

1

**EXT. BAGHDAD VILLA - GARDENS/TERRACE/PARTY AREA -  
EVENING 1, 2031**

1

1979. A summer's night in Baghdad; the grounds of a large, opulent villa. Glimpse CHILDREN fleetingly as they chase one another through bushes and disappear leaving only the sound of their laughter.

Find a LITTLE GIRL, creeping, hiding; when suddenly the camera rushes up on her! The LITTLE GIRL is snatched and lifted into the air by big, strong hands; she squeals in delight. The OWNER of the big hands (SADDAM) laughs and bites at her tummy making her laugh more. The simple joy is interrupted by a man's voice.

**BARZAN**

Saddam?

SADDAM HUSSEIN (40) holds his daughter, HALA, and looks to the man, BARZAN (28).

**BARZAN (CONT'D)**

Ready when you are.

SADDAM nods.

**SADDAM**

*(to his DAUGHTER)*

Baba has work to do; let's find Mama.

HALA grabs hold of her father's neck and protests. SADDAM (and HALA) and BARZAN move towards the villa.

On to the terrace; it's a party; an important party; a child's birthday party, yet the ADULTS are decked out in Chanel, Dior and gaudy but expensive jewellery.

GUESTS smile at SADDAM seeking approval. He finds his wife, SAJIDA, and hands over HALA.

**SADDAM (CONT'D)**

I believe this child belongs to you.

*(eye contact with SAJIDA)*

**SAJIDA**

What time will he be here?

**SADDAM**

Soon.

SADDAM and BARZAN move into the villa.

**SAJIDA (O.O.V)**

*(gathering the children)*

Children. Children come to me, we are going to play a game.

**CUT TO:**

2

INT. BAGHDAD VILLA - CORRIDOR/SADDAM'S STUDY - EVENING  
1, 2032

2

Marble floors and expensive furnishings. WAITERS flash past carrying food and drinks to the terrace. We move through the villa leaving the party behind.

SADDAM and BARZAN move along a dimly lit but ornate corridor, the party music fades...and is replaced by the sound of an Ayatollah in full flow - an initially faint but forceful VOICE of a determined old-man speaking in Farsi: praising Allah, the revolution and his people; denouncing the Shah, America and the infidels of Iraq's Baath Party.

**BARZAN**

*(easy; about the voice)*

Khomeini has a big mouth.

SADDAM smiles and put his hand on BARZAN'S shoulder. At the bottom of a corridor is a set of double doors - the VOICE is emanating from behind these doors.

The brothers move to the doors and enter...

**CUT TO:**

3

INT. BAGHDAD VILLA - SADDAM'S STUDY - EVENING 1, 2033

3

SADDAM enters and finds SEVERAL smartly suited MEN, seated in armchairs around a long low-table. The MEN occasionally sip from tumblers of whiskey and ice.

The RECORDED VOICE of Ayatollah Khomeini fills the room; the gathered men listen as Khomeini berates Iraq and its leaders and urges the Shias of the south to rise-up (like their brothers in Iran) and overthrow Satan's government.

See the studious faces of the gathered MEN: TARIQ AZIZ (43), HAMDANI (42), ADNAN KHAIRRALLAH (38) and ALI HASSAN AL MAJID (CHEMICAL ALI, (38)) as they listen to the VOICE which threatens their country and their power.

The mood of the meeting is relaxed but serious. BARZAN closes the door behind them and moves to turn off the TV.

**SADDAM**

Heard enough?

**CHEMICAL ALI**

More than enough. He's a dog - bark, bark, bark, all day long; every day.

**TARIQ**

*(quietly)*

He is a dog with teeth Ali.

**SADDAM**

*(calm, easy; everyone  
listens)*

Sharp teeth.

*(lights his cigarette)*

We can offer a hand of friendship but he will bite it off. He wants his revolution to infect all of the Arab world.

**HAMDANI**

Beginning with the Iraqi Shia.

**SADDAM**

Exactly... He will become more dangerous by the day... And if Al Bakr's treaty with Syria proceeds...he will scent Iraqi weakness.

*(pause)*

America hopes for a strong Iraq; the Arab world demands it, and the Iraqi people themselves deserve it.

*(pause)*

But time is running out...

See the faces of the gathered MEN. SADDAM picks up a glass of Shivas Regal, poured for him by BARZAN.

**SADDAM (CONT'D)**

To a new Iraq.

The OTHERS join the toast. See TARIQ AZIZ raise his glass and join in the toast.

**CUT TO:**

**TITLES**

**CUT TO:**

4

**INT. CAMP CROPPER - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY A, 1200**

4

A large cage in a windowless room. Inside, leaning casually against the cage, is a clean-cut Defense Intelligence Agency CASE OFFICER, (35). The CASE OFFICER watches as the manacles are removed from a PRISONER, then he dismisses the DETAIL with a nod.

There is a deck of cards on the table, in front of the PRISONER - now revealed to be an owlish TARIQ AZIZ, 67. He is pale, shrunken, a grey little man.

The CASE OFFICER picks up the deck of cards and turns the first few cards over, flicking the faces out in front of the TARIQ.

**TARIQ AZIZ**

*(watches; then)*

Do you consider the invasion of my country a game?

**CASE OFFICER**

We are going to find each and every card; every face, and you are going to help us... starting with Saddam

TARIQ looks down at the over-turned cards: see Saddam, Ali Hassan Al Majid (Chemical Ali), Barzan, Watban, Uday, Qusay and Tariq himself.

**TARIQ AZIZ**

*(teases gently)*

Then I must merit more than an eight.

Pause, TARIQ considers the cards. He pulls Saddam to the centre. Then Chemical Ali alongside.

**TARIQ AZIZ (CONT'D)**

*(decides to talk a little)*

Ali Hassan Al Majid.

**CASE OFFICER**

Chemical Ali.

**TARIQ**

He will be pleased that you consider him to be a King.

*(then he moves Barzan to the other side of Saddam)*

Barzan Ibrahim on the other hand, will think you mad; as will Watban Ibrahim. Surely Saddam's brothers are worth more than a five?

**CASE OFFICER**

Half brothers.

**TARIQ**

Still, a five? When an Al Majid is a king?

*(pause)*

The Ibrahims and the Al Majids form the two halves of Saddam's family - the Ibrahims, as you say, are his half-brothers, his mother's sons... The Al Majids, are Saddam's cousins, the blood of the father who abandoned him.

*(pause)*

(MORE)

TARIQ (CONT'D)

Before you will find any of these men,  
you have to understand who they are...  
and how they fit together.

*(pause, indicates cards)*

They weren't loyal just because they  
were family; they were loyal because  
Saddam was a man to admire... A man to  
follow.

**CUT TO:**

5

INT. BAGHDAD VILLA - TERRACE/PARTY AREA - EVENING 1,  
2058

5

HAMDANI and SANAA (HAMDANI'S wife) are overseeing a  
game of musical chairs for the children. The GUESTS are  
gathered around.

SADDAM pours a tall glass of lemonade. SAJIDA  
approaches him and links his arm lovingly.

**SAJIDA**

Aren't you going to join in the game.

**SADDAM**

No.

**SAJIDA**

Why not?

**SADDAM**

*(easy)*

I'll get upset if I lose and it's  
unbecoming.

*(he kisses her forehead;*

*softly)*

Your hair smells wonderful.

*(beat)*

Back in a minute.

SADDAM takes the glass of lemonade to a ELDERLY WOMAN  
(SUBHA) sitting alone (sucking dates) watching the  
party. He hands her the glass and sits beside her.

**SADDAM (CONT'D)**

*(about the drink)*

Taste it Mama, see if it's sweet  
enough?

**SUBHA**

As long as it's wet.

Hold a silence. Then...

**SUBHA (CONT'D)**

*(calls)*

Raghad.

SADDAM'S eldest daughter, RAGHAD, moves to SUBHA.

**SUBHA (CONT'D)**

Find Mohammed, ask him to join the party, he's shy.

*(RAGHAD glances to SADDAM who nods; she moves off)*

She's becoming a woman.

**SADDAM**

Not quite; she's still my baby.

RAGHAD passes HUSSEIN KAMEL, who gives her a broad smile. RAGHAD blushes. SUBHA watches.

**SUBHA**

She should marry Barzan's son Mohammed, as soon as she is old enough.

*(beat)*

It will bond the family closer still.

KAMEL HANNA (SADDAM'S valet) approaches SADDAM, he bows.

**KAMEL HANNA**

Mister Deputy, the President is about to arrive.

SADDAM nods.

**CUT TO:**

6

**EXT. BAGHDAD VILLA - MAIN ENTRANCE - NIGHT 1, 2104**

6

The Presidential limo pulls up. A BODYGUARD (of two) opens the door to the Limo and out steps AHMED AL BAKR, 60, PRESIDENT OF IRAQ, a small dapper man, holding a beautifully wrapped gift. SADDAM steps forward.

**SADDAM**

Mr President.

**AL BAKR**

Mr Deputy.

The two men embrace warmly.

**AL BAKR (CONT'D)**

Sajida, you look beautiful.

**SAJIDA**

You are too kind. Thank you so much for coming Mister President. Hala will be thrilled.

**AL BAKR**

Not at all; thank you for inviting an old man to a seventh birthday party; it is an important occasion!

They are moving into the villa.

7

**INT. BAGHDAD VILLA - TERRACE/PARTY AREA - NIGHT 1, 2105**

7

The party applaud the PRESIDENT, AL BAKR as he enters the arena flanked by SADDAM, SAJIDA and further back the BODYGUARDS.

**AL BAKR**

(to the room)

Please everybody carry on. Where is the birthday-girl. I can't see her?

HALA is standing proudly in the centre of the room.

**SAJIDA**

She is here.

**AL BAKR**

Where?

**HALA**

Here.

**AL BAKR**

Where? All I see is a grown-up Princess, where is little Hala.

**HALA**

(beaming)

Amo Ahmed, it is me!

**AL BAKR**

No.

**HALA**

(laughing)

Yes.

The room share the joke.

**AL BAKR**

Then this gift must be yours Princess.

He hands the gift to HALA.

**SADDAM**

You are very kind.

SADDAM scoops her up in his arms.

**SADDAM (CONT'D)**

And you are very lucky. What do we say to the President?

**HALA**

Thank you, Amo Ahmad.

SAJIDA claps her hands and the lights are dimmed.

**AL BAKR**

*(mock shock, to HALA)*

Ah, what's happening Princess? What is it?

A chorus of Happy Birthday begins as an elaborate cake is wheeled in. The cake moves past a sullen looking boy, UDAY HUSSEIN, 15, (SADDAM'S eldest son).

AL BAKR and SADDAM, still with HALA in his arms, stand side by side. The candles light their faces in an eerie glow.

A singing circle forms around the cake; UDAY remains outside the circle. He has a cane in his hand which he uses to lift the dress of a YOUNG GIRL - who turns her head and instinctively brushes down her rising dress with her hand. UDAY responds by slapping her hand with the cane. The YOUNG GIRL doesn't cry out.

The incident is witnessed by a the GIRL'S MOTHER, who looks at UDAY then looks away, distressed (continuing with the Happy Birthday song). Once again, UDAY lifts the dress of the GIRL, who this time does nothing. Her eyes fill.

The birthday song finishes.

**SAJIDA**

Make a wish habibiti, and your dreams will come true.

HALA screws up her eyes and then she and SADDAM together blow out the candles. Everybody applauds.

**SADDAM**

*(to AL BAKR, a hand on his arm)*

Let's leave the women and children to their games. We have much to discuss.

**AL BAKR**

You must save me a piece of cake.

**SAJIDA**

Of course I will.

**AL BAKR**

*(patting his tummy)*

Just a small piece.

AL BAKR moves off with SADDAM, BODYGUARDS on either side. SADDAM'S inner circle, TARIQ, BARZAN, CHEMICAL ALI, ADNAN KHAIRALLAH and HAMDANI follow close behind them.

They enter the room at the bottom of the corridor. The double doors close and the BODYGUARDS wait outside.

**CUT TO:**

8

**INT. BAGHDAD VILLA - SADDAM'S STUDY - NIGHT 1, 2108**

8

AL BAKR stands in the middle of the room. He takes a silver cigarette case from his pocket; offers it to SADDAM who refuses. He puts a cigarette in his mouth and SADDAM lights it...AL BAKR draws deeply.

**SADDAM**

Please, sit down. There is something I have to say.

BARZAN, ADNAN, CHEMICAL ALI, TARIQ and HAMDANI have 'casually' positioned themselves around the room.

AL BAKR is a little wary; he chooses the seat behind SADDAM'S desk; he looks at the faces in the room. His BODYGUARDS are positioned by the door.

**SADDAM (CONT'D)**

*(calmly)*

I am concerned about Khomeini...and the proposed union with Syria.

*(a gesture from AL BAKR*

*encourages him to go on)*

Khomeini continues to call on our people to join his revolution; because he knows we are weak.

**AL BAKR**

Nonsense.

**SADDAM**

Not at all, it's true...and an Alliance with Syria will make us weaker still.

**AL BAKR**

Two Arab people coming together will make for a strong Alliance.

**SADDAM**

Headed by a Syrian President; Asad of Syria will be first and you will be second.

**AL BAKR**

With Saddam Hussein third? Is that your true objection?

**SADDAM**

I have no objection. Why object to something that does not exist? And will never exist; I will not allow it.

**AL BAKR**

You will not allow it Mister Deputy?

*(pause)*

I smell more than disquiet.

**SADDAM**

Comrade Bakr, it's over.

**AL BAKR**

Stop. Say no more!

*(pause, moves closer, more personal; softly)*

Saddam...Your time will come; set aside personal ambitions and accept this alliance for the good of the nation. It is what the Party wants.

*(pause)*

And we are a team you and me...look at what we've accomplished; look at what you've accomplished - Iraq has schools and hospitals and food for all of the people...for the first time in our history their minds are developed and their bellies are full...because of you and me!

*(pause)*

Our country is just beginning to walk in the world...

*(he takes hold of SADDAM'S lapel; very close)*

This alliance; us; we...will make Iraq stronger.

*(long pause - he thinks for a moment SADDAM has heard him)*

So...do I get to eat my cake now?

**SADDAM**

*(quietly)*

It is over Comrade.

*(pause; quietly)*  
(MORE)

SADDAM (CONT'D)

Iraq can not be ruled from beyond its borders, nor by a President whose time has passed.

AL BAKR looks to his two BODYGUARDS at the door but they do not move.

**BARZAN**

They won't help you.

**AL BAKR**

*(to SADDAM)*

Of course. They're yours.

SADDAM looks to his cousin ADNAN KHAIRALLAH.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

Comrade Al Bakr either you resign voluntarily or through force...either way you resign.

*(pause, as the PRESIDENT looks around at the faces in the room)*

You have earned your retirement, it is the wish of each of us that you enjoy it.

**AL BAKR**

*(to ADNAN)*

You are my Defence Minister and an Officer in my army Adnan Khairallah; come and stand by my side and this will be forgotten.

*(looks to HAMDANI)*

Hamdani - we think alike you and me; stand by my side.

**SADDAM**

*(overlaps)*

It is over!

*(pause)*

You will announce your retirement due to ill-health and you will name your Deputy as your successor.

*(pause)*

You are right to be proud of your achievements.

**AL BAKR**

*(pause, then with a touch of anger)*

And what of the Command Council?

**SADDAM**

They will approve the appointment.

**AL BAKR**

They are good men Saddam Hussein...

**SADDAM**

*(beat)*

Adnan Khairallah, provide Comrade Al Bakr with the protection of your army. He is going home to rest. He can remain in the Presidential Palace until matters are resolved.

SADDAM nods and the door is unlocked and opened. AL BAKR leaves with ADNAN. The door closes.

**HAMDANI**

*(looks to SADDAM)*

Mister President...

They embrace.

**SADDAM**

My friend...

Then BARZAN.

**BARZAN**

Brother.

TARIQ and CHEMICAL ALI follow suit.

**CUT TO:**

9

**INT. BAGHDAD VILLA - TERRACE/PARTY AREA - NIGHT 1, 2212**

9

The party is over. Two friends sit and have a quiet drink together - SADDAM and HAMDANI. In the near distance, their wives gossip (SAJIDA and SANAA). The GUESTS have left and children are in bed. They discuss the main event of the evening. HAMDANI is just a little drunk; giddy.

**HAMDANI**

Already I feel different.

**SADDAM**

*(considers HAMDANI)*

...How?

**HAMDANI**

...I feel like tomorrow I will wake up in a land of progress and opportunity. I have ideas, to help build Iraq... make it ready to take its rightful place in the world, and not just the Arab world.

**SADDAM**

You feel empowered.

**HAMDANI**

Yes.

**SADDAM**

*(smiles)*

And you like it.

**HAMDANI**

Yes!...Very much.

They laugh; HAMDANI more than SADDAM...and it is in this moment that SADDAM decides that HAMDANI will be his example.

**SAJIDA**

*(calls over)*

What's so funny.

**SADDAM**

Power.

**HAMDANI**

We like it.

*(laughter fades; more seriously)*

We have a lot of work to do.

*(pause)*

You will be a fine President Saddam Hussein... I will always be by your side.

They smile.

**CUT TO:**

10

**INT. BAGHDAD VILLA - TERRACE/PARTY AREA - NIGHT 1, 2301**

10

SADDAM is alone. He is standing, staring through large sliding glass door, out into a courtyard (or perhaps at the reflection of a President).

A second reflection appears - it is his mother, SUBHA.

**SUBHA**

*(evenly)*

So it's done. You are to be President.

He turns to his MOTHER who has casually sat herself down.

**SADDAM**

Yes Mama, it is done.

**SUBHA**

No-one must be allowed to do to you, what you have to Al-Bakr...

(MORE)

SUBHA (CONT'D)

You'll need your brothers more than ever. Keep the Ibrahims close. They are your family.

**SADDAM**

As are the Al Majids.

**SUBHA**

The Al Majids are more distant. There is family and there is family.

BARZAN enters, a pair of slippers in hand.

**BARZAN**

Found them Mama?...Lets put you to bed...

**SUBHA**

Good boy.

SADDAM watches impassively, as BARZAN puts the slippers on SUBHA'S feet. She stands.

**SADDAM**

Good night, Mama.

SUBHA leaves with BARZAN, leaving SADDAM alone. He slips off his shoes...

**CUT TO:**

11 **FLASH - EXT. TIKRIT - NIGHT IN PAST**

11

SADDAM remembers....

A scruffy BOY, dressed in a thin, off-white, dishdasher walks bare-footed across the baked earth and stones of a village track.

**CUT BACK TO:**

12 **INT. BAGHDAD VILLA - TERRACE/PARTY AREA - NIGHT 1, 2302**

12

Hold on SADDAM and his reflection...a little fearful; not quite believing this street-rat is to be President.

**CUT TO:**

12A **INT. VILLA - CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

12A

BARZAN emerges (from Subha's room).

**SADDAM**

(calls, evenly, calmly)  
Barzan.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

BARZAN moves to his brother. SADDAM puts a hand on his shoulder.

\*  
\*

**SADDAM (CONT'D)**

Now we have control... I want you not only by my side but at my back - protecting me, protecting what we have achieved.... You will be my Head of National Security, Barzan.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

BARZAN grows taller.

\*

**BARZAN**

I won't fail you... Never.

\*  
\*

They embrace.

\*

**CUT TO:**

\*

13

**EXT. BAGHDAD - DAY 2, 1200**

13

See Baghdad.

14

**INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - CABINET MEETING ROOM**  
**(SADDAM'S OFFICE) - DAY 2, 1522**

14

CLOSE on AL BAKR. The Ba'ath Party Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) is seated round a long table. Nervously AL BAKR starts to read out a prepared statement. Those on the inside are impassive. The new faces - including MUHIE MASHHADI, 50, Secretary General of the Council - are in a state of shock.

**AL BAKR**

For some time now my health has been deteriorating. I feel I can no longer shoulder the responsibilities of government...Conscience demands that I must step down.

See MASHHADI frown, surprised.

**AL BAKR (CONT'D)**

And it is my view that the man best qualified to assume the leadership is my esteemed deputy, Comrade Saddam Hussein.

**MASHHADI**

Mister President, this is absurd. Now is not the time to be stepping aside. We are on the brink of a new era in Arab brotherhood.

AL BAKR looks to SADDAM for guidance.

**SADDAM**

Comrade Mashhadi I have tried already to dissuade our President from retiring, but he has made up his mind.

**HAMDANI**

We must respect his decision.

**MASHHADI**

*(suspects)*

Mister President...What's going on here? What's happening?

**AL BAKR**

Comrade please; I'm tired.

**MASHHADI**

*(pause, then evenly)*

Then we can only accept your resignation and recommendation by a unanimous vote.

**SADDAM**

Very well, we will have a vote in our next session; the members of the council will, I'm sure, need some time for thought and reflection.

SADDAM looks across the room to BARZAN - the instruction is there in the look.

**CUT TO:**

14A SCENE DELETED

14A

15 INT. GOVERNMENT BUILDING - MASHADI RED ROOM - DAY 2, 1832

15

Close in on MASHHADI; he is slumped and bound to a chair, his once crisp shirt hangs off him. He shows signs of having been whipped and beaten around the chest.

A FIGURE (obscured BARZAN) speaks...

**BARZAN**

*(quietly; evenly)*

....Now I want you to imagine your daughter - sitting where you are sitting.

Hold as a tear rolls down MASHHADI'S face.

**CUT TO:**

16 SCENE DELETED 16

17 INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - ANTEROOM - NIGHT 3, 2110 17

SADDAM washes his hands, letting the water flow between his fingers. BARZAN knocks and enters. SADDAM sees him, nods. BARZAN exits. SADDAM looks into the mirror.

CUT TO:

18 FLASH - EXT. TIKRIT - DAY IN PAST, 1200 18

SADDAM remembers....

The barefoot BOY runs through reeds, carrying a pistol.

CUT TO:

19 INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - ANTEROOM - NIGHT 3, 2111 19

SADDAM dries his hands and exits.

CUT TO:

20 INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - HALL - NIGHT 3, 2113 20

HAMDANI hands his coat to a SERVANT, and enters the meeting room.

CUT TO:

21 INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - CABINET MEETING ROOM  
(SADDAM'S OFFICE) - NIGHT 3, 2115 21

HAMDANI enters to find SADDAM with BARZAN, waiting.

**HAMDANI**

*(easy; a smile)*

My President. I came as soon as I got your message.

**SADDAM**

Hamdani; forgive me.

SADDAM embraces HAMDANI.

**HAMDANI**

*(perplexed)*

I have nothing to forgive you for.

**SADDAM**

You are like a brother to me. Believe me, I do this for the country we love.

SADDAM steps away and HAMDANI is confronted with a PISTOL held by SADDAM. He fires. HAMDANI drops to the floor. BARZAN recoils just a little as tiny spots of blood land close to his mouth... HAMDANI'S foot is twitching; see SADDAM'S troubled face as he fires a second bullet into HAMDANI - the foot-twitching stops.

On on SADDAM - it was something that he didn't want to do, but felt he HAD to do. Hold. See BARZAN'S discomfort also - he drags the tiny spots of blood from his face.

**CUT TO:**

22 SCENE DELETED 22

23 **INT. AL KHULD LECTURE THEATRE - DAY 4, 1423** 23

200 REPRESENTATIVES of the Ba'ath Party have packed themselves into the hall. The crowd wait in anticipation.

SADDAM walks out on to platform, a huge Havana cigar in hand - the PARTY MEMBERS applaud. SADDAM looks out at room from the podium, he stands behind a set of microphones.

A TV CREW is at the foot of the stage. In the front row are TARIQ, an EMPTY SEAT and then ADNAN KHAIRALLAH and ALI, and others MEMBERS of the RCC. ADNAN turns to TARIQ.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

Where's Hamdani?

TARIQ shrugs as a hush descends upon the room. SADDAM lets the quiet hang for several moments before speaking.

**SADDAM**

*(relaxed)*

Comrades, it causes me great pain,  
that one of my first duties as  
President is to tell you that we have  
uncovered an atrocious plot against  
our beloved Baath Party.

Pause for effect, then he continues to speak slowly and  
without notes.

**SADDAM (CONT'D)**

My pain is not eased by the fact that  
these plotters, these collaborators  
are sitting amongst us here today.

*(pause; every man in the  
room begins to sweat!)*

We have the evidence...and now is the  
time to act.

*(pause)*

The witness.

SADDAM moves to a seat stage left. MASHHADI steps out  
from the wings and moves to the podium. He unfolds a  
piece of paper and begins to read.

**MASHHADI**

Since 1975, I have been part of a  
Syrian plot to overthrow both Comrade  
Saddam and Bakr, in order to pave the  
way for an illicit Syrian Iraq  
union...When we, the conspirators,  
realised that Bakr was to step down in  
favour of his deputy, the assumption  
of the presidency by Comrade Saddam  
Hussein forced us to put into action a  
plan to remove him. But as we did so,  
we revealed ourselves and our plans  
were uncovered.

SADDAM shakes his head in sorrow as MASHHADI folds his  
piece of paper and a suited bodyguard escorts him from  
the stage. SADDAM resumes his position at the podium.

**SADDAM**

Comrades, you can imagine how stunned  
I was to discover that I had been  
betrayed by my closest colleagues.  
After the first of these criminals  
were arrested, I asked them: "What  
political differences are there  
between you and me? Did you lack any  
power or money? If your opinion  
differed on anything, why didn't you  
submit it to the party?"... They had  
nothing to say to defend themselves.

*(pause)*

(MORE)

SADDAM (CONT'D)

The conspiracy spread wide...

*(he produces a list;*

*pause)*

The people whose names are read out,  
should leave the hall.

SADDAM passes the list to a SECURITY OFFICIAL and moves back to his seat, appearing to be upset. The SECURITY OFFICIAL nervously steps in front of the microphones.

A sense of terror grips the room. The audience look around in disbelief.

The first name is read out and BARZAN directs his SECURITY MEN to the alleged CONSPIRATOR who they escort from the room. As more names are read out SADDAM watches scornfully continuing to smoke his cigar. One of the victims starts to struggle as he is led away.

**TRAITOR**

We are innocent. We have done nothing.

**SADDAM**

Out! Get out!

SADDAM draws on his cigar.

**BA'ATHIST ONE**

Long live Saddam!

**BA'ATHIST TWO**

God save Saddam from the conspirators!

Applause and cheering break out in the room, and SADDAM takes the applause - but even his inner circle are left feeling vulnerable.

**CUT TO:**

24

**EXT. GOVERNMENT BUILDING - YARD - DAY 4, 1645**

24

A line of dishevelled PARTY MEMBERS are led blinking into an enclosed but open-aired, dusty yard. All have their hands tied behind their backs, their feet shackled and their mouths gagged. MASHHADI is amongst them.

The line of wretches face a line of "saved" PARTY MEMBERS. The two lines of men, ex-colleagues stare across at each other.

A HANDGUN is cocked at the ready. We see it is in the hand of SADDAM.

SADDAM then calmly passes THE HAND-GUN on to the nearest SAVED PARTY MEMBER.

Very reluctantly, the MEMBER steps up and with a trembling hand, points the gun to the head of an ex-colleague; MASHHADI'S head...the MEMBER is having difficulty summoning up the *courage* to squeeze the trigger. MASHHADI'S breathing increases as he is tortured with the feel of the gun at his head. SADDAM is aware of the prolonged agony.

**SADDAM**

*(angrily)*

FIRE!

See the face of the PARTY MEMBER as he fires, a bloody mist alights on his face and a BODY drops before him. Hold on his silent horror.

The PARTY MEMBER, in shock, the HANDGUN is passed to another PARTY MEMBER. Then a hand is placed upon his shoulder - he looks to the owner of the hand SADDAM.

**SADDAM (CONT'D)**

*(softly)*

You have done your duty.

**PARTY MEMBER**

...Thank you Mister President. May you live longer.

More shots are fired; more bodies drop to the floor. Find TARIQ standing apart, alone, removed from the line. Watching in horror.

**CUT TO:**

25

**INT. AL ALAWIYA CLUB - UPSTAIRS LOUNGE/ENTRANCE -  
EVENING, 2006**

25

TARIQ sits in a quieter corner of the club, he is with BARZAN and ADNAN KHAIRALLAH. Their mood is on the serious side, although all around them, business is booming; music, prostitutes, dancing, alcohol.

CHEMICAL ALI makes his way through the club, drink in hand, a little the worse for wear, admiring the LADIES as he goes. HUSSEIN KAMEL follows his senior cousin - orange juice in hand.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

*(to HUSSEIN)*

Don't speak unless you're spoken to;  
be respectful; and just listen.  
Understand?

**HUSSEIN**

Yes.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

Good boy.

They sit with the inner-circle. BARZAN is a little drunk.

**CHEMICAL ALI (CONT'D)**

*(evenly)*

No women gentlemen? No dancing? You should be making the most of life; tomorrow we could all be dead.

**TARIQ**

*(evenly)*

You're a funny man Ali.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

So who saw it coming; Hamdani?

**BARZAN**

Saddam.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

You didn't know?

BARZAN just looks.

**CHEMICAL ALI (CONT'D)**

...Did he tell you why?

**BARZAN**

*(evenly; no spin)*

Only Saddam knows what Saddam is thinking. Only Saddam knows what we're all thinking.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

You believe that?

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

If Saddam believes it that's all that matters.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

But Hamdani was the fixer; he was as good as Saddam's right hand.

**BARZAN**

*(aimed at CHEMICAL ALI)*

Maybe he had a big mouth; maybe he couldn't handle his whiskey; the two don't mix.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

Cousin, I'm simply talking; amongst friends, amongst family.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

Hamdani wasn't family.

**TARIQ**

Be careful; nor am I.

**BARZAN**

Yeah but you're a fucking Christian Tariq. You're a threat to no-one but yourself.

TARIQ smiles, takes the joke.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

Hamdani was too clever for his own good.

*(beat)*

He's the past.

The truth is that they're not sure of the reason for Hamdani's murder; each of the inner-circle are just glad that it was Hamdani and not them!

**CHEMICAL ALI**

*(takes a mouthful of drink)*

...Tonight my friends, I'm getting drunk, I'm getting laid, and in the morning I won't remember a thing...except my loyalty to our President;

*(aimed at BARZAN)*

Who is neither Al Majid nor Ibrahim - but half and half.

ALI offers his glass to BARZAN. BARZAN picks up his glass and goes to "clink" ALI'S glasses, but ALI moves his glass away.

**CHEMICAL ALI (CONT'D)**

Go fuck a donkey.

The table laughs, including HUSSEIN, BARZAN gives him a "what the fuck are you laughing at" look.

**CUT TO:**

26

**INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - CORRIDOR - EVENING 4, 2007**

26

Feel the sheer size and opulence of the Palace. Long corridor, huge halls, lonely GUARDS.

**CUT TO:**

27

**INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - KITCHEN - EVENING 4, 2008**

27

SAJIDA is searching through the cupboards and drawers of the vast, industrial steel kitchen. She is troubled, dishevelled, a little lost.

SAJIDA has not seen her daughter RAGHAD, 12, at the door.

**RAGHAD**

Mama?

**SAJIDA**

*(turns; tired and edgy)*

Darling. What is it?

**RAGHAD**

Is it true that I'm promised to Amo Barzan's Mohammed?

**SAJIDA**

Who told you that?

**RAGHAD**

Uday. Is it true?

**SAJIDA**

...Yes; at this moment it's true; whether it remains true I've no idea.

**RAGHAD**

What do you mean?

**SAJIDA**

I mean I have no idea what will happen tomorrow. Where is Uday?

**RAGHAD**

He's pretending to be Baba on the terrace.

**SAJIDA**

*(pause; tries to collect herself a little)*

Mohammed is a good boy...and when the time comes, you must be a good daughter; a good wife. It's what your Grandmother Subha wants, it will unite the family.

**RAGHAD**

*(pause)*

Are you feeling okay Mama?

SAJIDA doesn't answer, exits leaving RAGHAD confused.

**CUT TO:**

28

**EXT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - TERRACE/POOL - EVENING 4, 2009**

28

TERRACE - UDAY, 15, smokes the cigar, he looks quite the expert. His brother, QUSAY is slouched in a chair.

**QUSAY**

You'll make yourself sick again.

UDAY pulls a handgun from his waistband and points it at QUSAY (who remains relaxed).

**UDAY**

*(easy; tough guy)*

If your name is called you're a dead man.

*(beat)*

Qusay Saddam Hussein.

**QUSAY**

If Baba sees you waving that gun around the only dead man will be you.

QUSAY gets up and calmly walks away.

**QUSAY (CONT'D)**

*(easy, as he exits)*

You're an idiot Uday.

**UDAY**

*(easy, no anger, aiming gun)*

You're lucky you're my brother.

A light goes on in a room across the garden, the window of which have the blinds closed. UDAY looks to the light, he sees a shadow of his father.

**CUT TO:**

28A

**INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 4, 2220**

28A

A vast, dimly-lit, marble corridor. Hear footsteps; see SAJIDA walking with a purpose...toward a thin strip of light beneath huge double doors.

**CUT TO:**

29

INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - ANTE/SADDAM'S OFFICE - NIGHT 29  
4, 2221

SAJIDA is banging on a closed door. She is angry and upset. Bang, bang, bang.

**SAJIDA**

*(at the closed door;  
controlled anger)*

He was your friend Saddam!...His wife was my friend! How am I supposed to face her now? What am I supposed to say to her?

*(she bangs on the door)*

Answer me!

We find UDAY a distance away, watching from a hiding place. SAJIDA keeps banging.

Then click - the door is unlocked and it is opened. A rough looking SADDAM looks at SAJIDA.

**SAJIDA (CONT'D)**

...He was your friend!

SADDAM'S EYES are red, he looks tired... He reaches out and touches SAJIDA'S face, SHE AVOIDS HIS TOUCH.

**SADDAM**

*(softly; firstly about the  
"rejection")*

You are right.

*(pause, still softly)*

Yes, he was my friend... but only history and God can judge me.

*(pause)*

He could have been a threat Sajida; to ours dreams, to our country... so I did what was necessary.

*(beat; stronger)*

And a man who can sacrifice even his best friend, is a man without a weakness...In the eyes of my enemies, I am stronger; Hamdani has made me stronger.

Hold. He reaches out to touch her face again - and she allows the contact.

**CUT TO:**

29A INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - ANTE/SADDAM'S OFFICE - NIGHT 29A  
4, 2222

Find UDAY - who has been watching.

CUT TO:

30 EXT. STREETS OF BAGHDAD/INT. PRESIDENTIAL CAR - DAY 5, 30  
1447

The Presidential car flashes past as part of a motorcade.

Inside the car find SADDAM and SAJIDA.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. HAMDANI APARTMENT/INT. PRESIDENTIAL CAR - DAY 5, 31  
1503

The motorcade pulls into a residential street and stops outside a villa. Inside the car:

**SAJIDA**

I can't do this. I can't face her.

A BODYGUARD opens the door of the car. SADDAM looks at SAJIDA, shakes her head. SADDAM gets out of the car alone and straightens himself and his suit. People stop and stare at this unexpected sighting. Some edge forward to kiss the hand of the PRESIDENT as he makes his way to the door of the villa - which opens as he reaches it. SADDAM enters the villa. SAJIDA is still sitting in the car...she knows she has to follow SADDAM.

CUT TO:

32 INT. HAMDANI APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY 5, 1505 32

SANAA HAMDANI and the other WOMEN of her family are MOURNING the death of her HUSBAND (ADNAN HAMDANI). Dressed in black they sit in a circle, holding framed photographs, and wail.

Suddenly there is silence. SADDAM has entered the room. The women hold their breath. SANAA is the last to notice his presence. When she sees him she is convulsed with horror and fear. She manages to remain steady and still with the aid of the other WOMEN.

SADDAM stays still and waits, shaking his head slowly, as if in disbelief - how did this happen?

SANAA then realises, as do we, that SADDAM is crying.

**SADDAM**

I loved him like a brother. I want you  
to know, you will never need for  
anything as long as I live. I loved  
him...

He holds his arms out to her, as though asking for her  
to comfort him. SANAA holds back for a moment, but then  
realises that she has no option. She receives a nudge  
in the back from a relative and she steps forward,  
SADDAM embraces her.

**SADDAM (CONT'D)**

He and I spoke often, so very often,  
about how we would put the nation  
before our own needs...Did he ever  
talk like that to you?

**SANAA**

...Yes.

**SADDAM**

So I know in my heart, that he would  
have understood. In my place, he would  
have done the same.

SANAA'S DAUGHTER (8), comes up and puts her arms around  
her mother's waist, comfortingly, protectively, staring  
dumbly up at SADDAM. He puts his hand on the little  
GIRL'S head.

**SANAA**

*(protecting her daughter)*  
What is good for Iraq, is good for me  
and my children...He followed you in  
all things Amo Saddam;  
*(because she has to)*  
...And so do I.

SAJIDA has entered the room and *appreciates* the  
perversity of the scene she is witnessing.

**CUT TO:**

33

**EXT. HAMDANI APARTMENT - ENTRANCE - DAY 5, 1514**

33

SADDAM and SAJIDA emerge from the house.

A larger crowd have gathered and as SADDAM emerges  
there is a referential "buzz" from the crowd - *it is*  
*him, it is the President*. Then a few echoed calls "Long  
live Saddam", "God save Saddam". CROWD begin to find  
their voices and cheer and call his name.

SADDAM acknowledges his people and moves slowly to his car, the CROWD are kept a short distance away by BODYGUARDS. SAJIDA is a little nervous. SADDAM decides...

**SADDAM**

We will walk with the people for a while.

SADDAM walks past the car, with SAJIDA, and the CROWD follows - reaching out to him.

**CUT TO:**

34

**EXT. BAGHDAD - BACK STREET - DAY 6, 1515**

34

Another walkabout; different crowd, different day - but more PEOPLE. SADDAM and SAJIDA.

The calls of praise and support. EVERYBODY in the CROWD wants SADDAM to look at THEM! SADDAM basks in the warmth and begins to reach out to his people - pressing the flesh in true Presidential style.

**SADDAM**

How are you? How are your family? Do you have enough food for the little ones?

**CUT TO:**

35

**EXT. BAGHDAD - ANOTHER BACK STREET - DAY 7, 1516**

35

ANOTHER WALKABOUT - the biggest yet. More of the same pressing of flesh, but this time SAJIDA too joins the spirit of the walkabout - she can't help but feel flattered. She is also important, she is the wife of the President! They move off along the street and the crowd grows.

SADDAM turns a street corner and it's almost bedlam; he is in a less prosperous part of town; the CROWD surrounding him has grown considerably; the BODYGUARDS are working overtime to keep the ten-yards ahead of SADDAM clear. He is smiling and waving at his people, some of whom now carry portraits - he is loving being loved! He is a PRESIDENT for the people.

**FADE TO:**

36 **INT. BAGHDAD CAFE - DAY 8, 1448**

36

A WORKERS CAFE - the TV shows SADDAM and the FIRST FAMILY on WALKABOUTS (it is a different walkabout to the previous scene) - the TV COMMENTATOR is lavishing praise on the PRESIDENT and his family (in arabic).

The WORKERS in the crowded cafe talk mainly between the themselves; a few loners at the counter watch the TV.

Find a nervous YOUNG MAN at the counter, sweating. He has a bag over his shoulder. He glances at the TV; he finishes his Turkish coffee. He wipes his mouth, brow and hands. He takes the bag and nudges it under a table. He exits the CAFE.

**INTERCUT WITH:**

37 **EXT. BAGHDAD CAFE - DAY 8, 1449**

37

The YOUNG MAN exits the cafe and walks away, very briskly.

Inside the cafe, Saddam is still with his people on TV.

BANG! The window of the cafe blows out; bodies, tables and contents are sent flying.

**CUT TO:**

38 **EXT. DESERT/INT. SMALL MOTORCADE - DAY 9, 1103**

38

Through a heat haze, see a motorcade approaching in the far distance, then-

The motorcade flashes past. Inside one of the cars, find TARIQ AZIZ, working papers on his lap.

**TARIQ AZIZ (V.O.)**

Saddam is a true son of Tikrit... and in the tribal mentality, there exist no values beyond power.

**CUT TO:**

39 **INT. CAMP CROPPER - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY A, 1205**

39

TARIQ sits opposite his CASE OFFICER.

**TARIQ AZIZ**

*(ace of spades in his hand)*

(MORE)

TARIQ AZIZ (CONT'D)

He surrounds himself with blood relatives, Tikritis; they are the people he can trust - they won't give him up.

*(pause)*

I can't tell you where he is because I don't know... All I can tell you is that he'll never leave Iraq - Iraq belongs to Saddam.

**CUT TO:**

40        **EXT. DESERT - DAY 9, 1105**

40

The MOTORCADE drives away from us and disappears into the haze from which it emerged.

**FADE TO:**

41        **EXT. DESERT - UPPER CANYON - DAY 9, 1116**

41

A glorious desert landscape; the sands shift, move and change shape.

Find a father and son walking together, tiny figures in the expanse, SADDAM and UDAY, both carrying rifles.

**SADDAM**

*(easy; warmly, as they walk)*

...Look around you Uday...Mesopotamia: the land between two rivers. Do you know the first great armies and empires were founded here?...The first laws were written here. We have the birthplace of civilisation beneath our feet, and it's ours.

*(pause)*

We are lucky men Uday; you and me...we have a land to die for.

UDAY says nothing, the father and son walk on.

**UDAY**

Baba, I'm hot.

**SADDAM**

*(keeps moving)*

Have you heard a word I've said!

*(no response)*

You are your mother's son!

*(beat)*

Of course you're hot, you're in the desert...drink some water. We are Hunters...

Following them, some distance behind is CHEMICAL ALI and HUSSEIN KAMEL (carrying several rifles).

**CUT TO:**

42

**EXT. DESERT - CAMP - DAY 9, 1118**

42

Find a large traditional Bedouin tent; around it, the VEHICLES from the previous motorcade. SERVANTS unload food, clothes and equipment from cars and continue to make camp.

SUBHA (SADDAM'S MOTHER) is there; she sucks on a plate of dates. She watches as SAJIDA talks to ADNAN KHAIRALLAH in the near distance. The CHILDREN are also present.

**SAJIDA**

*(having a good moan)*

I don't know why we have to come back to this Godforsaken place.

*(immediately, at a SERVANT)*

Be careful with that!

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

*(about the Godforsaken place)*

It's home.

**SAJIDA**

And this thing with the tent. The entire wealth of the country is ours and what do we do? We put up a tent!

*(ADNAN smiles)*

It's true Adnan! What's wrong with going to London or Paris?

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

The tent is Bedouin; make him happy Sajida. If Saddam's happy then it will be easier for me.

**SAJIDA**

What do you mean?

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

I mean the time for truth is approaching. I may need to speak plainly. I don't want him to rush into war.

**SAJIDA**

Then speak plainly.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

*(tries to keep it easy)*

As long as my sister is on my side I will.

**SAJIDA**

*(don't worry!)*

Adnan he loves you; you are practically his brother... We took him in, we fed him, we all grew up together... He will listen to you.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

He is President.

**SAJIDA**

He will listen.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

*(a shrug; a glance towards SUBHA; easier)*

Be good to Subha...it's hard to believe but she still has influence.

**SAJIDA**

...Look at her.

*(they smile; pause)*

She doesn't like the way I dress, can you believe it?

**CUT TO:**

43

**EXT. DESERT - CANYON BASIN - DAY 9, 1120**

43

SADDAM and UDAY walk on, with HUSSEIN in tow.

**HUSSEIN**

Mister President?

SADDAM looks to HUSSEIN - who then points off into the desert. In the distance see a DESERT HARE. SADDAM smiles a hunter's smile.

**SADDAM**

*(softly)*

He's yours Uday...His name is Khomeini...

UDAY takes aim. KHOMEINI the HARE sits still. SADDAM watches his son take aim...he looks up to a cliff top, and...

**CUT TO:**

44 **FLASH - EXT. TIKRIT (CANYON RIDGE) - DAY IN PAST** 44

SADDAM remembers....

The barefoot BOY stands on the cliff top. Bang.

**CUT BACK TO:**

45 **EXT. DESERT - LOWER CANYON - DAY 9, 1121** 45

HUNTING PARTY. UDAY has missed. The HARE runs off.

**UDAY**

*(evenly)*

Bastard.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

Never mind Uday, he moved.

**SADDAM**

*(a trace of  
disappointment)*

...When I was a boy; if I missed it  
meant empty bellies for my family, and  
a beating from my step-father.

*(beat, easier)*

Now he was a bastard.

He ruffles his SON'S hair and they move on.

**SADDAM (CONT'D)**

These days I have to feed a nation.

**UDAY**

....I want to shoot at something  
bigger.

**CUT TO:**

46 **EXT. DESERT - CAMP - DAY 9, 1221** 46

SADDAM drops SEVERAL HARES at the feet of KAMEL HANNA.

**SADDAM**

Prepare them.

The HUNTING PARTY have returned. SAJIDA greets SADDAM  
with an embrace.

**SAJIDA**

Your mother would like to see you.  
She's inside.

Cars pulls up - it is TARIQ'S motorcade.

**SADDAM**

*(watching TARIQ emerge)*

I'll be with her as soon as I can.  
Tell her.

**CUT TO:**

47

**INT. TENT - DESERT CAMP - EVENING 9, 1824**

47

SADDAM, ALI, TARIQ, ADNAN KHAIRALLAH and KAMEL HANNA are gathered. SADDAM looks through the report, which include PHOTO'S OF THE BOMB-SITE (CAFE) and a mug-shot of the bomber.

**SADDAM**

*(a report in his hands)*

An agent of Iran?

**TARIQ**

No doubt.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

*(throwaway)*

Bastard.

**TARIQ**

And in the south Mohammed Bakr Al-Sadr and his Dawa Party have now pledged open allegiance to Khomeini.

**SADDAM**

*(evenly; not unexpected news)*

Treason.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

I have my army units at the ready, in case of up-rising.

**SADDAM**

*(continues, calmly)*

Iraq's army.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

Of course.

**SADDAM**

Mohammed Bakr Al-Sadr is one man. It is Khomeini who is the problem. Khomeini is a Cause.

*(pause)*

It's time for all our people to declare themselves as Iraqi; first and foremost... I struggle to see any option but military.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

With what military objective?

**SADDAM**

...We value your opinion Adnan, let us have it.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

We don't want to appear weak, but would it be an idea to seek the views of our allies? Both Arab and Western?... If there is to be war, they will benefit, so why shouldn't they contribute?

*(looks to TARIQ for support)*

**TARIQ**

America would most definitely like to see Khomeini gone; he has their hostages and they'd like to protect their supply of oil.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

Would America be prepared to sell arms to Iraq but not to Iran for example... Or provide Intelligence - access to information from American satellites would be a real advantage... Providing we know our objective.

**SADDAM**

*(evenly)*

Our objective is to cut off the head of the snake...

See ADNAN is unsatisfied by the "objective"

**CUT TO:**

48

**EXT. DESERT - CAMP - EVENING 9, 1904**

48

UDAY is throwing stones at a row of glass coke bottles.

SADDAM is (eating) with his MOTHER, SUBHA.

**SUBHA**

I don't understand, you're holding council without the people who really matter; the Ibrahims-

**SADDAM**

Mama we are hunting.

**SUBHA**

And talking! Where's Barzan? Where's Sabawi; Watban?

**SADDAM**

They are busy.

**SUBHA**

They should be here! Ali Hassan Al-Majid is here! He brings his cousin Hussein.

**SADDAM**

Who is also my cousin. They are eager to show their loyalty.

**SUBHA**

They are eager to make their fortunes. Nor should you be trusting Adnan Khairallah; yes, he's clever, but he knows it; he has ambitions... It is your brothers who should always be beside you in council.

Pause, SADDAM decides that it's best not to be drawn into the argument. SUBHA seems to be pacified. Until...

**SUBHA (CONT'D)**

.....and your son has the grace of pig.

**SADDAM**

Uday.

**SUBHA**

And your wife allows it! All the way here he did nothing but break wind.

**SADDAM**

He's a boy, what should I do, beat him Mama? Drive him away from his home?

**SUBHA**

...You have too much to say to your Mother. Leave me...I'm tired.

Hold on SADDAM...what is he feeling? Love? Rejection?

**CUT TO:**

48A

INT. PALACE - OFFICE - DAY

48A

\*

SADDAM and BARZAN.

\*

**SADDAM** \*  
(quietly serious) \*  
Mama tells that you don't have enough \*  
work? \*

**BARZAN** \*  
(wary; quietly) \*  
...She said this? \*

**SADDAM** \*  
She says you should be involved in \*  
everything I do, is that what you \*  
want? To be the President's shadow? \*

**BARZAN** \*  
.....No. \*

**SADDAM** \*  
No? \*

**BARZAN** \*  
No Mister President. \*

**SADDAM** \*  
(quiet edge) \*  
You have a job and that is to protect \*  
me, my government and my people; I \*  
suggest you concentrate on doing it. \*

**BARZAN** \*  
(overlaps protests calmly) \*  
I haven't spoken to Mama. \*

**SADDAM** \*  
Do you have no ambitions Barzan? \*

Hold a moment on BARZAN, how does he answer this - but \*  
he already has, with a pause! \*

**BARZAN** \*  
(pause) \*  
Only to serve my country. \*

**SADDAM** \*  
Then do it. \*

**CUT TO:** \*

TARIQ and his posse emerge from the lift, they cross  
the lobby and a BODYGUARD enters the revolving door.  
OUTSIDE we can see a waiting CAR.

As the GUARD pushes the revolving door, a grenade is thrown into the open end. The GUARD can only stare at the momentarily dormant grenade, then BANG!

The grenade explodes and the GUARD, TARIQ and OTHERS are blown backwards. The glass in the door and the windows of the front of the lobby area shatter.

**CUT TO:**

50 SCENE DELETED 50

51 SCENE DELETED 51

52 INT. SADDAM HUSSEIN HOSPITAL - TARIQ'S ROOM - DAY 10, 52  
1602

Find SADDAM with TARIQ. TARIQ has dressing suitable to flying glass, but he is sitting on the edge of the bed.

**SADDAM**

*(evenly; easy)*

We nearly lost you my friend.

**TARIQ**

If I was a little quicker walking, you would have.

**SADDAM**

*(easy smile)*

Allah protects even Christians.

The friends smile. BARZAN taps on the ajar door and enters.

**BARZAN**

We have him - an Iraqi of Iranian descent.

**SADDAM**

*(angry; unsurprised)*

...How many more of these vipers live amongst us!... We have been more than diplomatic and still Khomeini sends his carnage. No more!

*(pause)*

Our Arab brothers will understand our retaliation.

**BARZAN**

And the Americans?

**SADDAM**

...We will have their support.

*(pause)*

It's time to show the Cleric the will  
of the People's Army..... It is time  
for war.

See TARIQ doubting the decision internally.

**CUT TO:**

53

**INT. BAGHDAD VILLA - BEDROOM - DAY 10, 1746**

53

SADDAM fastens up his Field Marshall's uniform and  
admires his reflection. He salutes himself. Hold.

**CUT TO:**

53A

**INT. CAMP CROPPER - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY A, 1210**

53A

TARIQ and the CASE OFFICER.

**TARIQ AZIZ**

I don't know how many ways I can say  
it - I do not know the whereabouts of  
my President.

**CASE OFFICER**

He is not your President any more.

**TARIQ AZIZ**

As long as Saddam is alive he will  
still be President - don't take my  
word for it, ask the people.

(MORE)

TARIQ AZIZ (CONT'D)

*(pause)*

They have followed him into many battles; from our war against Iran, to the present day - the people have followed him...

*(pause)*

You have promised how many millions of dollars for information - and still he's free... Why?

Hold.

**CUT TO:**

54            **INT. TIKRIT MARKET STREET/CAFE (TV SCREEN) - DAY 11, 0904**            54

An Iraqi propaganda cartoon plays on the TV. Iraq is at war with Iran; a cartoon tank fires shells at a cartoon Khomeini.

The cartoon is playing on the TV of a cafe; watched by Iraqi CIVILIANS... when their coffee disturbed by suited MUKHARBARAT OFFICERS herding the CIVILIANS out into the street.

55            **EXT. TIKRIT MARKET STREET/CAFE - DAY 11, 0906**            55

A market street in a small town. SADDAM, HUSSEIN and two AMERICAN JOURNALISTS, DEAN BRELIS and a PHOTOGRAPHER, are walking through the PEOPLE.

The CIVILIANS from the cafe are cajoled into cheering for SADDAM.

**SADDAM**

We want to have good relations with the U.S. We want people in America to understand what has happened inside Iraq. Ask the people directly; go into their homes and see for yourselves their love for their country.

**HUSSEIN**

And for their President; it is remarkable. Nobody forces them to put pictures of Saddam Hussein on their walls, they choose to do it.

**SADDAM**

At the appropriate time, we will say to the Americans "Come".

(MORE)

SADDAM (CONT'D)

Only the war prevents us from establishing trade and other relations with the U.S.

**BRELIS**

Is it true that the war is going to bankrupt the economy?

**SADDAM**

These stories are lies. Speak to the people; ask them if they want for anything.

**BRELIS**

And what of the reports of Iran's military success - forcing Iraqi troops back to the borders?

A WOMAN rushes up to SADDAM with flowers.

**SADDAM**

There are always set-backs on the road to victory, and recently Iran has been aided by foreign expertise. But we are capable of over-coming them now.

*(beat)*

Gentlemen, we have arranged a surprise for you.

**CUT TO:**

56

**EXT. FILM SET - "BAGHDAD STREET" - DAY 11, 1142**

56

GUNMEN emerge from a crowd and fire shots into a 1950's ESTATE CAR. The CAR slews and stops; the MEN within return fire. A YOUNG SADDAM HUSSEIN is hit in the leg and drags himself off.

**VOICE (O.S.)**

*(shouts)*

Cut!

Pull back to reveal that this is a film set. YOUNG SADDAM is being played by SADDAM KAMEL. The real SADDAM is watching with HUSSEIN KAMEL and the two JOURNALISTS.

**BRELIS**

Very good. Impressive. Is that what it was like?

**SADDAM**

*(easy)*

No not at all, in reality when I was shot in this leg here, the bullet actually hurt.

**HUSSEIN**

The film will cover the early life of the President, when he was fighting for a free Iraq.

**SADDAM**

*(the modest President!)*

It is for the people, for the purposes of morale.

*(calls)*

Saddam!

SADDAM KAMEL (YOUNG SADDAM) looks over and sees SADDAM HUSSEIN, he walks immediately across.

**SADDAM KAMEL**

Amo, what an honour.

**SADDAM**

You did well.

**SADDAM KAMEL**

Thank you.

**SADDAM**

These gentlemen are from *Time Magazine*.

*(to the JOURNALISTS)*

A remarkable resemblance don't you think.

**BRELIS**

You're cousins right?

**SADDAM KAMEL**

That's correct.

**HUSSAIN**

Saddam Kamel is my brother.

**BRELIS**

And he's Saddam and you're Hussain.

**HUSSAIN**

We have a lot to live up to.

**BRELIS**

Unbelievable.

**CUT TO:**

57

**INT. PRIMARY SCHOOL - DAY 11, 1326**

57

A CLASS of SCHOOL CHILDREN sing a patriotic song for SADDAM; or recite a chant. SADDAM applauds. GART and BRELIS watch.

**SADDAM**

Excellent. Wonderful.  
*(to the TEACHER)*  
You have worked very hard.

**SAMIRA**

The children enjoy it Amo, very much.

The SCHOOL-TEACHER is a beautiful blonde in her late twenties, SAMIRA. CUT TO -

SADDAM walks along the line of little CHILDREN

**CHILDREN**

*(as SADDAM places his hand  
on their heads)*  
Thank you Amo Saddam.  
*(each CHILD says the same)*  
Thank you Amo Saddam.

SADDAM stops at a pretty little GIRL.

**SADDAM**

*(to SAMIRA)*  
This one looks like my own daughter,  
Hala.

**SAMIRA**

She is very pretty.

He stoops to the LITTLE GIRL'S level.

**SADDAM**

*(softly; with a smile)*  
Tell me; when you are at home, with  
Mama and Baba; what does Baba say  
about Amo Saddam?  
...Anything?...Anything at all?

**LITTLE GIRL**

Baba is a soldier... he says long live  
Amo Saddam.

SADDAM smiles and applauds. He ruffles her hair and her  
father gets to live longer!

**SAMIRA**

I hope you have enjoyed your visit as  
much as I have Amo; it would be  
wonderful if you could us visit again,  
soon.

**SADDAM**

I would like that...I will arrange  
it...

SAMIRA smiles "shyly". SADDAM looks to the JOURNALISTS.

**CUT TO:**

58

**EXT. BAGHDAD STREET/PRESIDENTIAL CAR - DAY 12, 1537**

58

SADDAM rides in the back of his car, next to him is BARZAN. HUSSEIN KAMEL AL MAJID drives. They flash past poster after portrait after mural after picture of Saddam. See on HUSSEIN'S wrist that he is wearing a Saddam Rolex!

Hold - then the motorcade is overtaking a truck - carrying a load of roughly manufactured, empty, coffins. Soldiers' coffins.

SADDAM leans, watches the truck as they ease past. We see the DRIVER glance nervously towards the blacked-out windows of the limos.

**SADDAM**

*(about the truck; calmly)*  
Hussein, the Driver of that truck is to be arrested; his cargo should be covered.

**HUSSEIN**

I'll see to it.

**SADDAM**

Wives and mothers do not needed to be reminded of their sacrifice.

*(pause)*

Everything in the City should be normal.

See that BARZAN may disagree - he is quiet for a moment but has something to say.

**BARZAN**

*(tentatively)*

Should we also be thinking of other towns and cities? Our soldiers come from all over; what of the wives and mothers of Mosel, Basra, Dujail?... Our losses are many; normality is a dream in these places.

Glimpse HUSSEIN in the rear-view.

**HUSSEIN**

*(must say something!)*  
...Victory will heal everything.

**SADDAM**

...You are right Hussein; victory will bring rewards for all.

**BARZAN**

Of course... but these many families  
have lost fathers, son's, brothers...  
and what will heal them right now, is  
sight of their President!

*(SADDAM'S ears prick up at  
the praise; pause)*

Your people need you Saddam, you have  
to go to them... Let them see you! Let  
him reach out to try and touch you!...  
The war is casting a shadow only you  
can lift.....

SADDAM agrees with a look and a nod. BARZAN LOOKS INTO  
HUSSEIN eyes in the rear-view - point won.

The motorcade moves on.

**CUT TO:**

58A

**INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - HALL - NIGHT 12, 2047**

58A

SADDAM moves through the palace and finds his daughters  
(RAGHAD, RANA and HALA) playing (maybe the two older  
girls are dressing up HALA - a living doll).

**SADDAM**

Raghad, where's your mother?

**RAGHAD**

*(relaxed, evenly)*  
Shopping in London.

**SADDAM**

Still?

**RAGHAD**

Still.

*(beat)*

Baba she won't be back for days...

The CHILDREN continue playing; see that SADDAM isn't happy.

**CUT TO:**

59 SCENE DELETED 59

60 INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - MEETING ROOM - DAY 12A, 1111 60

SADDAM is around a table with HUSSEIN, ADNAN, BARZAN, WATBAN and TARIQ. Still angry, after the argument with Sajida.

**BARZAN**

She took 21 of her friends, on an Iraqi Airlines 747 -

**SADDAM**

- And that justifies this kind of expenditure? Three million pounds sterling... Why wasn't I informed?

**BARZAN**

You would have been informed.

**SADDAM**

Were you keeping it from me Barzan?

**BARZAN**

No! A report is being prepared; Saddam she hasn't finished shopping! The bills are still arriving!

SADDAM glances to ADNAN, who can only shrug.

**SADDAM**

*(a pause; not happy)*

.....A 747... ..She'll fill it.

*(pause; new subject;*

*refers to a report;*

*evenly but the dark mood*

*carries)*

What else has been hidden from me...?

*(pause)*

Why am I reading of Iranian successes on the battlefield? ...Why did we fail at Al-Mohammerah?

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

*(evenly)*

At Al-Mohammerah, our lines were  
simply overwhelmed by force of  
numbers.

(MORE)

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH (CONT'D)**

We were taking too many casualties,  
and a withdrawal was ordered.

**SADDAM**

So our soldiers refused to die for  
their country?

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

It was becoming a massacre Mister  
President. It was a tactical decision  
to fall back and regroup.

**SADDAM**

*(calmly)*

It was a coward's decision and because  
of it we have lost Al-Mohammerah.

*(he consults the paper)*

I want Colonel Ahmed Al Dulaimi and  
General Jawad Shiatna executed.

HUSSEIN writes this down.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

Mister President, they are two of our  
best; their decision was purely  
tactical.

**SADDAM**

*(overlaps with edge)*

The Iraqi Army does not retreat!

*(pause)*

We must show courage and leadership  
General Khairallah.

*(beat)*

Barzan, summon the Commanders in  
question and oversee their execution;  
immediately.

SADDAM stands, he's had enough.

**HUSSEIN**

Stand for the President!

SADDAM exits, HUSSEIN proudly marches alongside SADDAM  
and out of the room.

The OTHERS are left standing...

**BARZAN**

...Hussein's like Saddam's Siamese  
fucking twin.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

He's doing his job Barzan, nothing  
more.

**BARZAN**

*(not happy)*

He's doing something.

**CUT TO:**

61 SCENE DELETED

61

61A INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - SAJIDA'S BEDROOM - DAY 12A, 61A  
1614

SAJIDA is surrounded by clothes and shopping bags. She is holding her purchases up to her body...when SADDAM startles her.

**SADDAM**

*(evenly)*

How was London? Besides expensive?

**SAJIDA**

...It was what I needed.

**SADDAM**

We are at war.

SAJIDA sees that he wants an argument.

**SAJIDA**

*(touch of sarcasm)*

I thought we were pretending everything is normal?

**SADDAM**

*(overlaps with edge, and the argument starts)*

Iraq is at war, and the wife of the President goes and spends millions of pounds shopping in London!

**SAJIDA**

Yes! Because the wife of the President doesn't get to see him anymore! He prefers Cabinet rooms and Night-clubs to his home! So what if I spent some money, I'm entitled!

**SADDAM**

How do you think this looks to the people...to the world?

**SAJIDA**

Mister President the world doesn't care!

**SADDAM**

OF COURSE THE WORLD CARES!

*(pause, softer, calmer)*

You're just incapable of seeing it.

**SAJIDA**

Meaning what?

**SADDAM**

Meaning your head has never left the village. Buy all the clothes you want to; you'll still be a peasant.

Pause, then he turns and exits. He has hurt her. Hold on SAJIDA and her shopping.

**CUT TO:**

62

**INT. AL ALAWIYA CLUB - UPSTAIRS LOUNGE - NIGHT 12A,**  
**2146**

62

Move through the club and find SADDAM sitting with CHEMICAL ALI. HUSSEIN and KAMEL HANNA are nearby.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

Hussein is a good boy, a good soldier, he won't let you down. He's loyal.

**SADDAM**

I like him.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

I'm pleased...for the family.

*(looks to HUSSEIN, calls)*

Hussein, stand on your head for the President.

HUSSEIN looks perplexed; SADDAM starts laughing with ALI.

**CHEMICAL ALI (CONT'D)**

He would do it! For you he'd do anything.

SAMIRA passes, with a man later to be identified as her HUSBAND. SADDAM sees her. She waits at the bar with her HUSBAND. SADDAM watches her for a while, she glances over, looks away, apparently shyly.

**CHEMICAL ALI (CONT'D)**

*(to SADDAM)*

Is that her?

**SADDAM**

Kamel. Ask the lady to join us.

KAMEL HANNA moves off.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

She's pretty.

**SADDAM**

*(easy; playful)*

She's married...not that it matters.

SAMIRA and her HUSBAND join SADDAM, CHEMICAL ALI and HUSSEIN.

**SAMIRA'S HUSBAND**

Mister President, we are honoured.

**SADDAM**

And I'm honoured you're honoured;  
please

*(he indicates a seat next  
to ALI; then to SAMIRA)*

You look beautiful. Sit here, next to  
me.

**SAMIRA**

Thank you.

SADDAM is now totally focussed on SAMIRA.

**SADDAM**

And may I just...

*(he pushes her hair back a  
touch)*

..so I can see you.

**SAMIRA**

And I you.

**SADDAM**

Thank you for coming.

**SAMIRA'S HUSBAND**

*(I'm still here!)*

We are honoured.

**SADDAM**

Yes, you said.

SADDAM is engrossed with SAMIRA. Her HUSBAND has been side-lined; is feeling humiliated and there's nothing he can do but sit there! HUSSEIN watches for a few moments then sits beside the HUSBAND and twists the knife.

**HUSSEIN**

May I say that your wife is very  
beautiful.

(MORE)

HUSSEIN (CONT'D)

*(no response)*

You must love her very much.

**SAMIRA'S HUSBAND**

I do...

**HUSSEIN**

*(pause)*

I think the President likes her.

**SAMIRA'S HUSBAND**

She is my wife.

**HUSSEIN**

He is the President.

SAMIRA'S husband goes to move, or even try to talk to SADDAM - HUSSEIN gently stops him.

**HUSSEIN (CONT'D)**

I'd really do nothing if I were you.  
There will be compensation.

HUSSEIN enjoys the power buzz. SADDAM strokes SAMIRA'S smooth skin.

**CUT TO:**

63 SCENE DELETED

63

64 **INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - HALL - DAY 12B, 1450**

64

SADDAM moves through the palace to find the FAMILY gathered outside SUBHA'S ROOM; he pauses then moves towards them - he looks to SAJIDA who says nothing.

**WATBAN**

*(softly)*

She's very weak...

SADDAM enters the room.

**CUT TO:**

65 **INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - SUBHA'S ROOM - DAY 12B, 1451**

65

SADDAM enters to find BARZAN at their MOTHER'S bedside. SUBHA'S breathing is weak and shallow.

**SADDAM**

...Mama...

**SUBHA**

*(weakly)*

Barzan, leave us...I wish to talk to Saddam.

BARZAN reluctantly leaves. SADDAM moves closer to his MOTHER.

**CUT TO:**

66

**FLASH - EXT. TIKRIT - DAY IN PAST**

66

SADDAM remembers....

GLIMPSE the BOY in the desert - he is standing over a dead HARE. The BOY picks up the carcass.

**CUT BACK TO:**

67

**INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - SUBHA'S ROOM - DAY 12B, 1452**

67

SADDAM takes his MOTHER'S hand, but without affection. Her breathing is wheezy and shallow.

**SUBHA**

*(struggling)*

In your family lies your strength.

On SADDAM, he doesn't want to hear this.

**SUBHA (CONT'D)**

Blood is permanent... I want Raghad to marry Barzan's boy. I want you to keep the family together, my family

**SADDAM**

I know you do.

**SUBHA**

Keep Barzan close. He has always been loyal to you, ever since you were little.

*(continues)*

**SADDAM**

You should rest.

**SUBHA**

Look after Watban... He's too weak to look after himself.

SUBHA is near death, and she knows it. Long pause.

**SUBHA (CONT'D)**

It's a good thing you never knew your father... he was bad blood.

SADDAM takes her hand, almost cold. He's going through the motions.

**SADDAM**

*(evenly; emotionless)*

You gave me everything Mama.

SUBHA breathing quickens; shortens...SADDAM watches as she slowly dies... He feels nothing.

**CUT TO:**

68 **FLASH - EXT. TIKRIT - DAY IN PAST**

68

SADDAM remembers....

GLIMPSE - The BOY drops the HARE carcass.

**CUT BACK TO:**

69 **INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - SUBHA'S ROOM - DAY 12B, 1453**

69

SUBHA is dead. SADDAM drops her hand from his grasp. Hold on SADDAM.

**FADE TO:**

70 **INT. MAUSOLEUM - DAY 13, 1435**

70

We see the funeral. The MEN of the family carry the coffin, putting it down in the appropriate spot.

We see and hear the IMAM (standing at the shoulder of SUBHA'S body) and the prayer - holding on an implacable SADDAM.

**IMAM**

*(recites the DUA after  
silent prayers)*

Oh Allah! Forgive those of us that are alive and those of us that are dead; those of us that are present, and those of us that are absent; those of us that are young and those of us that are adult; our male our females. Oh Allah! whomsoever of us You keep alive.

(MORE)

IMAM (CONT'D)

Let him live as a follower of Islam,  
and whomsoever You cause to die, let  
him die as a believer.

**CUT TO:**

71

**EXT. MAUSOLEUM - DAY 13, 1441**

71

BARZAN approaches SADDAM and they embrace.

**BARZAN**

*(softly)*

She was proud of you...and of our  
strength as a family.

**SADDAM**

As I am.

*(BARZAN nods gently,  
assuming a meeting of  
minds; pause)*

But you should know Barzan...it was  
her wish before she died, that Raghad  
should marry Hussein.

**BARZAN**

*(BARZAN is rocked)*

...What?

HUSSEIN is standing dutifully near-by with CHEMICAL ALI  
and SADDAM KAMEL (HUSSEIN'S younger brother).

**SADDAM**

I was as surprised as you.

**BARZAN**

Raghad has been promised to my son  
Mohammed for years, you know it.

**SADDAM**

It was her wish.

**BARZAN**

No.

**SADDAM**

*(a degree firmer)*

She thought it was time to recognise  
my father's family.

**BARZAN**

*(a challenge)*

She said this?....Not to me.

*(pause)*

Saddam, I have been loyal to you,  
always; and now this insult - not just  
to me but to all the Ibrahims,  
please.....think of my honour.

**SADDAM**

...Raghad will marry Hussein.

He is looking BARZAN right in the eye, challenging him to kick off at their MOTHER'S funeral.

He once again kisses BARZAN and walks away from his stunned brother. BARZAN watches as SADDAM gets into his car and shuts the door.

**CUT TO:**

72

**EXT. DUJAIL - TOWN SQUARE - DAY 14, 1500**

72

SADDAM steps from a white Mercedes Limousine to face a NEWS CAMERA CREW and a vast ADORING CROWD.

The NEWS CAMERA CREW film as SADDAM works the crowd - who are pressing forward and chanting.

SADDAM is shaking reaching beyond his screen of REPUBLICAN GUARDS and shaking hands with his people - mostly old men, women and children (the young men will be fighting at the front-line!). SADDAM is loving it and the crowd are folding in around him.

A WOMAN thrusts beyond the REPUBLICAN GUARDS and grabs SADDAM's hand. A SOLDIER goes to pull her away but SADDAM stops him.

**SADDAM**

No. No it's OK.

She covers his hand with kisses, all of this filmed by the news crew. SADDAM places his hand upon her head - he looks around him and all he sees are 360 degrees of adoring, happy faces. It doesn't get any better than this SADDAM!

**FADE TO:**

73

**INT. PRESIDENTIAL CAR/EXT. DUJAIL - TOWN SQUARE - DAY 14, 1531**

73

A SOLDIER slams the door shut and the crowd press in. A satisfied SADDAM settles in the rear seat. A DRIVER in the front.

The MOTORCADE car begins to move forward. Saddam leans back, able to relax at last. SOLDIERS run alongside until the car is clear of the Town Square and the crowds.

74            INT. PRESIDENTIAL CAR/EXT. ROAD FROM DUJAIL - DAY 14, 1536            74

SADDAM's car is now travelling at speed, the third car in a motorcade of four.

Silence - the CAR glides along the road - Palm groves pass outside the windows - it's been a perfect day! Then NOISE...

Gunfire. The car brakes, slews and shunts into the car in front. Machine-gunfire shatters the windows and the DRIVER is killed. The car in turn is shunted. All hell breaks loose. It's an ambush.

75            EXT. ROAD FROM DUJAIL - DAY 14, 1537            75

The occupants of all cars in the motorcade come out FIRING. Some are HIT. SADDAM scrambles out of his car and crouches at the back of the car, next to a wheel. All around him is gunfire.

CUT TO:

76            FLASH - INT. TIKRITI VILLAGE HOME - DAY IN PAST            76

SADDAM remembers....

Glimpse the image of a rancid, maggoty hare on a plate in front of the barefoot BOY - he snaps it up and take a bite!

CUT BACK TO:

77            EXT. ROAD FROM DUJAIL - DAY 14, 1538            77

The ATTACKERS, in the palm grove, can now be seen and the gun fight ensues. The SOLDIERS begin expertly picking them off. GRENADES are thrown into the PALM GROVE and the ATTACKERS begin to take flight.

The immediate threat is past...bodyguards arrive by SADDAM. SADDAM notices that his hand is trembling and it fuels his anger further.

**SOLDIER**

Are you injured, Mr President?

**SADDAM**

*(looks to the SOLDIER;  
incredulously)*

They tried to kill me.

**SOLDIER**

We need to get you out of here.

**SADDAM**

THEY TRIED TO KILL ME!

The SOLDIER dares to put a hand on SADDAM'S arm to lead him to the car - SADDAM angrily shrugs him off.

**SADDAM (CONT'D)**

NO!

*(pause, calmer)*

We must go back to Dujail. Back. Back!

**CUT TO:**

78

**EXT. DUJAIL - TOWN SQUARE - DAY 14, 1615**

78

SADDAM has climbed onto the roof of a building, making a point of showing himself. He is fired up on adrenaline. But so are the CROWD, desperate to prove their loyalty.

**SADDAM**

These few shots won't frighten the people of Iraq and they won't frighten Saddam Hussein....We will find the assassins and I swear, we will have justice, we will have victory over these agents of Khomeini.....They will turn out to be a few, but the 39,000 people of Dujail are loyal to the party and to Saddam!

The CROWD begin to shout "With our soul, with our blood, we will protect you, oh Saddam." The crowd cheers SADDAM; stern faced, he accepts the "adulation" but the joy and hysteria of earlier has gone. Hold on the CROWD, desperate to prove their loyalty, desperate to live.

**FADE TO:**

79

**INT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE - SADDAM'S OFFICE - NIGHT 14, 2115**

79

SADDAM, BARZAN and HUSSEIN. BARZAN is trying to explain who could be responsible. SADDAM has found all of his composure.

**BARZAN**

Dujail belongs to the Shia; Khomeini will have agents living amongst the people; the investigation is already underway.

**SADDAM**

*(dismissive of BARZAN)*

The investigation is after the fact, it comes too late...Hussein; how many rounds of ammunition was fired at my cars?

**HUSSEIN**

I estimate in excess of 300.

**SADDAM**

*(to BARZAN)*

300 rounds; I'm not immortal. All it takes is one bullet; yet these *traitors* were given 300 opportunities to kill me.

**BARZAN**

*(evenly but defensive)*

And they will be found and punished.

**SADDAM**

*(overlaps calmly)*

I hear you're the second most powerful man in Iraq Barzan.

*(beat)*

Some might say it's you who has the most to gain from my assassination?

**BARZAN**

...No...no Your Excellency. No one is more loyal than me. I am your brother.

*(pause; a glance to*

*HUSSEIN)*

I will do my duty. I will find the traitors; I will remove this stain. I promise.

**CUT TO:**

80

**INT. DUJAIL HOUSE - DAY 15, 1104**

80

An eerie silence. Begin in a bedroom, the wind blows a muslin-veil that covers an open window. See an unmade bed, blankets on the floor, drawers open and empty - a hasty escape has been made. Move through the house and find the personal items that have been left behind (some unintentionally). Move through the living area and the kitchen, food is still on the table, pots on the stove, and then...the walls begin to crack and collapse as a bulldozer moves in to flatten the house. Noise.

**CUT TO:**



BARZAN passes ADNAN.

**ADNAN KHAIRALLAH**

*(stops BARZAN, easy tease)*

Barzan. Did you enjoy Dujail?

See BARZAN is wired. It can't distinguish the tone of the question and answers it straight.

**BARZAN**

...It was necessary. My duty.

ADNAN can see BARZAN is pre-occupied and possibly a little drunk. Then above...

The MAJIDS arrive, smiling on the Mezzanine; CHEMICAL ALI, HUSSEIN KAMEL (the groom) and SADDAM KAMEL. HUSSEIN is wearing an expensively cut cream suit, the others are in dark lounge suits. SADDAM KAMEL is in military uniform. BARZAN sees them, he moves off towards the stair way. ADNAN follows, fearing a confrontation.

WATBAN, SAWABI and MOHAMMED watch...as BARZAN begins to descend the stairs towards the AL-MAJIDS.

They meet on the stairs - there is a moment where they stop and eye-ball each other.

**CHEMICAL ALI**

...Barzan, you look wasted.

BARZAN completely blanks the AL-MAJIDS and pushes past them to the mezzanine level. ADNAN greets the AL-MAJIDS.

**CUT TO:**

85

**INT. WEDDING PALACE - BOOTH RESTAURANT - DAY 16, 1616**

85

SADDAM looks at his DAUGHTER. He takes hold of RAGHAD'S hands.

**SADDAM**

Beautiful... you look simply beautiful, Raghad.

*(pause)*

I would only trust the happiness of my daughter to a man who owed me everything. Hussein is such a man. He will be a good husband.

RAGHAD looks over SADDAM'S shoulder and sees BARZAN. SADDAM turns.

**BARZAN**

Mister President; I have things that need to be said.

**SADDAM**

...Here?

BARZAN steps closer to SADDAM for intimacy and privacy; he desperately wants approval!

**BARZAN**

It's done.... I have carried out your orders to the letter. Dujail has gone...it is my wedding gift to you.

*(no reaction from SADDAM)*

The traitors, their families and their associates are no more.

**SADDAM**

I know.

*(pause)*

You look tired Barzan.

**BARZAN**

No. Not at all. I am ready to serve my President; my brother.

**SADDAM**

*(calmly; casually)*

From now on Hussein will be responsible for my Personal security, he will be my son, I trust him.

*(pause)*

We will talk more later. I have plans for you.

SADDAM attempt to move away from BARZAN but BARZAN takes hold of his arm. The audience seem to grow increasingly nervous.

**BARZAN**

*(overlaps, hurt by the rejection; still quietly; close in)*

I want to talk now. Why are you insulting me this way? I have been loyal to you? I have done everything you've asked of me...I have even accepted this wedding!?

*(pause; frustration growing)*

By continuing to favour the Al-Majids you are surrounding yourself with weakness! They are not interested in Iraq!

**SADDAM**

*(takes hold of BARZAN'S  
face)*

Know your place Barzan! They are my  
blood!... You may be my brother but I  
see unrest in you; for your own sake;  
for the good of your son; don't make  
me feel that this unrest is permanent.

BARZAN feels a chill down his spine.

**BARZAN**

....I have given you my soul....

**SADDAM**

*(long pause)*

You will attend the wedding, and then  
you will leave Iraq...because I love  
you.

*(pause)*

You'll have work to do elsewhere...

*(pause)*

I have guests waiting.

Hold on BARZAN.

**CUT TO:**

86

**INT. WEDDING PALACE - WASHROOM - DAY 16, 1616**

86

Bang! BARZAN kicks the door of a cubicle as hard as he  
can with the sole of his shoe - BANG - the door flies  
back hits a wall and swings back towards BARZAN - he  
kicks again - BANG! Again, BANG!

**INTERCUT WITH:**

87

**FLASH - EXT. DUJAIL IMAGES - DAY 15**

87

Houses crumble.

*BARZAN KICKS THE DOOR.*

REFUGEES are now a line of PRISONERS, CHILDREN and  
ADULTS, they are beaten and whipped with cable as they  
run a gauntlet to their cell.

*BARZAN KICKS THE DOOR.*

Staring blankly out from the bars of a crowded cell is  
the face of the WOMAN who kissed Saddam's hand in  
Dujail.

*BARZAN KICKS THE DOOR.*

The shadow of a four man gallows against the wall.  
Four waiting shadows, suddenly drop through with an  
awful thud. Shadow feet kick against the wall. And  
then the BODIES drop as they are cut down.

*A SWEATING BARZAN HAS STOPPED KICKING. HOLD.*

Glimpse a pile of BODIES - a mass grave.

*BARZAN WIPES HIS FACE AND HANDS WITH A TOWEL AND AGAIN  
LOOKS AT HIS SMART REFLECTION....*

**INTERCUT WITH:**

88

**INT. WEDDING PALACE - BALLROOM - DAY 16, 1700**

88

RAGHAD and her procession emerge on to the mezzanine to  
the gasps of the GUESTS below. HUSSEIN is sitting on  
his throne; he beams at his bride-to-be as she descends  
the stair-case. UDAY is less happy as he watches from a  
corner of the room.

TARIQ smiles and nods his approval. RAGHAD makes her  
way to her throne besides HUSSEIN. Then, and only then  
does SADDAM make his own grand entrance...

SAJIDA looks from SADDAM to SAMIRA (KAMEL HANNA still  
by her side); as SAMIRA watches only the PRESIDENT. The  
smile momentarily falls from her face as she thinks she  
spies a look between her husband and the beautiful  
blonde.

**SAJIDA**

*(to ADNAN)*

Who's the blonde?

In a glass elevator, SADDAM descends from the heavens  
to the applause of the adoring family and GUESTS...

89

SCENE DELETED

89

**END OF EPISODE ONE**