

Normand turns to look but the people who passed are indistinguishable as they walk away. He pulls the briefcase closer to him and turns toward the embassy again.

Normand only goes a few steps before whatever poison has been injected into him starts to take effect - he grows unfocused and stumbles. He knows he doesn't have much time left and he rushes toward the embassy.

4 EXT. US EMBASSY MALTA - NIGHT 4

A pedestrian gate is guarded by uniformed MARINES who see Normand stumbling closer. The Marines draw their weapons.

MARINE
(into a radio/com)
He's in view! We've got him!

Lights come on, illuminating Normand in their glare, and he stumbles the last few feet, just making it onto embassy ground as he falls down. The briefcase hits the pavement hard, popping open to reveal several envelopes marked TOP SECRET in different languages.

5 OMITTED 5

6 INT. US EMBASSY MALTA - AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT 6

As we PAN past the door marked AMBASSADOR FIONA SOTO into her large, well-furnished and decorated office, we hear FIONA SOTO (60s, proper, dignified) before we see her.

FIONA (O.S.)
Yes, sir. I'm sorry he didn't make it. Of course. We will keep the documents safe until you decide what to do. Yes.

We get to her desk as she stands, the phone cradled by her ear. On the desk is Normand's briefcase, open with the sealed envelopes inside marked TOP SECRET.

Two uniformed Marines stand at attention next to the desk holding a large steel lockbox. Fiona closes the briefcase then puts it into the lockbox and shuts the lid, which has a green light and a keypad.

FIONA (CONT'D)
(into phone)
The case is in the lockbox.

There is a brief pause then a beep as the light changes from green to red. Fiona checks the lid - it is firmly locked.

- 7 INT. US EMBASSY MALTA - VAULT - NIGHT 7
- The Marines and Fiona come into a bank-style vault. The Marines put the lock box into a large safety deposit box (#103). Fiona punches a code into a keypad on the box and it too locks. They exit and the heavy vault door closes, shutting the room into darkness.
- 8 TITLE CARD: **SEATTLE, PRESENT DAY** 8
- EXT. SEATTLE - DAY
- Establishing shots of a sunny day in Seattle, Washington.
- 9 EXT. DESTINATION TRAVELER OFFICE BUILDING - DAY 9
- Establishing the Seattle office building that contains the headquarters for Destination Traveler Magazine.
- 10 INT. DESTINATION TRAVELER - ELEVATOR LOBBY - DAY 10
- A set of elevator doors open to reveal CHLOE DAY (30s, down-to-earth, funny, pretty but doesn't call attention to it), who steps off wheeling a suitcase that looks like it has seen its fair share of travel.
- 11 INT. DESTINATION TRAVELER - BULLPEN - DAY 11
- Chloe comes into the bullpen of the offices and is joined by SARA WEBB (30s, confident but nice about it). Sara has a camera (always) and joins Chloe as they go to her desk.
- SARA
(sing-songy)
We're going to Malta. We're going to Malta...
- CHLOE
Good morning, Sara.
- SARA
Chloe, be more excited. We're going to Malta!
- CHLOE
I am excited. But I just got back from Budapest. I didn't even have a chance to fully unpack. I think I've got travel writer whiplash.

SARA

Nobody feels sorry for you for getting paid to see the world.

CHLOE

I know. You're right. It's going to be great. I hope.

Chloe lets that hang there as they reach her desk.

12

INT. DESTINATION TRAVELER - CHLOE'S DESK - DAY

12

Chloe sits in the chair and takes a notebook out of a side pocket of her suitcase. It is a thick, 9x6 book with a clasp on the weathered leather cover stamped with the initials W.D. Chloe opens it and jots a few notes during the following. Sara sits on the desk.

SARA

Is this because Tom is going?

CHLOE

No. I mean, it's his first issue as editor, so...

(off Sara's skepticism)

It's fine. We're professionals.

Before the conversation can go on, TOM MCBRIDE (30s, a decent guy, competitive, handsome), and DMITRY SCHAEFFER (20s, funny, self-effacing) approach, both wheeling travel suitcases.

TOM

I'm sorry Dmitry, you're going to have to explain it to me again.

DMITRY

Which part?

TOM

The part about how a new app is going help the magazine.

DMITRY

Tom, that's the whole part. Sara, can you...

SARA

No, no. I'm a photographer. If it can't be explained by pretty pictures, I'm out.

DMITRY

Chloe?

CHLOE

We're going to be on planes, trains, and automobiles for the next 28 hours. It'll give us something to talk about.

TOM

Hopefully we can also get some sleep. I need everyone to bring their A-game. We've got tours, restaurants, museums...

SARA

The hotel spa. Your friend Elias put in a spa when he built the hotel, right?

CHLOE

His dad's company oversaw the renovation. And he pulled a lot of strings to get us included on the press junket so we're not hitting him up for spa passes, too.

SARA

We work for one of the best travel magazines in the world. Why did we need to have strings pulled?

DMITRY

Because everybody reads about travel on their phones now. Hence the need for a better app.

TOM

28 hours of this? That'll be fun. Meet at the elevators in five?

Dmitry and Sara head off in opposite directions, Chloe and Tom take their suitcases and walk away together.

13

INT. DESTINATION TRAVELER - ELEVATOR LOBBY - DAY

13

Chloe and Tom come to the elevator lobby and stand there a little awkwardly. Chloe goes to put her notebook back in the side compartment of her suitcase but to do so, has to remove a couple of books first. They are pulp mysteries.

TOM

I never understood why you read those mysteries. You always figure out "whodunnit" before you get to the end.

CHLOE

That's why I read them. I like being right.

TOM

(laughs)

I remember that.

The two of them have a connected moment and then they remember they aren't together anymore and it grows awkward.

TOM (CONT'D)

Chloe. We haven't had a chance to... Are we okay? You know, we used to always be on different assignments. We hardly ever saw each other after...

CHLOE

We broke up. It's been over a year, Tom. It's okay to say it.

TOM

But now that I'm editor, we'll be working together more closely.

CHLOE

(beat - smile)

Tom, we're fine. Strictly professional.

TOM

(beat - nods)

Great.

There is a pause. Sara and Dmitry walk into the elevator lobby with their suitcases diffusing the tension.

SARA

We're going to Malta!

DMITRY

Do you think we're going to find enough to do there?

TOM

We better. We're devoting the entire issue to it.

CHLOE

(as they board elevator)

I'm sure we'll find plenty of excitement.

The elevator doors close.

14 EXT. US EMBASSY MALTA - NIGHT 14

All is quiet for a moment and then havoc breaks out. Flood lights come on, sirens blare, and Marines scramble.

15 INT. US EMBASSY MALTA - VAULT - NIGHT 15

While the sirens blare in the background, Fiona comes to the open door of the vault talking back over her shoulder.

FIONA (O.S.)
Shut down as much of the area as
you can. I'll fix it with the
Prime Minister later.

Fiona looks into the vault and stops, aghast. We see that safety deposit box #103 is open and the lockbox is gone.

16 EXT. MALTA - DAY 16

Establishing shots of Malta and all of its historic glory: The imposing fortresses; the beautiful stone churches; the gorgeous bays and beaches; and the yacht-filled harbors.

17 OMITTED 17

18 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY 18

Establishing shot of the Hotel Optima, which is sizable and luxurious. A banner reads GRAND OPENING COMING SOON!

19 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY 19

The lobby has a modern vibe mixed with old Europe detail. Chloe, Tom, Sara, and Dmitry enter and a handsome man with a big smile approaches - ELIAS LENTINI (30s, gregarious).

ELIAS
Chloe?

CHLOE
Elias!

ELIAS

(hugs her)

It's so good to see you. You look the same as you did at the last class reunion. How?

CHLOE

Stop. You look great, too! And the hotel is beautiful.

ELIAS

Thank you. It's getting there. This is just a soft opening with the press so there are still a few things that aren't quite done yet. If you find anything that doesn't work, it's off the record.

CHLOE

Our lips are sealed. Elias, this is Tom McBride, our editor. Sara Webb is our photographer. And Dmitry Schaeffer does the digital content. Everyone, this is Elias Lentini.

ELIAS

It's nice to meet all of you. Seeing the hotel in Destination Traveler is a big deal with my folks. They love your magazine.

DMITRY

Yeah, we're big with parents and grandparents. Of course, if we had a new app...

TOM

We are very excited about doing this issue on Malta.

ELIAS

You know, I have this little thing on the side where we do VIP tours. I can get you into the places where the rich and famous party...

CHLOE

That would be great.

ELIAS

You must be exhausted. Why don't you go get checked in so you can get some rest.

(MORE)

ELIAS (CONT'D)

Now, full disclosure, the rooms with the really amazing views aren't quite ready yet but I'll show you a few tomorrow. If you need anything, I'm in 608.

CHLOE

You're staying here?

ELIAS

Just until the grand opening next week. Sleep well! Welcome to Malta!

CHLOE

Thank you so much, Elias.

Elias waves as he goes toward the elevators. Chloe, Tom, Sara, and Dmitry head toward the front desk.

20 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - FRONT DESK - DAY

20

Chloe, Tom, Dmitry, and Sara approach the front desk where PETER GILROY (20s, Canadian, a bit snooty) is working. Nearby is BREE HAMMOND (40s, American, professional)

PETER

Hello, welcome to the Hotel Optima.

TOM

Thank you. We're with Destination Traveler Magazine.

Bree hears this and steps in while Chloe, Tom, Sara, and Dmitry hand over IDs and credit cards to Peter.

BREE

Hello! I'm Bree Hammond, the manager. Welcome!

CHLOE

Thank you.

BREE

Please let me know if there's anything I can do to make your stay more enjoyable.

TOM

We appreciate it.

Bree walks away. Peter distributes room key cards.

PETER

Mr. McBride, you're in room 409.
Ms. Day, you are in room 510. Mr.
Schaeffer you're in room 301 and
Ms. Webb, you are in room 418. The
elevator is right over there.

SARA

Thank you.

Chloe, Tom, Sara, and Dmitry head toward the elevator.

21

INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

21

Chloe, Tom, Sara, and Dmitry huddle near the elevator.

SARA

I'm going to go get a quick bite to
eat. Anyone else?

DMITRY

Am I more hungry or more jet
lagged? Jet lagged. Bed for me.

TOM

Me, too.

CHLOE

I'll probably order room service
later, but I'll keep you company.

TOM

Okay, let us know when Elias can do
the tour. Oh, and we should also
stop at the American embassy to get
some local recommendations.

CHLOE

(off Sara's confusion)
Diplomats always know the best hole
in the wall restaurants.

SARA

Got it. Where is the embassy?

TOM

It's right next door.

Tom and Dmitry head to the bank of elevators as Chloe and
Sara head toward the restaurant.

22 EXT. US EMBASSY MALTA - DAY 22

A dark SUV pulls up to the front of the embassy with two men in it.

22A INT. US EMBASSY MALTA - AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE - DAY 22A

AARON MAXWELL (30s, smart, handsome, roguish) and LUKE VASQUEZ (late 20s, eager, by the book) stand at the entrance of the Ambassador's office.

They wait a moment as Fiona, flanked by two Diplomatic Security Service agents, is saying goodbye to two other people wearing dark suits (age/race/gender open), who then exit. Fiona turns to Aaron and they greet each other with warm smiles and a handshake.

FIONA

Aaron.

AARON

Madame Ambassador.

(re: men walking away)

CIA?

FIONA

Yes. It's been a long day. But it's good to see you again. I'm sorry it's under such unpleasant circumstances.

AARON

I keep asking the FBI to only assign us cases with happy endings, but you know how bureaucracy is.

FIONA

How long has it been?

AARON

A few years. The incident with the American tourist and the joyride he took on the Emir's yacht?

FIONA

Ah, yes. That took some...

"finesse" to handle.

They share a laugh and then Aaron motions Luke forward.

AARON

Ambassador Soto, this is Special Agent Luke Vasquez. He just joined our team.

LUKE

It's a pleasure to meet you, ma'am. Have you been on this post long?

FIONA

Since before you were born. I started as a liaison with the Army Corp of Engineers.

AARON

If you need to get anything done in Malta, she's the person to talk to.

FIONA

I do know how things work here, yes... Which is why you're going to be dealing with me directly instead of the Diplomatic Security Service. This matter will require a great deal of discretion.

AARON

Of course, Madame Ambassador.

Fiona nods and leads them into the next room. Aaron and Luke follow.

23

INT. US EMBASSY MALTA - VAULT ROOM - DAY

23

Aaron and Luke come out of the vault to join Fiona and the DSS agents who are still watching over the scene.

AARON

Who knew what was in there?

FIONA

It's a long list. Several people here on the staff, embassy security, and diplomatic agencies from around the globe.

AARON

So much for top secret.

FIONA

The documents contained the identities of undercover agents from a dozen different countries including the United States. They had been stolen last month from a diplomatic courier on their way to an international security summit but were retrieved here in Malta by Normand Duclasse, with French intelligence.

AARON

The agent who died bringing them here to the embassy?

FIONA

Yes. Because of the incident, the summit was postponed and instead of risking another courier, it was decided to keep them here for safe keeping... which worked until last night. If they fall into the wrong hands, people will die.

AARON

Did Duclasse know who had stolen the documents from the courier?

FIONA

Based on the poison used to kill him, the CIA believes that it was Cypher.

LUKE

Cypher?

AARON

Code name for a mercenary the CIA has been chasing for years. His resume reads like a LeCarre novel - murder, blackmail, trading state secrets... and the guy is ghost. Nobody even really knows what he looks like.

FIONA

Nobody that's alive, at least. If Cypher stole them the first time, it's a pretty safe bet that he was involved this time. Those documents could be worth a fortune on the black market.

LUKE

And you don't know how the thieves made it in or out of the compound?

FIONA

No. All of the exits are covered by security cameras and we didn't see them coming or going. We only knew they were here because they tripped an alarm on the way out.

AARON

And you locked down the building?

FIONA

The entire block. The Prime Minister wasn't happy but he owed me a favor so I talked him out of considering it an act of war.

LUKE

(looks at vault door)
No signs of forced entry.

FIONA

Half the staff has the combination to the vault. The box that was stolen has an encrypted lock that was programmed remotely by the State Department. No one here could've gotten it open, not even me. And it was made of reinforced steel. It weighs over a hundred pounds, so it isn't easy to move.

AARON

We'll want to talk to everyone who was on duty that night. Who is our local police contact?

FIONA

Inspector Orsel Deguara. She's aware of what happened. And I want to be kept apprised every step of the way.

AARON

I understand.

FIONA

Gentlemen, I'm happy to continue this conversation, but you should go get checked into your hotel before it gets too much later.

AARON

Okay. Where are we staying?

FIONA

The Hotel Optima. It's not open to the public yet, but I managed to get you a couple of rooms.

24

INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - 5TH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

24

Chloe gets off the elevator pulling her suitcase and looking at her notebook. She goes down the hall and almost gets hit by a housekeeping cart being guided by RIANNE BONELLO (30s, girl-next-door), a housekeeper who speaks with a Maltese accent. The cart, which has a sticker on it indicating it belongs to RIANNE BONELLO, bumps into Chloe's suitcase, leaving a small scuff...

RIANNE

I am so sorry. I did not see you.

CHLOE

It's my fault, I was looking at my notebook. Don't worry, my suitcase took the hit.

RIANNE

Is it damaged? The cart is heavy.

CHLOE

Just a scuff. Its been all over the world so its seen worse.

RIANNE

Still, I do apologize. If you need assistance, my name is Rianne.

CHLOE

That's a beautiful name. I'm Chloe. Nice to meet you.

RIANNE

Have a good day.

Rianne goes off with the cart and Chloe looks for room 510.

25

INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - 5TH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

25

Chloe continues down the hall. At room 507, Aaron is standing at the door with a suitcase, tapping his room key card to the electronic lock. Chloe can't help but ask.

CHLOE

Everything okay?

AARON

Yes, I just can't figure out...

(tap)

What's wrong with a good old fashioned key?

CHLOE

You'd miss out on all this convenient technology.

AARON

I'd be okay with that.

CHLOE

Do you want me to try?

Aaron shrugs and hands her his keycard. She taps it against the lock a few times, then does a swiping motion with the key over the lock instead of a tap, and the door opens.

AARON

Okay, now you're just showing off.

CHLOE

(hands back the key)

Not my first time at the hotel
technology rodeo, my friend.
Sometimes swiping works better than
tapping.

AARON

(faux macho pride)

I loosened it for you.

CHLOE

Obviously. Good luck...

AARON

Aaron.

CHLOE

Chloe.

AARON

Thank you, Chloe. I owe you one.

CHLOE

You're welcome, Aaron.

They smile at each other for a moment and then Aaron goes into her room as Chloe walks away.

26 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - DAY

26

Chloe is taking notes in her notebook as she checks out the room. She opens the closet and dresser drawers, feels the linens, etc., and talks as she writes.

CHLOE

Quality furnishings. High thread
counts. First class all the way.

She goes to the balcony, opens the doors, and goes outside.

27 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S BALCONY - DAY

27

Her room is on the back of the hotel and the balcony is over an alley - not exactly the most inspiring view. She looks down and sees what is below - the alley and a service area behind the hotel where trash cans and equipment are stored in a walled off area, separate from the alley.

CHLOE

He wasn't kidding about the views.

Chloe notices a few raindrops hit the page of her notebook and she goes back inside.

28

INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - DAY

28

Chloe comes inside, shuts the balcony doors, and continues to take notes. She flops down on the bed.

CHLOE

Bonus points for comfy mattresses.

As she writes in her notebook she hears a voice speaking in Maltese - intermittent as if someone is on a phone call.

It's a bit muffled and is not obvious whether it is a man or woman, old or young. Chloe looks around trying to figure out where the sound is coming from. She notices an air vent on the wall above the bed and gets closer to it.

There is a knock on the room door, startling her.

ISAAC (O.S.)

Room Service.

Chloe answers the door to find room service attendant ISAAC ABELA (20s, friendly, muscularly built, Maltese accent). He wheels a cart into the room.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Hello, Ms. Day, I am Isaac. Where would you like this?

CHLOE

Right there is good.

ISAAC

How is your stay with us?

CHLOE

Fine, thank you. Although I was just hearing voices.

(off his look)

Through the vent. Someone's voice in the room next door, I guess.

ISAAC

Oh, yes. There are many quirks in this building such as this. Thick walls, but the vents sometimes defeat that. If it is too loud, please call the front desk.

CHLOE
I will, thank you.

ISAAC
(hands her bill to sign)
Enjoy your stay.

CHLOE
Grazzi! Thank you.

Isaac leaves and Chloe pulls out a mystery novel we saw her with earlier and settles in to eat her burger and read.

29 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - NIGHT 29

Re-establishing the hotel - it's late, all is quiet.

30 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - NIGHT 30

The clock on the bedside table reads 1:23am and Chloe is in bed, eyes closed... And then they pop open as she sighs.

CHLOE
I love jet lag.

She snuggles in the bed and closes her eyes to try again. It is only a moment before we hear two voices speaking Maltese through the vent in what sounds like a heated conversation. Chloe opens her eyes again and obviously isn't happy.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
That's not helping.

She reaches over to pick up the house phone but the tone of the conversation shifts to something more like an argument.

Intrigued, she grabs her notebook from the nightstand and gets up on the bed to listen at the vent. She is unable to understand the words being spoken or even much about the voices - is it two people or three? Man or woman? It's too muffled - but it is definitely an argument. There is a sound - like a slap - followed quickly by an exclamation and muffled cries. Chloe is very concerned now.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
(to herself)
What is going on?

Chloe listens intently at the vent. There are grunts and muffled protests, the sound of glass breaking.

Chloe eyes grow wide. We see her write the words "struggle?" and "broken glass." She circles the latter.

Finally, there is a noise that sounds like a heavy thump and moments later, Chloe hears a scream from outside that sounds as if someone is falling. Chloe jumps down off the bed, and rushes out onto the balcony.

31 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - BALCONY - NIGHT 31

Chloe comes out into a steady rain. She looks over the edge and we see what she does - a motionless body in the service area of the hotel lying face down **right next to a door into the hotel (THIS IS IMPORTANT)**. Chloe is horrified.

32 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - NIGHT 32

Chloe runs back into the room, turns on the bedside lamp, and dials the hotel phone. We hear the phone ringing but it is answered by a recording.

RECORDING (V.O.)
Thank you for calling the Hotel
Optima Malta. All of our
representatives are currently...

Chloe hangs up the phone trying to decide what to do. She stands and goes to the closet to quickly get dressed.

33 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - FRONT DESK - NIGHT 33

Chloe comes out of the elevator and crosses the empty hotel lobby to the front desk, which is unmanned. A sign says the agent will return soon. She calls out to the offices behind the front desk.

CHLOE
Hello? Is anybody there? Hello?!

Getting no reply, Chloe is stymied, trying to decide what to do. She looks around and sees a doorway marked "EMPLOYEES ONLY" and rushes to it. It is locked.

Chloe reaches for her own cell phone but it isn't there.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
I left my phone...

Frustrated almost to the point of screaming, Chloe runs out the front door of the hotel.

34 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

34

It's still raining as Chloe comes up the alley behind the hotel. She gets to the area where she saw the body but can't see over the wall. She tries to hoist herself up to scale the wall but it is simply too tall.

In her effort to do this, she drops her room keycard on the ground but doesn't notice.

The door and the gate into the area are also locked. All of the hotel windows (except for hers) are dark and closed - nobody else is awake. Chloe runs back down the alley.

35 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - 5TH FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT

35

Chloe runs down the hall to her room and looks for her key.

CHLOE

Key... key... where's the key?!

She looks around sees room 507. She runs to the door and knocks on it loudly. She does this a few more times and then the door finally opens, revealing a groggy Aaron.

AARON

Chloe? What time is it?

CHLOE

I need to use your phone. I have to call the police.

AARON

What? Why?

CHLOE

I think somebody just got murdered.

Aaron is shocked by this statement.

36 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT

36

Aaron, now casually dressed, and Chloe get off the elevator and see that Peter is at the front desk. They rush over.

AARON

I need access to the service area behind the hotel.

CHLOE

Someone fell or was pushed from the balcony from the room above mine.

PETER
What?! When?

CHLOE
About 20 minutes ago!

PETER
We should call the police.

AARON
We already did, but we need to see
if the person survived the fall.

PETER
From the sixth floor?

AARON
(takes out his badge)
I know this doesn't have any weight
here, but I'm with the FBI.

CHLOE
(stunned)
You... FBI?

Peter hesitates another moment and then nods. He goes toward the EMPLOYEES ONLY door and Chloe and Aaron follow.

37 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - ALLEY SERVICE AREA - NIGHT 37

The back door of the hotel opens into the service area with the trash cans and equipment we saw from Chloe's room. There is also a lot of construction material including plastic sheeting. Peter opens the door and Chloe, followed by Aaron, rushes out into the rain and stops cold just outside the door - there is no body there. Aaron and Peter look at Chloe.

CHLOE
He fell right here! By the door!

Aaron and Peter exchange a glance that indicate they might not believe her.

38 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT 38

Chloe is seated in the hotel lobby with a Hotel Optima branded towel around her as she reviews her notebook. Aaron, Peter, hotel manager Bree (who is wearing a nice dress, not her work uniform), and a police inspector, ORSEL DEGUARA (40s, female, serious) are conversing nearby. They approach Chloe, who stands. Orsel speaks with a Maltese accent.

ORSEL

Ms. Day? *Bongu*, I am inspector Deguara of the Maltese Police Force. Could you tell me, please, what happened?

CHLOE

I heard an argument through the air vent from another room. Then I saw someone fall past my window. I looked out and saw a body in the service area behind the hotel.

ORSEL

The argument. Could you hear what they were saying?

CHLOE

They were speaking Maltese, I think. I couldn't understand it.

BREE

What time did all this happen?

CHLOE

Almost an hour ago. 1:24am. I wrote it down. Have you checked room 610? Above mine?

PETER

There is no 610. Directly above you is a two-room suite. 608.

CHLOE

608? That's Elias Lentini's room. He's a friend of mine from college.

BREE

He oversaw the construction of the hotel. He was staying in that room, but he checked out.

CHLOE

What? No, that's... he said he was staying here through the grand opening. He was going to meet us tomorrow to show us the hotel. When did he check out?

PETER

12:45am. We just looked it up. He used the automated system through the TV in the room.

CHLOE

That's before I heard the argument.
It must be a mistake.

ORSEL

We checked the room moments ago.
None of his personal effects are
there and there was no sign of a
disturbance.

CHLOE

I'm telling you, someone fell from
that room. I saw the body! There
must have been blood.

AARON

Chloe, they checked the area
outside. It's raining, so even if
there was something there...

CHLOE

What about security cameras?

Orsel looks at Bree with a raised eyebrow.

BREE

(loathe to admit)
Our video surveillance system is
not operational yet. It will be by
the time we open to the public.

CHLOE

Someone moved that body!

ORSEL

My officers checked the entire
alley and inside the hotel - this
floor and the basement. We found
water on the floor in the hallway
and stairs but it has been raining
for hours.

PETER

Staff members go in and out of that
doorway all the time.

BREE

And we checked with the guests in
the rooms near 608. Nobody else
heard anything.

CHLOE

It's the middle of the night! They
were obviously asleep.

ORSEL

Ms. Day, what were you doing before
you heard the argument?

Everyone looks at Chloe expectantly.

39 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - NIGHT

39

Chloe, Aaron, Bree, Peter, Orsel, and a uniformed officer
have gathered in Chloe's room. She points at the bed.

CHLOE

I was trying to sleep but the jet
lag was keeping me awake.

BREE

Are you sure you hadn't dozed off?
Maybe you dreamed it?

CHLOE

I was standing on the bed listening
at the vent. I wrote things down
in my notebook! How could I do
that if I was still asleep?

The uniformed officer finds one of the mystery books on the
nightstand, clears their throat, and holds it up. Orsel
looks at Chloe with a raised eyebrow and open skepticism.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I didn't dream this!

ORSEL

Ms. Day, my officers will canvas
the area in the morning. We'll
talk to other hotel guests. We
will follow up on this, but for
right now... I am sorry. I do not
know what else we can do.

Orsel, Bree, and Peter exit, leaving Chloe with Aaron.

CHLOE

Can't you do something? You're
with the FBI.

AARON

It's not my jurisdiction. But I'm
working on something else with
Inspector Deguara, so I'll make
sure she doesn't drop it.

Chloe is obviously not happy about any of this.

AARON (CONT'D)

Is there anybody you want me to call? Are you traveling with...

CHLOE

No. I'm... thank you, Aaron.

Aaron nods and leaves. Chloe takes out her phone, looks up a number, and dials.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Elias. It's Chloe. I need you to call me as soon as you get this message. I don't know what's going on. They say you checked out of the hotel... I really hope you did... but something isn't right... Call me.

Chloe disconnects the call and stands there, her face set in determination. She intends to find out what happened.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

40 EXT. WATERFRONT TERRACE - DAY

40

Chloe, Dmitry, Tom, and Sara are eating at a chic breakfast spot overlooking the Grand Harbor. Sara is snapping pictures between bites.

SARA

I could get used to these views.

CHLOE

I could used to this food. Our readers are going to love this. I taste saffron.

TOM

We should talk to the chef. I'll see if we can get a minute.

Tom gets up and goes toward the restaurant. Sara waits to make sure he's gone, then turns to Chloe.

SARA

Are you really talking about saffron when you think your friend Elias got murdered last night?

CHLOE

Nobody else thinks so.

DMITRY

You haven't heard from him?

CHLOE

No. I called his family's construction company but he wasn't there. It might not have been him.

SARA

It was his room.

CHLOE

But he supposedly checked out before I heard the argument. All I really know is that someone either fell or was pushed off the balcony.

DMITRY

Then... what? The killer rushed downstairs and moved the body and then came back upstairs to get rid of all of his stuff?

CHLOE

I'm sure I wasn't dreaming, but I don't know how to prove it, so for now... saffron.

SARA

Are you going to tell Tom?

CHLOE

Eventually. Just... not yet.

Tom comes back with the chef. Chloe forces a smile.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Oh, *bongu*. *Meraviljuž*. Fantastic.

The chef nods as they continue their conversation.

41 EXT. US EMBASSY MALTA - DAY 41

Establishing shot of the embassy.

42 INT. US EMBASSY MALTA - VAULT ROOM - DAY 42

The room is now being scoured by a forensic team. Aaron is holding up a plastic evidence packet with a small amount of black dust as Luke approaches with an iPad tablet.

AARON

Forensics found some dirt on the floor of the vault and by the door.

LUKE

The suspects tracked it in?

AARON

If not, the ambassador should have a stern talk with the housekeeping crew around here.

Luke shows Aaron the tablet, which has footage of two people - masks, hoods, covered head to toe so they are completely unidentifiable - removing the lockbox from the vault.

LUKE

I've been going through the security footage. Some of the internal hallways aren't covered but every exit is and I still don't understand how they got out of the embassy without being seen by any of the cameras.

AARON

Same way they got in without being seen by the cameras, I'm guessing.

LUKE

Maybe it was the infamous Cypher living up to his name?

AARON

Even he can't walk through walls.

Luke hands off the tablet to a tech and they leave the room.

43

EXT. US EMBASSY MALTA - DAY

43

Aaron and Luke come out of a pedestrian gate just as Chloe is walking by on her way back to the hotel.

AARON

Hey, hi. How are you today?

CHLOE

Okay. Still a little freaked out.

AARON

That's understandable. Chloe Day, my partner, Luke Vasquez.

LUKE

(shakes her hand)
Chloe. The one who thinks...

CHLOE

That would be me, yes.

AARON

I'll be talking to Inspector Deguara after lunch. I'll make sure they're taking you seriously.

CHLOE

Thank you. But I thought the FBI was strictly a U.S. thing.

AARON

Our embassies are U.S. territory so that's our jurisdiction. So is any crime committed against an American or an American interest, no matter where it happens. We get lots of frequent flier miles.

CHLOE

Then if it really was Elias, you'd get involved? He's an American.

AARON

We would work with the local police, yes, but... we don't know that anything happened and until we do, we have stay out of it.

CHLOE

(beat)

Remember when you said you owed me one... for the door?

AARON

Am I about to regret that?

CHLOE

Regret is a strong word. I just want to pick your FBI brain a bit.

AARON

You mean the brilliant one that couldn't figure out how to open a door?

CHLOE

(winning smile)

Think of it as a chance for redemption.

Aaron pauses with a smile, then turns to Luke, who gets it.

LUKE

Meet you at the police station?

AARON

(nods, then to Chloe)

Let's take a walk.

Aaron and Chloe leave.

44

EXT. REPUBLIC SQUARE - DAY

44

Chloe, who is jotting things down in her notebook, and Aaron are walking through Republic Square, with historic buildings, open air cafes, the National Library, a shopping arcade, the Grandmaster's Palace, and more.

AARON

Travel writing must be interesting.

CHLOE

Probably not as interesting as being an FBI agent.

AARON

Come on. You get to see the world. Look around! Republic Square. The palace of... someone...

CHLOE

Grandmaster's Palace.

AARON

Right. See? Very interesting.

CHLOE

Sure, but most of the job is just taking lots of notes.

AARON

Then we have a lot in common.

CHLOE

That's a key part of investigating a crime?

AARON

It depends on the crime.

CHLOE

Say, hypothetically... murder.

AARON

That's a big hypothetical... One that the police should be worried about, not a travel writer.

CHLOE

I know, but I'm guessing what you do isn't like the mysteries I read.

AARON

Sadly, there are few opportunities to say, "A Ha!" Although I would rock a good pipe and a monocle.

CHLOE

Humor me? How do you do it? How do you catch the bad guy?

AARON

It's like putting together a jigsaw puzzle.

(MORE)

AARON (CONT'D)

You see the small pieces but you have to look at the bigger picture at the same time or you'll never figure out what part goes where. And then you do all the usual stuff... collect evidence, develop a list of suspects and motives...

We see Chloe writing down the word "SUSPECTS."

CHLOE

What would you do if you weren't sure a crime was committed at all?

AARON

That's when we trust our instincts. If your gut is telling you that something's wrong, it usually is.

CHLOE

What about the crime scene? What would you look for?

AARON

Hypothetically, of course.

CHLOE

Of course.

Aaron smiles a little and they continue walking.

45 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY 45

Establishing shot of the hotel.

46 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - 6TH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY 46

A housekeeping cart is outside of room 608 and Rianne, the housekeeper, comes out to empty trash from a waste can into her cart with her name on it. Sara approaches.

SARA

Excuse me? I'm having a problem getting into my room.

RIANNE

Oh, I am sorry. You can go to the front desk and they will help you.

SARA

Oh, please, I'm running late. Just see if you can get my key to work?

Sara holds up her plastic room key and smiles - Rianne hesitates for a moment and then nods.

RIANNE

Yes, fine. Let us try...

Sara and Rianne go off down the hall. Chloe sneaks out from around a corner and sneaks into room 608.

47 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - SUITE 608 - LIVING ROOM - DAY 47

This suite has a living room and a separate bedroom (THIS IS IMPORTANT). Chloe goes to the vent and pulls out her phone.

CHLOE

Okay, Dmitry... I'm going to put you on mute. Let me know if you hear me through the vent.

48 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - DAY 48

Dmitry is standing on the bed at the vent in Chloe's room.

DMITRY

Got it.

He listens closely at the vent.

49 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - SUITE 608 - LIVING ROOM - DAY 49

Chloe puts her phone on mute and stands near the front door.

CHLOE

Uh... testing, testing. One, two, three, four? Testing...

She moves around until she gets closer to a desk by the wall.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Testing, testing, can you hear me?

DMITRY (O.S.)

(through the phone)

I hear something - it's muffled but I can definitely hear a voice.

Chloe unmutes the phone.

CHLOE

That's what I heard last night.
Thanks Dmitry!

DMITRY (O.S.)
You're welcome. Be careful.

Chloe disconnects the call and looks at the desk where there are a couple of drinking glasses and ice bucket. She looks in her notebook and sees the words "broken glass" circled. Chloe starts looking around the desk, getting down on her knees to look under it. There she finds something glinting in the carpet, barely visible by the edge of the desk.

She carefully picks it up a small piece of glass. Chloe holds it up to the drinking glasses on top of the desk and they appear to be a match. She smiles, satisfied.

50 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - SUITE 608 - BEDROOM - DAY 50

Chloe comes into the bedroom, which has a separate door into the hall. This area has not been cleaned yet - the bed is not made. She looks around quickly and notices something amid the tangle of sheets. Chloe picks up a small piece of jewelry - a black cufflink with gold initials - E.L. She considers it for a moment then puts it in her pocket.

51 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - SUITE 608 - LIVING ROOM - DAY 51

Chloe comes back into the living area and is about to continue exploring when we hear Sara's voice from outside.

SARA (O.S.)
Please, if we could just try again
before you going back in room 608!

Chloe sneaks quickly back into the bedroom.

52 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - 6TH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY 52

Sara tries to keep Rianne from going back into room 608 as Chloe comes out of the nearby bedroom door into the hall. Rianne doesn't see her and Chloe gives Sara a thumbs up.

SARA
(to Rianne)
Okay. Thank you. Bye.

Sara heads off quickly and Rianne goes back in the suite. Chloe waits to make sure she is gone then follows Sara.

Once Chloe and Sara are out of sight, someone steps into view. It is room service waiter Isaac, with a cart. He has seen the whole thing and is intrigued. _

He pulls out a phone and sends a text, although we do not see what it says He looks back down the hall, considering what he has just witnessed with curiosity.

53 EXT. LOWER BARRAKKA GARDENS - EVENING

53

Chloe, Sara, and Dmitry are walking along the scenic waterfront, a neoclassical temple nestled among the lush gardens in the background.

DMITRY

So, now what?

CHLOE

We're supposed to meet Tom in an hour, so we still have time to see if any of these shops would be good to include in the magazine.

DMITRY

No, I mean, what are you going to do with all the evidence you found?

CHLOE

It was just a tiny piece of glass and a cufflink. That won't convince anyone. I need to prove someone was in that room when I heard the argument.

SARA

But Elias checked out before that.

CHLOE

That's what they said but he told us he would show us around today. Why would he check out and not even send me a text?

DMITRY

Maybe he had an emergency...

CHLOE

He wouldn't leave before the grand opening.

(beat - thinks)

I bet his hotel bill would tell us a lot. Or maybe if we knew who was on duty last night.

SARA

You think someone with the hotel was involved?

CHLOE

The area where the body fell is only accessible by the staff.

Chloe thinks for a moment then turns to Dmitry, nonchalantly.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Dmitry, do you know anything about hotel reservations systems? Or employee time tracking programs?

DMITRY

Not really. I mean, I could probably figure it out.

(off her sly smile)

Oh! No, sorry. I have a hard time unlocking the door to my apartment. Hacking into a hotel system is way beyond my skill set.

CHLOE

I understand. But if you had access to one of their computers, you'd be able to get what we need?

DMITRY

I might. But we don't have that kind of access, right?

Chloe just smiles. Dmitry looks a little worried.

54 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - NIGHT 54

Establishing shot of the hotel.

55 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT 55

Peter is working at the front desk while Chloe and Dmitry are trying to act casual in the lobby.

DMITRY

What about the security cameras?

CHLOE

They're not hooked up yet.

DMITRY

How are we going to get him away from the front desk?

CHLOE

Sara is going to...

We hear a phone ring at the front desk. Peter answers and we hear Sara, but don't see her.

PETER

Front desk.

SARA (O.S.)

Hi, I locked myself out of my room.
I'm calling from the 4th floor
house phone.

PETER

If you come down to the lobby, I'll
be happy to...

SARA (O.S.)

Yeah, I was looking for an ice
machine and I'm only wearing a
robe. Can you come up here?

PETER

(not pleased, but
professional)
I'll be up in a minute.

Peter hangs up then puts up a sign that says the front desk agent will return soon. He goes to the elevator.

Chloe and Dmitry hurry behind the front desk.

56 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - FRONT DESK - NIGHT

56

Chloe and Dmitry go to the computer at the front desk.

DMITRY

He didn't lock it. And it's in
English. So far so good.

CHLOE

Can you figure out how to access
the guest records?

DMITRY

I'm guessing it's the link marked
guest records.

CHLOE

(looks around nervously)
I can't thank you enough for this.

DMITRY

Employee reviews are coming up so
you can put in a good word with
Tom. Just maybe don't tell him
about this part.

CHLOE

Deal.

DMITRY

Okay. I have the room folio for suite 608. I need a USB port to export it to the flash drive.

Chloe looks in a cabinet beneath the computer monitor - inside is the computer and a wadded up Hotel Optima branded towel. She moves the towel and realizes it's wet.

CHLOE

It's wet... hand me the drive...

Dmitry hands her the flash drive, she plugs it in, and then stands back up again.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

What about the employees who were on duty that night?

DMITRY

Already on it. Downloading...

A progress bar comes up on the screen saying the records are being saved to the flash drive.

As we see this, we also see a small light come on at the top of the monitor - the web cam has come on.

57 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT 57

In a guest room, an iPad style tablet is propped up on the desk and we see what the web cam is seeing - Chloe and Dmitry working at the computer. Someone is watching them but we can't see who it is. The iPad is grabbed and moments later we hear the door to the room open and close.

58 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - FRONT DESK - NIGHT 58

Chloe and Dmitry are still working on the computer. Chloe glances up and sees that the elevator is coming back down.

CHLOE

Can we make it go faster?

DMITRY

It's not a horse. I can't just yell giddy up.

The elevator shows it is on 3 then 2... Chloe and Dmitry are on the verge of panic. They aren't going to make it!

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

59 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - NIGHT 59

Establishing shot of the hotel.

60 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT 60

The elevator display shows floor 3 then 2 then 1... and the doors open to reveal Peter who steps out (NOT carrying an iPad) and looks around. Chloe and Dmitry are not at the front desk. Peter goes back to manage his post and we PAN over to a door behind the front desk that is slightly ajar.

61 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - FRONT DESK - NIGHT 61

Peeking up from behind the front desk, Chloe and Dmitry see Peter enter the lobby, just feet away. Dmitry looks at Chloe with a "what do we do?" expression and she gestures for him to stay down.

62 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT 62

Aaron walks into the lobby from outside, passing the front desk as he heads toward the elevators.

PETER

Have a good evening, sir.

AARON

Thank you. You, too.

As Aaron nods to Peter, he sees Chloe hiding behind the front desk counter. He stops to look, a little bit of a smile appearing as he shakes his head. Aaron goes back to Peter.

AARON (CONT'D)

I have a question about the building down the street. Do you know if... you know, it'll probably just be easier if I show you.

Peter follows Aaron outside. Chloe and Dmitry sneak out from behind the desk, then Chloe sends Dmitry off to the elevators and she goes toward the front door.

63 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - NIGHT 63

Aaron is talking to Peter outside the hotel.

AARON
(to Peter)
Thank you. I appreciate your help.

Peter goes back inside the hotel and Chloe comes out to stand next to Aaron. They are silent for a few moments.

CHLOE
So... remind me how the FBI's jurisdiction works on foreign soil?

AARON
I have none unless it was a crime committed against an American or an American interest.

CHLOE
The hotel is owned by a Swiss company so things like, I don't know, trespassing...

AARON
Would be none of my business. But if I caught someone committing a crime... something like, I don't know, trespassing... I should report it to the local police.

CHLOE
Okay, but what if they were doing it for a good reason? What if they were really worried about a friend?

AARON
Then I'd probably drop it, but I'd also tell them that if something did happen to their friend, sneaking around in places they shouldn't be is dangerous.

CHLOE
I'm sure they understand that.

AARON
Okay. But in case you weren't keeping count, now you owe me one.

CHLOE
Totally fair. Good night.

AARON
Good night.

Chloe goes into the hotel. Aaron waits a moment and follows.

64 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY 64

Establishing the hotel the next morning.

65 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - DAY 65

Chloe, Sara, and Dmitry are crowded around her computer.

SARA

Should we be doing this?

CHLOE

Not even a little.

SARA

Okay. Just checking. Carry on.

DMITRY

We didn't get the detailed folio,
but this is the summary of Elias'
hotel stay. He checked in at
7:32pm on the 14th and checked out
at 12:45am on the 18th.

CHLOE

More than forty minutes *before* I
heard the argument through the
vent. What about room charges
earlier that day or night?

DMITRY

Not much there. He rented a movie -
murder mystery. That's ironic.

(beat)

Sorry... Then mini bar, room
service... it doesn't say when it
was delivered or by who.

CHLOE

What about employee records? Who
was on duty that night?

DMITRY

Right. This is the schedule of who
was supposed to be here.

We see a list of about ten names on the computer screen.

66 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY 66

Chloe, Dmitry, and Sara are in the lobby with the list of
names. Peter and Bree are at the front desk.

CHLOE

Peter Gilroy. He was away from the desk when I came downstairs.

SARA

Maybe moving a body? Could he have faked a checkout time?

CHLOE

If he couldn't, she probably could. That's the manager, Bree Hammond. She got here, like, five minutes after Peter called her at home.

DMITRY

Maybe she was here the whole time?

Chloe makes a note that says "Where were Peter and Bree?"

67

INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - 4TH FLOOR GUEST HALLWAY - DAY

67

Chloe, Sara, and Dmitry find several housekeeping carts outside of rooms - each of which has the name of a different housekeeper on it. Rianne is at hers.

DMITRY

Rianne Bonello was the only housekeeper on duty.

SARA

She would probably know how to clean a room quickly.

CHLOE

I don't picture her and Elias getting in a fight that ends with her pushing him off a balcony.

SARA

Why not? We took that self-defense class and we got pretty good at the elbow to the stomach move.

DMITRY

Remind me not to cross you two.

Chloe makes a note in her book - "Rianne fight?"

68

INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - POOL - DAY

68

Beside the spa pool deck, we see Isaac, the room service waiter, bringing food on a cart to someone by the pool.

Chloe, Sara, and Dmitry are grouped together nearby.

CHLOE

That's Isaac Abela. He delivered my dinner that night.

SARA

He's the only waiter on the schedule, so he must have delivered the order to Elias, too. And those carts... he could've used that to get all of Elias' things out of the room without anyone noticing.

DMITRY

Would a waiter have access to put in a fake checkout time?

CHLOE

Probably not. But those are the only people that had access to the hotel rooms. The rest are admin and kitchen staff who wouldn't.

DMITRY

Okay, so, you have a list of suspects. Now what?

CHLOE

Now I guess I go talk to them.

SARA

You told me what the FBI guy said. This could be dangerous.

CHLOE

I'll be careful. But it's been two days and nobody has heard from Elias. I'm really worried.

Sara's phone rings. She answers.

SARA

Hey, Tom. Yeah, we're on our way.
(disconnects call)
He's waiting for us.

They all start to exit, but Chloe stops when she sees a discarded newspaper on a table. The front page has a story about a robbery at the US embassy. Chloe picks up the paper.

CHLOE

Look at this. There was a robbery at the embassy...

SARA

Was that the same night you heard
the argument through the air vent?

CHLOE

No. The night before.

SARA

What did they steal?

CHLOE

"The embassy issued a statement
saying 'no comment.'"

DMITRY

Do you think it's connected?

CHLOE

One mystery at a time.

Chloe can't help but be intrigued.

69

EXT. PARLIAMENT STEPS - DAY

69

Aaron and Luke come out of the parliament building.

LUKE

Well, that was fun.

AARON

Yeah. Explaining that newspaper
article to the ambassador and the
prime minister is exactly how I
wanted to spend my night.

Both Luke and Aaron's phones "ding." They look at them and
start scanning through the information.

LUKE

Forensic reports. No fingerprints.
Fiber analysis pending...

AARON

This might be something. The dirt
they found on the floor was mostly
just dirt, nothing out of the
ordinary, but there were traces of
laundry detergent.

LUKE

They found phosphates in it, so
probably commercial grade.

(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)
I'll get a list of the laundromats
and cleaners in the area that would
use this kind of detergent.

Aaron appears lost in thought. Luke notices.

LUKE (CONT'D)
What are you thinking?

AARON
Not sure... I'm going to head back
to the hotel.

LUKE
Okay. I'm going to call home.
Jeremy should be getting in from
work about now.

AARON
Do a video call.
(points around)
Romantic background. It helps with
the long distance thing.

LUKE
Thank you. See you tomorrow.

Luke goes off to make his call while Aaron looks at the
forensic report one more time. He definitely has an idea.

70 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - NIGHT 70

Establishing the hotel.

71 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT 71

Chloe and Sara are sitting in chairs in the mostly deserted
lobby. The only other person around is the front desk agent,
which is NOT Peter.

SARA
Are you sure you want to do this?

CHLOE
No, but the only way to rule out
suspects is to talk to them, so...

The elevator opens and Isaac, carrying a tray, goes to the
front desk and drops off a slip of paper. He then heads
toward the EMPLOYEES ONLY door as the front desk agent takes
the slip of paper into the back.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Come on!

Chloe and Sara get up and rush after Isaac who disappears through the EMPLOYEES ONLY door. Chloe and Sara get to it just before it closes, pause a moment, and then go in.

72 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - BASEMENT HALLWAY #1 - NIGHT 72

Chloe and Sara come out of a stairwell into a basement service hallway. It's dimly lit, deserted, and more than a little creepy. There are signs pointing to the various service areas - KITCHEN, EMPLOYEE LOUNGE, LAUNDRY, etc.

SARA

(whispers)

This is how cheerleaders get killed in slasher flicks.

CHLOE

Don't say that. I was a cheerleader. It'll be fine.

Gripping each other's arms, they head off down the hall.

73 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - BASEMENT HALLWAY #2 - NIGHT 73

Chloe and Sara come around a corner and stop, unsure.

SARA

It's like a maze down here.

CHLOE

I think if we...

There is a noise from somewhere nearby - furtive - as if someone is nearby, watching.

SARA

What was that?

They pause, listening carefully, and hear another noise.

CHLOE

Okay, I'm thinking maybe we should be talking to the suspects in the brightly lit lobby with lots and lots of people around.

SARA

I think that's an excellent idea. How do we get out of here?

They look around and start off down a hallway.

74 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - BASEMENT HALLWAY #3 - NIGHT

74

Chloe and Sara come around a corner into an even darker hallway and hurry down it, obviously scared. Just as they reach a doorway, someone steps out in their path with a flashlight shining in their faces. They let out startled cries. The flashlight turns away from them and provides enough light to see that the person holding it is Aaron.

AARON

Chloe, shhh! It's me.

CHLOE

Aaron? You scared us to death!

AARON

What are you doing down here?

CHLOE

(beat - shrug)

Owing you two favors?

(points at Sara)

This is Sara. She works with me.

SARA

I'd say nice to meet you but I need to get my heart started again.

CHLOE

What are you doing down here?

AARON

(beat - sighs)

Looking for this.

He points his flashlight at a sign next to the door he stepped out of - it says LAUNDRY. He goes inside and Chloe and Sara follow.

75 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LAUNDRY - NIGHT

75

Aaron turns on the lights as he comes into the room filled with industrial grade machines, counters, and cabinets. Chloe and Sara follow him in and watch as he looks at a cabinet built into a wall and then at the floor in front of it. There is laundry detergent and black dirt similar to what we saw in the vault room on the floor. Aaron looks around, trying to orient himself.

AARON

That's north. Toward the front of the hotel, so this is...
(looks at a cabinet)
...the same direction as the embassy.

Aaron opens the cabinet - it is filled with laundry detergent and other supplies. Chloe walks up next to him.

CHLOE

What are you looking for?

AARON

Do you feel that?

CHLOE

(turns toward cabinet)
Where is that breeze coming from?

Aaron moves some of the detergent out of the way, pokes around for a moment, and then pushes on something... the back of the cabinet pops out. Aaron moves Chloe back gently and puts his hand on his gun as he pulls open the false wall of the cabinet to reveal a hole in the concrete wall behind it and a tunnel beyond that. Chloe and Sara are astounded.

SARA

Okay, that just happened.

Aaron takes out his phone and turns on the flashlight.

AARON

Stay here.

He climbs through the hole into the tunnel. Chloe can't help herself and gets closer. Aaron goes a few feet and then stops when he finds something.

CHLOE

What is that?

Aaron shines his light and we see something wrapped in the plastic construction sheeting seen outside the hotel. Aaron pulls the sheeting back and we see that inside is a dead body - that of Elias Lentini. Chloe gasps. Aaron turns the flashlight to point it at her.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

That's Elias.

On that shock of that we fade out.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

76 EXT. US EMBASSY MALTA - DAY 76

Establishing the embassy.

77 INT. US EMBASSY MALTA - OFFICE - DAY 77

Chloe and the investigator, Orsel, are seated in a very nice office in the embassy while Aaron and Luke stand nearby.

CHLOE

Do you think Elias was connected to the embassy robbery? The papers didn't say what was stolen, but...

AARON

Chloe, we can't talk about that.

CHLOE

Right. But listen, whoever killed Elias probably worked at the hotel because they had access to the restricted area where the body fell and they faked a checkout time.

ORSEL

How do you know the checkout time was manipulated?

Chloe looks at Aaron who shakes his head - no.

CHLOE

Uh... people I talked to.

ORSEL

I see. Well, thank you, but if we have any additional questions, we will be in touch.

Orsel nods toward Aaron.

AARON

Chloe, I need your passport.

CHLOE

What? Why?

AARON

Because you're a material witness in a murder investigation.

Chloe is a bit freaked out but nods.

CHLOE

It's in the safe at the hotel.
I'll go get it.

Aaron turns to Luke and Orsel.

AARON

Go on ahead. I'll see Chloe out.

Orsel and Luke leave. Aaron waits until they are gone.

AARON (CONT'D)

Listen, we're pretty sure the two events are related, we just don't know how yet - and until we do, our focus has to be the robbery.

CHLOE

You're going to investigate Elias's murder, aren't you?

AARON

Of course. We went to his father but he didn't want to talk to us.

CHLOE

Why not?

AARON

I don't know. He's a Maltese citizen so how hard we push him is up to the inspector. We're figuring out jurisdiction, so it's going to take some time. I'll keep you in the loop as much as I can.

CHLOE

You'd do that?

AARON

Just leave the investigating to us, okay? Hypothetical or otherwise.

CHLOE

I understand. Thank you, Aaron.

Aaron nods, then motions toward the door and they go to exit.

78 EXT. MARSASCALA PROMENADE - DAY

78

Chloe and Tom are walking along the picturesque Marsascala Promenade, a quiet harbor filled with colorful fishing boats.

TOM

I don't understand why you didn't
tell me about any of this earlier.

CHLOE

Because you're my boss, Tom. And my... it's complicated.

TOM

It shouldn't be. We're still friends, aren't we?

CHLOE

Of course.

TOM

Then you should trust me. I'm always going to have your back.

CHLOE

Thank you. That means a lot to me.

TOM

(beat)

Do you think you'll need a lawyer?

Chloe pulls something out of her pocket - it is the cufflink she found in the room with the initials E.L.

CHLOE

It might not be a bad idea to have one on speed dial.

TOM

What do you mean? You're not going to keep poking around, are you?

CHLOE

We don't know if Elias was involved in the robbery. If he was, why was he still at the hotel the next night? What was stolen?

TOM

Wait, Chloe, these are questions for the FBI and the police.

CHLOE

But they aren't asking them! I need to do something. Elias was my friend.

TOM

Chloe, he was murdered!

CHLOE

I'm not going to do anything that could put me in danger.

TOM

You found a body while you were skulking around a hotel basement!

CHLOE

I'm not going to do anything *else* that could put me in danger.

TOM

You need to forget about this and let the authorities do their job. I'm going to call the magazine's lawyers and get a referral. In the meantime, we have that walking tour this afternoon... it might be a good way to take your mind off it.

CHLOE

Sure. Sounds good.

Tom walks away to make his call. Chloe looks at the cufflink again. This helps her make up her mind. She takes out her phone, dials, and waits to leave a message.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Hi, Mr. Lentini, I'm sorry to leave a message... This is Chloe Day... You and I met a couple of times when Elias was in college...

Chloe walks away as she continues to leave the message.

79

INT. TUNNEL - DAY

79

Work lights have been installed in the tunnel as local police and FBI agents work on collecting evidence. Aaron, Luke, and the ambassador, Fiona, walk through it, making sure they aren't overheard.

AARON

Are you sure you want to be down here, Madame Ambassador? We can cover all this with the DSS.

FIONA

I don't want to hear things second hand. Let's just get on with it.

AARON

Okay... There are passageways like this under a lot of the city dating all the way back to the 16th century, but the tunnels into the embassy and the hotel are probably from the 1950s. Unfortunately the hotel cameras aren't hooked up and there are none in the embassy basement so we don't have any coverage of the exits.

LUKE

Why connect the embassy to this?

AARON

They'd sneak people in and out all the time, especially during the cold war. Legit spy craft.

LUKE

And nobody knew it was there?

FIONA

I suspect it was sealed off in the 1990s. There are only a few people left at the embassy from that era.

AARON

(carefully)
Including you...

FIONA

Yes, but I was a low level specialist. I certainly didn't have the clearance to know about things like secret spy tunnels.

LUKE

Do we think Lentini found it doing construction on the hotel?

AARON

Makes sense. The question is how did he know what was in the embassy vault and how to get to it?

Fiona's phone buzzes with a text. She looks at it.

FIONA

Gentlemen, I need to get back.
Keep me posted.

AARON

Yes, Ma'am.

Fiona walks off down the tunnel with a security officer.

LUKE

Maybe our amateur sleuth can help figure this out.

AARON

Oh, I'm pretty sure we haven't seen the last of Chloe Day.

They continue down the tunnel.

80 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY 80

Establishing the hotel.

81 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - 5TH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY 81

Chloe is looking at her notebook, then stops short as she looks up and sees Isaac coming out of her room with a room service cart. He sees her and is surprised, then smiles.

ISAAC

Oh, Ms. Day... hello. I have your food here for you...

CHLOE

My... I don't understand. I didn't order room service.

ISAAC

Oh, yes... cheeseburger, French fries. When you did not answer, I thought I would leave it, but I did not want it to get cold...

CHLOE

But I didn't ask for this...

ISAAC

That is odd. Perhaps I made a mistake and went somewhere I should not have been. That happens, no?

CHLOE

I guess... yes.

ISAAC

I am sorry for the error. I will take it back.

CHLOE

Okay... thank you.

Isaac takes the cart and goes down the hall. Chloe watches him go for a moment and then goes into her room.

82 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - DAY 82

Chloe shuts the door and looks around the room... checking to make sure nothing has been tampered with. She opens the lid of her laptop, sees that it is okay, and closes it again.

Her phone rings. She answers it.

CHLOE
(into phone)
Hello? Mr. Lentini? Thank you
for... Now? Uh... yes. Of course.
I'll be right there.

She disconnects the call and hurries out of the room.

83 EXT. ST. JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL - DAY 83

Establishing Saint John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta.

84 INT. ST. JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL - DAY 84

Chloe walks into the stunning, ornate cathedral and takes a moment to appreciate the gorgeous surroundings. She sees MARCELLINO LENTINI (60s, composed, reserved, Maltese accent), standing nearby, lost in a silent reverie for his son.

CHLOE
Mr. Lentini?

MARCELLINO
(turns to her, sad smile)
Chloe. It is good to see you.

CHLOE
I'm so sorry about Elias.

MARCELLINO
Thank you. He was fond of you.

CHLOE
He was a good friend.

MARCELLINO
Come... let us walk...

They walk off.

85 EXT. REPUBLIC SQUARE - DAY

85

Chloe and Marcellino walk through the square.

CHLOE

(beat)

Mr. Lentini, I'm sorry to ask this,
but... did the police ask you...

MARCELLINO

(angry)

Do not talk to me about the police.
They think he was involved with the
robbery of the US embassy.
Rubbish! Why would he want top
secret documents?

CHLOE

Is that what was stolen? How do
you know that?

MARCELLINO

I have lived here my entire life.
There is very little that happens
in Malta that I do not know.

CHLOE

Was there any connection between
Elias and the embassy?

Marcellino turns away from her, conflicted.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Mr. Lentini... we can't let whoever
did this to Elias get away with it
just because we don't want to
believe that he did something bad.

Marcellino pauses - her words obviously had an impact on him.

MARCELLINO

Elias loved this place. He wanted
one of the big houses on the hill
and a yacht in the harbor.

CHLOE

That sounds like him. He always
had big dreams.

MARCELLINO

(beat; nods)

I am a proud man, Chloe. Too
proud, I suspect.

(MORE)

MARCELLINO (CONT'D)

I may have given that to Elias.
Pride can make a person reckless.

He takes an envelope out of his pocket and hands it to her.

MARCELLINO (CONT'D)

I will never say anything against
my son. But perhaps for every act
of recklessness, there is one of
reckoning.

(beat)

Good to see you, Chloe. Be well.

Marcellino walks away. Chloe takes a moment and then opens the envelope, withdraws a few pages of documents, and starts to read them as she walks away. She only takes a few steps before she bumps into Rianne, who is casually dressed. Chloe drops the papers and Rianne helps pick them up.

RIANNE

I am so sorry...

CHLOE

Rianne?

RIANNE

Oh... Ms. Day? We keep running
into each other. I am so sorry.

CHLOE

No, no. It's me. I really need to
watch where I'm going. You're not
working today?

RIANNE

Tonight. I am running errands
before my shift begins.

(re: papers)

What is all this?

CHLOE

Pieces of a puzzle. I need to go
put it together for someone.

Chloe walks off. Rianne takes a moment to watch her go with curiosity, then walks off in the other direction.

86 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - NIGHT 86
Establishing shot of the hotel.

87 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - 5TH FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT 87
Chloe knocks on Aaron's door. A moment later, he answers.

CHLOE
Do you remember the part where you
told me to leave the investigating
to the investigators?

AARON
Vividly.

CHLOE
Hypothetically...

AARON
(exasperated)
Not hypothetically again...

CHLOE
What if I kept, you know, poking
around?

AARON
You would be actively interfering
in an FBI investigation and I
could, you know, arrest you.

CHLOE
Have you ever heard the phrase
"it's easier to ask forgiveness
than it is to get permission?"

AARON
(sighs)
Go ahead...

CHLOE
(holds up envelope)
I know how Elias Lentini is
connected to the embassy robbery.

Aaron takes a beat, then turns and lets his head thunk
against the door. Chloe smiles and shrugs.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

88 EXT. WATERFRONT PROMENADE - NIGHT

88

Aaron and Chloe walk along a charmingly lit promenade as he reviews the documents she got from Lentini.

AARON

He just gave all this to you?

CHLOE

Yes. He wants to find out who murdered his son but he won't implicate him in the robbery...

AARON

So, he's having you do it.

CHLOE

I guess so. These documents show that Lentini Construction remodeled the embassy ten years ago... when the vault was installed.

AARON

We saw that in the records, but a different company did the vault. They went out of business years ago so we're still chasing them down.

CHLOE

(turns page for him)
Valletta Securities, which was owned by Condor Enterprises, owned by...

AARON

(reads)
Elias Lentini.

CHLOE

He always had side businesses like this. His father's company did the remodeling, but Elias' company installed the vault, which means he probably knew how to get into it. Now we just need to find out who he was working with and why he'd want top secret documents.

AARON

How do you know about...
(beat - breath)
I don't want to know.

CHLOE

What did the autopsy say? Did you
check the hotel records?

AARON

I'm not telling you any of that.

CHLOE

I gave you a huge clue! I think
we're back to you owing me one.

AARON

You need to check your math.
(beat - sighs)
The only odd thing in the autopsy
was a bruise on his shin that
didn't seem to come from the fall.
As for the hotel records, we're
waiting on a subpoena.

CHLOE

The manager won't give them up?
She's on my list of suspects.

AARON

I don't want to know about your
list of suspects. Besides, it's
not up to her. The hotel is owned
by a company in Switzerland and
they take privacy very seriously.
The State Department is negotiating
with them.

CHLOE

You might want to subpoena the room
service records while you're at it.

AARON

And why would I want to do that?

CHLOE

Just a hunch?
(off his head shake)
So, what do you think? Am I ready
to join the FBI yet?

AARON

Oh, yeah. Who needs Quantico?
I'll get you a badge tomorrow.

The two of them share a laugh but it is interrupted when Chloe receives a text. She reads it and her face falls.

CHLOE

Oh, no! I was supposed to meet Tom to review a nightclub an hour ago. Seems like my FBI job is getting in the way of my actual job...

Aaron points at a nearby bench and they walk toward it.

89

EXT. WATERFRONT PROMENADE - BENCH - NIGHT

89

Chloe and Aaron sit on the bench looking at the water.

AARON

So, your boss doesn't want you playing Sherlock Holmes either?

CHLOE

It's complicated.

AARON

Ah. You and Tom are...

CHLOE

Were. Past tense. Very past.

AARON

What happened?

(off her reticence)

I'm sorry, it's the FBI in me. Every time I try to express genuine interest in someone's life, it sounds like an interrogation.

CHLOE

No, it's fine. Traveling has always been a big thing for me. My parents used to take me on trips all the time, but they passed away when I was young...

AARON

I'm sorry.

CHLOE

Thank you. My grandma raised me but she never went anywhere. So, making travel a career was a dream come true. And when I met Tom - a fellow travel writer - well, it seemed like a perfect fit.

AARON

Those are... rare.

CHLOE

Yeah. We never saw each other. I'd get back from Brazil just as he was leaving for India and when he came home I'd be off to the next place. Of course the irony is now that he's editor, I see him all the time. Like I said... complicated.

AARON

I get it. I travel a lot, too. Whenever I'm heading home to DC I have to look up my address.

CHLOE

So, there's no Mrs. FBI Agent?

AARON

There was. Also past tense.

CHLOE

At least she's not your boss.

AARON

No. That would be my dad.

CHLOE

Really? What's that like?

AARON

(beat - smiles)

Complicated. Especially when I don't stick to the rulebook.

CHLOE

Ah, you're one of those rogue FBI agents, huh? You live on the edge?

AARON

I'm talking to you, aren't I?

They share a smile.

CHLOE

I better go. You'll let me know about that badge?

AARON

Good night, Chloe.

While it is way too early for something to be brewing there, it's pretty obvious that there could be. She takes her notebook and walks away.

90 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - NIGHT 90

Establishing the hotel.

91 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - NIGHT 91

Chloe enters her room. She goes to the desk and notices that the lid of the laptop is standing open. She pauses a moment, a look of confusion crossing her face. She shuts the laptop lid again like she did when she left earlier in the day. Chloe looks around the room, more than a little spooked. She picks up her notebook and heads for the door.

92 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - 5TH FLOOR HALLWAY - NIGHT 92

Chloe comes out of the room and sees Rianne coming out of a room to her housekeeping cart. Chloe goes to talk to her.

CHLOE

Rianne, hi. Did you clean my room today? 510?

RIANNE

(looks at clipboard)
No... that was done by the day shift at one o'clock.

CHLOE

(to herself)
Before I left to see Mr. Lentini.

RIANNE

I'm sorry?

CHLOE

Nothing... so, I know the hotel isn't fully open yet, but do you always work the night shift?

RIANNE

Not always, but it is not so bad. There are fewer rooms to clean.

CHLOE

You were here the night the man got murdered, right?

RIANNE

Yes, but I was not on that floor.
 (beat)
 Are you involved with the
 investigation?

CHLOE

Me? No, I'm just... curious.
 (beat)
 Did you happen to notice anyone go
 into my room tonight?

RIANNE

No... the only other person I saw
 up here tonight was the manager,
 Ms. Hammond. Is something wrong in
 your room?

CHLOE

No, no... it's fine. Thank you.
 Have a good night.

RIANNE

You, too.

Chloe heads back to her room and we hold on Rianne whose
 expression is difficult to read - curious? Suspicious?

93

EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY

93

Chloe, Sara, and Dmitry come out of the hotel. Nearby,
 Peter, the front desk agent, is standing next to a motor
 scooter talking to someone as they wipe it dry with an Optima
 Hotel towel.

Dmitry is carrying Chloe's laptop. He hands it to her and
 she puts it in her messenger bag.

DMITRY

I didn't see any spyware or
 viruses. And we keep our files
 encrypted, so I think you're okay.

CHLOE

I know I closed the laptop before I
 left to go talk to Mr. Lentini.

SARA

Who could've been in your room?

CHLOE

Isaac, Rianne, Bree...

Peter approaches with the wet towel.

PETER

Ms. Day, your scooter rental is ready. The gentleman over there will explain how to operate it.

CHLOE

Thank you, Peter.

Chloe sees the wet towel as he starts to walk away and something occurs to her. She whispers to Dmitry and Sara.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I just remembered there was a wet towel under the front desk. We still don't know where he was when I came downstairs that night.

DMITRY

You can't mention the towel! He'll know we were back there.

CHLOE

Just trust me.

(calls out)

Peter?

(Peter comes back)

May I ask you a question? It's about the night of the murder.

PETER

(wary)

I'm not supposed to talk about that.

CHLOE

I know, it's just that you weren't at the front desk the first time I came downstairs. Were you on a break?

PETER

(beat - still wary)

Yes. There's an employee smoking area on the east side of the hotel.

CHLOE

Outside? In the rain?

PETER

There's an awning. I still got a little wet but these towels are very absorbent.

CHLOE

Got it. Thank you, Peter. Oh...
Is Ms. Hammond, around?

PETER

No, she called in sick today.

Peter nods and heads back inside the hotel. Chloe turns to Sara and Dmitry.

CHLOE

She was near my room yesterday and today she's supposedly sick? That's suspicious.

SARA

Or she wasn't in your room and she actually is sick...

Chloe thinks about it for a moment.

CHLOE

Dmitry... those employee records you downloaded... do those have home addresses on them?

SARA

You're supposed to be doing a story about exploring Malta on a scooter.

CHLOE

I will be. I just might explore near Bree Hammond's house.
(off Sara's look)
Tom is at the golf club, you two are going to the aquarium, I'm touring Malta on a scooter. We're all doing our jobs.

There is a brief pause and then Dmitry holds out his hand. Chloe retrieves her laptop and hands it to him.

94 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY

94

From across the street we see Chloe put on her helmet, make sure her messenger bag is secure across her chest, and then drive off on the scooter. Moments later, a car pulls into view although we don't see who is driving. It follows her.

95 EXT. MALTA - DAY

95

We see a few shots of Chloe on the scooter buzzing around the city and countryside of Malta. We'll also see the car that is following her, but Chloe does not notice it.

96 EXT. MDINA STREET #1 - DAY 96

On a narrow street in the ancient part of Mdina, where the old stone buildings are practically on top of one another, we find Chloe sitting astride the scooter, her helmet off, looking down the street at a building - presumably Bree Hammond's house.

She checks her watch as if she has been sitting there for awhile, trying to decide what to do. She finally summons her courage and gets off the scooter, just as Bree comes out of one of the buildings nearby, wearing a scarf on her head and sunglasses.

Chloe ducks down to stay out of view as Bree looks around, checking her surroundings, then walks off down an even more narrow side street. Chloe takes a beat, then follows.

97 EXT. MDINA STREET #2 - DAY 97

This narrow passage between buildings is more of a pedestrian walkway than a street, and is deserted save for Bree walking quickly and then Chloe not far behind.

98 EXT. MDINA STREET #3 - DAY 98

A similar street. Bree stops to look at her phone, then continues on and rounds a corner. Chloe hurries to follow.

99 EXT. MDINA STREET #4 - DAY 99

Chloe comes around a corner and comes face to face with Bree.

BREE

Are you following me?

CHLOE

I... I can explain.

BREE

I'm calling the police.

CHLOE

(beat - shoots her shot)

Okay... Then I'll tell them about you breaking into my room and going through my laptop.

BREE

How did you know about that?

CHLOE

I didn't. But I do now. What were you looking for?

BREE

(beat - sighs)

I wanted to know what you were writing about the hotel. I can't afford a negative review. And considering the... incident...

CHLOE

Murder?

BREE

Yes. I know Elias Lentini was your friend and you've been talking to the FBI...

CHLOE

But why the sick day and the scarf and sneaking around?

Bree pauses a moment, then takes out a flash drive.

BREE

I copied some files from your computer but they were locked, so I was taking them to a friend who said he could help.

Chloe holds out her hand and Bree turns over the drive.

CHLOE

For the record, the review is a good one.

BREE

Thank you. I hope I can count on you to keep this little... indiscretion... between us?

CHLOE

On one condition. Your company is stalling on handing over all the records from the night Elias Lentini was murdered. Maybe you could expedite that?

Chloe holds out the flash drive again. Bree nods and takes it from her, a deal struck.

100 EXT. MDINA STREET #1 - DAY

100

Chloe gets back on the scooter and puts on her helmet. She starts the scooter and starts to pull out into the street but has to stop suddenly when a car rushes by, nearly hitting her. She gasps and almost falls off but maintains her balance as she looks down the street.

This is the car that has been following her and it is stopped about a hundred feet away. The back-up lights come on.

Chloe's eyes get big as the car starts reversing rapidly toward her.

END ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

101 EXT. MDINA STREETS - DAY - CHASE SEQUENCE 101

The mysterious driver of the car chases Chloe on the scooter through the streets of Mdina.

1. As the car backs toward her, Chloe guns the scooter and takes off in the opposite direction.

2. The car, in reverse, chases her down the narrow street.

3. Chloe turns off into an even narrower alleyway, thinking she can get away, but the car stops and turns, coming after her as it hits trash cans, chairs, and other small items.

4. Chloe makes another turn on the scooter and goes through a courtyard, narrowly avoiding people putting up laundry to dry. The car can't follow.

5. Chloe thinks she has lost her pursuer as she comes out of the courtyard on the scooter, but the car comes around the block and the chase continues.

6. Chloe's scooter is chased down another narrow street by the car, which is getting perilously close to her.

7. Chloe finally manages to drive the scooter into a square with tables, chairs, and people.

8. Chloe ditches the scooter amidst the group of tables, while diners wonder what is happening. She watches as the car enters the square, stops, backs up, and drives off.

102 EXT. MDINA SQUARE - DAY 102

Chloe pulls out her phone, shaking, and dials.

CHLOE
(terrified)
Aaron...

She looks around, scared.

103 EXT. UPPER BARRAKKA GARDENS - DAY 103

Chloe and Aaron are in the gardens with panoramic views of the Grand Harbor. Chloe is wearing a big hat and sunglasses, carrying her notebook - she looks around, paranoid.

AARON

Generally speaking if you're trying to be incognito, hats the size of a bus are not the way to go.

(off her withering look)

Sorry. Trying to lighten the mood.

CHLOE

Too soon. Definitely too soon.

AARON

Chloe, listen... someone thinks you're getting too close to actually knowing something. They're trying to scare you off.

CHLOE

They're doing a good job.

AARON

Maybe you should go back to the US. I can get your passport.

CHLOE

(beat - shakes her head)

You just said I might be close to something. I can't leave until you catch whoever killed Elias.

Aaron gets a conflicted look and thinks for a moment.

AARON

Okay, then here's what's going to happen... You're going to tell me everything you know. We're going to talk through it all and maybe I can fill in some blanks.

CHLOE

Can't you get in trouble for that?

AARON

I live on the edge, remember?

CHLOE

Your boss is your dad. What's the worst he can do?

AARON

Tell my mom.

The two of them share a laugh but then Aaron gets serious and taps the notebook Chloe is carrying.

AARON (CONT'D)

Okay, hit me.

CHLOE

(looks at her notes)

The newspaper article I read said that on the night of the 16th, security cameras caught two people stealing top secret documents from the embassy. One of those people was Elias Lentini.

AARON

We don't know that for sure.

CHLOE

He knew about the tunnels and he knew how to access the vault.

AARON

Okay. Let's assume you're right. Keep going.

CHLOE

They escaped through the tunnels, but I think they couldn't get the documents out of the hotel that night for some reason.

AARON

Embassy security had shut down the area. And the documents were in a steel box. Big, heavy, not easy to move, encrypted lock. They probably couldn't get it open.

CHLOE

That makes sense. So, they left it behind... maybe in the tunnel or hidden somewhere in the basement.

AARON

They wait until the next night after things have cooled down...

CHLOE

Then Elias' partner comes to his room just after lam. Maybe they had moved the box up there so they could open it or maybe they were going to, but for whatever reason they got into a fight.

AARON

Which you heard through the vent.

CHLOE

Yes. The partner pushes Elias off the balcony. But how could the killer get downstairs, wrap the body in plastic, move it to the tunnel, go back upstairs and clean out all of Elias' stuff?

AARON

They couldn't... Unless there was a third person.

Chloe nods as they continue walking and ponder all this.

104

EXT. UPPER BARRAKKA GARDENS - MOMENTS LATER

104

The conversation continues as they walk through the past a beautiful fountain in the gardens.

AARON

Okay, who are your suspects?

CHLOE

Bree Hammond, the manager. She says she was at home but there's no way she could've gotten from where she lives to the hotel as quickly as she did. Plus, she could've changed the checkout time.

AARON

Okay. Who else?

CHLOE

Rianne, the housekeeper. She said she was on a different floor that night but who knows? She could've been the one that cleaned out all of Elias's stuff.

AARON

Okay. Who else?

CHLOE

Isaac, the room service waiter. We know he delivered food that night. And Peter, the front desk guy, he could change the hotel records and he wasn't there when I came down.

AARON

It was raining pretty hard. He was dry when we saw him.

CHLOE

There was a wet towel under the front desk. And Elias fell right by the service door. Someone could've grabbed the plastic and pulled the body inside and barely gotten wet. What I don't understand is why would people who work at a hotel want to steal top secret documents?

AARON

(beat - considers)

Because one of them probably isn't who they say they are. Has the name Cypher come up at all in anything you've heard or seen?

CHLOE

No. What is that?

AARON

Not what, who. A spy. A bad one. Nobody knows who he is or what he looks like but this is exactly the kind of thing he'd do. And he wouldn't be shy about getting rid of anyone who got too close.

CHLOE

Okay, now I'm freaked out.

AARON

Give me your phone.

CHLOE

First my passport, now my phone? Do you say that to all the material witnesses or is it just me?

Aaron holds his hand out. She surrenders her phone. He does something on it and hands it back to her.

AARON

It's a tracking app. That way I know where you are, just in case.

CHLOE

Is the FBI allowed to do that?

AARON

The FBI, didn't. I did.

Chloe gets what he means and appreciates it.

AARON (CONT'D)

Forget about all this and go be a travel writer. Just... be careful. If you see anything at all out of the ordinary, call me. Okay?

CHLOE

Okay. But just FYI, I don't want the badge anymore.

He puts his arm around her comfortingly, which surprises both of them a little, but they settle into it and walk off.

105 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY 105

Establishing the hotel.

106 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY 106

Chloe and Aaron, who is looking at his phone, enter the lobby. Bree is at the front desk with Peter and she has her hand on his arm in a very familiar way.

Bree sees Chloe and Aaron and quickly lets go of Peter's arm then goes into the back office. Chloe has noticed all this but before she can say anything to Aaron (who hasn't noticed), a very concerned Tom shows up in front of them.

TOM

Chloe! Are you okay?

CHLOE

I'm okay.

Tom impulsively hugs Chloe, which makes Aaron step away.

AARON

Uh, I need to get back to...

CHLOE

Of course. Thank you, Aaron.

TOM

(shakes hand)

Yes, thank you, Agent Maxwell.

Aaron nods and exits the lobby.

TOM (CONT'D)

I'm going to call the lawyers and see if there's a way to get your passport back so you can go home.

CHLOE

I'm not ready to leave yet.
Besides, what about the magazine?

TOM

I don't care about the magazine.

CHLOE

Yes, you do.

TOM

(beat)
Yes, I do. But I care about you
more. I'm worried. Is that okay?

CHLOE

Of course it is. Thank you.

They share a moment but then Bree comes out from behind the desk with the flash drive.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Ms. Hammond. Feeling better?

BREE

I am, thank you. Here's that...
hotel press kit you requested.

CHLOE

Right. Thank you.

Bree gives her a tight smile and walks away.

TOM

Well, that will keep you distracted
from all this murder business.

CHLOE

(nods)
Yes, it will.

Chloe looks at the flash drive.

107 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - DAY

107

Chloe, Sara, and Dmitry are in front of her computer as Dmitry goes through the contents of the drive.

DMITRY

What we had before was just a
summary, but this is really
detailed.

(MORE)

DMITRY (CONT'D)

Elias watched the movie at 8:04pm,
took items from the minibar at 8:30
and again at 11:15. Then there's
nothing until the room service
delivery at 12:55am.

CHLOE

But he checked out at 12:45am.

SARA

How could get room service ten
minutes after he checked out... and
then get murdered after that?

CHLOE

Whoever killed him obviously faked
the check out time because they
wanted it to appear as if he wasn't
in the hotel when the murder
happened. So, either they didn't
know about the room service order
or they thought it would make the
charge not show up on the bill.

DMITRY

Why would someone want to hide a
room service charge?

CHLOE

Because you were the person who
delivered it and you didn't want
anyone to know you were there?
(has a thought)
Can you look at all the records for
room service, for the entire hotel?

DMITRY

Yes... up to this afternoon.

CHLOE

Is there an order for my room
yesterday?

DMITRY

No.

CHLOE

Would it be on there if it wasn't
actually delivered?

DMITRY

I think so. There's one here that
was cancelled for room 209 but it
still shows up as an order.

CHLOE

Isaac lied. He wasn't in my room to deliver food. And he was on duty the night Elias was murdered.

SARA

You need to show this to Aaron or the police.

CHLOE

I will. But I need to be sure, first.

Chloe looks determined.

108

INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY

108

Chloe takes something from Bree at the front desk then goes to join Sara and Dmitry. Chloe holds up a keycard.

SARA

How did you get that?

CHLOE

I may have implied that I'd tell the hotel company she broke into my computer if she didn't.

DMITRY

You wouldn't really do that.

CHLOE

She doesn't need to know that. You two keep Tom occupied, while I...

SARA

Chloe, somebody tried to kill you a couple of hours ago!

CHLOE

And I'm not going to stop until I find out who it was.

Sara and Dmitry exchange a look.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

All I want is a quick look in his locker to see if there's anything suspicious. Five minutes.

Sara thinks for a moment then sighs.

SARA

Dmitry can distract Tom. I'm going with you.

Chloe looks a bit relieved.

109 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - BASEMENT HALLWAY #1 - DAY 109

Chloe and Sara come into the basement hallway, which is much more well lit during the day. There are a few people around but they ignore Chloe and Sara.

CHLOE

The employee lounge... this way.

Chloe and Sara head off down the hall.

110 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - EMPLOYEE BREAK ROOM - DAY 110

A break room has a small kitchenette and lockers which have electronic keycard locks. Chloe and Sara peek in and there is no one there. They enter and look around, checking out the names on the lockers. One of them is ISAAC ABELA. Chloe takes out the keycard Bree gave her.

CHLOE

Bree said this would get us past any lock...

Chloe swipes the card on the locker and the door unlatches. They exchange a glance and open the door to reveal the embassy lockbox, sitting at the bottom of the locker.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I'd say that qualifies as suspicious.

As they stare at it in shock, we see someone walking up behind them. They get closer... closer...

They realize someone is behind them and turn around to find Isaac standing there - he speaks with a French accent.

ISAAC

I really wish you hadn't found that.

He advances on them.

END ACT SIX

ACT SEVEN

111 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY 111

Establishing the hotel.

112 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - EMPLOYEE BREAK ROOM - DAY 112

Picking up where we left off, Chloe and Sara are backed into a corner by the locker as Isaac approaches. He reaches into his pocket and pulls out... a phone, which he dials as he reaches between Chloe and Sara to shut the locker. He speaks into the phone in fluent French.

ISAAC

Nous avons un problème. Je dois leur dire qui je suis. Oui.

Isaac disconnects the call and looks at Chloe and Sara.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

We need to talk to your FBI friend.

Chloe and Sara are stunned by this development.

113 EXT. US EMBASSY MALTA - DAY 113

Establishing the embassy.

114 INT. US EMBASSY MALTA - AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE - DAY 114

Chloe, Aaron, Isaac, Fiona, and Luke are in the ambassador's office around a table where the embassy lockbox sits. Aaron looks at Isaac who looks toward Chloe.

ISAAC

(looks at Chloe)

She should not be here.

AARON

(to Fiona)

If it wasn't for her, we wouldn't have the documents back.

FIONA

(considers, to Chloe)

Ms. Day, we owe you a debt of gratitude, so I'm going to let you stay, but under penalty of law...

CHLOE

I get it. I won't say word.

FIONA

(to Isaac)

I will take full responsibility.
Please, continue.

ISAAC

(beat - nods)

My name is Jeffrey Boucher. I work
for the *direction générale de la
sécurité extérieure*.

AARON

(for Chloe's benefit)

French version of the CIA.

ISAAC

Normand Duclasse, the agent who
brought these documents here, was
my partner. We were trying to keep
them safe from an enemy operative.

CHLOE

Cypher.

ISAAC

(surprised, but continues)

Yes. We knew he wanted to sell the
documents to the highest bidder,
but before we could get them out of
Malta, Cypher attacked and Normand
was killed.

AARON

I'm sorry.

ISAAC

Merci. The documents were safe
here but I knew it was only a
matter of time before Cypher struck
again. So, I took a job at the
hotel as Isaac, the room service
waiter.

FIONA

Were you there when the embassy was
robbed?

ISAAC

No. And by the time I got here, it
was too late.

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

I spent the next two days conducting my own investigation, but I found nothing, so I was going to return to France. Elias Lentini was going to be my last delivery.

CHLOE

What happened in that room?

ISAAC

I was delivering food when I heard him on the phone in the next room. He may have thought I had left. He mentioned the tunnels. I was intrigued, so I went to look.

LUKE

Lentini was alive when you left?

ISAAC

Very much so. I found the tunnel and the box and managed to drag it to my locker moments before Lentini came looking for it. I suspect when Cypher discovered the box was gone, he killed Lentini.

FIONA

Why didn't you return it?

ISAAC

Because I knew that as long as you were still looking for it, Cypher would still be looking for it. It was my only chance to catch him.

CHLOE

And you have no idea who he is or what he looks like?

ISAAC

No. He is very good at his job.

CHLOE

Why were you in my room yesterday?

ISAAC

I had seen you snooping around in room 608 and talking to the FBI. I wanted to know who you were.

FIONA

Agent Boucher, before we continue, let's secure the documents, yes?

Everyone seems to agree with that.

115 EXT. US EMBASSY MALTA - COURTYARD - DAY

115

Chloe and Aaron come out of an embassy doorway and walk through a multi-level cloister. Aaron hands Chloe her passport.

AARON

I think this is yours.

CHLOE

I can leave?

AARON

You can and you should. Cypher will find out we have the documents and who knows what he might do to get them back.

CHLOE

But we still don't know who he is or who he was working with at the hotel. We don't know who really killed Elias.

AARON

I promise I will find out. You need to trust me.

CHLOE

(beat)

I do.

The two of them share a small moment.

AARON

I'm going to send Luke over to escort you to the airport. Don't leave without saying goodbye.

CHLOE

I won't.

Chloe smiles and heads toward the gate. Aaron pauses a moment and then goes back inside the embassy.

116 INT. US EMBASSY MALTA - VAULT ROOM - DAY

116

Two heavily armed Marines shut the vault door and take up guard positions. Aaron, Luke, Fiona, and Isaac (Agent Boucher) are all watching this happen.

FIONA

We'll be keeping the vault under 24 hour guard until the documents become someone else's problem.

ISAAC

Very good idea.

Fiona, Isaac, and Luke start for the door but Aaron stops them with a question.

AARON

Agent Boucher, I do have a question... you said that you heard Elias Lentini mention the tunnels. What made you think it was connected to the robbery?

FIONA

Gentlemen, perhaps we can continue this later...

ISAAC

The intelligence we had said it had been filled in years ago. But if it hadn't, it would make sense...

LUKE

Wait... you knew the tunnel into the embassy existed at some point?

ISAAC

Oui. I suspect the CIA knows the layout of our embassies as well.

AARON

So, you saw intelligence that said that part of the tunnel had been filled in?

ISAAC

Yes... a report from your... what do you call it... Army Corp of Engineers?

Aaron and Luke both look at the ambassador. Fiona knows she has been caught. She looks at Aaron.

FIONA

Agent Maxwell... perhaps we should take a walk?

Aaron nods and then follows Fiona as she leaves the room.

117 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY 117

Establishing the hotel.

118 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - DAY 118

Chloe is packing as Sara, Dmitry, and Tom hover nearby.

SARA

So, wait... that's it? We're just going to go home?

CHLOE

Yes. My days as a junior detective are over.

TOM

Thank goodness.

DMITRY

But we don't know who killed Elias.

SARA

Or what was in that box we found.
Or why Isaac was speaking French.
(off Chloe's silence)
Or do we know those things? You know things! Tell us!

CHLOE

I can't. It's... classified.

TOM

Classified? A couple of days ago you were a travel writer and now you have some sort of top secret clearance?

CHLOE

No, I just... look, all I can say is that it's being taken care of. Aaron is going to find out who killed Elias. But to do that, he needs to not be worried about us.

Tom pauses then indicates him, Sara, and Dmitry.

TOM

I don't think we're the ones he's worried about.

Chloe and Tom share a look - things are back to being complicated.

CHLOE

You guys should go pack. We have a plane to catch.

Tom, Sara, and Dmitry take a beat, then exit. Chloe takes a beat of her own and then continues to pack.

119

EXT. BIRD PARK - DAY

119

Aaron and Fiona are walking a park filled with colorful pink flamingos and other birds.

FIONA

There are over 200 species of birds here. It's one of my favorite places in all of Malta.

AARON

Madame Ambassador...

FIONA

(beat - nods)

They wanted to keep their options open. The tunnel... they were going to demolish it, but the cold war was still fresh in everyone's minds and they thought it might be needed again someday.

AARON

You worked with the engineers and issued a report saying it had been filled in.

FIONA

(nods)

You made a few incorrect assumptions in your investigation. Elias Lentini did not find out about the tunnels from the hotel construction. He only found out about it a few weeks ago... when I told him.

(beat)

I also told him how to get into the vault and where to find the lockbox with the documents.

AARON

Why would you do that?

FIONA

As you said, I know how to get things done in Malta. Sometimes that requires things like bribes or kickbacks or playing favorites with government contracts. I believe everything I did was for the right reasons. We helped a lot of people. Even saved a few lives. But if anyone ever found out...

AARON

You were blackmailed. By Cypher?

FIONA

I was contacted a couple of weeks after Normand Duclasse was killed. I was told to provide Elias Lentini with all of the information he needed to do the job... except for what was in the lockbox. He thought it was money. He thought he was going to be rich.

AARON

And you never actually met or spoke to Cypher?

FIONA

No... it was all distorted phone calls and encrypted emails. But Cypher said something that led me to believe there was another thing you presumed incorrectly.

AARON

What was it?

FIONA

I don't know if it was on purpose or if it was a slip up or... maybe the plan was to kill me before I had a chance to tell anyone, but when I said that the lockbox was heavy, Cypher said, "Men are good for some things."

Aaron stops, stunned, as he understands what Fiona means. He pulls out his phone.

120 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY 120
Establishing the hotel.

121 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - DAY 121
Chloe is finishing packing while Luke stands near the door,
looking at his phone.

CHLOE
You really don't need to escort us
to the airport.

LUKE
Look at it this way, it's cheaper
than a taxi.

Chloe goes to clean up food containers and papers on the
desk, but fumbles them. Luke sets down his phone on the desk
and goes to help her.

CHLOE
Sorry. I got it. I hate leaving
behind a messy room. Can I meet
you downstairs?

LUKE
Sure. The car is out front.

Luke leaves and Chloe goes to reorganize things. Before she
gets too far she notices Luke's phone on the desk. She picks
it up just as there is a knock on the door. She goes to
answer it.

CHLOE
You forgot your...

Chloe opens the door. Bree is standing there smiling.

We PAN down to see Luke's phone in Chloe's hand - it buzzes
and a text message pops up from Aaron:

CYPHER IS A WOMAN.

END ACT SEVEN

ACT EIGHT

122 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY 122

Establishing the hotel.

123 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - CHLOE'S ROOM - DAY 123

Chloe returns to cleaning up, setting Luke's phone down on the desk. Bree comes into the room and shuts the door.

BREE

I heard you were leaving.

CHLOE

We are. I'm just cleaning up...

BREE

Housekeeping will get that.

CHLOE

It's a lot of stuff...

BREE

You'd be amazed how much they can fit on those carts.

CHLOE

Eager for me to be gone?

BREE

Something like that.

(beat)

The FBI still hasn't told me who Isaac really is or what was in that lockbox I saw them carry out.

CHLOE

(plays dumb)

I don't know.

BREE

Oh, I think you know plenty. The question is how much did you tell the authorities?

CHLOE

You mean about you and Peter? I don't think the FBI cares about clandestine romances.

(MORE)

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Although, I'm guessing that had something to do with how fast you got here the night Elias was murdered.

BREE

What do you mean?

CHLOE

I've seen where you live, remember? You couldn't have made it to the hotel as fast as you did.

BREE

(shrugs)

I was on my way here to surprise him when I got the call. But I'm his boss and that makes things...

CHLOE

Complicated? I understand that.

Chloe smiles as she picks up something from the desk just as the text flashes on Luke's phone again. She sees the text from Aaron. The smile slips off her face quickly.

BREE

Something wrong?

CHLOE

What? No. No... I just... my friends are waiting for me downstairs, so I should probably...

Chloe grabs Luke's phone, zips her suitcase, and starts for the door but Bree stops her by blocking it with her hand.

BREE

They can wait.

CHLOE

No, I really should...

BREE

Sorry, but I need to tie up a few loose ends.

Chloe and Bree's eyes meet - the tension is palpable. Then there is a knock on the door and we hear Rianne.

RIANNE (O.S.)

Housekeeping.

The relief on Chloe's face is obvious - Bree is not happy.

CHLOE
(beat)
I'll be right there.

Bree takes a moment then steps back from the door, allowing Chloe to open it. Rianne is there with her cart and is surprised to see Bree.

RIANNE
Oh, I am sorry. I thought you had checked out. Ms. Hammond?

CHLOE
No, that's okay. I was just leaving.

Chloe exits the room.

124 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - 5TH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY 124

Chloe hurries down the hall as Bree steps out of the room next to Rianne.

BREE
Thank you for staying at the Hotel Optima. We'll see you soon.

Chloe takes a glance back over her shoulder as she goes.

125 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - EVENING 125

Chloe comes out of the hotel where Sara, Tom, and Dmitry are loading bags into a dark SUV with Luke's help. Aaron is standing off to the side and Chloe goes to talk to him.

CHLOE
I was just about to call you. I think I know who Cypher is.

AARON
You do?

CHLOE
Bree Hammond came to my room.

AARON
For what?

CHLOE
I'm not sure exactly, but she was talking about tying up loose ends.

AARON

She thought you were one?

CHLOE

I think so. And get this... she was having an affair with Peter, the front desk agent. If she's Cypher and she killed Elias, Peter may have been the one to help her move the body and clean up the room.

AARON

That's interesting. I will definitely be having a conversation with both of them.

CHLOE

How did you find out Cypher is a woman?

AARON

I can't say. But I think it's a good thing that you're heading to the airport.

CHLOE

Me, too. You're not going to let them get away with it, right?

AARON

You have my word. You'll need to come back to testify if there's a trial.

CHLOE

I can do that.

There is a pause as they consider one another with smiles.

AARON

It was... surprising to meet you, Chloe Day.

CHLOE

You, too, Agent Maxwell.

They smile and shake hands. Chloe joins the others, gives Luke back his phone, and they all get in the SUV. It drives off as Aaron watches.

126 EXT. MALTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - NIGHT 126

Establishing shot of the airport on Malta.

127 INT. MALTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - VIP LOUNGE - NIGHT 127

Chloe is sitting in the business lounge of the airport looking at Elias' cufflink a little sadly while Tom, Dmitry, and Sara sit on either side of her looking at their phones. Tom notices what Chloe is looking at.

TOM

What is that?

CHLOE

Elias' cufflink. I found it in the room. The killer must have missed it when they cleaned up to make it look like he had checked out.

(beat - thought)

I wonder how they did that?

Sara and Dmitry are now paying attention to the conversation.

SARA

Did what?

CHLOE

Well, when Isaac was the main suspect, we thought he could've used the room service cart to move Elias' belongings.

DMITRY

But Isaac wasn't the killer.

CHLOE

No. When he left the room, Elias was still alive. Whoever killed him came later.

SARA

Okay, so after your encounter in your room today, you think it might be Bree?

CHLOE

And maybe Peter... but if they didn't have a room service cart, what did they use to get Elias' suitcases and clothes and everything else out of the room?

TOM

I think this falls squarely into the "not your problem anymore" category.

CHLOE

(beat - nods)

You're right. I need to let it go. I'm going to go get something to snack on.

Chloe gets up and starts walking, looking back over her shoulder to the group.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Do you guys want anything?

Before they have a chance to answer, Chloe, who is not paying attention to where she is going, collides gently with a housekeeping cart like the ones at the hotel. She turns to see what has happened and apologizes to the janitor.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Sorry. I'm sorry. These things seem to be out to get me.

TOM

Are you okay?

CHLOE

I'm fine. I just bumped my leg.

She looks at the housekeeping cart and it is almost as if we can see it when everything "clicks."

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Elias had a bruise on his shin.

SARA

What are you talking about?

Chloe rushes over and grabs her suitcase and turns it around - the scuff mark where Rianne's cart hit it is still there.

CHLOE

That's how Bree did it. She had a housekeeping cart. She used it to push Elias over the balcony and then cleaned up the room with it.

Chloe grabs her messenger bag.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

I need to find that cart.

TOM

What? No! Chloe, our plane is leaving...

CHLOE

Tom, I am so sorry. I know I said we'd keep work and our past separate, but you know me. Am I the kind of person who would miss her flight and jeopardize her job over something that wasn't really important?

Tom looks at her for a moment.

TOM

(nods)
Be careful.

Chloe runs off.

128 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - NIGHT 128

Establishing shot of the hotel.

129 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT 129

Chloe comes into the lobby with her bag and looks around. The person at the front desk - who is NOT Peter - is helping guests and there are several other people around. Chloe takes out her phone.

CHLOE

(into phone)
Aaron, it's Chloe. I'm back at the Hotel Optima. Call me. I think I might be on to something.

She hangs up and looks around. Someone comes through the EMPLOYEES ONLY door and, seeing an opportunity, she rushes to hurry through it before it closes.

130 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LAUNDRY - NIGHT 130

Chloe is looking around the laundry area of the hotel and finds several housekeeping carts lined up near several tall cabinets - one of which is blocked off with crime scene tape - the entrance to the tunnel.

She takes out her phone and uses the light to start looking at the carts but grows frustrated quickly.

CHLOE
(to herself)
I don't even know what I'm looking
for. Where would she have put all
of Elias' things?

Chloe turns to look at the tall cabinets and opens one, only to find supplies. She opens another and finds more of the same.

Then she opens a third and finds a very dead Peter, the front desk clerk.

She gasps and backs away quickly, colliding with a housekeeping cart that tips over and crashes to the floor.

Chloe wheels around with her light to see what she just did and finds items from the cart spilled out everywhere. She is about to dismiss it and return her focus to the dead guy, when something catches her eye.

She goes over and crouches down to get a closer look

Behind her, a door opens but we don't see who comes in.

Chloe picks up something from the floor - it is another cufflink with the initials E.L.

Stunned, Chloe shines her light on the cart that she tipped over. Chloe's eyes go wide with understanding.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Bree isn't Cypher...

She hears a noise behind her and turns around suddenly to find Rianne holding a gun on her.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
You are.

Chloe realizes she's in trouble.

END ACT EIGHT

ACT NINE

131 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - NIGHT 131

Establishing shot of the hotel.

132 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LAUNDRY - NIGHT 132

Start on the overturned housekeeping cart and the name on the handle that reads RIANNE BONELLO.

Chloe is standing a few feet away from Rianne who is holding the gun. Chloe's phone and messenger bag, now open, are on a table next to Rianne and she's looking through its contents.

When Rianne speaks, now, it is in a very proper, refined British accent.

RIANNE

You really should've gotten on the plane. I was willing to give you a free pass...

CHLOE

I appreciate that.
(refers to Peter)
Especially since it looks like nobody else got one.

RIANNE

Yes, poor Peter. He was useful... until he wasn't. I had just taken care of that and was leaving when I saw you come back in.

CHLOE

Why did you let me go in the first place?

Rianne pulls Chloe's notebook out of her bag.

RIANNE

(shrugs)
You didn't really know who I was.
(opens notebook)
Although if this is any indication, you got closer than anyone ever has. Remarkable, I must say.

CHLOE

How did you convince Peter and
Elias to help you steal top secret
documents?

RIANNE

I didn't. I convinced them to help me steal money. They thought the lockbox was full of cash and jewels. Greed is a powerful motivator.

(re: book)

This part isn't quite right. Elias didn't discover the tunnels or know how to get into the vault, I blackmailed the ambassador into telling him all that. Credit where credit is due.

Chloe realizes that this might be a chance to buy herself some time.

CHLOE

What else did I get wrong?

Rianne starts thumbing through the notebook.

133 EXT. US EMBASSY MALTA - NIGHT 133

Establishing the embassy.

134 INT. US EMBASSY MALTA - AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT 134

Fiona is at her desk, a piece of paper in front of her, while Aaron, Luke, some DSS agents, and a couple of Marines stand by watching. She takes a moment then signs the paper.

FIONA

That's it. My letter of resignation. I'll deliver it to the President in Washington tomorrow.

AARON

I'm sorry, Madame Ambassador.

FIONA

Don't be. I should have told you everything from the start. Not all secrets are meant to be kept.

Fiona takes the letter, stands, shakes hands with Luke and Aaron, and then is escorted out by the agents and Marines.

AARON

(to Luke)

Your first case and you already helped bring down an ambassador. You always did the extra credit in school, didn't you?

LUKE

And cleaned the dry erase boards after class.

Aaron smiles as he pulls out his phone. He sees that he has a message from Chloe. He taps a few times and listens.

CHLOE (O.S.)

(recording)

Aaron, it's Chloe again. I'm back at the Hotel Optima. Call me. I think I might be on to something.

AARON

(shakes head)

Great.

LUKE

Problem?

AARON

Hypothetically. Come on.

He types in a text saying "On my way where ru" and hits send, then starts toward the door.

135 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LAUNDRY - NIGHT

135

Chloe is still standing near the housekeeping carts and Rianne is looking through Chloe's notebook so she doesn't notice when Chloe's phone lights up with the text from Aaron.

RIANNE

(re: book)

This part is correct. They set off an alarm during the robbery. We couldn't get the box out and couldn't get it open but when Elias went to retrieve it, it was gone.

CHLOE

Isaac had taken it.

RIANNE

In my defense I didn't know that at the time.

CHLOE

You thought Elias was double crossing you, so you killed him, then called Peter and had him move the body. But why not get rid of it sooner? Why did you leave it in the tunnel for so long?

RIANNE

Sneaking a body out of a hotel is much more difficult than you might think. It's not like we could just wheel a cart out the front door.

PETER

Peter faked Elias' check out time while you cleaned out the room.

RIANNE

(holds up cufflink)
Not very well, apparently. I was in a bit of a hurry.

CHLOE

Peter and Bree...

RIANNE

We thought he might need her access to override the system in an emergency. Turns out we were right. She knew nothing about it.

CHLOE

She was just trying to find out what I had written about the hotel.
(a thought)
Why did you chase me that day?

RIANNE

I had Peter set a booby trap on the hotel system. It told me if anyone tried to access Elias' room records. I watched through the webcam while you and your friend broke into the computer at the front desk. I chased you to scare you off. Shame it didn't work.

CHLOE

The day you ran into me in Republic Square... you out running errands?

RIANNE

I was following you, of course. I wanted to see what was in those papers Elias' father gave you.

Rianne reaches into her pocket and pulls out a silencer, which she starts to screw onto the end of the gun.

RIANNE (CONT'D)

Any other questions before we I tie up my last loose end?

Chloe looks around to find a way out and gets an idea.

CHLOE

Just one...

As Chloe says the following she moves over beside a housekeeping cart.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

You killed Elias with the housekeeping cart, right? You used it to push him off the balcony?

RIANNE

Yes. You'd be surprised how heavy those things are.

CHLOE

No... I already figured that out.

She pushes another one of the carts at Rianne and it collides with her, tipping over on top of her as it falls to the floor. Rianne is still in between her and the door, so lacking any better option, Chloe opens the door to the cabinet with the crime scene tape and plunges inside.

136

INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

136

Using the light on her phone, Chloe goes down the dark tunnel, which turns into a bit of a maze with stairs and multiple passageways.

CHLOE

Help! Help me!

There is no answer so she plunges ahead.

137 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LAUNDRY - NIGHT 137

Rianne gets out from under the cart and grabs the gun. She goes after Chloe.

138 INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT 138

Chloe continues to try to find her way through the tunnels, going up stairs and turning corners, as Rianne gives chase. Chloe finally finds an exit.

139 EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT 139

Chloe comes out of a passageway onto a bridge over a roadway but it is a dead end. She runs to the edge and looks over.

From her point of view she sees Aaron and Luke entering the nearby hotel.

CHLOE

Aaron!

She tries to get his attention but it is too late. He has already gone inside. Chloe turns to run back but it is too late - Rianne is there, approaching. Chloe has nowhere to go.

RIANNE

Why didn't you just let it go?

CHLOE

Because Elias was my friend.

RIANNE

How noble. I wonder if any of your friends will be as tenacious in trying to find out who killed you.

Rianne grabs Chloe and there is a struggle but then Rianne puts something that looks like a dart near her neck. Chloe stops struggling, terrified.

RIANNE (CONT'D)

Don't worry... The poison works pretty fast. You'll probably be dead before you hit the ground.

CHLOE

Please... wait...

RIANNE

I bet you regret playing detective now, don't you?

CHLOE

You know what? Not even a little.

Chloe elbows Rianne in the stomach and stomps on her foot, then pushes her away. Rianne recovers quickly and goes after Chloe but before she can get close Aaron, Luke, and a cadre of Maltese police officers swarm onto the bridge.

AARON

Drop the gun. Drop it!!

Rianne drops the dart and the agents swoop in to take her into custody. Aaron goes to Chloe.

AARON (CONT'D)

Are you okay? Did she hurt you?

CHLOE

I'm okay. I guess I did get pretty good at that move in self defense class. I take it you got my message?

AARON

Bet you're glad I installed that tracking app now, huh?

CHLOE

Very glad, yes.

Chloe gives Aaron a shaky smile as they watch Rianne being led off.

140 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY 140

Establishing the hotel.

141 INT. OPTIMA HOTEL - LOBBY - DAY 141

Chloe comes out of the elevator and crosses the lobby toward the front door but sees Bree by the front desk and takes a detour. She pulls the flash drive out of her messenger bag and hands it over to Bree.

CHLOE

I'm guessing this is why came to my room yesterday?

BREE

I didn't want you to leave with it.
If anyone found out I gave this to
you, it would cost me my job.

CHLOE

After everything that's happened,
you still want your job?

BREE

(a small smile)
Someone has to hire replacements
for all of the staff that... left
unexpectedly.

CHLOE

Good luck with that.

BREE

Thank you. Good luck to you, too.

Chloe smiles and leaves the hotel.

142 EXT. OPTIMA HOTEL - DAY

142

Chloe comes out to find Aaron waiting for her by the hotel's
shuttle van.

CHLOE

Making sure I'm really leaving this
time?

AARON

You should just be grateful that
I'm not having armed guards escort
you to the plane.

CHLOE

What about you? Heading back to
DC?

AARON

In a few days. I have some things
to clean up here and then I'm off.

CHLOE

What did your dad think of you
cracking the case and catching
Cypher?

AARON

I didn't. You did.

CHLOE

Let's call it a team effort.

AARON

(laughs)

You know we could still look into getting you that badge...

CHLOE

I think I'll stick with travel writing. It's a lot safer...

(beat)

Usually.

(looks at watch)

I better go.

AARON

Okay. Have a good flight.

CHLOE

You, too. Maybe I'll see you at the next international crime scene.

Aaron gives her a look that says, "no you won't" and she smiles.

CHLOE (CONT'D)

Hypothetically, of course.

Aaron smiles at her and Chloe goes to get in a waiting van. As it drives off, we PULL BACK to get a good view of the beautiful Malta scenery.

THE END