

# A Handful of Stardust

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### Genre

Sci-Fi

### Logline

*A soldier returns from an 18-month deployment and finds his wife and home has vanished from everyone's memories. Time counts down for unraveling the mystery and setting things right before civilization ends.*

### Tagline

*Against the will of a God - man's nothing!*

### Synopsis

The United States has created the ultimate counter terrorism weapon, nicknamed 'The Hand of God'. Located in high orbit above Asia, the super powerful laser hunts down and incinerates America's enemies.

In its first mission, SPACE WEAPONS COMMAND uses the weapon to destroy a band of nomadic tribesmen, chasing them deep into the rugged Zagros Mountains of Iran, to the summit of Mt. Zardkuh.

Unknown to space weapons command, their pursuit encroaches on a MALEVOLENT PRESENCE which takes out the Energy Weapon and sets up a confrontation that threatens civilization.

In escalation, the United States believes Mt. ZardKuh is a secret weapons facility. They send an elite assault force to take out the threat. Only a small contingent of Marines escapes with their lives and a handful of prisoners.

**SERGEANT HUNTER** and the surviving assault force starts experiencing nightmares over the women and children prisoners that they have captured and handed over for interrogation to a BLACK OPS team working out of a Kenyan 'Black Site'.

A traumatizing experience awaits Hunter on his return home. NO ONE believes that his wife **KATHY** ever existed. Kathy has been erased from the public memory along with the existence of his home.

Has he lost his mind or has another force intervened?

Hunter must discover the truth before the nightmares destroy him. His friends and family believe, he is in the grips of insanity. His own government attempts to shut him up. Only his father's pledge to his own father years ago in believing the IMPOSSIBLE gives Hunter a chance for redemption. To do so, he must decipher the nightmares and make things right by convincing his fellow Marine comrades to go against their own government. They embark to rescue the prisoners sent off to a BLACK SITE and safely return them to their village or face death along with their wives and children.

The clock is ticking. America is ramping up for a massive assault on Mt. Zardhuh against a force they don't understand that has the potential of wiping out civilization.

### Foreshadowing Clues

- The fear of the nomadic tribesmen at the thought of moving toward the mountain.  
*(shows there is something in the mountain that is dangerous)*
- Familiar compelling eyes of Hunter's wife and one of the hostages.  
*(we see the same eyes on hostages – why are they the same)*
- Missing co-pilot on return flight.  
*(the co-pilot was not married – we find that every survivor was married)*
- Hunter can't reach his wife on Sat Phone – number doesn't exist  
*(why doesn't Kathy's phone number no longer exist after the mission)*
- After the operation no one can reach their wives on Satellite Phone.  
*(why can't anyone reach their wives after the mission)*
- Major Richards' upset about not reaching his wife on Satellite Phone.  
*(why can't he reach his wife)*
- All men that survived were married.  
*(no one not married survived and the co-pilot transferred to another helicopter)*
- Ten men survived matches up with Ten captives  
*(the number of prisoners is the same as surviving Marines, plus these Marines have a total of 3 children)*
- Familiar voice in nightmare.  
*(the voice of his wife is in the torture nightmare)*
- The names Luma, Stone House – tells us they are important to the story  
*(clues to where the Black Site is located)*
- Recognized Black Ops man in nightmare  
*(why is Hunter dreaming of this man – it links the man to the prisoners)*

### Compelling – Mystery - Anticipating

- Initial attack of the DEATH RAY (compelling)
- Destruction of Death Ray (mystery)
- What will happen when Marines attack Mt. Zard Huh (anticipation)
- Why we can't reach wife on phone (mystery)
- The HAUNTING EYES of one of the prisoners (mystery/compelling)
- Marine can't reach his wife with Satellite Phone (mystery)
- Captain Richards can't reach his wife with Satellite Phone (mystery)
- The continuing nightmares involving Hunter's wife (mystery)
- The nightmares of other Marines (mystery)
- Missing address/home and wife (mystery)
- His dog exists in both realities (mystery)
- No one believes he is married or that there is a Kathy (mystery)

### Sympathy

- For MARKED nomad and his woman as they are about to be incinerated
- For Hunter and his parents when his parents believe he doesn't have a wife.
- For prisoner with the HAUNTING EYES
- For Hunter when his house and wife are missing
- For Kathy when we realize that she is the woman in the nightmares
- For the Marines that can't reach their wives with Satellite Phone

### Creative Phrases

- scorch the hairs off an alley cat

- The Hand of God
- glowing embers drift away on the wind
- you look like you've just climbed out of a camel's ass
- HAUNTINGLY FAMILIAR EYES that reach into Hunter's SOUL
- my son has lost his mind
- The flavor of Africa paints the room

### Characters

Bill Maher	– television Host of 'Live with Bill Mayer'
Controller	– 20, male, controls operation of 'The Hand of God'
Co-Pilot	– 30's, male, Co-Pilot aboard Command Black Hawk – not married
F22 Raptor Pilot	– pilot of F22 Raptor that releases the CRUISE missile
Father	– 50's, Hunter's father
General Adams	– 50's, male, in charge of the weapon (The Hand of God)
Hunter Carson	– 25, male, protagonist, Sergeant In the Marine Corps
Kathy Carson	– 20, female, Hunter's wife
Major Richard Jones	– 34, male, Thumrait Base Commander
Marker & Companion	– two of the nomads
Mother	– 40's, female, Hunter's mother
Mrs. Johnson	– elderly, female, Hunter's neighbor
Nomadic Tribesman	– camp man that notices cover of clouds might offer protection
Pilot	– 40's, male, pilot's Command Black Hawk that Hunter is in - married
Mr. Finch	– Kathy and Hunter's dog
The Being	– antagonist
Two Marine	– 30's, male, Marines in barracks

### Outline

- Opening scene shows THE HAND OF GOD in orbit above Asia.
- At Space Command Weapons Center a team controls The Hand of God and display possible terrorists under the crosshairs of the space weapon. The weapon reaches out and fries a band of nomads in the remote mountains of Iran.
- The nomads are temporarily saved by intermittent clouds. As they flee deeper into the Zagros Mountains of Iran.
- It's end game for the remaining two survivors (man and woman) as the clouds clear away. The MARKER TAG goes out.
- The MARKED survivor and his female companion cloaked in robes are near the entrance of a cave which begins to glow blue. But before they can reach the cave a beam of golden light descends. TIME STANDS STILL as a PRESENCE from the CAVE intercepts the ENERGY BEAM from The Hand of God.
- A PRESENCE rushes up to engulf the satellite weapon over Asia and Africa and in a massive explosion the weapons and energy array are gone.
- Holo-Grid's data-link is lost and the commander in charge of SPACE WEAPONS COMMAND has a massive heart attack after glancing fearfully toward the heavens.
- We move down Garden St and stop at in front of Hunter's house before entering and hear Hunter's wife Kathy listening to Bill Maher talking about the cover up story of the loss of 'Hand of God'.

- Hunter's pregnant wife Kathy at home in California plays with her dog Mr. Finch.
- Hunter phones from deployment to Kathy. He's looking forward to getting home. She is playing with the family dog Mr. Finch. Hunter is disillusioned with the military and his 18 month tour of duty is over.
- Hunter learns about the night's mission from Captain Richards.
- A team of Marines are sent to take out the perceived secret weapon in the mountain. In the flight over in a Black Hawk helicopter, Hunter notices there are a Pilot and Co-Pilot.
- On reaching the village, Hunter's team is assigned the task of marking and attacking the entrance to the cave. But they can't find it. Hunter marks with a flare where the cave should be with RED flares.
- The other assault teams sweep through the village shooting and setting fire to the houses.
- ELEVEN villagers are captured and put aboard on the helicopters.
- Hunter notices the missing Co-Pilot.
- They are hung like slabs of beef. One of the prisoner's Haunting Eyes makes a connection with Hunter.
- A F22 Raptor releases its Smart missile
- The two F22 Raptor and three Black Hawks are taken out
- Black Ops types strip the captives and put bags over the heads. Hunter confronts Black Ops man with cattle prod.
- In the barracks that night, Hunter tries to call home, but gets the strange message that the number does not exist
- Marine tries to call his wife – we know he can't reach her because we hear the redial on the Sat Phone
- Trying to sleep he has a strange nightmare that his wife is in a rendition facility in Africa being tortured. He hears the Sat Phone redialing throughout the nightmare.
- An upset Captain Richards can't reach his wife.
- At LAX he is greeted by his mother and father. He asks where Kathy didn't come. "Who," is the response.
- On the way HOME to his parent's house he leaps out of the car and runs down the block to where he believes his house is. It is not there, not even the address
- He goes next door and is greeted at the door by Mrs. Johnson, who says her sister lives next door and always has. But she remembers him from living with his parents several blocks away
- An exhausted Hunter is taken home by his parents where he is greeted by Mr. Finch, his dog.
- The nightmare continues as Hunter tries to sleep. African words are spoken and screams from a woman with an all too familiar voice come from the next room. The Sat Phone redials in the background and the Haunting Familiar

Eyes of the pregnant woman prisoner flashes before Hunter causing him to thrash out and knock Mr. Finch off the bed.

- The President demands access to the weapons facility that brought down the 'Hand of God' and the attack force.
- Mr. Finch rescues Hunter from his nightmare by howling.
- In front of the computer Hunter goes on google and starts typing in the words he heard in his dream – Luma, Stone House.
- By dawn a manic Hunter has accumulated a stack to printouts.
- Hunter sends an urgent email to Major Richard Jones.
- Hunter's mother sees what is happening and every action Hunter does upsets her more.
- Mr. Finch hears someone at the front door and paws at it.
- Sam, Hunter's best friend was invited by James over to talk sense into Hunter.
- Hunter collapses again when Sam doesn't know Kathy and has no scar on his hand.
- Hunter and mother run out and find Mr. Finch has escaped out the front door as Hunter's father was putting out the trash.
- Mr. Finch scratches at front door, wanting to pee. Father lets him out.
- Mr. Finch is almost hit by a car as he runs into the street and as he turns on Garden and continues to run down the center of the street until he reaches what would be 1822 Garden St.
- James reaches Mr. Finch who is in the street between 1818 and 1826 and howling at where 1822 should be.
- James tries to get Mr. Finch to come back home. Mr. Finch ignores him until on a hunch speaks the name Kathy and Mr. Finch reacts wildly. IMPOSSIBLE James says.
- At a mysterious location a dead woman having just been tortured and the man that Hunter had knocked out his teeth argues with a superior.
- James returns home to find Sam in a chair in Hunter's room watching over a Hunter again wrapped up in a nightmare. James sends Sam home. James listens to his son's nightmare.
- James hears a beep on computer and looks at E-mails on Hunter's computer and reads them.
- Back at Quonset hut, Marines are in the grips of nightmares. One wakes and takes a .45 and blows his head off.
- Hunter wakes in a jerk. Mr. Finch howls. Hunter reads his E-mails and writes the same information his father had written earlier.
- James comes in and hands a note to Hunter and tells him we've got a busy day.

- At breakfast table Hunter eats and his mother tells him she's scheduled a appointment at the VA. James tells her to hold off so they can check out something (the note).
- James tells how his own father once believed his own impossible story and this was a way to payback his father.
- They drive to San Diego to check out a address Richard had E-mailed. It does exist. Then they call the number which is Richard's parents and they never heard of
- There is no such address does not exist. The phone number they call is Richard's parents who hang up on him when Hunter mentions Richard's wife Mary who the parents claim doesn't exist.
- Hunter's discouraged but James points out how strange for a 34 year old Major in the Marine Corps to be living with his parents. He asks Hunter what needs to be done. Hunter's confused but tells him the story.
- As Hunter rambles on, James looks to the heavens and whispers Dad. He's in 100%. He tells Hunter that they must free the hostages.
- They drive back home. Inside three agents from the NSA are there to deliver a National Security Letter which is a gag order on mentioning anything about what took place in Iran to anybody.
- James gets upset when he sees his wife is handcuffed and James and Hunter take down the agents that pull guns on them and stows them in the basement.
- James goes to Hunter's computer and clicks on an E-mail link from Richard and connects using Skype.
- Hunter tries to make his case with James' help but the line goes dead.
- James has his wife and James drop off the agents' car in San Diego with their cell phones.
- James confronts the agents and tortures them. He has them figure out some reason he won't kill them.
- James calls in a favor to a friend in high places.
- A message finally comes over the laptop of a flight out of LAX that evening.
- Sounds of tortured comes up from the basement.
- Hunter and his mother drives into the driveway. James drives up just behind them.
- James tells his son that the agents have gone camping.
- Newscasts ramp up the rhetoric that beneath Zard Kuh is a nuclear and missile facility and the International community demands immediate.
- Hunter and James board a UN cargo plane carrying supplies after an earthquake in Kenya.
- Flight's almost delayed by bureaucrat. James convinces the man to let the flight proceed.

- The Co-Pilot comes out armed and attacks James and Hunter on the plane. He's overcome. A window is blown out and the plane makes an emergency descent. They are locked out of the pilot's cabin.
- They intercept a radio transmission saying they will be arrested at the Kenyan airport.
- Seemingly trapped they open the cargo bay and tie themselves to the pallets and push them out.
- They are hundreds of miles from Lamu and being tracked by Kenyan elite force with Black Ops supervision.
- Blackhawk with Richard and the remaining Marines escape at the last moment.
- Blackhawk using GPS on Hunter's Satellite phone arrives to wipe out Kenyan attack force.
- The BlackHawk crew, Hunter and his Father head for Lamu Town and land on the mainland off an island off the Indian Ocean.
- They follow the toothless man and grab him and find the captives are there. They are going to be exterminated the next day.
- News talks about belief that
- He realizes that he must get back to Thumrait.
- James and Hunter
- He gets to Kenya and at the Stone House finds the

(HUNTER AND FATHER PILOT DOOR LOCKED)

(HUNTER AND FATHER JUMP OUT OF PLANE)

(Scene in STONE HOUSE with KATHY)

(Scene with RICHARD NIGHTMARE)

(HUNTER FINDS STONE HOUSE WITH HELP OF MR. FINCH THEY FIND AN ELITE KENYAN GUARDING STONE HOUSE)

(hunter passes out into another nightmare)

(SOLDIERS TRY TO ARREST RICHARD'S TEAM)

(AIRCRAFT CARRIER group enter the STRAIGHTS OF HORMUZ SINKS IRANIAN COAST GUARD SHIP)

(SCENE WITH RICHARD CALLING HUNTER)

(SCENE RICHARD TAKES OFF IN BLACK HAWK)

(hunter and father are cornered by Kenyan mercenaries)

(hunter and father are rescued by Richard)

(carrier group sends a squadron of F22 Raptors to take out position where village had been)

(presence takes out attack force then takes out carrier group)

(They rescue the remaining woman but Richard and his men sees only the kidnapped villagers)

(Hunter tells them they must return the women to the village)

(One of Richard's men doesn't believe in Hunter's tale. He tortures one of the women to get information about the secret weapons on the mountain. He kills one of the women and one of the men dies. Hunter and group race to where the women are but he tortures another and she dies and he dies also)

(this convinces the rest to go on the quest to return the women to the mountain)