

The Awards

by dallas jones



Genre

Action/Thriller

Logline

Terrorists strike the Academy Awards and auction off entertainers in a macabre game of death. A cadre of A-listers push back to rescue loved ones.

Tagline

In chaos heroes and cowards are born!

Rough Outline

- RADICAL ISLAMIC terrorist's attack the Canadian Capital in Ottawa, Canada. **(no country is safe from terrorism)**
- The Canadian Immediate Response Task Force (IRTF) storms the Parliament and brutally annihilates the attackers at a high cost of civilian lives. **(Canada believes in decisive action to show terrorists they will not be tolerated)**
- Canadian Prime Minister claims Canada will not tolerate terrorists or those sympathetic to terrorists. He promises to hunt down anyone associated with this group. **(Canadian's solution at the loss of so many civilian lives appalls the President of the United States. He favors an action of understanding legitimate grievances which goes against the hardcore beliefs of Rand Corporation's counter-terrorism unit that believes like the Canadians of a brutal response to terror. The President's policy of appeasement Rand feels threatens National Security)**
- Driven journalist **Kathy August, 24**, is moderator on a panel on counter-terrorism comprised of experts from the current U.S. administration, the military and general public. There is a rift between the current U.S. administration and military and the public else on how terrorism should be dealt with. **(the military and counter-terrorism experts from Rand Corporation doesn't like the administrations trend toward what they consider appeasing terrorists)**
- One of the panel representatives is **Carl Riser, 38**, expert on counter-terrorism out of Rand Corporation with an ultra nationalistic approach to counter terrorism. He has a UNIQUE speech pattern. **(his speech pattern will later be recognized by Kathy at and after the Awards)**
- United States President, **Robert Jidel, 43**, disavows Rand Corporation's barbaric counter-terrorism recommendations. He says employing their tactics makes us no different than them. **(this is the**

motivation for the mentally disturbed Carl Riser to show the United States government that his tactics are absolutely needed)

- **Jason Garrett, 32**, an aspiring screenwriter argues with hopeful girlfriend Kathy about striking a poor deal with the producers on his first movie, a movie nominated for Best Picture at the Academy Awards. She's also ticked off at Jason not being invited to the Awards ceremony. **(she thinks he's indecisive and he doesn't stand up for himself)**
- Jason and Kathy catch the trailer of Jason's movie 'Mujahideen' on TV which sets Kathy off on an angry tear about how tough you have to be in life. Jason counters that in the long run talent will show. **(Jason presents an alternative to the stressful life Kathy puts herself through)**
- An Internet search of many of the invited Academy Awards guests reveals various questionable progressive movements with most of those investigated being MUSLIMS. **(why are backgrounds of ordinary people being checked. Future patsies to cover the terrorists escape later)**
- Before the attack, terrorists set up emails/facebook/twitter accounts for some of the invited guests and load messages that after the fact will subtly suggest they have links to Islamic terrorists. **(too divert attention from the real terrorists and convince the U.S. President the attack was from Islamic terrorists. They also want the President to change his counter-terrorism policy)**
- Days before the Academy Awards, a bogus construction crew works in the Dolby Theatre complex. **(the terrorists are setting up the theatre complex for their attack and escape)**
- The construction crew lays down a number of hollow cylinders across the roof of the Dolby Theatre. **(the cylinders conceal hover craft, each holding half a dozen modified claymore impact bombs to be used against the SWAT strike force when they arrive to combat the terrorists)**
- Kathy accepts an invitation to the Awards' ceremony by famous handsome actor, **Christopher Helms, 29**, who plays the hero in the movie Jason wrote. **(Kathy wants to interview people at the Awards and has a misguided hope to put more ambition into Jason by making him jealous)**
- Carl Riser, the head of counter-terrorism research at Rand Corporation discusses the folly of the President's new terrorist appeasement strategy with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They are sympathetic with Carl views. **(shows America is at cross-roads of taking a less confrontational approach in dealing with terrorists and how many down believe in it)**
- On the RED CARPET, before the ceremony, actors are interviewed about their opinions concerning how Canada handled their terrorists. Some suggested it was America and Canada's fault for angering the Muslim world. Many actors that play action heroes speak out on what they would do to the terrorists if they encountered them. **(views of the acting community cover the gamut of feelings. The words of many action heroes don't match reality when confronted in person by the terrorists)**
- Inside the auditorium, the master of ceremonies, comedian **Billy Chambers, 50's**, and co-host **Ryan Selman, 38**, crack jokes to start the show. **(sets up the tone of the Awards)**
- Terrorists shoot entrance guards, cut the lights and cameras and bar all the exits. With lights out they move with night vision up the aisles and when the lights and cameras come back on, they command the stage. Billy cracks a joke at this disruption and Carl Riser, the **TERRORIST LEADER** cracks off a clever reply and shoots Ryan dead. **(the world instantly knows this is not a joke, they mean business. Carl plays off of Billy in a series of comedy lines as the drama unfolds)**

- Carl Riser and his second in command, **Amir Jordon, 26**, all in disguise (mask, special goggles, combat gear, digital voice box) commands the stage. Amir holds his mangled arm with missing fingers in a distinct manner (maimed by torture). Carl takes the microphone and calls himself 'The Light'. **(later at the end Kathy will use this term showing she knows who he is)**
- Each terrorist uses DIGITAL VOICE BOXES to disguise their voices. The voice boxes make them sound mechanical and menacing **(terrorists will not to be recognized by anyone. Our infiltrating heroes won't be recognized either if they get hold of some of these voice boxes)**
- As the broadcast goes live, the terrorists disguised in masks, special goggles, and combat gear confirms what is occurring inside the Dolby Theatre. **(the live broadcast sends a wave of terror over the nation. The masks not only allows the terrorists to remain anonymous but allows our heroes in the same disguise to infiltrate the action and pick off the terrorists one at a time)**
- An A-list actor exits the theater wearing an explosive vest. News crews scramble as he walks out among them and explodes. The terrorists announce over the broadcast that they have enough explosives to kill everyone inside. **(to convince the arriving strike force to stand down for the moment)**
- In disguise, Carl rages like a mad man, un-American Islamic propaganda, to convince the world they are a radical jihadists **(this is to anger the American people and convince them the PACIFYING approach the American President espouses is anti-American)**
- The terrorists auction the lives of actors and celebrities in a bizarre game of death which outside viewers must participate in to save or kill the person **(a little like the movie UNTRACEABLE <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0880578/> but cleverer where the number count of people going to the website to see a person die actually caused their death)**
- Some personalities make the ransoms and/or conditions and are released. Many are first disgraced in front of world. **(the world is disillusioned by people they thought of as heroes)**
- FBI SWAT cordons off the area and won't allow anyone back into the Dolby Theatre complex. Released actors are quarantined just in case any are terrorists. **(adds to tension if our heroes are prohibited from trying to save their loved ones)**
- FBI SWAT is certain there are no possible routes of escape for the terrorists and conclude this is a suicide mission. **(everyone comes to the conclusion that the terrorists will kill themselves and everyone if they don't get their way)**
- The terrorists make a series of escalating demands to the U.S. President and the American people. **(these demands are to humiliate the President and the country)**
- The U.S. President goes live and humiliates himself in front of the world. **(this gives the President a new perspective on how serious this could be for his political career)**
- SWAT positions for an assault on the Dolby Theatre complex. A few hover drones lift off from the roof and drop claymores on the SWAT assault force slaughtering them. **(the terrorists are always a step ahead of their adversaries)**

- Cameras covering the Awards selectively go dark as carefully selected members of the audience are taken away and put into gear (clothing, weapons, masks, special goggles) identical to the terrorists – the people the terrorists had set up fake Internet accounts on.
- Brought back disguised as terrorists, they are strategically stationed to mingle among the audience. A equal number of real terrorists are hidden in camera's blind spots **(the decoy terrorists will be used when the PLANNED ESCAPE SCHEME is put into play and the place explodes killing all the fake terrorists and accounting for the number of terrorists seen in the broadcast)**
- Broadcast cameras are re-positioned so as to have blind spots the terrorist are hidden in. **(this allows the terrorists to fake the number of terrorist the world believes are behind this attack and eventually match up the terrorist count to the fake terrorists when the PLANNED SCHEME is executed and everyone in the Dolby Theatre is incinerated in a massive explosion while the real terrorists make their escape)**
- As the world broadcast continues, hundreds of remote control explosive vests are put on audience members **(the radio control device electronics can be fried with focused microwaves if the microwave emitter is brought close enough – one of our heroes has to get to each remote unit without being noticed or frying themselves)**
- The terrorists have an escape plan. They set off a synchronized series of explosions to cover up an explosion that blows a wall out in the sewer system running near the basement. **(a wall in the sewer system beneath the Dolby is secretly blown out will be used to escape)**
- The FAKE terrorists are equipped with ear pieces and are given commands to inflict brutality on fellow audience members or their partners at the Awards will be tortured and killed off camera. **(real terrorists can be identified from fake terrorists by special goggles the real terrorists wear that shows the fake terrorist's outfits appear as a different color than the real terrorists. This color shift doesn't show up on the TV cameras)**
- Jason will do anything to save Kathy. He's recognized outside the Dolby Theatre trying to break in. He's arrested and accused of being a member of the terrorists because of the screenplay he's written. He's put in with actors that made ransom but is being held in detention, **John Stratham, 35**, action hero on the big screen who intentionally humiliates himself as a coward in a broadcast from inside the theatre so he could get out of the control of the terrorists. John's also determined to get back inside and rescue his wife. **(Jason is willing to do anything to save the girl he loves and forms a partnership with John – John's wife knows John is not a coward and tells Kathy that John must have a plan. Kathy will find out that Christopher is really a coward)**
- Kathy finds the words the terrorist leader, Carl Riser is using to be very familiar but she can't pin down where she'd heard those words before, **(Later hearing a news broadcast she will recognize Carl)**
- Jason and John overpower their SWAT guards and break out of detention with others. John knows the layout of the Dolby Theatre complex and how to get back in. **(the action begins, SWAT and the terrorists are an immediate threat to them)**
- Head of FBI SWAT, **Captain Richard Harrison, 50's**, goes strictly by the book, a book unfortunately written by Rand Corporation's anti-terrorism research group. Carl predicts SWAT's every move. **(this puts the terrorists always a step ahead of SWAT's decision)**

- Inside the Dolby Theatre Jason and John overpower isolated terrorists and take over their disguises. Slowly with the help of others, they figure out how to disable the suicide vests by modifying the components of a microwave oven. **(will our heroes be discovered – the tension builds)**
- Kathy's date, Christopher acts cowardly when it comes to save his life or Kathy's. **(Kathy sees the strengths of Jason's character and realizes she's made a horrible mistake)**
- Our heroes slowly disable the explosive vests with a microwave generator that fries the vests electronics. **(leakage of microwaves are slowly frying the person using it to zap the vests electronics)**
- At the climax of the ceremonies, the terrorists make for the basement. From the basement they set off what they believe are the explosive vests. Jason and John with help of others in special effects rig the broadcast cameras so it looks like the theatre has been blown up. **(this is so the terrorists don't come back and slaughter everyone)**
- They set off several of the explosive vests down Dolby Theatre's Grand Stairway. The broadcast convinces the world and terrorists that the theatre blew up. At the sound of explosions SWAT swarms the theatre.
- The terrorists blow the basement walls and take off into the sewers. The theatre hostages are still alive. Kathy and John's wife are safe.
- Jason and John are still considered terrorists by SWAT. While the terrorists retreat below ground, John and Jason overpower several terrorist lookouts. They capture a drone remote control. The remote is paired with a remote the terrorists still have. This pairing allows Jason and John to track the terrorists location. **(Jason and John tracks the terrorists because they killed many of their friends and they can't contact SWAT because SWAT would shot Jason and John as terrorists)**
- SWAT figures the terrorists must be using the sewer system. **(it look like the terrorists might escape)**
- SWAT gets lucky and it appears they are closing in on the terrorists as SOME terrorists exit the sewers. But the terrorists actually have SWAT caught in a cross-fire. Worse, overhead the terrorist's drones threaten. Bad news for the terrorists. Jason and John now control the drones with the controller they got from one of the terrorists back at the theater. A series of massive claymore explosions from the drones blasts the terrorists. They all appear to be killed in the explosion. **(looks like the terrorists are all killed)**
- Kathy has a friend's apartment OFF THE GRID. There they watch a newscast about the latest development in the terror attack. They were spotted by surviving ambushed SWAT members after the explosions. Jason and John's photos broadcast with a reward confirms they are still considered terror suspects. **(they still must stay in hiding)**
- Carl and Amir escape and scramble undetected back to Rand Corporation. Nobody suspects they are terrorists. **(appears they got away with it but they want more)**
- The U.S. President Is holding a live press conference. He condemns the terrorist attack and speaks of re-evaluating his policy on counter-terrorism. A line of people wait to ask the President questions. **(Carl and Amir show up)**
- The first in line is Carl Riser expounding his ultranationalist aggressive approach to counter-terrorism. Kathy watches the TV, mesmerized as she realizes he is the head terrorist. The President rejects Carl's ideas and motions for Carl to step down. As the camera scans down the line Kathy recognizes Amir. He's wearing middle-eastern garb. He carries the cell phone he detonated the explosive vests with earlier. It

dawns on her they plan to assassinate the President right on national television. **(the President approach to counter-terrorism finalizes the decision to eliminate the President at any cost)**

- Kathy starts to call the police but Jason stops her. He tells her that they won't believe her. **(they are on their own. They must come up with a solution)**
- They race across town on motorcycles. They are spotted by police who gives chase. **(dramatic race across town)**
- Near the end of a long line of questioners waiting before a microphone in front of the President. **(drama as we wonder if he's going to explode a vest he might be wearing)**
- Cut back and forth to questioners in line moving forward and the motorcycle race across the city which has attracted police attention. **(countdown to the explosion)**
- They lose the police as they cut across Farmer's Market next to CBS studios. **(this gives them time to get into the studio without being apprehended)**
- At CBS studios, Kathy uses her press credentials and the three of them race into the studio. **(the clock is ticking will they reach the President before a bomb is detonated)**
- Captain Harrison interviews the survivors and review of videos confirms that Jason and John are heroes. **(Captain Harrison knows Jason and John aren't terrorists)**
- As people step to the microphone and ask questions. Carl's getting more agitated with each of the President's answers.
- Amir steps to the microphone less than a dozen feet from the President. Amir and Carl make eye contact. Amir tells the President he's very disappointed in his position. **(Amir's about to detonate his explosive vest)**
- The three of them race into the interview room. Kathy points to Amir and screams he's got a bomb. Jason and John fight their way past security, John goes for Amir and Jason goes for Carl. When Carl sees John disarm Amir, he pulls out his own cell phone remote. Jason throws himself at Carl as Carl lifts his cell phone tackles Carl saving the President's life. **(Jason is not a wimp but a national hero)**
- The President congratulates Jason and John for saving his life and stopping the real terrorists. **(bad people lose)**
- Kathy rambles on about how she sorry about doubting Jason. Jason shuts her up by kissing her. **(true love)**