

MAURICE, LEE AND J.F.K

A Ten Part Series For Television

Written by

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John Fitzgerald Kennedy was 'probably' killed as a result of a conspiracy according to the US House Select Committee on Assassinations, ergo this is probably a true story. The characters herein are based on real people. Maurice is a composite of real people.

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Address  
Phone Number

EXT GEORGETOWN HOUSE DAY

The garden of THE DIRECTOR'S house. He looks up from reading his newspaper to see MAURICE and JEAN (from episode one) approach. He gets to his feet to greet them.

THE DIRECTOR  
Jean. My dear friend.

JEAN  
Mister Director. It's been too long. You must come to Paris soon.

THE DIRECTOR  
I shall certainly try, for I dearly love that great city. Please. Sit. Can I get you anything?

JEAN  
No thank you. I've just lunched at Harvey's.

MAURICE and JEAN sit. THE DIRECTOR shakes his head at JAMES who stands some way off. At THE DIRECTOR'S signal JAMES turns and goes into the house.

MAURICE  
I was telling Jean we have acquired some ordnance for his movement.

FLASHBACK

EXT MUNITIONS BUNKER NIGHT.

Located in HOUMA, LOUISIANA, the bunker belongs to the SCHLUMBERGER WELLS COMPANY. As we watch MAURICE supervises the unloading of armaments from trucks. The boxes and crates are then taken down into the bunker. We see JACK RUBY and DAVID FERRIE also looking on.

THE DIRECTOR (V.O.)  
We have the items safely stored down in Louisiana, ready for shipment when needed. Quite a little arsenal I'm told.

OUT OF FLASHBACK

EXT GEORGETOWN HOUSE DAY

THE DIRECTOR'S GARDEN with MAURICE, JEAN and THE DIRECTOR.

JEAN

The OAS counts you among its  
greatest friends and benefactors,  
Mr. Director.

THE DIRECTOR

Anyone opposed to Algerian  
independence can count on us.  
Besides, DeGaulle and myself have  
never quite seen eye to eye on  
anything much.

MAURICE

How a man of his experience can't  
see the Soviets moving in to  
Algeria the minute the French move  
out is beyond me.

JEAN

Your own president seems to be  
similarly blinded.

THE DIRECTOR

Indeed, indeed.

JEAN

*(vouchsafing)*

Do you think his advocacy of  
Algerian independence would lead  
him to support De Gaulle in the  
event of---a coup d'etat.

JEAN'S words hang in the air.

THE DIRECTOR

When?

JEAN

April. We take control in Algeria.  
Then France.

THE DIRECTOR

We'll do everything in our power to  
help.

JEAN

We need money.

THE DIRECTOR

Not a problem. We have many corporate friends who are alive to the danger of DeGaulle's policy. I'll pass the top hat around.

JEAN

And your president?

THE DIRECTOR

I'll brief him. Tell him De Gaulle's done for, a lost cause if you will. Nothing to be done for him

MAURICE

April, you say? He may be too preoccupied with events closer to home to worry about goings on in France.

THE DIRECTOR

And that material down in Louisiana?

JEAN

We don't need that immediately. We have generals with us now. And they come fully armed.

INT TRADE UNION HALL MINSK EVENING

A DANCE is in progress. MARINA PRUSAKOVA, a handsome twenty year old is conversing with a friend. The conversation is interrupted by the arrival of LEE HARVEY OSWALD

OSWALD (O.S.)(IN RUSSIAN WHEN HE SPEAKS TO MARINA)

Hello.

MARINA looks up to see OSWALD standing over her. He nods towards his friend ERIK who stands across the room.

OSWALD (CONT'D)

I said to my friend over there that I wanted to dance with the prettiest girl in the room.

(beat)

So, will she let me?

MARINA , flattered, smiles shyly up at him. OSWALD bows closer to her.

OSWALD (CONT'D)  
Will she let me?

MARINA  
Of course.

OSWALD leads her onto the floor.

INT TRADE UNION HALL MINSK EVENING

MARINA and OSWALD are dancing.

OSWALD  
May I ask your name?

MARINA  
Marina. Marina Prusakova.

OSWALD  
Marina. That's a lovely name.

MARINA  
What's your name?

OSWALD  
Well now, that's complicated. I have my real name, and the name my friends here in Minsk have given me. And that name is Alik.

MARINA  
And where are you from Alik? No! Let me guess. From that accent I'd say---one of the Baltic states? Latvia, Estonia?

OSWALD  
Oh I'm from a state, alright. But none that you've mentioned. I'm from the state of Texas.

MARINA  
Texas? In USA?

OSWALD  
*(smiles)*  
The one and only.  
*(he stops dancing)*  
Marina Prusakove, can I buy you a drink?

INT TRADE UNION HALL MINSK EVENING

MARINA and OSWALD sit at a table at the side of the hall.  
They Are sipping Russian Champagne.

MARINA

What are you doing here in the  
Soviet Union Alik?

OSWALD

My real name is Oswald. Lee Harvey  
Oswald. Please call me Lee.

MARINA

Lee.

OSWALD

I----wanted to see what the place  
was like. But now I've seen it I'm  
trying to get back home.

MARINA

You don't like it here?

OSWALD

Now did I say that?

*(beat)*

I have family in America. A mother,  
brothers. I miss them. I want to  
get back to them.

MARINA

They will take you back? The USA?

OSWALD

I have friends who'll help me get  
back

MARINA

You say a mother and brothers? But  
no wife or girlfriend?

OSWALD

No wife or girlfriend.

He reaches out and takes MARINA'S hand.

OSWALD (CONT'D)

Would you like to dance some more?

MARINA

Yes I would.

We watch as MARINA and OSWALD return to the dance floor.

INT CAR DAY

MAURICE is driving THE DIRECTOR to the WHITE HOUSE.

MAURICE

Are you confident, sir? I mean that the president will go along with your plan.

THE DIRECTOR

I don't see how he can refuse after calling for such action in the presidential debate.

INT WHITE HOUSE DAY

JFK is in a meeting with THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. As well as the military men , RFK, Secretary of State DEAN RUSK , National Security Adviser McGEORGE BUNDY and THE DIRECTOR are also present.

JFK

Well gentlemen, you've heard The Director's presentation. Do we think this action can succeed? General Lemnitzer?

LEMNITZER (CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS)

We believe it can work.

All eyes are on JFK as he reflects on this last.

JFK

OK.

*(pause)*

But let me make one thing very clear, gentlemen, there will be no direct US involvement in this action. If I'm to tell the world we had nothing to do with overthrowing Mr. Castro I have to be believed. So I repeat, no direct US involvement.

LEMNITZER

*(a faint smile on his lips)*

Of course , Mr. President.

THE DIRECTOR

Oh, absolutely.

JFK

OK, anything else?

THE DIRECTOR

Yes there is. As you know, Mr. President , we enjoy very cordial relations with SDECE , the French security service. Indeed their chief General Grossin and I are old buddies.

JFK

Go on.

THE DIRECTOR

Sad to say things do not look good for French president De Gaulle. I have it on excellent authority that eighty percent of Army and Air Force officers are opposed to his Algerian policy. They have not forgotten that he gave his word not to abandon Algeria, and now that he is renegeing on that promise they hate him for it.

JFK

And the prognosis?

THE DIRECTOR

A president who does not have the support of his military or intelligence chiefs? He will be deposed ---or assassinated.

A silence descends. JFK looks around the table. Sees the hard looks coming from the JOINT CHIEFS and THE DIRECTOR. They all begin to chuckle at THE DIRECTOR'S comment. But the hard looks remain

INT WHITE HOUSE DAY

JFK enters followed by RFK who leans against the door when he closes it behind him. JFK is alive to his brother's mood.

JFK

What?

RFK

I-----

JFK

Spit it out.

RFK

On this Cuba thing. I don't know, it was like they were----humouring us.

JFK

They're our top people, Bobby. They said this plan was feasible.

RFK

I know. I heard. But fifteen hundred men against Castro's what? Tens of thousands?

JFK

I have to accept their assessment, Bobby.

*(beat)*

Listen, get in touch with Ambassador Gavin in Paris. De Gaulle should be appraised of the situation and know we'll give any help he might need.

INT WASHINGTON GENTLEMEN'S CLUB DAY

THE DIRECTOR, GENERAL LEMNITZER and GENERAL CURTIS Le MAY, CHIEF OF STAFF US AIR FORCE, are in conclave.

LE MAY

*(to DIRECTOR)*

What if that fucker rally means it? No direct US involvement.

THE DIRECTOR

Oh I'm sure he does. But when things start to go wrong, really go wrong, how can he just--sit on his hands.

LEMNITZER

*(to LE May)*

We've been over this. He'll have to give us the OK. This whole thing's fucked without US troops and air cover. What's he going to do? Stay his hand like some fucking----I don't know----?

LE MAY

Like some fucking coward?

*(beat)*

Well maybe that's what he is.

(MORE)

LE MAY (CONT'D)

Didn't his old man want to appease  
Hitler? He may turn out to be a  
chip off the old block.

*(beat)*

What do we have standing by?

LEMNITZER

The carrier Essex. She has a jet  
fighter squadron and twelve hundred  
marines on board. She'll be  
escorted by the destroyers Conway,  
Cony, Eaton, Murray and Wailer.  
There's also our sub, USS Cobbler.  
All waiting just fifty miles off  
the island.

THE DIRECTOR

More than enough to get the ball  
rolling, I should think.

EXT GEORGETOWN HOUSE DAY

THE DIRECTOR'S HOUSE. GARDEN. THE DIRECTOR puffs on his pipe  
as his black servant, JAMES pours him a lemonade.

THE DIRECTOR

Thank you James.

As JAMES leaves he passes MAURICE who joins THE DIRECTOR.

MAURICE

*(as he sits)*

Good news, sir.

THE DIRECTOR

Go on.

MAURICE

Fidel Castro's claiming he's about  
to be invaded.

THE DIRECTOR

Mmmmmmm. That is good news. He knows  
we're coming. It might be even  
better if he knew the day and the  
hour.

*(beat)*

I'd forgotten about Joe Kennedy.

MAURICE

What about him?

THE DIRECTOR

When he was the US Ambassador to England he was all for appeasement.

MAURICE

Like father like son, you think?

THE DIRECTOR

We have to do whatever it takes to force Kennedy's hand.

INT MINSK HOSPITAL DAY

OSWALD has been admitted for an ear infection. He lies in bed reading, his head swathed in bandages. He glances up and sees MARINA approaching. She carries flowers. OSWALD lays his book aside.

OSWALD

Hey! Three visits in three days. I'm beginning to like it in hospital.

MARINA

*(kisses him)*

How are you today?

OSWALD

Better. The pain's all gone from my ear and the doctors are very pleased with my progress.

MARINA

*(takes his hand)*

That's good. Very good.

OSWALD

*(teasing)*

Maybe. Maybe not. I mean, will I still get to see you every day when I'm out of here?

MARINA

Of course.

They fall silent. OSWALD holds her in a steady gaze. She begins to feel uneasy.

MARINA (CONT'D)

What---what is it.

OSWALD

I have a question for you.

MARINA

A question? Then ask it.

OSWALD

Prusakova? Do you like that name.

MARINA

*(shrugs)*

I have never thought about it.

OSWALD

Only, if you didn't like it, you could always change it.

MARINA

To what?

OSWALD

Oswald.

MARINA

*(taken aback)*

It's only been a few weeks since---

OSWALD

*(interjects)*

I know how long it's been, so, I don't need an answer right now. Think about it.

MARINA

And if you return to America?

OSWALD

I'll take Mrs. Oswald home with me.

INT PLANE DAY

DAVID FERRIE is flying MAURICE down to the training camp in Guatemala.

MAURICE

What did you do with The Baron?

FERRIE

Who?

MAURICE

George De Mhorenschildt.

FERRIE

Oh him. Dropped him in Dallas.

FLASHBACK

INT THE CAROUSEL CLUB NIGHT

A strip club owned by JACK RUBY. De MHORENSCHILDT and FERRIE are seated at a table and are joined by RUBY. They watch a stripper performing.

FERRIE (V.O.)

We had some drinks over at Ruby's place. The--whatsitcalled--the Carousel Club. But---not my scene really.

OUT OF FLASHBACK

INT PLANE DAY

With MAURICE and FERRIE.

FERRIE

Not my scene at all!

MAURICE

Nor mine. If a lady gets naked in front of me I want to be able to do something about it. I'd feel sort of inhibited in a bar full of people.

FERRIE falls silent. MAURICE watches him closely.

FERRIE

Do we eh----have a definite date yet? For the landing I mean.

MAURICE

Yes we do. That's why we're heading down here Dave. To let the guys know.

FERRIE

Yeah? When is it?

INT COMPOUND BUILDING GUATEMALA DAY

MAURICE sits opposite HARVE and HOWIE.

MAURICE

April seventeenth.

*(beat)*

The Director thinks you should tell the guys.

HARVE

Is that wise? We got good men here, but they do tend to talk a lot.

HOWIE

Harve's right. Christ that fucker Castro's already saying we're going to invade. We should give him an exact date now?

MAURICE

It may confuse him. He might think it's some sort of double bluff. Like D-Day. We convince the Germans we're going to land here, but instead we land there.

HARVE and HOWIE do not look convinced.

HARVE

But it is April seventeenth?

MAURICE

Yes it is.

*(with finality)*

And yes we should tell the men.

HOWIE

What about Castro's air force?

MAURICE

We carry out two bombing raids. One on the fifteenth and one on the sixteenth. We hit his planes on the ground.

INT OSWALD'S APARTMENT MINSK DAY

OSWALD has been discharged from hospital. His ear is still bandaged and he wears a dressing robe. He and MARINA, seated, sip coffee as he stands over the radio listening to a RADIO MOSCOW broadcast in ENGLISH.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

From Havana, Premier Fidel Castro has given another warning of an impending US sponsored invasion of the island, Premier Castro said he expected an invasion by exiled Cuban criminals and reactionaries within the week. But the defiant premier went on to say he was supremely confident that the soldiers of the revolution would throw the lackeys of US imperialism into the sea.

OSWALD switches off the radio.

MARINA

What were they saying?

OSWALD

*(thoughtful)*

Something about Cuba. Some kind invasion coming up.

MARINA

Do you think I could learn to speak English, Lee.

OSWALD

Hell, sure. I could teach you if you don't mind speaking with a Texas drawl.

MARINA

Texas drawl?

OSWALD

I was making a joke.

MARINA

Oh.

OSWALD

*(suddenly curious)*

But--why the sudden interest?

MARINA

Well, shouldn't I know the language if I'm to go to America----as Mrs. Oswald.

OSWALD

*(In English)*

God damn! God damn!

OSWALD walks forward and gently pulls her to her feet.

OSWALD (CONT'D)

God damn!

OSWALD kisses her then hugs her.

OSWALD (CONT'D)

Are you sure, Marina?

MARINA

I'm sure.

OSWALD

God damn!

INT CUBAN GOVERNMENT HQ DAY

We follow a uniformed officer along a corridor. He stops at a door knocks and enters.

INT CUBAN GOVERNMENT HQ DAY

FIDEL and RAOUL CASTRO along with CHE GUEVARRA and some other uniformed men are seated round a table. They watch as the OFFICER walks to FIDEL , bends and whispers in his ear while handing him a sheet of paper. FIDEL peruses the paper.

FIDEL

April seventeenth.

RAOUL

We can be sure of that?

FIDEL

*(raises paper)*

This comes from a number of sources. All reliable.

CHE

Do we know where?

CASTRO gets to his feet and walks to where a map of Cuba hangs on the wall.

FIDEL

*(musing)*

If they're coming from Guatemala---  
somewhere on the south coast?

*(more certain)*

And somewhere near a town. Yes.

CHE

A town?

FIDEL

They will want to set themselves up as a provisional government. They would look foolish doing that on a lonely beach.

CHE

We have militia in most towns. We can warn them.

INT BRIEFING ROOM GUATEMALA DAY

DAVID FERRIE looks on as HARVE and HOWIE brief a group of CUBAN PILOTS. A large map of Cuba with target airfields marked off hangs on the wall.

HARVE

OK. You all know your targets. Now-- about after the raids

HOWIE

All but two of you will return to base.

HARVE

The two we select will fly on and land in Florida. You will say you're defectors from Castro's air force and you bombed the airfields as a fuck-you gesture to the tyrant Fidel.

HOWIE

Perhaps not in those exact words.

ALL laugh at HOWIE'S joke.

HOWIE (CONT'D)

When we decide who's going Stateside, Dave here will brief you on the airfields we've chosen. It's being arranged for US newsmen to be awaiting your arrival.

HARVE

Let's make sure that when the Brigadistas hit the beach Castro won't be able to send planes against them.

EXT AIRFIELD DAY

HARVE and HOWIE watch as the SIXTEEN B26 BOMBERS take off and disappear into the clouds.

EXT CUBAN AIRFIELD DAY

TWO UNIFORMED GUARDS smoke and converse in a desultory way. The sound of PLANES overhead gradually gets their attention.

INT COMPOUND HUT DAY

HARVE, HOWIE and DAVE FERRIE are crowded round a RADIO OPERATOR who is listening to messages from the bombers. FERRIE checks his watch.

FERRIE

Should be bombs away right about---  
now!

EXT CUBAN AIRFIELD DAY

Now the GUARDS watch incredulously as the PLANES begin to drop their bombs which explode on the runway and destroy CUBAN JETS on the ground.

INT COMPOUND HUT DAY

With HARVE, HOWIE and FERRIE. The RADIO OPERATOR listening intently, gives the thumbs up.

FERRIE

What did I tell you!

HARVE

That's one run down and one to go!

INT CUBAN GOVERNMENT HQ DAY

A concerned FIDEL CASTRO is reading a report on the bombings that has been delivered by his brother RAOUL.

FIDEL

Three airfields. We should have seen this coming. Of course they cannot allow us to have air superiority. We should have seen this coming.

RAOUL

I've ordered all our pilots to remain by their planes in case of another attack.

FIDEL

Oh there will be another attack. They must know our remaining planes pose a grave threat.

RAOUL

The two planes that headed for the US? What do you make of that?

FIDEL

I don't know.

INT AIRFIELD IN FLORIDA DAY

We are looking at the TWO BOMBERS as they sit on the deserted runway.

INT AIRFIELD IN FLORIDA DAY

We are in a large PRESS ROOM. In stark contrast to the quiet of the runway the TWO 'DEFECTING' PILOTS are being quizzed by a pack of PRESSMEN (NEWS FOOTAGE EXTANT).

INT AIRFIELD IN FLORIDA DAY

At the rear of the PRESS ROOM MAURICE stands quietly puffing on his pipe. He leans close to the PRESSMAN next to him.

MAURICE

Something's not right here.

PRESSMAN

Yeah? What?

MAURICE

B26's.

PRESSMAN

What?

MAURICE

B26's. Those planes out on the runway. They're B26s. I'm pretty sure Castro doesn't have B26's. Has anybody taken a close look at those planes?

The PRESSMAN looks closely at MAURICE. NOW he turns and calls to his CAMERAMAN who has been snapping the 'DEFECTORS'.

PRESSMAN  
Hey Mike! Come over here!

PRESSMAN (CONT'D)  
*(as he turns back to  
MAURICE)*  
We'll take a-----look.

But MAURICE is nowhere to be seen.

INT WHITEHOUSE DAY

Oval Office. JFK is perusing some papers when RFK enters. JFK senses something's up.

JFK  
Bobby?

FLASHBACK

EXT AIRFIELD DAY

We see the PRESSMAN that MAURICE spoke to along with his CAMERAMAN scrutinizing the B26s

RFK (V.O.)  
Don't ask me why, but the press got nosey and had a close look at those planes. They know those bombers did not belong to Castro, ergo those pilots could not be defectors from the Cuban air force.

OUT OF FLASHBACK

INT WHITEHOUSE DAY

Oval OFFICE with JFK and RFK

JFK  
Are we implicated?

RFK  
No one's saying as much, but-----?

JFK  
Damn.  
*(thinks)*  
(MORE)

JFK (CONT'D)

We can't go ahead with the second  
raid.

RFK

I unfortunately have to agree.

EXT WASHINGTON AIRPORT DAY

MAURICE exits the airport and enters THE DIRECTOR'S waiting  
car. THE DIRECTOR closes the dividing window so that JAMES  
cannot hear what is being said.

THE DIRECTOR

I had a call from the president.

MAURICE

Oh yes.

THE DIRECTOR

Yes. He's cancelled the second  
bombing raid.

INT TRAINING COMPOUND GUATEMALA DAY

A pensive HOWIE watches as a furious HARVE paces.

HARVE

I don't believe it. It's as if that  
fucker Kennedy wants us to fail!

HOWIE

I wonder how the press found out  
about the planes?

At that the telephone rings. HOWIE picks up.

HOWIE (CONT'D)

Yes?

*(listens)*

Of course Mr. Director. We'll do  
our very best.

HOWIE hangs up.

HARVE

What?

HOWIE

We carry on regardless.

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE NIGHT

MARY'S house. Some light jazz music plays in the background. MARY, drink in hand, looks out of the window to where two SECRET SERVICEMEN stand by their car smoking and chatting.

MARY

You have confidence in their  
discretion?

We see she is talking to JFK who is seated in an armchair enjoying the music.

JFK

Well I hope so. I mean, they're  
called the Secret Service. Doesn't  
that mean they can keep secrets.

MARY smiles faintly at this. The smile fades. She turns to face JFK.

MARY

Those---reports in the press? About  
the invasion of Cuba?

JFK

Now that----is---about the worst  
kept secret your ever likely to  
come across.

MARY

But why is that?

JFK

Well, they say that our Cuban  
friends are tough as old boots in a  
scrap----but they do like to  
gossip.

MARY

It doesn't worry you?

JFK

Nothing to do with us, mind, but,  
yes, it does worry me.

MARY

Can you say when it'll happen? Or  
would that be---gossiping.

JFK

*(checks watch)*

If my information is correct, they  
should be on their way.

EXT OCEAN NIGHT

We are on the wing of the bridge of an ancient cargo ship. One of a couple of such ships taking the anti-CASTRO Cubans towards their former home. HOWIE and HARVE look down on the Cubans whit on the deck or on hatch tops, smoking , chatting or cleaning and preparing weapons.

HARVE  
They seem calm enough.

HOWIE  
Yes.

HARVE  
I wish we could go ashore with them.

HOWIE  
You do?

HARVE  
And get the chance to pop some commies? You bet!

INT CUBAN GOVERNMENT HQ NIGHT

RAOUL CASTRO and CHE GUEVARA watch a pensive FIDEL CASTRO.

RAOUL  
What is it?

FIDEL  
How many of them are coming?

CHE  
Our sources say fifteen hundred, maybe.

FIDEL  
Fifteen hundred? To take this whole island.

RAOUL  
They hope the invasion will trigger an uprising against us.

CHE  
(grins)  
Only thing is, all the people who might be against us are in jail.

FIDEL

But that is just my point. They must have known we would round up all known counter-revolutionaries, which brings it all back to fifteen hundred men against an army, against our militia.

RAOUL

So why worry?

FIDEL

I worry because we know too much about this thing. That---maybe---we've been allowed to know.

CHE

Allowed? Why?

FIDEL

I don't know.  
*(he gets to his feet)*  
I need some sleep.

The TWO watch as FIDEL exits.

EXT BAY OF PIGS NIGHT

The ships carrying the anti-Castro Cubans have stopped dead in the water. From the bridge of our ship HARVE and HOWIE scan the shoreline using night vision binoculars. We now see activity on deck as large SEARCHLIGHTS are being lowered over the side and into a waiting fast boat whose CREW wear wet-suits. The lights are meant to guide the Cuban exiles to their intended landing spot.

HOWIE

*(re shore)*  
Seems quiet enough.

HARVE

Yeah. I'll go see to the advance party.

EXT SHIPS DECK NIGHT

HARVE arrives as more searchlights are being put over the side. HARVE beckons to the CUBAN to join him.

HARVE

As far as we can see it's all quiet.

(MORE)

HARVE (CONT'D)

That said tell the guys to stay sharp---and try not to make too much noise setting up the lights.

HARVE slaps the CUBAN on the back and man begins to climb down a scramble net and get into the fast boat waiting below. HARVE watches as the powerful outboard motor is started and the boat speedily curves away from the mother ship and heads for the shore.

EXT BAY OF PIGS NIGHT

The following events actually occurred. The fast boat has reached the shoreline and the CREW get out and push it close to the beach before starting to unload the searchlights.

EXT BAY OF PIGS NIGHT

The men from the fast boat are setting up the searchlights. We focus on one CREWMAN who inadvertently switches on the light he is working on. Everyone freezes.

CREWMAN

Fuck!

EXT CLIFFTOP NIGHT.

A CUBAN MILITIAMAN spots the light and grabs up his walkie-talkie

EXT BAY OF PIGS NIGHT

The CREWMAN kills the offending light. After a moments silence, the others relax and get on with the job in hand. But for the second time that night their work is soon interrupted by the sound of an approaching lorry. The CREWMEN grab up their weapons and take cover. Presently the LORRY, containing a half dozen MILITIAMEN, appears and stops. A MILITIAMAN sweeps the beach with a searchlight and immediately picks out the LIGHTS set up by the CREWMEN. At this point the LEAD CREWMAN begins firing on the lorry in the hope of killing all on board and so maintaining secrecy. But after a brief fire-fight the lorry turns and roars off.

EXT SHIP NIGHT

HOWIE watches HARVE who is listening to a radio message from the shore.

HARVE

(to HOWIE)

A fire-fight. Some sort of fire-fight Whoever it was they drove em off.

HOWIE

Maybe we should tell some of the men to get to a forward positions and scope the situation come daylight.

INT CUBAN GOVERNMENT HQ NIGHT

FIDEL CASTRO still dressed in his fatigues is stretched out on his bad asleep. His brother RAOUL enters the room and shakes him awake. CASTRO looks at his wristwatch.

RAOUL

It's 3 AM.

FIDEL

What is it?

RAOUL

The landing. It's at the Bay Of Pigs.

EXT BAY OF PIGS DAWN

The anti-CASTRO CUBANS are coming ashore in fast boats and taking up position on the beach.

EXT CUBA DAY

The CREWMEN who have gone forward at HOWIE'S request watch through binoculars as a massive CUBAN force, which includes TANKS and HEAVY ARTILLERY moves towards THE BAY OF PIGS. FIDEL CASTRO HIMSELF rides on one of the TANKS.

EXT SHIP DAY

HOWIE watches as a very concerned HARVE lowers his walkie talkie after taking a message.

HARVE

There's a fucking army on it's way.

HOWIE

Weapons?

HARVE  
Every fucking thing.

EXT BAY OF PIGS DAY

Inland FIDEL CASTRO watches as his TANKS and ARTILLERY PIECES open fire.

EXT BAY OF PIGS DAY

The anti-CASTRO CUBANS frantically dig in as the shells begin to explode around them.

EXT SHIP DAY

HARVE and HOWIE watch as CUBAN JETS begin to overfly and strafe the beach.

HOWIE  
Jesus.

HARVE  
It's a goddam turkey shoot.

Now a CUBAN jet homes in on the ship and begins to strafe it. HOWIE ducks down , but HARVE remains standing and fires his pistol at the jet.

HARVE (CONT'D)  
Fuck you!

INT WHITEHOUSE DAY

JFK and RFK are meeting with the JOINT CHIEFS.

GENERAL LYMAN LEMNITZER  
Mister president, without air support or assistance from us, this will not go well.

JFK  
Gentlemen I sanctioned this operation based on your advice. And you gave me that advice in the sure and certain knowledge that I would not permit overt US participation.

GENERAL CURTIS LE MAY  
Why not?

RFK

Well it would be a flagrant breach of international law for a start general.

GENERAL LYMAN LEMNITZER

Mister president, fortuitously, we have some assets down there , a flotilla , jets, marines. We could help those fellows take that island and free the people from the communist tyranny they're living under.

RFK

About that, general, wasn't this action supposed to produce a general uprising against Castro?

GENERAL CURTIS LE MAY

What law says we can't get rid of some commies? Who'd object to that?

JFK

Maybe no one.

GENERAL CURTIS LE MAY

Well then.

JFK

Certainly not the men in the Kremlin. They would like nothing better than for us to go in there and kick ass.

GENERAL CURTIS LE MAY

I don't follow.

JFK

Because they'd feel justified in doing as we do. We take Cuba they take----Berlin, say. How could we then object to that without looking like the worst kind of hypocrites?

GENERAL CURTIS LE MAY

*(skeptically)*

Berlin? They'd take Berlin?

JFK

If we give them an excuse--- absolutely.

We leave JFK and the JOINT CHIEFS in a clear impasse.

EXT PUERTO RICAN GOLF COURSE DAY.

A ball is blasted from the tee. We see the golfer is THE DIRECTOR. We see the ball land in a sand trap.

THE DIRECTOR

Damn!

Now he sees MAURICE standing alone in the distance. He speaks to his playing partners.

THE DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

You'll have to excuse me gentlemen.

THE DIRECTOR walks to meet MAURICE.

EXT PUERTO RICAN GOLF COURSE DAY.

THE DIRECTOR and MAURICE walk and talk.

MAURICE

Kennedy's not budging. No overt US involvement.

THE DIRECTOR

He'll budge. Give him time. The whole world knows we're mixed up in this. That means this nation's honour is at stake. Even a weak president cannot allow that to be compromised. He'll budge.

*(he stops)*

How are things on that beach?

MAURICE

That's the problem. They can't get off it.

EXT BAY OF PIGS DAY

The anti-CASTRO CUBANS are pinned down on the beach and are subject to TANK and ARTILLERY fire , as well as strafing from the air. Many are wounded or lie dead

EXT SHIP DAY

HARVE and HOWIE watch as a nearby ship is hit by artillery fire and set ablaze.

HARVE

Goddam it! We're getting fucked here! Those guys on the beach are getting murdered. And that fucker Kennedy's allowing it to happen.

EXT BAY OF PIGS DAY

A cigar chomping FIDEL CASTRO watches his ARTILLERY and tanks fire salvos in the direction of the beach.

INT WHITEHOUSE DAY

OVAL OFFICE. JFK and RFK are alone.

JFK

Can those military guys really not see the bigger picture.

RFK

We train them to fight. They want to fight. Their first reaction is always to reach for their shooting irons.

JFK

Maybe we should train them to think a bit more before they reach for their shooting irons.

*(thinks)*

Your not-----?

RFK

What?

JFK

Saying you agree with them?

RFK

Hell no. Just saying I understand them, that's all.

JFK

*(angrily)*

Well they have to Goddam understand us. You cannot see this situation in isolation. Everything's fucking connected. And they did say this was feasible without direct US intervention. And I did tell them there would be no US intervention, Bobby!

RFK

Hey! I've already said! I'm with  
you brother!

INT WASHINGTON GENTLEMEN'S CLUB DAY

The JOINT CHIEFS , in civilian dress, are in conclave.

GENERAL CURTIS LE MAY

I think he means it, the  
sonofabitch. He has the most  
powerful nation the world has ever  
seen at his disposal and what does  
he do? Fuck all, that's what.

GENERAL LYMAN LEMNITZER

I'm sorely tempted to----

GENERAL CURTIS LE MAY

What?

As LE MAY watches LEMNITZER closely he understands the  
unfinished sentence.

GENERAL CURTIS LE MAY (CONT'D)

Not an option I'm sorry to say. His  
mandate's too fresh. And even if we  
were to oust Castro, which we  
surely would , Hell we'd only be  
boosting him in the eyes of the  
people, and him with nearly four  
years left to take his revenge. No,  
all we can do is pray that somehow,  
in someway, those guys can pull it  
off down there.

EXT BAY OF PIGS DAY

The anti-CASTRO Cubans are still under sustained fire: still  
dying or being wounded and unable to effectively fight back!

EXT SHIP DAY

With HARVE and HOWIE on the wing of the bridge. HARVE has  
been in radio contact with the men ashore.

HOWIE

What are they saying?

HARVE

Without air cover---it's hopeless.

HOWIE

How long can they hold out?

HARVE

They didn't say. And I didn't feel like asking that question.

EXT BAY OF PIGS DAY

With the CASTRO forces. At FIDEL'S signal they stop the bombardment.

EXT BAY OF PIGS DAY

On the beach with the anti-CASTRO CUBANS. They look bewildered by the sudden silence. Presently we hear the rumble of approaching TANKS and LORRIES. Now the TANKS and LORRIES appear on the beach and halt. A CUBAN OFFICER appears in a TANK TURRET. He raises a megaphone to his lips.

CUBAN OFFICER

Your position is hopeless. You can surrender, or you can die needlessly. You have five minutes to decide.

Slowly, and one at a time, at first, but then in groups that increase in number, the anti-CASTRO CUBANS get to their feet, throw down their weapons, and raise their hands in surrender.

INT WHITE HOUSE DAY

JFK and RFK are in conclave with the JOINT CHIEFS. THE DIRECTOR is also present.

JFK

Gentlemen, you advised me that the operation in Cuba had a chance of success.

GENERAL LYMAN LEMNITZER

Maybe with a second bombing sortie--

JFK holds up his hand. LEMNITZER falls silent.

JFK

Maybe. Maybe if the Cuban people had risen against Castro. Maybe if a better landing site had been chosen.

(MORE)

JFK (CONT'D)

Maybe if the invasion force had been able to disperse to the Escambray Mountains to conduct a guerila war against Castro. Maybe this, maybe that.

*(pause)*

Maybe it was---ill advised-- of me to have given the go ahead for this--adventure.

Those around the table are alive to JFK'S use of the nuanced term 'ill advised' as it is a barely disguised reference to all of them.

JFK (CONT'D)

That being so,I intend to accept sole responsibility for the fiasco.

*(pause)*

However, as I am sure you will appreciate---other consequences must assuredly follow. And eh, I will inform you all of those consequences in due course. Thank you gentlemen.

JFK gets to his feet. The others follow suit. JFK turns and leaves.

INT WHITE HOUSE DAY

Oval office. JFK stands looking out of the bow window. RFK enters.

JFK

Those fuckers, Bobby.

RFK

Yes.

JFK

*(turns)*

We need to find a way to get to Castro.

RFK

*(misunderstanding)*

Do you mean-----?

JFK

*(gets his confusion)*

Good God no. I mean open up some sort of channel to Castro.

(MORE)

JFK (CONT'D)

See if we can get those prisoners back. See what he'll take in exchange.

RFK

You think he'll do that?

JFK

It might take time. But they're a poor country, and our sanctions will make them even poorer. He might be willing to strike a bargain.

INT MOVIE THEATRE NIGHT

MAURICE is watching NEWSREEL FOOTAGE of the BAY OF PIGS and the aftermath (extant). We see BATTLE SCENES. We see the anti-CASTRO Cubans being taken prisoner. We see a gloating FIDEL CASTRO delivering an anti-imperialist harangue. It is all too much for MAURICE.

MAURICE

You bastard! You fucking bastard!

MAURICE gets quickly to his feet and exits.

Up on the screen FIDEL is still delivering his harangue. We DISSOLVE to.

INT MINSK CINEMA NIGHT

FIDEL CASTRO is still delivering his harangue. But now the movie audience is RUSSIAN and LEE HARVEY OSWALD is among them. And just like MAURICE, the sight of the gloating CASTRO becomes too much for OSWALD. He gets quickly to his feet and speaks to his friend ERIK who is seated next to him.

OSWALD

I have to get out of here.

ERIK

What's wrong?

OSWALD

I have to go.

EXT MINSK CINEMA NIGHT

OSWALD exits and slumps against a wall. ERIK is soon by his side.

ERIK

Alik. What is it?

OSWALD

Nothing.

ERIK

Was it Castro?

OSWALD

*(unconvincingly attempts to  
be dismissive)*

What? No! Castro!

But we see ERIK is not convinced.

ERIK

Look. Politics do not interest me in the least. What a man believes is his affair, just so long as his beliefs do not effect me. But your beliefs do effect me , Alik. You must know you're being watched. And if your found to be-----

OSWALD

*(laughs)*

What? A spy? Me?

ERIK

Let's just say it would not go well for anyone in your circle. So please , whoever you are---whatever you are---just be careful.

OSWALD

*(nervous laugh)*

Just because I'm a spy, that doesn't mean you can't be a witness at my wedding does it?

ERIK

*(wags his finger in  
OSWALD'S face)*

Please. Don't make jokes like that.

ERIK moves off.

OSWALD

*(smiling)*

But that's just what it is, Erik. A joke. Just a joke.

But as he watches ERIK go, we watch the smile fade from OSWALD'S lips.

INT WHITE HOUSE DAY

SWIMMING POOL. JFK is swimming. RFK enters. JFK swims to the side of the pool.

RFK

The army's taken over in Algeria.

JFK

Who's leading it?

RFK

A General Challe. A war hero. Well liked and respected.

JFK

*(worried)*

What do we know about France itself.

RFK

There are reports of paratroopers hunkered down an hour from Paris. Two thousand of them. Just waiting on Challe and the other generals to arrive

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE NIGHT

THE DIRECTOR'S HOUSE. He and MAURICE are watching De GAULLE'S appeal to the nation..

DE GAULLE

The nation has been betrayed by men whose duty, honour and raison d'etre it was to serve and obey. Now it is the duty of every French citizen to protect the nation from these military traitors. In the name of France I order that all means, I repeat all means, be used to block the roads everywhere to those men. Francaises, Francais!Aidez Moi!

JAMES is clearing away coffee cups.

THE DIRECTOR

*(chuckling)*

Let's hope the general populace  
show all the mettle that they did  
when Adolf came to town.

INT WASHINGTON BAR NIGHT

JAMES is meeting with 'MR WHITE' of the FBI who has been  
making notes.

MR WHITE

This French guy you say came  
calling, know anything about him?

JAMES

No, why?

MR WHITE

Oh, this brouhaha over in gay  
Paris. The papers there are talking  
about US involvement. One even  
mentioned your boss by name.

JAMES

Like I said I didn't pick up on  
anything.

But we see MR WHITE'S curiosity is piqued.

EXT FRANCE DAY

NEWSREEL FOOTAGE (EXTANT) showing millions responding to DE  
GAULLE'S rallying cry. The ARMY stand by to repel any  
attackers. People march with banners reading 'HALT FASCISM'  
and 'PEACE IN ALGERIA'. People have driven their cars onto  
airport runways to prevent any landing by the  
insurrectionists.

INT WHITE HOUSE DAY

RFK watches JFK on the phone.

JFK

Thank you Mr. Ambassador. That's  
good news.

*(hangs up)*

Looks like the General's going to  
be OK. He's got most of France  
behind him.

*(laughs)*

(MORE)

JFK (CONT'D)

Do you know what he said about our offer of help? 'Well intentioned but inappropriate.' What an arrogant SOB.

FLASHBACK

INT FBI HQ DAY

MR WHITE watches as J. EDGAR HOOVER reads a report MR. WHITE has submitted.

RFK (V.O.)

Talking of arrogant SOBs there's very good reason to believe the reports of US intelligence having some involvement in the coup.

OUT OF FLASHBACK

INT WHITEHOUSE DAY

CABINET ROOM. With JFK and RFK.

JFK

*(thoughtfully)*

We've been naive Bobby, thinking we were in control here. Let's try and get control.

INT WHITE HOUSE DAY

OVAL OFFICE. JFK gets to his feet to greet THE DIRECTOR who has entered.

JFK

Mister Director. Please take a seat.

INT MUNICIPAL BUILDING MINSK DAY

OSWALD and MARINA are getting married. ERIK is among the small group of WITNESSES and guests. (ACTUAL PROCEDURE NEEDS TO BE RESEARCHED)

OFFICIAL

Marina Nikolayevna Prusakova to you take this man Lee Harvey Oswald to be your husband according to the laws of the Union Of Soviet Socialist Republics?

MARINA

Yes I do.

OFFICIAL

Lee Harvey Oswald do you take Marina Nikolayevna Prusakova to be your wife according to the laws of the Union Of Soviet Socialist Republics.

OSWALD

Yes I do.

OFFICIAL

Do you have the rings?

OSWALD

We do.

OSWALD nods toward ERIK who picks up a small cushion on which the two rings lie. He walks forward. OSWALD takes a ring and places it on MARINA'S finger. MARINA then reciprocates.

OFFICIAL

Lee Harvey Oswald and Marina Nikolayevna Prusukova , you are now man and wife according to the laws of the Union Of Soviet Socialist Republics.

OSWALD and MARINA now kiss.

EXT GEORGETOWN HOUSE DAY

We are in the garden of THE DIRECTOR'S house. He is seated alone and reading a newspaper. He gets to his feet as JAMES leads MAURICE, HARVE and HOWIE towards them.

THE DIRECTOR

Gentlemen, welcome. Please take a seat

When they are seated THE DIRECTOR lays his hands on those of HARVE and HOWIE.

THE DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

It must have been awful for you men down there.

HARVE

At least we're back home, sir. There's a lot of guys languishing in Castro's prisons.

THE DIRECTOR

I'm assured that strenuous efforts will be made to repatriate those brave men.

HOWIE

Mr. Director---

THE DIRECTOR holds up his hand and HOWIE falls silent.

THE DIRECTOR

That title no longer applies to me, gentlemen.

HARVE

What?

HOWIE

Since when?

THE DIRECTOR

Since I was told that I'm to be replaced.

HARVE

The Hell you are! For what? For that fuck up down there. That was not your fault.

HOWIE

Harve's right. The blame for that lies at another door, and everybody knows whose door. That bastard cannot do this!

MAURICE

He clearly can and he clearly has. But as far as I'm concerned, nothing has changed----Mr. Director.

HARVE

I agree.

HOWIE

Absolutely.

THE DIRECTOR

Well, my thanks to you all for your past---and continuing---support, gentlemen. Because if recent events have told us anything, it's that we have a weak president who could put this great country in real danger. And we must do whatever it takes to prevent that.

HARVE

Whatever it takes.

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE NIGHT

MARY'S house. She watches a pensive JFK sip a drink.

MARY

I heard what you said about Cuba. 'Victory has a hundred fathers but defeat is an orphan.' I was struck by that remark. So much so I've been trying to trace its origins ever since. Can't. So where did it come from?

JFK

Oh, I don't know. Just some old saying I guess.

MARY

Why did you accept the blame.

JFK

Because I am to blame. If I'd sent in the marines those Cuban patriots would be in Havana by now.

MARY

I'm sure there would have been repercussions if you'd sanctioned that. From the Russians I mean.

JFK

*(wan smile)*

I must invite you to the next meeting of The Joint Chiefs. You can tell them that.

MARY

You're not sorry you stood for the presidency?

JFK

God no. Besides I had no choice.

MARY

What do you mean?

JFK

I want the office of president to be filled by the very best man for the job. And when I looked around I could clearly see that I was that man. So don't you see I had to stand.

JFK smiles at his faux arrogance. MARY smiles too.

JFK (CONT'D)

I'd better go.

EXT GEORGETOWN HOUSE NIGHT

JFK exits MARY'S house, is escorted to his car by TWO SECRET SERVICE MEN . And is driven off.

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE NIGHT

MARY'S house. Kitchen. She is washing some dinner dishes. The doorbell rings.

INT GEORGETOWN HOUSE NIGHT

MARY'S house. She opens the front door to find MAURICE on the threshold.

MARY

Oh. It's you.

MAURICE

*(slightly drunk)*

Who were you expecting.

MARY

What do you want?

MAURICE

What do I want? Let's see. How about the answer to a question.

MARY

What question?

MAURICE

What did I do that was so wrong?

MARY

I don't----

MAURICE

*(interrupts)*

My wife prefers a fucking coward  
with the blood of good men on his  
hands to me. I must have done  
something fucking awful to fall so  
low in her estimation. To find  
myself being overlooked for that  
craven sonofabitch!

MARY

*(tries to close the door)*

I'll say good night.

But MAURICE puts his hand on the door.

MAURICE

*(tearfully)*

We should have helped those guys.  
We should have fucking helped them.

MAURICE turns and walks off. A troubled MARY slowly closes  
the door and rests against it.

END OF EPISODE FIVE

