

The Pen

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INT. BUTALIA'S OFFICE- MORNING

A man wearing a green turban and gray & white goatee sits in his bland and boring office. Professor BUTALIA (40s) grades midterms in his small, bland office, the afternoon sun shines brightly behind him. His dog, Raja, sits beside him. Large bookshelves filled with textbooks and binders from previous semesters reach the ceiling.

Genetic textbooks lie open near Butalia.

Butalia nods off to sleep as his pen glides across the page leaving a large red line.

His red pen floats lazily across the page until it runs dry.

His head bobs, jolting him awake.

BUTALIA
(frustrated)
AH...dang pen.

BUTALIA vigorously shakes the pen.

TITLE CARD APPEARS: THE PEN

Opens a drawer. No Pens.

Reaches for a paper and his office phone & dials.

AUTOMATED MACHINE
You've reached OSU Faculty office
supplies. For tapes, glues, and
adhesives. Press 1. For staples,
paper clips and fasteners. Press 2.

Butalia waits impatiently

AUTOMATED MACHINE (CONT'D)
For pencils, pens, and markers.
Press 3.

Butalia is about to press 3, until...

AUTOMATED MACHINE (CONT'D)
(gruff voice)
For Ultra Magnus. Press 4.

Machine waits for input.

He presses 4. Gruff voice continues.

AUTOMATED MACHINE (CONT'D)
 Ultra Magnus. For Sky Lynx press 1.
 For Arcee Press 2. For Mirage.
 Press 3.

He presses 3. Gruff voice continues.

AUTOMATED MACHINE (CONT'D)
 Enter clearance code.

BUTALIA presses random buttons.

A beat.

AUTOMATED MACHINE (CONT'D)
 Code accepted.

A man's voice comes on.

MAN
 Need voice confirmation.

BUTALIA
 Uh...uh.. Yes.
 (deep voice)
 yes.

MAN
 On our way.

Click.

A beat.

Butalia looks around worriedly.

Another beat.

He calms down.

3 RAPID knocks on the door.

RAJA perks up.

3 men (age 20-30s) wearing black suits and dark sunglasses
 burst in.

AGENT 1
 Are you B?

BUTALIA
yes

2 other agents search the office and stand near Butalia.

AGENT 1
Follow us sir.

BUTALIA
Where?
(to other agents)
I just wanted pens.

Agents 2 & 3 stop and look at 1.

A beat.

AGENT 1
We need you back. Don't worry,
we'll get pens.

Agent 1 tries grab Butalia. Raja barks.

AGENT 1 (CONT'D)
Is the dog cleared?

BUTALIA
Is my dog what?

AGENT 1
(stern)
Is it cleared?

BUTALIA
Raja goes where I go.

AGENT 1
Ok. Follow us.

The 3 agents pull Butalia and Raja out of the office.

Butalia's 6 foot frame towers above them

A black armored limo waits outside the building.

Butalia and Raja are pushed into the car and whisked away.

INT: AGENCY HEADQUARTERS -THE HUB - AFTERNOON

3 agents surround Butalia & Raja in triangle formation
leading him towards on office.

People in suits walk around carrying binders & papers,
talking amongst each other like a well-oiled machine.

They enter the office. The walls are decorated with plaques.

A short man, the DIRECTOR, (50s) sits behind the large wooden desk wearing the same black suit.

DIRECTOR
You're a hard man to find. Thought
we'd lost you back in Dublin.

Directors sees Raja.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
Oh, and you've brought a dog.

AGENT 1
He's devoted to remaining
undercover sir.

DIRECTOR
That's why you're our best,
Butalia.

AGENT 1
Sir. He also asked about getting
pens.

DIRECTOR
...I see.
(to Butalia)
Follow me.

They walk down a long hallway.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)
Ashley's waiting for you. You
remember Ashley right?

BUTALIA
What?...Oh...yeah...of course..
great person. She's a good girl-

DIRECTOR
-Guy.

BUTALIA
Good guy.

BUTALIA & the DIRECTOR enter a large glass conference room.

Raja lies at Butalia's feet.

ASHLEY GREENE (20s) stood wearing a green trucker hat and
gray hoodie. He wore torn jeans and hiking boots.

ASHLEY was typing code onto a computer and displaying a map
on the screen.

DIRECTOR
Ashley, you remember Butalia?

Ashley turns & speaks in accent.

ASHLEY
Back from the dead?!

Ashley sizes up Butalia again.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
Hold-on. What were you doing?

BUTALIA
(stammering)
Well - I - I - was grading papers.

ASHLEY
Fuck me. Gradin papers! You a teacher now B?

Ashley turns back to coding.

DIRECTOR
He also asked about P.E.N.S

ASHLEY
How'd you know about that, B?

BUTALIA
What are you talking about?

DIRECTOR
The Planetary Emergency
Neutralization System.

BUTALIA
Since when is it an emergency to
neutralize--

DIRECTOR
We couldn't come up with a
different name OK!

BUTALIA
How about Planet Earth
Neutralization System?

DIRECTOR
(frustrated)
Shut up.
(to Ashley)
Bring him up to speed.

Ashley pulls up a map on the screen. 1 red circle appeared on screen.

ASHLEY

We've been tracking a covert global cyber attack threatening to destabilize economies, elections, and infrastructure.

BUTALIA

Who?

ASHLEY

It's Wallace again. He's using humanoid robots to steal medicine.

DIRECTOR

These robots mirror humans and easily pass through security at the research centers where the medicine is held.

Ashley pulls up images of a blurry image of a man at a hotel entrance.

BUTALIA

What kind of medicine are they stealing?

ASHLEY

Experimental genetic research drugs for reversing congenital diseases, ALS, Alzheimer's.

DIRECTOR

Find Wallace and how he's running the robots. And shut it down.

Director's phone rings.

DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

Keep me in the loop.

Director leaves Ashley, Butalia, and Raja in the room.

ASHLEY

Let's get to work. I know where to start.

Ashley walks towards the door, nearly tripping over Raja.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

Christ! You brought a dog?!

BUTALIA
Raja goes where I go.

ASHLEY
For fuck's sake, B. Once you're
done with a cover, you're done.
Don't bring it with you.

Ashley leaves the room.

INT. CAR- AFTERNOON

Ashley & Butalia drive through the city.

Ashley's dressed in khaki shorts and buttoned up shirt.

Butalia wears polo shirt and cargo shorts with the same green
turban. He remains quiet staring out the window.

ASHLEY
You alright B? You're quieter than
usual.

BUTALIA
..all this because I wanted pens.

Butalia stays quiet.

BUTALIA (CONT'D)
I shouldn't be here. I gotta get
home to my daughter.

ASHLEY
Whoa, whoa, whoa. That's too deep
undercover B! I told you to avoid
things that.

BUTALIA
It's not a cover.

ASHLEY
I-I didn't know you had a daughter.
Is that where you went after
Dublin? I thought you died.

BUTALIA
I need to get back to her.

Raja barks from the backseat and licks Butalia's face.

ASHLEY
I don't want that dog drippin on
my seats, B! Put a muzzle on him.

BUTALIA
Raja won't dribble.

He grabs a 'toy' ball.

BUTALIA (CONT'D)
Here you go Raja.

Raja aggressively chews on the toy in the back seats.

The toy electrically fizzles out.

Ashley glances back.

ASHLEY
Oi! What'd you just give him?

BUTALIA
Uh it was something in the back the
Director gave me. It was a ball.

ASHLEY
A ball? That was prototype drone B!

Raja breaks the drone with his teeth and spits out the parts.

BUTALIA
..Oh. We have spares right?

ASHLEY
Spares? This ain't a fuckin tire
shop B. I don't have a spare.

Ashley parks at a gas station and exits the car.

Raja follows behind them.

BUTALIA
What are we doing here?

ASHLEY
I need to see a guy named Vinny.

EXT. AFTERNOON- VINNY'S ALLEWAY

VINNY (30s) dresses in shaggy winter clothes is talking with
a police officer leaning against the wall.

POLICE OFFICER
I dunno know Vinny. Guy's got a
history of domestic violence of
drug abuse. But he's got money for
great lawyers.

VINNY

What do ya want me to do 'bout it?

Officer hands Vinny \$20

VINNY (CONT'D)

You need to build a case around the drug abuse.

Vinny pulls out a folder from his clothes.

VINNY (CONT'D)

This isn't admissible in court, but I have photos of him dealing drugs on the street to kids.

POLICE OFFICER

Thanks Vinny.

Officer walks away, Vinny sees Ashley.

ASHLEY

Vinny, what's the word on the street about Wallace?

VINNY

Dunno. I hear a lot of things.

Vinny side-glances Butalia.

ASHLEY

He's with me.

Raja barks at Vinny and sits close to him.

BUTALIA

Looks like he likes you.

Ashley hands Vinny a \$20.

VINNY

Two people you need talk to. Simon and Roger. They'll know where Wallace is. But they spook easily.

ASHLEY

(handing a \$20)

Where can we find them?

VINNY

Simon's at the corner grocery store
and Roger's held up in his 3rd
floor apartment overlooking the
corner store on 5th street. Simon
drives an ugly yellow bug.

ASHLEY

Thanks Vinny.

Ashley walks away, but Raja won't move from Vinny's side.

BUTALIA

Do you mind if Raja stays with you?

Vinny shrugs.

Butalia catches up with Ashley walking down the street
towards 5th street.

BUTALIA (CONT'D)

Why didn't you ask about Wallace?

ASHLEY

Where's the fun in that?

Ashley looks at the 3rd floor of the apartment building and
the corner grocery store opposite to it.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

I'll take Roger. You take Simon.

BUTALIA

What?! I don't know how to do this.

ASHLEY

B? You can't have forgotten
everything?

Butalia shrugs.

Ashley hands him the Bluetooth earpiece.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

I'll be in your ear.

INT. SIMON'S UGLY YELLOW BUG - AFTERNOON

Butalia lies scrunched up in the back behind the driver seat
with Ashley speaking to him in an earpiece.

ASHLEY (V.O.)
 Find out what Simon knows about
 Wallace's location. He CANNOT see
 your face. If he does, tranq him.
 But don't attract any attention

Butalia screws on a silencer onto the tranq gun.

Simon enters the car and turns on the car.

Butalia points the gun at Simon's head.

Simon freezes with his hands on the steering wheel.

BUTALIA
 (deeper voice)
 Where's Wallace?

SIMON
 Who?

Butalia presses the nozzle of the gun into Simon's neck.

BUTALIA
 (deep voice)
 WHERE!

Butalia's voice cracks a little.

SIMON
 I-I don't. I don't know...wait are
 you faking a deep voice?

Simon peeks in the rear-view mirror.

SIMON (CONT'D)
 Wait-You?

Butalia pulls the trigger.

The dart lodges itself in the back of Simon's neck.

Simon's head falls forward....onto the car horn.

BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEP.

The sound turns many heads.

BUTALIA
 Oh shit.

Butalia struggles to move and tries to pull Simon off the
 steering and into the passenger seat.

Simon's hands hit the turn signal and windshield wipers.

The right signal clicks while the wipers rapidly move across the windshield.

ASHLEY
(in earpiece)
B, what the hell is going on?

BUTALIA
(struggling)
I'm stuck. He's not moving.

ASHLEY
(in earpiece)
Ok. Just drive. Drive. Get out of sight and I'll meet up with you.

BUTALIA
Guide me. I can't see.

Lying on the car floor, Butalia pushes the gas and steers the car around the corner where Ashley awaits.

Ashley gets in the driver seat.

ASHLEY
What the hell were you thinking getting caught?

Butalia sits up in the backseat.

BUTALIA
I don't know how he saw me.

ASHLEY
There are mirrors B. He can see you through mirrors.

Ashley drives back to Roger's apartment.

BUTALIA
Where we going?

ASHLEY
Unlike you, I actually did my job.

INT. ROGER'S APARTMENT- AFTERNOON

Ashley holds Roger against the wall by the collar as Butalia stays back and watches.

ASHLEY
(snarls)
Where's Wallace?

ROGER
Don't remember his face.

Ashley throws Roger against the wall again.

ASHLEY
Where

ROGER
Ok. Ok. I-I'll talk.

Ashley loosens his grip.

ASHLEY
Where's your boss?

Roger's demeanor changes.

ROGER
Who?

Ashley strikes him across the face.

ASHLEY
Where is he?

ROGER
Don't know. My memory's a bit
fuzzy.

Ashley strikes him again.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Ok. Ok. I'll talk. Sometimes I see
him at restaurants. I'll walk in
and order food and some water. And-

Ashley slaps him again.

ASHLEY
You can't order food while standing
you have to sit.

ROGER
(confused)
..yeah. I sat down and ordered
food.

ASHLEY
Oh so you're changing your story?

ROGER
What no? I just said I ordered
food. What do you want from me?

Butalia walks up.

BUTALIA
(to Ashley)
Stop. Stop. Let me handle it.
(to Roger)
Do you know this person?

Butalia holds up a fuzzy image of Wallace at the hotel.

ROGER
Memory's a bit fuzzy.

Butalia hands him a \$20.

BUTALIA
How about now?

ROGER
Yeah I know him. What's he to you?

BUTALIA
Can't tell you that. That's
government business.

ROGER
Oh yeah. How bout now?

Roger hands him back the \$20.

BUTALIA
Alright. We think he's a dangerous
person.

ASHLEY
Who is he? Where can we find him?

ROGER
(to Ashley)
Don't remember.

BUTALIA
Maybe this'll jog your memory.

Butalia hands him a \$20.

ROGER
Still a bit hazy.

Another \$20.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Wallace's held up on the 5th floor
of Starline Hotel. Room 535.

Butalia smiles at Ashley with the pride of a 5 year old
learning to tie his shoes on his own.

They drive to Starline.

INT. STARLINE HOTEL- LOBBY-AFTERNOON/EVENING

Ashley and Butalia make their way to 5th floor, room 535.

ASHLEY
(to earpiece)
Close to 535

DIRECTOR
(over earpiece)
Good. We're standing by.

The door is ajar.

Ashley enters first with a loaded gun

Butalia follows behind, armed.

A quaintly decorated hotel room with a small coffee table in
the middle in front of a couch.

A WALLACE sits with his back towards the entrance

ASHLEY
Show me your hands.

Wallace doesn't move.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
SHOW ME YOUR FUCKING HANDS!

WALLACE
Didn't believe Roger and Simon at
first.

Wallace faces them, unarmed.

WALLACE (CONT'D)
Good to see you again.

He moves aside, revealing a laptop on the coffee table with a
USB plugged in.

WALLACE (CONT'D)
Here it is, Ashley.

Ashley walks to the laptop, something was uploaded from the USB to different location. An office.

ASHLEY (EARPIECE)
Sir, We got it.

Static.

ASHLEY (EARPIECE) (CONT'D)
Director?

WALLACE
He can't hear you. You can't stop me.

Ashley pins Wallace to the ground and handcuffs him.

ASHLEY
You're coming with us.

WALLACE
Actually you're coming with me.

Shutters cover the windows & doors casting them in darkness.
Gas is pumped into the room.

INT. WALLACE WAREHOUSE

Butalia wakes up in a chair in an empty warehouse.

A desk with a lighter sits in front of him.

A red BIC pen sits on the desk.

Tanks of gasoline & small explosive contains line sit by the wall.

Wallace enters the room.

WALLACE
Didn't think I'd see you again after Dublin.

BUTALIA
Where am I? Where are the others?

WALLACE
They're held in different rooms.
(amazed)
I can't believe you came back.

BUTALIA
What are you talking about? I'm
here because of a stupid pen.

WALLACE
You don't remember what happened in
Dublin?

BUTALIA
Should I?

WALLACE
Follow me.

Butalia stands, hesitant.

WALLACE (CONT'D)
Oh, I could kill you at anytime if
I wanted. Might as well follow.

Butalia follows some distance behind.

INT. CONTROL ROOM

They enter a room filled with monitors showing Butalia and
Ashley and Wallace shooting at someone.

Rusts coats the ceiling supports.

A rifle laid by the door.

WALLACE
You disappeared in the fight. They
thought you were dead.

Butalia looks through more footage of the 3 of them working
together.

BUTALIA
But I don't remember that.

Wallace shows a photo with Simon and Butalia laughing
together.

WALLACE
Because it's not you.

Wallace pulls a laptop & USB from a bookbag beside the monitor.

He shows Butalia an image of Butalia gravely injured on a gurney.

More photos. Wallace building B.

WALLACE (CONT'D)

We found the real Butalia half dead on the field. Butalia told me he wanted out. So I built you to fake his death. But Ashley and the director found out, wanted to use you as an experiment to replicate the perfect agent.

BUTALIA

But the medicine? PENS?

WALLACE

(scoffs)

They'll smear anyone against them. PENS is Pulmonary Embolism Neutralization system. I used it to save lives. Whatever Ashley and the director told you about me is a lie.

BUTALIA

So my memories?...my daughter.

WALLACE

Not real I'm afraid.

BUTALIA

Why are they hunting you?

WALLACE

I am using robots to gather intel and expose their agent cloning program. I never wanted you to be used as a sheep, B. But--

BUTALIA

Are there more of me?

WALLACE

No. Not alive at least.

Alarms go off.

Wallace's radio buzzes.

WALLACE (RADIO) (CONT'D)
They've escaped?
(to Butalia)
Follow me.

They run for the exit.

Ashley sees.

ASHLEY
Stop right there!

They continues running, they round the corner.

Wallace opens a storage door.

WALLACE
Get in!

Butalia dives inside and Wallace closes him inside.

WALLACE (CONT'D)
I'll lead them away.

Wallace runs away and Ashley quickly follows.

INT. STORAGE ROOM

Butalia's in the darkness, feels for a light switch and flicks it on.

He's surrounded by bodies wrapped in plastic...copies of himself.

Blueprints and designs were rolled in baskets.

Butalia looks at the versions of himself in plastic.

A few were still armed with guns and lock picks.

ASHLEY (O.S.)
Stop right there!

EXT. WAREHOUSE LOT - EVENING

Wallace, Roger, and Simon are in a standoff with Ashley and Director.

ASHLEY
Where's the upload Wallace?

WALLACE

Not here. It's remotely uploading.

DIRECTOR (EARPIECE)

I need a team here to search the warehouse.

Static.

WALLACE

They can't hear you. I built all of this. Did you really think I'd let you take it from me?

ASHLEY

That's fine. We can still kill you.

They aim their weapons at each other.

BANG. Someone shoots the ground near their feet.

BUTALIA

I wouldn't do that.

Butalia enters wearing a bookbag & holding a rifle...and a detonator.

ASHLEY

Help us stop Wallace!

BUTALIA

I think you have bigger problems

Butalia presses a button on the detonator.

Wallace's warehouse begins crumbles to the ground.

Ashley points his weapon towards Butalia.

ASHLEY

What'd you do?

BUTALIA

(to Wallace)

Good news is you won't have to worry about the cloning getting into the wrong hands.

(to Ashley)

Bad news you're going to have to explain why you decided to weaponize clones to whole world.

Police sirens come in the distance.

BUTALIA (CONT'D)
You might want to get out of here.

Ashley and director leave quickly.

WALLACE
What do I say to the police?

BUTALIA
Structural failure. A few of your
joints & supports were rusting.
Just took a small impact.

Butalia walks away.

WALLACE
Where' you going?

Butalia shows him red BIC pen.

BUTALIA
Home. Got my pen.

EXT. VINNY'S ALLEWAY - EVENING

Vinny sits on a box with Raja at his side as Butalia walks
towards him.

BUTALIA
What do you know about creating new
identities?

VINNY
I wouldn't know a thing about it.

Butalia hands him a \$20.

VINNY (CONT'D)
You gotta go clean. Wipe
everything. Not just your bank
accounts, but any digital
footprint.

Vinny pulls an envelope to Butalia.

VINNY (CONT'D)
Here's list of contacts for getting
what you want.

BUTALIA
Thanks Vinny
(to Raja)
C'mon Raja

Butalia and Raja walk off.

INT. BUTALIA'S OFFICE

Butalia finds his desk with the same papers as before along with the dried pens.

He picks up the dried pen and tosses.

Raja lies beside his desk.

Butalia sits in his chair and picks up where he left off with his new pen.

FADE OUT.