

## Game of Trust

### Character Description

Hardel: Personality thoughtful but fierce. Jumps to assumptions and seldom changes mood and perspective. Wears glasses. Praveen

Logan: Personality peaceful but informing. Usually likes to be sarcastic and changes mood and perspective in a flick. Raghuram SG

Harnid: Likes to get things done and is good at noticing. Tall, eagle-eyed, and doesn't like to wait. Pramod

The Lady of Statistics: The average stolid clerk who is completely bureaucratic and nothing much to say. Swathi

The Secretary of the General: Very quiet, very furtive, very fast and very, very cunning. Is a "I am gonna give you one you give me fifteen" person. Srikanth

The General: Tall, the homely essence of an army veteran. Adarsh

### **ACT I - 17 pages**

1 HARDEL'S OFFICE 1

THE ROOM SHOULD BE LIGHTLY FURNISHED WITH A DESK, A MAC, A WINDOW. THE BED, IF THERE, SHOULD NOT BE SHOT. THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY OBJECTS ON THE TABLE SUGGESTING THE LOCATION OF THE SHOOT.

HARDEL

On the telephone

What? A deputation to Harial? You kidding? For what?

LOGAN

Coming into the room

Some isle containing oil mines.  
It is stated in our constitution  
that we have that isle. But they  
say, now, after their scan, it is  
theirs.

HARDEL

Hissing

We can't! Let us lose that land!

LOGAN

Getting anxious now

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN (cont'd)  
 Everyone in the foreign office  
 wants to! It's not like I am the  
 only one opposing sacrificing the  
 land for a few years of peace  
 with the men of Harial!

HARDEL

Telephoning

Private secretary of the Prime  
 Ministerial Private Office? Can  
 you connect me to the statistics  
 department? Ok, 9367841 right?  
 Okay.

Ringling 9367841

Statistics? Ok. Can you send me a  
 copy of the report on Harsit? We  
 have to go there? Okay done...  
 phew. Talking to statistics is  
 like talking to a stolid cat.

2

STATISTICS OFFICE

2

THE ROOM SHOULD BE FURNISHED WITH A LOT OF CABINETS, IF  
 POSSIBLE. PAPER CAN BE SCATTERED, AND PAPER SHUFFLING CAN  
 BE DONE.

They head down to the statistics office. They see a lady  
 who is intently typing on her laptop. She doesn't notice  
 them coming in, so Hardele gets annoyed. She starts when  
 they come and gets up to drag a chair, but they do it  
 faster. She tries unsuccessfully to hide her start.

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE  
 Please sit down.  
 (Dragging the chair)

HARDEL  
 Which we can. Logan, what is the  
 number?

LOGAN  
 Um.... 9378928328472 is the  
 number of the report.

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE  
 Repeat it.

LOGAN  
 9378928328472

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE  
 The ore report?

(CONTINUED)

HARDEL

The ore report of Harsit. There is a rumour of the claim of discovering oil there.

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE

Logan, you've the wrong number. If you want to get The report on the City oil pipes--

HARDEL

Oil pipes, chuck oil PIPES. I want the report on the Harsit Oil Mines Pvt. Ltd. owned by General Serpentin Languioun.

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE

Then I am afraid you will have to fill up the search form which will be considered in 72 hours time and 24 hours for the search to conclude. Here it is--

LOGAN

We want the conclusion NOW. Like, Hardel, can you get me my--

Door slams. Hardel leaves. The lady excuses herself and leaves. Logan slams the door and gets to the laptop. He mutters:

LOGAN

These guys have no idea how to get things done. They think we aren't wearing our recognition badges. Wait--

He checks his shirt. He doesn't find his badge. He whispers to no one:

LOGAN

Like! No badge! Not again!

He exits the room.

WIPE LEFT

3

LOGAN'S OFFICE

3

LIKE HARDEL'S OFFICE, EXCEPT FOR THE OBJECTS ON THE TABLE. THEY ARE DIFFERENT, AND REPRESENT A DIFFERENT PERSONALITY, WHICH CAN BE CALM AND PEACEFUL, IN CONTRAST TO THE OBJECTS ON HARDEL'S TABLE.

He goes inside his office and looks around for his badge. He finds it in his drawer and uses his mac.

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN  
Brilliant.

Telephones.

LOGAN  
Hardel, come here now. I've got  
more info than before in the  
statistics office.

Puts the phone down with an evil smirk.

Hardel comes into the room.

HARDEL  
What is it?

LOGAN  
I found my badge.

HARDEL  
That's kinda sarcastic.

LOGAN  
Where is yours?

HARDEL  
Okay, I don't have it.

LOGAN  
So anyways, it appears there is  
Oil down Harsit worth 70 billion  
dollars within the control of the  
General, who is Harialese.

HARDEL  
And the General is selling it to  
us. But it is our land which we  
GIFTED to the General. I know.

LOGAN  
You found your ID too?

HARDEL  
(Rather shamefaced)  
Yes.

LOGAN  
Ok then. WE really have to go to  
Harsit. 70 b pounds matters a lot  
ESPECIALLY in the time of an  
economic stringency.

HARDEL  
Yes, but who will go??

( CONTINUED )

LOGAN

The Statistics cashier for one.  
Report no. 938787926 is going to  
be changed if she doesn't.

HARDEL

(Rather thoughtfully)  
Who owns that company? 3.16

LOGAN

(Rather laughing)  
The General Serpentin. We ought  
to meet him once. You know, for  
redeeming the points we earned if  
we get out of this scrape.

HARDEL

(Raises his eyebrow)  
You know, that was what I  
thought, Logan.

LOGAN

(Hissing)  
Corruption! Hardel! We cannot!

HARDEL

(Reprovingly)  
Why?--Yes, okay. Set the  
delegation ready.

LOGAN

You are surprisingly on you  
national face today, Hardel. I  
hope it lasts.

HARDEL

No, on second thoughts...

LOGAN

(Evilly)  
Two-faced?....

HARDEL

Gets up and sits down heavily.

(Half-hatedly)

Okay, okay!! Let the delegation be  
sent!!

Logan grins and picks up his phone. into the telephone:

LOGAN

Foreign Service? Let a delegation  
of five be sent to Harsit. Thank  
you.

Hardel groans.

WIPE RIGHT

4

THE FIRST CLASS

4

LUXURIOUS COACH. LOGAN AND HARDEL SITTING, DRINKING SOME LIQUID OUT OF A PERFECT GLASS.

Both sip. Logan sigh.

LOGAN

(Sorrowfully)

This is ugly. I hate the part where you have to wait before the meteorite strikes.

HARDEL

(Agreeing)

Yes. I feel like getting there fast.

LOGAN

(Tired)

Let's revise the plan. When the General greets us, we reply joyfully and ask if we can finish the business at once.

HARDEL

(Snapping)

No. That will be too informal.

LOGAN

(Questioningly/Humorously)

Then what? You want us to be so slow like how they be on TV?

HARDEL

(Haughtily)

This is a bureaucracy, for your kind information.

LOGAN

(Protestingly)

But the people--

HARDEL

(Cuttingly)

You really seem to be on YOUR national side today..

LOGAN

(Jokingly)

Well, I had quite some time sorting my luggage, so at least I needed something good to present to them.

(CONTINUED)

HARDEL

(Insultingly)

That is an empty excuse. You are wearing the best suit you've got today.

LOGAN

(Protesting)

But still, the excuse serves its purpose, right?

HARDEL

Getting back to revise, we put a lot of drivel between us, moving an inch and then two inches back.

LOGAN

Maybe. But what matters more is the topic itself.

HARDEL

(Declaring)

Don't expect ME to openly declare war.

LOGAN

(Educating)

No. First we use the tactic of using their own reaction to other similar cases.

HARDEL

(Haughtily)

That is a hoary old trick.

LOGAN

(Making a clause)

But it almost always works...

HARDEL

(Educating)

Yes, but... . Anyways, to go forward. We use the nationalism trick. We tell that we understand, but we are having to objectives, to please our calm, understanding side and yet, our fierce nationalistic side.

LOGAN

(Completing)

And the people of our country are pressurising us to regain our territory.

( CONTINUED )

HARDEL  
(Continuing)  
We all have to make sure that we  
emphasise on the "our country".

LOGAN  
(Ending)  
Very true. And we have to bring  
him to the state of criticising  
himself, telling him that we are  
sure that he understands.

HARDEL  
(Sighing HEAVILY, looking at  
the clock and saying in a  
slow, poisoning manner)  
Yes. Look, it's time.

WIPE LEFT

5 THE GENERAL'S OFFICE

5

THE GENERAL'S OFFICE IS LIKE THE OFFICE OF THE TWO MEN,  
EXCEPT THERE ARE A FEW MORE CHAIRS.

HARDEL  
(Surprised)  
This is IT?

LOGAN  
(Slowly, but surprised too)  
Well, I've heard that the General  
is kinda like one who doesn't  
spend money LAVISHLY, so like..

HARDEL  
(Haughtily)  
No, like I completely understand  
his situation. After all, our  
positions are higher <clears  
throat> than his, but our offices  
are of the same level of  
furnishing.

LOGAN  
(Pityingly)  
Well, anyways.

The General's Secretary comes in.

THE SECRETARY  
(In a mixed voice)  
Good morning.

HARDEL  
(Expectantly)  
Good morning. Can we see  
the General Serpentin Languioun?

(CONTINUED)



THE SECRETARY

(Evilly)

Oh, but unfortunately no. He is down with a cold today. He asked me to meet you.

HARDEL

(Faking sorrow)

Ah, of all the misfortunes!!

The General enters.

GENERAL

(Happily)

Good morning.

LOGAN

(Joyfully)

Good morning! Although noontime, after all this!!

THE SECRETARY

(Desperately, winking at the General)

Oh! You are quite well after all. I told Mr. Hardel and Mr. Logan you were unwell. As you were of course.

GENERAL

(Understanding)

Well, I was, but now... . Good afternoon, Mr. Hardel

HARDEL

(Mixed emotions)

Good afternoon. I AM surprised you recognise me after all the years, General.

Logan just manages to save his glass from falling.

GENERAL

(Nostalgic)

Mr. Logan, I don't expect you to know that Hardel was sent on a delegation, few years ago on the same kind of delegation to recover the oil mines.

HARDEL

(Embarrassed)

Security. The wound was bruised by the new oil scan.

( CONTINUED )

LOGAN  
(Anticipatingly)  
What? What wound? NEW gold scan?

THE SECRETARY  
(Loudly)  
SECURITY.

HARDEL  
(Faking and desperately)  
Oh, I am quite tired. Logan, I suggest we remove ourselves to the hotel.

LOGAN  
(Faking and questioning)  
Of course. Quite tired.

They go out of the office rather embarrassed and quickly.

WIPE RIGHT

6 THE HOTEL

6

A BEDROOM, LIKE A HOTEL ROOM.

LOGAN  
What was that over there?

HARDEL  
Well, it was security...

LOGAN  
Security! Security is covering tens of billions of dollars of money for the country!

HARDEL  
Logan, there was a terrorist attack on the general's office. That is why it is so miserly.

LOGAN  
WHAT? Now the city, the second greatest city of our great country can withstand not a terrorist attack?

HARDEL  
This happened five years ago. You have not yet been cleared for this info.

LOGAN  
Cleared? What do you think I am?! An official or a terrorist??

(CONTINUED)

HARDEL

Now, Logan, you were not an official five years ago. And due to your extremism with your "freedom of choosing surveillance", you are not cleared.

LOGAN

But now...--

HARDEL

Calm down. Even the Minister doesn't know this.

LOGAN

But he is a politician!!

HARDEL

And you were selected for your role by him. He was not cleared, and so were everybody who was selected by him for office.

LOGAN

Okay, done. What happened?

HARDEL

Well, about 125 billion pounds worth of oil stock was blown up. And then, as the General is from Harial, they remarked that our security is not reliable enough.

LOGAN

Is that why they launched an attack on the terrorist aircraft passing in our airspace?

HARDEL

Yes. That is also why they want this city; they have territory of that oil, and they can mine ever more oil, which is about 500 billion pounds.

LOGAN

Who launched the terrorist attack?

HARDEL

I don't know.

LOGAN

Am I cleared now?

( CONTINUED )

HARDEL

I will check.

Hardel opens his laptop and sends an email.

HARDEL

Ah. Well Logan, you have to be investigated for clearance. You have to go the capital for the investigation.

LOGAN

We do not have much time to stall. We excused ourselves for the day.

HARDEL

It will take a day or more for investigation. And the General will ask for a clearance form signed by the Secretary.

LOGAN

No. How did you forget to make this clearance before this delegation?

HARDEL

I didn't know the General would be there.

LOGAN

Is the General in league with Harial?

HARDEL

That, I don't know. That I don't know.

LOGAN

We have the meeting tomorrow. Try getting clearance now. We will video call or something.

HARDEL

I am so sorry. They need you in person in there. Lie detector and all, you know.

LOGAN

So what do we do?

HARDEL

You cannot come to the meeting tomorrow.

( CONTINUED )

LOGAN

Fake a clearance. Do it on the  
"On Behalf of" Clause.

HARDEL

No. We are postponing tomorrow's  
meeting. You will have to get a  
clearance even if you are just  
looking at us talking.

LOGAN

It will look bad--

HARDEL

NO. You ARE getting a clearance  
TOMORROW, NO MATTER WHAT.

WIPE LEFT

7

THE FIRST CLASS

7

LOGAN

What excuse did you give?

HARDEL

The real reason: Security (  
Clearance Section)

LOGAN

Okay

WIPE RIGHT

8

LOGAN'S OFFICE

8

LOGAN

When did they say they are  
coming?

HARDEL

They should be there in an hour  
or so.

LOGAN

When can the clearance be  
generated?

HARDEL

I don't know. I feel that it will  
be generated in a month or so.

LOGAN

A MONTH?

HARDEL

We really are a bureaucracy,  
aren't we?

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN

Can't they make an exception?

HARDEL

They have made so many exceptions that it would be better if you went normal because it will take more time as an exceptions. About 200 exceptions made.

LOGAN

What about an exception from the exception?

HARDEL

If the state of the switch is off, and you say you want it to be the other way, and then you say you want it the off way, and yet you are not satisfied; I don't know what to do.

The inspector enters the room. Everybody gets up to greet him.

HARDEL

Good Morning, Harnid

LOGAN

Good Morning, Inspector

HARNID

Good Morning everybody. How are you, Mr. Logan?

LOGAN

Fine, thank you. And you?

HARNID

Please, fine. Let us get started. First thing: Why do you want a clearance?

LOGAN

I think Mr. Hardel can inform that better, sir.

HARNID

I want YOUR reason, and I hope there is not much difference?

LOGAN

No. Okay. I need a clearance for going to a meeting considering the fate of the Harsit Scrape.

( CONTINUED )

HARNID

Okay. Now, who is going to be present at the meeting?

LOGAN

Me, Hardel, General Serpentin Languioun, and the General's secretary.

HARNID

Okay. Then, when is this meeting?

LOGAN

It was scheduled for today, and was cancelled due to the lack of clearance.

HARNID

Ah! There. What are the files which you need clearance to access?

LOGAN

The files numbered 2869746973 through 2869747073.

HARNID

Ok. Would you please to come ALONE to the office, please?

LOGAN

Sure. When might you give the clearance?

HARNID

Approximately about three days. For it is a special exception, and is an emergency.

HARDEL

Well, that it is. Logan, I will be waiting in your office for you.

LOGAN

Okay. Bye.

WIPE LEFT

9

LOGAN'S OFFICE

9

Logan enters. He finds Hardel there.

HARDEL

How did it go?

( CONTINUED )

LOGAN

Seriously? It was ugly. Have you never been interrogated for a clearance?

HARDEL

Ah! I think once, four years ago.

LOGAN

They were focused mainly on the General and his occupation.

HARDEL

In the end, did they approve?

LOGAN

They gave a "behalf of" letter. So technically I am approved, but it should be revealed in strict confidence to one of our nationals only.

HARDEL

Ok. What about the General?

LOGAN

Since he is our veteran, it is okay. But the doubt remained on his secretary. They asked for his nationality, and as I didn't know, they denied telling it to him.

HARDEL

Well, it is okay. The General will accept this order.

LOGAN

Well, that is the problem. The general is acting on behalf of secretary, so we cannot do this meeting unless the secretary's nationality is confirmed.

HARDEL

Okay. I will send an email to the General on behalf of the police for the nationality, and the passport number.

LOGAN

Okay done. Brilliant. Do that right now.

Hardel sends an email.

( CONTINUED )



HARDEL  
Done. We will be getting the  
reply in a few minutes.

**INTERVAL**

MOSAIC

**ACT II**

MOSAIC

10

LOGAN'S OFFICE

10

HARDEL  
(Informatively)  
The General has asked his  
secretary. He says he wishes not  
to disclose his origin, and he is  
relating it to some rights.

LOGAN  
From where do you think he  
comes??

HARDEL  
(Suspenseful)  
I think... . No, forget it.

LOGAN  
What is it?

HARDEL  
Maybe... Harial..... .

LOGAN  
Don't you think we have to go  
there for his interrogation?

HARDEL  
Oh yes.. That is a good idea.

LOGAN  
(Sarcastically)  
First Class?

HARDEL  
Yes. I mean, obviously.

LOGAN  
Ok.

HARDEL  
Wait, you yet don't know the  
whole thing.

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN

It would please me to know everything.

HARDEL

So right. The terrorists attacked the stock. Now, there was 150 billion worth of stock there.

LOGAN

Yes, you told me.

HARDEL

Wait.

Hardel goes and gets a stout, thick book.

LOGAN

What is THAT?

HARDEL

The smallest part of the constitution.

LOGAN

(Surprised)

Which part?

HARDEL

The regulations part.

LOGAN

(Scoffs)

Are you kidding me? That is the biggest!!

HARDEL

At only 2000 pages? It is files and forms which is the biggest at 50000 pages.

LOGAN

Whatever do you hope to get out of that two grand pages?

HARDEL

I say. What do you think?

LOGAN

I don't know. All I can say is that almost no-one reads it, and just because it has our flag on it we are not allowed to paper-mache it.

( CONTINUED )

HARDEL  
(Sniggers)  
Ha. You are right. Absolutely.

LOGAN  
Anyways, what is all that with  
that book??

He has to wait for some time to get a reply.

HARDEL  
Well, looks like we have to meet  
our statistics office again.

LOGAN  
I am not memorising the file  
number again.

HARDEL  
Calm down, I have it on a chit...  
.

WIPE LEFT

11 STATISTICS OFFICE

11

This time, the lady gets up and greets them acidly. She  
also drags the chair while chewing something loudly.  
Hardel gets annoyed. She notices and stops it.

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE  
Good Morning.

LOGAN  
Good Morning.

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE  
Which file?

Hardel throws a chit on her desk.

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE  
(Insultingly)  
You could do better.

HARDEL  
(Irritated)  
Stop insulting me.

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE  
(Pityingly)  
Ok, done. 988774679619395739259  
is that?

LOGAN  
(Hissing)  
Ain't that long enough?

(CONTINUED)

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE  
(Haughtily)  
I have received a chit way longer  
than that one. Ah, here it is!

74506275081087346783598817547837657938767483657286727865783657667819  
is the number on the chit which the lady shows.

HARDEL  
(Imperatively)  
Okay. Get back to business.

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE  
(At last manner)  
Here is the file.

LOGAN  
(Sarcastically)  
Is it raining?

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE  
(Confused)  
For what?

HARDEL  
(Revening)  
It is a rare occasion on which  
the Statistics office performs  
its job properly.

LADY OF STATISTICS OFFICE  
(Quickly)  
Stop-it-Hardel-if-you-want-your-report-.

LOGAN  
(Cutting in)  
Hardel-that-is-enough-too-.

HARDEL  
OK.

Both leave the room.

WIPE RIGHT

12

HARDEL'S OFFICE

12

They rush in. Hardel drops on a seat and opens the file on  
Logan's desk. Logan sits in his seat, a bit more calmly.

LOGAN  
(Motherly)  
Now, now, what is that file all  
about?

(CONTINUED)

HARDEL  
A tax return file.

LOGAN  
(Scoffs)  
Are you kidding me? You just  
wanna see a random guy's tax  
forms???

HARDEL  
(Fast)  
Obviously not. It is the  
General's secretary's form!!

LOGAN  
(Shrieking)  
You don't even know if he is in  
this country!!

HARDEL  
Sorry. Slip-o-tounge. His part in  
his company's.

LOGAN  
What do you mean?

HARDEL  
(Slowly)  
As in, there would be tax reduced  
for a company if it is paying,  
right? And how can we make sure  
that it really is paying its  
employees?

LOGAN  
By seeing their pay slip, of  
course---

HARDEL  
(Cutting in faster)  
This tax form has this  
secretary's pay slip. And it  
should have his bank account  
number.

LOGAN  
6783 9264 5785 7215 of the Harsit  
City Bank.

HARDEL  
Book a flight to Harsit, NOW.

LOGAN  
Ok.

WIPE LEFT

HARDEL

What exactly is the position of  
the General's secretary?

LOGAN

I think he is just below the  
General. Did you get his name?

HARDEL

I think the name is Levongetil.

LOGAN

What Levongetil?

HARDEL

Serpentin

LOGAN

What?

HARDEL

His name is Serpentin  
Levongetin Languioun.

LOGAN

What? Seriously?

HARDEL

(Tired)

Yes. But.....

LOGAN

(Literally shrieking)

We can't be dealing with one  
crook!

HARDEL

(Uninformatively; cruelly)

No. Maybe he is riding on the  
general's back.

LOGAN

(Annoyed)

Stop speaking in riddles, Hardel.

HARDEL

(Starting thoughtfully; then  
fiercely)

He may claim to be the General's  
..... No. No, no and for the  
third time NO.

LOGAN

(REALLY angry now)

HARDEL!! You have a lot of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN (cont'd)  
thought, but you just don't have  
the confidence. Spit it out now!

HARDEL  
(Humourosly)  
I'd rather do that in a basin,  
Logan.

LOGAN  
You know I mean not your blasted  
gum but the thought!

HARDEL  
(Forcefully)  
OKAY, OKAY, OKAY! THE GENERAL'S  
brother. Maybe.

LOGAN  
(Surprised)  
Hardel!

HARDEL  
(Protesting)  
NO! Just, maybe in public he is  
his fake brother.

LOGAN  
(Amazed and amused)  
No!

HARDEL  
(Now calmly)  
Seriously not. But he might  
pretend he is related to the  
General, so as to be trusted.

LOGAN  
That is good!

HARDEL  
For what?

LOGAN  
(Sarcastically)  
My clearance.

HARDEL  
(Not getting the hint)  
No, but think nationally.

LOGAN  
(Revealing)  
I was sarcastic.

( CONTINUED )

HARDEL

Ok. But it is really bad nationwide.

LOGAN

Why?

HARDEL

Because there are huge advantages in this country who have a proof of your citizenship before or after. They get reduced tax, and if you wanna know how badly, think of 35 billion for 100 billion for foreigners and 10 billion for nationals.

LOGAN

But General Languioun... . Isn't he a bit careful about all these things? I mean, ain't he originally a national??

HARDEL

You can't trust anyone's word this day, Logan. I can end up being a demon with the angelic trust invested in me by our Minister.

LOGAN

Do we have to demonstrate our righteousness?

HARDEL

For your clearance?

LOGAN

For my clearance.

HARDEL

Yes.

LOGAN

But I have many clearances. How will one more matter?

HARDEL

There is so much land under the sea. Yet we fight so much for just a square kilometre of seabed. Why? The same reason with your clearances.

LOGAN

What is the reason?

( CONTINUED )



HARDEL  
That you have to figure out.

LOGAN  
(So sarcastically)  
Stop being such a book.

HARDEL  
What????

LOGAN  
(Almost laughing out of  
sarcasm)  
Be a movie for once.

HARDEL  
What??? Why are you saying all of  
this?

LOGAN  
To prove that I have a writer's  
side too.

HARDEL  
OK, OK!!! I get it. No need to  
hit me on the head.

LOGAN  
Good.

WIPE RIGHT

14 THE HOTEL

14

They are seen in their hotel. This time, Logan is sitting  
on the bed and Harde! on a chair.

HARDEL  
This time I didn't make the  
mistake of going to the General's  
office directly.

LOGAN  
(Rivalling)  
You mean the right thing. Coming  
here is useless.

HARDEL  
(Honestly)  
Well, I thought we could brace  
ourselves with some revision....  
. The first class takes it out of  
me.

LOGAN  
(Sarcastically)  
Takes it out of you, eh?? Hardly  
a four hour flight! And first  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN (cont'd)  
class too! Try economy once!  
That's horribly terrible. That  
too for a bitter, bored SIXTEEN  
HOURS.

HARDEL  
(Trying to escape)  
Now, some revision.

LOGAN  
(Agreeing to this truce)  
Ok.

HARDEL  
(Starting in an official  
manner and then ending  
thoughtfully)  
Today the first thing should be  
to... um.... .

LOGAN  
(Sarcastically)  
Be Sherlock Holmes and try  
identifying his personality?

HARDEL  
(Ok done way)  
Revision before an exam never  
worked out for me. Let's just go  
with time.

LOGAN  
(Relaxing as one who won a  
game )  
Same here.

WIPE LEFT

15 THE GENERAL'S OFFICE

15

Logan and Hardel sit on the couch. The General and his  
secretary on two chairs. The air is tense.

LOGAN  
Good Morning.

HARDEL  
Good morning.

GENERAL  
Good morning.

THE SECRETARY  
(Starting)  
My origin shall remain within the  
knowledge of me.

(CONTINUED)

HARDEL

(Acidly)

Then the origin shall be forced out of you.

THE SECRETARY

(Retorting)

That you cannot, as it is within my right--

LOGAN

(Interrupting smoothly)

As-it-is-not within your right to withhold disclosure of information which have a tendency to improve the level of living for hypothetical people.

GENERAL

(Hopefully)

And the hypothetical people have a right to--

THE SECRETARY

(Angrily)

To WHAT??

HARDEL

(Calmly)

Calm down, man. The world hasn't ended yet. What do they have a right to, General, if there is such a people?

GENERAL

(Ending with malice, drawling)

The people have a right to identify their oppressor and take sufficient action against them.

LOGAN

(Agreeing)

Perfectly right. Now who are those people?

THE SECRETARY

(Humorously)

Hypothetical.

HARDEL

(Blindly)

Absolutely.

LOGAN

(Sniggering)

Ahem?

( CONTINUED )

HARDEL

(Hastily)

No. Now, then, do we get your disclosure?

THE SECRETARY

You shall not.

LOGAN

(Starting)

Then you are booked against trying to decrease the level of living of--

THE SECRETARY

(Hassled)

Of WHOM?

HARDEL

(Ending)

Now then again, you are not disclosing information which may and will increase the amount which is increasing the level of living of the real people, those who are being oppressed by people like you who cause government ministers to be susceptible to corruption.

THE SECRETARY

So you are saying--

GENERAL

(Swiftly interrupting)

So-they-are-saying not they are trying to hide the corrupt. They mean to say you corrupt them, man.

THE SECRETARY

(Lazily)

You ought to improve your useless English if you wanna talk more.

LOGAN

(In an official way)

Now WHERE ARE YOU FROM Taxed as Mr.

Serpentin Levongetin Languioun faked as brother to Mr Ex Lt General Serpentin Levongetin Languioun?

GENERAL

(Angrily)

Brother!? You, Rayond Levongetin

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL (cont'd)  
of Harsit, BROTHER? Blackmailer  
better!!!!!!

HARDEL  
(Worriedly)  
Rayond, don't go away.

THE SECRETARY  
(Angrily, getting up)  
No, I will not. The traitor  
deserves justice and it shall be  
given to him. Born and raised in  
Harial, traitor to its forces!

GENERAL  
(Innocently, scared)  
Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa,  
traitor? I willingly joined this  
country's armed forces!! I hold  
no allegiance to Harial!

THE SECRETARY  
(Scoffing)  
No allegiance. Sweet lie.

GENERAL  
(Questioning and getting up)  
What do you mean??

HARDEL  
(Both him and Logan get up.  
Calmly)  
Now then--

THE SECRETARY  
(Leaves)  
Shut up, both of you with your  
"now, then"s!

The General leaves. Logan and Hardel follow suit.

WIPE RIGHT

16 THE HOTEL

16

Both are seen sitting on the bed, confused.

LOGAN  
(Confused)  
This is bad. The General. He  
cannot be.

HARDEL  
Logan, suppose the General holds  
an allegiance to Harial, then  
Harsit is in danger, and so is  
our Army.

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN

Yes. But suppose the Secretary is lying and the General is on our side... Yet we are in danger.

HARDEL

And what about the "blackmailing" the General spoke of???

LOGAN

Maybe the secretary used the General for purposes so as to have lesser tax, etc., etc., and etc.

HARDEL

But what is he being blackmailed with???

LOGAN

Maybe.....

HARDEL

What?

LOGAN

Maybe the secretary's plan backfired, and the General suddenly established himself firmly.

HARDEL

No. You mean the General, who had taken it for an invitation, took it, and exploited too soon. But then... How did he get a grip??

LOGAN

Maybe he worked in another company.

HARDEL

But he retired only about seven years ago, and Harsit Oil Mines established four years ago!

LOGAN

Wait. This doesn't fit in. What would he be doing in that gap of time?

HARDEL

(Humorously)

Studying Commerce, maybe.

( CONTINUED )

LOGAN

NO. Did you be in a delegation to him FOUR years ago? Like FOUR years ago?

HARDEL

Yes... Four years... And the mines established in the same year. We were there in Feb, and the company was licensed in Jan.

LOGAN

The attack happened in the February before the company was established.

HARDEL

Wa-wa-wa-wa wait. Harsit Oil Mines is not from our country then.

LOGAN

Yes. The Harial branch will probably be smaller due to the enormity of oil found here. Yet, who had the mines before that company came?

HARDEL

Did we even know there was oil down there four years ago?

LOGAN

Two things: if we knew, then why didn't we develop it? But then, if we didn't know, how did they know the exact spot when no-one had known? Now since everyone was and is loyal to the government, it is clear there has been a huge scam if they didn't know and we had a scan.

HARDEL

No. Check your Mac. I will too. Look up on the Who is Who and tell me who is the manager of statistics, six, five and seven years ago. Then check if they come from Harsit.

LOGAN

Okay. What are you checking up on?

( CONTINUED )

HARDEL

Oh, the history of this Company,  
the General and his secretary.

Both of them intently search their computers.

HARDEL

(Impatiently)

I'm done.

LOGAN

Oh, you are!! I was waiting for  
you to finish.

HARDEL

What?? I thought you hadn't  
finished and was waiting for  
you!!!

LOGAN

Anyways! All three slots were  
given to Mr. Sanon Roisen

HARDEL

Ok.

LOGAN

Mr. Roisen had apparently gifted  
the Company its land in his  
second year.

HARDEL

And?

LOGAN

He claims to be from Harsit when  
it was Harial territory ten years  
ago. He also lives here.

HARDEL

That fits it. The Company is from  
Harsit, and its founder is from  
Harial and it was founded ten  
years ago, in Harsit, so that is  
how it can claim its name. It was  
booked against selling  
sub-standard oil in Harial. It  
had been frozen in Harial five  
years ago, so it has moved over  
to Harsit and changed again its  
name. It came up here with  
Levongetin as its head. Then  
there was an government inquiry  
and the head of the enquiry, the  
General, came to be the Chairman.  
He came up after the attack,  
about March.

( CONTINUED )



LOGAN

Now wait. Tell me, WHEN was the case for sub-standard oil? Before or after the attack?

HARDEL

Three years before the attack. That is three years before the General's takeover and the licensing. The month was January.

LOGAN

(Slamming down his hand, and excitedly)

WAIT: It was in in the first year of Sanon's time in government. Our elections always happen in Feb. A year later, in FEB, Sanon gifts the land to the Company. At the end of his third year in Feb, the attacks happen. The following month he retires. The same month the General comes, as you told me. The following Jan the company gets license. It all fits!!!

HARDEL

What do you mean?

LOGAN

(Calmly)

The General is Sanon!!! HE is playing double part al the time, and he worked in both the armies, as the General in our army and as Sanon in the Harial Army. Therefore the double allegiance! His Secretary arranges the attack and destroys the sub-standard stock!

HARDEL

(Getting up)

Wait a sec. What about the Secretary? He must be Harialese. He arranged the attack as you said, and bent. He was blackmailed by the General, who threatened to bring back the sub-standard oil case in Harial again, and in revenge, threatened the General to reveal his identity if he would not give up leadership of the company.

( CONTINUED )

LOGAN

(Moving out of shot and then  
coming back after looking at  
a calendar)

Wait again!!! Today is January  
the 16th. The papers of the case  
has to be released into the  
public! It is ten years!

HARDEL

(Picking up his phone)  
Can we call Harnid?

LOGAN

We have to make sure the  
couple-o-crooks are safe.

Hardel has ignored and has already called Harnid and is  
talking to him.

HARDEL

Harnid! Where are you? Look, can  
you come over to our room?

Hardel cuts the call and grins.

WIPE LEFT

17

THE FIRST CLASS

17

Both of them are seen contented and calm. Drinking some  
hot coffee.

LOGAN

(Happily)  
Did they make much of a mess?

HARDEL

Not much. They were quiet. It  
looks like they squealed quickly.

LOGAN

Ok. How is Harnid?

HARDEL

(Anything but modestly)  
Harnid is okay. Got an air of  
pride next to him anyways.

LOGAN

Right of him to have it. Looks  
like a bad day for the General.

HARDEL

(Ending)  
Oh, last point. He didn't work  
for our Army. The secretary did.

(CONTINUED)

LOGAN  
(Laughing)  
WHAT?

HARDEL  
(Funnily)  
Leave answers for questions.

Both of them laugh.

MOSAIC

THE END.