



# THE BLACK DIAMOND

An Original Screenplay by  
Randall Berger

Story by  
Randall Berger & Alex Spektor

Draft 2.7 B (17.1.11)

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## **In Pictures**

ACN 111 923 329  
227 Moray Street  
South Melbourne VIC 3205  
+61.3.9686 7997  
alex@inpictures.com.au

**TITLE: Ekaterinburg, Russia. July 17, 1918**

1 EXT. IPATIEV HOUSE - 2 AM 1

The opulent two-storey white Italianate villa glows in the midsummer twilight.

The rolling thunder in the distance becomes the distinct sound of artillery fire.

ARMED GUARDS, bayonets fixed, patrol the grounds. They are very on edge. Lights come on in some of the second floor windows of the villa.

2 INT. IPATIEV HOUSE DOWNSTAIRS - 2 AM 2

Loud pounding on doors is heard upstairs in the house.

3 INT. IPATIEV HOUSE - DR. BORTKIN'S BEDROOM - 2 AM 3

DR. BORTKIN, the Romanoff family physician, is writing a letter.

YAKOV YUROVSKY, Commissar in charge of the Romanoff Protection Unit, barges into the doctor's room without knocking. Yurovsky is swarthy, earning the nickname "dark man."

YUROVSKY

Get them up. Move them downstairs.  
There is unrest in the town. It  
will be dangerous in the upper  
rooms if there is shooting in the  
streets ... for safety, you  
understand.

Bortkin screws the cap on his pen, puts it down, stands wearily and pulls on his jacket without answering, as if well accustomed to this routine. Yurovsky takes a more conciliatory tone.

YUROVSKY

Comrade Doctor. Please. You do  
not have to stay. The Committee  
has no quarrel with you.

Bortkin peers at Yurovsky, as if able to see into his soul.

BORTKIN  
The Prince. He needs me.

YUROVSKY  
Very well.

4 INT. IPATIEV HOUSE THE TSAR'S BEDROOM - 2 AM

4

There is a light tap on the door.

NICHOLAS (50), ALEXANDRA (46) and PRINCE ALEXI (11) are already up, pulling on clothes, seemingly used to this routine, as well.

TRUPP the valet is helping the Tsar and Prince Alexi dress. DEMIDOVA the maid assists the Tsaritsa Alexandra.

The TSAR and TSARITSA look haggard and worn, beyond their years, though at all times trying to keep up appearances and radiate dignity.

ALEXI looks pale and lethargic. Because of his deteriorating illness, he now cannot stand unaided and a wheelchair sits at the ready nearby.

ALEXANDRA  
Come in.

Dr. Bortkin enters, followed by two young soldiers with large revolvers drawn and ready.

BORTKIN  
I am sorry, Your Majesty, Your Royal Highnesses ...

NICHOLAS  
It is fine, Bortkin ... we know.

BORTKIN  
They wish us to leave the upper floors in case shots are fired.

ALEXANDRA

No, that's the White Army  
approaching ... our army. They  
probably mean to move us again,  
further east.

BORTKIN

I am sorry, Your Royal ...

The two young soldiers have doffed their shabby caps in respect, only to receive a scowl from Commissar Yurovsky as he barges between them.

YUROVSKY

Aren't you ready yet? Get  
downstairs.

Alexandra stays rigidly still. A standoff.

YUROVSKY

... please.

Yurovsky storms out. The Monarchs leave the room, Alexandra clutching a pillow, the Tsar carrying Prince Alexi, followed by the two soldiers and Bortkin, Trupp and Demidova, who also clutches a pillow.

5 INT. IPATIEV HOUSE OUTSIDE THE PRINCESSES BEDROOM - 2 AM 5

TWO SOLDIERS stand at the ready outside the door to the Royal Princesses bedroom.

The door opens and the four ladies troop out, dressed in almost identical long sleeve high neck white linen blouses and narrow ankle length skirts.

The Royal Princesses are OLGA (22) TATIANA (21) MARIE (19) and ANASTASIA (17). All clutch pillows like their mother, apart from Anastasia, who cuddles her King Charles Spaniel, Jimmy.

One of the soldiers, VLADIMIR (20), snaps to attention as the Princesses emerge. The other soldier snorts at this misplaced sign of respect.

Anastasia locks eyes with Vladimir and blushes, as does he. Both wear a shy, knowing smile. The three other Princesses obviously do not approve.

The soldiers escort the Princesses down the stairs.

6 INT. IPATIEV HOUSE UPSTAIRS LANDING - 2AM 6

The Landing is crowded.

Everyone descends the stairs, met at the bottom by the Cook, KHARITINOV, who hands out little paper bags of what must be snacks to the Prince and Princesses. He then follows the entourage.

YUROVSKY  
Come on, quickly now ...

7 INT. IPATIEV HOUSE BARE ROOM - 2 AM 7

Everyone troops into a bare room without any furniture, a vaulted ceiling and striped wallpaper.

Alexandra looks around the room, somewhat miffed.

ALEXANDRA  
No chairs. May we not sit?

Yurovsky orders the soldier coming through the door.

YUROVSKY  
Bring two chairs ... The Empress is  
dying to sit down.

One of the soldiers sniggers. The soldier brings in two simple bentwood chairs. Alexandra takes one and the Tsar sits Prince Alexi in the other.

YUROVSKY  
Now ... I have been ordered to ...  
photograph you. There are rumors  
in Moscow and St Petersburg that  
you have escaped. I must show  
proof that this is not so. Line up  
against that wall.

Yurovsky begins setting the stage as if for a photo.

YUROVSKY

You there ... the chairs in front.  
The Tsar there. In a straight line.  
Alright, bring them in ...

Everyone casually expects photographers to come in, but instead eleven armed Bolshevik soldiers troop in and stand opposite the line. They have large revolvers drawn. Five kneel in the front and six stand behind.

Suspicious still aren't raised. Everyone fidgets. Jimmy the dog yawns. Dr. Bortkin glances out the door, still expecting photographers to come in.

Yurovsky takes a sheet of paper from his pocket and formally reads.

YUROVSKY

"In view of the fact that your relatives are continuing their attack on Soviet Russia, the Ural Executive Committee has decided to execute you."

The Tsar and the family look incredulous, as if this is a joke. There is dead silence in the room.

Anastasia locks eyes with Vladimir in a silent plea for help. He has a bewildered look of panic. The other soldiers have drawn their revolvers.

Alexandra visibly senses the reality of the situation. She stands slowly from her chair and stares down the men. She raises her hand above her head, gripping something tightly in her fist.

Suddenly, there seems to be wind swirling around the room and a crackling noise. Alexandra's eyes are afire with a brittle black crystal radiance. Her long braids unravel and her hair writhes around her head like Medusa's snakes.

In a voice from another world, she incants.

ALEXANDRA

"By the black heart of Rasputin and the lives of all past, present and future, I curse you and your descendents for all time! I will come back and avenge our lives!"

The ELEVEN SOLDIERS are aghast. They begin to lower their pistols. They whisper amongst themselves. Yurovsky reels on them.

YUROVSKY

Show some spine, you superstitious peasants!

The Tsar stands and begins to speak.

NICHOLAS

Please ... Yurovsky ... let's ...

Yurovsky spins and shoots the Tsar point blank in the face. Time is frozen for a split second. Then the other men raise their guns and begin a fusillade at the shocked family and their retainers.

The din of gunfire and screams in the small room is deafening.

After the initial firing dies down, two of the Princesses are still very much alive, trying to climb the wall behind them.

Diamonds and gemstones sewn into their clothes and pillows sparkle through the bullet holes.

Yurovsky takes the revolver that he has reloaded and proceeds to shoot the two princesses in the head.

Silence fills the room, almost completely white with the thick cloud of gunpowder.

The plaster wall behind the Romanoffs is riddled with holes, the striped wallpaper in tatters and covered with sprays of blood.

There is so much blood pooling on the polished wooden floor that the men slip as they shuffle around in their post-slaughter anxiety.

A groan is heard from Prince Alexi. Yurovsky looks disgusted towards the men.

YUROVSKY  
Wouldn't shoot a child? Cowards ...

He performs the coup de grace.

Anastasia has merely fainted. Coming to suddenly, she cries out.

Yurovsky draws his pistol to despatch her when Vladimir suddenly steps forward beside him, pistol drawn and young jaw set. He snaps to attention.

Yurovsky steps aside, nods and gestures with his gun that the honour of killing Anastasia is Vladimir's.

Anastasia lies on her back amongst the scattered bodies of her family and retinue. Vladimir stands over her, a foot either side. Their eyes meet before Anastasia closes her's and accepts what is coming.

Vladimir carefully aims straight down into Anastasia's face and fires three times.

Jimmy the dog yaps and whines, licking Anastasia's limp hand. Another soldier smashes its head with the heel of his boot.

8 EXT. ROAD INTO THICK FOREST - LATER

8

A dilapidated truck groans along an uneven forest track at not much more than walking pace.

The soldiers walk beside it, often having to wait for it to catch up or push it over a hump.

Dawn is breaking and the occasional artillery volley can still be heard in the distance.

Vladimir walks beside the slow moving truck, a hand against the slatted side for support.

The eleven bodies of the Romanoffs and their attendants have been tossed like rag dolls into the cargo area, wrapped in sheets and bedspreads. Blood runs down the slatted sides of the truck.



The occasional dead eye or dainty bloodied hand is glimpsed as the moonlight breaks through the treetops.

9 INT. ANCIENT TRUCK CAB - LATER 9

Yurovsky drags impatiently on a Russian cigarette, the acrid blue smoke filling the cab.

The driver looks over with an appeal in his eyes for a smoke, but is ignored. He downshifts and the toothless gears screech in protest.

10 EXT. ANCIENT TRUCK - LATER 10

With a huge crunch, the ancient truck totters into a ditch, nearly tipping over, the wooden spokes breaking on the front wheel. This truck is going no further.

Yurovsky and the driver leap from the cab to inspect the damage. Yurovsky kicks at the driver as he inspects the wheel, missing, and then looks around.

YUROVSKY

Shit! Well, this is as good a place as any, I suppose. Haul them over there and get a fire started.

11 EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAWN 11

The rear gate of the truck is dropped and the soldiers begin to unload the bodies.

Vladimir effortlessly hefts the body of Anastasia onto his shoulder from the back of the truck. His eyes are full of tears. The other soldiers snigger at this infatuation, continuing even after death.

The bodies are carried and dragged into a clearing in the thick wood. Some of the soldiers take axes and begin to chop wood and pile it into a bonfire.

Others begin to strip the bodies naked, making lewd comments as much to alleviate their embarrassment as anything. Nobody is paying much attention to who is who in the bloody mess.

Yurovsky is sitting on a log, trying to keep an eagle eye, but really only paying attention to a bottle of vodka. He stands and begins to berate everyone.

YUROVSKY

The riches these criminals carry are stolen and belong to the people and the Communist Party. Anyone who steals anything ... even one kopek ... will be shot by me and burned along with the Romanoff scum. I want everything here ... everything!

One of the bloodied sheets is spread out and every item of clothing is piled on it and bundled up.

The contents of a gerry can is shaken over the woodpile and the bonfire leaps alight.

The soldiers now turn the wood axes on the bodies, chopping them up just like wood and tossing the pieces onto the bonfire.

There are no more comments and everyone is very quiet. Only the familiar butcher-shop smack of axes on flesh and bone is heard, and the crackle and spit of fat in the fire. More than one soldier retches without shame.

The growing fire is reflected in Vladimir's eyes as a confident smile crosses his lips.

12 INT. IPATIEV HOUSE YUROVSKY'S OFFICE - MORNING

12

Yurovsky sits at the enormous desk in front of shelves lined with leather bound books.

As the morning light streams through the window, Yurovsky meticulously slits open the garments, pries open shoes, slashes pillows and rips apart the hats of the Romanoffs and their retinue.

Before him on the blotter sits a growing pile of gemstones, necklaces, tiaras, gold, pearls, coins, chains and other valuables. His eyes grow wider as the pile grows higher.

Suddenly, out of the Tsaritsa's bloodied gown drops an enormous stone. Yurovsky holds it aloft to the light and is bedazzled.

YUROVSKY  
The Black Diamond!

A wind blows around the room, similar to that which earlier blew around the cellar. His eyes widen and take on the glistening black diamond effect.

The ghostly, snarling face of the Mad Monk Rasputin can be seen over his features for a moment. When it returns to his own face, Yurovsky smirks confidently as if knowing what to do.

He quickly puts the Black Diamond and a handful of larger gems into his pocket.

**[OPENING CREDITS]**

13 INT/EXT. HARROD'S DEPARTMENT STORE - CCTV FOOTAGE - DAY 13

Grainy, jumpy CCTV footage, branded with BBC logos and marked as Harrod's Security Dept.

Various scenes from security cameras show people going about their shopping.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR (V/O)  
It started off as a normal shopping day at London's exclusive Harrod's department store in Knightsbridge when, at 12.47, two loud bangs were heard and people started screaming.

As the newsreader speaks, two loud cracks are heard and people start running in every direction. Exterior cameras on the street show people pouring out of the exits.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR (V/O)  
As you can see from this CCTV footage, absolute pandemonium broke out as shoppers and staff ran for the exits.

14 INT. BBC NEWS DESK - DAY

14

The CCTV footage scenes continue inset behind anchor.

This is replaced with studio file shots of a smiling group of 12 teenagers looking very geeky.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR

Unbeknownst to Harrod's security, a group of gifted students from the Moscow Lyceum and their British hosts made an unscheduled stop in the famous store to do some shopping.

15 INT. HARROD'S DEPARTMENT STORE - CCTV FOOTAGE

15

Earlier CCTV footage of the Russian and British teens shopping and file footage of the students visiting British landmarks.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR (V/O)

These six gifted Russian students are here on a program where they are partnered by gifted British students, who will then travel to Russia. No one expected that these brilliant young people could be a target.

Several angles then show partial views of three armed people throwing flash/bang grenades and herding the stunned students into a corner and wrestling with a young woman.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

It seems the attack was carried out by terrorists from a Russian separatist organisation disguised as shoppers. They then proceeded to strap an explosive device to one of the Russian students.

File shots of Breslin Massacre.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

This attack brought back terrifying memories of the Breslin School Hostage Crisis of 2004.

16 INT. BBC NEWS DESK - DAY

16

The anchor is again on camera, with a grainy close-up from the CCTV footage of the bewildered teenage students cowering in a corner around one with something strapped to her body - inset behind.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR

What could have turned into an enormous tragedy with international repercussions soon became something quite different. Enter a knight in shining armour.

The CCTV image is replaced with a posed photo of BRYCE HUNT in full desert camouflage and kit and dark glasses, so it could be anyone.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR

This is Captain Bryce Hunt, military attache from the Australian High Commission, who just happened to be shopping in the next aisle when the attack took place.

17 INT/EXT. HARROD'S DEPARTMENT STORE - CCTV FOOTAGE

17

What follows is incredibly rapid and often nondescript as it cuts from one camera to another to try to follow the action.

A man vaults over a high aisle display, coming down on the three assailants and the students like a tonne of bricks. He wields umbrellas like swords, soap-on-a-rope like numchokkas, silk scarves like garrots and hair brushes like ninja stars.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

With incredible skill and ingenuity, using just items from Harrod's displays, Captain Hunt was able to despatch the three terrorists and disarm the explosive device even before police were on the scene.

Soon, he is kneeling beside the female student and quickly disarms the vest and throws it far away. As she hugs her saviour, and the other students weep for joy, SWAT police are seen storming the entrances from outside.

18 INT. TELEVISION STATION - MORNING - PRESENT DAY

18

The studio set of a popular daytime chat show.

An inset screen behind the host shows the last frame of the BBC news report.

HOST

That, viewers, is the story behind my next guest, The People's Hero, Captain Bryce Hunt.

The audience applaud. Some of the women even squeal. BRYCE HUNT is incredibly handsome in a rugged, James Bond sort of way. He is mid 30s and shows as little expression and emotion as possible.

Bryce shakes hands with the Host and sits in the indicated chair, all but ignoring the audience. The applause dies down.

HOST

Iraq, East Timor, Afghanistan, and now Harrod's Department store ... quite a battle record, wouldn't you say?

The audience titter. Bryce looks at the host as if expecting a supplemental question. He offers no smile.

HOST

The first three, you were taking orders ... in Harrod's, someone was taking your order!

The floor manager signals for laughter. Bryce still doesn't offer a smile.

BRYCE

I was just in the right place at the right time ... and I had the right training.

HOST

Three heavily armed assassins and you ... armed with umbrellas, soap-on-a-rope, silk scarves and several Mason Pearson hair brushes. Very good training, if you ask me!

BRYCE

Mason Pearson make very good hair brushes.

This actually garners a laugh, though unintended. Bryce still doesn't crack a smile.

HOST

Are you a member of the Special Forces, Captain Hunt? In other words, trained killer?

Bryce simply looks at the Host as if he didn't hear and is waiting for a more intelligent question. The Host obviously senses he crossed a line.

HOST

Captain, I believe you received some exciting news today?

BRYCE

The Russians want to give me a medal.

HOST

Not just any medal, Captain Hunt ...  
The Hero of Russia medal ... the  
first time ever awarded to a non-  
Russian. How do you feel about  
that?

BRYCE

I was just doing the right thing  
against people who were doing the  
wrong thing. Nothing more.

19 INT. DANN RYAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

19

In amongst a tumble of pillows, comforters, arms and  
legs on a big bed is DANN RYAN. Late 20s, single,  
unkempt and undisciplined.

His mobile phone rings on the night stand. He reaches  
for it blindly, pulling up his night mask. After  
finally grabbing the phone, he answers.

DANN

Hello! This had better be good ...

20 INT. MAX MERKIN'S OFFICE - MORNING

20

Dann's agent MAX MERKIN sits in an office covered with  
signed posters of famous pop stars.

Mr. 10% is obviously doing well. There are also photos  
of big and bigger clients on the wall. Merkin glances  
off towards a smallish photo of Dann as he talks.

MAX

Danny ... boychick ... have you been  
practicing your Russian? You are  
ready, aren't you? Packed? The cab  
will be there in 15.

21 INT. DANN RYAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

21

Eyes wide and wide awake now, Dann springs from his bed  
and begins throwing things in a bag.



DANN

Sure! Max! I was practicing my Russian most of yesterday ... with tomato juice and later without a net. I can say Stolichnaya without slurring. Just.

22 INT. MAX MERKIN'S OFFICE - MORNING 22

MAX

You're not sounding your bright and sparky self, Danny Boy, so I assume that's code for you got plastered last night.

23 INT. DANN RYAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING 23

Dann is still gathering stuff. He puts the phone on hands-free and keeps talking towards it as he gets dressed.

DANN

At least we only drank Russian vodka ... I learned 5 different Russian toasts. Did you know "Vodka" means Water?

24 INT. MAX MERKIN'S OFFICE - MORNING 24

MAX

I'm sure that will come in very handy. Now, Danny ... This is a big chance ... guest judge on RUSSIA'S GOT TALENT ... live from Moscow ... Don't screw it up!

25 INT. DANN RYAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING 25

Dann is still gathering stuff. He is shoving it into a carry all.

DANN

Max. What do I know about Russian talent? This is a crap job. Did you get first class?

26 INT. MAX MERKIN'S OFFICE - MORNING

26

MAX

It's an offer. It pays. You do it. Last chance. Oh, and I got you Business.

27 INT. QANTAS BUSINESS CLASS - LATER

27

Clutching his boarding pass and looking left and right at the numbers, Dann finds his seat on the plane and puts his pack in the overhead locker.

His companion all the way to Russia is none other than Bryce Hunt.

DANN

Oh My God, you're ... uh ... you're ...  
uh ...

Bryce extends his hand to Dann and they shake. Dann sits.

BRYCE

Bryce ... Bryce Hunt.

DANN

Fuck me!

BRYCE

No, thank you.

DANN

No! I mean ... It's an expression of disbelief. I didn't mean ... to

Bryce finally cracks a slight smile at Dann's embarrassment.

BRYCE

Yes, I know. Dann Ryan, 27, freelance media and music journalist, sometime radio announcer and DJ, on his way to Moscow to be a guest judge on RUSSIA'S GOT TALENT.

DANN

How the hell did you know that?

BRYCE

I make a habit of reading up on where I'm going and who's also might be going my way.

DANN

Cool!

BRYCE

Exactly.

DANN

How come you're not up in First? A big hero ...

BRYCE

I find it all a bit much. I asked for a different seat?

DANN

You asked for a *downgrade*? That's a new one on me.

Bryce cracks another ever so slight smile as he goes back to reading his inflight magazine.

BRYCE

Well, I wouldn't have met you.

28 INT. BORIS YUROVSKY'S BOARDROOM IN MOSCOW - SAME DAY

28

The inner sanctum of sanctums. This is the lair of BORIS YUROVSKY, head of the biggest Russian crime organisation.

Boris is very obviously a direct descendent of Commissar Yurovsky.

Boris is chairing a meeting of the five heads of his Russian crime divisions.

His daughter, NATASHA, stands beside and behind his chair.

BORIS

Capitalism is making it difficult to carry on a good crime empire. Every man and his dacha can be a criminal now. Free enterprise is making it tough for the traditional us. And the government is cracking down on organised crime ... Be careful what you say ... there are spies everywhere!

Boris flicks a switch and a huge plasma shows pictures to illustrate his rant. First, glorious pictures of Yakov Yurovsky.

BORIS

My Grandfather, the Great Revolutionary Hero Yurovsky, left a legacy that has allowed his clan to prosper since the Revolution.

Replaced by cheesy tourist shots of Australia and, in particular, Surfer's Paradise.

BORIS

Now, I have decided to move the Yurovsky empire into a new frontier ... Australia. I have travelled there before to visit my cousin.

Boris now shows "happy snaps" of this trip. Boris features in all the places he describes.

BORIS

Surfer's Paradise! It is always warm. It never snows. Girls always wear bikinis. There is lots of gambling, prostitution, drugs ... A lot of Russians live there now.

The plasma screen dims and Boris stands to address his people.

BORIS

I will personally oversee this exodus, but I will not abandon you, my trusty lieutenants. Everyone here will be taken care of.

My beautiful daughter, Natasha, is  
the next generation ... the heir to  
the Yurovsky legacy.

Boris steps away from the table and goes to leave the  
room.

BORIS

Natasha has arranged a little treat  
for you and has talked me into  
playing a part. The star, of course  
... My darling?

Boris gestures to Natasha and exits.

NATASHA

Gentlemen, if you will come this  
way, I have arranged a little show.

29 INT. YUROVSKY'S SHOW ROOM - LATER

29

Natasha leads the five lieutenants into another room.

It is a meticulous replica of the bare room in the  
Ipatiev House. She directs the five to stand along the  
front.

The men are visibly impressed and appreciate the effort  
and significance.

NATASHA

Gentlemen. In order to commemorate  
90 years of the Yurovsky Empire, we  
would like to present a reenactment  
of the execution of the Romanoffs.

The lieutenants guffaw and applaud raucously.

The lights dim. Actors dressed exactly as the 11  
members of the Royal Family and their servants troop in.

The actress playing Tsaritsa Alexandra plays her part to  
the hilt. The "Tsar" carries a frail 11 year-old boy.

"ALEXANDRA"

No Chairs? May we not sit?

Chairs are brought. The "Tsaritsa" and "Prince Alexi" sit.

Boris, now dressed exactly as his grandfather, leads in a troop of armed Bolshevik soldiers. The Mafya lieutenants cheer and whistle.

BORIS

(Over dramatically)

"In view of the fact that your relatives are continuing their attack on Soviet Russia, the Ural Executive Committee has decided to execute you."

The audience grow silent in the historic moment. Noticeably absent is the Tsaritsa's curse. The eleven soldier's raise their weapons. Everyone in the reenactment strikes a tableau pose of shock and horror and holds it for a brief moment.

Boris turns to the audience and continues, still in character.

BORIS

But the Romanoffs are not the only traitorous scum here. It's seems two of our brotherhood have been dealing with the Police ... selling us out!

The lieutenants look at one another, stunned. The soldiers turn and aim at the 5 lieutenants. The Royal Family, servants and even 11 year-old Alexi, also take out guns.

In a massive volley, they blow the shit out of two men in the audience.

At first, the three surviving capos are aghast, and then they cheer and salute Yurovsky for his incredible style. They actors all congratulate themselves and the festivities resume.

The two bullet-riddled bodies are dragged from the room.

30 INT. YUROVSKY'S PRIVATE OFFICE - LATER

30

BORIS is changing out of his Commissar costume.

With great anticipation, he opens an elaborate safe and gently brings out a large jewel case.

He sets it on the desk and opens it to reveal The Black Diamond. He takes it out of the case, holds it in both hands and closes his eyes. When he opens them, the Black Diamond eyes glisten from within.

The same effects that surrounded his Grandfather 90 years before swirl around him ... wind, smoke and static discharge.

First Boris' face physically assumes the features of Rasputin, then his Grandfather Yakov Yurovsky.

Suddenly, the spirit of Grandfather Yurovsky stands before him. The screams and gunfire from the Ipatiev cellar can be heard in the echoes of time, as if stored in the Diamond itself.

YUROVSKY'S SPIRIT

Your plan to leave Russia is good,  
my grandson. The evil forces of  
the Romanoffs are trying to avenge  
their death and recover what they  
lost. Now that their bones have  
been recovered and brought  
together, their power is stronger.  
I cannot protect you much longer ...

With a "whoosh," Yurovsky's Spirit returns to the Diamond.

Natasha comes in and her eyes widen when she sees The Black Diamond just before it is returned to the safe.

BORIS

We must leave soon and we must  
travel light. There are people who  
will do anything to get their hands  
on this. It is the last great  
treasure of the Romanoffs.

This conversation begins to come out of headphones and speakers, picked up by "bugs" seen around the room, setting little sound meters flashing and needles jumping.

BORIS (V.O.)

It could be used against us. It is very powerful. We must find a way of smuggling it to Australia.

One listening group is obviously the Russian Secret Mafiya Police Detail. Their leader is very short, compensating with an elaborate military style uniform and huge round peaked cap.

NATASHA (V.O.)

If it is anything like our last trip, the Russian and Australian officials will search every nook and cranny of both of us. I must remember to wear better lingerie.

There is another secret group listening, all dressed in black. They have little double-headed eagle gold pins on their lapels.

Their leader, whom everyone defers and bows to, is a stunning young blonde who is the spitting image of Princess Anastasia!

BORIS (V.O.)

We must find a "mule" ... some dumb jackass that will carry the package for us! You have the responsibility, Natasha. Find a mule to carry it.

31 INT. CRIME POLICE OFFICE - SAME DAY

31

Davidoff, the Little Policeman, paces.

His team rolls their eyes as he passes and rants.

DAVIDOFF

Whatever "it" is, we must get it. Then we can crush Yurovsky once and for all.



I can name my price ... and you will  
all be rewarded, of course ... find  
me that donkey!

SEVERAL POLICE ASSISTANTS

Mule ...

32 INT. ROMANOFF GROUP HEADQUARTERS - SAME DAY 32

The Romanoff group is gathered around ANASTASIA IV,  
their leader.

ANASTASIA

It is our duty to retrieve this  
thing and return it to the tomb of  
my ancestors. We have brought about  
the recovery of their remains and  
an admission that their slaying was  
unjust. Our cause is good, and we  
may yet destroy the Yurovskys.

33 EXT. MONTAGE: SCENES OF MOSCOW, HUSTLE AND BUSTLE, 33  
COLOUR AND MOVEMENT. MOSCOW BASKS IN THE BEAUTIFUL MAY  
SUNSHINE. MUSIC: COVER OF DSCHINGHIS KAHN'S 1980 HIT  
"MOSCOW, MOSCOW"

34 EXT. SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT RUNWAY - MORNING 34

A mighty Aeroflot wide-body Il-96 jet comes in for a  
perfect landing and taxis to the terminal.

35 INT. ARRIVAL HALL SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT - MORNING 35

Dann and Bryce arrive in Moscow. Dann is more than  
slightly jet lagged, but Bryce is fresh as a daisy.

Bryce is met by Russians like a hero. They scream and  
wave signs like he is some kind of pop star.

BRYCE

So, it seems I am already a Hero of  
Russia. Even before I get the  
medal.

Two groups of minders converge on the pair ... Russian State Officials for Bryce and Channel One people for Dann.

DANN

Keep in touch! I'm sure you can't miss Russia's Got Talent ... You can be my guest! Can he be my guest?

Dann's minders look puzzled. Bryce interjects in perfect Russian.

BRYCE

(Russian with English subtitles)  
My friend wishes to know if I can be his guest for this television show.

DANN MINDER #1

(Russian with English subtitles)  
Oh, my God! Captain Bryce! It would be an absolute honour! And you speak Russian like a native!

BRYCE

(Russian with English subtitles)  
Comes with the territory.

Bryce turns and shakes hands farewell with Dann.

BRYCE

He said yes.

The minders sweep them apart and into separate limos.

Standing nearby watching this scene are two Moscow cabbies who turn to each other and nod.

36 INT. SUITE AT THE METROPOL HOTEL - DAY 36

Bryce is shown into a suite at the Metropol with big rooms and lavish facilities.

37 INT. ROOM AT THE HOTEL CENTRALNAYA - DAY 37

Dann is shown into a tiny cold water room at the Hotel Centralnaya with a single bed and no bathroom.

38 INT. CHANNEL ONE STUDIOS, MOSCOW - NIGHT

38

The enormous set for RUSSIA'S GOT TALENT is a hive of activity.

The audience is being warmed up, the cameras and cranes practice shots, stage lights practice their manoeuvres and the contestants warm up in the wings.

Four judges sit at the tradition table facing the stage ... Leonid Parfyonov, Alexander Maslyakov, Renata Litvinova and Dann Ryan.

FLOOR MANAGER  
(in Russian)  
60 seconds to air.

Dann leans over to Renata who is checking her nose in a compact.

DANN  
What did he say?

RENATA  
One minute. Are you nervous?

DANN  
Nah, piece of piss.

Renata is aghast.

DANN  
Look, is there someone I can see about my hotel room? It's kind of ...

LEONID  
Where did they put you, the Centralnaya?

DANN  
Uh, yeah ...

LEONID  
You're lucky. The guest judge from New Zealand ended up on a couch offered by one of the crew ... Who charged 500 rubles.

FLOOR MANAGER

(in Russian)

15 seconds to air.

ALL THREE RUSSIAN JUDGES

(to Dann)

He said 15 seconds!

A lull in the hubbub finally comes as everyone awaits the final countdown. Dann turns and scans the audience for Bryce, who catches his eye and gives a thumbs up.

Host Willie Haapasalo is centre stage having final checks and tissues pulled from his collar. He is handed a mic. The floor manager silently counts him in from three.

A prerecorded orchestra strikes up and from all of the screens around the huge studio we can see that an elaborate title sequence is being broadcast. The Host comes alive.

WILLIE

And now, from the Centre of the  
Russian Entertainment universe ...  
the studios of Channel One Moscow ...  
it's RUSSIA'S GOT TALENT!

The room positively erupts with applause. Cranes with cameras swing at dizzying speeds. The audience wave Russian and Australian flags and signs in Cyrillic.

WILLIE

Tonight, we broadcast in English as  
we share our talent with our sister  
country in the Got Talent world,  
Australia! Joining our three  
distinguished judges ... Leonid  
Parfyonov, Alexander Maslyakov and  
the ever beautiful Renata Litvinova  
... we have a guest judge from The  
Land Down Under ... Dann Ryan!

While Willie continues with the routine about the rules of the contest, one of the floor staff brings a man in a uniform into the audience and indicates Bryce. He shows a badge and gestures to Bryce to follow him up the aisle.

WILLIE

And our first contestant for  
tonight ... 3 year old rock and roll  
drummer, Ilya Svetlichny!

39 INT. RUSSIA'S GOT TALENT STUDIO AUDIENCE - NIGHT

39

As the uniformed guard leads Bryce out of the audience and into the relative dark under the bleachers, he turns and aims a pistol directly at Bryce, who immediately stops.

Four other armed men step out of the darkness, training Kalashnikovs at Bryce as they surround him.

Bryce notices the glowing countdowns of explosives placed around the bleachers. The obvious leader steps up to Bryce.

LEADER

Mr. Hunt, or should I say Captain.  
It is not a pleasure to meet you.  
You caused our organisation much  
grief and embarrassment in London  
recently.

Bryce says nothing and seems incredibly passive.

LEADER

One of those people you killed in  
London was my brother. We thought  
three people was enough to deal  
with any threat. We will not make  
the same mistake twice.

BRYCE

You already have.

Bryce rolls his eyes back in his head and seems to collapse in a dead faint. Those around him instinctively go to grab him, but step back to find he has rolled into the inky blackness under the stands.

Caught completely unawares, the terrorists frantically look around in the darkness.

With gymnastic precision and frightening speed, Bryce swings from the support beams and bars under the audience to disarm and incapacitate all five thugs.

The cacophony of the 3 year-old rock and roll drummer and his punk guitarist father, along with the supportive crowd, cover any noise.

Bryce grabs a roll of gaffer tape and trusses up the villains. He then proceeds to disarm all of the explosives and remove the detonators.

Bryce walks into the light back towards the audience. He motions to the studio floor staff member.

BRYCE

(Russian with English subtitles)

There are five men back there who were not at all happy with their seating arrangements. It became quite an explosive situation. I suggest the Police should deal with them.

Bryce calmly returns to his seat.

40 INT. CHANNEL ONE STUDIOS, MOSCOW - NIGHT

40

The audience go wild for 3 year old Ilya and his dad.

DANN

Oh, I predict a bright future ... I mean ... a recording contract at least by the time you're five!

LATER ...

A female limbo dancer clears a bar set on two Coke bottles.

DANN

The first time I've given a high score for such a low performance!

LATER ...

A five year old boy and girl do ballet and adagio.

DANN

Wow, last time I saw something like that, they were both about 20 years older and naked! I mean ... uh ... Renata?

The audience are almost hostile in their silence and hissing.

LATER ...

A man does a traditional version of the Eduard Khil TROLLOLO song.

DANN

Man, great voice, but I did not understand those lyrics at all!

FINALLY ...

A Kseniya Simonova wannabe does a tribute to Bryce Hunt's London rescue of the Russian Students in sand animation. The crowd weep with joy and rapture.

WILLIE

I must admit a little subterfuge here. This is not a contestant, but in fact a legitimate tribute to Captain Bryce Hunt, who is in our audience tonight!

Dann shoots to his feet with applause, followed by the entire audience who encourage a sheepish Bryce up onto the stage. The audience grown quiet.

WILLIE

Captain Hunt. I can say that in saving the life of the Russian Students, you also saved the life of every person in this audience.

Bryce looks to the rear of the studio to see the Police leading the terrorists out and the bomb squad casually handling the explosives.

BRYCE

You can say that again.

41 INT. RUSSIA'S GOT TALENT AFTER PARTY - NIGHT

41

Everybody who is anybody in Moscow is at this event.

Leonid, Alexander and Renata are being treated like royalty. Dann is making a madcap fool of himself and acting the total Aussie Abroad.

Natasha circles in on him. She is dressed to the nine-and-a-halves. Anastasia has an eye on Natasha. Davidoff can't see much over the crowd.

Natasha puts on a dumb Russian accent, even though her English is perfect.

NATASHA

You are Australian, no?

DANN

No ... I mean YES! Wow ...

Dann Ryan at a loss for words? But Natasha does look incredible. And she has her flirt on high beam.

NATASHA

I love anyone from the land down below the waist. I would like to go there. They would like me, no?

DANN

No ... I mean YES! Damn! Yes, they would certainly like you!

NATASHA

When are you in Australian next?

DANN

Oh ... in ... two ... days ... days two ...

NATASHA

Pity. I would like to more practice my Australian speaking ...

DANN

Well, maybe I'll see you around ...

Natasha winks and slinks away. Bryce comes and formally shakes hands with Dann.



BRYCE

You were very good. Apart from the adagio remark. Not just a good face for radio.

DANN

Oh My God. You made a funny! I actually think you're beginning to chill!

Everyone is trying to corral Bryce. Before he is swept away ...

BRYCE

I am getting my medal tomorrow night. I want you to be my special guest. Return the favour. At the Metropol.

Natasha has heard this exchange, as has Anastasia. Davidoff still can't see over the crowd.

Natasha takes out her cell phone and moves to a quieter corner. Davidoff is still trying to see over the crowd, but find himself directly alongside Natasha Yurovsky.

Davidoff's eyes widen and he tries to become invisible. Natasha glances at him as if at a worm.

Anastasia talks into her wrist.

ANASTASIA

She's about to use her cell. Start the intercept.

NATASHA

Daddy ... I found our mule. A harmless Australian TV host who is heading back day after tomorrow.

42 INT. YUROVSKY'S PRIVATE OFFICE - SAME TIME

42

Boris is eating great spoonfuls of thick, jam-like caviar and talking hands-free.

BORIS

I will miss caviar. I might have to try Vegemite. You were saying?

43 INT. RUSSIA'S GOT TALENT AFTER PARTY - SAME TIME 43

Natasha cups the phone and talks louder.

Davidoff is listening. Anastasia puts in an earplug and listens, too.

NATASHA

I said I have found our mule! His name is Dann Ryan. He will be perfect to carry the package for us.

44 INT. YUROVSKY'S PRIVATE OFFICE - SAME TIME 44

Boris is still eating, but raises an eyebrow to show interest.

BORIS

Interesting. And how do you plan to get him to carry the package? The usual ways might be a bit sensitive for an item that large.

45 INT. RUSSIAN POP IDOL AFTER PARTY - SAME TIME 45

NATASHA

You just leave that to me. I'm sure an opening will appear.

Anastasia and Davidoff are both amazed at what they have just heard.

46 INT. FOYER OF THE HOTEL CENTRALNAYA - DAY 46

Dann exits the tiny 2 man lift with an overweight German into the 1960s foyer.

Looking the total tourist ... cap, backpack, Lonely Planet Guide to Moscow ... he exits towards the bright sunshine.

47 EXT. HOTEL CENTRALNAYA - DAY 47

Throwing caution to the wind, Dann bravely snaps shut his guidebook, puts it in his backpack, slings it over one shoulder and troops off down the street.

48 INT. MAYAKOVSKYA METRO STATION - DAY 48

The incredible grandeur of this jewel in the crown of the Moscow Metro is offset by the poor and homeless who live here.

Dann stands before a giant wall map and is obviously hopelessly lost. No mater which way he turns his pocket map, it doesn't make sense or match the map on the wall.

TWO THUGS materialise on either side of DANN.

SASHA

Hello, my bewilder-red out-of-town visitor friend. I am Sasha ...

SASHA, TOO

I am Sasha, Too ... a very common name in Russia ...

Dann madly scrambles for his phrase book and is a complete failure in his greeting.

DANN

"Cocks wee pavlova Vikings ..."

The Two Sashas roll their eyes.

SASHA

Here, let me hold your bag. It must be heavy.

SASHA, TOO

Why do visitors carry such heavy bags?

DANN

No, please ... I'm OK ... I'm from Australia ...

SASHA

OH! Australia! Kangaroo ... Mel Gib-  
Zone ...

SASHA, TOO

Crocodile Dundee ... "That's not a  
knife" ...

SASHA

... THIS is a knife!

Sasha pulls a knife and waves it in Dann's face, who is still oblivious to the fact that he's being mugged and is quite bemused.

In a blur, the Two Sashas are laid out on the concourse, out cold, looking to all intents and purposes like any of the other homeless people asleep there. Dann turns left and right, not quite sure what has just happened.

An attractive blonde steps up beside Dann and hands him his backpack. It is Anastasia. Her English is impeccable.

ANASTASIA

I couldn't help but notice ... you  
seem to be lost.

DANN

Oh, crikey ... you speak English!

ANASTASIA

Most Russians do ... so much American  
television and movies these days!

DANN

These two guys were ...

ANASTASIA

Yes, they were ... an unfortunate  
part of Moscow life.

DANN

I'm ... uh ... Australian ... Dann.

Anastasia extends her hand and shakes his.

ANASTASIA

Anna.

DANN

You're beautiful ... uh ...

ANASTASIA

Why, thank you ... are all  
Australians as polite as you?

DANN

I didn't mean that ...

ANASTASIA

You didn't? I'm not beautiful?

DANN

No, I mean ... I didn't mean to say  
that ... I mean ...

Anastasia is enjoying his embarrassment, but decides  
enough is enough.

ANASTASIA

So, where do you want to go?

DANN

Well, eventually, I have to find my  
hotel ... and then I'm going to the  
Metropol.

ANASTASIA

The Metropol! What on earth are  
you doing there?

DANN

I'm seeing my friend get an award.

ANASTASIA

Well, you can't be late for that.  
How about we go up to the street ...  
and I will help you get your  
bearings.

49 EXT. GATE TO MAYAKOVSKYA METRO STATION - DAY

49

Dann and Anastasia exit the Station into the bright  
sunlight.

ANASTASIA

Would you like me to show you  
around a little?

DANN

Sure!

50 EXT. IN FRONT OF ST BASIL'S CATHEDRAL - DAY 50

Anastasia shows Dann a few of the classic post card sights of Moscow. They obviously enjoy each other's company.

Dann takes a photo of Anastasia with one of the copulas of the cathedral coming out of her head like a hat.

51 EXT. RED SQUARE - DAY 51

Dann and Anna watch the changing of the guard at Lenin's Tomb.

Dann and one of the Lenin impersonators strike the classic poster pose, right arms extended to the future.

52 EXT. GORKY PARK - DAY 52

They ride the Merry-go-round together.

53 EXT. GIANT MATRYOSHKA DOLL - DAY 53

They play in and around a giant set of Matryoshka dolls. Dann lifts off the top of one and Anastasia is inside.

54 INT. GUM DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY 54

They window shop and try on big fur hats.

55 INT. CLASSIC RUSSIAN TEA HOUSE - EVENING 55

Dann and Anastasia enjoy glasses of sweet tea from a samovar and little cakes. He is smitten.

ANASTASIA

Many Russians like to stir  
strawberry jam in their tea.

Dann's eyes widen and he looks at his watch.

DANN

I'm late! I have to run ...

Anastasia rises and offers her hand for a shake.

ANASTASIA

I am sure we will meet again ... I  
have a feeling.

Dann takes her hand and actually kisses it. She doesn't  
flinch at all.

DANN

I don't know why ... I just felt like  
doing that. Sorry. I hope we do  
meet again. True as. Bye!

Dann hurries out the door of the Russian tea room.

56 INT. GRAND HALL AT THE METROPOL HOTEL - NIGHT

56

The award ceremony is a grand affair.

The glitterati of Moscow abounds. The huge vaulted  
ceiling of the Metropol is lit in all of its glory.

Bryce is surrounded by the fans and admirers. Natasha  
and Boris are also there, but their eyes are on Dann.

The award is presented by the Mayor of Moscow and the  
head of the Moscow Lyceum. The Girls ... and one of the  
Boys ... are beaming and obviously still smitten with  
Bryce.

MAYOR OF MOSCOW

(Russian, subtitled in English)  
Soldier ... hero ... and good samaritan  
when our sons and daughters needed  
him most. He also did a bit of work  
behind the scenes last night at  
Channel One!

I believe he is deserving of this  
Hero of Russia Medal, even though  
he is not Russian. I wish he was!  
Captain Bryce Hunt!

The Head of the Moscow Lyceum places the ribbon and  
medal around Bryce's neck. It is a proud moment.

Dann stands nearby and lets out an "Aussie, Aussie,  
Aussie," but doesn't get back any "oi, oi, oi." He beats  
a hasty retreat.

57 INT. METROPOL HOTEL BALCONY - NIGHT

57

Dann is out on the balcony.

Natasha appears with two glasses of Champagne. She puts  
on the phoney bad English and stupid accent.

NATASHA

Ah, my friend who is Australian!  
Please join me for toast.

DANN

Oh, hi ... no, really. I have a  
flight back to Australia in the  
morning and I'm not drinking  
tonight.

NATASHA

Oh, but please ... it is just Russian  
Champagne. Very nice. We must do  
toast.

DANN

OK, just one.

They clink glasses and drink. Dann smiles.

DANN

Oh, it's kind of sweet!

He downs the rest of the flute. Natasha drops a crumpled  
medicine capsule on the floor.



58 INT. GRAND METROPOL BALLROOM - LATER

58

Soon, Dann is high as a kite.

Whatever the drug was that Natasha put in his champagne, it is taking hold with both hands. All reason is out the window.

Dann takes to the stage, having a word in the ear of the leader of the band/orchestra. The musical director looks absolutely shocked, but has a word to his band.

Dann slips the strap of an electric guitar over his head and steps up to the mic.

DANN

Ladies and gennelmen ... in honour of  
my good friend Bryce Hunt ... THE  
Russian Hero of The CENTURY ... I  
want to dedicate this song..

Dann counts the band in and breaks into the most raucous grunge version of the White Album classic, BACK IN THE USSR.

*Flew in from Miami Beach, BOAC  
Didn't get to bed last night  
On the way the paper bag was on my knee  
Man, I had a dreadful flight  
I'm back in the USSR  
You don't know how lucky you are, boy  
Back in the USSR*

Dann is quite good and the band get into the spirit of the song, albeit begrudgingly.

This is a total "Springtime For Hitler" moment for the Russians in the Metropol Ballroom. They are aghast with wide-eyed shock. Nobody mentions the USSR anymore in the Russian Federation!

*Been away so long I hardly knew the place  
It's good to be back home  
Leave it till tomorrow to unpack my case  
Honey, disconnect the phone  
I'm back in the USSR  
You don't know how lucky you are, boy*

*Back in the US, back in the US  
Back in the USSR*

The Russians in the room are furious at this absolute insult. Some dignitaries leave in disgust. The Australians cringe and try and become invisible.

*Well the Ukraine girls really knock me out  
They leave the West behind  
And Moscow girls make me sing and shout  
That Georgia's always on m-m-my mind  
Oh, come on...*

Bryce and Anastasia, in different parts of the room, both sympathetic and worried at the bad judgement and erratic behaviour of Dann, but put it down to too much of liquid good time.

From the smirk on Natasha's face, she knows exactly what is about to happen. She makes her way towards the stage.

Suddenly, in the middle of the lead guitar break, Dann collapses just as Natasha reaches his side.

59 INT. E.M.C.M. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

59

The swinging doors burst open and Dann is wheeled in on a trolley, Natasha by his side, looking every bit the worried and distraught partner.

The European Medical Centre Moscow is a modern hospital near Mayaskovskya Station.

The trolley is met by a doctor in surgical cap, mask and gown. The Doctor pauses a moment, exchanging knowing eye contact with Natasha.

Natasha lifts the corner of the sheet over Dann. There is a zip lock bag with stacks of US cash and something in a sterile wrapping.

60 INT. SURGICAL RECOVERY ROOM - NIGHT

60

As Dann later lies in his hospital bed, going in and out of consciousness as he recovers from the operation.

He has horrible dreams. Images of the Royals being murdered by Commissar Yurovsky, of the Mad Monk Rasputin and of Boris Yurovsky.

When he awakens, he has the Black Diamond Eyes for a moment.

61 INT. E.M.C.M. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY 61

Bryce is at the nurse's station.

THE NURSE on duty nearly swoons when she realises who it is! She points down the hall towards Dann's room. Bryce walks in the direction.

The nurse immediately picks up the phone and frantically presses a button.

62 INT. DANN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 62

Bryce is shocked when he sees Dann.

Dann smiles meekly. He hands Dann a sad bunch of flowers.

BRYCE

I brought you this to help with your recovery.

The sad flowers fall away to reveal a small bottle of vodka. Dann quickly shoves this under his sheet.

DANN

You really are chilling.

Suddenly, the room is full of nurses. The nurses are all trying to look busy and efficient, but are obviously just there to ogle Bryce.

It all starts to get out of hand, with what must be every nurse ... and a few young doctors ... crowded into the room. They even begin to take Bryce's temperature, blood pressure and pulse, from both sides.

Bryce stands and shakes them off.

BRYCE

Please! If I promise to come and see you after, will you let me visit my friend in peace?

Mumbling and agreeing, the mob shuffles from the room.

BRYCE

I am sorry for that. It seems with being the Hero of the Russian Federation is a bit of an inconvenience.

DANN

You mean it sucks.

BRYCE

It sucks.

Dann nods in agreement, wincing and holding his side.

DANN

This sucks, too. Dog's balls.

BRYCE

So, what happened? You certainly lost it at the Metropol. You almost caused an international incident.

DANN

Don't tell me. I don't remember anything. I had one drink of champagne and woke up here. They said it was my appendix.

BRYCE

That was no appendix.

DANN

No, because I had it out when I was a kid!

BRYCE

Something smells distinctly fishy.

DANN

Very fishy. I've been feeling really strange. Maybe I was poisoned!

BRYCE

Actually, you were pretty good.

DANN

I was? Maybe you can tell me ... later.

BRYCE

I think I had better keep an eye on you until we go back.

DANN

I missed my flight ...

BRYCE

No, I have changed our flights for tomorrow. Doctor says you can travel then. I'll be sticking to you like the proverbial glue. Something is up. And not just those Harrod's blokes, either. You will be safe with me.

DANN

Thanks, Bryce. Better go see your fans.

63 INT. BORIS YUROVSKY'S OFFICE - DAY

63

Boris sits at his desk with Natasha behind, facing his henchmen.

BORIS

Davidoff and his ridiculous Anti-Crime Unit have somehow discovered the whereabouts of our little mule and may try and snatch him. You must make absolutely sure he is on that plane!

64 INT. E.M.C.M. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT 64

Two men dressed as orderlies are wheeling a trolley down the hall towards Dann's room.

Bryce peers around the corner and sees them coming. He hides around the corner.

There is the sound of a brief scuffle and two men being bludgeoned. Bryce looks again and just sees the trolley sitting in the middle of the hall as before, but no other people.

65 INT. DANN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT 65

Dann is again having bad dreams. He sees the Romanoffs being killed ... one of them is the girl Anna! He wakes in fright.

66 INT. DANN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING 66

Dann moves his breakfast around with his fork, but seems to have no appetite.

He shifts uncomfortably, and grimaces as if pained in his right side. He gently pokes his abdomen. Curious. Maybe something was left in there.

Bryce comes in followed by THREE BIG BURLY BLOKES in way-too tight surgical scrubs come into the room with a wheelchair.

BURLY ONE

We have to take Mr Ryan to X-ray.

Dann starts to get out of bed.

DANN

Can you just give me a sec? I have to shake hands with the unemployed ... uh ... pee.

Dann makes his way into the toilet and shuts the door. Bryce eyes the three burly blokes.

BRYCE

It takes three big men to wheel one  
small man to X-ray?

BURLY ONE

Hospital regulations.

67 INT. DANN'S HOSPITAL ROOM TOILET - DAY 67

Dann closes his eyes and relieves himself.

Outside he hears some punches land and a brief scuffle.  
He shakes and flushes.

68 INT. DANN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 68

Dann comes out into the room and finds Bryce exactly  
where he left him, but the three burly men and the  
wheelchair seem to have vanished.

BRYCE

They were in a hurry. They  
couldn't wait for you to pee.

69 INT. ANASTASIA'S HEADQUARTERS - DAY 69

Anastasia addresses her Royalist loyalist brigade.

ANASTASIA

We have identified the courier who  
will carry the Yurovsky package to  
Australia. He is currently in the  
European Medical Centre on  
Spiridonievsky ... some sort of  
sudden illness. The Yurovskys will  
stop at nothing to get the courier  
on the plane this evening and the  
Police will do everything in their  
power to stop him ... killing him if  
necessary. We must protect him at  
all costs. He has something that  
may affect us all. OK, move...

The men and women with Anastasia spring into action.

70 INT. CRIME POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

70

The three hospital "orderlies" stand before Davidoff, bruised and battered, black eyes and bloody noses all round, with two supporting one in the middle.

DAVIDOFF

That's it! Someone has shit in my fan! Roll out the Spetsnaz, fully armed, and all of the pursuit vehicles. NOW!

The police troops salute and bolt into action.

71 INT. DANN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON

71

Dann is sitting on his bed, fully clothed, when Bryce comes in quickly, trying to hold the door against powerful force. He opens it slightly.

BRYCE

I promise I will sign more autographs in a moment, ladies.

He closes the door.

BRYCE

This is getting crazy. I can't wait to get home.

DANN

Me, neither. This hasn't exactly ended up the trip I had hoped for.

Bryce is looking out the window and sees the Spetsnaz Special Vehicles pull up in the street below.

BRYCE

Well, your trip isn't over yet. It could get a lot more interesting pretty fast. Shall we go? Out the back way, I think.

DANN

To avoid the cute nurses?

BRYCE

Something like that.



Bryce grabs Dann's bag and holds the door open for him.

72 INT. HOSPITAL BACK STAIRS - AFTERNOON 72

Bryce and Dann switchback their way down the back stairs of the hospital.

73 INT. E.M.C.M. HOSPITAL MAIN ENTRANCE - AFTERNOON 73

Davidoff sweeps into the main entrance as his troops pour in after him.

74 INT. HOSPITAL BACK STAIRS - AFTERNOON 74

Troops pour into the back door and immediately up the back stairs, weapons raised and ready.

Bryce leads Dann up from the basement, glancing up the way the troops have gone. Unaware of the dilemma, Dann wrinkles his nose.

DANN

Why did we go down there?

BRYCE

(whispering)

Sorry, I must have got lost.

Bryce opens the back door, looks both ways and leads Dann out.

75 EXT. LANEWAY AT REAR OF HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON 75

Dann and Bryce emerge into the afternoon sunshine. The laneway is empty, but in the distance, troops and vehicles can be seen in the main road.

DANN

Why are you whispering?

BRYCE

People might have been sleeping.

DANN

It was a morgue!

76 INT. DANN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON 76

Davidoff and his troops burst into Dann's room, all pointing their guns at the nurse changing the empty bed.

DAVIDOFF  
He won't get far ...

Seeing Dann has given them the slip, he bolts out again.

77 EXT. LANEWAY AT REAR OF HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON 77

Bryce leads Dann to a bright red BMW Z4 35is with the top off.

Bryce vaults into the driver's seat while Dann carefully opens the door and lowers himself into the passenger seat.

DANN  
Where did you ...?

BRYCE  
I borrowed it. Don't worry ...  
they're all over Moscow. Buckle up  
... Muscovites are terrible drivers.

Dann accepts this and buckles up. Bryce starts the engine with a roar and burns rubber down the laneway into Spiridonievsky.

78 EXT. LANEWAY INTO THE MAIN ROAD - AFTERNOON 78

Spetsnaz troops and pedestrians spring out of the way as the BMW roadster rockets out of the laneway and does a perfect 90 degree skid pointing to the left.

Dann is aghast.

BRYCE  
Of course, everyone drives like  
a Muscovite in Moscow. Even me.

Releasing the clutch while still skidding sideways, Bryce gets traction, burns rubber and takes off down Spiridonievsky.

The troops and Davidoff jump into their vehicles and begin pursuit.

79 EXT. SPIRIDONIEVSKY INTO SYTINSKY - AFTERNOON 79

Bryce weaves in and out of the one-way traffic, trying to get as far away from Davidoff as possible.

Several motorbikes are keeping pace with the BMW. Telltale long blonde hair flows from under the helmet of one biker.

When a police car gives chase, one of the motorbikes drops back and releases spiked chains, which shred the police car's tyres.

A helicopter moves overhead and follows the BMW along Spiridonievsky.

Bryce takes the only option, a hard right into Sytinsky.

80 EXT. BRONNAYA - AFTERNOON 80

Bryce turns left into Bronnaya.

Dann is still oblivious of the threat surrounding them, but Bryce has eyes on all the mirrors and is driving like James Bond.

On the left is one of the now ubiquitous McDonalds.

DANN

Oh, hey ... can I ...?

BRYCE

No. Not good for you.

Dann pouts.

81 EXT. TVERSKAYA - AFTERNOON 81

Bryce hangs a sharp right into the wide boulevard of Tverskaya.

Dann notices a huge sign with the international symbol for Airport pointed in the opposite direction.

DANN

Hey, are we going the right way?

BRYCE

Shortcut.

The helicopter is still overhead. The Special vehicles are closing in.

One of the Special Vehicles moves to cut Bryce off. A black limo with blacked out windows forces it off the road and into a shop front.

Several Moscow cabs driven by HARROD'S TYPES join the chase.

82 EXT. KREMLIN/RED SQUARE - AFTERNOON

82

Bryce shoots down Tverskaya and across to the Kremlin.

DANN

Hey, isn't that the Kremlin? What kind of shortcut is this?

BRYCE

I thought I would take the scenic route.

Bryce sees a helicopter landing in Red Square and off loading troops. He hangs a hard right into the Manezhnaya Square Gardens ... and right past another sign for McDonalds!

DANN

Look, I'm recovering from surgery ... and starving. Just a ...

BRYCE

No time now ...

Special Vehicles and Moscow Cabs start boxing them in and Bryce darts around the gardens in the red sports car, scattering tourists and locals. He circles the giant glass Dome of the World twice.

Dann closes his eyes and looks like he may be sick. Bryce looks at him, worried.

BRYCE

Hey, mate, are you OK? You going to  
hurl?

Dann opens his eyes and they are Black Crystal. He has a very determined look on his face ... and all of the faces morph around before coming back to his.

The BMW does a full 180 bootlegger turn and is pointed straight back into the troops.

Bryce doesn't even have his hands on the wheel. He holds them right off. He's curious, but not scared. This is a Mexican standoff, with one Mexican against hundreds. But his Mexican is a freak out!

From out of the BMW emerge all of the worst nightmares for Russian troops ... The ghosts of Cossacks and Mongols, Napoleon's Army, Nazis, Japanese, Polish cavalry and knights in shining armour.

The Napoleonic horse and lancer on the top of the Glass Dome seems to come alive, as do other statues around the Alexander Gardens, charging at the Russian troops.

All Bryce can see is the Spetsnaz running in terror and turning their vehicles into ditches and walls.

The Ghosts of Terrors Past chase the troops and seem to attack them by whatever means ... swords, spears, bayonets, machine guns ... but it is terror that is the best weapon.

Even Davidoff cowers under a bench as a Mongol invader rides around him. The helicopter turns tail and heads back to base pursued by a pair of ghostly Messerschmitt 109s.

Nearby, Anastasia has removed her helmet in disbelief, not sure what she has witnessed. There are troops cowering and wrecked vehicles everywhere.

No longer under threat, the BMW is returned to Bryce's control and Dann is no longer possessed.

DANN

Just some fries?

Bryce shakes his head in amazement and looks at Dann with newfound respect. He engages the transmission and heads off rapidly up Tverskaya and out of town.

Anastasia and the other loyalists on motorbikes follow. So do several black limos ... Moscow Cabs ... and the odd ghost.

83 EXT. SHEREMETYAVO AIRPORT - DUSK 83

Bryce pulls up at the curb in front of the Aeroflot terminal and jumps out.

He grabs Dann's bag and helps him out of the deep passenger seat.

Two airport traffic officials head for the car, immediately drawing out their ticket books. Bryce just looks at them and shrugs, tossing them the keys.

The two traffic cops immediately start arguing who gets the car.

84 INT. SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT DEPARTURE HALL - DUSK 84

Bryce leads Dann across the wide hall towards the Aeroflot check in counter.

85 INT. AEROFLOT CHECK IN COUNTER - DUSK 85

Bryce and Dann make it to the front of the line at the Business Class Check-In Counter.

An officious young woman with her hair in a tight bun doesn't look up.

BRYCE

My friend and I are on the flight  
to Hong Kong and then Australia.  
No luggage to check in.

Bryce hands the attendant his passport and ticket, as does Dann. She taps away at the computer.

She puts the passports and boarding passes up on the counter, still looking at the computer. She gets a curious look on her face.

ATTENDANT

Bryce Hunt ... isn't that the  
same name as ...?

She starts to look up, then has an "Oh My God!" expression on her face when she looks over their shoulders.

Behind Bryce and Dann, stretching right around them, are four groups of people with guns pointed at the two as well as at each other ... the Crime Police, The Romanoff Royalists, the Harrod Terrorists and the Yurovsky Criminals.

Davidoff, obviously still shaken and dishevelled, steps out.

DAVIDOFF

These are my prisoners and ...

Dann spins around from the counter, arms thrust back. He has the Black Crystal eyes again. Bryce rolls his eyes heavenward because he knows what's about to happen.

Something weird begins to occur throughout the departure hall. The fluorescent light ballasts flicker and sway. A high screeching sound is heard. At first, everyone thinks an airliner is about to crash.

Dann grabs his right side. An electrical aura surrounds him. His face distorts. It is the spirit of Yakov Yurovsky!

Suddenly, Dann Ryan is blasted off his feet and high into the air as another spirit possesses him. The other spirit is none other than The Tsaritsa Alexandra!

The four groups are dumfounded and lower their weapons in shock. Their clothes and hair are whipped by the ghostly energy. Davidoff crawls under another bench.

Dann Ryan has a "Jerry-Lewis-Nutty-Professor" moment as the two spirits fight for him in mid air.

All the four groups see are the mad physical gyrations as Dann is possessed by one spirit and then the other, pulled this way and that. And the fact he is three meters off the ground.

Yurovsky and Alexandra face off against each other. Through Dann, they throw accusations and threats back and forth.

YUROVSKY

(Russian, with English subtitles)  
German whore! It is mine!

ALEXANDRA

(Russian, with English subtitles)  
Never! Worthless Bolshevik  
commissar!

Dann's voice and mannerisms change as he is controlled by one spirit and then the other. Energy bolts flash around the area, hitting things and making sparks.

The Departure Hall is in chaos. The four groups and waiting passengers scatter in complete terror.

In the confusion, the always cool and calm Bryce drags Dann through the Aeroflot departure gate.

86 INT. AEROFLOT AIRLINER HATCH - DAY

86

News of the turmoil in the terminal hasn't appeared to have reached the air bridge to their flight.

Bryce quickly flashes their Business Class boarding passes, but the Aeroflot flight attendants immediately swoon over the newly awarded Hero of the Russian Federation.

The Purser is immediately on the scene and takes charge.

PURSER

It is our honour to have the Hero of Russia on board. Please, I insist you receive all of the hospitality we can offer in First Class.



The Purser snaps his fingers like a Maitre d' and the Flight Attendants guide Bryce through the curtains into First Class Wonderland as if they are going to ravage him.

BRYCE

Only if my friend comes with me.  
I have to keep an eye on him.

The Purser looks Dann up and down with a obvious distaste.

PURSER

But of course ...

87 INT. AEROFLOT FIRST CLASS CABIN - DUSK

87

Bryce and Dann take their seats and enjoy sitting in the lap of luxury. They accept a champagne from the Steward. Bryce turns to Dann.

BRYCE

Zdroviya, Dann.

DANN

Cheers, mate.

They clink glasses.

BRYCE

Uh ... tell me. What does it feel like ... when you do that ... thing you do?

DANN

Thing? What ... thing?

BRYCE

You know, the eyes thing ... and the faces ... and the weird stuff ... flying.

DANN

Sorry ... I don't have a clue what you're on about.

Bryce shakes his head in disbelief.

BRYCE

I have to tell you, I really don't drink very much. But you know, I think I may start.

He tosses back his champagne in one gulp.

88 EXT. SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT RUNWAY - TWILIGHT 88

The mighty Aeroflot wide body IL-96 jet takes off.

89 INT. AEROFLOT FIRST CLASS CABIN - NIGHT 89

When the plane is airborne, Dann notices that the woman across the aisle is none other than Anastasia.

DANN

Excuse me ... Anna?

She looks up from her magazine and feigns surprise.

ANASTASIA

Dann? What an incredible coincidence!

DANN

You didn't say you were going anywhere...

ANASTASIA

I am going to Australia. It was very sudden. Look at you, first class!

DANN

It was an upgrade ... for my friend. Bryce, this is ...

ANASTASIA

Bryce Hunt, of course ... The Hero of Harrods. Anna Nikolaevna.

Anastasia extends her hand across the aisle and Bryce reaches across Dann to shake it gently.

BRYCE

So, Dann, you are full of surprises.

ANASTASIA

He certainly is.

The champagne and caviar has begun to flow in first class. Anastasia shows Dann how to savour the caviar and blinis, chased with a shot of ice-cold vodka.

ANASTASIA

Most people prefer Beluga, but me? Sevruga is my favourite.

DANN

How can you tell? Just fish eggs, really. We can't get real caviar in Australia ... against the law.

ANASTASIA

How barbaric!

They laugh. Bryce ignores her charms, but Dann is smitten, just as goofy as he was when they met the first time.

90 INT. AEROFLOT FIRST CLASS CABIN - NIGHT

90

The lights in the cabin are dimmed as people doze or watch movies. Dann gets up to use the toilet.

DANN

Excuse me. I think that champagne has gone straight to ... the other direction.

On his way to the toilet, Dann passes two other people in First Class, who are trying not to be noticed ... none other than Boris and Natasha Yurovsky!

As Dann passes, Yurovsky's eyes widen and become black crystal because he is so close to the Stone once more.

91 INT. AEROFLOT AIRCRAFT TOILET - NIGHT

91

In the aircraft toilet, Dann closes the door and slides the lock, activating the light.

Looking up into the mirror, he believes he sees someone else in the mirror behind him (Old Yurovsky). He spins around. Maybe it was his imagination.

92 INT. AEROFLOT FIRST CLASS SECTION - NIGHT

92

When Dann returns, Anastasia pats the empty seat next to hers and indicates for him to join her. Bryce is dozing across the aisle, so Dann accepts.

DANN

Where are you going in Australia?

ANASTASIA

Melbourne.

DANN

That's where I'm from!

ANASTASIA

I didn't know. Will you show me around ... after I have concluded my business?

DANN

Sure! Have you been there before?

ANASTASIA

No, this will be my first trip.

A flight attendant brings pillows and blankets and they make themselves comfortable. Anastasia has her charms on high beam and Dann is more than happy to bask in the light.

ANASTASIA

I suppose I want to do all of the usual things ... see a kangaroo, try the beer ...

Dann is looking oddly distracted all of the sudden. Suddenly, he grabs his side again and the plane seems to hit an air pocket. Everyone goes "Oh!" and the fasten seat belt sign comes on with a "Ping."

Dann opens his eyes and they are black crystal. His features are smerged with Yurovsky's.

DANN/YUROVSKY

(Russian subtitled in English)

So, I finally meet the spawn of the  
German bitch whore of Mother Russia  
... Anastasia!

Anastasia turns and her eyes are black crystal, as well. She is channelling her Great-Great-Grandmother, whose features mix with hers.

ANASTASIA/ALEXANDRA

(Russian subtitled in English)

Yurovsky, you worthless little  
Bolshevik commissar! Anastasia  
will destroy your ridiculous  
gangster offspring.

DANN/YUROVSKY

(Russian subtitled in English)

The Romanoffs will never sit on the  
throne of Russia again!

They grab at each other's throats, choking and hissing.

Bryce opens one eye and looks over. To all intents and purposes, it looks like they are doing a "mile-high" under the blankets in spite of the turbulence. Bryce shakes his head in wonder.

The plane takes another deep dive and things fly around the cabin, including the two spirits who are now chocking each other outside of the bodies of Anastasia and Dann.

The pilots fight to control the aircraft, but can find nothing wrong.

94 EXT. AEROFLOT IL-96 AIRCRAFT IN FLIGHT - NIGHT 94

The aircraft is doing aerial acrobatics. It is surrounded by an aura.

95 INT. AEROFLOT FIRST CLASS CABIN - NIGHT 95

People scream, but not at the unseen ghosts who continue fighting down the plane and out through the tail. Suddenly, the plane levels out again.

96 INT. AEROFLOT IL-96 FLIGHT DECK - NIGHT 96

The pilots regain control the aircraft and the captain apologizes.

AEROFLOT CAPTAIN

I apologise for the sudden turbulence. The cabin crew will attend to your needs.

97 INT. AEROFLOT FIRST CLASS CABIN - NIGHT 97

The Captain is repeating his apology in Russian over the PA system.

AEROFLOT CAPTAIN

(In Russian, no subtitles)

I apologise for the sudden turbulence. The cabin crew will attend to your needs.

Dann and Anastasia find themselves face to face with their hands around each other's throats and obviously don't know why. They quickly break apart, embarrassed.

Dann quickly looks over at Bryce, who shakes his head disapprovingly. This puzzles Dann even more!

98 INT. AEROFLOT ARRIVAL GATE IN HONG KONG - DAY 98

EVERYONE emerges from the Aeroflot flight in Hong Kong.

People seem shaken and the Aeroflot flight attendants apologise profusely, offering vouchers for free drinks at the transit lounge bar.

Anastasia leads Dann away, obviously wanting to talk to him.

Bryce goes into a bar with some Russian fans and a huge handful of the free drink vouchers.

Boris and Natasha spot Anastasia with Dann.

BORIS

That is Anastasia Romanoff! How the hell did she get here?

NATASHA

She tried to crash the plane! She is after our treasure!

BORIS

Do not let them out of your sight. I have to make some important calls.

99 INT. HONG KONG AIRPORT DIM SUM RESTAURANT - DAY

99

Anastasia and Dann sit at a small quiet table in the corner of a brightly lit and very plastic Dim Sum restaurant, if such a quiet table could exist in a noisy international airport.

Dann tries in vain to eat a platter of dim sum with chopsticks. A waitress pours jasmine tea for the two and departs.

ANASTASIA

Dann, I have to confess something to you.

DANN

Whoa! Do I really want to hear this?

ANASTASIA

I am not Anna, a Russian business woman.

I am Anastasia, the direct  
descendent of the Tsar and heir to  
the Russian throne.

DANN

Get ... OUT! You're shitting me,  
right?

ANASTASIA

I beg your pardon!?!

DANN

I mean ... Wow! Like in the movie?

ANASTASIA

No, the movies got it all wrong.

DANN

O ... K ... and this is where all the  
flashback scenes happen?

100 INT. IPATIEV HOUSE - 1918 - DAY

100

In a tiny upstairs alcove, Vladimir and Anastasia  
passionately embrace and kiss.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

My great-grandmother had fallen  
madly in love with a soldier named  
Vladimir, one of her captors. She  
was 17, he was 20. She had been a  
prisoner of the Bolsheviks for over  
a year, and before that a prisoner  
of her status. Vladimir was her  
life line. Her chance to be a  
woman.

101 INT. IPATIEV HOUSE OUTSIDE THE PRINCESSES BEDROOM - 2 AM 101

TWO SOLDIERS stand at the ready outside the door to the  
Royal Princesses bedroom. The four young ladies troop  
out.

Anastasia locks eyes with Vladimir and blushes, as does  
he. Both wear a shy, knowing smile. The three other  
Princesses obviously do not approve.



The soldiers escort the Princesses down the stairs.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

On the night my family was murdered, Anastasia had no idea what was planned. Neither did Vladimir. They were always prepared to be moved around and had sewn valuables into their clothes and pillows. Her dog's collar was worth a fortune!

102 INT. IPATIEV HOUSE BARE ROOM - JULY 17, 1918 - 2 AM 102

Everyone troops into a bare room without any furniture, a vaulted ceiling and striped wallpaper. As Anastasia describes the scene, it transpires from her POV.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

Everyone crowded into a room in the basement. Nobody believed they would be harmed, just a move to another house. They were told the family would be photographed. Then the Commissar said we were to be executed. My great-great grand mother began to say something and funny things began to happen, like on the plane.

DANN (V.O.)

Yeah, tell me about it!

Alexandra's eyes are afire with a brittle black diamond radiance. Her long braids unravel and her long hair writhes around her head like Medusa's snakes.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

Anastasia looked at Vladimir and he was very afraid. The next thing she remembered, he is standing above her with his pistol pointed at her face.

Anastasia lies on her back amongst the scattered bodies of her family and retinue.

Vladimir stands over her, a foot either side. Their eyes meet before Anastasia closes her's and accepts what is coming.

Vladimir carefully aims straight down into Anastasia's face and fires three times.

103 EXT. ROAD INTO THICK FOREST - JULY 17, 1918 - LATER 103

The battered truck groans along an uneven forest track at not much more than walking pace. Vladimir walks beside the slow moving truck, a hand against the slatted side for support.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

Anastasia awoke and could feel no pain. She could see Vladimir and knew she was safe.

Through the slat, Anastasia is looking at Vladimir. Half of her face is a mass of blood. She touches his hand through the slat.

104 EXT. FOREST CLEARING - JULY 17, 1918 - DAWN 104

The rear gate of the truck is dropped and the soldiers begin to unload the bodies.

Vladimir effortlessly hefts the body of Anastasia onto his shoulder from the back of the truck.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

Vladimir took Anastasia around the side of the truck away from the others and rolled her into the bracken.

Vladimir then lifts the tiny body of Prince Alexi in his little soldier's uniform and carries him away from the truck.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

He then brought the broken body of poor Prince Alexi and laid him beside her. There were so many bodies and it was dark. Nobody noticed.

The other bodies are carried and dragged into a clearing in the thick wood. Some of the soldiers take axes and begin to chop wood and pile it into a bonfire.

The fire is reflected in Vladimir's eyes as a confident smile crosses his lips.

105 EXT. FOREST CLEARING - JULY 17, 1918 - DAY 105

Vladimir searches through the chest-high bracken until he finds Anastasia and Alexi.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

Vladimir came back the next day to find us. Alexi was dead. With his disease, he could not survive a tiny cut, let alone a bullet. Vladimir buried him far away from the others.

106 INT. CHELABINSK INFIRMARY - 1918 - NIGHT 106

Half of Anastasia's head is covered in bandages. Vladimir, in peasant's clothes, sits beside her bed.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

He was able to get Anastasia to an infirmary in Chelabinsk. Half of her face had been shot away, but she lived. Vladimir was a very good shot! He told the doctor they were attacked by Tsarist Loyalists.

107 INT. CHELABINSK GENERAL STORE - 1925 - DAY 107

Anastasia and Vladimir work behind the counter, serving a queue of people with what little is available. Half of Anastasia's face is terribly scarred, but the other half is radiant and happy.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

Vladimir had pocketed Jimmy the dog's collar and, with the gems in Anastasia's clothes, they had wealth, but kept it hidden. They started a shop.

108 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - 1930S - DAY 108

Vladimir and Anastasia play with two children at a picnic.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

Vladimir and Anna were also married and started a family. Anastasia and Alexi.

109 INT. CHELABINSK BACK ROOM - 1930S 109

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

They were very popular in the town ... and model Socialists! They also began a secret organisation to protect the Romanoff Heritage.

110 INT. HONG KONG AIRPORT DIM SUM RESTAURANT - DAY 110

Dann is still trying valiantly to eat the dim sum with chopsticks.

Finally, Anastasia just picks one up with her fingers and pops it into his mouth.

ANASTASIA

I am the fourth woman to carry the name Anastasia and be the head of this secret organisation.

DANN

OK, flash forward. And more exposition. How do you account for finding all the royal bodies and DNA and all that stuff?

111 EXT. FOREST CLEARING - 1990S - NIGHT 111

Several people excavate a grave in the dead of night. The action follows Anastasia's description.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

When the government finally let it be known that the remains of most of my family had been found and identified, my mother decided to rewrite history. The group exhumed Prince Alexi. They also exhumed one of Anastasia's cousins who had died at about the same age. They chopped up the bones, covered them with acid, set fire to them and then reburied the lot. Alexi's medals and buckles would lead them to the right spot.

112 EXT. FOREST CLEARING - 2000S - DAY

112

An archeological team with metal detectors and fine sieves are meticulously combing through the scene. On a table lay tiny bits of bone, metal and glass.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

Sure enough, ten years later a grave is discovered 500 metres from the original site. A small boy and a teenage girl. The DNA that they used as a match was from a distant relative in the British royal family. Close enough ... case closed.

113 INT. HONG KONG AIRPORT DIM SUM RESTAURANT - DAY

113

Dann is now just spearing the dumplings with one of the chopsticks. Anastasia pours the last of the tea.

DANN

OK, so why is all of this spooky shit happening to me? Sorry, spooky stuff.

ANASTASIA

My great-great-grandmother must have learned some pretty powerful magic from the Mad Monk, Rasputin. They say she put a curse on all those who harmed the Royal Family.

DANN

What's that got to do with me? I'm not even Russian.

ANASTASIA

I have often had the feeling she has been watching over me. That has become part of you, too. I felt it on the plane. There is something very valuable inside of you. Dann, I suspect ...

Suddenly, DANN's eyes go wide. He begins to choke and convulse. He has a rigor grimace. A bulge protrudes from his chest under his shirt. His hidden hand bursts out of his shirt and he does his fingers like a sock puppet. Anastasia is aghast. Dann laughs at her expression.

DANN

God, I loved that scene in "Alien."  
So cool.

Disgusted, she stands.

ANASTASIA

Our flight is flashing. Time to go.

DANN

I still think you're shitting me.

114 INT. QANTAS BOARDING HATCH IN HONG KONG - DAY

114

This time Bryce is recognised by the flight attendants. The QANTAS Purser steps up.

QANTAS PURSER

G'day, Captain Hunt. Welcome aboard. Congratulations on your award, by the way.

BRYCE

Thank you.

QANTAS PURSER

I must insist you allow me to bump you up, as we say, to First Class.

BRYCE

Only if you also bump up my friend  
... Dann Ryan.

Together they sweep into First Class.

115 INT. QANTAS FIRST CLASS SECTION - DAY 115

Natasha sits down beside her father who has already boarded. She shakes her head and shrugs ... nothing happened.

116 EXT. MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY 116

A QANTAS A380 lands at Tullamarine.

117 INT. MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS HALL - DAY 117

Everyone in Australian Passport Control and Customs recognises Bryce and congratulates him on the good work and his award in Moscow.

Bryce, Dann and Anastasia ... who is on his arm and looking very coy ... are sent straight through at every stage.

Boris and Natasha are immediately surrounded by Customs officials and taken to a side door. They are nonplussed, well used to this routine.

A camera crew from one of the reality Border Patrol shows senses a bit of drama and zeroes in.

118 INT. MELBOURNE CUSTOMS EXAMINATION ROOM - DAY 118

As Boris and Natasha enter the examination room, a tough man and even tougher woman stand ready and begin to snap on rubber gloves.

Boris and Natasha look at each other in horror, as if this has never happened before.

The Camera Crew shout out for permission to film the scene, waving releases to be signed.

119 INT. MELBOURNE AIRPORT ARRIVAL HALL - DAY

119

Bryce has stopped in quarantine and customs to receive the well wishes of fans and admirers. Dann and Alexandra are waiting for him.

BRYCE

I have some business in town. The local Russian community. I'm at the Casino. You're safe now. I have enjoyed making your acquaintance, Ms. Nikolaevna ... please take good care of him.

ANASTASIA

I promise. I won't leave his side.

Bryce formally shakes hands with Dann and then Anastasia. Then Dann wraps Bryce in a big hug.

120 INT. TAXI CAB - DAY

120

Dann and Anastasia in a cab approaching Melbourne.

121 EXT. TAXI CAB - DAY

121

The taxi goes through the "Time Tunnel" as it approaches the grand Melbourne skyline.

122 EXT. POLLY WOODSIDE TALL SHIP - DUSK

122

Dann and Anastasia stand on the deck of the Polly Woodside tall ship, looking out over the river to the city.

DANN

OK, maybe you're not shitting me. They did put something weird in my guts.

ANASTASIA

Dann, when Yurovsky and the Bolsheviks murdered my family, he took something very valuable and extremely powerful.



123 INT. IPATIEV HOUSE STUDY - JULY 17, 1918 - DAWN 123

Yurovsky holds the Black Diamond and is possessed by it. His face morphs to Rasputin and the room swirls with power.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

It was an enormous black diamond,  
given to my mother by Rasputin.

DANN (V.O.)

Never seen a black diamond before.

ANASTASIA (V.O.)

You're a lot closer to one than you  
think.

124 EXT. SOUTHBANK PROMENADE - TWILIGHT 124

Dann and Anastasia stroll along the Southbank Promenade as the city lights up and the setting sun turns the sky red.

DANN

"Red sky at morning, sailor take  
warning ..."

ANASTASIA

(Russian, with English subtitles)

"... red sky at night, sailor's  
delight." We have the same saying  
in Russia.

Anastasia hooks her arm into DANN's against the slight chill. He notices, but it seems natural.

DANN

Uh ... do you ... like ... have a  
boyfriend.

Anastasia smiles sweetly.

ANASTASIA

I'm not really supposed to have  
boyfriends.

DANN

OH! Are you a lesbian?

Anastasia laughs a big gutsy laugh and hugs Dann around the neck.

ANASTASIA

No, idiot ... I'm Royalty!

She grabs Dann's face in both hands and kisses him full on the mouth. A long deep kiss, slow, but not frantic.

ANASTASIA

That doesn't mean I can't have a bit of a holiday.

DANN

WOW! Kissed by a queen!

ANASTASIA

Well, Empress-in-waiting, actually.

Dann puts his arm around Anastasia now and they walk a bit further.

DANN

So, what's going to happen if they find out the truth?

ANASTASIA

Well, they may make me Empress of Russia. Just a symbolic thing. These days, that just means opening bridges, launching ships, that sort of thing. If they decide to reinstate the monarchy, I guess I'm it! Or they may decide to kill me for the same reason they killed the Tsar and his family. You can't put a dead body on the throne.

They walk further. Anastasia snuggles into his warmth.

DANN

So, this Black Diamond you mentioned has magical powers? Like, it's haunted?

ANASTASIA

You could say that.

DANN

I just did. And you say I'm pretty close to it.

ANASTASIA

Very.

DANN

And that's why these crazy things are happening ... Like I'm a one-man Halloween.

ANASTASIA

Yes.

DANN

Ha! Those bastards stuck it in my guts in that hospital! When they took out my appendix for the second time!

They stop walking. Anastasia steps away and crosses her arms defensively, as if knowing what's coming.

DANN

And you're hanging with me ... pretending to be a mate ... to get it back!

ANASTASIA

Yes. But properly. Safely. We didn't know they were going to do that. I'm trying to protect you, not the Stone.

DANN

Well, FUCK ME!

Anastasia is quite shocked.

ANASTASIA

Here? Now?

Dann has a good belly laugh now.

DANN

No. It's an expression. Like, of disbelief. Like "shitting me."

Anastasia is relieved, too.

ANASTASIA

You can be so ... expressive.

DANN

So, I guess we should go somewhere  
and get my appendix taken out for  
the third time, huh?

She kisses him again quickly.

DANN

And I can still show you my home  
town later?

Anastasia goes to kiss him again deeply when they are  
grabbed by six big burley Bikies.

A blacked-out van pulls up alongside with a screech. On  
the side is Ed Hardy-like art proclaiming the  
"Rasputin's Revenge" motorcycle gang.

Dann goes down like a sack of potatoes quite quickly,  
but Anastasia's training kicks in and she's kicking some  
serious bikie butt.

Two heavies grab Dann by the arms and start to drag him  
to the van while four others surround Anastasia. They  
are beginning to connect some of their blows and kicks.

Suddenly, the plethora of seagulls along Southbank start  
to do a Hitchcock and swarm around the group.

Dann's head snaps up and ol' Black Eyes is back! He is  
being possessed by Alexandra again!

DANN/ALEXANDRA

You guys have picked on the wrong  
Queen!

Dann/Alexandra shoots up into the air before the Bikies  
can let go and flings them in an arc high into the air  
and they come down in the river.

The other Bikies look up in horror at the crazy with the  
glowing black eyes coming right at them.

They decide to cut their losses and run, bundling the semi-conscious Anastasia into the van and peel rubber even before the last bikie is fully in the sliding door.

Dann/Alexandra sends a bolt from his hand that sings Bikie butt and propels him through the door just in time.

Dann/Alexandra lands and hits the ground running after the careening van.

125 EXT. SOUTHBANK PROMENADE - NIGHT 125

Dann/Alexandra rushes madly down the Southbank Promenade along the river, looking for someone to help.

He comes upon the bright lights of the Casino where Bryce says he will be staying. The Casino flame torches immediately start setting off. The seagulls are still swarming. A couple get scorched in the torch.

Dann/Alexandra still has the Black Diamond crystalline eyes that seem to seek out and locate Bryce.

126 INT. CASINO - NIGHT 126

Dann rushes into the Casino and through the gaming areas to the VIP Lounge, Casino security now in hot pursuit.

127 INT. CASINO VIP LOUNGE - NIGHT 127

Dann zeroes in on Bryce who is being entertained by several well-heeled local Russians and their wives.

Dann is still possessed by Alexandra and speaks excellent (subtitled) Russian ... though with a higher voice.

DANN/ALEXANDRA  
(Russian, subtitled in English)  
Please, Russian Hero. You must help  
this man Dann once again. The girl  
he was with is Anastasia, the  
fourth of that name and the  
rightful heir to the Romanoff  
Throne!

The Casino security come rushing, but Bryce holds up a hand to calm them.

BRYCE

It's OK, guys ... he's with us.

BRYCE

(Russian, subtitled in English)  
Since when can you speak Russian,  
Dann? Very old fashioned Russian.  
Like a woman!

DANN/ALEXANDRA

(Russian, subtitled in English)  
Be patient. All will be explained.  
Anastasia is being held prisoner.  
This man is in possession of a  
great treasure!

The other Russians are outraged.

HEAD RUSSIAN

(Russian, subtitled in English)  
So, Captain Hunt, who is this guy  
and why is he talking to you like  
an old woman?

The lights in the VIP Lounge flicker and the room  
shakes. The few slot machines nearby all hit jackpots.

DANN/ALEXANDRA

(Russian, subtitled in English)  
I am Tsaritsa Alexandra, your  
Empress!

If the Russian men and women weren't convinced before,  
they certainly are now!

RUSSIAN #1

(Russian, subtitled in English)  
You can count on us, your Royal  
Highness.

RUSSIAN #2

(Russian, subtitled in English)  
We will help rescue the Princess!

The Russians bow low to Dann, who is suddenly no longer  
possessed. Bryce also gives a respectful bow.

BRYCE

(Russian, subtitled in English)  
We will do whatever we can.

DANN

What the hell? Has somebody lost a  
contact lens? I need your help!  
Someone had kidnapped Anna!

BRYCE

(Russian, subtitled in English)  
We have already said we will help!

DANN

What? What did you say?

BRYCE

(Russian, subtitled in English)  
I thought you could speak Russian!

DANN

What did you say? I don't speak  
Russian. You need to help me save  
Anna ... Anastasia!

Dann's cell phone rings. He fishes it out of his pocket  
and puts it on speaker.

BORIS (V.O.)

(On phone)

Hello, Mr Ryan. I am Boris  
Yurovsky. If want your sweetheart  
to live, you must exchange yourself  
so we can remove the Stone. You  
will not be harmed.

Dann prods his lower right side. They really have put  
something inside him.

128 EXT. ACROSS THE RIVER - NIGHT

128

Boris and Natasha look across the river towards the  
Casino. Boris is speaking on the phone.

BORIS

I have an expert surgical team  
standing by.

Natasha waves a gleaming stiletto blade around.

129 INT. CASINO VIP LOUNGE - NIGHT 129

Dann is looking at the phone, aghast.

BORIS (V.O.)

(On phone)

Otherwise, you will both die very slowly and horribly and I will simply rip the stone from your lifeless body!

130 EXT. ACROSS THE RIVER - NIGHT 130

Boris smirks as he continues to speak into his phone.

BORIS

Meet me on the footbridge to the City in five minutes. Come alone!

131 EXT. CASINO ENTRY ONTO SOUTHBANK - NIGHT 131

Dann rushes headlong out of the Casino just as the giant nightly gas torches along the river erupt, adding to the surreal atmosphere.

He is followed by Bryce and the Russian men and women.

132 EXT. THE BP FOOTBRIDGE ACROSS THE YARRA RIVER - NIGHT 132

On the northern half of the BP Bridge, Boris and Natasha stand with ten other Russian thugs, including the bikie gang.

They hold Anastasia between them. She is disoriented, possibly drugged.

BORIS

Smile, dear. You're about to say farewell to your little friend ...

NATASHA

And we're about to get the Black Diamond back.



The giant gas torches begin firing again, bathing the scene in reflections of fire off of the surrounding glass towers.

Boiling clouds begin to gather overhead. A creeping fog spreads across the surface of the river.

There is a crackling of static discharges along the steel of the elaborate BP Bridge.

Bolts of lightening hit the enormous ornamental steel sculptures on the parallel bridge.

The entire scene becomes the stuff of nightmares.

Spirits begin to swirl around the bridge, both good and evil.

The ghosts of Yurovsky and the Bolshevik guards take possession of the bad guys.

The spirits of the Romanoffs take possession of Bryce and his group of loyal Russian expats. Bortkin is there, Trupp, Demidova and Kharitinov can be seen, their features superimposed on the "good guys and girls."

The "bad guys" are very obviously the other ten Bolshevik soldiers who murdered them and mistreated their bodies.

The older Anastasia and Vladimir are there, though her face bears none of the scars of her shooting. Their eternal love is obvious.

The three other Princesses and Prince Alexi are there. He looks fit and healthy. They have wasted none of their time in eternity and have learned some pretty good moves, empowering those they possess to seriously kick some Bolshevik butt.

Even Jimmy the King Charles Spaniel is there, possessing a Pug out for a stroll with its owners on the Southbank Esplanade.

The un-holiest of battles is about to begin.

Dann leads his group up onto the bridge from the Southbank side.

Dann, who is unfortunately just possessed by Dann, rushes foolishly up to rescue Anastasia.

The possessed goodies and baddies have at each other all along the bridges and the waterfront. In the air, on the water, on tall buildings.

The Jimmy-the-dog-possessed-Pug gets stuck into the thug possessed by the soldier who stomped his head in, latching onto his leg and biting deep.

Dann lunges past Natasha to grab Anastasia. Natasha neatly sidesteps him and plunges the blade into his lower abdomen.

NATASHA

That'll save me doing so much cutting later.

Anastasia is suddenly possessed by Alexandra, who in an unearthly voice screams.

ALEXANDRA/ANASTASIA

Leave him alone, you Bitch!

Alexandra/Anastasia is surrounded by a swirling column of energy, lifting her up off the bridge.

This impresses even Natasha, who begrudgingly nods approval as she cocks a machine gun and takes aim.

Alexandra/Anastasia stops spinning and sends bolts energy of out of her eyes and hands that travel right up the barrel of the machine gun, exploding the ammunition and frying Natasha.

Natasha's smoking, charred remains topple off the bridge and fall hissing into the river.

Boris could care less for his daughter because he is totally Grandfather Yakov Yurovsky now, rising on his own swirling pillar of energy.

The epic battle between good and evil continues up and down the river between the Bolshevik-possessed thugs and the Romanoff-possessed loyalists.

Dann has slumped to one side of the bridge, holding his wound and trying to avoid the action. He passes out.

Yurovsky and Alexandra face off in the middle of the bridge. Bolts and fire emit from both of them at each other. Neither seems to have the upper hand.

Alexandra/Anastasia feels someone beside her ... it is Bryce, possessed by Tsar Nicholas.

The other Romanoffs possessing the Russian expat men and women stand with them, the Bolsheviks having been dealt with.

Even the dog possessed by Jimmy is in the arms of the lady possessed by the older Princess Anastasia.

Suddenly, Yurovsky realises he is outnumbered and bettered.

YUROVSKY

We will continue this battle in  
Hell!

ALEXANDRA/ANASTASIA

Sorry, they wouldn't let us in.

NICHOLAS/BRYCE

Put in a bad word for us, would  
you?

Together, Nicholas and Alexandra blast him to a spectacularly nasty and fiery end.

Spectators who have gathered along Southbank break into applause and cheering. They obviously think it has been some sort of public performance piece!

Arm in arm, Nicholas/Bryce and Alexandra/Anastasia take a bow.

The Russian expats ... and the Pug ... are released by the spirits who triumphantly vanish.

133 EXT. AMBULANCE AT FULL SPEED - NIGHT

133

An ambulance races through Melbourne at full speed, siren wailing and lights flashing.

134 INT. AMBULANCE AT FULL SPEED - NIGHT

134

Dann awakens in the back of a speeding ambulance. Anastasia is sitting beside him, applying pressure to his wound.

PARAMEDIC

I'll take over. You've done great  
... saved him, that's for sure.

Anastasia looks deep into Dann's eyes. There is still the black diamond radiance of Alexandra.

She slips her hand under the sheet covering the wound before letting the paramedic take over. She pops out the Black Diamond with her other hand and palms it into her pocket.

Then she is Anastasia, with clear blue eyes. She smiles and kisses Dann full on the mouth. He smiles a dreamy, morphia-effected smile and drifts back into unconsciousness.

135 INT. ROMANOFF TOMB ST PETERSBURG - DAY

135

The Romanoff Tomb in the Cathedral of the Fortress of St Peter and Paul is a beautiful place, with marble sarcophagi, gilded adornments, wrought iron railings and painted icons.

Every Tsar since Peter the Great is buried here. Incense is burning and this gives the room a mysterious cloudiness. There are flowers everywhere. A Russian men's choir is singing acapella in another area.

The modern Russian people have embraced their heritage and embraced the Romanoffs. They are practically saints.

Anastasia stands with Bryce next to the sarcophagi of Nicholas and Alexandra. The Romanoff family are all buried in a separate area.

They look into each other's eyes with the great love of the Tsar and Tsaritsa for one last time.

The spirits leave the couple, taking the Black Diamond with them, hand in hand, and pass through the marble.

Watching nearby are the spirits of the first Anastasia and Vladimir, who also fade away.

Bryce (once again as Bryce) bows deeply and respectfully. He kisses Anastasia's hand.

Other people in the tomb notice her and are in awe. She is every bit a regal Empress, with an incredible likeness to the portrait of Anastasia on the wall behind her.

The faithful are drawn to her and increasingly begin to gather around. The singing voices reach a crescendo.

136 INT. BBC NEWS DESK - MORNING

136

It is the same female anchor as before. Behind her, pictures of enormous cheering crowds in Red Square are seen inset.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR

It was announced today that a direct blood descendant of Tsar Nicholas the 2nd of Russia has emerged, and negotiations are underway with the government to reinstate the Russian Royal family once again!

File shots of the Tsar and family before the massacre.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

Apparently, the Royal Princess Anastasia did survive the massacre of her family in 1918, as rumoured. It is her great granddaughter, also named Anastasia, who is seeking the throne.

Mute news footage of Bryce and Anna at a press conference.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

This reconciliation deal was negotiated by none other than Captain Bryce Hunt, recently awarded the Hero of Russia medal.

This position will, of course, be a purely ceremonial role ... opening bridges, launching ships and so on.

Various crowds of Russians cheering and waving flags of the Russian Federation and double-eagle of the Tsar, along with pictures of Anastasia IV.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)  
This move has yet to be sanctioned by the Russian Government, but the wave of popular sentiment would make any other decision unwise.

A close-ups of Anastasia IV, Bryce Hunt, Dann Ryan and other official-looking Russians and church leaders are shown above the cheering crowds in the traditional place atop Lenin's Tomb.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)  
Here, the Empress-in-waiting Anastasia the 4th is seen with Captain Hunt, who has been appointed her Chief of Staff, along with several officials of the Russian Government and Russian Orthodox Church.

Close up of Dann Ryan.

FEMALE BBC NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)  
It it not known who the other man is.

Dann looks straight into the camera and his eyes turn black crystal for a split second!

THE END

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END CREDITS - All cast members, extras, crew, locals, etc, dance and sing to a cover of RASPUTIN by Boney M, snippets of which are ritualistically shot at the end of every major set up or day throughout the shoot. This can also be used over any outrageous bloopers. This will leave the audience leaving the cinema with a happy feeling. Think BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM, or any of the PIXAR films.