GUARD and FRANÇOIS BISSET.

INT. THE CABINET ROOM

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

At one end of a long conference table is a telephone. Latham has the receiver to his ear while Bisset watches.

LATHAM

Jerry, it's Warren. You got your approval. Commissioner King's office will be calling you for details... I also got WETA on board... What?... No, a sizable donation. They'll have an engineer and someone to act as a news reader on site, so coordinate with them. What time you want me there?... Yeah, 01:00 is fine. Tell your security people I'm bringing someone from MI6. See you tonight.

He hangs up.

BISSET

You really scared the bejesus out of the president with that signal intrusion business.

They leave the room.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - GEORGETOWN - NIGHT (EVENING)

Elegant townhomes and red brick sidewalks line this well-to-do block of N Street.

INT. TOWNHOME - LIVING ROOM

Seven casually dressed people sit on the sofa, loveseat and chairs and sip drinks: Nealy, ALBERT MARVITZ, 48, BARBARA TELFAIR, 55; PAUL NANCE, 50; JOANNE FIELDS, 40; ALLEN HOROWITZ, 45; and RACHEL MCGUINN, 38.

MARVITZ

We have some new people joining us tonight. This is Bill Nealy, one of our long-suffering civil servants; Mrs. Barbara Telfair, who recently retired from the post office; and Paul Nance, a lawyer with the Metro police.

Everyone smiles their acknowledgments.

MARVITZ (CONT'D)

As my regulars here know, I've been working with Barbara at the Institute. Paul is about to bring a case to trial, one you might remember from newspaper accounts two years ago.

(MORE)

MARVITZ (CONT'D)

Those details are public and I've reread them for tonight. Barbara, Paul has something for you.

Nance takes an envelope from his sports jacket pocket and hands it to Barbara.

MARVITZ (CONT'D)

Open it and tell us your impressions.

Barbara opens the envelope and pulls out a Polaroid of a woman, mid-20s.

BARBARA

A police car hit another car as it was crossing an intersection. This lady was a passenger in the car. She was killed.

MARVITZ

Did you read that in the newspaper?

BARBARA

I don't remember reading about it.

MARVITZ

Okay, go on.

BARBARA

I feel nervous... Very upset. The policeman's driving too fast. He sees he's going to hit the car and panics. The car's coming from left to right. Instead of turning away, he turns on the siren. He's had problems speeding before. He's a reckless driver.

MARVITZ

A witness up the block says the policeman had his roof light on before he turned the corner.

BARBARA

No, that isn't right; he didn't see that. He's afraid of the police. He said that to stay out of trouble. He was talking to another person at the time. And he was facing away, facing the building when the police car went by. He couldn't have seen if the roof light was on or not.

MARVITZ

Paul, is what she saying true?



NANCE

Some of it I know is true. The guy was talking to someone. That's only in my interview notes. Did you tell her anything about this?

MARVITZ

No.

Joanne and Rachel subtly exchange skeptical glances.

NANCE

I was surprised when she said the car was coming from left to right.

MARVITZ

I don't remember reading that.

NANCE

It's in the police report but it wasn't released to the press. That part about the cop turning on his siren right before the accident...

MARVITZ

I'd never heard that before.

NANCE

She's right. It's another piece of information the press didn't get.

ALLEN

Some of what Barbara says could be attributed to intuitive reasoning.

MARVITZ

That's true, Allen; but not the details Paul's corroborated.

JOANNE

You never discussed this case with Paul before?

MARVITZ

No.

Nealy eyes Marvitz then Joanne and Allen, who look skeptical.

NANCE

What's your technique, Mrs. Telfair?

BARBARA

I don't have one. I fell and hit my head at work. I had these headaches for the longest time, so I took a disability retirement.

(MORE)

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Since then everything's changed. I can't explain it; I just started being able to do these things.

MARVITZ

That's something I hear often. Peter Hurkos, whom I invited here a few years ago, fell off a ladder and was in a coma. When he awoke, he had heightened extra sensory abilities.

ALLEN

I was at U.C.-Davis visiting my son a few months back, and Hurkos was there being tested for his psychic powers. I don't mean to be a killjoy but his results came back negative.

MARVITZ

When I tested him the results were extremely positive.

RACHEL

I think I saw Hurkos on television, on One Step Beyond. I remember it because it was a two-part program.

ALLEN

A lot of what he does seems like cold readings to me. He takes a common subject like surgery. He doesn't actually say the subject had surgery - it could be someone close to them. If that fails, he says it had to be a long time ago. I mean, eventually the subject's bound to come up with someone he knows who's had an operation.

There is some quiet snickering. Nealy observes Joanne and Rachel exchange smirks.

### ACT THREE

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

The light from TV sets flickers in almost every window.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Fiona and Latham eat dinner and watch "Naked City" on TV. The doorbell BUZZES. Fiona looks at Latham.

LATHAM

Hey, maybe it's someone for you.

FIONA

No, they know they're supposed to wait until you're asleep.

LATHAM

Mugs, then gets up and opens the door. Nealy is there.

LATHAM

Bill... Come on in.

Nealy enters. Latham shuts the door. They walk into the...

LIVING ROOM

Fiona looks up.

FIONA

Hi, Bill.

NEALY

Hi. I didn't mean to interrupt your dinner, guys.

LATHAM

Don't worry about it. You hungry?

NEALY

No.

LATHAM

Have a seat.

Nealy sits. Latham sits beside Fiona and finishes his dinner.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

Were you out just wandering the streets or what?

NEALY

I just came from Marvitz's place - that meeting with his ESP subject?

LATHAM

Right, you told me you were going.

NEALY

He got taken down a few pegs.

LATHAM

Really...

NEALY

His psychic revealed information that supposedly was only in this lawyer's notes.

(MORE)

NEALY (CONT'D)

Turns out Marvitz and the lawyer are pretty chummy. I think he may be looking for new benefactors.

FIONA

Is he the one whose life's mission is to tell us that spaceships and aliens are coming to colonize the planet?

NEALY

That's him. What can I say? TSD thinks the world of him.

LATHAM

Well, I intend to shrink his world a bit.

NEALY

Oh?

LATHAM

The NSA's running a test for me. They'll send a signal intrusion to WETA. With all their gadgetry they should be able to bypass the safeguards that alert the engineers.

NEALY

Which is what happened in England?

LATHAM

Yes. It'll show the Ashtar Galactic Command is more local than cosmic.

NEALY

When is this supposed to happen?

FIONA

02:00.

NEALY

You're involved in this too?

FIONA

Yes. Larry's with the ambassador at a State dinner. That usually means a lot of Cognac.

LATHAM

I thought it best to have an MI6 officer around who was sober.

FIONA

And you really didn't want to rub Larry's nose in it, did you?

LATHAM  
(apologetically)  
No.

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

The buildings in the compound are dark, save for a few lights in the south facade portico of Building C.

INT. OPERATIONS ROOM

The 24-hour wall clock reads 23:50. NIGHT DUTY OFFICERS JAMES OWENS and PETE FARRELL, and MISSION PLANNING'S WILSON BRADLEY are on duty along with other CIA Officers. A young, female COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER brings Owens a telex.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER  
From the Milan Chief of Station.

She leaves. As Owens reads it, he grows angry.

OWENS  
I don't believe this! What the hell is wrong with these people?

FARRELL  
What?

After a moment, Owens hands him the telex.

FARRELL (CONT'D)  
'Padua Police Captain Dino Maglio and Commanding Officer Giovanni Pesci of the Carabinieri have rejected the findings from remote viewer GARY under Project SCANATE. Both conclude that after earlier attempts by psychics to locate General Gillis yielded nothing, all future such offers would no longer be considered.' Those pricks! I bet the general's right where GARY says he is.

Owens checks the 24-hour wall clock.

OWENS  
I should tell Mr. Latham but he probably left already. He has to be at Fort Meade by 01:00.

FARRELL  
I'd try him anyway.

Owens picks up the Gray phone and dials.

FARRELL (CONT'D)

I feel bad for Berard. He and the  
general go way back.

OWENS

Operator, this is Operations Duty  
Officer James Owens...

INT. LATHAM'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Fiona and Latham are heading toward the door when the phone  
RINGS. They turn around and see the phone's Red light  
FLASHING. Fiona follows Latham who goes to the phone, rolls a  
thumbwheel switch beneath it and answers the call.

LATHAM

Latham...

CROSSCUT OWENS WITH LATHAM

OWENS

It's Owens in the Ops Room, sir. I  
have a FLASH precedence telex from  
the Milan station Number One.

LATHAM

What about?

OWENS

The Padua police and the Carabinieri  
have refused to consider our remote  
viewer's findings.

LATHAM

What?! Did they give a reason?

OWENS

The earlier wild goose chases from  
those so-called psychics.

LATHAM

Alright, make sure you log it in,  
but don't call Mr. Berard tonight.  
He doesn't need to hear this now.

OWENS

Yes, sir.

LATHAM

If you need to reach me, I'll be at  
the number I left for the NSA.

OWENS

Got it.

BACK TO SCENE

Latham hangs up. He is sullen as he turns to Fiona.

LATHAM

The Carabinieri and the police in Padua flat out refuse to use our remote viewer's findings.

FIONA

Why?

LATHAM

They're tired of being led around by the nose by psychics.

FIONA

Still no ransom demand?

LATHAM

I haven't heard about any. Come on.

They leave.

I/E. CHEVROLET SEDAN - NIGHT

Latham and Fiona speed along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

INT. NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY - COMMAND CONTROL CENTER

Filled with rows of workstations with technicians and analysts sitting before monitors with various displays. Some have map overlays; some show transmission tower locations; some display data from monitoring stations around the globe.

Rudd escorts Latham and Fiona to three seats before three video monitors and three telephones.

RUDD

The monitor on the left will show the intrusion signal.

LATHAM

Which is...

RUDD

Oh, you'll like this. It's those two from Rocky and Bullwinkle - Boris and Natasha? You know...

(Russian accent)

Moose and Squirrel!

LATHAM

Cute.

Fiona grins, trying to suppress a laugh.

RUDD

The middle one tracks the signal as it bounces between transmitters 'till it reaches WETA. The one on the right is tuned to UHF channel 26. You'll only see static until WETA comes back on the air.

LATHAM

You have open lines with the station and the FCC?

RUDD

Yep. Fred Barker's the engineer at WETA. He's on speaker on the phone on the left. Cecil Hartman's one of two engineers at the FCC monitoring D.C.-area broadcasts. He's on speaker on the phone on the right.

LATHAM

Do they usually have two engineers?

RUDD

I guess. Anyway, both phones are on mute. The middle phone's an open line to our transmission site. At 02:00, WETA will run their simulated news broadcast. At 02:03, I'll tell our people to send the signal intrusion. Then we'll wait for the engineers to tell us if they see it.

LATHAM

Which they shouldn't.

FIONA

Is it possible the system is designed to accommodate an intrusion signal? That could be a reason it wasn't detected in England.

RUDD

Ooh, she's good! You should work for us, Fiona.

FIONA

Make me an offer.

RUDD

There's a thought... If a system's designed to accept plug-ins, say alternate feeds, then you're right, a signal intrusion wouldn't be detected.

(MORE)



RUDD (CONT'D)

Truth is, the original system designers didn't anticipate that. They put in limited measures to detect signal hijacking. When the commercial bandwidth was expanded, the manufacturers had to upgrade their systems in order to intercept signal intrusions in the expanded range. Now, maybe some smaller independents couldn't afford the upgrades, but that wouldn't apply to Southern Television - they're up-to-date. We checked. It also doesn't apply to educational TV.

LATHAM

Why?

RUDD

The FCC mandates they upgrade their equipment or lose federal funding.  
(checks his watch)  
It's 1:20. We've got 40 minutes.  
You guys want some tea?

FIONA

You have any Earl Grey?

RUDD

Yeah, in the Break Room. Come on.

They all get up. Fiona and Latham follow Rudd.

RUDD (CONT'D)

One of the guys on the night shift drinks it like water.

Latham looks at Fiona and rolls his eyes. She grins.

EXT. FORT MEADE - NIGHT - LATER

More stock footage of the fort.

INT. NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY - COMMAND CONTROL CENTER

Fiona, Rudd and Latham return and sit at the workstation. Rudd checks his watch then checks the speakerphones.

RUDD

The engineers are still on mute.

ON THE FAR RIGHT MONITOR

A "Please Stand By" test pattern appears for a few seconds, followed by MAGGIE WOODEN, 35, seated behind a desk and before a dark curtain.

MAGGIE

Good evening, this is Maggie Wooden with the Evening News. This morning at supposedly escape-proof Alcatraz prison, authorities discovered that three bank robbers serving long terms had scratched their way through grills covering an air vent, climbed a drainage pipe, and disappeared from the forbidding rock in San Francisco Bay. It appears to be the first successful escape in the history of the maximum security prison. In sports, baseball rookie pitcher Bo Belinsky, having spent the previous night at a party with celebrities including Eddie Fisher, Dean Martin and Henry Fonda, was arrested and charged with assaulting nightclub attendant Gloria Eves.

AT THE WORKSTATION

Rudd checks his watch then picks up the center phone.

RUDD

This is Rudd. Go for it.

ON THE FAR RIGHT MONITOR

Maggie continues reading the news.

MAGGIE

Miss Eves claims she was dragged by Belinsky from the rear seat of his late model Cadillac at five AM.

The image ROLLS and FLUTTERS. STATIC overlays the audio and video. The THUMP, THUMP, THUMP begins. Maggie's voice becomes unintelligible.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Belinsky was held for questioning...

A scene from "Pottsylvania" appears: A bare tree with a noose; signs reading "Yankee Go Home," "Keep Out" with a buzzard on top, "This Means You," "We Don't Want Any," "Stay Away" and "No" with a skull on it; and finally a dilapidated shack.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

When our last episode was switched off in utter disgust by over 37 million anxious viewers, those two wrongs, Boris and Natasha, were proving they couldn't make a right - a right bad idea.

In the shack, Boris Badenov and Natasha Fatale appear beside a roll-top desk with an electric pencil sharpener, a wingtip chair and two signs reading "Hate" and "Sneak!"

NATASHA

Think, darlink, think! There must be something really rotten we can do today.

BORIS

I'm thinking! But the worst I come up with is helping to make Moose and Squirrel show one hour longer!

BARKER (O.S.)

Yep, I see it - Boris and Natasha. Nice touch, comrades.

HARTMAN (O.S.)

Boris Badenov and Natasha Fatale. That cartoon should only be on late.

NATASHA

Oh, just like you darlink. Always trying to help others get a little more pain out of life.

NARRATOR (V.O.)

Then suddenly a thought struck him like a 20,000-volt charge.

Boris sticks a pencil in the electric pencil sharpener and is electrocuted.

NATASHA

Boris, you have great idea?

BORIS

No, but I have defective cord on electric pencil sharpener!

NATASHA

I have it, darlink! A contest, 'I Like Being Evil Because...' in 25 words or less.

BORIS

I like it! I like it!

The cartoon is suddenly replaced by the now familiar "Please Stand By" test pattern.

AT THE WORKSTATION

Latham is upset. Rudd is stunned; he checks monitor #2 while still holding the phone, his hand covering the mouthpiece.

RUDD

I don't understand it. We bounced that signal over five transmitters and masked it the entire way. Their systems shouldn't have detected it.

(into the phone)

It's Rudd; both sites saw the signal intrusion!

ON THE MONITOR

Maggie's image reappears; her audio is clear.

MAGGIE

Now let's look at tomorrow's weather...

BARKER (O.S.)

Switch to secondary uplink successful.

MAGGIE

The metro area is expected to see high temperatures in the nineties. Humidity at seventy percent with a chance of a late-day thunderstorm.

HARTMAN (O.S.)

I see WETA resolved the problem. Good work.

AT THE WORKSTATION

Still on the phone, Rudd throws a hand in the air in frustration.

RUDD

Yes, WETA followed protocol and switched to another uplink... Double-check everything. I'll get back to you.

He hangs up then takes the two speakerphones off mute.

RUDD (CONT'D)

Okay, guys. The test is over. Great job. Thanks for the help.

BARKER (O.S.)

No problem.

HARTMAN (O.S.)

Okay, take care.

Rudd hangs up both phones and switches off the far right monitor. He is incredulous but Latham is furious.

RUDD  
I can't explain it.

LATHAM  
And yours is the most advanced  
equipment on the planet.

FIONA  
Warren...

Rudd is nonplussed and embarrassed. Fiona pats Latham's hand.

FIONA (CONT'D)  
Let's go.

She and Latham get up and leave. Rudd follows them out.

EXT. PADUA, ITALY - DAY

INSERT: "Padua, Italy"

Show stock footage of the city.

CONSTRUCTION SITE

A hot, steamy summer day. A crane hoists a metal I-bar up to a skeletal building structure while a bulldozer WHINES as it rumbles past a trailer. Bordering one side of the site is Via Plebiscito 1866. On this street is a park, "Parco delle farfalle," and a rotary. On the opposite side of the site is Via A Randi, a street with apartment buildings and houses.

A geyser of water shoots in the air where the crew digs. They dismount their equipment and climb off the steel girders. A WORKER approaches the FOREMAN. (They speak Italian.)

WORKER  
Abbiamo colpito un tubo principale  
dell'acqua.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "We hit a main water pipe."

FOREMAN  
No merda! Vai a dire ai residenti  
che non avranno acqua per il resto  
del pomeriggio.

INSERT TRANSLATION: "No shit! Go tell the residents they won't have water for the rest of the afternoon."

VIA A RANDI

The Worker knocks on doors. People answer and angrily voice their opinions as they point to the geyser. He knocks on a door opposite the construction site. No answer. He knocks again. From inside the house, shoes SCUFFLE across the floor.

WORKER  
Qualcuno lì?

INSERT TRANSLATION: "Someone there?"

A BANG like a firecracker going off in a can comes from inside the house. The Worker grows worried and hurries back to the...

CONSTRUCTION SITE

He seeks out the Foreman. They speak sotto voce. The Foreman and the Worker then hurry into the trailer.

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

Stock footage of The Capitol Building and the National Mall.

2430 E STREET, NW - COCKROACH ALLEY

CIA personnel enter through Gate #1.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

Collette piles folders on her desk while Bazzo reads the Washington Post. Latham enters carrying his satchel.

BAZZO  
How'd it go last night?

LATHAM  
(testily)  
You believe in little green men?

He charges in to his office. Bazzo and Collette exchange wary looks then Bazzo enters...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Latham SLAMS his satchel down on his desk.

BAZZO  
What happened?

LATHAM  
The NSA couldn't quite replicate the signal intrusion. The engineers at the station and the FCC saw it, and WETA was able to override it.

Collette enters with the folders and sorts them into three neat piles on Latham's desk.

BAZZO  
Maybe whoever sent the signal intrusion to Southern TV has better equipment than the NSA.

LATHAM

And who would that be? Vrillon and his Ashtar Galactic Command?

COLLETTE

Seems a little arrogant to think we're more technologically advanced than everyone else. We don't have answers for everything, you know.

LATHAM

Is there an answer to where the tea is coming from this morning?

Collette leaves. Bazzo sits. Latham slumps into his chair.

LATHAM (CONT'D)

I was so sure I had that figured out. That whiz kid over at NSA...

BAZZO

Jerry Rudd?

LATHAM

Yeah. He said he could replicate the signal intrusion, no problem. The systems would never detect it.

BAZZO

Hmm... Does SMOTH know?

LATHAM

Fiona's probably telling him right now.

BAZZO

He's gonna feel vindicated... Hey, all you can do is chalk it up to a mystery. Someone else will figure it out later on.

Collette returns with tea for both Latham and Bazzo.

COLLETTE

Those who complain about tea should remember to pitch in each week for snacks and beverage supplies.

Latham looks sheepish. He pulls a couple of dollars from his wallet and hands them to Collette, then nods toward Bazzo.

LATHAM

What about him?

COLLETTE

Paid in full.

She leaves, bumping into Nealy, who enters holding a folder.

LATHAM

Help you with something, Bill?

NEALY

I thought you might want to see this. Hey, Paul.

Bazzo nods. Nealy hands Latham the folder and sits. Latham reads through the folder.

NEALY (CONT'D)

One of my people dug that up last night. It's from GARY, the remote viewer who located General Gillis.

LATHAM

Yeah, well, the police in Padua and the Carabinieri aren't interested in what GARY sees.

NEALY

I heard something to that effect. That's too bad.

BAZZO

Why?

NEALY

Back in March we learned Kennedy had scheduled a trip to Hyannisport for June 11th, two days ago.

LATHAM

And?

NEALY

The Secret Service was worried back then that some crank might storm the family compound. So they tasked us with seeing if there was anything special about the date. Now, GARY likes to work on problems without knowing anything about them. So we said, GARY, what can you tell us about any problems with June 11th? He came back and said a senior U.S. Army official is gonna be snatched off the street near a newspaper kiosk in Italy. And that's exactly what happened. General Gillis was snatched off the street at a newspaper kiosk in Padua two nights ago, June 11th.



The intercom BUZZES; Latham answers it.

LATHAM

Yes?

COLLETTE (O.S.)

You're wanted in the Ops Room.

Latham hangs up. He and Bazzo get up; Nealy follows suit.

NEALY

Mind if I tag along?

LATHAM

No, come on.

OPERATIONS ROOM

Day shift Duty Officers Stokes and Percy at the Duty Desk, along with Mission Planning's Nichols and others work amid the usual background PURL. Latham, Nealy and Bazzo enter.

LATHAM

What is it, Jared?

Stokes looks grim.

STOKES

General Gillis is dead.

Latham freezes; the pain is like a mask on his face.

BAZZO

Oh, no...

STOKES

Shot once in the head.

LATHAM

Where was he found?

STOKES

In Padua, across from a construction site and a park. He was in a basement room inside a pup tent. The stairs going down there were in a false wall hidden behind furniture.

PERCY

Just like GARY had seen.

The shock grips Latham. He sits in a chair opposite Stokes.

STOKES

His wrists were bound behind his back and tied to a pipe.

(MORE)

STOKES (CONT'D)

He had on headphones connected to a tape deck. The volume was all the way up.

Latham gazes at the floor, his hand over his mouth. He doesn't react to anything being said now. The voices fade and become indistinct - unintelligible, ambient STATIC.

PERCY

The police said the crew on the construction site hit a water main. That's the fountain GARY mentioned!

STOKES

It was all just as he had laid out. The house on the Via A Randi was in the same spot he'd marked with a 'Y' on the map he drew.

PERCY

The Italians had all this. They had it! But as far as they were concerned, it was all bullshit!

BAZZO

Imagine how his poor wife must feel.

NICHOLS

Wait 'till she learns we'd already told them where to find her husband.

NEALY

Have you told Mr. Berard yet?

STOKES

No, I was waiting to tell Mr. Latham first.

Latham's head is in his hands.

END