

Cool Gray Dawn

Season 5, "Ep. #6: The Antinomies of JFK - WIP"

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tony garcia
1629 S. Mole Street
Philadelphia, PA 19145
(215) 908-9152
tonyg030652@gmail.com

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. PARIS - PASSY STATION - ELEVATED SUBWAY LINE - NIGHT

The Eiffel Tower, lit by accent lights, looms in the background. Elegant apartment buildings surround the station.

AT THE CORNER OF RUE CHERNOVIZ AND RUE RAYNOUARD

Is a balconied apartment building with the address #1.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM

Moonlight streams past the parted curtains of the window. On the floor, a soccer ball rests against the leg of a child's desk. A pennant for "PARIS SAINT GERMAIN F.C.," the local football (soccer) team, is taped on the wall above the desk.

MINH DE, Warren Latham's pre-teen Eurasian son with the late Anne De, lies in a double bed asleep on his back beneath a sheet and a quilt. Minh's head lies on a fluffy pillow; another similar pillow lies at the head of the bed.

A shadow glides from the foot of the bed and up Minh's body, stopping at the boy's chin. Two gloved hands reach out from a dark overcoat and pick up the loose pillow. Minh begins to stir. The hands RAM the pillow over Minh's face, holding it tight. The boy struggles, but quickly his muffled cries fade. His body lies still, lifeless. The gloved hands of the ASSAILANT return the pillow to the head of the bed.

EXT. WASHINGTON, D.C. - NIGHT

Accent lights on The National Mall give the Reflecting Pool and the Washington Monument an ethereal presence.

704 3RD STREET, NW - APARTMENT BUILDING

The streetlamps throw a yellow hue on the empty streets. The windows of the apartment building are as black as pitch.

INT. BEDROOM

Moonlight separates into strands as it filters through the white curtains hanging over the window. On a queen-size bed, alone and sleeping quietly on her back, is FIONA JEFFRIES. An oversized comforter is drawn up to her shoulders. A shadow creeps by the curtains then across the bed. Two gloved hands grab a loose pillow.

In an instant, the pillow is slapped over Fiona's face. Her struggle is intense. Fiona grabs a Beretta 70 from beneath her pillow, only to have it slip from her hand onto the floor. Her arms and legs flail about as she tries to fight back against her assailant.

Slowly, the effort drains from Fiona. She lies on the bed - dead. The assailant moves the pillow aside and stands by the window. In the moonlight, he slowly he removes his ski mask - it is WARREN LATHAM.

LATHAM WAKES UP WITH A START AND SCREAMS

He sits up, covered in sweat. Beside him, Fiona wakes up.

FIONA

What is it? What's wrong?

Overcome with emotion, Latham buries his head in his hands. Fiona hugs him from behind. With tears in his eyes, Latham embraces her tightly.

FIONA (CONT'D)

It's alright, hon; it's over.

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

CIA officers enter the compound through Gate #1.

INT. LATHAM'S OUTER OFFICE

COLLETTE DOWD is at her desk typing. BILL NEALY, his overcoat draped over one arm, reads the front page of The Washington Post on Collette's desk. Just then Latham enters. He nods perfunctorily to Collette but is surprised to see Nealy.

LATHAM

Did we have a meeting scheduled, Bill?

NEALY

No, no, I just came to talk to you.

COLLETTE

(interrupts)

Warren, the courier dropped off a burn bag from the Geneva station.

LATHAM

Dinkin's evidence... Where are the mandarins?

COLLETTE

In The Hole.

Latham nods to himself then motions for Nealy to go into...

LATHAM'S OFFICE

Nealy sits at the table. Latham hangs his overcoat on the coatrack and sits at the table across from Nealy.

NEALY

I understand Stewart's at Langley.

LATHAM

The La Paz station chief has been complaining about the International Organizations Division.

NEALY

Jurisdiction, no doubt. IOD has no regard for station operations.

LATHAM

So, what's on your mind?

NEALY

I met with Jim Wilcott last night.

LATHAM

Wilcott. I had a James Wilcott serve as paymaster at JM/WAVE last year.

NEALY

Same guy. He was also paymaster at Atsugi in 1960, a year after Oswald was discharged from the Marines.

LATHAM

Is this about Wilcott or Oswald?

NEALY

Both. Even though Oswald had left the Marines, there was still a lot of scuttlebutt about him there.

LATHAM

If it was about us recruiting him as an agent, it's old news, Bill.

NEALY

It's about how we recruited Oswald.

LATHAM

Before you go on, I've been thinking about this Kennedy business.

NEALY

(insistently)

Okay, okay, but hear me out first.

Latham throws up his hands resignedly. Nealy continues.

NEALY (CONT'D)

You know Oswald and other Marine techs were sent to the Philippines.

LATHAM

Yes, for an invasion of Indonesia that was aborted.

NEALY

Well, while they were there, they were required to do sentry duty. One night a corporal named Martin Shrand was on sentry duty. He was later found shot in the head. ONI investigated and ruled that Shrand had dropped his rifle; it discharged when it hit the ground, with the bullet striking him in the head.

LATHAM

So, how does Oswald fit into this?

NEALY

Word is Oswald shot him.

LATHAM

Why?

NEALY

It seems that even though Oswald was seeing a Japanese girl while he was at Atsugi, there were constant rumors that he was homosexual.

LATHAM

We know about those rumors.

NEALY

What you didn't know was that when Oswald's unit returned to Atsugi, he was sent for psychiatric evaluation. It was while he was in the hospital that our talent spotter approached him. He told Oswald he knew he'd murdered Shrand; and unless he agreed to work for us as an agent, he'd be court martialled for murder.

LATHAM

Why murder? Oswald could've been court martialled for homosexuality.

NEALY

Seems there wasn't enough proof. What Marine is going to come forward and say he had sex with Oswald?

LATHAM

Hmm. Does the FBI know about this?

NEALY

About Oswald shooting Shrand? No.

LATHAM

They should.

NEALY

Why?

LATHAM

It would give them a reason to look twice at Oswald.

NEALY

Huh? I'm confused here. You know Oswald's on their payroll as well.

LATHAM

Yes.

NEALY

If Hoover learns that we know about this, he'll know we're looking hard at Oswald. He'll suspect we're onto his role in the assassination plot.

LATHAM

Good.

NEALY

What the hell do you mean, 'good'?

LATHAM

The 22nd is this Friday. If we alert the AG, he'll call in the FBI. That puts Hoover and his cronies on notice to call off the plot.

NEALY

No they won't! Hoover simply won't investigate, regardless of what the attorney general says. He hates Bobby Kennedy even more than he hates his brother. He'll tell the plotters to go to ground, and the president will still be killed.

LATHAM

(defensively)

At least it puts the onus to stop the assassination on the FBI.

Nealy is livid. He cannot believe what he is hearing.

NEALY

That's bullshit and you know it!
Hoover'll say he was investigating.
Geezus, Warren! What the hell's
gotten into you?

Latham reaches into his inside suitcoat pocket. He pulls out a photograph and hands it to Nealy - it is the same defaced Polaroid Latham found in his photo album. Nealy is devastated.

NEALY (CONT'D)

Oh, my God...

BERARD'S OFFICE

WILSON BERARD, Nealy and Latham are in a somber discussion.

LATHAM

The mandarins say Dinkin's evidence
not only lays out the plot but
identifies some of the plotters.

BERARD

Hmm, that's why they'll do anything
to ensure the White House never sees
Dinkin's material.

NEALY

Well, I learned more about the plot.

Latham stands.

LATHAM

I'm sorry but I'm done with this. I
don't want to hear anymore about who
or what. My family's more important.

BERARD

I understand. The president has
ignored your warnings, and
sacrificing your family won't stop
the plot. For my sake, though, I'd
like you to hear what Bill has to
say; maybe offer an opinion. Please.

Latham relents and sits back down.

NEALY

Up to now, we've known very little
about Oswald's wife, Marina.

BERARD

Because false-defectors were first
run by ONI then turned over to the
Soviet Russia Division. My division
was never involved.

NEALY

Neither was I - that's why what I learned was so shocking: Marina was doubling. We were running her as well as the KGB.

Berard and Latham are taken aback by this.

SUIT IMAGES TO NEALY'S DIALOGUE

- A young MARINA PRUSAKOVA;
- Stock footage of Minsk;
- Marina's uncle, ILYA PRUSAKOV, in MVD uniform;
- The U.S. Embassy at 46 Starovilenskaya Street;
- False defector ROBERT WEBSTER;
- LEE HARVEY OSWALD and Marina, together. (Resemblance of Webster and Oswald is intentional.)

NEALY (CONT'D)

In '57, 16-year-old Marina Prusakova moved to Minsk to live with her uncle, Ilya Prusakov, a colonel in what was then the MVD, now the KGB. She was very enamored with the West, which allowed our station there to turn her with money and the promise to relocate her to the States. On instruction from her uncle, Marina first met up with the false defector Robert Webster. When that didn't pan out, Uncle Ilya ordered her to hook up with Lee Harvey Oswald.

BERARD

So, we facilitated her emigration.

NEALY

We had to. Around the end of 1960 Marina's cover was blown; but the KGB still saw value in her, so they continued to run her.

LATHAM

Oswald must've been a spigot, giving Marina Intel on everything he knew.

NEALY

He did. He also complained - constantly. He hated Minsk and the KGB had restricted his movements.

(MORE)

NEALY (CONT'D)

But we wanted to keep him there another year to see what the KGB did with him. We told him to propose to Marina, and we told her to accept. Uncle Ilya also told her to accept.

LATHAM

Good for both sides. Ilya would have his agent in the U.S., and she'd tell us about the orders Dzerzhinsky Square gave her regarding Oswald.

NEALY

Yes. Oswald agreed to marry Marina but with the provision that he be repatriated within a year. Now, getting him back here wasn't hard - the Russians were glad to get rid of him. But allowing Marina and their daughter to emigrate was a problem. In truth, it was all a ruse by the KGB. Remember Reino Hayhanen?

BERARD

KGB lieutenant colonel. He walked into our embassy in Paris in '57 and announced he wanted to defect.

NEALY

He said he could help identify Soviet agents here in the U.S.

LATHAM

Didn't your people turned Hayhanen over to the FBI?

NEALY

Under instruction. If you remember, he helped the Bureau track down Rudolf Abel in New York.

Latham shrugs. Berard interjects to ease the tension.

BERARD

I believe your Special Projects Team acted as bodyguards for him, Warren.

LATHAM

While he lived in New Hampshire. As I remember, he died in an auto accident on the Pennsylvania Turnpike a couple of years ago.

NEALY

It was February 17th. And Hayhanen was assassinated by a KGB wet squad.

Latham and Berard are both shocked.

NEALY (CONT'D)

A month earlier, John Maury gave Hayhanen's whereabouts to the KGB.

BERARD

John Maury, head of the Soviet Russia Division?

NEALY

Yes. In exchange they let Oswald's family emigrate the following year.

Disgusted, Latham mutters an expletive.

BERARD

How do you know this, Bill?

NEALY

My drinking buddy last night worked under him. He told me that Maury had ordered him to tell the KGB where Hayhanen was living.

BERARD

(sighs)

There's so much more to this than we know about.

He taps a finger on his desk. Finally, with a look of resolve, he turns to Latham.

BERARD (CONT'D)

If Warren gives his evidence to the attorney general, the plotters will assume he ignored their warning. But not if I took it to Director Hoover.

LATHAM

(aghast)

You?

BERARD

Yes. That way it will look as though you had complied with the plotters. You ended your investigation and handed off its results to me.

NEALY

But you'd be setting up your family for the same fate as Warren's.

BERARD

No. My position is similar to that of Director Hoover's;

(MORE)

BERARD (CONT'D)

we both have advance knowledge of the plot. And while I'm not a participant, it appears Mr. Hoover is. By giving him what we have, the plotters will know what we know. We've made it clear to them we won't pursue it any further; that is, as far as they know we won't.

NEALY

What are you planning, Wilson?

BERARD

Obviously, we have no control over an FBI investigation. But we can leak its shortcomings to our assets in the press.

NEALY

Given the size of this, that's no guarantee any of it will be printed.

BERARD

At least we'll know who buried it.

NEALY

While we bury President Kennedy.

BERARD

It isn't fair anyone has to die. It isn't fair that Warren's left with a decision no one should have to make. But that's where we are.

Nealy is moved to contrite silence. Berard looks at Latham.

BERARD (CONT'D)

Give me your evidence on the plot. Most importantly, don't do anything out of the ordinary regarding your son or Miss Jeffries; it would only forewarn the plotters.

Latham nods; his gratitude tinged with shame.

THE HOLE

PAUL "BAZZO" BARRY and CARLA DILAURIA pore over reports. The Red phone RINGS; Bazzo answers it.

BAZZO

1-1-3-7.

COLLETTE (O.S.)

It's Collette. Durang's on Gray as John Taylor.

(MORE)

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

He asked for Warren, but when I told him he was in a meeting he asked for you.

BAZZO

Really. Okay, put him through.
(hangs up; to DiLauria)
Durang's on Gray - for me.

DILAURIA

I thought you two didn't get along?

Bazzo shrugs. The Gray phone RINGS; Bazzo answers it.

BAZZO

(into phone)
Yes?

DURANG (O.S.)

It's John Taylor. Can you meet me right away? It's very urgent.

BAZZO

Where are you?

DURANG (O.S.)

Scholl's Café, 511 14th Street.

BAZZO

Okay. See you in about ten minutes.

He hangs up and stands. As he grabs his overcoat off the coatrack...

BAZZO (CONT'D)

I'll be at Scholl's on 14th.

He leaves.

INT. SCHOLL'S CAFÉ - DAY (MORNING)

There is an exasperating HUBBUB among patrons who know what they want to eat, caused by those who are interminably undecided. CARL DURANG sits at a back table sipping a cup of coffee. Bazzo pays for his coffee and joins Durang.

DURANG

(urgently)

Thanks for coming. I was in a meeting with Director Hoover and the other assistant directors. He's ordered the Dallas and New Orleans field offices to settle all issues locally for a week, starting today.

Bazzo shrugs; he does not see the importance of this.

DURANG (CONT'D)
You don't get it, do you?

BAZZO
No. What's there to get?

DURANG
It means no communication between
the field offices and HQ whatsoever.
Everything has to be resolved by the
Special Agent in Charge of that
field office.

BAZZO
So, Washington won't have a record
of any incidents in these cities.

DURANG
Or foreknowledge of any incidents.

This piques Bazzo's interest.

DURANG (CONT'D)
Any future investigation of the
Bureau's response to an incident
during this period would show that
all actions taken were initiated by
the SAC on his own.

BAZZO
Are your SAC's in New Orleans and
Dallas in on the plot?

DURANG
Not that I'm aware of... I hope not.

BAZZO
That directive would absolve Hoover
of any blame if Kennedy is killed.

Durang is losing conviction in his defense of Hoover. He sighs
and stares into his coffee cup.

BAZZO (CONT'D)
Is he gonna be out of town Thursday
or Friday?

Durang hesitates.

BAZZO (CONT'D)
He is, isn't he?

Durang nods.

BAZZO (CONT'D)
Where's he going?

DURANG

When he's away and alone...

BAZZO

You mean without Clyde Tolson?

DURANG

Don't start that shit with me!

BAZZO

Okay, I'm sorry. Really. Go on.

DURANG

When Director Hoover goes away, he leaves word with Helen Gandy, his secretary. I don't know about Friday but on Thursday he'll be in Dallas at Clint Murchison's home.

He reaches into his overcoat pocket and pulls out a small paperbag that contains a thin box. He puts it on the table and slides it to Bazzo.

DURANG (CONT'D)

Even God can't save Kennedy now.

INT. LATHAM'S OFFICE - DAY

DiLauria, Bazzo and Latham sit at the table on which is a tape recorder; the paperbag and a box housing the reel of tape lie beside it. A tape is mounted.

BAZZO

What you're gonna hear is part of a phone call between Vice President Johnson and one of the FBI's assistant directors, Cartha DeLoach. LBJ calls him 'Deke.'

Bazzo presses the START button on the tape recorder.

JOHNSON

Deke, I want you to get background information on the one hundred people or so who work for President Kennedy - their sex lives, do they drink too much and such...

DELOACH

You worried about a scandal?

JOHNSON

I'm worried about their loyalty.

DELOACH

I see.

JOHNSON

I don't want to deprive them of employment. I just want you to collect information on them, determine the level of access they should get in my administration.

DELOACH

I understand.

JOHNSON

Go all the way from McNamara on down to Bill Moyers. It'll just be between the two of us. We've got four years coming up, and I want the right people on board.

DELOACH

Of course.

JOHNSON

Now, I've heard a rumor Bobby Kennedy believes you and I are too close.

DELOACH

It's only speculation on his part.

JOHNSON

Well, somebody told me that they'd heard this or words to that effect; that you were a big buddy of mine.

DELOACH

I wouldn't worry about it. Soon, it won't matter what Bobby thinks.

Bazzo presses the STOP button. Everyone is incredulous.

DILAURIA

Just how many people are in on this?

LATHAM

It's not just numbers alone. For a coup to be successful you only need a group of key people, ones who can control the media and administrative targets like the Executive and Legislative Branches, and key people who can provide logistical and technical support. Most important, you need the military on your side.

DILAURIA

Is Johnson the leader of this coup?

BAZZO

Johnson's a straw man. He's not smart enough to coordinate something big and this complex.

LATHAM

That's true but he's desperate to be president. The plotters know he'll do whatever they want to gain the presidency, and stay out of jail.

DILAURIA

Hmm, the Bobby Baker scandal.

LATHAM

Was that all Durang had to say?

BAZZO

No. He told me Hoover ordered the New Orleans and Dallas field offices to settle issues locally for a week.

LATHAM

Let's Hoover put distance between himself and whatever happens in those cities.

BAZZO

On Thursday he's been invited to a big dinner at Clint Murchison's house in Dallas.

DILAURIA

(snarkily)

Murchison... Isn't he part of Big Oil in Big D?

BAZZO

Yep. Durang says they're all angry at Kennedy because he wants to repeal the Oil Depletion Allowance; it amounts 27 and 1/2 percent tax-free revenue. That alone is reason enough to kill the president.

LATHAM

How did Durang know this?

BAZZO

Hoover told his secretary who told Durang's secretary who told Durang.

DILAURIA

Shouldn't all of this give Mr. Berard enough leverage to get Hoover to abort the plot?

LATHAM

It's not enough. Once something like this gets started, it develops a momentum all its own. I doubt anyone can stop it now.

BAZZO

(muses)

Imagine if the guests at Murchison's big dinner were all principals in the plot.

LATHAM

And...

BAZZO

Come on. You can't say eliminating them in one fell swoop hasn't crossed your mind.

Latham demurs, but DiLauria is outraged.

DILAURIA

You want to kill these people for what you presume they're planning or what you think they believe?

BAZZO

They want to murder a president because of their beliefs.

DILAURIA

You don't know that for certain.

BAZZO

I know we've had requests from the White House to eliminate people long before you joined us.

LATHAM

Alright. This isn't something our masters or our current president would approve of.

BAZZO

That's 'cause he thinks he's fucking living in Camelot.

LATHAM

Paul...

BAZZO

Look, we've always been allowed to kill in matters of self-defense. And that's what this would be, self-defense - except the enemy's within.

DILAURIA

I can't believe this is even on the table.

LATHAM

(sighs)

I once told the JOTs that there's no moral imperative that justifies them taking a human life, even when it's to save others. Besides, this president believes coup d'etats only happen elsewhere.

DILAURIA

Until now.

This conclusion is inescapable now - and they know it.

BAZZO

Boss, if it's done cleanly, it could stop this coup right in its tracks.

LATHAM

No, Paul.

BAZZO

It's the only way.

LATHAM

No. We'll wait and see what happens after Mr. Berard meets with Hoover.

ACT TWO

EXT. YORK COUNTY, VIRGINIA - CAMP PEARY - DAY (MORNING)

A road ends in a fork. On the median, sitting only a foot above the roadway is a sign that reads:

Base Traffic Only
All Other Traffic Turn Left

On the right shoulder of the road is a sign with an arrow pointing to the right. It reads:

Camp Peary Service Entrance
All Trucks and Deliveries
All Construction Contractors

A high, chain-link fence and gate topped with barbed wire surround a small, single-story gatehouse manned by two uniformed military policemen. This is the main gate to the Armed Forces Experimental Training Activity, DoD, CIA - known colloquially as "The Farm"; its cryptonym is ISOLATION. In the background is the faint CRACKLE of weapons fire.

An aerial view of the base shows that it is thickly wooded and surrounded by chain-link fences topped with barbed-wire, and several signs warning:

US Government Reservation. No Trespassing.

A WORLD WAR TWO-STYLE FRAME BUILDING

Is situated in the woods and painted in that ubiquitous olive drab the U.S. military loves. The windows are shuttered.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

A large conference table sits in the center of the room. All the chairs, save for one, have been pushed against the walls. In one corner is a wooden pointer. On the conference table is a scale model replica of Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas, complete with figurines. Here are some of the model's more striking features:

- Elm Street undulates; its grade rises at the Texas School Book Depository (TSBD), falls, then rises again at the north pergola. The acme of these two grades is 421 feet above sea level, same as the lawn at south end of the Triple Overpass.
- Yellow markings are painted on the south curb of Elm Street where the acme of its two grades is 421 feet above sea level.
- The Elm Street loading dock of TSBD has a covered roof that abuts the buildings' second-floor windows. A policeman, rifle, and duffle bag lie on the loading-dock roof.
- On the roof of the Dallas County Records Building is a prone rifleman; kneeling beside him is his spotter. On the Dal-Tex Building's roof are two similar figures.
- On the sixth floor of TSBD, rifle barrels stick out the east- and west windows. On the roof is a kneeling spotter.
- In the car park behind the picket fence atop the grassy knoll stand an armed policeman and a spotter.
- The south pergola, a twin to the north pergola, is on the lawn on the east side of Main Street. In the south pergola are a spotter and a man in a suit carrying a revolver.
- At the south end of the Triple Overpass, where the lawn begins its slope from the tree line up to the railroad tracks, are a rifleman and a spotter, both behind a tree.
- A policeman stands with railroad workers on the railroad tracks at the south end of the Triple Overpass.
- At the north end of the Triple Overpass, where the lawn slopes up to the railroad tracks, is an open cover to the storm drain.

- At the east end of the car park are two policemen.

AT THE FAR END OF THE CONFERENCE TABLE

Seated in a high-back leather chair is THE MAN, architect of The Big Event, and seen as always from behind. His graying hair is parted on his left. His arms rest on the padded armrests of the chair. His long, bony fingers slowly curl toward the thickening skin on his palms. He forcibly splays his fingers in an attempt to slow the debilitating effects of Dupuytren's contracture.

The door to the conference room opens; MR. SMITH steps in. He is Caucasian, 40 and fit. He wears military fatigues without any insignia or name tag, and black combat boots. He carries a copy of the Dallas Times Herald and hands to The Man who unfolds it to the front page.

SMITH

Sorry to keep you waiting, sir. The Dallas Times Herald printed a map of the presidential motorcade route.

MAN

Good. Let's get started.

Smith grabs the pointer. As he speaks, he points to specific locations on the model.

SMITH

Our focus here will be on Team A in Dealey Plaza. We've melded some of the Cubans from Zenith Technical's operation into Team A; they still believe it's a false-flag Op. Now, Team A is comprised of seven Units.

MAN

Seven? The brief called for four.

SMITH

Yes, but you'll soon see why seven are needed. Each Unit consists of a shooter, whom we call a cuckoo, and a spotter. Unit One will be on the roof of the Dal-Tex Building. Unit Two will be on the roof of the adjacent County Records Building. Units Three and Four will be on the sixth floor of the Sexton Building - Unit Three at the east end and Four at the west end. The building was recently bought by D. H. Byrd who's renamed it the Texas School Book Depository. From here on out we'll refer to it by its initials, TSBD.

(MORE)

SMITH (CONT'D)

Unit Five will be in the car park behind this picket fence. Unit Six will be across Main Street in the south pergola. And Unit Seven will be across Main Street and behind the tree line, where the lawn slopes up to the south end of the Triple Overpass and the railroad tracks.

MAN

And security for the president?

SMITH

We can thank Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry on this. He told Sheriff Bill Decker that his people wouldn't be needed. Curry said the police and the Secret Service have plenty of boots on the ground. In truth, there aren't enough police for crowd control of a Thanksgiving Day parade, much less protection of the president. Furthermore, all Secret Service agents will be riding in the motorcade. Apparently, Sheriff Decker's so angry about the lack of protection that he's planned a small protest. Some of his men will mass at the corner of Houston and Elm so they can see them when they ride by.

MAN

Who can see them?

SMITH

Curry and Decker. They'll be in the lead car.

MAN

Really. They're usually further back in the motorcade. Curry must be worried he's in the line of fire.

SMITH

Curry also cut the motorcycle escort from twelve to six, and has them all riding behind the president's limo.

MAN

What about security for the Units?

SMITH

Some of our Security Team will dress as Sheriff's Deputies while others will wear suits and carry Secret Service credentials.

(MORE)

SMITH (CONT'D)

They'll all be armed with service revolvers. One of our Secret Service agents will carry a semi-automatic rifle. Oh, the Security Team also believe it's a false-flag operation.

MAN

What about the Army's CIC agents?

SMITH

They'll be situated throughout the plaza, filming everything.

MAN

How do the Units get into position?

SMITH

The railroad yard extends back of the car park and TSBD, with a spur behind the Dal-Tex and County Records Buildings. In the morning Security will clear out any railroad workers behind the buildings. We'll have someone enter each building under the guise of being there on business; they'll wait by the rear doors. Later, Units One and Two will arrive in one car and park behind the Dal-Tex Building. When the word is given, the two people in the buildings will open the back doors for the Units. They'll enter with a newspaper plus their disassembled rifles in a tool box, and take the back stairs to the roofs.

MAN

A newspaper?

SMITH

To lay on the roof under their feet. Keeps the crud off them so they don't look suspicious later on.

The Man shrugs.

SMITH (CONT'D)

They're refurbishing the floors in TSBD. Workmen are constantly going in and out, carrying toolboxes and whatnot. Units Three and Four will wear the same workmen's overalls and carry their disassembled rifles in toolboxes. The coordinator will go up on the roof. He has the God perch, an overall view of the plaza.

MAN

Okay.

SMITH

Security will surveil the car park in three cars: one will ride through at 30 minutes before zero hour, a second car 15 minutes later, and the third car two minutes prior. If the area hasn't been cleared of railroad workers or some Dallas cop wanders in, we'll abort the operation.

MAN

Make sure that doesn't happen.

SMITH

Yes, sir. A Security Team will also patrol the car park where it meets TSBD's loading dock. We'll have a car parked there for exfiltration.

MAN

Not the spotters?

SMITH

No need. Four's spotter has Secret Service credentials, while Five's is dressed as a railroad worker.

MAN

What about Unit Three's cuckoo?

SMITH

He was a late addition to Team A. His exfiltration was arranged by his sponsor. He'll leave via one of TSBD's back exits - there's about 40 of them. A car will be waiting on Houston Street to pick him up.

The Man slaps the armrest pads of the chair.

MAN

I don't care for these impromptu arrangements. If it doesn't go as planned, I want the man eliminated.

SMITH

Yes, sir. After the second car surveils the car park, Unit Five will emerge from a railcar and move into position behind the picket fence. There, the cuckoo will assemble his rifle. Unit Six will be here, in the south pergola.

(MORE)

SMITH (CONT'D)

The cuckoo will wear a suit and only carry a service revolver.

MAN

His role was not in the brief.

SMITH

No. He'll fire a blank that will get everyone in the motorcade looking in the wrong direction - at the post office on Commerce Street. We opted for this rather than have a cuckoo fire across the plaza and possibly wound a spectator.

MAN

I agree; it's a better move.

SMITH

Unit Seven will move into position at 10:00. This gives Security, who'll be in a Sheriff's uniform, enough time to make the south lawn off limits to everyone.

MAN

How is Unit Seven being armed?

SMITH

In the morning, one of our people will drive a pick-up truck on Elm Street, go under the Triple Overpass and pull onto the curb about 30 feet past it. During our trial runs, we found that no one in Dealey Plaza could see the truck when it was parked in this manner. One of our Security Team with Secret Service credentials will take a rifle case out of the truck and deliver it to our Security man at the south end of Triple Overpass. After the area's been secured, he'll hand the rifle over to Unit Seven.

MAN

Alright. Go on to The Big Event.

SMITH

The motorcade will travel west on Main Street, turn north onto Houston then make a 110-degree turn west onto Elm Street. These two areas marked in yellow on the curb on Elm Street are Kill Zones. A volley will occur at each one.

MAN

Why have you opted not to shoot the targets while they're on Houston Street, coming towards the Units on the rooftops and in TSBD? If the cuckoos miss, they still have time to fire again.

SMITH

That's true for President Kennedy, but not for Governor Connally.

MAN

Why not?

SMITH

The governor and his wife will be sitting in jumpseats in front of the President and Mrs. Kennedy and behind the two Secret Service agents in the front seat. Connally will be sitting directly behind Assistant Special Agent in Charge Roy Kellerman, who's on the passenger side; that makes the governor barely visible from the front. But once the limousine turns onto Elm Street, there are clear sightlines to both Kennedy and Connally, from the front, the rear and the side. You see, the driver, William Greer, has to slow the president's limousine to under ten miles an hour to make this obtuse turn onto Elm Street. Greer's been instructed to stay at a slow speed after the turn to allow the cuckoos to aim small. That way if they miss they'll still hit the target somewhere on the head or the back.

MAN

Okay, continue.

SMITH

So, the president's limousine has turned onto Elm Street. The order's given to Unit Six to fire. Units One, Three and Seven sight in Kennedy. Units Two and Four aim for Connally. Unit Five, however, does not fire at this juncture; that's because Unit Seven is the primary.

MAN

Why Unit Seven? It seems odd to me.

SMITH

It's based on three things: trajectory, Seven's cuckoo is a superior shot, and Elm Street undulates and has an 'S' curve. At the apex of the two curves in the 'S', Elm Street is 421 feet above sea level. Equally as important, the limousine at these two points is actually facing the south end of the Triple Overpass, where Unit Seven is positioned. His location is also 421 feet above sea level, giving the cuckoo a flat trajectory for his shot.

MAN

I see...

SMITH

After the president's limo passes the first curve, the roadway slopes down nine feet, increasing the chances of a miss. So no order to fire will be given. At the second curve, however, the road rises again to 421 feet, and the limo again faces the south end of the Triple Overpass and Unit Seven.

MAN

And the yellow markings on the curb indicate the apexes of these curves.

SMITH

Yes. At the second curve, the order will be given for a second volley. Greer will come to a near stop to increase the chances of a fatal hit. Unit Five's position behind the fence is 15 feet above the roadway, so a hit is problematical. He is only to fire if he sees that the president is still alive. I should point out here that a hit by anyone in either volley can alter the position of Kennedy's body, increasing the likelihood of a miss by the other cuckoos.

MAN

I understand that but it's paramount that a kill shot be delivered.

SMITH

That's where I have a problem, sir.

MAN

What?

SMITH

More than one kill shot will
destroy your lone-gunman scenario.

MAN

Leave that for the Follow-up Teams
to address. Your responsibility is
to ensure that President Kennedy
does not leave Dealey Plaza alive.
Is that clear?

SMITH

Yes, sir.

MAN

Now, where are our false sponsors
during all this?

SMITH

Oswald was told by his handler, Mike
Paine, that through his efforts, the
plot's been uncovered and aborted.

MAN

Really pumping up Oswald's ego.

SMITH

Oswald believes the motorcade will
proceed with only the anti-Castro
Cubans staging a false-flag
incident. Kennedy won't be harmed.

MAN

What are Oswald's instructions?

SMITH

He's to wait in the second-floor
lunchroom of TSBD where there's a
payphone in the vestibule. Paine
will call Oswald and tell him where
they'll meet. Oswald will then be
flown to New Orleans. Of course,
he'll never make that flight.

MAN

What about the backup false sponsor?

SMITH

Buell Frazier. He believes he's
helping the FBI by keeping tabs on
Oswald, the Communist. Frazier has
no knowledge whatsoever of the hit.

MAN

Okay. Let's talk about exfiltration.

SMITH

This fence at the north end of the Triple Overpass obscures a steam pipe running behind it. Next to the pipe is this storm drain cover. You open it and climb down the steps to the storm drain which leads to an estuary of the Trinity River. Security on the Triple Overpass will exit the plaza this way and rendezvous with Units One and Two at the estuary.

MAN

I hope you're issuing them waders.

SMITH

By 13:00 it's low tide, just muddy. Units One and Two will leave down the back stairs, get into their car and drive to the Trinity River. They'll change cars and, along with some of the Security Team, be driven to Redbird Airport. Units One and Two will be flown to a safehouse in Mexico City. The two members of the Security Team will take a military hop to Fort Carson. At TSBD, Units Three and Four will have called for the two elevators, bringing them upstairs. They'll leave the doors open so no one can use the elevators. Both Units will toss their rifles and radios out the westernmost window and onto the roof of the loading dock. Unit Three will then separate; the cuckoo will run down the back stairs and out one of the exits. He'll be picked up by a confederate waiting in a Plymouth sedan. Three's spotter and Unit Four will also go down the back stairs but head into the rail yard where they'll hide in a rail car. They'll be picked up by the second car that surveilled the car park, a Ford Fairlane, and taken to a safehouse outside Dallas. Later, they'll be driven to Love Field where they'll catch an unmarked C-47 used in the Bay of Pigs invasion.

(MORE)

SMITH (CONT'D)

It'll fly them to a CIA base in Santo Domingo.

MAN

Go on.

SMITH

One of our men on the Dallas Police force will climb onto the loading dock roof and retrieve the rifles and radios. He'll hand them off to the driver of the third car that surveilled the car park, a Chevy Biscayne. The cuckoo for Unit Five will hand his rifle to his spotter who, as I mentioned earlier, is dressed as a railroad worker. The spotter will disassemble the rifle and put it in his toolbox. He'll hand it off to the Security Team near TSBD's loading dock. The Security Team will get into the Rambler station wagon parked there. Unit Five's cuckoo, who's also in a sheriff's uniform, will get into the station wagon; then they'll drive off to a safehouse in Fort Worth.

MAN

Whose owns the Rambler?

SMITH

Ruth Paine, Michael's wife. Unit Five's spotter and the Security Team with Secret Service credentials will secure the car park, the rail yard and the loading dock until the Dallas Police and probably some real Sheriff's deputies arrive. They'll then slip out of the plaza.

MAN

How?

SMITH

All eyes will be on the picket fence in front of the car park. That's because Unit Five's rifle will have been oiled the night before. When the cuckoo fires, it'll emit a cloud of smoke that'll grab everyone's attention. While rush to the car park to get the shooter, our people will simply walk away. If they're stopped, they'll simply flash their Secret Service credentials.

MAN

You didn't say anything about Unit Six?

SMITH

After their cuckoo fires that one blank, they're done. When the shooting's over and everyone's racing to the car park, they'll head northeast out of Dealey Plaza.