

THE INTERVIEW

Story by

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and Dan Sterling

Written by

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**TITLE UP - PYONGYANG, NORTH KOREA**

INT. MANSION DRAWING ROOM - NIGHT

The living room of a stately home, following the dinner of NORTH KOREAN DIGNITARIES. A PIANIST accompanies a CHERUBIC 6 YEAR OLD NORTH KOREAN GIRL as she entertains the adults with a little SONG.

KOREAN GIRL  
(in subtitles)  
*Our Beloved Leader is wise.  
He is gentle, kind and strong.  
We wish him joy.  
We wish him peace.  
We wish him love.*

The adults exchange smiles - she is so precious!

KOREAN GIRL (CONT'D)  
*And the one thing in our time,  
We wish for more than this...  
Is for the United States to explode  
in a ball of fiery hell.*

The adults CHEER! She DANCES as she sings the bouncy chorus:

KOREAN GIRL (CONT'D)  
*May they be forced to starve and  
beg  
and be ravaged by disease  
May they be helpless, poor and sad  
and cold!  
They are arrogant and fat!  
They are stupid and they're evil!  
May they drown in their own blood  
and feces!  
Die America, die!  
Oh, please won't you die?  
It would fill my tiny little heart  
with joy!  
May your women all be raped by  
beasts of the jungle,  
(big finish)  
while your children arrre forrced  
toooo waaaatch!*

She GIGGLES and bows, the adults JUMP TO THEIR FEET and CHEER!

**TITLE UP: THE INTERVIEW**

**TITLE UP: 6:00 AM, MONDAY MORNING**

INT. SETH'S KITCHEN - MORNING

A pretty sweet kitchen in a pretty nice house in the Hollywood hills. As SETH RAPOPORT makes himself breakfast. THREE KITCHEN TV'S blare cable news, all covering the same story:

CNN ANCHOR

*North Korean President Kim Il-Hwan responded to the international community's assertion that he is letting his people starve in the nation's worst famine in 100 years.*

KIM IL-HWAN

(subtitles)

*This so-called famine is a fiction invented by the United States and its lapdog, South Korea. They are just angry because we have succeeded in developing our own nuclear arsenal.*

(pulls a HEAD OF LETTUCE out of a bag)

*This lettuce was grown right here in North Korea. I have tasted it and it is delicious. How can we be hungry if there are vegetables?*

SETH

Touché.

Seth's PHONE RINGS. He picks up:

SETH (CONT'D)

Yo.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

We're ready to talk.

SETH

Do I have the exclusive on this?

INT. OFFICE BULLPEN - DAY

The bustle of a STAFF scrambling to put a nightly news program together. Seth directs traffic:

SETH

What do you mean we're waiting on VT? We're an hour from air.

STAFFER

I'll run that down right now.

SETH

(to another staffer)

Check and see if Dave's landed.

STAFFER #2

On it!

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Something strange is happening to me.

That's DAVE SKYLARK who just entered. 30's, dashingy handsome, magnetic charm.

SETH

Dave--

DAVE

So last night I'm having sex with this *insanely* hot girl. And being inside her feels just *ridiculously* good.

(then)

But it gets odd. I think I'm becoming, I don't know, more *reflective* or something? Because in the middle of everything, I suddenly start thinking about my childhood.

SETH

Dave, can we first--

DAVE

Even as a little kid, I was just so *horny*. When I was ten, I swore to myself that when I did finally get laid, I would *never* take it for granted, I would always *appreciate* it. So there I am last night, inside this woman, about to completely *explode*, and the thought in my mind is, *I wish 10 year old me could see me now*. It was just... it was such a hell of a place to be *mentally*.

A beat.

SETH

So the point of the story is that you enjoy sex.

DAVE

No, it's more nuanced than that, it's...

(then)

Well... yeah. I guess that is the point.

SETH

Awesome, I'll chew on that later. Remember that angle I was working?

DAVE

Yes??

SETH

The source is ready to come forward with the story.

DAVE

You mean...

SETH

Yes. Teri Hatcher's coming out of the closet. To you. On live TV.

DAVE

SONOFABITCH!

Dave leaps on to Seth and BEAR HUGS him. We now see the POSTER for their show in the background: Dave's smiling mug above the title: "SKYLARK TONIGHT!"

DAVE (CONT'D)

You big beautiful bastard! Your talent freaks me the fuck out.

SETH

Yeah. My Pulitzer prize is just around the corner.

DAVE

Who cares about a Pulitzer when you've got a Maserati and pussy up the yin ying? You can't get a blowjob from a *Pulitzer* while a second *Pulitzer* masturbates as it watches you.

SETH

Thanks, Dave. That's inspiring.  
Get your ass in the chair. When I  
see you without makeup it ruins the  
mystery.

INT. MAKEUP ROOM - LATER

Dave's in the chair. He's looking at the makeup woman,  
ANNETTE, in the mirror, studying her curiously. Finally:

DAVE

Annette. You've been weird with  
me. For, like, the last two weeks.

ANNETTE

(bad at lying)  
I... don't know what you mean.

DAVE

If you're getting ready to quit, I  
swear I will gouge my eyeballs out  
with a potato peeler.

(shouts to the hall)  
Janine! I need you to get me a  
potato peeler, some dark  
sunglasses, some magazines in  
braille--

ANNETTE

(laughs)  
Stop! I'm not quitting!

DAVE

Then talk to me! What's happening  
with us?

ANNETTE

It's just... Your grey hairs are  
getting hard to conceal.

DAVE

Oh.

ANNETTE

I used to be able to hide the ones  
on the side, but they're on top  
now. I didn't want to bum you out.

DAVE

(sighs)  
This is such bullshit. I can't be  
greying.

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)

I'm not even *close* to middle aged.  
I'm three months into the final  
quadrant of my mid 30's.

ANNETTE

How do you want me to handle it? I  
could pluck them, I could dye your  
hair, or you could just let it  
show. Grey is dignified. Better  
than balding.

DAVE

Maybe just pull them for tonight.

ANNETTE

Okay. And what about when they  
come back? And multiply?

For a second Dave looks rattled, but covers with a smile.

INT. SKYLARK TONIGHT CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Seth's checked out, reading *The Economist* as Dave interviews  
TERI HATCHER. She's a completely emotionless dud.

TERI HATCHER

*The transition has been such a  
positive experience. Everyone's  
been so supportive.*

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Seth, she's killing us.

Seth now looks up from his magazine and checks in.

TERI HATCHER

*I believe you can get through  
anything in life if you have good  
friends.*

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

It's like an episode of "Barney."

SETH

Dave'll find his way in.

DAVE

*Teri... I want you to describe the  
moment when the wall of self-  
delusion came crashing down, when  
you could no longer bear the  
torture of denying your most primal  
desires.*

SETH

Here we go.

TERI HATCHER

*I... I remember the exact moment...  
I was taking a walk with Carol - my  
closest friend in the world.*

DAVE

*(delicately, tenderly)*  
Yes. Of course.

TERI HATCHER

*And... she asked me if I'd consider  
dating women, and I said, "That  
actually sounds nice."  
(then)  
And that was basically it.*

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Oh come on!

DIRECTOR

What the fuck!

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Hot, celebrity lesbians are boring.  
That's the message we're sending.

DIRECTOR

I say we wrap her up, then go three  
acts with the Lohan biographer.

SETH

No. He needs more time.  
*(re: something in the  
monitor)*  
Take camera two.

On the MONITOR, a SINGLE OF DAVE. Dave's face suddenly looks  
GRAVE, EMOTIONAL.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

What's he doing? Why isn't he  
saying anything?

Seth points to the CAMERA 3 MONITOR: Terri's face is BECOMING  
MORE EMOTIONAL in response to Dave's emotion.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER (CONT'D)

Holy shit. Look at that...

DAVE

*Teri, I know how deeply you cared  
for your mother...*



TERI HATCHER

Yes...

DAVE

*Do you wish you could have shared  
this part of your life with her  
before she died so tragically from  
pneumonia?*

CLOSE ON Teri as she processes. Then: A VOLCANO OF SOBBING.

The control rooms gusy all CHEER and APPLAUD.

DIRECTOR

The man never, ever fails!

SETH

It's a weirdly specific talent.

TERI HATCHER

*(blubbering)*

*I look for my mother in every woman  
I'm with.*

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Guaranteed that quote makes the  
cover of next week's People!  
*(high-fiving them)*  
We did it again!

SETH

*(to himself, darkly)*  
Yep... We did it again.

The screen suddenly GOES BLACK.

DIRECTOR

Whoa!

SETH

No! What the fuck!

The monitor switches to the NBC NEWSROOM.

BRIAN WILLIAMS

*Good evening, I'm Brian Williams  
with an NBC News special report.  
Word tonight from our East Asia  
bureau of alarming military  
escalation on the Korean peninsula.  
Thousandfold troop increases north  
of the DMZ have been matched by  
South Korean reinforcements...*

*FOOTAGE of TANKS and GIANT MISSILES on launchers and columns  
of goose-stepping soldiers, all marching toward the D.M.Z.*

BRIAN WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

*Kim Il-Hwan, leader of the bankrupt and famine-plagued North Korea, now declares that the government of South Korea owes his nation 12 billion in reparations fees for atrocities committed during the Korean War. He warns that if payments are not promptly remitted, he will enforce the demand militarily, and if necessary, with nuclear weapons.*

Seth signals to Dave that they're no longer live. Dave gently excuses himself from the sobbing Teri Hatcher.

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - LATER

Dave looks extremely bummed.

DAVE

It just depresses me.

SETH

Of course. There's millions of people starving, and this lunatic is spoiling for a nuclear war.

DAVE

Huh?

SETH

You're depressed about North Korea, right?

DAVE

No, about the *preemption*.

Seth has no words.

DAVE (CONT'D)

It makes me feel disposable. Like what we do isn't important.

A beat.

SETH

It *isn't*.

DAVE

Well, that troubles me.

SETH

Since when?

DAVE

Look, I'm getting *older*, man.  
Annette's plucking greys off my  
head. At some point, my looks will  
be gone. If I'm just some guy with  
no looks, doing unimportant shit,  
then... I mean...

SETH

I hear you. I do. But what I  
think you're failing to realize, is  
just what an enormous cock you  
sound like.

DAVE

Really? Shit. I didn't mean to.

SETH

Of course not. You're a lovely  
person. But there's an *impending  
nuclear holocaust*. In times like  
this you've gotta be extra careful  
not to come across as, you know--

DAVE

Self-absorbed?

SETH

A rip-roaring, shit-filled asshole.

DAVE

You're so right. Thank god for  
you, man.

SETH

You know it's cause I love you.

DAVE

I know. Now let's go get you laid.

INT. NIGHTCLUB - LATER

Dave and Seth are lit up and having a damned good time. Each  
is doted upon by YOUNG PARTY GIRLS.

PARTY GIRL

So what's it like being a producer  
for the great Dave Skylark?

SETH

Well, it's good money. The work is easy. Dave's a great friend.

PARTY GIRL

That's so crazy awesome.

SETH

(out of obligation)

So, what's it like, uh... assisting someone who does PR for a startup online nail polish company? I mean, that must be a very...

PARTY GIRL

I wanna show you something.

SETH

Okay.

She WHIPS OFF HER TOP, unleashing ENORMOUS BREASTS which hang like shelves. She then dumps a PILE OF COCAINE on them.

PARTY GIRL

(re: her giant snow-covered mamaries)

Look! It's Mount Everbreast!

Seth stares at the cocaine-covered breasts, concentrating. As if he can't figure out why this sight doesn't excite him.

DAVE

(shouts to Seth and girl)

How cute are you guys? We should all get a place in Malibu for the summer!

Seth's confused. He suddenly can't tell if his life is fun... or incredibly stupid and pointless.

INT. SKYLARK TONIGHT CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

The show is in progress.

DAVE

*So the truth is, Snookie, that you're in love with The Situation?*

SNOOKIE

(sobbing)

*Yes. I love The Situation.*

Seth gets up, as if unable to take it anymore.

SETH

Looks like this one's a cakewalk.  
I'm gonna duck out early.

The screen goes BLACK.

DIRECTOR

FUCK.

NBC News:

BRIAN WILLIAMS

*Good evening. A residential island  
below the 38th parallel has been  
shelled by North Korean forces.  
Approximately one hundred civilian  
deaths, some of them children.*

Seth signals to Dave - they're no longer live.

DAVE

Mother-FUCKER!!

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - LATER

Dave paces with great agitation.

DAVE

Something's changing in the world.  
I can tell.

SETH

Based on what? You don't read.

DAVE

When we were growing up, there was  
never this threat of nuclear war.

SETH

That's actually *amazingly* false.

DAVE

It didn't feel the same, okay?  
Current events didn't affect  
Americans as much. But now the  
whole planet is so fucked up,  
Americans *want* to know about  
politics because they could wind up  
getting bombed or swallowed up by a  
global warming storm. Think about  
it, there's The Daily Show, and  
Rachel Maddow...

SETH

I don't think we're endangered.  
There's still room for the trivial.

DAVE

I wanna believe that, Seth, I  
really do. But we've been  
preempted four times this month!

(then)

Look, I'm getting contemplative as  
shit these days - remember how I  
got all nostalgic in the middle of  
banging that chick?

(off Seth's nod)

I'm having revelations about all  
kinds of stuff, and one of the big  
ones is that the world is *growing  
up*.

SETH

Your hair, Dave. Just your *hair* is  
growing up.

DAVE

No. People are getting more  
serious, and if we don't get more  
serious *with* them, I'm gonna be an  
old, ugly, irrelevant joke. Like  
Larry King.

SETH

And how exactly should we get  
"serious"?

DAVE

You know what? We should get that  
President Kim on the show. He's  
the man of the hour.

SETH

I'll get right on that.

DAVE

I mean it. We should try. You've  
got the fancy journalism degree  
from Columbia. You know politics.

SETH

True. On the other hand, he's the  
most reclusive man on the planet.  
So that could be an obstacle.

DAVE

Come on. I wanna try this - the substance thing. If that's where the world's going, we can't get left behind.

SETH

The "substance thing"?

DAVE

Just give it one *hour*, okay? One hour, see how far you get.

Seth searches Dave's face, and sees that Dave isn't kidding.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

On his way out, Seth spots Annette and stops her.

SETH

(sternly)

Not another word about his grey hairs. From now on, just be quiet and let the fucking things grow.

Annette nods obediently and moves on.

INT. SETH'S OFFICE - DAY

Dave pops his head in.

DAVE

Did you reach him? Did he say yes?

SETH

All I've learned is that there's a British Embassy in Pyongyang. And that Kim once kidnapped Alfred Hitchcock's assistant and forced him to direct a western he wrote.

DAVE

So he's a fan of our culture - that's encouraging!

SETH

Dave. He doesn't need our help with public relations. The man has 24 million people convinced that he invented *rice*.

DAVE

You're making this too complicated.  
Just *call* him and ask.

Seth just shakes his head in dismay at Dave's stupidity.

SETH

I'll call the British Embassy and  
see if they'll get a message to  
him.

DAVE

Sweet. But find out what time it  
is over there first. I don't wanna  
start off by interrupting him  
during dinner.

As Dave exits, an extremely annoyed Seth hits a few keys on  
the computer, then hits a few keys on the phone. RINGING...

BRITISH WOMAN (V.O.)

Her Majesty's Embassy.

SETH

Yes, I wonder if you could help me.  
I work for an American television  
personality. I'm looking to reach  
the president's director of  
communications.

BRITISH WOMAN (V.O.)

May I ask for whom you work?

SETH

Dave Skylark.

A beat.

BRITISH WOMAN (V.O.)

I beg your pardon, sir, but is this  
a joke?

SETH

Well, not from Mr. Skylark's  
perspective.

INT. SETH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

2 AM-ish. Seth's frying eggs after a night of partying. We  
hear a WOMAN PUKING HER GUTS UP in the background.



DRUNK WOMAN (O.S.)  
(calls from bathroom)  
Soon as I'm done, I'm gonna fuck  
the SHIT out of you!

SETH  
(calling back)  
I think we should take it slow. I  
have a history of getting attached  
too quickly.

Seth's cell phone rings. The number on the screen reads: "0-0-0-0-0." Odd time of night for an unrecognized call.

SETH (CONT'D)  
Hello?

ELECTRONIC BEEPS AND STATIC indicate a very international call. A THICKLY ASIAN-ACCENTED VOICE speaks tersely:

ASIAN VOICE (V.O.)  
I am trying to reach Seth Rapoport.

SETH  
Speaking.

ASIAN VOICE (V.O.)  
We are in receipt of your request,  
and wish to meet with you.

SETH  
Wait... who is this?

ASIAN VOICE (V.O.)  
You left word with our government  
regarding an interview.

SETH  
Gee, let me guess: is your name  
Louis Stools? Or maybe Curtis E.  
Flush?

ASIAN VOICE (V.O.)  
... I do not under--

SETH  
Dude, I'm making eggs here. If  
you're too wired to get to sleep,  
take a Xanax and yank it.

ASIAN VOICE (V.O.)  
I am an aide in the office of the  
Secretariat of the Workers Party  
Central Committee.

Seth's eyes POP - Dave doesn't know *that* kind of lingo. The call is legit.

SETH

Oh... I'm sorry, I thought...

ASIAN VOICE (V.O.)

Security concerns dictate that the matter be discussed in person. Thursday, August one, at 1600 hours, coordinated universal time. Can we expect you?

SETH

Uh, yeah, of course. Where am I going? You guys have an LA office?

ASIAN VOICE (V.O.)

Latitude: 51.635005.30, Longitude: 4434879.87.

SETH

Ah, ok. And remind me where that is, again?

ASIAN VOICE (V.O.)

50 kilometers west of Dandong. Northeastern China.

INT. SETH'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

It's dawn. Dave and Seth are talking over coffee.

SETH

... And they want the meeting kept secret, so they're not helping me get a visa. I'd have to sneak onto the mainland through Hong Kong. I have no idea what I'm walking into. I could be *eaten*.

DAVE

Come on. No one could know from looking at you just how delicious you are.

SETH

You're getting cute with me at 4 AM?

DAVE

I don't know what to say. I'd go with you, but we've got the show every night this week.

SETH

How inconvenient.

DAVE

I get it, Seth. At first glance the risk and effort would *seem* to be all yours, and the glory all mine. But look into the future.

SETH

Easy enough. Mine only goes to Thursday.

DAVE

Okay. So we can say fuck it, and just do 10 more years of what we've done for the *last* 10 years. I can just dye my hair and thicken the makeup.

(then)

But I know somewhere in your heart, you've got bigger ambitions.

Seth doesn't argue with this point.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(points to a COLLAGE on the wall)

Look at that pedigree, and tell me some part of you doesn't yearn for more.

Seth stares up at the FRAMED COLLAGE from his distant past:

-Clippings from Seth's high school paper, with Seth's byline.

-Photo of Seth accepting the Mark of Excellence Award for student journalism.

-Photo of Seth accepting the Columbia Gold Crown for student journalism.

-Photo of Seth interviewing John McCain.

-Photo of Seth interviewing Barack Obama.

SETH

(to himself, mournfully)

I definitely aimed high, once.

DAVE  
I believe you still do.

DRUNK WOMAN (V.O.)  
(puking)  
Blaarrrrrrch!

INT. JUMBO JET - NIGHT

Seth's en route to Hong Kong. He studies maps.

INT. BOAT - DAY

Seth's en route from Hong Kong to mainland China.

INT. SMALL PLANE - DAY

Seth's on a tiny commuter flight from some small city in China to Beijing. He's looking pretty tired.

INT. CHINESE BUS - DAY

A filthy bus from Beijing to the countryside. Sitting next to Seth is a GUY WITH TWO FINGERS, eating SNAKE MEAT out of an oily cellophane bag. Seth looks bummed.

EXT. FARM VILLAGE - DAY

Seth wanders through a dusty hamlet that hasn't left the 19th Century. He looks like an alien from outer space among these people. He has several frustrating conversations with PEASANTS who don't understand English. He points to a place on the map, but to no avail.

Finally a SHRIVELED MAN with an OXCART signals to Seth to hop in back. Seth's seat mates are some CHICKENS.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

The oxcart struggles up a terrifying MOUNTAIN PATH.

One of the chickens lays DEAD next to Seth. SMALL LIZARDS eat the guts out of the chicken. Seth taps the driver on the shoulder to alert him to the situation. The driver shrugs, seeing no problem.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - MORNING

Seth wakes up looking horrible. He runs his fingers through his hair and pulls out CLUMPS OF LICE. At last, he breaks down and WEEPS. The driver nudges his SON to check out the Yankee crying like a little pussy. They both giggle.

INT. DAVE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Dave's in bed with two beautiful women, KAYTEE and LOLA, post coitus. They're all PLAYING BATTLEFIELD 3 ON XBOX.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

The oxcart continues. Seth is drenched in sweat, PUKING over the side of the cart.

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The oxcart stops in the middle of a BARREN HIGH DESERT. Seth checks the coordinates on his handheld GPS. He's where he's supposed to be. He checks his watch. It's almost 1600 UTC. Seth pays the driver, and the oxcart takes off.

Seth is now alone in the wilderness near the North Korean border. There is nothing as far as the eye can see. It's quiet as shit. Seth LIES DOWN IN THE DIRT and waits...

EXT. DESERT - LATER

Seth wakes to the sound of a HELICOPTER. His face is pelted by dirt from the ROTOR WASH.

THREE NORTH KOREAN MEN jump out before the chopper hits the ground. They train their AUTOMATIC WEAPONS on Seth.

SETH  
(believes he's a dead man)  
Fucking Dave. Stupid, stupid  
asshole.

The chopper skids touch ground. A HOT KOREAN WOMAN, LATE 20'S, holding a briefcase, steps out and approaches Seth. This is SOOK YONG-RIM, Assistant to Kim Il-Hwan and Director of Communications for The Office of The President.

One guard SEARCHES Seth for weapons and microphones.

From her briefcase, Sook takes out a DOSSIER on Seth, and compares the PHOTOS of him to the man himself. Satisfied, she signals to the guards to stand down.

SOOK

The Beloved Leader will grant an interview to Mr. Skylark. It will be conducted at an undisclosed location. It will have a duration of one hour. All questions will be supplied by us. Mr. Skylark may not ask follow-up questions. The interview will be broadcast live to eliminate editorial corruption of the Leader's message. There will be no interruptions for advertisements in promotion of the capitalist agenda.

A beat.

SETH

Is that all, or do I have--

SOOK

If you deviate from the parameters, the interview will be terminated. These parameters are secret. If they are revealed, the interview will be cancelled. Do you understand and accept the terms?

SETH

I... it's not exactly what I...

SOOK

The terms are not negotiable.

SETH

Yeah, I sensed that...

(then, helpless)

I... Okay. Yeah. I accept.

SOOK

The meeting will take place one month from today. We will send the coordinates for a pickup site.

Sook turns to leave, but Seth calls after her:

SETH

Wait - that's *it*?

SOOK

Yes.

SETH

You couldn't have just told me this on the phone?

SOOK

This engagement poses considerable risk. The Beloved Leader says that sufficient trust cannot be established in a telephone call.

SETH

Why is he agreeing to do this?

SOOK

He has an important message for the west. He is familiar with Dave Skylark's work, and believes Mr. Skylark is the only journalist who might treat him fairly.

As Sook walks away, Seth, sees through the heat shimmers what he could swear is a CRAZY HOT BODY on this no-nonsense woman. She boards the chopper and it is gone as quickly as it came.

Seth is once again, alone in the desert. He looks at his watch. He has long wait. With nothing else to do, he sits down in the sand, pulls out this week's Economist, and reads.

INT. SKYLARK TONIGHT CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Dave and various staff members eat lunch at a long table. The mood is sombre.

STAFFER

Six days without word from Seth.

STAFFER #2

State Department says the search process is more complicated since he didn't have a visa.

DAVE

I did this to him. This is all me.  
(then)  
Who's the guest tonight? Please let it be someone who can make me feel good about life for an hour.

STAFFER

It's Kristen Stewart.

As Dave hangs his head in despair, SETH WALKS IN! Filthy, charred. Clothing torn. The staff all stare, speechless.

DAVE  
Seth... Holy shit... I... You...  
Why haven't you called?

SETH  
I didn't encounter as many  
opportunities to charge my cell  
phone as I would have liked.

Dave nods - he's trying to be sensitive. Seth looks grumpy.  
But finally:

DAVE  
Well I gotta ask - did we get it?

SETH  
Yeah. But with some serious limi--

Dave - and everyone - freaks out.

DAVE  
FUCK YES! I LOVE YOU, YOU FILTHY,  
SWEATY, JEW-FRO'D BASTARD!

Dave jumps up on the table, TEARS OFF HIS SHIRT, and shouts in ecstasy. His enthusiasm is hard to resist, and Seth, even in his wrecked state, cannot contain a smile.

SETH  
Once again, your baseless optimism,  
and complete ignorance of how the  
world works has led to landmark  
achievements.

DAVE  
(high fiving)  
Damn straight motherfucker!

INT. HALLS - LATER

Seth walks with Dave as he leaves the set.

SETH  
So basically, he'd just be  
interviewing himself with your  
mouth.

DAVE  
Shit...



Dave thinks about this intensely for a few moments, then:

DAVE (CONT'D)  
We gotta do it.

Seth looks at Dave - is he serious?

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Dude. It's Kim Il-Hwan. When you score a Bin Laden or a Hitler or a Kim, you take it. Who cares what they actually say? Everyone knows they're dicks, they just wanna see them on TV. I mean, does our own president ever say anything honest or real to the press? Aren't *all* TV interviews just propaganda and soundbytes?

SETH  
That's a depressingly good point.

DAVE  
Thanks, man.  
(then)  
So Kim really likes me?

SETH  
Yep. He likes Stalin, cognac, starvation as a political tool, and you.

DAVE  
Awesome. We gotta celebrate this.

**PRESS REACTION MONTAGE:**

NBC:

BRIAN WILLIAMS  
In a stunning break with character, the reclusive Kim Il-Hwan has agreed to give his first interview since becoming the North Korean leader some 30 years ago. The man for the job: Dave Skylark.

CNN:

ANDERSON COOPER  
And we must tip our hat tonight to Dave Skylark, for this astounding journalistic coup.

SPLIT SCREEN WITH PIERS MORGAN

ANDERSON COOPER (CONT'D)  
(playfully)  
Piers, why couldn't that have been  
you?

PIERS MORGAN  
(a smile masking contempt)  
Yes, Anderson. I agree it's quite  
an achievement.

ANDERSON COOPER  
Tonight you have Kirk Cameron on  
your show again, is that correct?

PIERS MORGAN  
(smiling through rage)  
Thank you, Anderson.

INT. DAVE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

An epic celebration party The place is ROCKING.

-Thumping music, THROGS of BEAUTIFUL WOMEN. SERVERS doling  
out ample glasses of Veuve.

-Dave and Seth DOUBLE-FISTING it with their own bottles of  
Veuve, singing along to Queen's "I Want To Break Free."

-KE\$HA DANCES ON A TABLE TOP, and leads the crowd in some  
synchronized dance floor moves. JEFF GOLDBLUM climbs on the  
table and dances all sexy with her. Dave taps Seth and  
points to the Ke\$ha-Jeff Goldblum insanity. Seth laughs his  
inebriated head off...

INT. LIVING ROOM, DAVE'S HOUSE - MORNING

The place is a disaster, but a testament to an amazing night.  
Seth and Dave are both passed out on separate couches.

The DOORBELL RINGS. Seth and Dave both begin to wake.

DAVE  
Dude?

The doorbell RINGS AGAIN.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
(winces from headache)  
Oh, man. Can you get that?

Seth staggers to the door. It's A HOT WOMAN, with red hair and cleavage, and a GUY. Both wear suits and serious expressions. The woman's skirt stops well above the knees. She wears THICK BLACK RIMMED GLASSES - intellectual sexy.

WOMAN

Mr. Rapoport, I'm agent Lacey with Central Intelligence, and this is my partner, Agent Gregory.

MAN

Good morning, Mr. Rapoport.

DAVE

(calling from couch)

Dude, whoever it is, can you tell them to fuck off?

SETH

Dave--

DAVE

The sunlight's killing me! I took so much ecstasy last night. You know how it dilates your pupils? I think my retinas are blown out!

SETH

(re: Dave)

He's joking. He loves jokes. You ever have a friend like that?

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

Seth and Dave sit across the dining room table from the agents. There's tons of WEED, COKE, PILLS, PANTIES, etc. on the table, but the agents ignore it.

AGENT LACEY

President Kim has pushed the world closer to nuclear conflict than it's been since 1962. He's isolated, and we believe, mentally unstable.

Dave notices Agent Lacey's CONSPICUOUS CLEAVAGE.

AGENT LACEY (CONT'D)

Our integrated intelligence suggests there might be a schism in Kim's inner circle.

SETH

Like a possible coup?

AGENT GREGORY

No, his grasp on power is firm. We don't believe anyone would attempt an overthrow from within.

Dave "accidentally" knocks a glass off the table. He ducks under the table to retrieve it and gets a look at AGENT LACEY'S THIGHS. They're astonishing.

DAVE

(to himself)

Jesus H. Christ.

Dave rejoins the group.

AGENT LACEY

But we believe if Kim were eliminated, it would stabilize the region that most threatens global security.

SETH

Wouldn't that depend on who succeeds him?

AGENT LACEY

Actually, no. Our estimate is that anyone at all is better than Kim.

SETH

And you're telling us this why?

AGENT LACEY

You're going to be in a room with him. No one in the west has had that kind of access to Kim in 30 years.

(then)

We want you to take him out.

Seth and Dave exchange a look of shock.

SETH

Kill him?

(off their nods)

You want us to *assassinate* the leader of a foreign country?

AGENT LACEY

The most dangerous man on earth.

SETH

I don't get it. Why don't you guys do it? You've got drones, you've got Seal Team Six.

AGENT GREGORY

Air strikes are too risky. Unless we extirpate Kim before he figures out what's happening, his first response will be to nuke South Korea. With 20,000 of our troops in the kill zone.

AGENT LACEY

If we bomb or raid, we'll inevitably kill dozens of other top leaders who might otherwise be poised to work with the west. We need a precision hit.

DAVE

I think it sounds great. I'm down.

Seth looks to Dave - is he out of his mind?

SETH

(to the agents)

Would you excuse us? This is a lot to digest.

INT. BEDROOM, DAVE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Seth and Dave confer privately.

DAVE

They seem super awesome.

SETH

Yes, Dave, she's attractive. That's not an accident. She's a honeypot.

DAVE

A what?

SETH

A honeypot. A hot chick in a spy agency whose job it is to lure men into doing things that aren't good for them.

DAVE

That's completely misogynistic.  
You're saying a woman was only  
hired only because of her good  
looks? Wake up, Seth, it's 2013.

SETH

So she just *happens* to have  
everything that turns you on - big  
breasts, red hair and glasses.  
They're fake, man.

DAVE

Her breasts?

SETH

Her *glasses*.

DAVE

You're sick.

SETH

Listen, I'm gonna take a dump.  
While I do that, you rub one out.  
After that, if you're still up for  
this, we'll discuss it.

DAVE

Are you serious? I'm not gonna  
jerk off because you *tell* me to.

SETH

Why not?

DAVE

It's just something I like to do on  
my own terms.

SETH

You're obviously just scared that  
if you do it, you'll see that I'm  
right.

DAVE

Oh, that is so-- uch. Fine.  
(taking off his pants)  
You'll see.

As Dave gets into bed pantsless, Seth exits.

INT. HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER

Seth exits the bathroom. We TRACK with him as he walks down the hall and into the bedroom. He finds Dave SMOKING A CIGARETTE, post masturbation, chilling out.

SETH  
Still wanna do it?

DAVE  
Nah. I'm good.

**BEGIN PUBLIC REACTION MONTAGE:**

**THE DAILY SHOW - NIGHT 1**

JON STEWART  
*At the center of tonight's story  
are two figures. The first, a man  
named Dave Skylark, who began as  
just a simple packaging material...*

OTS IMAGE: A BAG OF STYROFOAM PEANUTS AS DAVE'S HEAD, WITH HIS HAIR AND SMILE PHOTOSHOPPED IN.

JON STEWART (CONT'D)  
*... and by force of unrivaled  
blandness became host of the wildly  
popular "Skylark Tonight." The  
second figure is the most  
mysterious and feared man on the  
planet, Kim Il-Hwan.*

OTS IMAGE of KIM.

JON STEWART (CONT'D)  
*Now when it comes to being  
interviewed, Kim has his choice of  
journalists. He could go Brian  
Williams or Diane Sawyer, he could  
go old school and give it to  
Koppel. But he goes with Skylark.  
Evidently because Mario Lopez  
wasn't available?*

REVEAL that Dave and Seth are watching this in Dave's office.

DAVE  
Why is he shitting all over me?

SETH

Well... the election's over. He's probably just desperate for fresh targets.

**THE RACHEL MADDOW SHOW - ANOTHER NIGHT**

*RACHEL MADDOW*

*... And for those who might be less familiar with Dave Skylark's style, here's what it looks like when he interviews bad people:*

*CUE FOOTAGE: Dave with MICHAEL VICK.*

*DAVE*

*Do you ever wish people would stop saying "That's the guy who tortured and killed dogs", and instead say, "That's the guy who loves French cuisine and mystery novels"?*

Reveal Seth and Dave watching in Dave's office.

SETH

(winces)

Oof. Yeah. That was really bad.

*RACHEL MADDOW*

*Maybe Dave Skylark will reveal an intellectual depth he's been hiding all these years. But for now, the interview promises to be a match-up with the world's most evil man, and the world's shallowest.*

Dave and Seth are BUMMED.

**THE CLUB SCENE - ANOTHER NIGHT**

Dave approaches a HOT WOMAN and makes an opening gambit. She regards him with disgust, turns and walks away, and is quickly snapped up by MARIO LOPEZ. Dave's in shock.

**SETH'S DRY CLEANER - ANOTHER DAY**

Before the KOREAN SHOP OWNER hands Seth his shirts, he stops and addresses Seth, sternly:



SHOP OWNER

When I was five years old, Kim Il-Hwan's secret police arrested my parents because they had let dust gather on the portrait of Kim that hung in our living room.

(choking up)

I never saw them again.

(starts to SOB)

Will you ask him where my mother is? Will you ask him why I grew up without parents??

At this point, Seth looks DEAD INSIDE.

**FOX NEWS - ANOTHER DAY**

ANN COULTER

*It's a shameless ploy for ratings. Skylark and Rapoport are morally bankrupt.*

SEAN PENN

*Ann, for the first time in my life, I can honestly say I agree with you.*

Reveal we're in DAVE'S LIVING ROOM. Seth clicks off the TV. They're both SUICIDAL.

DAVE

How long has this been going on?

SETH

Thirteen days.

(sighs)

I think the best we can hope for is an earthquake or an oil spill to knock us out of the news cycle.

DAVE

(shoves papers in Seth's face)

Eleven percent drop in our ratings since this shit started. America officially hates us!

SETH

You gotta hand it to America. We tried to feed them a load of crap, and they called bullshit on us.

Dave turns to Seth.

DAVE

What if we did it?

SETH

Did it? Did what?

DAVE

Killed him.

SETH

Oh. I definitely think they would  
kill us right back.

DAVE

But take that out of the equation.  
Say we could do it and *live*.

Seth considers for a few moments.

SETH

Okay. If we're taking *absolute  
cosmic certainties* out of  
equations... I think killing the  
most evil man on the planet and  
sparing the world from instability  
and violence would make us pretty  
popular.

(then)

And it would be the one socially  
responsible thing we've ever done.

DAVE

See?

SETH

And since we're in a pretend  
universe, let's make it easy.  
We'll *mail* Kim the bullet with a  
very polite letter requesting that  
he insert it into his brain. Dave,  
there's no WAY we could get out ali-

DAVE

All I'm saying is let's meet with  
the CIA and hear the plan. If it  
sounds risky, we don't sign on.

SETH

(stoic)

Sure. Fine. I'll meet with them.

DAVE

Awesome!

SETH

But I say who needs the CIA? In our new universe, we can just send Kim a banana peel, and tell him to put it on his staircase. No, wait: we send him rocket-powered roller skates... with *no helmet!*

As Seth continues to amuse himself, Dave picks up the phone..

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Dave and Seth sit at a conference table with Agents Lacey and Gregory. On a DRY ERASE BOARD, "MISSION BASICS: TRUST" is written.

AGENT LACEY

Kim has every reason to trust you boys. To him, you're no threat because your backgrounds show zero interest in politics. You've committed yourselves to no causes of any kind, not even a neighborhood beautification program. You don't appear to care about *anything* or anyone but yourselves.

SETH

(annoyed)

Are you going somewhere with this?

AGENT LACEY

You need to *maintain* that appearance.

Dave raises his hand.

DAVE

I'm sorry, this is unrelated, I just... Agent Lacey, where are your glasses?

Agent Lacey looks a bit caught. Then, confidently:

AGENT LACEY

I got Lasik.

Dave turns to Seth and gives him a look of acknowledgment.

Lacey opens a small pewter case, and with a tweezers, holds up a tiny PINKISH STRIP.

AGENT LACEY (CONT'D)

Meet your equipment: the UTR. Undetectable Transdermal Time-Delayed Ricin Strip. It's got two layers: the first, a protective backing that adheres to the skin on the palm of your hand. The second, a flesh-colored film soaked in ricin, the deadliest poison available.

SETH

It's so tiny - that's really enough to kill a man?

AGENT LACEY

It's enough to kill 50. It's only this big for ease of handling.

Seth looks impressed - this could actually work.

AGENT LACEY (CONT'D)

Our engineers have created a solution that absorbs through skin contact, and metabolizes over a period of 72 hours. This means Dave can shake the enemy's hand, and be off North Korean soil *days* before the enemy is K.I.A. The best part: it can never be proved that you did it.

This takes Dave by surprise.

DAVE

Even if someone *told* people I did it?

AGENT LACEY

Many people will never believe it. It'll stay in the fringe world of conspiracy theorists. And that's exactly how we need it - the United States government must have *total deniability*.

Dave suddenly looks disheartened.

INT. DAVE'S RANGE ROVER - NIGHT

Seth and Dave head home after the first day of training.

SETH

This feels so foreign to me as I say it, but the C.I.A. is awesome. I mean, we can actually do this and not wind up with our skulls being used for Communist Party ash trays.

DAVE

Yeah.

Seth looks at Dave.

SETH

What's with you? Where's the boundless enthusiasm?

Dave says nothing. He's thinking hard.

SETH (CONT'D)

Don't tell me you're upset about the honeypot thing.

DAVE

No. It's not that.

(sighs)

It's this whole plan. It's not what I envisioned. I thought I was gonna be on live TV, and right there in front of the entire world I'd slay that evil bastard.

SETH

Slay? Like with a magic sword? Like King Arthur?

DAVE

No, with a gun.

SETH

Yeah, well, the neat thing about death is that it works great in whatever form you get it.

DAVE

This is a *television* event. We live in a visually oriented culture. An off-camera death is anticlimactic.

Seth doesn't argue.

DAVE (CONT'D)

But if I pull out a gun and blow that monster away at point blank range, it's the biggest event since the dawn of motion pictures.

SETH

So... you only want to kill him if you get *credit* for it.

DAVE

Well are we really gonna go all the way over there and risk our asses, and not get *anything* out of it?

SETH

How about a safer planet?

DAVE

The planet thing is great. But if people also *know* we did it, we're instantly historic figures. No matter what we do for the rest of our lives, we'll *always* be heroes. Like Neil Armstrong. He walked on the moon 40 years ago and they're still sucking his dick.

SETH

Ah, yes, the dick. And the sucking thereof...

INT. TRAINING ROOM - DAY

Dave conveys his ideas to and Agents Lacey and Gregory.

DAVE

... And the gun should be a nickle-plated revolver. It'll pick up light more nicely than something black with a matte finish.

The agents are speechless.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Look, I'm not trying to be a prima donna. I'm just responding as a media professional to the fact that we live in a visual culture.

Lacey is too annoyed to speak. She yields to Agent Gregory.

AGENT GREGORY

First of all, there's the challenge of smuggling a firearm into a high security compound in a foreign country. Then there's the counterattack you'll face upon firing your weapon. Should you survive that, there's the matter of your exfiltration from the site. We're talking air support, extraction teams, naval battle group, overhead reconnaissance. With the hardware, training, personnel and logistics, you've just increased the cost of this operation from 7 million dollars to nearly 1 *billion*.

A beat.

DAVE

Still seems like a bargain for ridding the world of Kim.

AGENT LACEY

The answer is no.

DAVE

I see. Well, that's disappointing. I thought this was a collaboration.

(gets up)

But since I don't feel respected, it's hard to maintain enthusiasm for this project.

Dave heads for the door.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(turns to Lacey)

And by the way, not that it's the biggest deal, but you *did* honeycomb me.

(off Lacey's confusion)

The fake glasses?

SETH

"Honeypot", Dave. Not "honeycomb."

DAVE

Whatever. It was insulting.

Dave exits. The room sits in stunned silence.

INT. CIA OFFICE - DAY

Agents Lacey and Gregory are with the DEPUTY DIRECTOR.

AGENT LACEY

Skylark's a showman, and he wants  
it to be a show.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

What's his buddy Rapoport say?

AGENT GREGORY

He says Skylark's been completely  
irrational ever since he found some  
grey hairs on his head. It's all  
some kind of mid-life crisis thing.

The director SIGHS. Then:

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Let's say we had the funding, is  
there a plan that achieves the  
objective and gets them out alive?

AGENT LACEY

Theoretically. But their chance of  
survival drops to about 50 percent.

The director rubs his temples in exasperation.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Does Skylark get that this makes  
him the world's single biggest  
living asshole?

AGENT GREGORY

We imparted that information to  
him.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

What was his response?

AGENT GREGORY

To paraphrase, "No, you're the  
asshole."

INT. DAVE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Seth and Dave argue.

SETH

What does SEAL Team 6 have to do  
with us?!



DAVE

They prove that our military knows how to do this shit now. That pirate takedown, the Bin Laden raid, Saddam, Ghaddafi - we got them all without the loss of a single American life, and not with some pussy-assed poison strip.

SETH

We're not Navy SEALs! Do you get that?

DAVE

Yes. I'm saying we would work *with* guys like that on the mission.

SETH

There is no mission. The CIA told us to go fuck ourselves.

DAVE

They'll come back to us. They're just testing our commitment.

(off Seth's look)

Oh, you think the *C.I.A.* doesn't play mind games?

SETH

I think they're genuinely not into wasting taxpayer money and getting you killed. I think the CIA has actually learned from experience not to take massive risks that could backfire and lead to unspeakable tragedy.

We see the HEADLIGHTS of a PHALANX OF VEHICLES pulling up the driveway. We hear a HELICOPTER.

SETH (CONT'D)

What the...?

POUNDING on the door. Seth answers. It's Agents Lacey and Gregory.

DAVE

Hey!

AGENT LACEY

We've revised the operation plan to accommodate Mr. Skylark's request.

DAVE

Are you serious?!

AGENT LACEY

The new plan requires intensive training and education. To achieve adequate preparation by D-Day, we'll need to leave for the training facility in Hertsford, North Carolina. Tonight.

SETH

Hold on. You're saying you have a plan that allows Dave to *shoot the dictator of North Korea in his own house*, and he and I both get out alive?

AGENT LACEY

Yes. We have a plan.

SETH

What's our estimated chance of survival?

AGENT LACEY

Ninety-six percent.

SETH

Oh, come on. *Ninety-six?*

AGENT LACEY

Ninety. Six.

SETH

That's *nine, six?*

DAVE

Seth, come on. She said--

SETH

Jesus, Dave! Hold on! It's our *lives* they're fucking with. Before I decide on anything, I have the right to get all the facts, and make an informed decision.

DAVE

You're right. That's fair.

SETH

Thank you.  
(then, to Lacey)  
*Ninety-six??*

AGENT LACEY

Your time is up. You wanna do this  
and make it back alive, we leave  
now. Chopper's waiting.

SETH

Okay, can we just talk ab--

DAVE

He said okay!

AGENT LACEY

(signaling to someone  
outside)

Go! Go!

SETH

Wait, what??

MEN rush Dave and Seth out the door and into a LANDING CIA  
TRANSPORT HELICOPTER.

INT. HELICOPTER - LATER

As the chopper makes its way toward Vandenberg Air Force  
Base, Seth and Dave sit quietly. Seth looks MURDEROUS.  
Finally, Dave breaks the silence:

DAVE

I can tell you're mad at me.

SETH

Who's *denying* that? I hate your  
fucking guts.

DAVE

But why?

SETH

I guess it's the fact that you're  
forcing me to die before I've had  
children.

DAVE

Forcing? Seth, you've got power  
here. I can't do it without you.  
If you bail, it ends.

SETH

And if it ends, Kim lives, and  
continues to slaughter innocent  
people and threaten the world.

DAVE

True. True.

(musing)

It's kinda funny, isn't it? The  
fate of millions of people - in a  
way, it all depends on *us*.

SETH

Oh, it's a riot.

(then)

Less hilarious is how you've put me  
in a totally *fucked* position.

Dave's bummed. He can't take Seth's wrath. He thinks in  
silence for a few beats. An idea:

DAVE

Listen. I'll make you a deal. You  
get on board for the training. I  
mean really give it everything. If  
at the end, you're still against  
the gun plan, I'll... I'll agree to  
the poison plan.

Seth begins to thaw. He NODS almost imperceptibly in grumpy  
agreement.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - DAY

Dave and Seth are lectured by a SPECIAL OPS INSTRUCTOR.

SPEC OPS INSTRUCTOR

Skylark will dispatch the enemy--

(holds up a SILVER GUN)

--with this modified Sig Sauer  
p226. The weapon will be  
dismantled into 137 separate pieces  
so as to avoid detection during  
your luggage search. You will  
assemble it upon arrival.

(continues)

The bullet itself cannot be  
smuggled. Even trace amounts of  
explosives can be detected by  
canines. Therefore, gentlemen,

(holds up a BULLET)

this round will be encased in an  
impact-resistant tube outfitted  
laser-guidance and parachute, and  
launched from a P-3 Orion plane  
over the Sea of Japan.

(holds up the MICRO DRONE,  
gets in Dave's face)

(MORE)

SPEC OPS INSTRUCTOR (CONT'D)  
Total line item cost of delivering  
this single 9 millimeter, hollow  
point bullet: 200 million dollars.

The instructor stares daggers at Dave, until finally:

DAVE  
You have to understand, we live in  
a visual culture, so when we're--

SETH  
No. Don't do that. Don't say  
stuff like that to these people.

INT. ANOTHER TRAINING ROOM - DAY

SPEC OPS INSTRUCTOR #2  
Prior to Skylark killing the enemy,  
Rapoport will disable all potential  
resistance. Using a wristwatch  
radio controller,  
(holds up a WATCH)  
he will activate Sustained Sonic  
Blast Modules which you will plant  
throughout the compound in advance  
of D-Day. Your hearing protection  
will be inserted prior to H-Hour.  
At 2,000 decibels, the blast will  
incapacitate all personnel within  
100 yards. Activation of the  
SSBM's will be Skylark's cue to  
fire on the enemy with one shot to  
the head. Again using the  
wristwatch controller, Rapoport  
will detonate strategically placed  
CS teargas pellets  
(holds up a SMALL WHITE  
PILL)  
to halt any personnel who have by  
that juncture secured hearing  
protection. At that time you will  
don concealed polypropylene masks  
(holds up a GAS MASK)  
secreted in your body armor. You  
will escape the compound and link  
with a South Korean pararescue team  
in the adjacent mountains. Should  
you fail to link with your team,  
you must be familiar with survival  
techniques specific to the North  
Korean mountain terrain. Colonel  
Yong will take it from here.

A grizzled looking SOUTH KOREAN MILITARY GUY takes over.

COLONEL YONG

There is danger from Siberian tiger. My brother encountered one and had his head torn off. Also North Korean ranger forces. They captured my cousin. They took him to a room, and then they chopped off his head. Also land mine. One of my men stepped on a mine which blew off his legs.

A beat.

DAVE

(sighs)

Well at least he didn't--

COLONEL YONG

After that, a tiger came and took the head.

**TRAINING MONTAGE:**

-Dave FIRES at a HUMAN TARGET DOLL.

-Seth and Dave run a COURSE FILLED WITH TEARGAS. They fail to properly don their masks before CHOKING on the gas. They drop to the ground and WRITHE in AGONY.

-Dave FIRES more rounds at the TARGET DOLL.

-Seth uses his watch to trigger the SONIC BLAST MODULES. The vibrations KNOCK SETH AND DAVE to the ground in agony.

INT. TRAINING ROOM - DAY

SPEC OPS INSTRUCTOR

In the event of capture, you do not have the psychological profiles to withstand torture.

(holding it up)

This pill contains highly concentrated potassium cyanide inside a hard rubber shell. It must be crushed between the molars.

DAVE

No. There's no way I can actually kill myself.

SETH

I'm with Dave on this. I mean, how bad would the torture really be?

SPEC OPS INSTRUCTOR

We know that Kim prefers a method of sodomy in which the victim's own windpipe is used as the implement of penetration.

SETH

I'll take a couple.

DAVE

Crush it with the molars, got it.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DAY

Full rehearsal: Seth ACTIVATES the SSBM's. BEEEEEP! Role-playing PRESIDENTIAL GUARDS all drop to the floor. Dave WHIPS out the gun and FIRES directly into the head of the LIFELIKE KIM DOLL. Seth activates the TEARGAS. As the room fills with gas, they don their masks. Dave and Seth "escape"!

It's just a rehearsal but the guys look confident. The whole training team APPLAUDS. Dave and Seth high-five. As the training team cleans up, Dave and Seth get a moment alone.

SETH

I feel... shockingly awesome.

DAVE

Right?

SETH

The equipment is top notch, the plan is straightforward, we're insanely well-rehearsed. I think we can actually pull this off. Shit, I'm actually looking forward to it.

DAVE

Yes! Me too!

(then)

Wait... Are we being weirdly euphoric about this?

SETH

Maybe.

(then)

It's possible they drugged us.

DAVE

What should we do?

SETH  
At this point? Shut the fuck up  
and mind our own business.

**TITLE UP - SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA.**

EXT. TARMAC, SEOUL AIRPORT - DAY

Seth and Dave step off the plane and load into a MILITARY VEHICLE.

INT. MILITARY VEHICLE - DAY

Seth and Dave are flanked by SOUTH KOREAN SOLDIERS. They look out the window to see that they're approaching

THE KOREAN D.M.Z.

It is now TERRIFYINGLY MILITARIZED. DOZENS OF TANKS point at each other, just feet apart. GIANT MISSILES on launchers point toward the sky. Soldiers aim rifles at each other's faces from yards apart.

Dave and Seth have a VERY WHISPERED exchange:

DAVE  
Dude. Look at that shit.

SETH  
I know. If someone farts it could trigger a nuclear war.

EXT. KOREAN D.M.Z. - DAY

Under the watch of sniper scopes, Dave and Seth are led across the DMZ by SOUTH KOREAN MILITARY, and received by NORTH KOREAN MILITARY.

Seth and Dave labor to keep calm as CANINES sniff their bags and MAGNETOMETER WANDS glide up and down their bodies. They check out okay, and are loaded into a BLACK VAN.

INT. VAN/EXT. THE WOODS - LATER

Seth and Dave are flanked by guards as the vehicle winds along a back road. It's quiet and tense. The van pulls off the road and into the WOODS.

This can't be right. Seth and Dave both look freaked.



GUARD #1  
You two. Step out of the vehicle.

DAVE  
Uh, can I ask what for?

GUARD #1  
(raising his GUN)  
Step out of the vehicle now.

Seth and Dave step out of the van.

GUARD #1 (CONT'D)  
Remove your clothing.

SETH  
(sotto)  
They're really gonna do it.  
They're gonna cut off our dicks and  
stuff them in our mouths.

DAVE  
No, remember? They're gonna cut  
out our *windpipes* and shove them up-

GUARD #1  
Clothes off!

Dave and Seth strip NAKED and try not to weep.

GUARD #1 (CONT'D)  
We are going to President Kim's  
private compound, we must maintain  
the secrecy of its location. In  
the event you have swallowed a  
tracking device, we will cycle your  
metabolism before going further.

SETH  
"Cycle our metabolism"?

GUARD #2  
(hands them GLASSES OF  
CLEAR LIQUID)  
Drink this.

DAVE  
What is this stuff?

SETH  
Maybe it's an aperitif before a  
five course lunch.

EXT. THE WOODS - LATER

Seth and Dave are naked, squatting on a FALLEN LOG, their asses hanging over the back. They're drenched in sweat and in AGONY. Their conversation is interrupted by as much EXPLOSIVE DIARRHEA as can be managed without hurting comedy.

DAVE

UHHUHUH! Why couldn't they have let us do this in a bathroom?

SETH

No, it's better without the toilet. UHHUHUH! The propulsive force is too powerful; there would've been a splashback situation. UHHUHUHUH!

FLIES buzz.

DAVE

UHHH! I don't even understand what could be coming out of me. It's gotta be organs. I gotta look.

SETH

Do NOT look back there! You can't handle it. Just let it go.

DAVE

UHHUH!

SETH

UHHUHUH!

DAVE

UHHH-ARRRGHHHH!

Dave and Seth catch their breath for a moment.

DAVE (CONT'D)

We're having diarrhea in North Korea.

SETH

I'm just glad they didn't shove my throat up my ass.

Desperately in need of cheer, they start to GIGGLE DELIRIOUSLY, under the disapproving stares of the guards.

INT. VAN - LATE AFTERNOON

Seth and Dave are both GHOST WHITE and barely alive from dehydration and poisoning.

The van pulls up to a what appears to be an OVERGROWN HEDGEROW. The driver punches buttons on his dash, and suddenly the hedgerow RETRACTS, revealing a secret driveway.

EXT. KIM COMPOUND - LATE AFTERNOON

A sprawling complex in the mountains. With a soft gaze, it is beautiful and peaceful. With sharper focus, there are camouflaged cameras, watchful guards, hidden sniper emplacements and anti-aircraft batteries.

The van pulls up to the MAIN HOUSE. The guys, who can barley walk or even stand up, are helped out of the van.

ORDERLY ROWS of DIGNITARIES, SERVANTS, SOLDIERS and GUARDS line the grand steps. There appears to be an imminent ceremony... to herald the arrival of Dave and Seth?

MILITARY OFFICER  
(to his troops)  
*Men, take aim!*

Dave and Seth look to each other - what the fuck is going on?

DAVE  
(points)  
Oh shit!

Seth looks: THREE LARGE CANNONS point at them!

MILITARY OFFICER  
*Fire!*

Ahhhhgh!! DAVE NOOO!! SETH

BOOM!! CONFETTI EXPLODES from the cannons, creating a shower of colorful fluttering paper. A MARCHING BAND starts up as more confetti explodes.

A TROUPE OF ACROBATIC DANCING GIRLS cartwheels onto the landing, executing stunning feats of synchronization and weightlessness to the rhythm of the drums and horns.

DAVE  
This is for us?

They see A SPECTACULAR MOTORCADE on its way: first, a CONVOY of MOTORCYCLES. Then, HORSES IN ANCIENT WARRIOR REGALIA. Then, FERRARIS with ROOF-MOUNTED MACHINE GUN TURRETS. Then the longest SUV STRETCH LIMO you've ever seen.

Guards open the limo doors and PRESIDENT KIM STEPS OUT. He majestically waves to his weeping, applauding subjects.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(sotto to Seth)

This is the welcome he gets for showing up at his country house?

SETH

He's the *boss*. It's the welcome he gives *himself*.

A magnificent TRUMPET FANFARE plays as Kim parades right past Seth and Dave - no acknowledgment of his conspicuous American guests - and marches into the residence. Once the president disappears into the building, the crowd rapidly melts away.

The guards step to Seth and Dave:

GUARD #1

Get your bags and walk.

SETH

I can't. I'm too weak from dehydration. Can someone carry mine? Or get me a glass of water?

GUARD #1

You're Americans. If you are strong enough to tell the world what to do, you're strong enough to carry your suitcase to your room.

Seth grumpily picks up his bags, Dave does too. They stagger and limp, across a long field toward the guest quarters.

INT. COMPOUND MESS - NIGHT

Dave and Seth eat in the mess with the other compound personnel. Dave looks unhappy with his food.

DAVE

What is this stuff? Where's all their famously awesome sushi?

SETH

Dave. That's Japan. You know that's not the country we're in, right?

DAVE

Yeah, of course, but I just thought they all kinda... So what's the big thing they serve here?

SETH

Fermented cabbage.

DAVE

Fuck me.

SETH

You alright, man?

DAVE

I think I'm just a little overwhelmed mentally.

(then sotto)

I'm gonna *kill* a man tomorrow.

SETH

Yeah... That's intense.

(then)

What's it feel like?

DAVE

I'm ready. It's just strange - before, he was just this global super villain. But the whole way he arrived, the way we've been treated - now I hate him on a *personal* level. I wonder if when I shoot him, will it feel like I'm killing an evil dictator, or just some guy I happen to think is an asshole?

SETH

(impressed)

You really are getting contemplative lately.

DAVE

I know. In another year I'm gonna be like the Buddha or some shit.

INT. SETH'S GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Seth changes into ALL-BLACK CLOTHING in preparation for NIGHT STALKING. Meanwhile, Dave scans the outside with low-profile, futuristic NIGHT VISION DEVICES.

SETH

How's the weather for me out there?

DAVE

I'm counting seventeen sharpshooters.

SETH

What? That is so way more than the estimates. What the fuck?!

DAVE

Christ, can you imagine if they all fired on you at once? Your body would look like clam chowder.

Seth looks at Dave in outrage.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Shit. Sorry. Not helpful.

(then)

Look, this is silly. It was *my* idea. It should be me out there risking my ass. I'll retrieve the bullet.

SETH

No. If something goes wrong and you get hurt or killed, this thing is over. And if it's over, Kim lives, the world's fucked and my entire life amounts to a pile of beaver shit.

A BEEP. Seth looks at his MISSION WATCH. An ordinary looking watch until Seth flips the LID up to reveal a HIGH-TECH COMMUNICATIONS SCREEN. It reads "135.1025."

SETH (CONT'D)

(growing anxiety)

JSOC confirm code. They're clear to launch the bullet. They're waiting on coordinates from us.

DAVE

Don't spiral. Just fall back on the training.

While Seth collects himself, Dave pulls out a CAMERA BATTERY-LIKE DEVICE secreted in a FLASHLIGHT.

DAVE (CONT'D)

I'll get the locator beacon deep into the field. Remember: threats don't emanate from the middle of a meadow 100 yards inside a walled compound. There's no moon,  
(re: night vision device)  
and the snipers don't have *these*. So as long as you stay low, move slow, and keep quiet, you should be good. Cool?

Seth gives a semi-convincing thumbs up.

Dave goes to the window and HURLS THE BEACON. It's an awesome, athletic throw. It lands somewhere in the DARKNESS.

SETH

Nice toss.

DAVE

Move out. I got you covered.

Dave pulls the NIGHT VISION GLASSES back over his eyes.

Seth, looking BUMMED AS SHIT, gingerly steps outside, DROPS TO HIS BELLY, CRAWLS THROUGH GRASS in short bursts, sniper-style, and disappears into the moonless void.

From hereon, Dave and Seth communicate via their WRISTWATCHES AND EARPIECES.

From the safety of the room Dave alternates his scan via night vision: he observes the guards, then observes Seth's movements, back and forth, making sure Seth heads in the right direction, and that guards do not detect Seth.

DAVE (CONT'D)

You're clear, move.

Seth crawls a few feet into the field. Dave scans the guard activity again - they are not observing.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Clear. Move.

Seth moves a few feet forward.

SETH

I can't see a fucking thing out here. This sucks.

DAVE  
I'm your eyes. Just go straight  
ahead. Clear. Move.

Seth crawls a few feet more.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Okay, hold your position. You're  
20 yards from the landing site.  
You don't wanna get hit.

SETH  
How much longer?

Dave checks his watch. It reads 00:00:55.

DAVE  
Less than a minute. Stand by.

Dave notices a CREATURE enter his field of vision. The  
creature is MOVING TOWARD SETH.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Shit.  
(to Seth)  
Buddy, you're not alone.

SETH  
I'm not?? Who's there??

Dave gets a better look: it's a SIBERIAN TIGER. (They are  
rare but indigenous to North Korea.)

DAVE  
It's a tiger.

SETH  
Come on, don't mess around.

DAVE  
I'm not. It's a tiger, and it's  
moving toward you. Be still.

A beat.

SETH  
Are you fucking kidding me?

DAVE  
No.

SETH  
They didn't say anything to us  
about tigers!



DAVE  
Yes they did. Remember Colonel  
Yong? He said a whole thing about--

Seth hears the TIGER'S BREATH. He spins around and sees it.

SETH  
Oh, fuck fuck fuck fuck.

DAVE  
No, dude. Do not freak out.  
That's not gonna help.

The tiger GROWLS WITH PREDATORY LUST.

SETH  
(jumps to his FEET)  
Aaah!

DAVE  
No! Stay down! They'll spot you!

The tiger ROARS!

SETH  
(to the tiger)  
GO AWAY!! GET OUT OF HERE!! GET  
OUT YOU FUCKING BITCH!!

DAVE  
Seth! Jesus! Be quiet!

WHACK!! The tiger SMACKS Seth in the head with his paw,  
knocking him to the ground.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
Oh shit!

The tiger climbs over Seth, straddling him, about to make his  
kill, when-- WHUMP!! The MINI DRONE LANDS ON THE TIGER'S  
HEAD. The tiger drops (ON TOP OF SETH), DEAD. Seth  
struggles to get out from under the 500 pound beast.

SETH (V.O.)  
(muffled under tiger)  
Mmf! Mmnfrfmph!

We hear the JSOC OPERATOR over Dave's earpiece:

AGENT LACEY (V.O.)  
Loading Bay for Triple Axle.

DAVE

Triple Axle reading you five by five.

From under the dead tiger, we see HANDS AND ARMS squeeze out, and struggle to push the tiger corpse off.

AGENT LACEY (V.O.)

Do you have a visual on the package?

DAVE

Affirmative. But Seth's having a pretty rough time.

Seth continues to struggle. At this point it's a race against his own suffocation clock.

AGENT LACEY (V.O.)

Can you describe the problem?

DAVE

Yes, I'd say in our training there wasn't enough emphasis on physical strength.

Seth, through sheer determination, at last, ROLLS THE DEAD TIGER OFF OF HIM, and springs into action.

Seth grabs the mini drone, cracks it open, and there it is: one 9MM BULLET. He takes it and tosses the drone into some bushes.

By now SHARPSHOOTERS have spotted the commotion in the field, and train their weapons on the site as they radio for a reaction force.

We hear RAPID FOOTSTEPS in the hall. Guards on their way to respond to the commotion!

AGENT LACEY (V.O.)

Triple Axle, are you in possession of the article?

DAVE

Seth just retrieved it.

Seth takes the bullet and SHOVES IT UP HIS ASS.

AGENT LACEY (V.O.)

Has he cached it in a secure place?

A beat.

AGENTY LACEY (V.O.)  
Repeat: has he cached the article  
in a secure place?

DAVE  
I heard you. I'm still pondering  
the question.

Seth is suddenly BLINDED by HIGH INTENSITY FLASH LIGHTS.

GUARD #1  
STOP!

10 RIFLES are pointed at Seth from 10 feet away. Seth puts  
his hands up. He is standing next to a DEAD TIGER.

GUARD #1 (CONT'D)  
What are you doing?

SETH  
'M ffrah--  
(spits out clumps of TIGER  
FUR)  
I'm sorry! I... I heard someone  
outside.  
(re: tiger)  
It was him.

The guards look to each other.

GUARD #1  
What happened to the animal?

SETH  
I uh... I killed him.

GUARD #1  
You have a weapon?

SETH  
No! It was a lucky punch. I faked  
him out. I think he's old or...  
maybe developmentally challenged?

GUARD #1  
Remove your clothing.

Seth almost starts to argue, but there's no point. With  
resignation, he once again starts REMOVING HIS CLOTHING.

INT. DAVE'S GUEST ROOM - LATER

Dave talks through the door to Seth, who's in the bathroom.

DAVE

The retarded tiger story. To sell that takes talent. And I've never seen a foreign object shoved that quickly - and deeply - up a man's asshole. If you could handle less than 10 hours of sleep, you'd be good CIA.

Seth opens the door and presents the BULLET.

SETH

Here's your 200 million dollar bullet, shit wad. Don't miss.

DAVE

(revolted)

Did you clean it *off*?

SETH

Not a chance. If that's going into Kim's brain, it goes with whatever's on it.

INT. DAVE'S ROOM - MORNING

Dave's woken by KNOCKING. He staggers to the door and opens it to find... PRESIDENT KIM.

KIM

Good morning, Mr. Skylark. May I come in?

Dave looks freaked, but with no choice, leads Kim in.

KIM (CONT'D)

I wish to apologize. I know that my men were strict with you yesterday. And my reception of you both was lacking in warmth.

DAVE

A little, yeah.

KIM

Your presence here is a delicate issue. Unfortunately, the people of this country, and my administration, hate Americans.

(then)

(MORE)

KIM (CONT'D)

And to be completely honest: they see you, personally, as a symbol of everything that is wrong with American culture. I'm sorry to say.

DAVE

That's okay. Lately Americans would agree.

KIM

But I am a fan. The Teri Hatcher interview was outstanding.

DAVE

You saw it?

KIM

It was both moving and... titillating.

DAVE

Yes - yes, that's exactly what we were going for!

INT. CONTROL ROOM, BROADCAST STUDIO - DAY

Sook gives Seth a tour. The equipment is all state of the art. Vigilant GUARDS keep a respectful distance. (The same ones who forced Seth and Dave to strip naked in the woods yesterday. And forced Seth to strip again last night.)

SOOK

On the day, the control room will be fully staffed to ensure an uninterrupted transmission of our signal to the satellite.

Seth subtly puts his hand in his pocket. A moment later, a SMALL BLACK DISK drops from his pant leg. A sonic blast module. He gently nudges it under the console, out of sight.

SOOK (CONT'D)

As you know, we will not allow communication between you and Mr. Skylark during the interview. But his questions will be available to him on a Teleprompter.

(then)

Can he, in fact, read English?

SETH

Can he... I don't understand.

SOOK

There are many kinds of intelligence. My intuition is that the kind related to literacy is perhaps not one Mr. Skylark possesses?

Seth looks at her, searching. Then he starts to LAUGH.

SETH

Wait... that's a *joke*... You're funny! That's so weird.

SOOK

You presumed I was a humorless functionary?

SETH

Um, well, you dragged me 8,000 miles across the world to a desert for a 45 second conversation, and you didn't offer me a cup of tea. So, to be accurate, I presumed you were an asshole.

SOOK

(laughs)

I greatly admired your courage in making that journey, Mr. Rapoport.

SETH

(softening)

Thanks.

SOOK

I imagine you would make an excellent reporter of serious international news.

(then)

I mean... should you ever wish to make such a transition.

SETH

Yeah.

SOOK

Of course, your job now is so lucrative and secure. No doubt you're sufficiently content.

Seth looks to Sook with admiration.

SETH

You're quite the shit-stirrer,  
aren't you?

Sook smiles. Is there maybe a little chemistry happen--

The GUARDS have become alarmed by the flirtation level.

GUARD #1

It is time for Mr. Rapoport's  
lunch.

SETH

That's okay. I'm not actually  
hungry right now, so--

GUARD #1

This is the designated time for  
guests to receive meals.

They march a very bummed Seth out of the room.

INT. SALON - DAY

A private tour of the residence. Kim leads Dave down an  
ornate hallway. They arrive at a small gallery - the walls  
are a museum of ANTIQUE PHOTOS OF MATRONLY KOREAN WOMEN.

KIM

What do you suppose each of these  
beautiful women have in common?

Dave looks at the photographs thoughtfully.

DAVE

Wait... Did you tap all that ass?

KIM

I beg your pardon?

DAVE

Forgive me. Did you lay with them?

KIM

No. They are my ancestors, all of  
whom were raped and murdered by  
Japanese imperialists.

DAVE

Oh man, that *sucks*.

KIM

For 35 years the Japanese occupied Korea, enslaved our men for hard labor, and our women for sex.

DAVE

Those *bastards*. I had no idea.

KIM

Of course not. No one remembers Korean history. If they did, the world might better understand us. They might sympathize with our desire for a strong military defense. Perhaps they would not perceive us as a global menace, but merely as a people determined never to be treated like animals again.

DAVE

Yeah, well, sadly, nobody asks about these things.

KIM

Mr. Skylark, you will ask. The questions I've prepared for the interview - they're about the centuries of suffering and occupation of our country.

DAVE

Oh. That's cool! So it'll sorta be like... like a history lesson?

KIM

Exactly. Mr. Skylark, I truly believe that if you can understand Korean history, *anyone* can.

DAVE

Thank you, Mr. President, that means a lot to me.

(notices through the window)

Whoa... Is that real?

Through the window, we see a WORLD WAR II ERA TANK, housed in a hangar.

KIM

It was a gift to my father from Joseph Stalin.



DAVE

Get out!

KIM

That very tank was used in the  
Battle of Berlin - the one that  
defeated Hitler.

DAVE

Shut. The fuck. Up.

(then)

What's it like to ride in one?  
Does it still work?

Kim smiles.

INT. TANK FIGHTING COMPARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Dave and Kim are inside the tank. It's AWESOME! Kim pulls  
out a VINTAGE TANK SHELL.

KIM

An original BR-471 armor piercing  
round.

DAVE

Is it still live?

Kim smiles devilishly and LOADS it into the chamber.

KIM

There is only one modification to  
this vehicle.

(re: a STEREO PANEL)

Harmon Kardon stereo.

(then)

Do you enjoy John Mellencamp?

DAVE

Well, you know, he's... I've never  
tried him in a tank.

Kim hits a button, and up comes "AUTHORITY SONG." It's loud  
and Dave finds the groove. Kim then produces a PINT-SIZED  
BOTTLE OF COGNAC. Dave smiles...

EXT. FIELD - SAME

The tank ROARS out of the hangar and out onto the wide open  
fields of the property. It swerves like crazy - Kim and Dave  
are having fun.

INT. TANK FIGHTING COMPARTMENT - SAME

The MUSIC is blasting. Dave is driving and having a ball.

KIM  
Fire in the hole!

EXT. FIELD - SAME

KA-BOOM!! A GLOWING TRACER ROUND shoots out of the tank and EXPLODES on the distant mountain face.

The tank barrels across the acres as the guys HOOT and HOLLER. Security runs alongside trying to keep up. The tank FIRES another round. KA-BOOM!!

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Kim and Dave struggle to climb out of the tank. They are now BLASTED, swigging from fifth of Johnny Walker and LAUGHING their ass off.

Suddenly Dave REACHES for KIM'S HEAD. The nearby Guards become alarmed and move in.

Dave PLUCKS A GRAY HAIR off Kim's head.

BODYGUARD  
Stop!!

Dave spins around to see TWO RIFLES pointed at him.

DAVE  
Oh my god, I'm sorry! It's... it's just a reflex lately.

Dave shows the gray hair to Kim. Kim begins to LAUGH.

KIM  
All morning, I have wanted to do this:

Kim reaches out and PLUCKS ONE OF DAVE'S GRAY HAIRS. He shows it to Dave. The two of them LAUGH.

KIM (CONT'D)  
Mine started a year ago.

DAVE  
Two months ago for me. I'm so bummed.

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)

It's like - this shit has to start now? Just when I'm feeling *vital*?

KIM

It's a peculiar precondition of existence: at the moment we master life, we fail to enjoy it because death reveals to us its intention.

DAVE

Yes! Exactly! That's so genius.

They both take another swig of Johnny Walker. Kim leans in, and confides to Dave, quietly so the guards don't hear:

KIM

(sotto)

But I still get *so much pussy*.

DAVE

I cannot even imagine.

KIM

I bet you do well, too.

DAVE

Oh, I do. But it's gotta be *nothing* compared to you. I mean - you're the fucking *man*!

KIM

You know Sook - my communications director?

DAVE

She is ri-DICULOUS. You hit *that*??

KIM

She is like a wild animal.

Dave drops to his knees and starts mock worshipping.

Kim turns to his guards and motions them to beat it. They look displeased, but Kim motions them, this time visibly losing patience. They exit. Kim BECKONS Dave somewhere...

INT. UNDERGROUND DEPOT - DAY

A hangar warehousing INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES. Dave stares at them in drunken awe.

DAVE

Holy... Are those the nukes?  
(off Kim's nod)  
Why are you showing me these?

Kim considers, then:

KIM

Because they are awesome and I'm  
drunk off my fucking asshole!

Dave LAUGHS. Kim suddenly becomes serious:

KIM (CONT'D)

I never intended to use them on the  
west. I acquired them only to make  
*my* nation safer and stronger.

DAVE

I hear you. I do.

KIM

Many of my closest colleagues  
criticized me for it. They said  
the nukes only make us a bigger  
*target* for the west. They say I'm  
*endangering* North Korea. They call  
me stupid and *incompetent*.

DAVE

God, that's *just* like when I told  
everybody we got an interview with  
you. One minute America loves me,  
the next they're all calling me an  
idiot! And why? Because I'm  
trying to do something cool? To  
take my game up a notch?

KIM

That's how it is for men like us.  
With great power comes loneliness.  
(laughs)  
Is it any wonder we drink?  
(takes another swig)

Dave wanders near a NUKE, and stares with fascination.

DAVE

Can I touch it?

Kim nods. Dave touches it, and shivers. Kim then drunkenly  
straddles a missile, with the CONE just inches past his  
crotch, making it look like a gigantic cock.

KIM  
Hey ladies! This is my penis! How  
do you like my big penis?

Dave COLLAPSES with laughter.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Seth sits alone at a table, a bowl of hot noodle soup before him. The guards sit at a nearby table, ignoring Seth.

SETH  
Excuse me.

No response.

SETH (CONT'D)  
Excuse me?

Finally a guard turns to Seth, annoyed.

SETH (CONT'D)  
I don't have a spoon for my soup.

GUARD #1  
We are out of spoons.

SETH  
Really? Not one in the whole  
compound?

GUARD #2  
(enjoying himself)  
North Korea suffers from a terrible  
spoon shortage.

GUARD #1  
Sadly, it's not like America, where  
if you are a rich capitalist, you  
can have 100 spoons while the poor  
have none.

The Guards turn their back on Seth. Seth looks up at the GIANT, HEROIC PORTRAITS OF KIM and shakes his head in disgust. He subtly drops another SSBM and GAS PELLET from his pant leg.

INT. PRIVATE LOUNGE - DAY

Dave and Kim eat from heaping plates of BEAUTIFUL FOOD.

DAVE

How can there be a famine in your country? These tomatoes are crazy fresh!

Four HOT KOREAN WOMEN in LINGERIE enter.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Whoa... What is this?

KIM

The next course, Dave.

The women begin UNBUTTONING Dave's and Kim's shirts.

DAVE

Oh wow. This is so, so-- wait, can I just finish my salad before we start? It's so good!

The women start unbuttoning Dave's and Kim's pants.

KIM

We need not wait. Both can happen at once.

INT. SETH'S GUEST ROOM - DAY

137 GUN PARTS are spread across a desk. It's a mind-bending mess. Seth concentrates intensely as he assembles the gun.

SETH

(reciting from memory)

*"Place the recoil spring guide  
plunger spring over recoil spring  
guide plunger..."*

BOING! The little spring SHOOTS OUT THE WINDOW. It sails far into the meadow.

SETH (CONT'D)

No. Fuck... FUCK...

Seth gets up and walks out the door to begin searching for the goddamned spring.

EXT. FIELD - CONTINUOUS

GUARDS 1 & 2 quickly descend upon Seth, rifles aimed.

GUARD #1

Stop! Where are you going?

SETH

I... just want some fresh air.

GUARD #1

You're not authorized to roam the property freely. Get back in your room.

GUARD #2

Pretend you're in America, where all property is private and only the privileged few may have it.

SETH

Yeah, I get it. We're assholes. Look, I need to be outside. I have a vitamin D deficiency. If I don't get 20 minutes of sun per day, I could die. So if you want me to go back to America and tell everybody that you deprived me of my basic medical needs, then go ahead.

GUARD #1

Very well. Remove your clothing.

SETH

What?

GUARD #1

For security, we must be certain you are not concealing weapons.

SETH

Seriously? That's three times you've asked me to get naked. You might wanna examine that.

The guards remain stoic.

SETH (CONT'D)

Suit yourself.

(taking off his clothes)

I'm just saying, in America, you're allowed whatever lifestyle you want. Something to consider.

INT. PRIVATE LOUNGE - DAY

Dave and Kim are in a bed naked, with the four women. They're all playing MORTAL KOMBAT.

EXT. FIELD - SAME

Seth, naked (or in underwear) roams the field under the watchful eyes of the guards - who are loving this - trying not to appear as if he's searching for a recoil spring. He SEES IT IN THE GRASS.

He nonchalantly sits down. Under the still watchful eyes of the guards, he furtively grabs the spring, and starts shoving it in the only hiding place he's got.

SETH  
(muttering through agony)  
Motherfucking...

INT. SETH'S GUEST ROOM - LATER

Dave enters, looking spent but blissful. Seth's assembling THE GUN - it's close to done.

DAVE  
Hey, man. How's your day been?

SETH  
Oh, it's been wonderful. Travel really changes your perspective. For example, I've learned that North Koreans completely fucking hate us.

Dave HICCUPS. Seth looks at him.

SETH (CONT'D)  
Have you been drinking?

DAVE  
Not-- you know, not especially.

SETH  
(whatever)  
On a happier note, I planted the SSBM's and teargas pellets, so we're good for tomorrow. Which I'm really looking forward to.

DAVE  
Yeah.  
(then)  
It's weird, though. I do kinda wonder if this is the right thing.

A beat.



SETH

You do?

DAVE

Well, if you think about it, overthrowing foreign governments hasn't always worked out so well for America. President Kim told me this great quote from Marx: "History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce."

Seth stops what he's doing and looks at Dave.

SETH

You're quoting Marx now? Somewhere between breakfast and lunch you became a Communist?

DAVE

No. I'm just saying, it's a good--

SETH

Do you understand that this guy is a *master* at manipulating the media?

DAVE

Maybe the media's manipulated him.

SETH

Huh?

DAVE

I'm just saying, no one in the media has ever spent *time* with the guy. I *have*. It's possible that they've portrayed him unfairly.

SETH

Let me get this straight: after 38 years on earth, you get a moral conscience, and it tells you to spare the life of *this* asshole?

DAVE

I'm just thinking, okay? I'm sympathetic to people who get trashed by the media. Look at what we just went through. It sucked.

SETH

Not as much as what happened to the people of Yonghung. Ask them how they feel about your buddy, Kim.

DAVE  
Younghung? What's Yonghung?

SNAP. Seth has locked the two assembled components of the gun together. The GUN IS NOW COMPLETE.

SETH  
Here it is, Dave. The billion dollar gun you requested.

Dave suddenly looks HAUNTED.

A KNOCK on the door scares the shit out of them.

GUARD #1 (O.S.)  
Your attendance is required in the screening room.

Seth scrambles to hide incriminating evidence.

DAVE  
Uh, screening? What's this about?

GUARD #1 (O.S.)  
You are required to view a film about cultural and educational achievements of The Worker's Party of North Korea.

Seth WINCES...

INT. SCREENING ROOM - DAY

Seth and Dave are the only audience members in a large screening room, watching an obnoxious propaganda film: a montage of Kim being triumphant and glorious in a variety of activities.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
*Our Beloved Leader is one of the world's most accomplished artists. Moreover, he is the most fierce warrior. As well, he is a genius at business and also medicine and agriculture.*

SETH  
(sotto to Dave)  
"Moreover, he is champion at fellatio. He can suck a 12 inch cock while ice-skating backwards."

Seth turns to Dave and sees that he looks spooked.

SETH (CONT'D)  
Dude? I'm worried about you. You  
can't lose focus now.

DAVE  
I'm fine. I'm just-- I'm tired. I  
just need to give my brain a rest.

Dave notices THE GUARDS across the aisle. They're tuned out,  
one of them is POLISHING HIS GUN.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
(spooked, sotto)  
Is that our gun?

SETH  
(looks)  
What? Don't be stupid.

DAVE  
It looks *exactly* the same.

SETH  
You're getting paranoid.

DAVE  
They could've searched our room.  
They could be completely fucking  
with us right now.

SETH  
Dave. Breathe.

DAVE  
(gets up)  
I'm gonna get a closer look.

SETH  
Are you crazy? Do not--

Dave heads toward the guards. He is so laser-focused on the  
guard's gun, that he doesn't look where he's going. Dave  
TRIPS on a chair leg, and STUMBLES... Right into them and--

**BANG!** Accidental discharge! Guard #1 SLUMPS into the aisle.

SETH (CONT'D)  
Oh shit!

Guard #2 (who made the discharge) drops to his KNEES, and  
clings to his dying friend.

DYING GUARD  
Apayo. Na jug-eo!

PRESIDENT KIM and his retinue arrive, disturbed by the gunshot.

CRYING GUARD  
Dangsin-eun jug-eumyeon andwae!

DYING GUARD  
Dowajuseyo!! Dowaju...

He DIES. The room becomes VERY, VERY QUIET.

DAVE  
(abject meekness)  
I'm sorry... I'm so sorry...

CRYING GUARD  
Andwae!! Andwae!! Andwae!!

The crying guard PULLS OUT HIS OWN WEAPON, AND PUTS THE BARREL UP TO HIS OWN HEAD.

KIM  
Andwae!!

**BANG!** He commits suicide. Blood SPATTERS EVERYWHERE, including Dave's face. Everyone SCREAMS! The guard DROPS DEAD, next to his fallen comrade. Kim drops to his knees and cries out to the heavens:

KIM (CONT'D)  
*Dear Confucius, do not let these  
two men that I love die! Give them  
back to me! Give them back!*

The whole room ROCKS with the sound of WAILING and SOBBING. DAVE wails as loud and as hard as anyone. It is just an orgy of human sorrow.

INT. DAVE'S GUEST ROOM - LATER

Dave is on his bed, wrecked from sobbing. Seth enters.

SETH  
They're postponing the interview.  
The president's too upset today.

Dave says nothing.

SETH (CONT'D)  
Hey. Buddy? Say something.

DAVE  
I killed two innocent men.

SETH

The guy was polishing a *loaded weapon*. He was careless.

This doesn't help. Seth tries another tack:

SETH (CONT'D)

Look. They were *assholes*. They kept forcing me to get naked for very murky reasons.

DAVE

They were protecting the president - who we're conspiring to *murder*.

SETH

You don't understand. They - they didn't give me a *spoon* for my *soup*.

Dave crumples. Seth's not helping.

DAVE

I can't do *that* to a human being again, Seth. No matter who it is.

SETH

(sighs)

Yeah. Death by gun is unbelievably violent. I mean, you know it at one level, but then seeing it...

DAVE

Think of all the wars our country has been in. All the people we've made die *just like those two guys*. It's sick. It's *sick*.

SETH

I'm with you man. Shit's fucked up.

(grabs a BAG from his pocket)

We've still got the poison strip. You never have to see him suffer.

Dave takes the UTR. He then gets up, crosses to the BATHROOM, and FLUSHES it.

SETH (CONT'D)

No. You did not just. YOU STUPID, STUPID FUCK! WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

DAVE

There's been enough killing over the past two thousand years!

SETH

Asshole, what do you think we're trying to *prevent*? He's on the brink of killing millions of people! Remember? We're taking *one life* to save millions! I know it's not pleasant for you, but there's other people to consider!

DAVE

We're patsies of the C.I.A.!

SETH

You're a patsie of Kim! He bought you with a tank ride! The one chance you had to do something decent for humanity, instead of just polluting culture, and you literally flush it down the goddamned toilet! Christ, I'm such an idiot for hitching my wagon to your star. You dragged my career into the muck, and now you drag the fate of the world down with us!

DAVE

Whoa. Let's just dial it down before something hurtful gets said.

Seth storms out.

INT. KIM'S PERSONAL STUDY - DAY

Kim is attended to by his TOP GENERALS.

GENERAL JONG

*Mr. President, we must arrest them. They are responsible for the deaths of two of our most elite guards!*

KIM

*It was not maliciously intended. Skylark is not a murderer. He is a kind man with a compassionate heart.*

GENERAL JONG

*Mr. President, he is an American!*

KIM

(stern)

*Do you question my ability to judge  
character?*

Jong stands down. This conversation is over. Kim and his guards exit, leaving Jong and LIEUTENANT MIHN alone.

GENERAL JONG

*I will not allow the murder of my  
men by American pigs to go  
unanswered. With sufficient  
evidence, the president will be  
forced to arrest them, at the very  
least on charges of spying. Begin  
compiling all surveillance footage  
from every room in this compound.  
We will find something.*

EXT. DOWNTOWN PYONGYANG - DAY

Sook takes Seth on a tour of the capital city. The street bustles with INSANELY HAPPY AND ATTRACTIVE PEOPLE. SMILING UNIFORMED OFFICIALS help the elderly board a gleaming new BUS. BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN play and laugh in a public square.

SETH

Why exactly are we here?

SOOK

The President wanted you to  
experience our beautiful capitol  
city of Pyongyang.

SETH

Uh huh.

(then)

*You do know that I know that all  
these people are paid actors, that  
this whole thing is a pantomime.  
You know that people know these  
things about your country, right?*

A PRETTY YOUNG MOTHER pushing a stroller crosses Seth and Sook's path. She GIGGLES with theatrical volume and exaggerated femininity at something her PERFECT HUSBAND says.

SETH (CONT'D)

A city with its own laugh track.

(shrugs)

They could probably spruce up  
Detroit with something like that.

Sook ignores Seth, and points to a TOWERING GOLD STATUE.

SOOK

This is the largest statue of Kim Il-Hwan in all of North Korea.

SETH

I presume it has magical powers?

SOOK

(staying on script)

Yes. Many sick and injured people have been healed simply by touching it.

SETH

What about acne? Does it work for that? How about halitosis?

Sook is unable to resist a SMILE.

SOOK

Yes, it works for that. It also helps with weight loss. I see you are carrying an extra ten pounds?

SETH

(grabs his chest, mock wounded)

Oh shit!

(then)

Please. Can we just go to a decent restaurant and have a drink? Somewhere I can get an *hour* without a barrage of state propaganda?

SOOK

I... I would enjoy that, but the president would not approve.

SETH

What is he, your boyfriend?

Sook has a sharp twinge of discomfort. Seth hit a nerve.

SETH (CONT'D)

One drink. I just watched two men get their brains blown out, and when you add in jet lag, my nerves are shot.



INT. PYONGYANG RESTAURANT - DAY

Seth and Sook drink beer and talk.

SETH

I'm not asking for state secrets,  
just a taste of humanity. Just  
tell me how you got the job. Do  
that, and I'll tell you *everything*  
about Dave Skylark. I'll sell him  
out like his worst enemy.

Seth's charm has penetrated.

SOOK

My family is in the lowest social  
ranking in North Korea.

SETH

They call it "The Hostile Class",  
right?

SOOK

Yes. This means that there is no  
possibility of advancement. I knew  
from the time I could speak that my  
life would be spent in a factory.

SETH

What kind of factory?

SOOK

The factory in my village made  
uniforms.

SETH

Uniforms for what kind of work?

A beat.

SOOK

Factory work.

SETH

So... you would have worn a uniform  
in a factory where you manufactured  
uniforms for people to wear in  
factories?

SOOK

Yes.

SETH

I guess after the first few weeks you would've stopped appreciating the irony.

SOOK

One day, officials from the Workers Party came to my classroom on a search for young women to serve on the personal staff of Kim Il-Hwan. They selected me. It was a great honor. Over the years, I became close with the president. He is a charming man. He changed my life, he changed my destiny.

SETH

Yeah. I've sorta got a guy like that in my life.

SOOK

You've been with Mr. Skylark a long time.

SETH

He's a hard man to leave.

SOOK

But you did try. In 2005 you took a job with the Washington Post. You lasted five months.

SETH

You really do your homework. Yeah. I saw myself as a more serious journalist. Just like you'd guessed about me. God, you're smart.

Sook blushes, and bashfully looks away. She's adorable when she's vulnerable.

SETH (CONT'D)

The problem is, serious journalists get treated like serious shit.

SOOK

Or perhaps you just have difficulty with authority?

SETH

I... I don't think that's true. Dave and I get along great.

SOOK

And who in that relationship is  
really the boss?

SETH

Well...

SOOK

Perhaps at the Washington Post, you  
were truly an *employee*. You were  
required to *prove* yourself, whereas  
at "Skylark Tonight" you are the  
master.

Seth shakes his head. She's totally got his number.

SETH

Come to the States. You can charge  
by the hour for this kind of stuff.

INT. DAVE'S GUEST ROOM - DAY

Dave lies in bed, looking haunted. Finally he sits up. He  
flips the lid on his mission watch, and presses a button.

DAVE

This is Triple Axle, does anyone  
copy?

INT. JSOC COMMAND HEADQUARTERS - SAME

Looks like the NASA mission control center. Banks of  
monitors, UNIFORMED MEN with headsets.

AGENT LACEY

This is Loading Bay. You're coming  
in five by five.

DAVE

Listen, I'm sorry to do this but...  
I just wanted to let you know this  
is a code 13.

AGENT LACEY

(alarmed)  
Please repeat.

DAVE

Code 13.

By now, JSOC operators of varying rank have gathered around.  
TRACKING MAPS of Dave and Seth are now on the big screen.

JSOC OPERATOR  
(to the other officers)  
He's calling mission abort!

The call is now on SPEAKER so the whole room can hear.

AGENT LACEY  
Triple Axle, have you been  
compromised?

DAVE  
No. I just don't feel like doing  
it anymore.

AGENT LACEY  
What the... Are you out of your  
fucking mind?

DAVE  
I believe killing is immoral. I'm  
sorry - I should have realized that  
before. I know you put a lot of  
work into this, and I know how  
disappointed you must be, so I'd  
love to take you guys out for  
dinner, and express in person how  
much I appre--

AGENT LACEY  
God DAMNIT! The president of the  
United States is counting on this.  
You WILL execute this mission, or--

DAVE  
Look, I've had a fun life, but it's  
been light on meaning, and I can't  
cap it off with a murder, even of a  
really douchey guy. Sorry.

Dave CUTS COMMUNICATION.

INT. PYONGYANG BAR - NIGHT

Seth and Sook continue to drink. They're good and tipsy.

SETH  
Okay. Forgive me if I'm crossing a  
line here, but... You're scary  
smart. And you're an independent  
thinker. You *must* see that your  
boss is a complete dick. Right?

Sook stares at him, but doesn't respond. Seth's MISSION WATCH beeps.

SETH (CONT'D)

Uh... Shit, I forgot, I gotta make a call. Would you excuse me?

SOOK

You don't have a phone, remember? We confiscated it until you're back across the border.

SETH

Oh yeah. I, uh--

SOOK

I wish I could rid myself of these feelings of attraction for you. I fear they will cause me to make critical mistakes.

Seth eyes POP. His watch BEEPS again, but this time he just takes it off and shoves it in his pocket.

INT. JSOC COMMAND HEADQUARTERS - DAY

JSOC OPERATOR

(to Agent Lacey)

Double Axle's non-responsive.  
Can't reach him.

AGENT LACEY

FUCK!

(then)

Recall Carrier Strike Group DESRON-15. Recall QRF. Full expunge.  
Get POTUS on the line.

EXT. PYONGYANG - NIGHT

Sook and Seth are behind a dumpster, FURIOUSLY MAKING OUT.

SOOK

I feel like I've known you forever.

SETH

Yes! Me too! It's so crazy!

They return to passionate making out... until Sook suddenly deflates, and starts to WEEP.

SOOK

I'm a terrible person.

SETH

No you're not. Relationships are just messy. Sometimes we have to explore other-

SOOK

No, I'm not bad for betraying him. I'm bad because I have *helped* him. He is a terrible man.

SETH

It does seem like you could do better.

SOOK

When I met him I was just a girl. I was swept away by his power and his kindness to me. But I see him in private. I hear what he says, and I see what he does. He has no respect for the North Korean people. He is... wicked. And I lie for him, I present him to the world as something he is not.

SETH

So quit! Leave him!

SOOK

If I do, I could wind up in a labor camp for the rest of my life.

SETH

Look... the whole reason I'm here in this completely fucked up country, risking my life, and not in a hot tub in the Hollywood hills... is because I got to a point in my life where if I didn't start doing something decent with it, there wasn't a point in *living* it anymore. Do you know what I mean?

Sook looks at Seth. She grabs him and kiss him passionately.

INT. PRIVATE DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Kim, Dave, and just a few of Kim's TOP GENERALS dine at a small table. Kim is DRINKING HEAVILY. Dave, seated next to Kim, gets MURDEROUS STARES from the other men.

DAVE

(sotto to Kim)

I'm just doublechecking: are you sure it makes sense for me to be here at the table? Maybe it's not the most approp--

KIM

I am in great pain, Dave. Your presence is of comfort to me.

DAVE

That's so flattering. But I think maybe the other guys don't feel--

Kim begins to WEEP.

KIM

(to everyone)

I loved them like sons! To watch them die so painfully, so needlessly...

(SOBBING)

My heart will never heal!

As Kim WEEPS, everyone else STARES DAGGERS at Dave.

DAVE

(to all)

Again, I'd like to say that I'm just *incredibly* sorry about the role I might have played in the... the injuries that transpired. It was very much an accident - I tripped. I mean if you don't believe me, just look at the scrape on my knee. It actually hurts quite a bit, and--

A SERVANT subtly taps Dave, a suggestion to drop it.

KIM

They possessed the finest trait men can have: loyalty. Without loyalty, a great man achieves nothing. Without loyalty, a country is just a lawless jungle.

The generals all TOAST. Kim grows dark and angry.

KIM (CONT'D)

It is a cosmic farce, that two such noble men must die, when so many traitors live. The defectors, the South Korean capitalists, the people in this country who doubt my benevolence! These people - if horrible fates befall them, it is no tragedy,

(pounding his fist)

because they deserve no humanity!!

Dave begins to look freaked.

KIM (CONT'D)

Those treasonous jackals in Yonghung! I regret only that I showed them too much mercy!

Dave has a flash of recognition at this word, "Yonghung."

KIM (CONT'D)

Damn the weakness of my courage! To those who seek to undermine me, at home and abroad, I must never respond with less than the totality of my strength and power!

GENERAL JONG

*Mr. President, I remind you the American is in our presence.*

Kim nods, and collects himself.

KIM

Mr. Skylark, I apologize for my indecorousness. I hope you understand what a difficult day it has been.

DAVE

Of course, Mr. President.

(getting up)

Would you excuse me for nature's sake?

INT. BATHROOM, PRIVATE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Kim's private bathroom. Dave sits on the toilet and collects himself. He notices a TOUCH SCREEN MONITOR on the wall.



It's an internet browser, though currently set to the Korean alphabet. He taps a GOOGLE icon in the corner. Mostly Korean characters, but there is one hyperlink for "English."

Dave navigates to WIKIPEDIA. Then to YONGHUNG. The entry reads: *"Former Village in North Korea. In 1983, its entire population was exterminated by a sarin gas attack on the orders of President Kim Il-Hwan, in response to a public demonstration of anger over the price of rice."*

DAVE  
(spiraling into despair)  
I'm such an idiot...

INT. DAVE'S GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Dave sits in a chair, clutching the PISTOL, and looking freaked. He hears A DOOR SLAM - Seth must finally be back.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Dave tries Seth's door - it's locked. He knocks softly. No answer. He knocks again. No answer. He knocks HARD.

DAVE  
Seth?

SETH (O.S.)  
Dave?

DAVE  
Seth, let me in.

SETH (O.S.)  
I'm really tired, man. Let's talk in the morning.

DAVE  
No. I've got too much say. It can't wait.

INT. SETH'S GUEST ROOM - SAME

Sook and Seth are practically naked on the bed.

SETH  
I'll get rid of him.

Sook HIDES IN A CLOSET. Seth opens the door a crack.

SETH (CONT'D)

Look, I'm exhausted. I know I said some shitty things. I didn't mean them, I was just stressed out. I still love you, we'll be fine, let's pick it up in the morning.

Dave pushes past him into the room, Seth looks bummed.

DAVE

I want to kill him. With the gun.

SETH

Dude! Don't say that!

DAVE

It's okay. I'm so fucking on board for this now. I'm gonna take the gun, put it straight up to his head and blow his goddamned brain--

SETH

Shut up!

Sook STEPS OUT of the closet.

DAVE

Oh my god! Oh my god!

Dave POINTS THE GUN AT SOOK.

SETH

Dave, easy. Don't do anything rash.

DAVE

What the hell is the difference? We're dead! She heard everything! How the hell did she get in here?!

SOOK

Put the gun down Mr. Skylark.

DAVE

Oh, I so velly solly, but that a-not a-too a-rikeree.

Seth SMACKS Dave in the face, causing him to drop the gun.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Ow! What the fuck?!

SETH

What are you, two years old?! We were about to have sex.

DAVE

Yeah, right.

SETH

If it wasn't true, would I have said it right in front of her?

SOOK

He's correct, Mr. Skylark.

DAVE

(to Seth)

Seriously? Are you suicidal? She's Kim's *mistress*. And he's got a real thing about loyalty.

SOOK

(to Seth, indignant)

You were planning to kill the president?

SETH

I was going to tell you that, I swear to *god*.

DAVE

You *were*? And you accuse *me* of thinking with my dick! I mean do you have any *idea* how--

SOOK

You *can't* kill him!

SETH

Oh, because he's your boyfriend?

SOOK

Because Koreans are tired of other nations controlling our destiny!

SETH

But your people are *starving*.

SOOK

And they blame *you*. The United States.

SETH

Right. It's a nation full of brainwashed sheep.

SOOK

We don't have a *free press*.  
Citizens have one television  
channel, one source for all  
information and education: the  
government propaganda network.

(pained)

Me.

DAVE

Uch. That is so *dickish*. People  
have the right to a free press!

SOOK

Like in America.

DAVE

Exactly! Like in America.

SOOK

And do Americans *watch* the news?  
What receives the highest rating  
during your news hour?

DAVE

(proudly)

We do. "Skylark Tonight."

SOOK

I see.

SETH

Dave, you get why that's actually a  
dig on us, right?

Dave thinks for a moment, gets it, then sags.

DAVE

I give up. The world is a hopeless  
shit hole. I'm trying to do  
something good, but it's  
impossible! Everything you do has  
some stupid other consequence!

Dave collapses on the bed and buries his face in a pillow.

SETH

What changed your mind about Kim?

DAVE

He was talking about Yonghung, and  
I remembered you said he did  
something bad there. So I looked  
it up on Wikipedia.

SOOK

Forgive me, but Younghung is a well-known event. Have you not read any history of North Korea before today?

A beat.

DAVE

I wanted to, but I've been crazy busy.

SOOK

But you... but this entire...

DAVE

Look, I just don't like reading. It makes me sleepy. I tried to find documentaries on North Korea, but they all sucked. You guys don't let people with cameras in here. I mean, you have to realize--

SETH

--that we live in a visual culture.

DAVE

Well, we do.

Something is dawning on Seth.

SETH

Hold on. Tomorrow night... When we interview the president, what if we actually *interview* him?

Sook smiles, but lets Seth lead the way.

DAVE

How do you mean?

SETH

I mean we make it a real interview. We ask him about what he's *done* as the leader of this country.

DAVE

He won't allow it - he'll shut it right down.

SOOK

No. I'm in charge of the signal.  
If he wants to end the interview  
before I cut the feed, he will have  
to get up and walk away from you.  
He must retreat from the prettyboy  
American. Like a little pussy.

Seth and Dave look to each other - damn, she's a badass...

INT. SALOON, RURAL KANSAS - DAY

On the big TV is BRIAN WILLIAMS.

BRIAN WILLIAMS

*Tonight, Kim Il-Hwan gives his  
exclusive interview to Dave  
Skylark. There's been substantial  
criticism of Mr. Skylark, whom many  
believe to be out of his depth...*

INT. KIM PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY - NIGHT

Sook, Dave and Seth secretly pour over videos and documents.

INT. REC ROOM, AMERICAN MILITARY BASE, AFGHANISTAN - DAY

MARINES watch WOLF BLITZER on CNN

WOLF BLITZER

*An estimated billion people are  
expected to tune in, including the  
24 million citizens of North Korea.*

INT. SKYLARK STUDIOS - NIGHT

The staff is putting on a viewing party. MSNBC is on.

RACHEL MADDOW

*My guess: Skylark's questions were  
written by President Kim himself.*

CHRIS MATTHEWS

*Come on, Rachel. Skylark's no  
Edward R. Murrow, but he's not that  
craven.*

INT. DAVE'S GUEST ROOM - DAY

Dave goes over his list of questions one last time.

SETH

Remember, you're doing what you always do. What you do better than anyone. Find the weak spot, and push on it 'til he cracks.

DAVE

I'm all set, man. I feel good. I'm gonna get this sonofabitch.

SETH

Hell yeah, you are.

DAVE

You think we'll die?

SETH

If we do, we will have had more fun, and done more good than most people do in a lifetime.

DAVE

I'm glad you were dumb enough to hitch your wagon to my star.

SETH

Me too.

KNOCK KNOCK.

PRODUCER (O.S.)

Mr. Skylark, five minute warning.

DAVE

I just have one question.

SETH

Anything, buddy.

DAVE

You and Sook were gone for 45 minutes last night. You hit that?

SETH

Yeah. I did.

DAVE

And how did it feel?

SETH

Really, really good. Especially  
right at the end.

DAVE

Right? God, how insanely good does  
sex feel?

SETH

Yeah.

(then)

But something about it with her  
feels different than anyone I've  
been with before.

DAVE

You mean because she's...

SETH

Don't make me ashamed to be an  
American right now, okay?

INT. INTERVIEW SET - DAY

Dave sits in his chair, nervous. He checks his questions  
once more. It's quiet...

BOOM. The stage door flings open. President Kim enters  
grandly.

KIM

Mr. Skylark! Are you ready to  
share with the world that beaming  
white smile of yours?

DAVE

I am, Mr. President.

As STAGE HANDS descend upon them, affixing lav mics, makeup,  
Kim hands Dave a PRESENT.

KIM

For you.

DAVE

What?... What is this?

He opens the present... It's a DIAMOND ENCRUSTED PEARL-  
INLAID FRAMED PHOTO of Dave and Kim, their heads popping out  
of the tank, ecstatic with laughter.



DAVE (CONT'D)  
(blown away)  
Whoa... Mr. President, I--

He sees that Kim's EYES ARE MOIST with emotion.

KIM  
My life is lonely, Dave. So much  
of it is devoted to struggle. It  
warms my heart to know that  
somewhere in the world is a friend  
with whom I can enjoy life's  
pleasures.

DAVE  
(re: gift)  
I... this is just so *beautiful*.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - SAME

Seth and Sook (and the control room staff) watch this  
emotional exchange between Dave and Kim on the monitor.

SETH  
(disgusted, sotto)  
Crap, there might not be enough  
time for the two of them to *fuck*  
before we go live.

INT. NBC NEWS BROADCAST CONTROL ROOM - DAY

BROADCAST CONTROLLER #2  
Ten seconds out! Countdown! Ten,  
nine, eight, seven, six...

INT. COMPOUND CONTROL ROOM - SAME

CONTROLLER  
*Five, four, three, two...*

DAVE IS LIVE, ACROSS PLANET EARTH.

DAVE  
Good evening and good morning to  
our viewers across the world.

INT. NORTH KOREAN PEASANT HOME - SAME

A poor North Korean family is gathered around the TV set,  
which sits just below their FRAMED PORTRAIT OF KIM.

DAVE  
(CLOSE CAPTIONED in  
Korean)

*I am with President Kim Il-Hwan of  
the Democratic People's Republic of  
North Korea. This is a live  
broadcast from a government  
facility outside the capitol city  
of Pyongyang.*

INT. COMPOUND CONTROL ROOM - SAME

Seth and Sook watch nervously but hopefully.

DAVE  
*Mr. President, the eyes of the  
world are upon you. Tensions  
between your country and South  
Korea are at an all-time high, with  
nuclear weapons in the equation.*

Seth and Sook look pleased - looks like Dave is on track.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
*That's a lot of pressure for one  
man. Is it true that you like to  
blow off steam with karaoke?*

SETH  
You motherfucker!!

The others in the control room look at Seth; Seth quickly  
collects himself.

KIM  
*Yes, Dave. In moments of tension  
it is important for those in power  
to remain in touch with the beauty  
of in life.*

As Seth and Sook despair, we go to

INT. SURVEILLANCE ROOM - NIGHT

The SECURITY SURVEILLANCE COORDINATOR is scanning multiple  
monitors of recent security video (per the Lieutenant's  
instructions). So far nothing abnormal until...

ON THE CENTER MONITOR:

*Last night's footage of SETH AND SOOK sneaking into the  
KITCHEN! They start tearing each other's clothes off.*

SURVEILLANCE COORDINATOR  
*What the fuck?!*

The coordinator reaches to pick up a phone when--

*Sook is down to a BLACK LACE BRA and PANTIES. She looks outrageously hot.*

SURVEILLANCE COORDINATOR (CONT'D)  
*Whoa...*

*Sook grabs a BOTTLE OF COOKING OIL, squirts some in her hands and rubs them together. She is about to do something outrageously erotic to Seth.*

The coordinator snaps out of it and picks up the phone...

INT. INTERVIEW SET - SAME

DAVE  
... And that's when your love affair with the arts began?

KIM  
I simply allowed the beauty of this country to guide my brush stroke...

INT. SKYLARK TONIGHT CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME

The Skylark tonight crew watches in horror.

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER  
Wow. Even for Dave, this is fucking bullshit.

INT. NBC STUDIOS - SAME

Brian Williams watches with his crew.

BRIAN WILLIAMS  
He may be the most irresponsible asshole currently alive.

INT. SURVEILLANCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

General Jong, Lieutenant Mihn and key security guards watch the tape of Seth and Sook having sex.

GENERAL JONG  
*I knew it! They are infiltrators!*

SURVEILLANCE COORDINATOR  
*Wait, wait, watch this part:*

The part where Sook rubs COOKING OIL together in her hands.

LIEUTENANT MIHN  
(erotically transfixed)  
*Holy fuck balls.*

SURVEILLANCE COORDINATOR  
*It gets better. She is so filthy.*

GENERAL JONG  
*Idiots!!*  
(points)  
*Look!!*

On ANOTHER MONITOR is footage of SETH ASSEMBLING THE PISTOL.

INT. COMPOUND CONTROL ROOM - SAME

Seth and Sook continue to watch in despair.

DAVE  
*Do you ever - I don't know - just  
sometimes feel like "aarrgghh"?*

The CONTROL ROOM PHONE RINGS. A staffer picks up:

STAFFER  
*Hello?... Yes... What??*

The staffer turns and points at Sook and Seth.

STAFFER (CONT'D)  
*They are conspiring! They are  
going to kill the president!!*

SETH  
*Oh shit.*

As the staffers move to apprehend Seth and Sook, Seth WHIPS OUT THE MISSION GUN from his waistband and keeps them at bay.

SETH (CONT'D)  
*Stay back...*

Seth punches a button on his MISSION WATCH. We hear the detonation of TEAR GAS PELLETS.

INT. COMPOUND HALLWAY - SAME

TEAR GAS quickly fills the air. GUARDS DOUBLE OVER.

INT. ANOTHER HALLWAY - SAME

The General, Lieutenant and other personnel charge into the hall, only to choke on CLOUDS OF GAS. The Lieutenant manages to punch a PANIC BUTTON on the wall...

INT. COMPOUND CONTROL ROOM - SAME

Seth's got the gun trained on everyone, unsure of his next move.

DAVE

*So you believe cardio to be of  
greater importance than strength  
training and flexibility?*

SOOK

Seth, we need to get Dave to--

SETH

Yeah, I know. Uh... Okay...

Seth hands Sook the pistol.

SETH (CONT'D)

I'll be right back.

Sook keeps the pistol trained on the others. Seth DONS HIS GAS MASK, then charges out into the hall.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Seth charges through the GAS CLOUDS and leaps over INCAPACITATED PERSONNEL, and makes his way to the studio doors. He pulls off his gas mask and tucks it away, then enters the studio.

INT. INTERVIEW SET - CONTINUOUS

Seth charges onto the set, coughing from the brief gas exposure, and INTERRUPTS THE LIVE INTERVIEW.

DAVE

Dude! What the hell??

SETH

Sorry, guys. We're having an issue with Dave's mic, it'll just be a moment.

Dave steps off camera with Seth. Seth flips the switch on Dave's mic pack to OFF, then whispers:

SETH (CONT'D)

What the *fuck* are you doing?!

DAVE

What am *I* doing?!

SETH

You've got your tongue so far up his ass you can taste his breakfast! And why? Cause he gave you a widdle pwesent?

DAVE

No. Fuck that mass-murdering asshole! I'm just softening him up. Then out of nowhere I'm gonna sucker punch him. It's gonna be rad.

SETH

So this is all just... *theatrics*?

DAVE

Yes. It's the biggest moment of my career. It's gotta be *EPIC*!

SETH

You've gotta be fucking kidding me.

DAVE

Really? God, Seth, the fact that this shocks you - at this point in our relationship? It shocks *me*.

SETH

Dave. We're dead. They know everything. I detonated the tear gas, but it's not gonna keep them out for long.

DAVE

Fuck.

SETH

Yeah. So can you skip the dramatic prelude and get to the one thing that might redeem us in the eyes of god before we meet him?

As Seth runs out, he PRESSES THE LOCK BUTTON on the studio door securing it behind him. Dave resumes his seat with Kim.

INT. COMPOUND CONTROL ROOM - SAME

Seth runs back in and removes his gas mask. Sook still has the gun trained on the staff.

DAVE

*Mr. President... in your remarks to the world-wide media, you have denied that there is currently a state of famine in North Korea. With all North Korean citizens watching us now, do you still deny that your people are hungry?*

Kim is completely thrown.

KIM

This... this is a strange question.

DAVE

I'm simply asking for a definitive statement: does a condition of famine exist in your country?

INT. MSNBC CONTROL ROOM - SAME

RACHEL MADDOW

Whoa!

INT. COMPOUND CONTROL ROOM - SAME

Seth, Sook (and the others) wait with baited breath for Kim's answer...

KIM

No.

DAVE

*(thrown)*

*Um... No? Just... no?*

KIM

*Famine is a state of weakness and hunger. But the people of North Korea are strong, and they hunger for nothing. They may have less rice on their plates than they did one year ago, and less than they will have one year from now, but they are patient and resilient.*

INT. NORTH KOREAN PEASANT HOME - SAME

The ragged peasants CHEER in celebration of their leader.

BACK IN THE STUDIO.

DAVE

Well... okay then. Um... I believe you wanted to talk about the history of your young nation.

FIRE ALARM STROBES BEGIN TO FLASH in the studio. Kim turns and looks up to the control room window. Sook just waves to him to ignore it, and motions to keep going.

KIM

Uh... Yes. There is much the world does not understand about my country.

DAVE

Is it accurate to say that throughout the history of your nation, you've imprisoned and tortured people for such crimes as complaining about the fit of their government issued shoes?

Kim is STUNNED.

KIM

You are a liar, Mr. Skylark.

DAVE

I'm asking a simple question.

KIM

You and I had an agreement to have a civil discussion about this country. But this is not a discussion. This is an ambush.



INT. COMPOUND CONTROL ROOM - SAME

BOOM! BOOM! Someone is trying to RAM down the door. Seth and Sook look to each other - what the fuck do they do now?

INT. HALLWAY - SAME

Two GUARDS enabled by GAS MASKS are RAMMING at the door.

INT. INTERVIEW SET - SAME

DAVE

Mr. President, what we "agreed" is that I would ask you a list of questions that you wrote yourself.

KIM

Be that as it may, that plan has evidently been abandoned. But I am not afraid of the truth. So go ahead. Ask me anything.

INT. COMPOUND CONTROL ROOM - SAME

The guards keep ramming. Seth gets an idea: right after a "ram", he gingerly unbolts the door. The guards who have already set in motion their next ram come TUMBLING INTO THE ROOM AND FALL FLAT ON THEIR FACES. Before they can get up, Sook GRABS A LARGE, HEAVY KIM PORTRAIT FROM THE WALL and SMASHES IT OVER A GUARD'S HEAD. Seth pounces and GRABS a GUN from one of them. He and Sook are now both armed.

DAVE

*Very well, Mr. President. My next question to pertains to remarks you recently made in private.*

KIM

*In... private?*

SOOK

*Roll tape!*

CONTROLLER

*Tape? No one said anything about videotape.*

SETH

*(aiming the gun)*  
*Press. Play.*

The controller reluctantly hits play:

VIDEO: *It's grainy footage from the personal presidential archive of KIM IN A MEETING WITH HIS AIDES.*

KIM

*Do not speak to me of hunger in the villages! These people mean nothing! They are not human! I will not weaken our national defense to save a few hundred thousand decrepit old chicken farmers, when they no longer even have chickens! Let them die! Prune the weak branches!*

INT. NORTH KOREAN PEASANT HOME - SAME

The peasants are in COMPLETE SHOCK. This can't be happening.

BACK TO STUDIO

Kim is now perspiring and trembling.

KIM

Someone within my government has betrayed me. No doubt the result of coercion by someone in yours.

Kim looks up to the control room for guidance from Sook. Sook quickly LOWERS HER WEAPON, gives another smile and thumbs up, and gestures to "Keep going!"

One of the prone guards takes the opportunity with Sook's lowered weapon to KICK IT OUT OF HER HANDS. A massive struggle between Seth, Sook and the guards. BANG! A gun accidentally DISCHARGES. Bullets RICOCHET off the wall getting one guard in the KNEE. BLOOD SPATTERS onto the control room window (visible from the stage). Dave sees the blood spatter but does his best to ignore it.

DAVE

Mr. President, in January, the United Nations shipped your country a billion dollars in emergency food rations. A British intelligence report shows that the rations were sold and the proceeds diverted to North Korea's nuclear weapons program. Are nuclear weapons a higher priority for you than your people's nourishment?

KIM

You are exploiting my people's  
ignorance for your own glory!

DAVE

Your people's "ignorance"?

KIM

I... You... The North Korean people  
do not understand how governments  
work! They are not ready to  
comprehend the complexities of  
maintaining a strong state!

DAVE

You're saying the North Korean  
people are like children?

INT. ANOTHER NORTH KOREAN PEASANT HOME - SAME

MORE PEASANTS are outraged, and begin SHOUTING at the TV.

BACK TO STUDIO.

KIM

This interview is over! You are  
committing an act of war on my  
country!

BOOM! Someone is now RAMMING AT THE STUDIO DOORS.

INT. COMPOUND CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SETH

I think we should eject now.

SOOK

(determined)

Not yet.

(to controller)

*Cue image.*

CONTROLLER

*No!*

SETH

Sook, are you crazy? We're-

Sook GRABS the controller and THROWS him across the room.  
She punches the CUE button.

ON SCREEN:

A PHOTO OF KIM, standing in front of dozens of SLAIN CIVILIANS, beaming.

DAVE

Mr. President, is this you standing before the slaughtered civilians of Yonghung?

BOOM! Another RAM ON THE STUDIO DOOR. Kim is too distraught by Dave's betrayal to notice. TEARS well in his eyes.

KIM

I thought you were my *friend*.

DAVE

I'm a journalist, Mr. President.

BOOM! They're one ram away from opening the door!

DAVE (CONT'D)

The two slain civilians in the lower right corner are clearly younger than 10 years old. What crimes did they commit that condemned them to execution? Why are you smiling in this photograph?

KIM

Enough!

Kim WHIPS OUT A GUN from his leg holster, but just before he can shoot Dave--

Seth hits the button on his mission watch, and BEEEEEEEEEP! SSBM's activate.

Kim drops in agony. ALL PERSONNEL STILL STANDING THROUGHOUT THE COMPOUND CRUMPLE.

Dave dons his mask and hearing protection, and BOLTS, leaping over armed guards.

Sook and Seth don their GAS MASKS (Sook stashed hers ahead of time) and hearing protection and run.

Everywhere is GUNFIRE, BLARING ALARMS AND CHAOS.

EXT. NORTH KOREAN PEASANT VILLAGE - DAY

Villagers STREAM OUT OF THEIR HOUSES INTO THE STREETS to discuss with each other what they just witnessed.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Spotting each other as the only masked ones in a haze of tear gas, Seth, Dave and Sook, rendezvous. Sook leads them bounding over the strewn, suffering compound personnel.

EXT. COMPOUND - DAY

Sook, Seth and Dave make it outside and whip off their masks. They start to charge for the mountains when--

SETH  
(points)  
Shit!

A MASSIVE CONVOY OF NORTH KOREAN MILITARY VEHICLES heading their way. There must be thousands of men.

SETH (CONT'D)  
We're too late! We'll never blow  
past that!

DAVE  
I know what we can do.

EXT. HANGAR - MOMENTS LATER

They stand before the TANK.

SETH  
Are you serious?

DAVE  
I know how to drive it.

INT. TANK FIGHTING COMPARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Sook, Dave and Seth are squeezed in. Dave POWERS UP the tank. John Mellencamp's "AUTHORITY SONG" starts blasting.

SETH  
What the hell is with that?

EXT. HANGAR - CONTINUOUS

The tank ROARS OUT OF THE HANGAR, and across the property. Kim's forces are taken by surprise. They run for cover as the tank BARRELS ACROSS THE PROPERTY.

SETH (O.C.)  
Dude! Can we kill the Mellencamp?

DAVE (O.C.)  
I gotta focus on the road! You deal!

SETH (O.S.)  
Is it this red button?!

DAVE (O.S.)  
NO! That's the--

BOOM! The tank FIRES A ROUND AS IT CRASHES THROUGH THE PERIMETER WALLS and roars down the road.

INT. MOUNTAIN FOREST - LATER

Seth, Sook and Dave, are deep in the wilderness, seemingly safe for the moment. The tank is ditched.

SETH  
(checks his mission watch)  
Still no response. I don't know how far the extraction team is.

Dave CRINGES.

SETH (CONT'D)  
What's up?

DAVE  
Uh, listen. Don't get mad or anything, but I might've made a little goof.

Seth and Sook look at Dave with dread.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
After the incident with the guards, I got all tweaked and... I told JSOC we were aborting the mission.

SOOK  
You can't be serious.

SETH  
Oh my god.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
I was just trying to be considerate and not waste their time!  
(then)  
Anyway, they were upset.

SETH

"Upset"? We wasted a month of their lives and a billion dollars. Why would you inform them of that *before* they sent our rescue team?

DAVE

My head was all foofy. I'd been through a very emotionally wrenching experience.

SOOK

So there's no rescue team to get us out of the country?

SETH

You stupid, fuck-brained, asswipe--

DAVE

Hey! Did I not just kick serious ass in there? I've gone through a *shitload* of personal growth in the past two days. So I think I can be forgiven for forgetting some stuff. Now let's just--

The sounds of MULTIPLE ENEMY HELICOPTERS

DAVE (CONT'D)

(shouts over the noise)

-- SO LET'S JUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE TOTALITY OF MY CONTRIBUTIONS, AND NOT GIVE INTO KNEE-JERK ANGER ABOUT MY...

INT. COMPOUND HOLDING CELL - NIGHT

Sook, Dave and Seth are detained in a grim cell with a window overlooking the compound. Seth hands Sook a SUICIDE PILL.

SETH

And here's one for you.

SOOK

Thank you.

SETH

If *Kim* had died by poison as in the original plan, it would have prevented *us* from having to.

DAVE

Thanks for pointing that out. I'll know for next time.

SOOK

No, Seth. You're thinking of yourself, and not of history. Maybe our lives are at an end, but at least history won't be stained. What you did was brave. You're heroes.

Seth and Dave look to each other, remembering - this is what they'd wanted.

SETH

(to Sook)

You're a hero, too.

SOOK

I'm glad I met you both. You made my life meaningful.

(then)

If perhaps shorter than expected.

Kim approaches, flanked by guards. Kim stares at Dave for a long time, as if trying to make sense of this man. As if almost still hoping that their friendship was real. Finally:

KIM

Well, Mr. Skylark, if you actually thought this plan would succeed, you're even more obtuse and vainglorious than I had imagined.

Dave looks to Seth, quizzically.

SETH

They're insults.

KIM

The saddest part of your impending death is that I will miss "Skylark Tonight." Your show was a joyful diversion. As the world becomes more serious, there's an important place in our lives for the trivial.

DAVE

(actually considering)

I'd never thought of it that way.



SOOK

I'm glad that I will at least die a happy woman. Now that I have been fucked properly.

A gut punch to Kim.

SOOK (CONT'D)

(re: Seth)

He was so powerful. I've never felt such intense pleasure. I wonder if your wife - or any woman - will still find you attractive. Seeing as these two simpleton Americans just turned you into a joke on world-wide television.

SETH

She was particularly responsive to being taken from behind. I guess she never did that with you due to your lack of height and short penis. Anyway, it was quite a spectacle. I'm surprised her screaming didn't wake you up.

Kim grabs his GUN from his calf holster. As he starts to aim it at them, **BANG!**

But the gunfire came from Kim's snipers - it's being directed at the compound perimeter! **BANG! BANG!**

Everyone looks out the window. NORTH KOREAN CITIZENS are storming the compound.

DAVE

What the hell's going on?

SOOK

Just what it looks like. It's a revolt.

KIM GUARD #1

(into his radio)

*Plan R! Plan R!*

Kim Guard #2 opens a BLACK BRIEF CASE. Inside are two COMPACT MACHINE GUNS. Kim takes them both, and sprints across the field, frequently turning to SPRAY SUPPRESSING FIRE with both hands. But if that isn't bad-ass enough--

A FAST-MOVING ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE catches up with Kim. Kim leaps into the passenger seat without it even slowing down.

As it races toward the forest and BARRELS THROUGH ANIMAL FENCING and mud, Kim manages to stand upright and maintain his double-handed suppressing fire.

At the edge of the FOREST, a fucking HELICOPTER RISES UP FROM behind the trees and drops a rope ladder. Kim tosses the spent machine guns, LEAPS OFF THE MOVING ATV ONTO THE DANGLING LADDER, and climbs his way up into the helicopter which quickly retreats behind the treeline, and disappears.

DAVE

Um... Was that...

SETH

Yes. It was categorically most awesome thing we've ever seen.

Dave sees from the opposite direction that the revolvers are heading for them.

DAVE

Holy shit, they're gonna kill us!

SOOK

Not if they know it's us. Dave, make yourself visible.

Dave puts his face up to the window and waves. He is RECOGNIZED by the revolvers. They CHEER. They begin HACKING AWAY AT THE WALLS with picks and axes. It won't be long now.

Seth takes Sook's hand.

SETH

Come with us to the States.

SOOK

Seth...

SETH

Come on. We connected from the first day. You know it.

SOOK

Yes. I feel it too, Seth. But my country appears to be on the brink of a revolution.

DAVE

He makes an outstanding rack of lamb. Do you know how hard it is to find a guy who can cook?

SOOK  
I'll never forget you.

Sook kisses Seth, passionately.

CRASH! The walls are reduced to rubble! The revolvers storm in, and RAISE DAVE up ON THEIR SHOULDERS in celebration!

DAVE  
(pointing to Seth)  
Him too! Him too!

The revolvers raise Seth up on their shoulders too!

Seth, from his high vantage point, sees Sook slip off with SEVERAL MEN she seems to know. It's good-bye...

INT. PLANE - NIGHT

The flight back to the States. Seth looks emotionally wrecked. He hasn't touched his champagne, so finally Dave helps himself to it.

DAVE  
Come on, man. There's a lot to celebrate.

Seth is non-responsive.

DAVE (CONT'D)  
I know you liked her, but do you even realize the avalanche of pussy about to hit us? I'm actually frightened.

SETH  
She honeypotted me.

DAVE  
Sook? No way.

SETH  
She researched our psych profiles. She knew us better than we knew ourselves. She didn't love me, she used me.

DAVE  
No. I just don't believe that.

SETH  
Sook's a professional propagandist.  
*A master manipulator.*  
(MORE)

SETH (CONT'D)

She convinced Kim to do the interview, she seduced me and infiltrated our conspiracy, and commandeered it to make it *her* plan. This was never our adventure. It was hers.

Dave considers this. It seems crazy, but... possible?

DAVE

Man... if that's true, it kind of makes her even hotter.

Seth crumples.

EXT. WHITE HOUSE FRONT STEPS - DAY

The PRESIDENT hangs MEDALS OF HONOR on Seth and Dave.

INT. DAILY SHOW SET - NIGHT

Dave and Seth walk on stage. Stewart does the "I'm not worthy bow."

INT. DAVE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dave and Agent Lacey lie breathless, post-coital. She removes her GLASSES, having worn them for Dave's excitement.

INT. SETH'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Seth sits alone in the dark staring at nothing, in utter depression. ELAPSED time shows little movement from him as the sun rises on him.

**TITLE UP: 3 MONTHS LATER**

INT. SKYLARK TONIGHT CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

CONTROLLER

And five, four, three, two...

DAVE

*Good evening, America. Our scheduled guest tonight was Nobel Peace laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, but Ms. Sirleaf has kindly accommodated a last minute change.*

SETH

What the hell is he talking about?

DAVE

*It is my great honor and privilege to introduce the new president of the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, Sook Yong-Rim.*

*Sook enters and sits with Dave.*

Seth is in SHOCK. He looks to the control room guys - what the fuck? They give apologetic shrugs.

SOOK

*Hi, Dave. It's wonderful to see you again.*

DAVE

*Madam President, there's so much to cover. The miraculous turnaround in your economy, the dismantling of your nuclear weapons program...*

SETH

He just had to have this particular guest? He couldn't just let this one go, and spare me the torture?

Seth storms out.

INT. SETH'S OFFICE - LATER

Seth is slumped on his office couch, watching the interview alone in the dark.

SOOK

*... And while we have released all political prisoners, we need more resources to help them reintegrate with North Korean society.*

Seth swallows the dregs from his GLASS OF WHISKEY. He checks his watch: the hour's almost up. He aims the remote to turn off the TV--

DAVE

*Madam President, before we go, I do have one question of a more personal nature. Is there a first man of North Korea?*

SOOK

No, Dave. Not at this time.

Dave lets the silence hang for a moment. He puts on his "emotional face", and lets his opponent's wall weaken.

DAVE

I'm sure many in the world find that surprising about you. Your beauty, your intelligence, your loving heart.

Sook takes a moment to fight back emotion.

SOOK

Shortly before the revolution, there was someone. We fell in love very quickly, but...

(choking up)

... but the relationship was not practical. Or at least, that was my belief at the time. It was a chaotic moment and I made the best decision I could. But it is one of the great regrets of my life.

Seth is surprised - really?

DAVE

Madam President, would you talk to him right now, if you could?

SETH

No. What the fuck is he doing--

Several STAFFERS ENTER and start to DRAG SETH to set.

SETH (CONT'D)

(struggling to free himself)

No. I'm not doing this on camera!

DAVE

Madam President, that man happens to be here tonight. And I'm sure he'd like to speak with you.

Staffers DRAG SETH ONTO THE SKYLARK TONIGHT SET.

SOOK

Hello, Seth.

SETH  
(nervous)  
Hi.

SOOK  
It's so good to see you.

SETH  
You too.

SOOK  
I've missed you.

SETH  
Really?

SOOK  
(beginning to weep)  
No. I'm just humiliating myself on  
international television for the  
thrill of it.

Like every guest who's come before, Seth starts to CRY.

SETH  
Well you could've called! Do you  
know what I've been through? Do  
you realize what kind of impossible  
bar you've set for women in my  
life?

SOOK  
If I had called, what could I have  
said? You know I can't leave North  
Korea. And I could hardly ask you  
to leave America.

SETH  
Why not? Sook, the one time I've  
ever felt good about myself was  
with you! And how much more of  
America do I need to see? I mean  
we're talking about a country where  
*Dave Skylark* is now taken seriously  
as a political pundit!

Sook LAUGHS through her tears.

SETH (CONT'D)  
For god's sake, get me out of this  
hell hole and take me home with  
you!

Now DAVE STARTS TO CRY. Classic "*Skylark Tonight*."

INT. SETH'S OFFICE - LATER

DAVE

How am I gonna survive without you?

SETH

There's 1,000 guys who can do my job. Most with a better attitude.

DAVE

I mean the rest of life. Who am I gonna party with? I'm gonna miss you so much, I can't even take it.

SETH

I'm gonna miss you too, man.

DAVE

Can I just tell you how awesome your new girlfriend is? You gotta see the present she brought me...

EXT. SKYLARK STUDIOS - SUNSET

In the parking lot sits... KIM'S WORLD WAR II TANK.

SETH

Is that...?

DAVE

Fuck yeah.

EXT. 101 FREEWAY - SUNSET

The tank ROLLS UP THE FREEWAY, flanked by a MOTORCYCLE POLICE ESCORT. It's a rolling party. PARTIERS hang out on the decks and turret. Mellencamp's "Authority Song" blasts.

Dave, Seth, Sook, and Agent Lacey protrude from the hatch, all holding bottles of champagne, having a ball.

FADE OUT.

THE END

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