

Zuma Says So

written by

John Stone

(c) 2024

Zuma's Diamonds

OVER BLACK: KAKATA - LIBERIA

FADE IN:

EXT. MARGIBI COUNTY - NIGHT

PARAMILITARIES do battle with LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT FORCES.

Drones control the skies above, while in the leafy terrain, the rattle of heavy machine gun fire and whistling of surface to air missiles are fired into clusters of SOLDIERS from both sides of enemy lines.

CUT TO:

OVER BLACK: MONOGAGA BEACH - IVORY COAST

EXT. SAILING YACHT - DAY

Silver haired, distinguished ex army British politician, CARTER 50s, anxiously paces up and down on deck. A sniper rifle strapped over his shoulder. He stops and looks through binoculars.

His POV: Athletically built DANIEL 20s- an indigenous digger. He wears a small backpack and sprints for his life through the dry terrain while being chased by ARMED GOVERNMENT FORCES.

He shimmies and ducks to avoid the rapid gunfire before he makes it to a waiting open-top JEEP- its engine rattles.

ALFONSE CRAVEN (Aka AL) - A tall, slim, white haired Afrikan 40s waves him on as his indigenous DRIVER prepares to hit the gas.

AL

(beckons)

Quick! Hurry! Jump!

The Soldiers join the extended chase and take POP SHOTS at the jeep as Daniel dives head first onto the back and lies face down.

BACK TO SCENE

Gerald Carter quickly brings his SNIPER RIFLE into play and takes aim at the Soldiers in pursuit of the jeep.

His POV: A SOLDIER behind the wheel in the first of two Open-top army vehicles.

BANG!

CU: The Soldier's head spatters like a smashed melon. He loses the steering wheel as he's knocked out of the vehicle.

The vehicle JACKKNIFES before the second vehicle crashes into it. The remaining occupants are thrown from the vehicle.

BOOM!

An explosion upon impact and they burn to death when they catch fire.

BANG!

Another SOLDIER is thrown forward with a HOLE in his back.

The Jeep races through a DUST CLOUD and leaves a trail in its wake with Daniel lying supine in the back.

His POV: A clear blue sky.

An angry GENERAL with a large round head and protruding looks through binoculars as he scans the terrain for the Jeep.

INTERCUT:

Gerald Carter and the General spot one another through their binoculars.

The General lowers his binoculars and grits his teeth knowingly.

Gerald Carter moves away from his eyeline and quickly goes below deck.

END INTERCUT.

EXT. DIAMOND MINE - DAY

GENERAL (ASIDE)  
(snarls)  
Carter. Bastard.

He brings his iPhone to ear and makes a call.

GENERAL (CONT'D)

(stomps)

They've stolen diamonds from the mine.

ZUMA O.S

*Who?*

GENERAL

I spotted Gerald Carter on his yacht with a sniper rifle. He has killed a number of our men from off the coast.

ZUMA O.S

*Are you sure it was him?*

GENERAL

Yes, It was him.

ZUMA O.S

*Just get the diamonds back. I'll decide what to do about Gerald Carter then.*

CUT TO:

EXT. JEEP - CONT'D

Daniel sits up and wipes the dust from his eyes. Al turns to him and grins. His indigenous DRIVER focuses on the bumpy road ahead.

AL

(to Daniel)

Whoa! You fuckin' did it, Danny boy! We fuckin' well pulled it, man.

Daniel shakes his head in abstinence.

AL (CONT'D)

You could outrun the cheetahs, my man.

Daniel passes him a large handful of ROUGH DIAMONDS.

DANIEL

This is the last time. No more.

AL

Sure. But can you find someone else who can run like you?

DANIEL

No, I cannot. They saw my face. I will be dead if they find me.

AL

What about the coup d'etat? We had an agreement.

DANIEL

No! You had an agreement. I don't care about it anymore. Just drop me at the border. I will make my own way from there.

AL

OK, OK, Danny boy.

DANIEL

I will take my chances. I have to support my family first. I cannot support the paramilitaries any longer.

AL

We're fuckin' winning, Danny. These stones will buy us at least one hundred more drones. Here. Take this.

Al hands him a brown package.

CU: AFRICAN FRANCS in large denominations.

DANIEL

The paramilitaries butchered everybody in my father's village, because they gave Government soldiers water and food.

AL

(shakes head in disgust)

I'm so sorry to hear that, man. Bastards!

(to Driver)

Head to the border.

The Driver acknowledges with a nod of the head.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERIOR MINISTER'S OFFICE

Bespectacled ZUMA 55. He sits behind a polished desk with the phone to his ear.

ZUMA

The British Embassy, immediately.

Silence as he waits momentarily.

INTERCUT:

Zuma and the British Ambassador-

FOXTON 50s. He waters flowers in his well maintained garden.

FOXTON

(answers iPhone)

Zuma! What do I owe this pleasure?

ZUMA

You-have-a-problem, Mr Ambassador.

FOXTON

What problem, exactly?

ZUMA

One Gerald Carter has stolen a number of diamonds from one of our mines, and murdered eight of my soldiers to ensure the digger got away with them.

Foxton lets the water hose fall to the floor and gives Zuma his full attention.

FOXTON

Do you have proof he was behind it?

ZUMA

He was spotted by a General aboard a yacht off the Monogaga Beach at the same time the diamonds were taken. I am led to believe he is stealing our stones to support the ongoing coup d'etat in Liberia.

FOXTON

You know, you will have to substantiate that, Zuma. Will you be able to show evidence to back up your General's suspicion? I can't do anything, unless you offer me some proof. Words... well, they are just words as you well know..

ZUMA

He used a sniper rifle to shoot dead my soldiers as they pursued the thief, first on foot, and then a jeep.

FOXTON

That's a shocking allegation, Zuma. We will look into it for you.

ZUMA

Well, it's undoubtedly true. We have good relations with your country, Ambassador. I hope this will not cause you any embarrassment when your press gets to hear of this.

FOXTON

I'll certainly speak to him. But I would refrain from doing anything in haste... at least until we have the evidence in our possession, if you wouldn't mind, Zuma.

ZUMA

You tell Gerald Carter not to visit my country again. We will not be able to guarantee his safety any longer.

FOXTON

If he's guilty, it goes without saying. And I will let him know. And I am deeply, deeply sorry if this is true. I will do everything in my power to see those diamonds returned to your country.

ZUMA

Good.

Zuma ends the call.

FOXTON

(angrily)

Shit!

END INTERCUT

EXT. YACHT - CONT'D

Carter is joined on deck by bald headed British Embassy Liaison Officer DUNCAN 40s.

CARTER

Alfonse is going to meet us at the harbour.

DUNCAN

I'll set sail.

He prepares for sail. Carter calmly sips from a brandy glass.

CUT TO:

EXT. BORDER WITH LIBERIA - DAY

Daniel carefully approaches a hefty, sour faced BORDER GUARD. He shows him ID while he waits to pass through.

The Border Guard walks inside a small hut and checks his ID momentarily before he returns.

BORDER GUARD

You travel on foot? Where is your vehicle?

DANIEL

No. I had a flat tyre.



BORDER GUARD  
(disbelievingly)  
Car keys.

DANIEL  
(tuts)  
I left the keys in the car. I  
won't be coming back, so you can  
have it. It's a white Nissan  
parked two kilometers south from  
here.

BORDER GUARD  
(grins)  
No spare tyre?

DANIEL  
No. You will need one to drive  
it.

BORDER GUARD  
OK. Go.

He lets him through.

CUT TO:

EXT. SHANTY TOWN - DAY

Daniel stands on top of a hill top. He looks down at the  
township in the distance.

He sits down and removes his PROSTHETIC right hand to reveal  
a large ROUGH DIAMOND concealed inside. He gazes at it and  
smiles.

DANIEL  
Thank you, my Lord.

He gets to his feet and continues his journey towards the  
township.

CUT TO:

EXT. HARBOUR - DAY

Al pulls up alongside the moored yacht. He jumps out of the  
vehicle with a huge grin spread across his face.

He is quickly met by Carter. They handshake, then exchange packages.

CARTER

That was a close shave, Al. You need to tell your digger to be more careful next time. He almost got killed.

AL

He's quit.

CARTER

Do you have a replacement?

AL

No, not yet. He said he knows somebody who can replace him.

CARTER

Let's hope so, or I'm screwed.

AL

I admire your enthusiasm, Gerald. But it's time to realise these diggers risk their lives to make us rich.

CARTER

Ah well! Money is the root of all evil, and you know that better than anyone else, otherwise you wouldn't be able to prop up the Liberian coup d'etat... which makes me wonder what your motives are.

(lights cigar)

So tell me, what is your interest in Liberia's unrest?

AL

I'm assisting the paramilitaries. I supply them with drones.

CARTER

Why? What'd you get out of it?

AL

Contracts.

CARTER

Who's your supplier?

AL

Iran.

CARTER

(scowls)

You're playing a dangerous game, Alfonse. I'd be very careful if I were you.

AL

I know. But it will all be worth it in the long run, just wait and see.

CARTER

If you say so. But all good things come to a crashing end.

AL

The destabilisation is good for my partners. We are in the process of securing base metal contracts which have been in decline since the Liberians undercut us. They have had us over a barrel, but not anymore.

CARTER

Are the South Africans privy to what you are up to?

AL

Not exactly. But our investors are fully aware. Our Governments are not interested in Liberia's social and domestic problems, especially with the SADC monitoring the situation.

CARTER

That makes a change.

AL

Yep.

CARTER

Just keep my name out of any shady deals you do. I don't want my name muddied, along with what's going on in Liberia.

AL

Don't come back, Gerald. If they discover a British politician is stealing their wealth you'll be toast.

CARTER

That's exactly why I don't want my name bandied about in your circle of deceit.

AL

Then do as I say, and don't come back here.

CARTER

(points finger)

Maybe you should stay away too, Alfonse. I'm only interested in the purchase of stones. Personally, I don't give a rat's arse what you do with the money, just as long as you keep my name out of it.

AL

Just to let you know, the political system in Liberia is corrupt. We're winning, Gerald!

CARTER

That's not the general consensus back home in Blighty. You've opened a hornets nest. It's you who needs to tread carefully my friend. You can make enemies over here quicker than you can make allies.

AL

They rely on our support. It's not entirely business, Gerald. These beautiful people get nothing from their country's wealth. They've been shat upon from a great height for far too long.

CARTER

Whatever. Just keep the diamonds coming, right?

AL

Didn't I mention that it's over,  
Gerald?

CARTER

(aback)

No! Why?

AL

You were spotted off the coast.  
My source informs me they're  
coming for you. If I were you,  
I'd take my advice and leave here  
immediately.

Carter stomps back to his yacht. Al jumps back inside his  
jeep and starts the engine.

CUT TO:

INT. GERALD CARTER'S STUDY - DAY

He sits behind a solid oak desk and picks up the phone  
receiver as it rings.

CARTER

Gerald Carter speaking.

CHIEF WHIP V.O

Gerald, the PM wants you in his  
office for 3pm.

CARTER

What is it regarding?

CHIEF WHIP V.O

All I know is that it's a little  
matter that occurred whilst you  
were in the Cote d'Ivoire, and  
that's all I can say.

CARTER

I'll be there.

He slams the phone receiver down.

CARTER (CONT'D)

(aside)

Fuck!

He dials another number. Bleep then connection.

CARTER (CONT'D)

(on phone)

I'm back- Yes, everything's hunky  
dory- You'll have them tomorrow-  
They're being analysed as we  
speak- Ciao for now.

He replaces the handset, then sits back in his chair and  
lights a cigar.

Sultry Parisian CARLA 40s, appears with a silver tray that  
houses a pot of tea. She also carries a knowing smile.

She places the tray down on his desk, then sits upon his  
knee. She throws her arms around his neck and pecks his face.

CARLA

Have you been a naughty boy,  
again?

CUT TO:

INT. ALFONSE'S VILLA - NIGHT

Al sits in a comfy armchair with a bottled beer. He grins as  
he stares down at a handful of UNCUT DIAMONDS.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLDING ROOM - NIGHT

A indeginous DIGGER sits tied to a chair. His face bruised  
and bloodied.

Unforgiving SOLDIERS stand directly behind him. The General  
sits behind a messy desk. A DAGGER and PISTOL in front of  
him.

GENERAL

(to Digger)

Where's Daniel?

The injured Digger groans.

GENERAL (CONT'D)

(clears throat)

You should answer the question if  
you want to go back to your  
village with your limbs still  
attached to the rest of you.

DIGGER

(splutters)

Please don't kill me. I've done nothing wrong.

GENERAL

(fumes)

WHERE IS DANIEL?

DIGGER

(cries)

Please... I don't know...

GENERAL

Who is the man with white hair?

DIGGER

(dismayed)

White man?

GENERAL

You know who I am talking about!  
Stop lying!

DIGGER

I saw him once, that is all.

GENERAL

Take us to him.

DIGGER

I don't know how to...

He signals to a Soldier to take action.

The Digger screams in agony as his right eye is gouged out from its socket with a dagger. Blood pours down his face towards his neck as he sobs hysterically.

DIGGER

OK! OK! OK!

GENERAL

Take us to him.

He climbs out of his seat and walks around his desk.

GENERAL (CONT'D)

Fetch some water. Then find a patch for his eye. We are not barbarians.

The General exits as the Soldiers shuffle about.

CUT TO:

INT. VILLA - NIGHT

Al chills as he slouches on a colourful bean bag while he smokes a spliff.

American diamond merchant ALEX RAYNOR 30s inspects the diamonds with an eye glass.

AL

He won't be back.

ALEX

So what's the price?

AL

What's the price of a human heartbeat? And if you know the answer to that, you're a better man than me.

ALEX

You're not getting all sentimental on me, are you? I've not flown all this way for a crash course in humility, or emotional idealism. You know how much I hate this fuckin' climate. Give me the cold weather any day.

(wipes sweat from forehead)

I need another cold beer.

Al goes to the freezer and grabs a couple of ice cold beers.

AL

Here.

He hands one to Alex.

AL (CONT'D)

Five hundred in US dollars. That should pay for a few more drones.

Alex guzzles the bottled beer.



ALEX  
(discards bottle)  
Another?

AL  
Sure.

He grabs another beer from the freezer.

ALEX  
The cash will be in your account  
when the stones are in my hotel  
safe. Deal?

They shake on the deal.

AL  
Great. Now let's go party.

Alex gets to his feet.

ALEX  
Who's throwing?

AL  
The Interior Minister. It's his  
daughter's birthday.

ALEX  
He invited you?

AL  
No, of course he didn't. Her  
girlfriend did. I've never met  
his daughter, or him, for that  
matter.

Al stashes the diamonds inside a WALL SAFE, concealed behind  
a sliding bookcase.

ALEX  
(jovially)  
I hope they'll still be there  
when we get back.

AL  
I'll sell you my personal stash I  
keep in Jo'burg if they're not,  
don't worry.

CUT TO:

INT. DIAMOND MERCHANT'S - LIT

An aged JEWELLER looks through an eyeglass and inspects Carter's stones.

Carter smokes a cigar as he looks on.

The Jeweller looks up at him and shakes his head knowingly.

CARTER

What's the matter?

JEWELLER

You've been duped, Gerald.  
They're fakes.

CARTER

(astoundedly)

You what? That's impossible! They  
can't be!

JEWELLER

They're zirconium dioxide.  
Covered in shit to make them look  
authentic, Gerald.

CARTER

(grits teeth)

I'll kill that bastard!

JEWELLER

Here. Take a look for yourself.

Carter uses the eyeglass to check the diamonds.

JEWELLER O.S

Zirconia Dioxide.

CARTER

He'll pay, don't you worry.

He grabs the stones and storms out.

CUT TO:

INT. 10 DOWNING STREET - LIT

The PRIME MINISTER 50s sits behind a desk as Carter timidly enters.

PM

Tell me about your trip to the Ivory Coast. I want to know what happened while you were out there, Gerald?

CARTER

(shrugs shoulders)

Not too to say much really, except a bit of fishing with Duncan, oh and I purchased some fake stones from a cheeky Afrikan con merchant who decided to rip me off.

PM

You mean to say you were duped by this person?

CARTER

Yes, Prime Minister I was. Duncan invited me on to his yacht for a bit of sea fishing. While I was there I met up with a local chap. He said that he had some diamonds to sell off, if I wanted to have a look. So I did, and purchased them from him, believing them to be fresh out of the ground... obviously I was had over. I plan to get my money back when I return.

PM

Well, for your information, the British Embassy received a communique, concerning your activities whilst you were there.

CARTER

(aback)

Communique? I don't understand.

PM

Yes.

(knowing pause)

Tell me what's going on, Gerald? What are you up to? I hope you're not involved with anything to do with that coup d'etat going on in Liberia.

CARTER

Absolutely not, Prime Minister.  
But I have a feeling the Afrikan  
might be propping up the  
paramilitaries with the cash I  
gave him for the fake stones.

PM

How much did you hand over,  
exactly?

CARTER

Two-hundred and fifty K.

PM

What makes you say that?

CARTER

He mentioned something about  
purchasing drones for the  
paramilitaries.

PM

Serves you right for being a  
fool! What made you trust him in  
the first place?

CARTER

Duncan has had dealings with him.  
He introduced me, and quite  
frankly I was convinced by him.  
He came across as a decent sort  
of chap.

PM

The question that nags me is  
whether you're involved in  
Liberia's political  
instabilities.

CARTER

(shakes head)

No! No way.

PM

Tell the truth. What happened out  
there? Who killed those soldiers  
at the diamond mine, Gerald? And  
please, don't insult my  
intelligence any longer. I will  
find out the truth, quicker than  
you might imagine.

CARTER

Prime Minister, I really  
couldn't tell you what happened.

PM

You do realise the consequences  
if you are purchasing conflict  
diamonds... whether they are fake  
or not, I'll be forced to expel  
you. I can't have you bringing  
shame upon my Government.

CARTER

I realise that, Prime Minister,  
but I am totally innocent of any  
shady goings on regarding  
Liberia.

PM

Good.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN SOIREE - NIGHT

An African rumba plays as AFFLUENT GUESTS mingle beneath a  
coruscating night sky.

Al introduces Alex to a trio of sophisticated Women dressed  
colourful. Brunette, DAISY 30s stands and admires Alex.

Shapely MONIQUE 29 stands beside her. She has a darker  
pigment and silky black hair, penetrating green eyes.

DAISY

(grins)

Ah, so you managed to make it,  
Al.

She greets him with a kiss on the cheek.

AL

That's right, I did.

She glances a look at Alex.

DAISY

So who's the handsome friend?

AL

This is Alex from the States.

She brushes his cheek with her lips.

DAISY

Alex, meet Monique, the interior minister's only daughter.

ALEX

(coyly)

Pleasure, Monique. And happy birthday.

He kisses her cheek.

MONIQUE

(lightly chuckles)

Hmm. Nice aftershave, Alex. What is it?

ALEX

Dior Sauvage.

MONIQUE

Sweet.

She puts her arm around his neck and stealthily brushes his crotch.

ALEX

(gasps)

Ah. Woah.

MONIQUE

(whispers)

Great to meet you, Alex.

AL

(interjects)

I'll fetch some drinks.

He heads off towards a MARQUEE which contains a cocktail bar.

ALEX

So what's it like to be the daughter of the interior minister?

MONIQUE

(wry smile)

Zuma isn't so bad. Would you like me to introduce you to him?

ALEX

Sure, just not tonight. I'd like to get to know his gorgeous daughter first.

MONIQUE

Very good answer.

ALEX

What punishment would he dish out if I asked his daughter out?

MONIQUE

(guffaws)

You're so old fashioned, aren't you?

ALEX

I'm just out of practice, that's all.

MONIQUE

Probably a month in the tower handcuffed and fed delicious grapes by his deeply interested daughter.

ALEX

In that case...

MONIQUE

(affectionately)

You're in.

Al returns with a tray of SPARKLING COCKTAILS. He notices the close interaction with Alex and Monique. He raises a surprised brow and grins.

AL

You two didn't waste any time getting to know one another, did you?

ALEX

(knowingly)

Nope. Sure didn't.

They lift a cocktail from the tray and drink.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Feisty Monique and Alex go at it during a passionate session of intense lovemaking. She rides - He fully enjoys her.

CUT TO:

INT. LIGHT AIRCRAFT - DAY

Carter looks through binoculars as his PILOT flies over the terrain.

His POV: A MANOR HOUSE with a BARN annexed.

CARTER  
(points finger)  
There. Down there.

The Pilot acknowledges and duly lands the aircraft.

CUT TO:

EXT. DUNCAN'S FARMHOUSE - DAY

Carter exits the aircraft with his luggage. He is met on the green by Duncan and his petite Afrikan wife JULIA 40s.

The aircraft's engine roars, before it takes off again.

DUNCAN  
Gerald, good to see.

CARTER  
I'm not happy, Duncan.

DUNCAN  
We're just about to fix some  
lunch. Have you eaten yet?

CARTER  
No. I'm bloody famished. I could  
eat a baby elephant.

JULIA  
(chuckles)  
Good... cos that's what I've made  
for us.



CARTER

Any other time and I'd find that amusing, Julia. But the mood I'm in right now you don't want to know.

They march across the green towards the house.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. VILLA - SUNSET

Al and Daisy lie next to one another and sleep peacefully.

COURTYARD.

The General and four of his Soldiers quietly roll up with the headlights switched off inside the jeep.

They close off the engine, then climb out of the vehicle. They ready their weapons as they march towards the veranda.

The General pushes the door open and steps inside with two Soldiers following. They make their way through the lounge towards

BEDROOM

Al has his head stuck into Daisy's bosom.

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLS - SUNSET

Carter sits in the passenger seat of an open top jeep. He clutches a sniper rifle.

Duncan Meyer sits behind the wheel as they approach the villa.

Carter gets up and looks through binoculars.

His POV: A parked ARMY JEEP and TWO SOLDIERS stand guard.

BACK TO:

## BEDROOM

The General grabs Al by the scruff, then drags him through the villa. Daisy screams and runs out of the villa stark naked.

## COURTYARD - CONT'D

Al is forced down upon his knees by the General as he takes out his pistol and digs it into his skull.

## GENERAL

My diamonds!

Al looks up at him in horror.

## AL

I-I-I haven't got them.

## GENERAL

Five seconds to tell me where they are, or you die!

BACK TO:

## THE HILLS - CONT'D

Carter focuses his sniper rifle upon the General's head.

Duncan grabs a rifle and focuses his lens.

CU: General's large skull.

BANG!

His skull opens up and he falls down.

BANG!

SOLDIER#1 to his left falls down.

BANG!

SOLDIER#2 to his right falls down.

BANG!

SOLDIER#3 aims his automatic weapon up at the hills, but takes a hit to the chest and collapses in a heap.

The remaining SOLDIER drops his rifle and runs off.

CARTER O.S

*Drive.*

They race towards the villa.

In deep shock Al climbs to his feet, then jumps inside the army jeep and drives off at speed.

He closes in on the fleeting Soldier as he sprints for his life.

THUMP!

Al takes him down at speed as an ensuing car chase begins with Carter and Al.

CARTER (CONT'D)

(to Duncan)

After him! Don't let him get away!

A precarious chase across the terrain, until they finally catch up with Al and force his vehicle to a stop.

Carter jumps out of the vehicle in a fit of rage. He points his rifle at Al who throws up his arms and stays behind the wheel.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Get out of the fuckin' jeep, you thievin' gobshite!

AL

(cowers)

OK-OK. Guilty as charged. I'm sorry-I'm sorry. I made a mistake.

CARTER

The fuck you are, you snivellin' ponce! I just saved you a trip to purgatory! You owe me double drubs.

AL

I know-I know... and I'm really sorry, Gerald, I apologize sincerely. I really don't know what I was thinking about. You wouldn't have been out of pocket anyway.

CARTER

What do you mean by that?

AL

Zirconias are worth thirty bucks a carat. You would have broken even.

CARTER

(furrowed brow)

Where are my stones, you thievin' bastard?!

AL

They're gone. I don't have them any more.

CARTER

You better had! Your life depends upon me getting my stones back.

AL

The Yank pays double of what you pay me, Gerald. You can't blame me for that. You'd do the same if you were in my shoes.

CARTER

I would not! I want them back.

AL

Actually, he doesn't have them just yet. I suppose...

CARTER

Suppose what?

AL

Technically they're still yours. They're in my safe back at the villa.

CARTER

Not technically at all! They're mine, you imbecile! You ripped me off!

AL

OK-OK. Just don't rush me.

CARTER

I am not in the mood for any of  
your bollocks!

AL

Oh c'mon, Gerald. I'm in an  
awkward position now.

CARTER

You will be if I don't get what I  
came here for, goddammit?!

AL

I know-I know.

CARTER

I want my stones now!

AL

(submits)

C'mon.

Carter jumps behind the wheel in the jeep. Al takes the seat  
next to him. Duncan sits in the rear.

CARTER

Duncan. If he makes one wrong  
manoeuvre shoot him.

DUNCAN

It would be my pleasure, Gerald.

OVERHEAD SHOT: They drive back towards the villa.

They pull up, then exit the vehicle, before they step over  
the bloodied cadavers of the General and his three Soldiers.

CARTER

What a mess.

They enter the villa and Al makes his way towards the sliding  
bookcase with Carter looking over his shoulder.

Duncan checks the villa over.

Al covers the safe dial with his cupped hand.

AL

(to Carter)

Turn around.

Carter turns his head. Al opens the safe.

CU: A FIREARM. CASH. PASSPORT. POUCH containing the diamonds.

He grabs the pouch and hands it to Carter.

AL (CONT'D)

They're all there. You can check  
if you want.

Gerald Carter closely inspects the Stones with an eyeglass.

CARTER

I never had you down as a thief,  
Alfonse. But if you ever pull a  
stunt like that again, you and I  
are done. There'll be no second  
chances. You have no idea the  
huge embarrassment you've caused  
me... not to mention time and  
money.

AL

Apologies.

CARTER

Is that why you asked me not to  
come back here?

Duncan appears from the bedroom.

DUNCAN

All clear.

AL

(ruminates)

Shit! Daisy! She's gone!

He rushes out of the villa.

CUT TO:

INT. ZUMA'S STUDY - DAY

Alex Raynor and Zuma sit opposite one another.

ZUMA

I know this Afrikan friend of yours has been cheating my country. I know he is paying wayward diggers to steal diamonds from my mines to prop up the coup d'etat in Liberia. And I also know that Gerald Carter has purchased diamonds from him, after he shot dead four of my soldiers from a yacht of the coastline.

ALEX

(sighs knowingly)

I had no idea, I swear. I-I-

ZUMA

You shouldn't lie to me, Mister Alex Raynor. We are not fools. This treachery has been happening since the mines have been opened.

ALEX

I never thought to ask how he acquired them, Zuma.

ZUMA

Stop it! We all know where diamonds come from, do we not?

ALEX

(shakes head)

Look... I'm stepping back. I'm a jeweller whose business is to purchase gems from whoever wants to sell them to me.

ZUMA

So why do you come to me? I cannot betray my country and sell to you the diamonds which keep my country afloat.

ALEX

I'm here to ask for your permission to take Monique with me to the States when I travel back tomorrow.

ZUMA

But why do you ask me? She's a big girl now. She can make up her own mind what she wants to do with her life. She can give you an answer, can she not?

ALEX

I came here out of respect. And to tell you that I love her.

ZUMA

Ha! You and many others.

ALEX

(aback)

Oh.

ZUMA

I believe you. But I want to make you an offer before you fly back.

He gets to his feet and pours two glasses of Brandy. He hands one to Alex.

ALEX

I see.

ZUMA

I need you to do something for me, and my country. You will be highly regarded should you carry out this little assignment.

ALEX

Sure, but what is it?

ZUMA

British politician, Gerald Carter. He's a thorn in our side. I want him dead. He must die before I can let you indulge Monique with your American culture and even possibly her hand.

ALEX

(aback)

But why do you ask me? I'm not an assassin.



ZUMA

Politics, Mister Alex Raynor. We receive a substantial aid package from the British Government annually. My hands are tied. My country cannot be seen to have a grievance with the British. And we are not sure how much his Government knows about his dishonourable private life.

ALEX

I'm sorry, I cannot do it, I'm afraid. I'm not the right person to ask. I'm a diamond merchant, not a hit man.

(pauses and sighs)

Do I have a choice?

ZUMA

If you want to carry on seeing my daughter, yes. I would suggest that you do as I ask, particularly as you are now privy to my request.

ALEX

(sighs deeply)

But I wouldn't even know where to begin.

ZUMA

It will be carried out on British terra firma. That way there'll be nothing to link his murder to my country.

ALEX

You want me to go to the UK to kill him?

ZUMA

Yes.

(pauses)

I know the Afrikan introduced you to Monique at my soirée. I also know she has spent every night at your hotel with you since.

ALEX

(submits)

I swear-

ZUMA

It's okay. She left for Dubai this afternoon. She will only return at my discretion.

ALEX

She didn't say anything about going to Dubai to me.

ZUMA

Just see to it that Gerald Carter never returns to the Ivory Coast if you want your relationship with my daughter to blossom.

ALEX

Fine.

ZUMA

And do not fail, Mister Alex Raynor. I would expect to hear of his death within one week.

ALEX

(displeased)

Fine.

CUT TO:

EXT. LIBERIAN ARMY BASE - DAY

DRONES and other HEAVY WEAPONRY is unloaded from large containers and taken to a storage facility inside the huge area where FIGHTER JETS, TANKS and MISSILE LAUNCHERS are also stored.

CUT TO:

INT. CHALET - DAY

Daniel sits at a table with a plate of rice and beans. His frail sister MARY 30s stands at a sink unit behind him and washes her clothes.

DANIEL

Where did you hide it?

MARY

Under the orange tree.

DANIEL

Did the soldiers come while I was gone?

MARY

No. And please do not go back there, Daniel. They will kill you. You are all I have left of my family.

DANIEL

I know. We are going to leave here tonight.

(eats)

They will come once they find out that I crossed the border.

MARY

Where will we go?

DANIEL

Kenya. A brother knows a man who will buy the diamond. He says that he will give us a very good price.

MARY

Do you trust him?

DANIEL

Yes. We worked together in the last year. He is a church minister now. I trust him.

MARY

OK. I will get my things ready.

DANIEL

Good.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. AL'S VILLA - NIGHT

Al rushes towards his jeep. He drags two suitcases and loads the vehicle with personal goods, before he jumps in and switches on the engine.

A short silence.

BOOM!

He becomes a human FIREBALL as he is ejected from his seat with the jeep aflame.

BACK TO:

EXT. MARY'S CHALET - NIGHT

FOUR ARMY VEHICLES pull up. SOLDIERS quickly surround the property.

A high ranking OFFICER kicks the door in, then enters. Moments later he exits with his firearm down by his side.

OFFICER

(angrily)

They're gone. Burn it down. All of them.

The Soldiers begin to torch all the Chalets in the township as people run screaming from their dwellings.

CUT TO:

EXT. LIBERIAN TERRAIN - NIGHT

Fires burn as Paramilitaries continue to do battle with Government Forces who use Helicopter gunships to control the skies above. The rattle of machine gun fire can be heard.

CUT TO:

INT. IVY RESTAURANT. LONDON - NIGHT

Carter and his wife fine dine with two distinguished COUPLES as they share a round table.

Gerald Carter gets up throws his napkin down on the table.

CARTER

Excuse me.

He leaves the table and walks down a narrow staircase towards the-

CLOAKROOM.

He uses the urinal, then turns to wash his hands at the sink unit.

His iPhone rings. He takes it out of his pocket and answers the call.

CARTER (CONT'D)

(on phone)

Duncan! How's it going?

(listens)

What?

(aghast)

Fuck! No!

(reflects)

I will.

(sighs)

Jesus Christ!

(shakes head)

Serves him right.

Alex quietly exits a cubicle behind him. He clutches a large KNIFE.

Carter catches his reflection in the mirror and spins around to confront him.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Alex Raynor? What are you doing here?

ALEX

Sorry, Gerald. You fucked me over. Time to pay the piper.

CARTER

You what?!

ALEX

Zuma says so.

He lunges forward and continuously stabs him in the groin, before he exits.

CU: Carter lies in a pool of blood. His eyes bulge, his mouth wide open.

CUT TO:

EXT. LONDON EMBANKMENT - NIGHT

Alex discards the knife in the River Thames, then hails a passing TAXI.

TAXI DRIVER

Where to gov'nor?

ALEX

Chelsea Bridge Apartments.

He climbs into the back and they drive off.

INTERCUT:

INT. TAXI & HOTEL ROOM

Alex speaks on the phone to Monique. She lies on the bed in just her skimpy black lace panties.

MONIQUE

(brightly)

Alex! Where are you calling me from?

ALEX

(downbeat)

I'm in London, actually. I'm in a cab on my way back to my apartment.

MONIQUE

Come over. You'll love it here. It's so chilled.

ALEX

I'd love to, but I'm tied up right now.

MONIQUE

You spoke to my father. He called me. What did he say to you?

ALEX

Oh, he was quite measured about the whole thing, actually. He didn't seem annoyed at all.

(reflects)

I meant to ask, why are you there?

MONIQUE

Didn't my father tell you?

ALEX

No, he did not.

MONIQUE

Business.

ALEX

What kinda business?

MONIQUE

Diamonds, you fool.

ALEX

Diamonds?

MONIQUE

We'll speak about it soon.

ALEX

When will that be?

MONIQUE

When Zuma says so, I'm afraid.

ALEX

I need you. I miss you.

She slides her hand between her legs.

MONIQUE

The sex is what you miss.

ALEX

No!

MONIQUE

I miss you to. I want you so much. My vagina aches for your penis inside me.

She plays with herself.

ALEX

(chuckles)

Oh, stop it. You're crazy.

MONIQUE

Why don't you ask him?

ALEX

I'm going to.

MONIQUE

I want you inside me now.

He listens as she pants down the phone while she makes herself cum.

ALEX  
I'll call him right away.

MONIQUE  
OK. Bye, my love.

ALEX  
Bye, sweetheart.

END INTERCUT.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
Driver, I've changed my mind.  
Take me to Park Lane instead.

TAXI DRIVER  
Sure.

BACK TO:

EXT. RESTAURANT LONDON - NIGHT

A CROWD gathers. PAPARAZZI flash their cameras when Carter is brought out in a BODY BAG, then placed inside an unmarked vehicle.

CUT TO:

INT. ZUMA'S MANSION - DAY

Alex enters the reception and is shown to the-  
STUDY.

He scans the room and observes a hand painted PORTRAIT of ZUMA in military uniform.

Another PORTRAIT shows him with his arm around his daughter MONIQUE.

Zuma enters wearing a comfy cardigan. He greets Alex with a friendly smile.

ZUMA  
Alex. Take a seat.



ALEX

Thanks.

Alex sits down in one of the two winged armchairs. Zuma sits opposite and brings out a pipe.

ZUMA

Well, what brings you to my home this time?

ALEX

It's done.

ZUMA

I know.

ALEX

I want Monique home by the weekend. You said-

ZUMA

I know what I said, Alex.

(lights pipe)

But that was then. Things have changed since we last chewed over the fat.

ALEX

(dismayed)

I don't understand.

ZUMA

You didn't think I would let my daughter develop a meaningful relationship with an assassin now, did you?

ALEX

But that was the agreement!

ZUMA

It was indeed. That was before I found out that you're involved in stealing my country's wealth. You've been coercing my diggers to steal diamonds. The price for that in this country is death by firing squad.

ALEX

(aghast)

Hey! C'mon, man! You cannot be serious! I've done everything you've asked of me.

Zuma gets to his feet.

ZUMA

Go! Get out! Don't ever come back!

Alex jumps to his feet and wildly gesticulates his fury.

ALEX

What?! What about our-

ZUMA

You have six hours to leave the Ivory Coast, or you will leave here in a coffin.

ALEX

That's bloody insane! I thought we had an agreement?!

Zuma shows him out.

ZUMA

Leave my daughter, or you will see what I am really capable of, Mister Alex Raynor.

ALEX

This is preposterous?! Why, for fuck sake?!

ZUMA

Because Zuma says so.

Alex protests as he is ushered out of the door by Zuma.

CUT TO:

INT. JOHN F KENNEDY AIRPORT - DAY

Alex wears dark shades as he waits at the arrivals lounge.

Monique appears wearing shades. She bears a huge grin when she spots him as she pulls her luggage behind her.

They embrace, then he leads her towards the exit and a waiting cab.

INT. TAXI. DAY

He holds her hand tightly as they sit comfortably on the back seat.

ALEX

How was the flight?

MONIQUE

Comfortable.

ALEX

What did your father say when you told him you were coming to the states?

MONIQUE

Don't ask.

ALEX

Oh.

MONIQUE

His language was far too explicit to repeat in the back of a cab.

She leans over and kisses him on the cheek.

ALEX

I heard the coup d'etat is over.

MONIQUE

The ceasefire was a success.

ALEX

That's good news.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

Daniel wears a smart black suit, white shirt and tie as he grabs his briefcase and exits.

INT. UNDERGROUND CAR PARK - DAY

He appears from a lift shaft and key fobs an expensive four wheel drive, before he climbs inside and starts the engine.

His iPhone vibrates inside his pocket.

CU: Unknown caller.

He brings the phone to ear and listens.

DANIEL

Who is this, please?

ZUMA O.S

*Daniel?*

DANIEL

I said who is this?

ZUMA O.S

*It's the interior minister from the Cote di Ivoire, Daniel. I have just called to wish you well.*

DANIEL

Where did you get this number?

ZUMA O.S

*You will pay for your sins, eventually.*

He closes the call and checks his rearview mirror.

His POV:: A BLACK FOUR WHEEL DRIVE WITH TINTED WINDOWS. He quickly drives off. The Four Wheel Drive follows him out.

EXT. THOROUGHFARE - DAY

A frenetic, dangerous ensuing car chase begins through the city as Daniel sticks his toe down on the gas while they tailgate his vehicle.

After a number of pile-ups, he eventually manages to lose them when they are blocked off and arrested by pursuing armed TRAFFIC POLICE.

CUT TO:

INT. ZUMA'S PRIVATE RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Zuma speaks on the phone.

ZUMA

Arrested-?! Just find them!

He ends the call and stomps around the room in a fury.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM 98. NEW YORK HILTON - NIGHT

Alex and Monique make out inside the sheets. She rides him to his conclusion, before they lie back and share a cigarette.

MONIQUE

Is it true what my father said  
about you?

ALEX

It depends on what he said.

MONIQUE

That you killed Gerald Carter,  
because he was stealing our  
diamonds.

ALEX

True. But did he tell you why I  
killed him?

MONIQUE

No. I didn't ask.

ALEX

He bribed me. He said if I wanted  
to see you again I had to kill  
the man who'd been stealing his  
diamonds.

MONIQUE

He said that you and Al also  
stole diamonds from one of our  
mines. Is that true?

He looks at her with concern.

ALEX

No, it is not true! Al did that, not me. And I've heard that he was blown to smithereens in his jeep.

MONIQUE

What about the politician?

ALEX

What about him?

MONIQUE

How did you kill him?

ALEX

Look, Monique, I'm not sure if I like your line of questioning. You sound like your father. I want to forget all about it. I just want us just enjoy one another. I'd like to be with you forever. I want you to have my children and live in America.

MONIQUE

Why? We hardly know one another.

ALEX

(imploringly)

I love you, Monique. I'm in love with you.

MONIQUE

I'm sorry, Alex, but I can't. My father would never allow it.

(kisses his forehead)

I'm going to take a shower. Can you order some food now. I'm famished.

ALEX

Sure.

She climbs out of bed naked and enters the bathroom.

Alex picks up the phone by the side of the bed.

ALEX (CONT'D)

(on phone)

Can I get a pot of coffee and two club sandwiches please-? Ninety-eight-Thanks.

The shower can be heard running as he lights up another cigarette and ruminates inside the sheets.

Beat.

A tap at the door.

He gets up and slips on a bathrobe, then opens the door to two suited AFRICAN DUDE'S wearing shades.

SLOW MO: They point their FIREARMS with SILENCER attached as he attempts to close the door.

They are quicker and force him back inside the room.

ALEX (CONT'D)

NO!!!

Pff! Pff! Pff! Pff!

CU: Alex lies on the floor with a gaping hole to his head, another to his chest as blood pumps out and covers his body.

The African Dudes quickly disappear.

Monique comes rushing from the bathroom dressed in a bathrobe.

She screams when she sees him lying in a pool of blood.

MONIQUE

(terrified)

ALEX! ALEX! OH MY GOD! ALEX!

HOTEL WAITOR appears and attempts to console her as she leans over Alex's dead body and laments.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Detective MILNER 40s and female Detective WEBB 30s sit at a table opposite a tearful Monique.

MILNER

So, let's go over this again. You were taking a shower when you heard the victim yell the word no. Is that right?

MONIQUE

(tearfully)

Yes.

MILNER

Then what happened?

MONIQUE

I opened the bathroom door and saw him lying on the floor in a pool of blood.

WEBB

How many gunshots did you hear?

MONIQUE

I didn't hear anything. I was in the shower.

MILNER

So you never heard the shots?

MONIQUE

No. I told you that already.

MILNER

What's your relationship to the victim?

MONIQUE

Close friends.

WEBB

(interjects)

With benefits, obviously?

She ignores the question.

MILNER

How long have you known the deceased?

MONIQUE

About three months.



WEBB

How did you meet?

MONIQUE

We met in my homeland. At my birthday party.

WEBB

Can you think of any reason why somebody would want to kill him?

MONIQUE

Yes I can.

MILNER

And?

WEBB

Who?

MONIQUE

My father. He said that he stole diamonds from one of my country's mines.

MILNER

And your father is the interior minister, right?

MONIQUE

That's right.

WEBB

Did Alex ever tell you what he was doing in the Ivory Coast?

MONIQUE

Not exactly. I was introduced to him by a friend of a friend.

WEBB

Do you think your father had him killed for stealing these diamonds, then?

A protracted silence as she thinks about her answer.

MONIQUE

Yes.

The Detectives look at one another knowingly.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. MARY'S BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Mary sits at the dining table with her head in her hands. She looks up with a worried expression.

Daniel shows her TWO PASSPORTS. One for him, and one for her.

MARY

(sadly)

But I like it here, Daniel. I want to stay here.

DANIEL

If we do not leave right away, we will be killed, Mary.

MARY

But where will we go?

DANIEL

London. Uncle William lives there. He will find us somewhere to live. I will find work.

MARY

Where did you get them?

DANIEL

Never mind. We will leave immediately for the airport. Get your things.

MARY

OK.

DANIEL

We will be safe in London.

She gets up from the table and begins to pack. He makes a call.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

(on phone)

I'd like a taxi to the airport please- Now-? That's fine- The address is two-one-five Cape Drive- Thank you.

50.

He ends the call then stands in reverie.

CUT TO:

STREET.

They fill the TAXI with luggage, then climb inside and drive off.

CUT TO:

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Daniel and Mary sit with their eyes closed as they head for the UK.

FADE OUT.

THE END