

The Dilettante

A thrilling series based on the hit Manta comic



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The Dilettante

STORY: Jin Soye ART: Manta Comics

- *A spicy romance contrasted with an Elmore Leonard-style crime thriller*

One day, top counterterrorism agent Hana Lee receives news of her twin brother's passing. Unable to accept the death of her only living relative, she sets out to uncover the truth. Along the way, she gets tangled up with the mysterious Eunseong Yoo and the cold-blooded mafia boss, Giulio Parenti.

GENRE:
THRILLER

ONGOING
COMIC

32
CHAPTERS

PERFECT FOR A:
DRAMA SERIES

TONE:
EXCITING

ADULTS
18-34

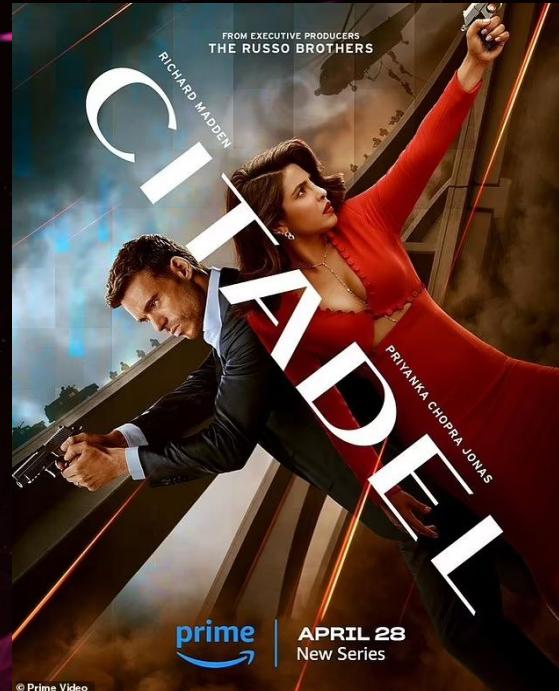
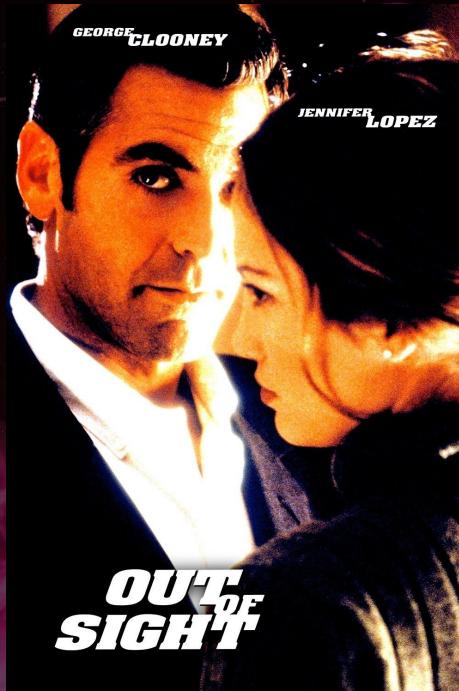
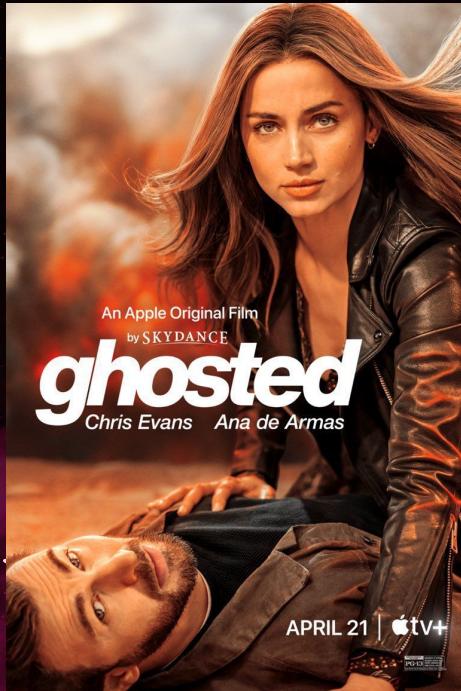
RIGHTS
MANTA/RIDI

COMPS
Citadel, Ghosted, Out of Sight

Comps & Tone

Opposites Attract

An ongoing, female-led drama series that blends elements of crime, espionage, opulence and romance into a propulsive action thriller, supercharged by the combustible chemistry of the “so wrong it’s right” leads.



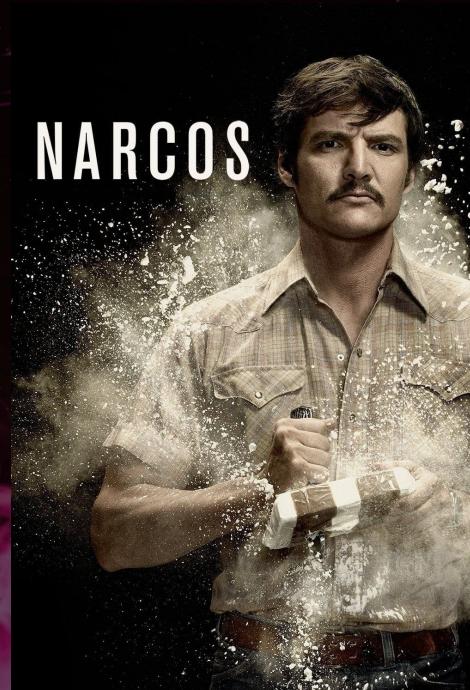
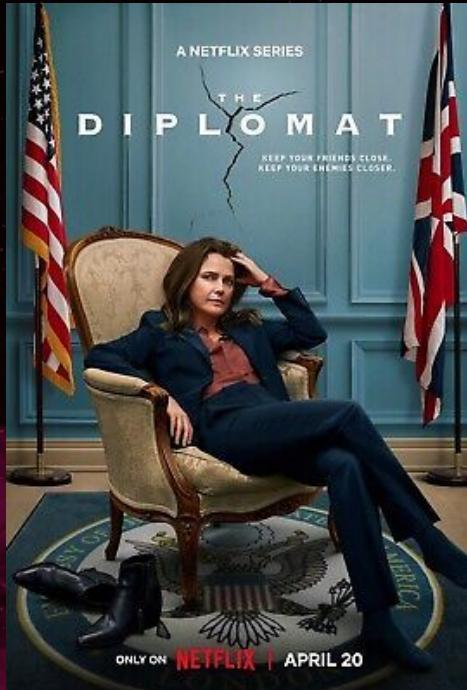
International Action

Without taking itself too seriously, *The Dilettante* features globetrotting, innovative set pieces and edge-of-your-seat action, similar to these major franchises.



Crime & Suspense

With an ocean full of red herrings swimming through a world of shadowy crime syndicates and private security contractors, what starts as the mystery of a missing person turns into a complex series of secrets, lies and betrayals.



Characters



Hana Lee

A counter-terrorism and global crime expert now working for a private military contractor, (following a distinguished military career in Korea's Special Forces). So feared and hated by the international underground, she has a price on her head.

Orphaned as a child, she cherishes her brother and hates criminals. Ironically, she will need to work with a crime boss to find her missing brother.

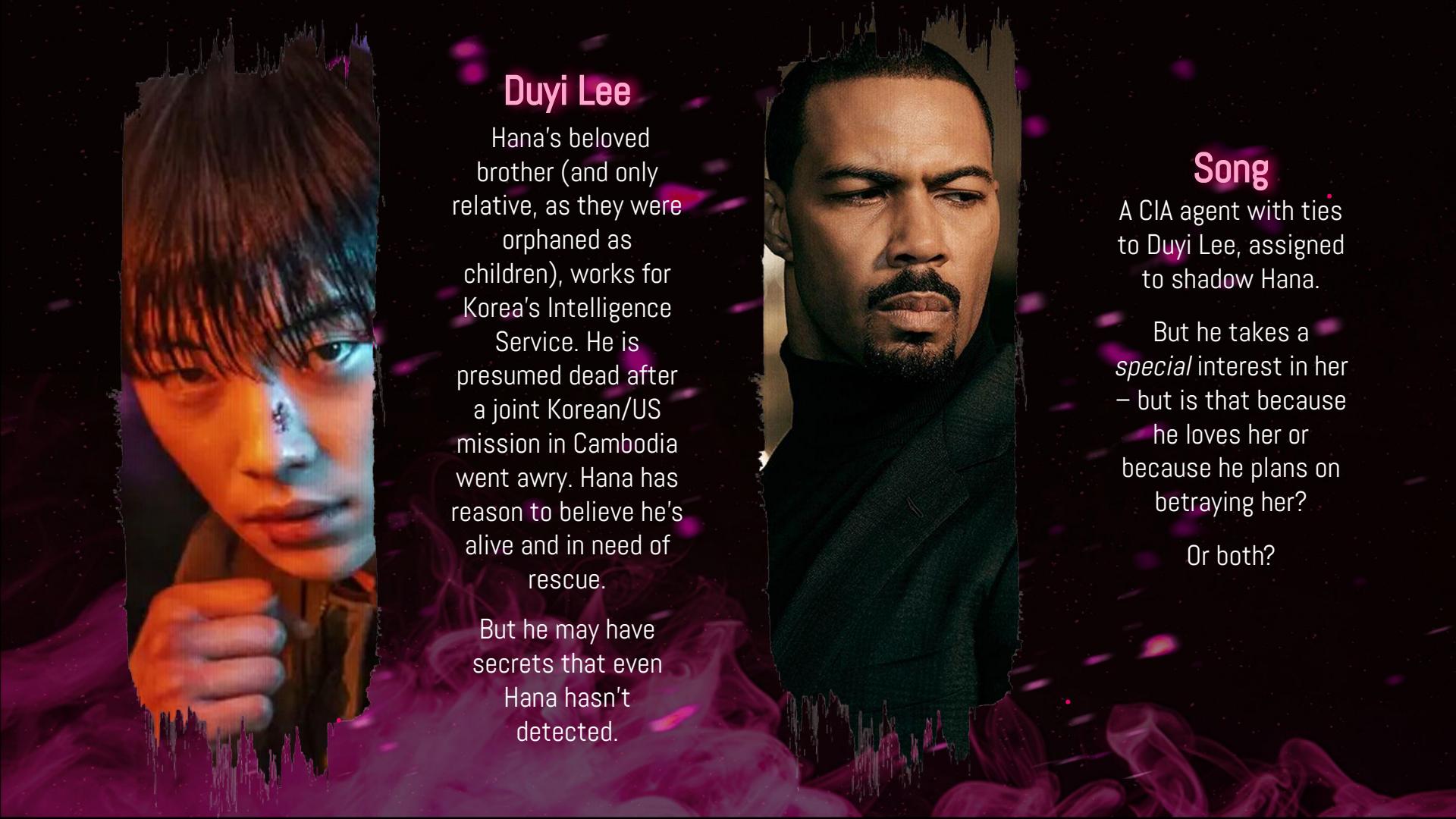


Giulio Parenti

The son of an Italian Don, Giulio has been working to take his family into legitimate businesses – which is why it's so inconvenient that he was just framed for a huge international conspiracy.

Luckily, he has Hana to help bail him out (even if she's a cop).

There's just something unnerving about how much she looks like his ex-girlfriend.



Duyi Lee

Hana's beloved brother (and only relative, as they were orphaned as children), works for Korea's Intelligence

Service. He is presumed dead after a joint Korean/US mission in Cambodia went awry. Hana has reason to believe he's alive and in need of rescue.

But he may have secrets that even Hana hasn't detected.

Song

A CIA agent with ties to Duyi Lee, assigned to shadow Hana.

But he takes a *special* interest in her – but is that because he loves her or because he plans on betraying her?

Or both?



Cyril Kuzmin

Yuri's right hand man, who nurses a specific hatred for Hana – she bested him during a previous mission. So, although Saeyi has become Hana's ally, Cyril is looking for an opportunity to kill her (without taking the blame).



Yuri Petrov & Saeyi Jang

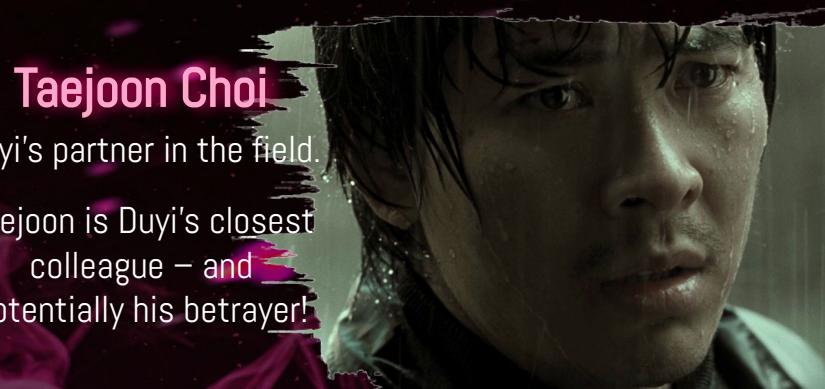
As the CEO of the Petrov Corporation, Yuri is a Russian Oligarch and the secret head of the "Red Mafia". Saeyi is a brilliant (and ruthless) businesswoman. Together, they are the ultimate power couple.

Which is a touchy subject for Giulio, as she's his ex-girlfriend! It's especially awkward when he needs their help.

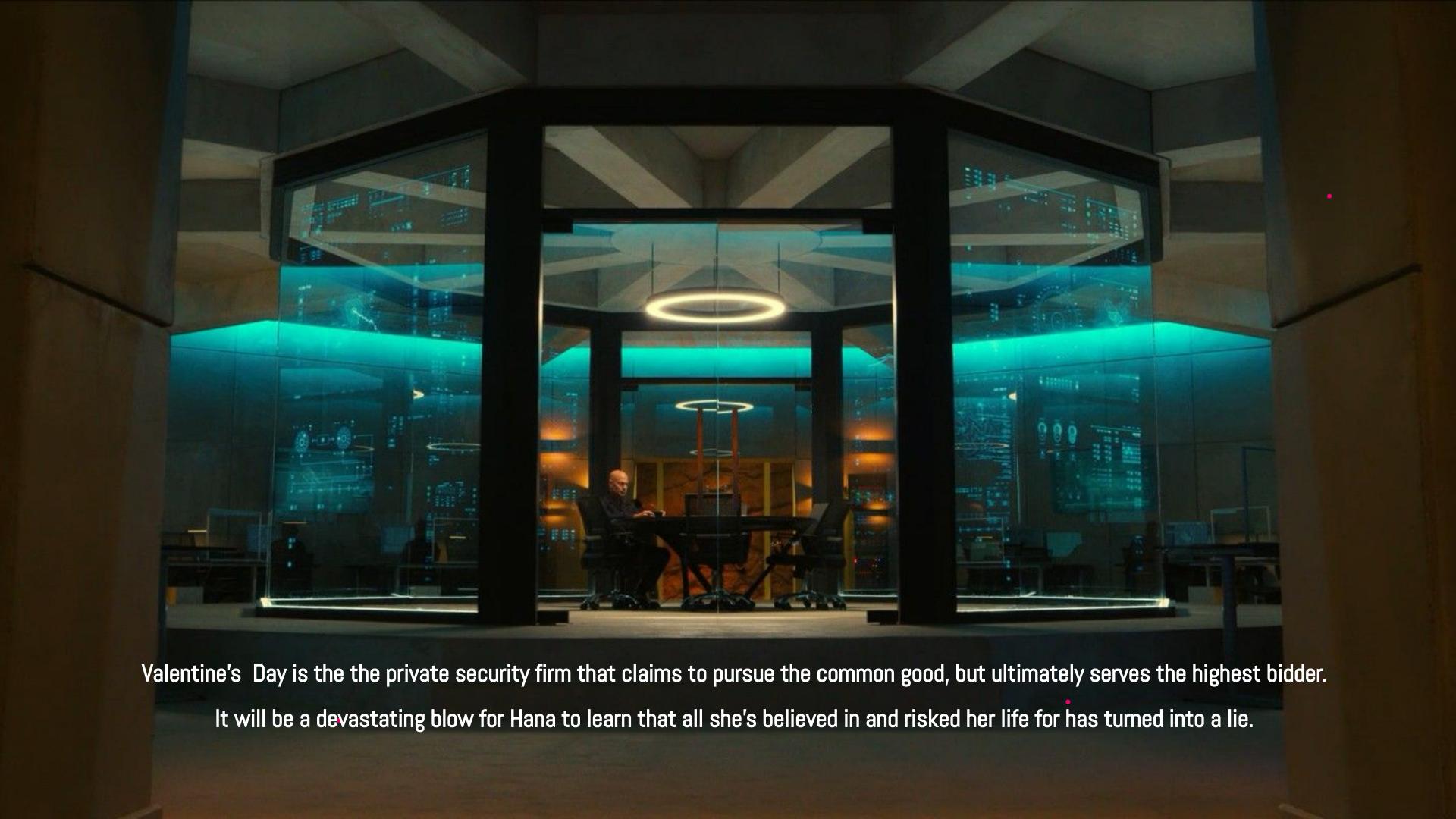
Taejoon Choi

Duyi's partner in the field.

Taejoon is Duyi's closest colleague – and potentially his betrayer!



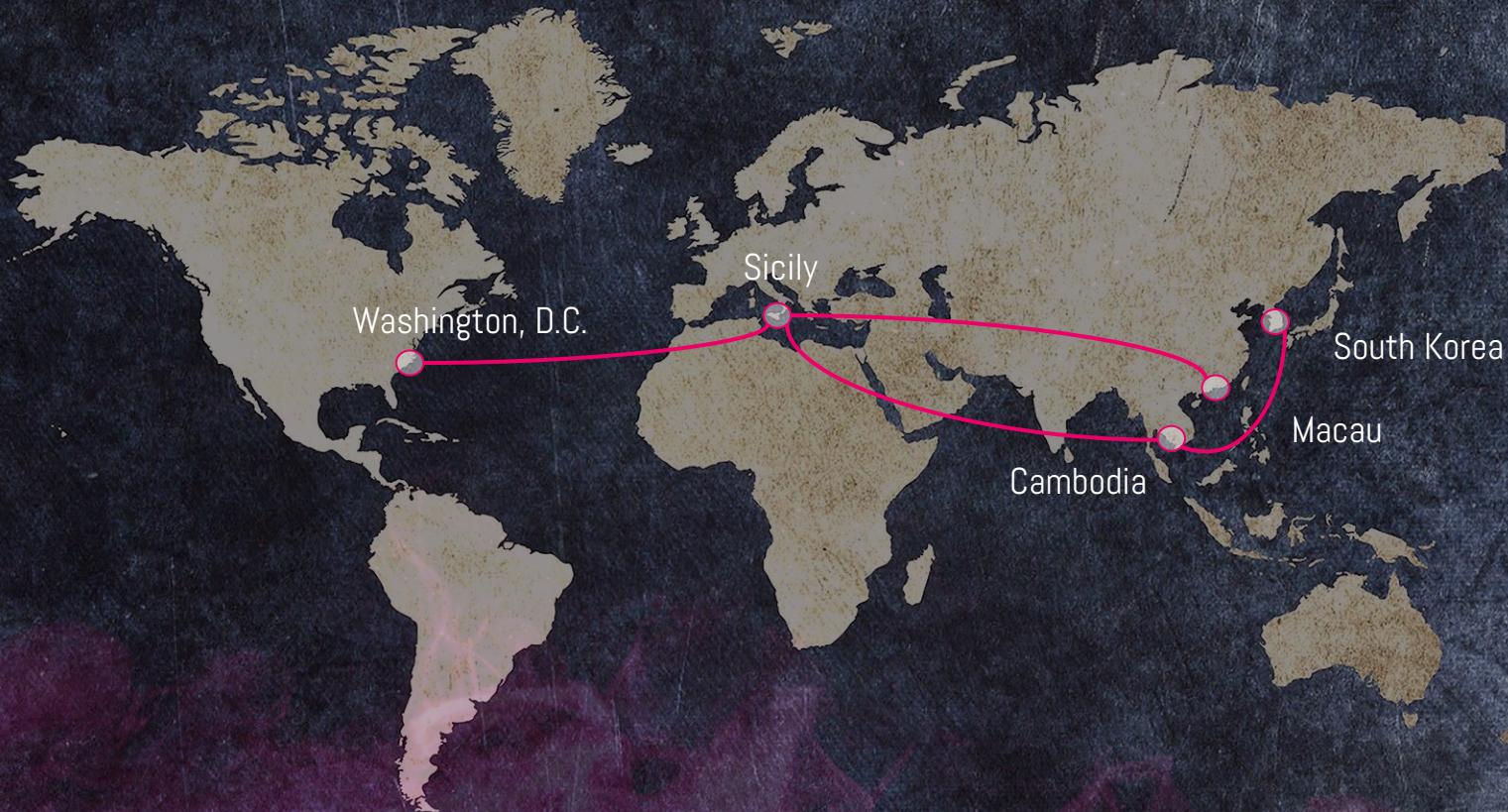
Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day is the the private security firm that claims to pursue the common good, but ultimately serves the highest bidder.

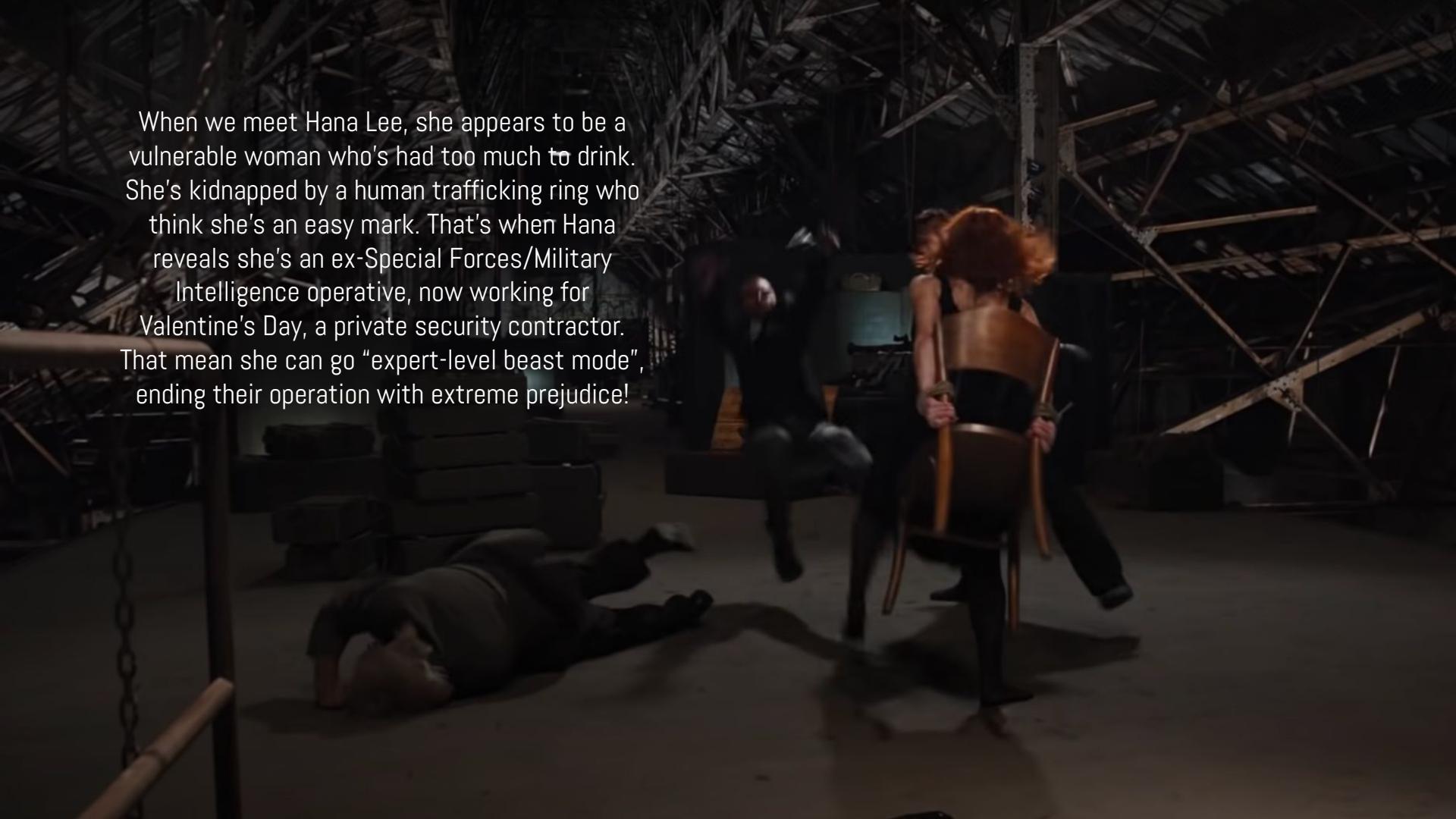
It will be a devastating blow for Hana to learn that all she's believed in and risked her life for has turned into a lie.

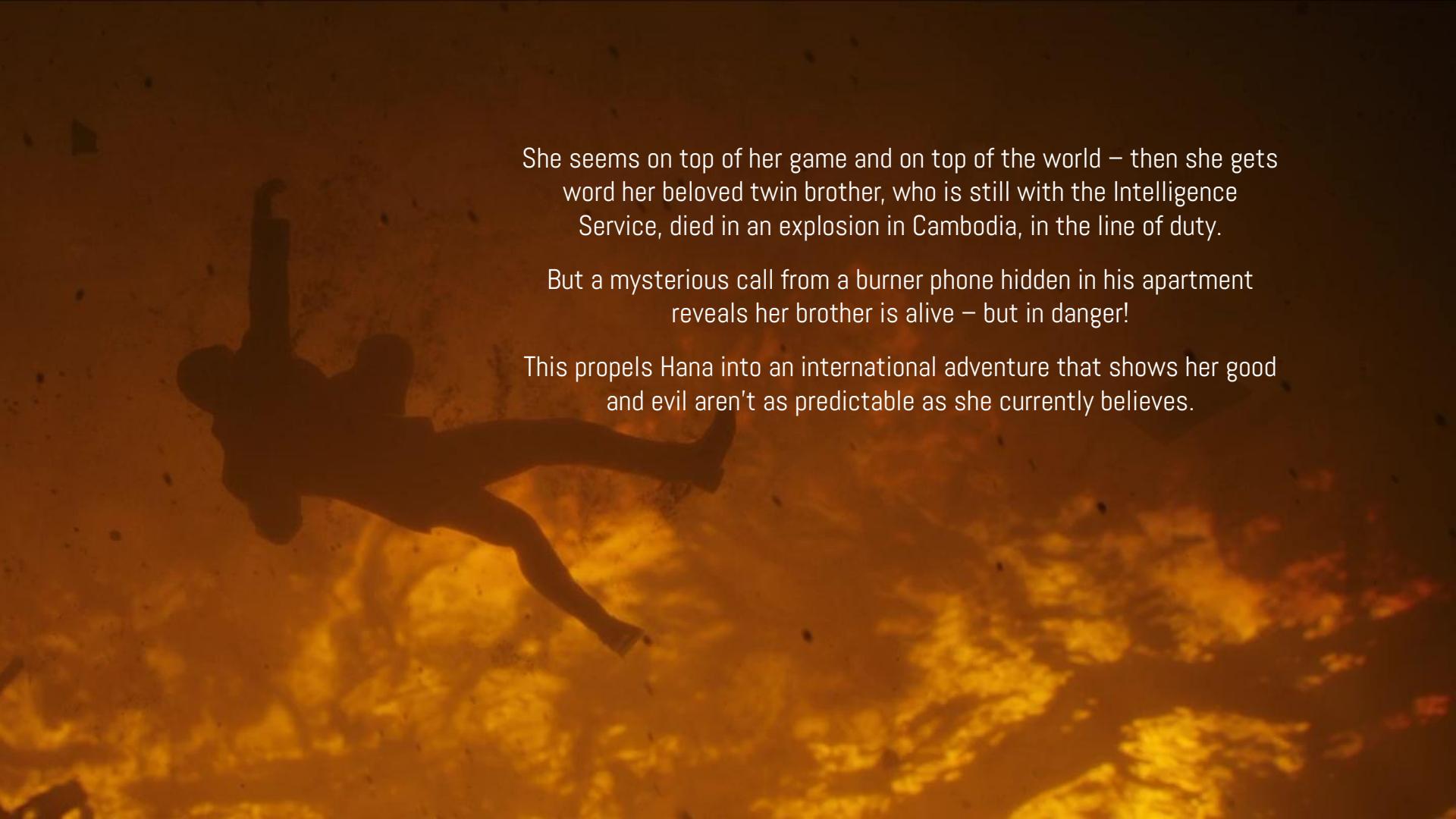
Locations



Story

When we meet Hana Lee, she appears to be a vulnerable woman who's had too much to drink. She's kidnapped by a human trafficking ring who think she's an easy mark. That's when Hana reveals she's an ex-Special Forces/Military Intelligence operative, now working for Valentine's Day, a private security contractor. That means she can go "expert-level beast mode", ending their operation with extreme prejudice!

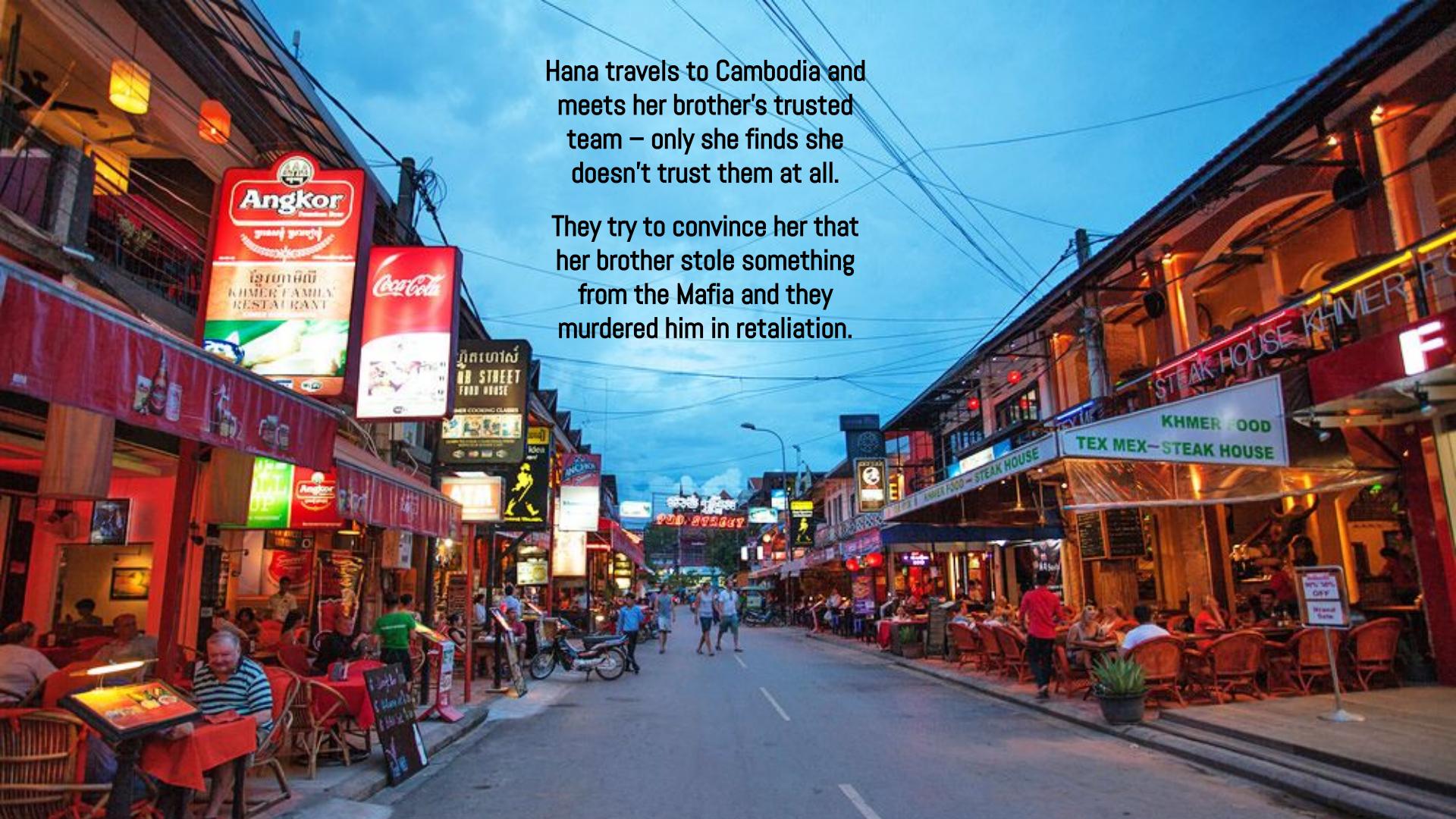




She seems on top of her game and on top of the world – then she gets word her beloved twin brother, who is still with the Intelligence Service, died in an explosion in Cambodia, in the line of duty.

But a mysterious call from a burner phone hidden in his apartment reveals her brother is alive – but in danger!

This propels Hana into an international adventure that shows her good and evil aren't as predictable as she currently believes.



Hana travels to Cambodia and meets her brother's trusted team – only she finds she doesn't trust them at all.

They try to convince her that her brother stole something from the Mafia and they murdered him in retaliation.



Hana discovers a hidden projector in her brother's lamp in his Cambodian apartment, unlocking a digital "investigation board", giving Hana tantalizing leads for her investigation.

Signs point to a global drug ring involving Asian cartels, the CIA, the FBI and both the Russian and Sicilian mafias.



Meanwhile, in Sicily, Giulio learns that not only has a huge shipment been stolen by **Mesa**, a Cambodian cartel, but he's been framed for the murder of an Intelligence Officer.



Hana attacks Mesa, seeking the whereabouts of her brother, but get caught in the crossfire between Mesa and another, shadowy group. She learns their identity when the striking figure of Giulio Parenti subdues her and take her against her will to his Villa in Sicily.

Although a prisoner, Hana is treated like a guest in Giulio's luxurious seaside villa. She learns he is trying to take his "family business" in a legitimate direction. He insists he has nothing to do with her brother's death. Hana tells him that she doesn't think her brother is dead, but some other international crime lord made it look like he was – and framed Giulio for the crime.

They don't have to like each other, but the smart choice for them both is to work together.





Is this a kidnapping or a more suspenseful version of EAT, PRAY LOVE?

Hana is able to enjoy life in Sicily – the ocean, the food, even the company of Giulio and his family. She's almost forgotten he's a ruthless Mafia lord – but, then, Song's familiar face appears! Under an alias, he's been hired by Giulio to guard her.

The situation becomes charged as these two tough, smart, capable men vie for her attention, even though she doesn't trust either of them!

She is convinced that Giulio didn't harm her brother. Someone is posing as him, using the fear his reputation evokes to make some bold moves in the international drug, arms and human trafficking trade.

And to solve that mystery, she'll not only need Giulio's help, she'll have to pose as his girlfriend and attend a soiree in Macau. It's the most happening party for the rich and illicit.

Everyone will be there – including Giulio's ex-girlfriend with her new husband... the head of the Russian Mob!





On a superyacht in Macau, Hana (in a dazzling dress and jewelry full of spy tech) pretends to be on Giulio's arm – but after the time they shared in his villa, it might not be an act!

She meets a *who's who* of international corruption – but also runs into stealth members of Valentine's Day, posing as wait staff – and Taejoon, from the National Intelligence Service. She's convinced he knows more than he's saying. She gets him to share some information – the criminal framing Giulio and responsible for her brother's disappearance is known as **Mujin Kang**.

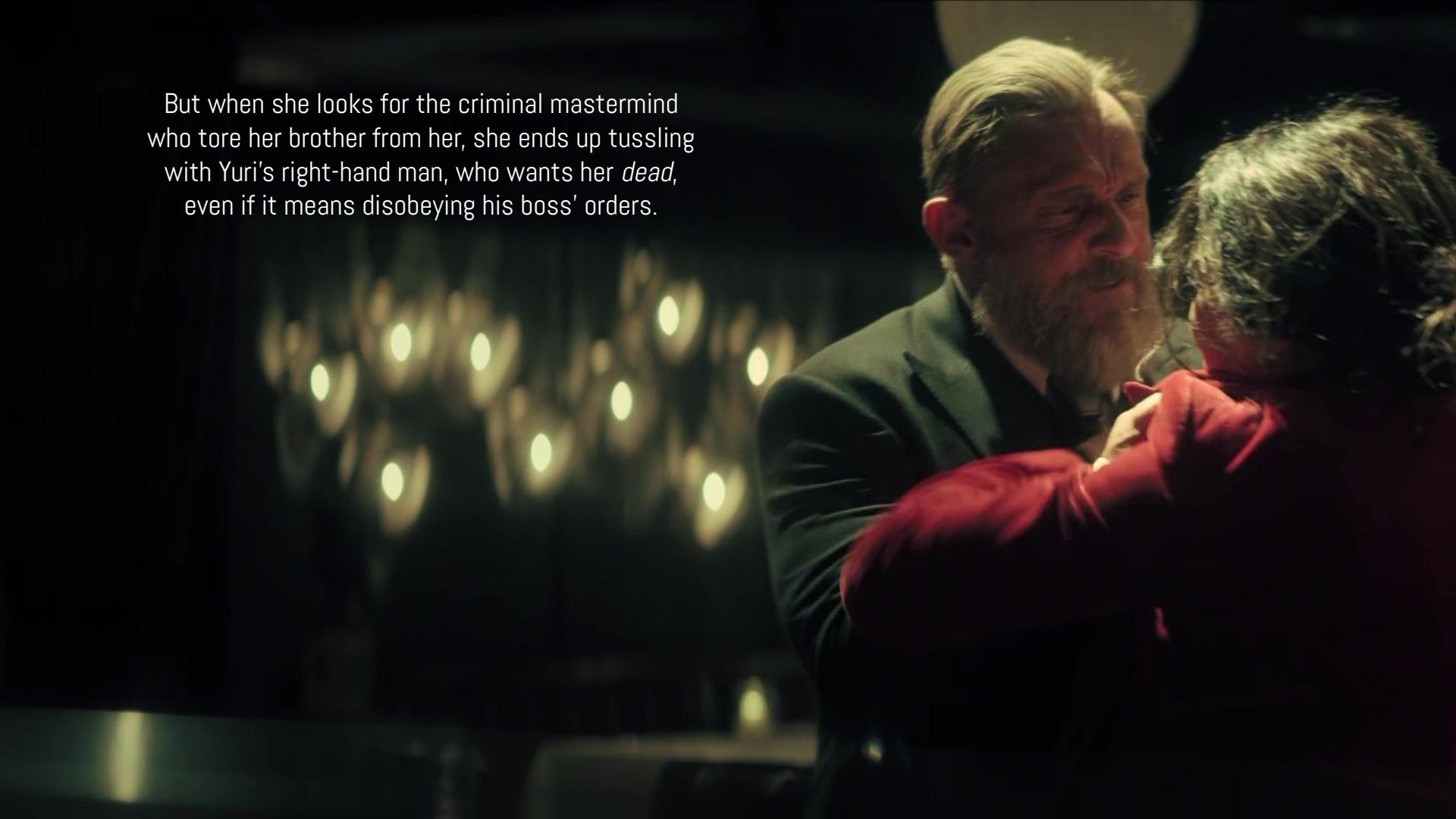
And Mujin Kang may be on this yacht!



But first, she needs to contend with the party's "it couple" – Giulio's "frenemy", Yuri and Saeyi, Giulio's ex. It's a complicated moment, as Saeyi takes a liking to Hana (and is full of unsolicited advice about how to handle Giulio), but she's also dismissive, as if Hana was a pale replacement for her.

The best thing that emerges is a way to identify Mujin Kang.

But when she looks for the criminal mastermind
who tore her brother from her, she ends up tussling
with Yuri's right-hand man, who wants her *dead*,
even if it means disobeying his boss' orders.

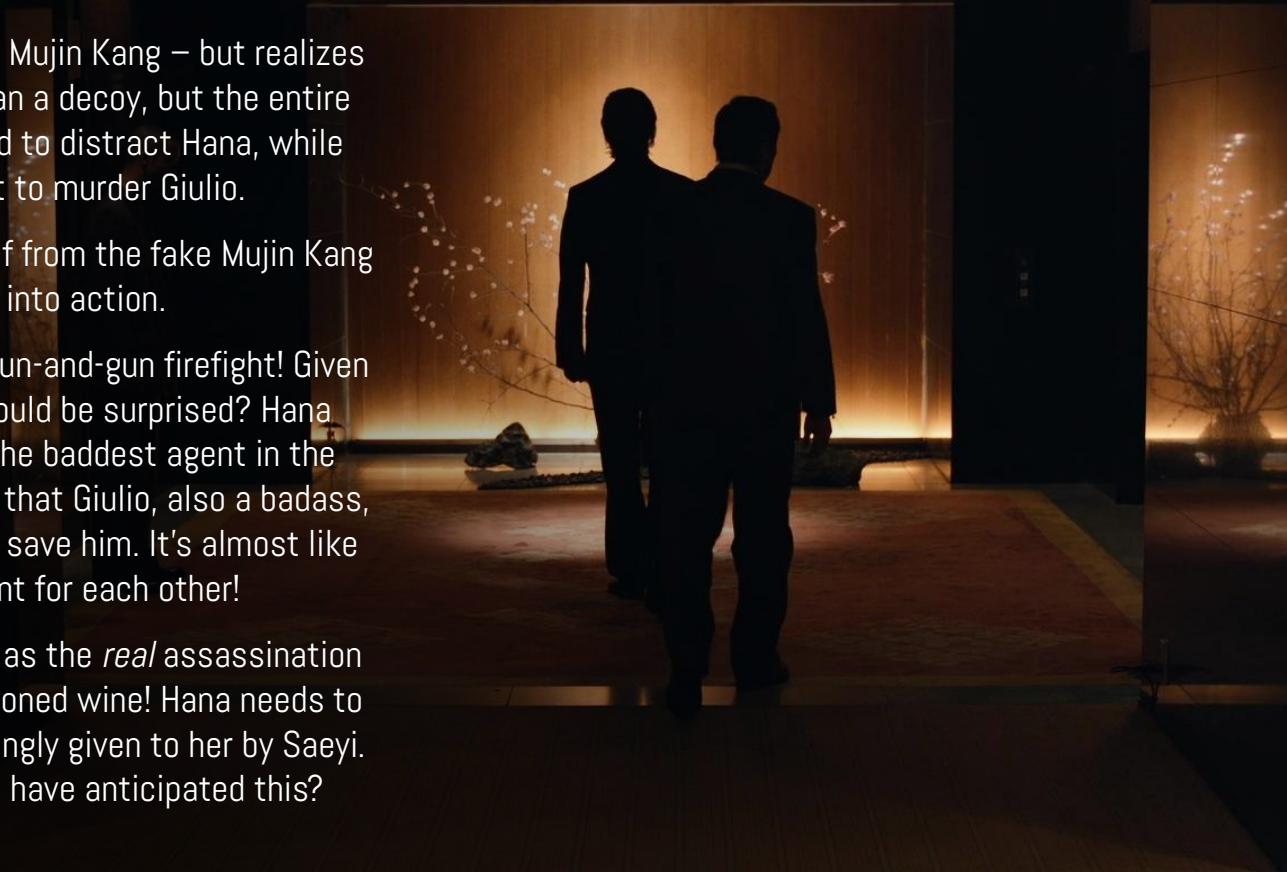


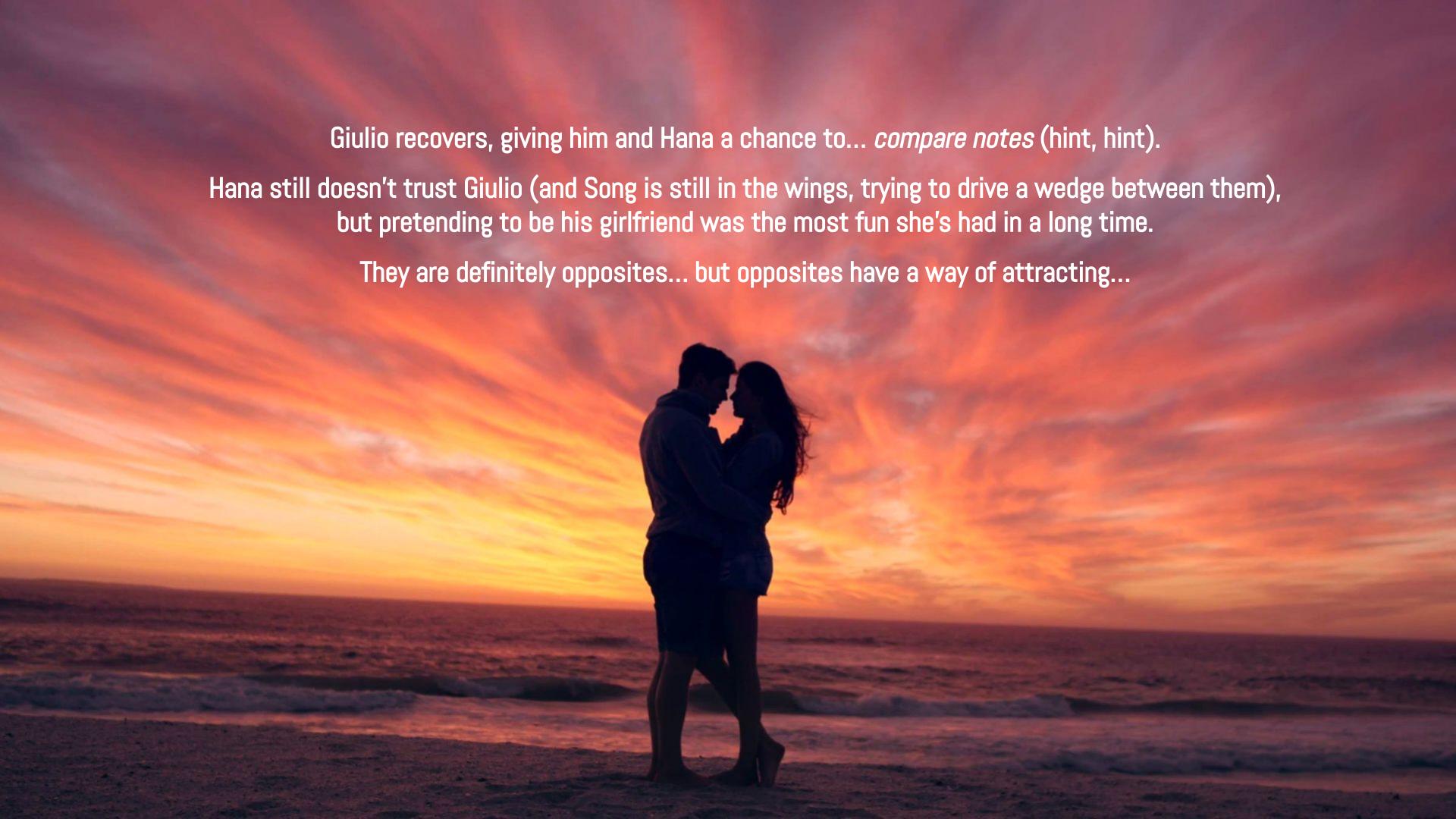
Hana finds and seduces Mujin Kang – but realizes that not only is this man a decoy, but the entire encounter was planned to distract Hana, while hitmen attempt to murder Giulio.

She disentangles herself from the fake Mujin Kang and leaps into action.

The party erupts into a run-and-gun firefight! Given the guestless, who could be surprised? Hana shows off why she's the baddest agent in the game – only to discover that Giulio, also a badass, doesn't need anyone to save him. It's almost like they were meant for each other!

Giulio speaks too soon, as the *real* assassination attempt comes via poisoned wine! Hana needs to use an antidote infuriatingly given to her by Saeyi. How could Giulio's ex have anticipated this?

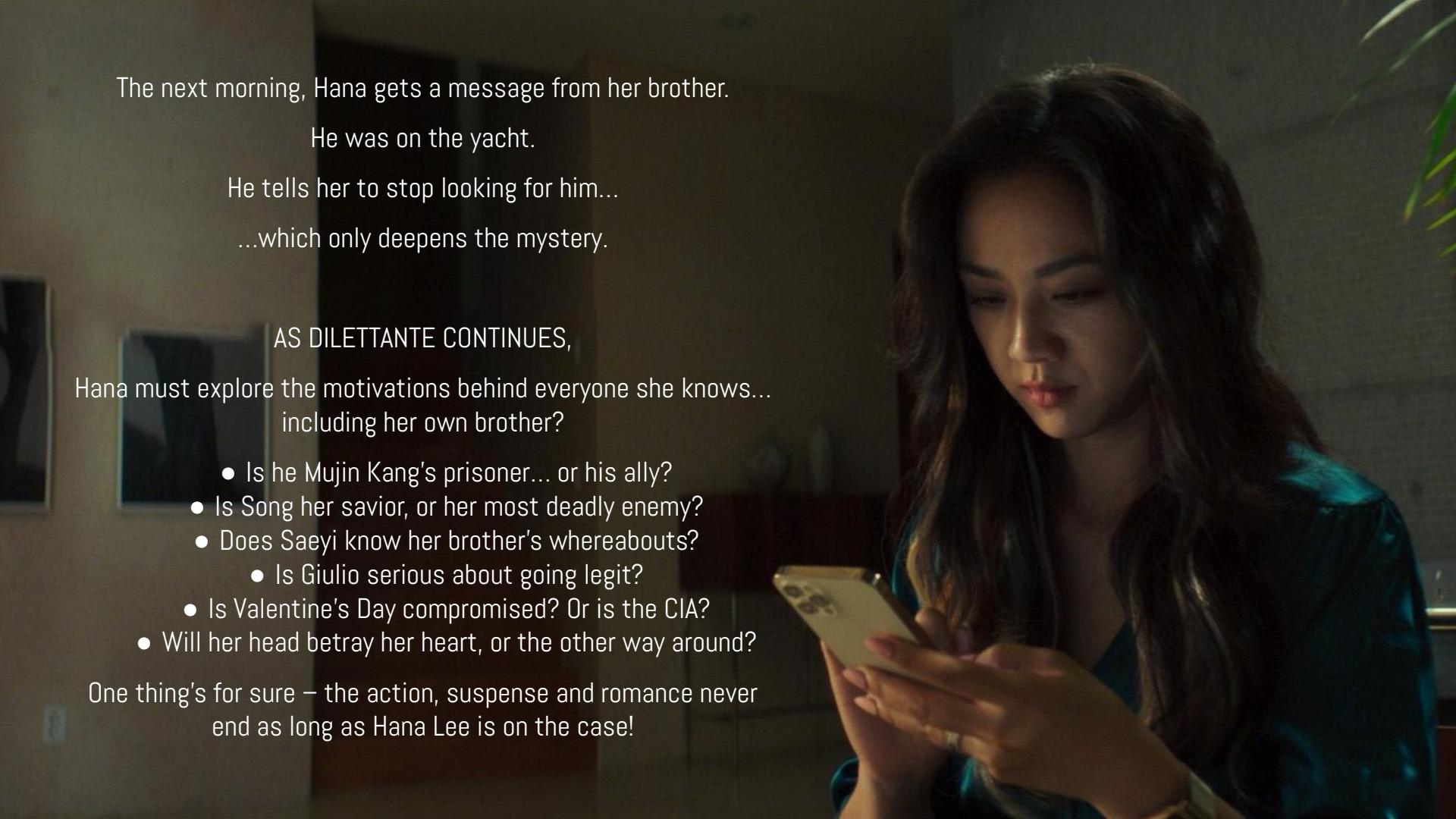


A photograph of a couple in silhouette, standing close together on a beach at sunset. The sky is filled with vibrant orange and red clouds, and the ocean waves are visible in the background. The couple is facing each other, suggesting a romantic or intimate moment.

Giulio recovers, giving him and Hana a chance to... *compare notes* (hint, hint).

Hana still doesn't trust Giulio (and Song is still in the wings, trying to drive a wedge between them), but pretending to be his girlfriend was the most fun she's had in a long time.

They are definitely opposites... but opposites have a way of attracting...



The next morning, Hana gets a message from her brother.

He was on the yacht.

He tells her to stop looking for him...

...which only deepens the mystery.

AS DILETTANTE CONTINUES,

Hana must explore the motivations behind everyone she knows...
including her own brother?

- Is he Mujin Kang's prisoner... or his ally?
- Is Song her savior, or her most deadly enemy?
- Does Saeyi know her brother's whereabouts?
 - Is Giulio serious about going legit?
- Is Valentine's Day compromised? Or is the CIA?
- Will her head betray her heart, or the other way around?

One thing's for sure – the action, suspense and romance never end as long as Hana Lee is on the case!



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Dilettante

Stories worth the binge

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