



VENDETTA FOR A DEAD FRIEND



"VENDETTA FOR A DEAD FRIEND"

by

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(from an original story by Philip Broadley)

DRAFT 1. MARCH 2012

FADE UP FROM OPENING TEASER TITLE

1. EXTERIOR OF LARGE COUNTRY HOUSE DAY

A large burly secret serviceman stands guard on the steps to the grandiose country house. In the distance he spies a saloon car approach along the long sweeping grave driveway. Instinctively he touches his ear and speaks

1st SECRET
SERVICEMAN

They're here..

2. INT OF SALOON CAR DAY

Two men are sat in the back of the prestige saloon. ~~One~~ CHAMBERS a civil service type scrutinises the approach road whilst ~~the~~ KOSKOV is rubbing the palms of his hands anxiously

KOSKOV
This is your idea of a safe house?

CHAMBERS
My dear Colonel Koskov this is better than a safe house, this is the General's own private estate.

KOSKOV
I don't like it - it's too open...

CHAMBERS
Yes well once you've had your "chat" with the General we'll be moving you on.

KOSKOV

And how long will that
take?

CHAMBERS

That depends on how your
"chat" with the General
goes and what you can
tell us about our rotten
apple..

KOSKOV

And how can you be sure
that Iscariot doesn't
already know about all
this?

CHAMBERS

..because your defection
is only know to the
General , me and one
other person..

The car draws up at the main entrance and both men
get out. CHAMBERS suffers with a limp and uses his
walking stick to aid his gait. The car moves off
and out of sight. The burly security guard takes
position to cover them. KOSKOV fixes a wary gaze
at Chambers.

CHAMBERS (CONT.)

..you're really quite
safe.

Suddenly a shot rings out and KOSKOV lurches
forward and his body smashes through the glass
doors.

3. OPENING TITLES

DAY

Montage of a Pan Am plane landing at an airport
and DRAKE's car rushing through heavy London

traffic. He's stopping for no-one and pulls his Mini Cooper over to the kerb and heads into the offices of World Travel

4. INT: ADMIRAL HOBBS' OFFICE

DAY

DRAKE strides into the office and plants both palms onto ADMIRAL HOBBS's desk. HOBBS does not flinch

DRAKE

What ever it is, I am not interested,

HOBBS

I have some information for you Drake. Information I think you should know..

DRAKE about turns as HOBBS drags the edge of a buff file closer to hand

DRAKE

You're not listening - I'm on vacation.

HOBBS

Take a seat Drake.

DRAKE

The only seat I'm taking is on the next plane to Kingston, Jamaica ..

DRAKE heads toward the door. HOBBS flicks open the file on his desk to reveal a large picture of Bill Vincent

HOBBS

Bill Vincent's dead.

DRAKE is poleaxed and spins around .

DRAKE

What?

HOBBS

Killed in Baghdad

DRAKE

How ?

HOBBS

Tell me what you know
about Iscariot?

DRAKE

I asked you how Bill
Vincent died?

HOBBS

And I asked you what
you knew about
Iscariot?

DRAKE

He was the disciple
that betrayed Christ.

HOBBS

And is our codename for
the traitor who among
other things had our
prize defector Koskov
killed on the General's
own front lawn.

DRAKE

What's that got to do
with Bill Vincent?

HOBBS

I'm coming to that.
Koskov ~~had information~~
~~that could lead us~~
~~to~~was going to tell us
who Iscariot was

DRAKE

But was shot before he
could tell you..

HOBBS
(nods)

Only four people knew
about Koskov's
defection. Koskov
himself, Chambers from
MI9, the General...

DRAKE

And you ...

HOBBS

And only three of us
knew that Koskov wasn't
killed but was in fact
still alive but in a
coma.

DRAKE

And Bill Vincent found
out through his ex wife
in Moscow that Koskov
was still alive?

HOBBS

Correct. Now Iscariot
needs to find Koskov
and finish the job
permanently..



DRAKE

| And I need to warn Ann
Vincent

HOBBS

Oh yes didn't I mention that? - It would appear that Iscariot arranged for her to be eliminated at the same time.

DRAKE is incandescent

HOBBS

Whatever rage you may be feeling won't bring Bill Vincent or his wife back. I need you to protect Koskov and flush out Iscariot. I do not expect you to pursue a vendetta for a dead friend. Is that understood?

5. EXT: HYDE PARK

DAY

CHAMBERS' large ROVER saloon pulls up at the cafeteria by the Serpentine as DRAKE is tossing breadcrumbs to a collection of swans. CHAMBERS alights from the car and walks, with his right leg aided by the walking stick over to DRAKE

CHAMBERS

They say a man who is tired of London..

DRAKE

Is tired of living...You know Chambers you should really get your cipher chaps to be more attentive. Samuel Johnson actually wrote When a man is tired of London he is tired of life.

CHAMBERS

Fascinating

DRAKE

Yes and while we're at it, is this your idea of being incognito - arriving in a Ministerial car complete with driver?

CHAMBERS

Are we quite finished, Drake?

CHAMBERS lifts the bottom of his walking stick and points it down the pathway suggesting they walk.

CROSS FADE

CHAMBERS

(CONT.)

Drake, I think you should know that I'm not happy, not happy at all that you've been assigned to this investigation.

DRAKE

You do surprise me

CHAMBERS

My department is quite capable of finding Iscariot.

DRAKE

But not, it seems, stopping him putting a bullet in Koskov.

CHAMBERS

I've operated in the field too Drake. That's where I got this..

CHAMBERS taps his leg with the walking stick

CHAMBERS (CONT.)

...Bratislava, ten years ago, so don't lecture me.

DRAKE

All very interesting but right now all I need to know is where I find Koskov.

CHAMBERS

You're asking the wrong fellow Drake.
I'm one of the three bad apples -
they're hardly going to confide in me
are they? Best you ask the General...

Both men have walked full circle and are back at
the cafeteria.

CHAMBERS

Drake let me save you some precious
time. It's not me; I'm not Iscariot. So
that leaves just the General and your
boss, the venerable Admiral Hobbs..

CHAMBERS walks a few paces on in the direction of
his car and the chauffer gets out in readiness
but then stops and calls back to DRAKE

CHAMBERS

Oh and just for your report, the car?
It's not the leg..don't drive never have
done..

6. EXT: THE GENERAL'S ESTATE

DAY

DRAKE's mini skirts the edge of the estate and
heads down the main driveway. There are two burly
guards at the main entrance. He pulls up next to
a large Bentley.

7. INT : THE LIBRARY

DAY

DRAKE paces around the vast room half-studying
the row upon row of books. He seems agitated and
checks his watch before the large doors open and
the GENERAL enters. The GENERAL does not
acknowledge DRAKE and instead takes his seat
behind the ornate desk.

THE GENERAL

I wondered who they would send. You're a lucky man, Drake

DRAKE

Lucky, General?

THE GENERAL

..to still have the confidence of your superiors. There's nothing so corrosive in our line of business as the suspicion of being a traitor.

DRAKE

With respect sir whatever you may think, my agenda is quite clear. First locate Koskov and second find Bill Vincent's killer.

THE GENERAL

Quite. Well your first agenda point is easy enough. Koskov's here. Been here since he was shot.

DRAKE

Why wasn't he moved to a safe house?

THE GENERAL

Well for one thing we cannot assume our safe houses are indeed safe. And two we have a full time medical team here.

DRAKE

Has he talked?

THE GENERAL

No - he's been in a coma since the shooting

DRAKE

What's your Doctor's prognosis?

THE GENERAL

Ask him yourself, you'll find him in the East Wing first floor..

DRAKE gets out of his seat and walks to the library door.

THE GENERAL

Tell me Drake, when you find our traitor and, if he is indeed Vincent's killer, do you think you'll be able to control your instincts?

DRAKE looks back aggressively and then exits without answering.

8. INT. THE INTENSIVE CARE ROOM DAY

KOSKOV is lying in bed and strapped to various monitors that beep intermittently. A nurse is taking KOSKOV's pulse as DRAKE reads from the statistics on a clipboard and a DOCTOR stands by.

DOCTOR

As I was saying Mr Drake this isn't an exact science.

DRAKE

So there's no telling when he may regain consciousness?

DOCTOR

Could be today, tomorrow.. or in ten years time. The physiological traits, heart rate blood pressure and so forth are just that physiological- it's the brain that will decide if he ever wakes up.

DRAKE

If he does regain consciousness will his memory be as it was?

DOCTOR

Again this isn't an exact science

DRAKE

Doctor this man has invaluable information and -

DOCTOR

- Mr Drake this man is my patient. I don't know who he is and what you want from him and frankly I don't want to know. My job is to provide him with the best possible medical care. Good day.

The DOCTOR heads out of the room. DRAKE surveys the room and KOSKOV one last time then heads out into the corridor.

9. INT THE CORRIDOR DAY

DRAKE checks around and then hides in a small alcove and takes a small electronic device, pulls it's built in antennae out and flicks a switch on its panel. He walks along the corridor scanning and the needle on the scope remains fixed. The GENERAL has crept up behind him.

THE GENERAL

Wasting your time Drake. My men sweep the entire estate on the hour every hour. There are no listening devices here.

DRAKE

Not even two legged?

THE GENERAL

That's for you to find out. Did you see the good Doctor?

DRAKE

Yes.

THE GENERAL

An impeccable medical man but not a great conversationalist but then you will have already checked him out won't you?

DRAKE

Ever since he became impeccable..

THE GENERAL

I was sorry to hear about Vincent he was a good operator

DRAKE

...and a good friend.

THE GENERAL

I seem to remember you cleared his name in that business in Baghdad.

DRAKE

That's right, General, just before you gave orders to have him killed.

THE GENERAL

Betrayed by his wife wasn't he? That's the trouble - the best agent is the one you don't see even though they're in plain view.

The GENERAL walks off and DRAKE notices the NURSE exit KOSKOV's ward. He slips into the room and closes the door gently.

10. EXT OF THE GENERAL'S HOUSE DAY

DRAKE is following the movement of the GENERAL as he walks along the gravel pathway and meets the DOCTOR. They start to remonstrate and THE GENERAL gesticulates at him aggressively and then retreats back into the house. DRAKE heads around some bushes and catches the DOCTOR who has lit a cigarette unawares.

DRAKE

You're a dying breed Doctor

DOCTOR

What?

DRAKE

A joke, Doctor- smoking? A dying breed?

DOCTOR

Oh.. I see what you mean..

DRAKE

May I join you?

DRAKE finds a cigarette and lights it.

DRAKE

(CONT.)

About your patient Doctor..

DOCTOR

Mr Drake you know I can't discuss a patient's welfare with you

DRAKE

Oh I think you can make an exception in this case - after all it's hardly liable to affect your Hippocratic oath is it?

11. INT: THE HALLWAY DAY

DRAKE enters the large vault like hallway and is met by the burly secret service man.

1st SECURITY MAN

There's a call for you

DRAKE picks up the telephone on the desk in the hallway

DRAKE

Yes?

INT : HOBBS ON THE PHONE IN HIS OFFICE DAY

HOBBS

You were supposed to report in three hours ago

INT: THE HALLWAY DAY

DRAKE

Well I thought it better we talk face to face.

INT : HOBBS ON THE PHONE IN HIS OFFICE DAY

HOBBS

What are you talking about?

INT: THE HALLWAY DAY

DRAKE

This is an unsecured line and I would far rather talk with you and Chambers here in person.

INT : HOBBS ON THE PHONE IN HIS OFFICE DAY

HOBBS

You better have something worthwhile to discuss Drake.

INT: THE HALLWAY DAY

DRAKE is aware of The SECURITY GUARD who is hovering within earshot

DRAKE

Drinks at seven then? I understand the General has a world-renowned selection of Port. Goodbye.

He holds the receiver pauses and hears two clicks replaces the telephone and The GUARD retreats and DRAKE fishes out his listening device gadget and wields it around but the needle remains fixed.

12. THE BANQUETTING ROOM NIGHT

The large ornamental clock on the mantelpiece chimes at seven o'clock and HOBBS and the GENERAL are already sat at the table. HOBBS is gazing at the swilling contents of his brandy glass.

HOBBS

Do you think Drake is on to us?

THE GENERAL

Well, I dare say we're about to find out
CHAMBERS enters the banqueting room

CHAMBERS

Good evening Sir, Admiral.

THE GENERAL

Sit down Chambers

CHAMBERS rests his walking stick next to his
chair

HOBBS

Where is Drake?

12. INT UNIDENTIFIED AREA **NIGHT**

DRAKE walks toward the banqueting doors and pulls
out his bugging device detector. He switches it
on and for the first time the needle twitches
into life. He walks towards the double doors to
the banqueting room and makes a grand entrance.

13. INT THE BANQUETTING ROOM **NIGHT**

DRAKE

Ah I've see you have already decanted
the General's Amoroso.

HOBBS

Never mind that Drake, what have you
dragged us here for?

DRAKE

The reveal Admiral, the cadaver, the
Habeas Corpus.

HOBBS

For God's sake man, speak English

DRAKE

Not English Admiral Latin. Habeas -
produce Corpus the body.

THE GENERAL

Are you trying to entertain us Drake?

DRAKE

Entertain no, enlighten yes..

CHAMBERS

Then perhaps you can enlighten us as to
where Koskov is...

DRAKE

Koskov is here.

CHAMBERS

Here? I don't believe it.

DRAKE

In one of the General's finest suites on
the first floor with the best around the
clock medical team.

HOBBS

Is this true?

THE GENERAL

It was too much of a risk to move him.

DRAKE

Only now you three know, we can presume that Iscariot knows and ipso facto will stop at nothing to finish the job

DRAKE takes a few grapes from the cheese board, eats two and produces the detector from his pocket..

HOBBS

Well don't stop there man - who is it?
Who is Iscariot?

DRAKE follows the signal on the bugging detector to CHAMBERS' walking stick; it twitches madly. DRAKE grabs it and snaps open the brass collar to reveal a tiny transmitter. He presses the grape into the mechanism and the reading stops.

DRAKE

It seems our eavesdropper was not two legged but three..

THE GENERAL

Chambers...!

DRAKE

Not quite.

INT KOSKOV'S WARD

NIGHT

Cut to an assassin putting a silencer on a gun and slipping through the door jamb of KOSKOV's room

INT THE BANQUETTING ROOM NIGHT

CHAMBERS

Whoever it is aren't you going to stop him?

INT KOSKOV'S WARD NIGHT

The gun discharges twice into KOSKOV but the heart monitor keeps beeping .It fires two more rounds each to no avail and the fires again and again.

INT THE BANQUETTING ROOM NIGHT

DRAKE

There's no hurry - by now our man Iscariot has just put a magazine of bullets in a corpse

INT KOSKOV'S WARD NIGHT

The gun and the assailant are suddenly grappled by security men who wrestle him into submission

INT THE BANQUETTING ROOM NIGHT

CHAMBERS

What? but you said..

DRAKE

Koskov died two days ago, but the General here coerced the good Doctor, much against his impeccable ethics, to strap a ventilator onto a dead man.

THE GENERAL

I think even you Drake, could see our predicament. If Iscariot knew that Koskov had died without regaining consciousness he would have believed that he anonymity was still assured.

DRAKE

Quite.

SFX There is a commotion outside the room

DRAKE

(CONT.)

Gentlemen I give you Iscariot..

The doors open and the security men bundle CHAMBERS' chauffeur in. DRAKE strolls over to the struggling man and takes the chauffeurs hat from one of the security men.

DRAKE

As you rightly commented General the best agent is the one who is invisible even though they are in plain view.

DRAKE tosses the hat onto the table next to CHAMBERS' walking stick

CHAMBERS

That's how he knew about Koskov's defection. I told him why we were going to the airport. I trusted him..

HOBBS

And God knows how much information
you've passed on with that thing.

HOBBS points at the walking stick and CHAMBERS
realises in an instant he is finished. THE
GENERAL nods his head and CHAMBERS skulks away
into custody along with ISCARIOT. The security
men escort the out of the room leaving only HOBBS
DRAKE and THE GENERAL.

THE GENERAL

Well Gentlemen I think this calls for a
celebration. I'll break out some of the
better port. The good stuff I don't
normally give to visitors.

DRAKE

Not for me General I have to have a
clear head for the morning.

THE GENERAL

I have to hand it to you Drake. I
thought your instincts would have
brought down the red mist, what with
Vincent and all that...

DRAKE looks stoic and then leaves the room. THE
GENERAL hands HOBBS a glass of the better Port.

HOBBS

Thank you, General.

The GENERAL gestures in DRAKE's wake

THE GENERAL

Interesting fellow ...Thought you could
have least give him the morning off,
Admiral.

HOBBS

Who do you thinks' interrogating
Iscaiot tomorrow..?

THE GENERAL momentarily gulps on his port at the
prospect of DRAKE's opportunity for vengeance.

FADE TO BLACK

END TITLES