

TRIUMVIRATE



SCREENPLAY BY
STEPHEN HALL

The Story

When the world's largest oil reservoir is discovered in the Pacific Ocean near the shores of Sanguma Motu island, The Dark Angel, Gerrat Tensh, sees his moment to initiate the End of Days with a conflict between the USA, Russia and China with claims of territorial ownership of the island and the oil.

Meanwhile, spiritual leader, Hamidi Abdullahi, is at an Ethiopian village performing a miracle to bring rain to the dry land where crops are dying. American President, Bill Hayman, attends a private party where he has an affair with actor Vittoria Sartori, unaware that she is a secret agent and recording the events.

In China, President Yang Xingshi's son, Chen, is with two associates in an apartment belonging to Fu Zhào, drinking and taking drugs where a fallout results in Chen shooting Fu Zhao dead. Local reporter Dong Lin witnesses the Chinese Secret Service, the MSS, removing the body and videos the conspiracy while Detective Li Hua Xiè follows up a missing person report on murdered Fu Zhao by his parents. Her suspicions are reconfirmed when she meets Dong Lin but is fearful of the MSS and is advised to drop the case.

In Russia, opposition leader Luka Sidorov announces his intention to attend Moscow for election results and flies to the capital where President Opasni Bychkov plans to ensure he remains in power. As Gerrat Tensh meets each of the leaders to persuade them to escalate a face-off between the nations, Hamidi meets with his twelve followers that includes Yóu Dà. He informs them The Dark Angel is at work and he must leave while instructing Yóu Dà that his services will be required in the near future.

Arriving in America, he visits a church where Vittoria Sartori is praying. He fills a vial with Holy Water before confronting her about The Dark Angel and the recording in her possession. Realising who Hamidi is, she panics and runs from the church out into the street to be hit by an oncoming vehicle, after which Hamidi extracts the cassette from her bag.

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FBI agent Cathleen Henshaw, tasked with investigating the death of Vittoria Sartori, reviews cctv showing Hamidi taking an object from the bag and visits the church where she finds the foreign agent's gun. Soon, the American Homeland Security and the FBI are on the hunt for Hamidi, initiated by the President, despite not knowing who he is or who he works for. It is discovered that Hamidi is heading for JFK airport where agents are placed on high alert. At the airport, Cathleen Henshaw spots Hamidi and approaches him from behind but Hamidi uses his powers to allude her and everyone before heading for Russia.

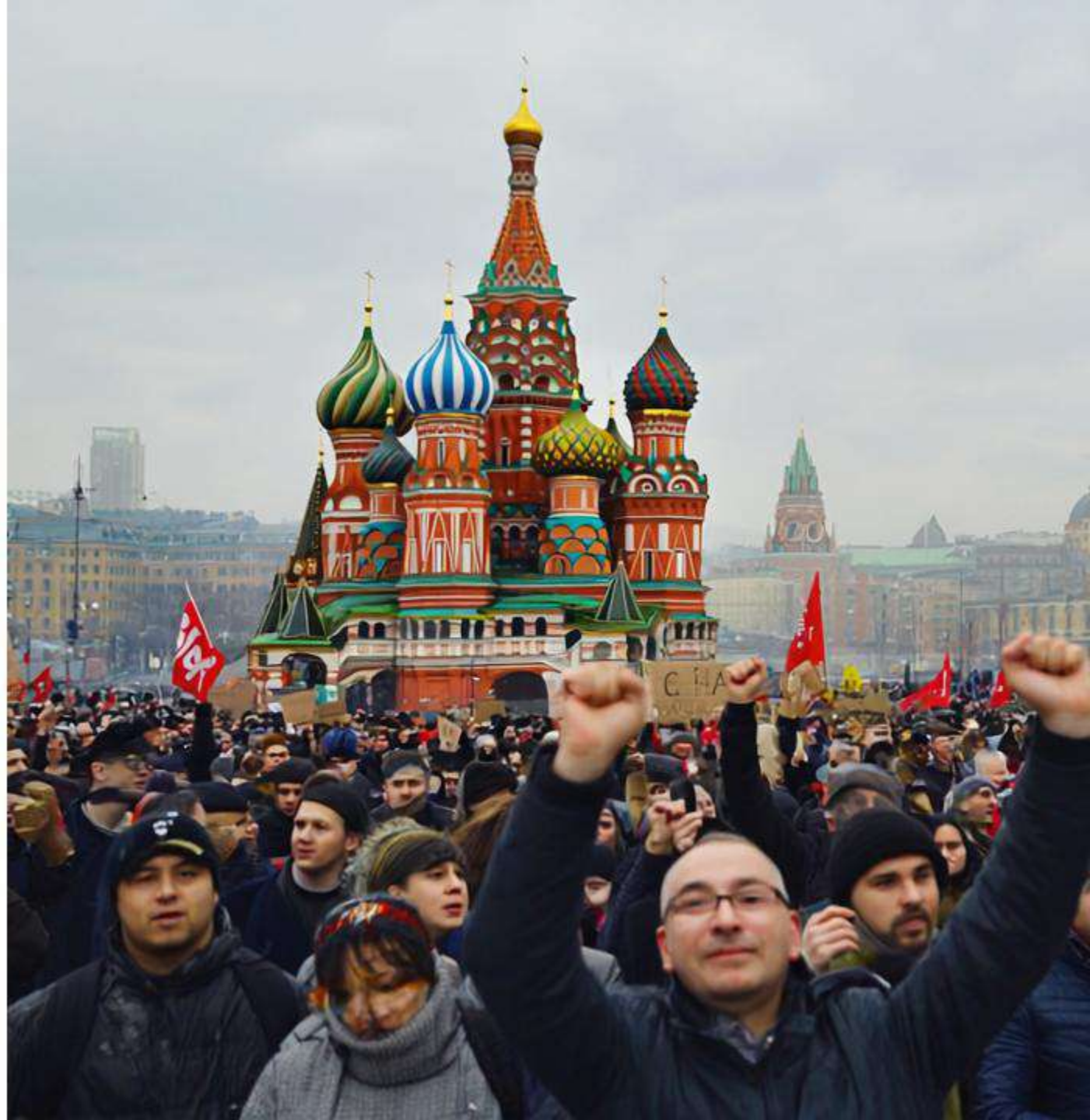
There, Luka Sidorov is poisoned by the FSB and is in hospital on the orders of Opasni Bychkov where an agent is sent to ensure he dies. The agent locks the door of the private ward and is about to kill the opposition leader when he is disturbed by Hamidi who is able to pass through the locked door. A fight ensues and the agent is killed before Hamidi spiritually heals Luka.

At the same time, Gerrat Tensh hands each of the leaders a hypnotic red gem, promising infinite power as warships are sent to the shores of the island. The American Ambassador offers the island's Prime Minister, Penina Taito, security on agreeing to the terms with owner Gerrat Tensh but the Prime Minister refuses and America retreats leaving Russia and China fully armed and ready for war.

Leaving Russia, Hamidi visits Detective Li Hua Xiè and persuades her to help bring justice. If she delivers an envelope to his followers in China, he will retrieve the gun used in the murder which is stored in the MSS building. He then meets Yóu Dà who he requests should also pass an envelope to an address.

The following day and Hamidi uses his powers to enter the MSS building and retrieve the evidence, except as he leaves the building he is confronted by demons where a battle ensues that results in the help of Detective Li Hua Xiè to escape.

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While the detective has the evidence analysed, Hamidi visits Yóu Dà who is preparing to leave. Hamidi knows it was he who informed The Dark Angel of the plan to retrieve the evidence and finds money in Yóu Dà's suitcase. Despite his friend acting as a traitor, Hamidi forgives him. The news of the Chinese President's son's involvement in murder and a cover-up ignites protests across the country and they are arrested as the Chinese warship is withdrawn.

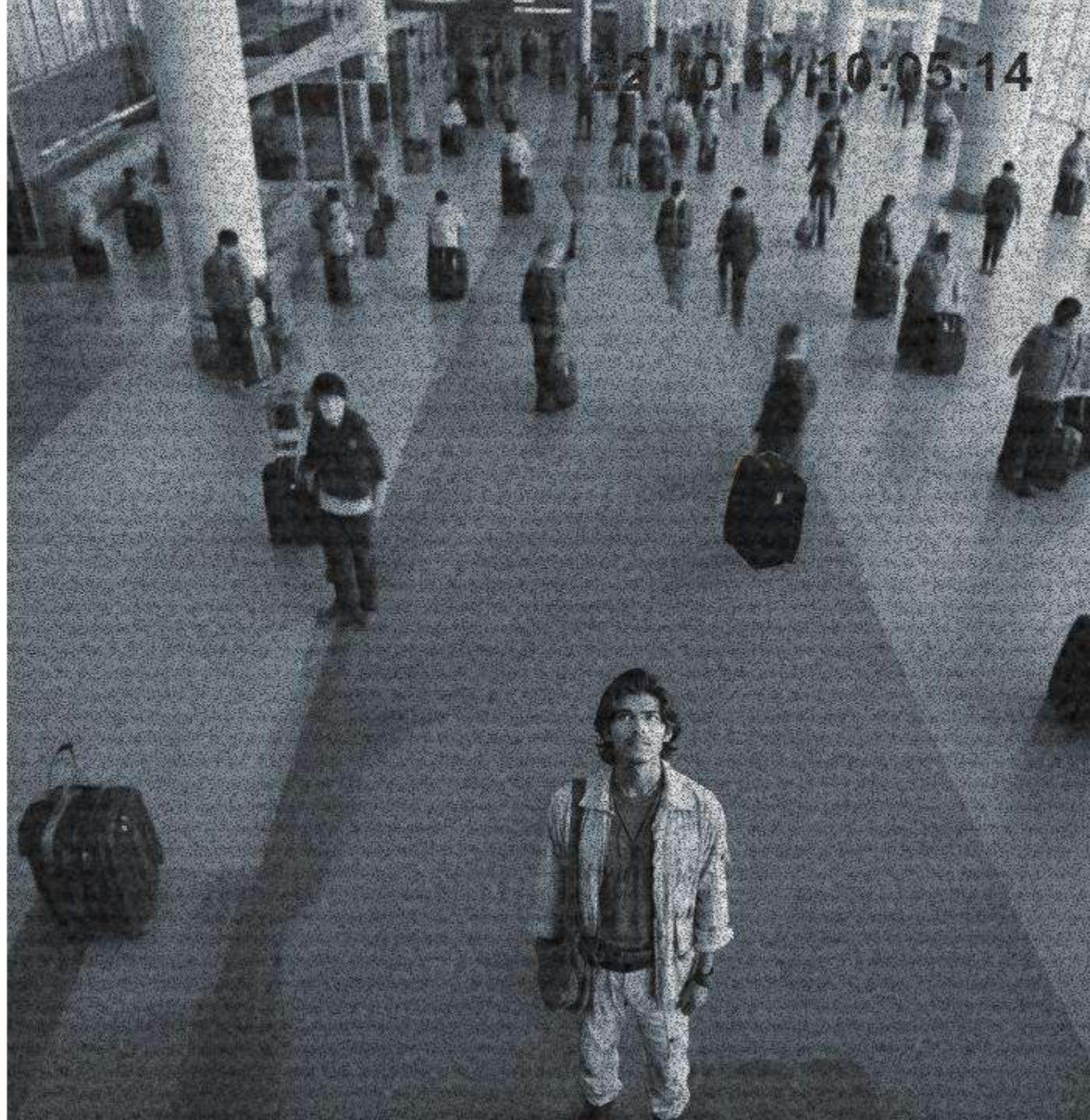
Russian President, Opsani Bychkov, believing his moment has come to claim the island and the oil, is unaware that he has been secretly recorded ordering the murder of Luka who leads a protest towards the Kremlin in the company of Hamidi. The President is arrested and the Russian ships are withdrawn. American President Bill Hayman watches the scenes unfold and is informed that Hamidi is travelling to America with the recording.

Hamidi visits the American President who is in the company of his wife in at the UN building where he drops the recording on a table. His wife takes the recording and questions her husband about its contents as Hamidi leaves.

As armed officers and the FBI wait for Hamidi, he uses his powers to deflect attempts to shoot him before Gerrat Tensh appears, who changes into a powerful demon and an epic, climatic fight erupts as the world around them is frozen in time. With The Dark Angel on the precipice of victory, watched on by a circle of his child demons, Hamidi uses his powerful whip to kill his foe as it pierces through his body and raises him into the air before throwing the Holy Water into his face. The Dark Angel explodes into a cloud of smoke and disappears.

Returning to Addis Ababa, Hamidi meets his associates and informs them that despite the death of the Dark Angel, the battle goes on.

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The Characters

Hamidi Abdullahi

Lead protagonist, thirty-four-year-old Hamidi is a humble man who knows he has been sent out with a purpose to make the world a better place.

Mystical and spiritual, he possesses an unknown ability to see what the future may hold and what is required to ensure global equilibrium is ensured.

Coming across as someone introverted, he talks with a sense of calm and assuredness. He never shouts or berates at others.

The story indicates that he is clearly trying to spread a philosophy as there are references to the people across Africa and the Middle East who know of his presence, that he has followers in China and a pamphlet printed in the early twenty-first century containing a prediction.

The only information known about him is he is of Lebanese origin but nothing is known of his family and past or whether he is married or single.

What is clear is that he possesses incredible supernatural powers which are illustrated in his ability to enter locked rooms or move with speed from one place to another in a split-second. Attributes which are similar to his foe, The Dark Angel.

Though he is projected as a man of spirituality, peace and goodwill to others, he will (and does) kill as a means to achieve his objective, but he does illustrate a forgiving character in his persona.

With strong leadership qualities, he is revered by his band of close friends who are willing to help and support him.

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The Characters

Gerrat Tensh

The forty-two-year-old business tycoon and owner of blue-chip company Iblis-X is the lead antagonist in the story and arch enemy of Hamidi Abdullahi who extolls a confidence and drive that he is a man on a mission.

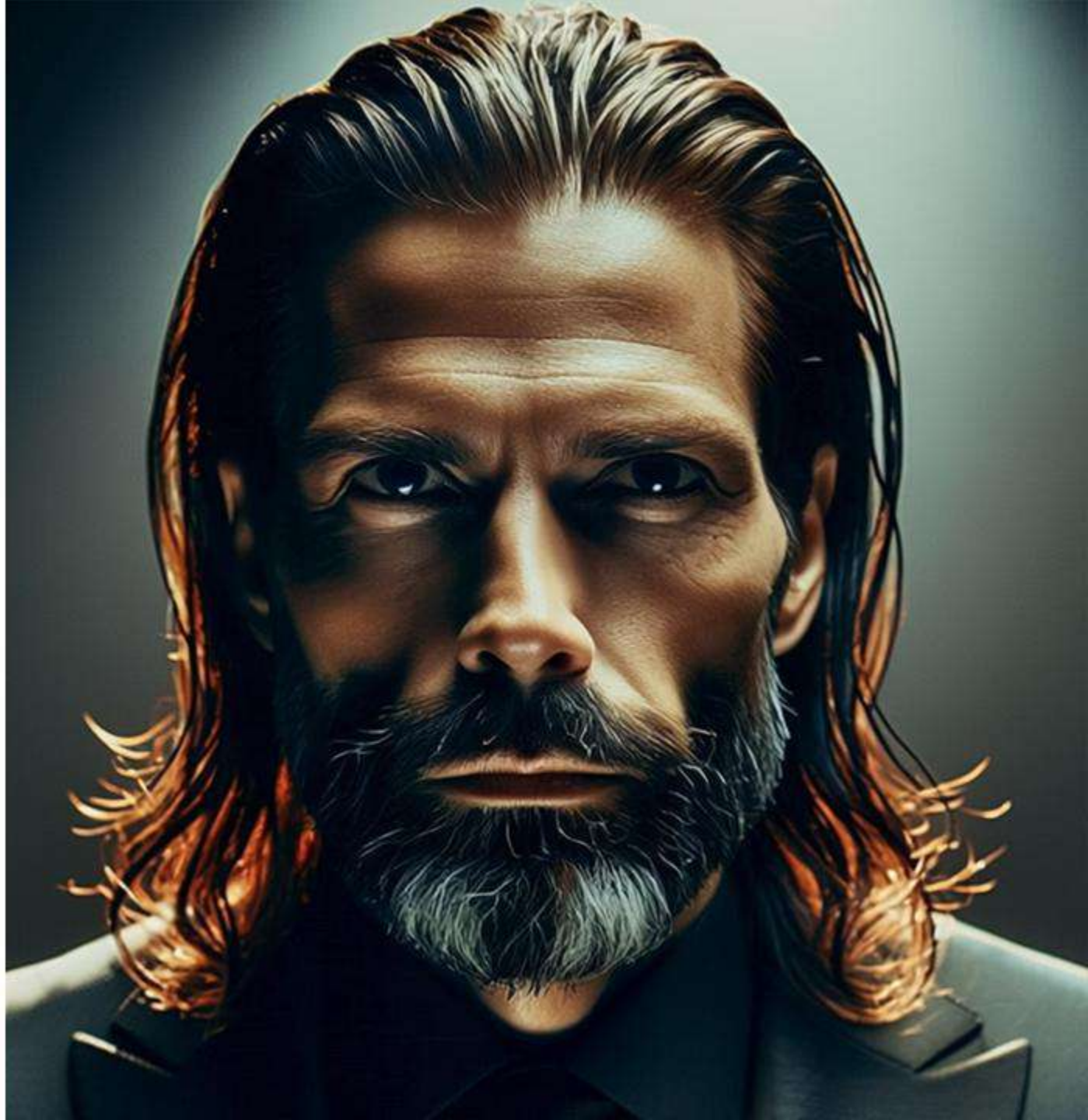
As a high-profile entrepreneur, he has the ear of Bill Hayman, the President of the United States, to whom he acts as an advisor.

Not much is known of his background but he does refer to an incident where was rejected by a friend for his arrogance which instilled a desire to achieve his goals and prove others wrong.

It is clearly a moment of personal significance that defines who he is.

But Tensh is a Jekyll and Hyde character and his dark side shows growing signs of a man who is up to no good with ulterior motives at play that leave others unaware he is putting everyone in danger.

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The Characters

Bill Hayman/Yang Xingshi/Opasni Bychkov

As President of the United States, fifty-eight-year-old Bill Hayman is a duplicitous man more concerned about his integrity and position of power than anything else as he discovers his infidelity to his wife risks being exposed. Like the other leaders, he believes he is above the law and drunk on power but his predicament is different in that he is beholden to the power of democracy which may not take kindly to his actions, if discovered.

Opasni Bychkov, the Russian President, like Yang Xingshi, is an unforgiving character who has no moral issues when it comes to ensuring any opposition to his leadership is put to a stop, even if that means murder. Where Bill Hayman does appear to have a conscious, if only offering regret for his stupidity, Bychkov has no such attributes as he attempts to fix the elections with unquestioning support from the leadership of the security services and armed forces.

Yang Xingshi, is not dissimilar to his Russian counterpart in his desire for power but he wants more as he strives to change the world order. There is a moment, when talking to Gerrat Tensh, that he says taking over the world is not enough, as he looks up at the sky.

Similarities between the leaders overlap, but each have their weakness which exposes their vulnerabilities.

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The Characters

Cathleen Henshaw/Luka Sidorov/Li Hua Xiè

Where FBI Agent Cathleen Henshaw is laser focussed on solving a case, Detective Li Hua Xiè is indecisive and worries about the consequences if she pursues her investigation.

They are a mirror of each other where one is actively involved with Hamidi and the other is a bystander.

Luka Sidorov, opposition leader to Opasni Bychkov, is a man driven to help his people break the chains of dictatorship, even if that means risking his life. An honorable man, and a threat to the Russian President, his positive character is exposed in a scene when he retrieves a toy for a young child despite the threat it offers.

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The Characters

Vittoria Sartori/Yóu Dà

Glamorous, Italian actor Vittoria Sartori, is a deceptive character who can flutter her eyes and play coy, but in reality she is an agent with a mission to accomplish.

There is a hard edge to her which is highlighted when she warns Hamadi "You realise you put yourself at risk sitting here?"

Yóu Dà is the male equivalent, but his deception is grounded in personal survival rather than professional objectivity that exposes a weakness in his character.

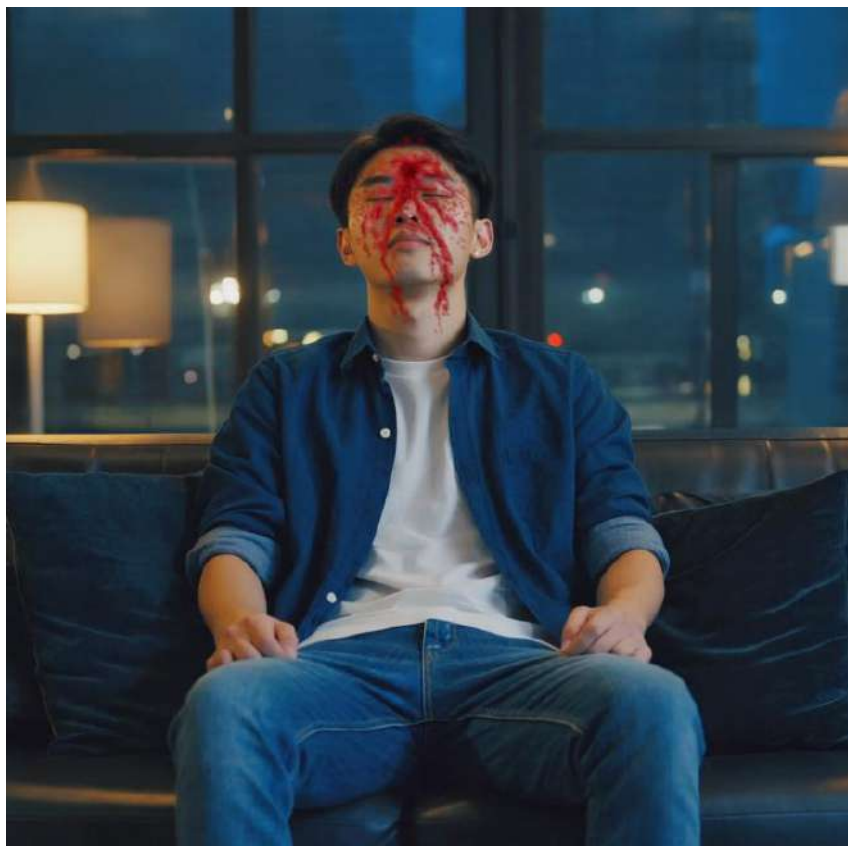
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Scenes



Hamidi Abdullahi brings rain to the Somalian crop field.



Fu Zhào is shot by the Chinese General Secretary's son Chen Xingshi.



Great Tensh conjures smoke into a creature



Scenes



Hamidi sits with his disciples.



Vittoria is confronted by Hamidi and pulls out a gun.



The Dark Angel fights with Hamidi



The Writer

I started writing my first screenplay in December 2021 based on the true story: Burke and Hare – The West Port Murders, which has won numerous awards and positive reviews including one from the Cannes Film Festival.

Since then, I have completed seven feature screenplays of various genres including:

- GREATREX – period crime drama
- Love Is A Stranger – contemporary gothic fable
- Inside Reach – Psychological love story
- Going Underground – Live action/Animation comedy
- Rising Star – 80s crime thriller
- Rising Star II : The Devil's Watch – 80s crime thriller
- The Deceit And Desire – Period drama

Multiple drafts have been produced for each screenplay as I strive to create authentic, captivating stories that fire the imagination of the reader.

Stephen Hall

www.hereandback.co.uk/screenplays

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