**Cameron Assigned Story**: In September 1988, Cameron Bishop, an American journalism grad student interning as a language consultant at The Jakarta Post, pleads with editor Sabam Siagian to be allowed to investigate and write stories. Sabam explains, yet again, that this not allowed. Instead, he assigns Cameron to write a puff piece about his friend Petit Muharto’s experiences flying blockade runs with American mercenary Bob Freeburg during Indonesia’s post-war struggle for independence. |

**Muharto First Interview**: Cameron meets Muharto at his tidy home in south Jakarta. The retired Air Force officer tells of meeting Freeberg when the latter had made an emergency landing on a remote beach and of Freeberg being commissioned to fly for the Republic with the fictitious registration of RI-002. Muharto emphasizes the value of the blockade runs to the struggle for independence, and the respect and affection Bob received from all Indonesians, from President Soekarno to the common people of Jogjakarta. Muharto says he flew with Freeberg until May 1948, when he was promoted to major and assigned to headquarters. Four months later, Muharto was devastated to learn that RI-002 had vanished while transporting Republican gold from Java to safety in Sumatra ahead of an expected Dutch invasion. The RI-002 wreckage was found on a mountain in Sumatra in 1977. The gold was missing, and the mystery of the disappearance was never solved. |

**De Facto Liaison**: Salipada Penatun arranges for Muharto to meet Major Primitivo of Philippine Army intel. At one meeting, Primitivo introduces Muharto to Captain Ignatius Espina. a guerrilla fighter during the Japanese occupation. Primitivo offers to second Espina to the Republic as a clandestine military advisor to train youth militias . |

**Muharto Promoted Out**: Muharto tells Cameron that he was soon after promoted to a desk job at base. He had little contact with Bob after that. The final time was as Bob was loading RI-002 for a flight to transfer Republican gold from a base near Batavia to safety in Bukittinggi. |

**Loading the gold**: Muharto visits Bob as he is preparing RI-002 for the flight to Gorda. He reminds Bob that his wedding is scheduled for three weeks away. |

**Sad Call**: At his desk, Muharto receives call from Bukittinggi saying RI-002 is missing.|

**Syd Edits Cameron**: Cameron shows the draft of his story to his workmate Syd Jardine, a chain-smoking, alcoholic former foreign correspondent in his early sixties. Syd edits the piece with practiced aplomb, and hands it back. He tells Cameron that it should have a photo of Freeberg himself (which Muharto does not have) and suggests he contact his friend Victor de Jong at the IPPHOS photo agency. |

**First Victor Interview**: The IPPHOS office is in a building one inspection away from being condemned. Cameron meets Victor, a Dutch army conscript who defected to the Indonesian side in the final days of the struggle. Victor finds a photo of Freeberg after a short search, and insists that Victor stay for coffee so he can tell him the Dutch side of the Freeberg story, which he witness first-hand while posted in the office of General Simon Spoor, the commander of all colonial military forces.

**Spoor pissed at Bob**: A young Victor dressed the the fatigues of a KNIL private sorts photographs at a table outside of the office of General Simon Spoor. Through the open door, Victor hears Spoor’s voice rise in frustration as he is briefed about daily blockade runs of a Dakota marked with the fictional designation RI-002, and piloted by a free-booting American named Bob Freeberg. |

**Muharto Thanks Cameron**: The day after publication of the Freeberg story, Muharto visits the Post to thank Sabam and Cameron personally and pick up extra copies to give to friends. Muharto tells them … |

**Into the Stacks**: At the National Library reference archives, Cameron meets the attendant, Julia, an attractive, bookish Indonesian woman in her early twenties. She demonstrates an impressive competence finding the books he requests in short order, along with related material she thinks might be useful. |

**Recruit to Revolution**: Cameron reads about the political situation in post-war Indonesia, and the high regard the various foreign diplomats, journalists, and academics felt held for Freeberg. |

**Lunch with Julia**: After a couple of hours, Cameron wants to break for coffee. As no beverages are allowed in the reference section, Julia escorts him to the staff canteen. Julia tells Cameron about her desire to take her master’s degree in an American university, and reveals that her father is an army colonel in the intelligence section. |

**Artsy Circle**: Cameron visits Victor to learn more about Spoor’s efforts to stop the blockade runs. Instead, Victor tells Cameron of Emiria Soenassa, a beautiful charismatic painter who fell in love with him after he had praised her art in a newspaper article. |

**Cameron meets Boedi**: Sabam gives Cameron his invitation to a reception for visiting Harvard alumni at the house of Boediardjo, a former Air Force senior officer and government minister. Cameron learns that this was the same Boediardjo who served as RI-002 radio operator. At Cameron’s urging Boedi regales his guest with tales of adventure. |

**Aviation Brotherhood**: The guests depart soon after dinner to catch an early flight, and Boedi invites Cameron to stay so he can ask him about Muharto’s investigations. Boedi also tells Cameron of the humorous incidents when they were stranded penniless in Manila waiting to sell the quinine. Boedi pokes affection fun at his former comrade for his belief that Freeberg’s friend Tom Lee would treat them to drinks and dinner out of kindness for their predicament. However, to Boedi, it had been obvious that Lee had been an intelligence operative pumping them for information about the Republic. |

**Julia Rides a Harley**: Cameron returns to the library for more research. Julia helps by translating headlines in Dutch newspapers. They discover that they had both arranged to meet friends at the Hotel Hilton. Cameron offers to take her there on his Harley Davidson. |

**Bule Kaya**: At the hotel, Julia’s friends tell her to go after Cameron. If he rides a Harley he must be rich. They tease her by saying that as the daughter of “Honest Eddy”, one of the few senior army officers who is not corrupt, this would be the only way she could afford to pay her own bill. |

**Julia Researches Emiria**: Intrigued by Victor’s stories of Emeria, Julia searches the stacks for articles mentioning her. A portrait emerges of an independent, charismatic young woman whose mixed parentage of a Dutch businessman and a Javanese aristocrat and artistic talent grants her entry into all levels of European and Indonesian society.  
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**Julia Admires Ani**: Julia listens, in awe, of Ani recounting of life in Jogja during the revolution. Ani tells of her growth from a naive teenager thinking only of making a household to a committed champion of the people, volunteering to teach and to feed the swelling population of refugees.|

**Beres Sayang**: Colonel Eddy tells Julia of his guilt in not being able to fulfill the dreams of his only child. He tells Julia to start applying to universities in Europe and America. When Julia asks where the tuition money is coming from, Eddy holds up his hand and says: " Beres Sayang ", meaning she should not worry.|

**Expat Party**: Later that evening, Cameron takes Julia to an expat party in Kemang, and she is mistaken for a bar girl. Julia takes Cameron to a far corner of the garden and screams at him in fury and humiliation, saying that all foreigners think Indonesian women who hang around foreigners are either household servants or hookers. |

**Juilius Interview**: Cameron uses his Jakarta Post credentials to gain access to Julius Tahija. He asks some perfunctory questions about foreign investment, then changes the subject to the revolution, and the time Tahija worked for Spoor. Tahija is surprised at the question, but revels in the opportunity to relive those exciting times. Cameron mentions Victor. Tahija grins, and tells Cameron that Victor had been a “Useful Idiot”, an intelligence asset Spoor used to keep tabs on the Republican intellectuals in Batavian through is supposed clandestine relationship with Emeria. |

**Cameron Spills the Beans**: In an unguarded (and unclothed) moment, Cameron tells Julia about the Jakarta Post investigations into Army officers seeking to influence the emerging capital market through leaking false information to pump up stock values. Julia realizes that this must be the deal her father is involved in.|

**Julia confronts Eddy**: Julia begs her father not to sully his reputation as “Honest Eddy” by participating in capital market manipulation, even though it means she will not be able to study overseas. Eddy replies: “It’s all right. It’s not corruption when you take money from foreigners.”|

**At the lapo**: Sabam receives a dreaded telephone call from Deppen late in the afternoon. That evening invites Cameron and Syd for a late meal of pork and beer at a batak warung nearby, where they . After a couple of beers, Syd fades and is poured into a taxi and sent home.Sabam tells Cameron the things Syd keeps to himself. He had been a brilliant foreign correspondent, too busy to settle down, until he met his Dini, a well-educated, much younger woman from a prominent Padang family. The family hated him, but they were devoted to each other. Dini died in a senseless accident, and family swooped in to take the house and his son. Syd was broken, and never recovered. |

**Julia Finds Emeria**: During a trip to Jogja with Cameron, Julia slips away and follows a lead she encountered during her research. As she hoped, she finds Emiria Soenassa, who has now returned to Indonesia after living in the Netherlands, married to a Dutch academic. Asked why she abandoned Victor; Emiria replied that you always have to choose sides. |

**Sanyoto Suggests Anwar**: Sanyoto tells Cameron that if he wants to solve the mystery, go to Palembang, check out the airstrip with the help of Anwar Congo, the local preman, who Sanyoto knows from his days fixing logistical issues for oil companies in Sumatra. Sanyoto explains the Anwar was the local jago, running the dock laborers in the 60s and 70s. Sanyoto says: You have to deal with all sorts of people running a business in Indonesia. |

**Karangendah Raid**: Following Sanyoto’s instructions and carrying a letter and a bottle of whiskey, Cameron and Julia find Anwar Congo. The gangster is pleased with the message and gift from his old friend, and arranges for his two visitors to be smuggled onto the base at Karangendah, where they confirm that this wss the location of the photo of RI-002. When they return, Anwar introduces them to several men who had been employed at Karangendah in menial civilian jobs. They attest that they had seen the crew in captivity. However, no one remembers seeing Freeberg. |