

THE ELECTION

Based on Political events in Brazil

Address
Phone Number

INT. RESTAURANT, BRASILIA, BRAZIL - DAY

Army general, Horacio DELGADO, 60, tall and overweight, with greying dark brown hair and casually dressed, picks up his cellphone from the dinning table and puts it to his ear.

DELGADO

Yes?

The President of Brazil, João MAIA, 40s, medium height, balding and overweight, is on the phone.

MAIA (V.O.)

Good of you to take my call
Horacio. Thought I should be the
first to let you know.

DELGADO

What?

MAIA

The Party has decided to go with a
politician -- I know you would make
a great Vice-President but the
Party sees it differently. We need
to go with Party coalitions.

DELGADO

Coalitions? Yes of course -- party
politics -- Thanks for letting me
know.

Delgado switches off his cellphone.

DELGADO (CONT'D)

(loudly)

Fat -- fuckin' -- shit arse.

Shaking his head, Delgado looks across the table at his lunch companion, Brigadier Carlos ESTEVAN, 50s, tall and slim and also dressed casually, but immaculately, in Armani. Estevan, is the head of the Brazilian Airforce and the (S.N.I.) National Intelligence Service.

ESTEVAN

(nonchalantly)

Bad news?

Delgado pushes his half finished plate away.

DELGADO

Maia -- the fat piece of shit --
going with a politician.

ESTEVAN

Sorry to hear that Horacio -- he's got a short memory.

DELGADO

No memory -- And I was about to resign from the army and join the Social Dems to help him. -- Jesus how dumb.

ESTEVAN

We need to get behind a better candidate.

DELGADO

Agreed -- But who and how?

ESTEVAN

Time will tell. Also, need to know what Chico's up to -- my sources say he's happy -- too happy.

They both get up from the table and leave.

EXT. CYCLING TRACK, BERRINI AVENUE, SAO PAULO - DAY

TOM BAKER, 50, tall, athletic build, a widower and a semi-retired journalist, dressed in shorts and T-shirt, stops his bike at the side of the track, touches his ear piece and starts speaking.

BAKER

Hello.

ESTEVAN (V.O.)

Carlos Estevan calling. I'll be in Sao Paulo tomorrow -- can we have lunch?

BAKER

Yes, delighted.

ESTEVAN (V.O.)

Hilton Hotel, one o' clock?

BAKER

I'll be there.

Baker mounts his bicycle and rides off.

INT. DINING ROOM, HILTON HOTEL, SAO PAULO -- DAY

Baker enters and spots Estevan at a window seat in an exclusive area of the dining room. He makes his way to Estevan's table as Estevan rises and greets him with a hand shake.

ESTEVAN
Thanks for coming Tom.

BAKER
No problem -- You've put on weight
my friend.

ESTEVAN
Stopped smoking.

Estevan invites Baker to sit.

A waiter arrives to take their order.

BAKER
Heard the lobster here is superb.

ESTEVAN
Good choice.

Food and drinks are ordered and the waiter leaves.

BAKER
How can I be of service Brigadier?

ESTEVAN
We remember you fondly as the Falls
Guy -- great work.

Baker grins and nods his head.

BAKER
Luck was on my side and Chico's in
jail.

ESTEVAN
In jail? Yes -- but lately he's
happy -- too happy. Something's in
the wind.

BAKER
Wouldn't your intelligence service
be onto that?

ESTEVAN

They're trying but getting little. Thought you might ask him for an interview -- on how he's faring. He knows you as a foreign journalist and always likes media exposure.

BAKER

Yes -- but remember I was the one who brought him back to Brazil -- and jail.

ESTEVAN

Worth a try? No?

Baker contemplates and sighs.

BAKER

OK. -- Been laid back for some time. Curitiba it is.

ESTEVAN

One last thing -- like Major Camargo to accompany you -- as liaison.

BAKER

Major Camargo? -- fine -- it'll be a pleasure.

ESTEVAN

Ah! Here's your lobster -- looks good -- but you can never tell until you taste it.

INT. COFFEE SHOP, CONGONHAS AIRPORT, SAO PAULO - DAY

Baker is sipping an espresso when he spots Major Sylvia CAMARGO, 30s, tall and pretty, who is wearing a two piece tailored suit that highlights her figure.

She approaches Baker who rises and kisses her on both cheeks.

CAMARGO

How have you been Tom?

BAKER

Busy -- sorry I never got around to phoning. Congrats on your promotion.

CAMARGO

Thanks -- You're out of retirement?

BAKER

Just about.

Baker makes way for Camargo to sit at the coffee table.

CAMARGO

And how are your daughters?

BAKER

Claudia, in Paris, is working too hard -- don't know why -- and Carolina is at a bank and looking after my grandson, Mateus. -- And Cristina?

CAMARGO

Top of her class in Math. She would like to tell you personally.

BAKER

I'll set it up when we get back.

The tannoy system calls their flight and they leave.

INT. ROOM, FEDERAL PRISON, CURITIBA - DAY

SUPER: "ROOM, FEDERAL PRISON, CURITIBA"

The door opens and Baker enters.

Ex-President Francisco da Silva, known as CHICO, 70, medium height and build, sporting a scraggy beard, gets up from his table. Both men eye each other and no handshake is asked or offered. Chico points towards chairs beside a coffee table.

CHICO

Have a seat Gringo. -- Can't believe you actually want to interview me.

Both men sit.

CHICO (CONT'D)

(loudly)

You're the shit that put me here.

BAKER

Not so -- you yourself told me your lawyers screwed up. And here we are.

CHICO

Hopefully not for long.

BAKER

How?

CHICO

Appealing to the Supreme Court.

BAKER

You'll lose -- Seven to four at the last count.

CHICO

(through gritted teeth)
We'll see. Drink?

Chico nods towards the small fridge in the corner.

BAKER

Sure. Whisky?

CHICO

Zero alcohol here -- I'm in jail.

Baker opens his briefcase and removes a bottle of red wine.

BAKER

From your vineyard -- got your name on it.

Baker hands the bottle to Chico who reads the label and smiles broadly. Chico gets up, collects two glasses, puts them on the table, opens the bottle, and pours out some wine. Chico sits and sniffs his wine.

CHICO

Smells good.

Both men sip their wine.

CHICO (CONT'D)

Tastes good -- in fact excellent. -- Told you it would be good. Thanks -- now tell me why you're here.

BAKER

Things are brewing in Brasilia. Maia isn't doing well in the polls and Presidential candidates are sprouting.

CHICO

Yeah! Like weeds -- but I'm not one of them -- stuck here unjustly.

BAKER

Estevan could provide you with a
"Get Out of Jail Free" card.

CHICO

(shrugs)

Huh! -- With strings attached?

BAKER

You're out of jail, running for
President and Estevan chooses your
VP.

CHICO

No thanks. I win -- I die -- he
takes over.

Chico stands up.

CHICO (CONT'D)

Thank Estevan for the wine but no
thanks -- Got other plans.

They shake hands and Baker leaves.

INT. TAXI, OUTSIDE THE FEDERAL PRISON - LATER

Camargo opens the rear door as Baker approaches.

CAMARGO

Well?

BAKER

No go -- not interested in talking.

CAMARGO

Has he got something in mind?

BAKER

Appealing to the Supreme Court --
which means he would have to change
the opinion of two judges.

CAMARGO

Always possible with the right
leverage. I'll let the Brigadier
know.

BAKER

Let's have lunch on Saturday and
bring Cristina.

CAMARGO

Where?

BAKER

Carolina's house -- Alan makes a good BBQ.

EXT. ENTRANCE TO BUILDING, BRASILIA - NIGHT

Senator Gladys HOPPMANN, late 40s, medium height, who had been pretty but now overweight, with dyed blond hair, buzzes the porter who attends the interphone.

HOPPMANN

Senator Hoppmann visiting Justice Lucia.

There is a buzz, the gate opens and Hoppmann enters.

INT. DOOR TO FLAT, BUILDING, BRASILIA - NIGHT

Justice Julia LUCIA, 60s, tall and aristocratic in stature and with a slim figure, opens her flat door and invites Hoppmann inside.

LUCIA

Raining hard outside?

HOPPMANN

Yes -- but we need the rain -- every drop.

LUCIA

Let me take your umbrella.

INT. LIVING ROOM, FLAT, BUILDING, BRASILIA - CONTINUOUS

Both women walk into the spacious living room.

LUCIA

Something to drink?

HOPPMANN

Glass of white wine would be nice.

LUCIA

Have some chilling.

Lucia pours two glasses of wine and joins Hoppmann on the sofa.

LUCIA (CONT'D)
You said on the phone it was
something urgent.

HOPPMANN
Yes -- you may not know but
Chico's lawyers are preparing a
habeas corpus appeal to your
Supreme Court.

LUCIA
Won't work.

HOPPMANN
We need you and one other judge to
change your opinion -- then it'll
work.

Lucia's eyes widen and she looks puzzled.

LUCIA
Why on earth would I change my
recorded opinion?

HOPPMANN
For your son.

Lucia's shoulders droop and her head drops.

LUCIA
What's he done now?

HOPPMANN
(sarcastically)
Not "what's he done" -- but what
he's doing -- sexually interfering
with young boys.

LUCIA
(Angrily)
Nonsense.

HOPPMANN
Do you want to see the evidence?
Have it on disc -- not pretty. Look
Julia we've no interest in his
sexual behavior -- but we need you
to change your opinion.

Lucia gets up, refills her glass but doesn't offer any to
Hoppmann.

LUCIA
 (coolly)
 Let me think about it.

Hoppmann rises, walks to the apartment door and picks up her umbrella.

HOPPMANN
 Sure -- don't take too long --
 Chico's appeal will be presented
 next week.

Hoppmann leaves.

Lucia shrieks and smashes her glass against the apartment door.

INT. RICARDO FAMILY HOUSE, SAO PAULO - DAY

Baker is waiting at the door as the bell rings. He opens it and greets Camargo and her daughter CRISTINA, 10, tall, lively and pretty.

CRISTINA
 Mister Baker -- I must tell you --
 I'm top in my class in math. Beat
 Jenny Braga.

Baker smiles and gives Cristina a hug.

BAKER
 Talent will shine -- and you've got
 lots of it. Please come in.

Camargo and Cristina enter and are greeted by CAROLINA Ricardo, 30, tall and pretty, who is carrying her baby son, Mateus.

CAROLINA
 Hi! This is Mateus. -- Alan is
 making the food -- and watching the
 football at the same time.

Carolina looks directly at Camargo.

CAROLINA (CONT'D)
 Sylvia -- nice to see you again.

CAMARGO
 Hi Carolina -- You've moved.

CAROLINA

Yes, daddy took over our flat and we moved to this house.

Carolina smiles at Cristina.

CAROLINA (CONT'D)

And you must be the math student my dad told me about.

CRISTINA

Yes, top in algebra. How old is Mateus? Gosh! He's big.

CAROLINA

He'll be a year next month.

CRISTINA

Can I hold him? Don't have a brother.

A perplexed Carolina takes a step back.

CAROLINA

Sure -- Let's get inside and sit on the sofa.

As all enter, Baker closes the door.

Carolina and Cristina sit in the sofa and Mateus is passed into Cristina's hands.

BAKER

Sylvia -- let me introduce you to our host. He's in the back making our lunch.

INT. BACK GARDEN AREA, RICARDO FAMILY HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Baker escorts Sylvia to the back of the house where ALAN Ricardo, 30s, tall and well built, is making the BBQ.

ALAN

Hi Tom.

Alan turns to face his guests with fork and prong in his hands.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Forgive me -- hands full -- and you're Sylvia the woman he's talked about.

CAMARGO

Yes -- hear he's been doing a lot
of talking.

Camargo turns her head to Baker and smiles with her eyes wide
open.

CAMARGO (CONT'D)

But -- couldn't phone.

Alan looks at the TV and gasps.

ALAN

That was close. -- If we win this
game Corinthians will be in the
Libertadores next year.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Food coming up soon.

Baker smiles back at Camargo.

BAKER

Let's leave Alan to do the cooking.
What would you like to drink?

CAMARGO

Gassy water would be fine thanks.

Baker's cellphone rings and he moves into the garden to
receive the call.

BAKER

Hello.

ESTEVAN (V.O.)

Hi Tom -- Thanks for picking up.

BAKER

Hi Brigadier -- what's up?

ESTEVAN (V.O.)

There's a PSDB fund raiser next
Tuesday evening for Governor
Derian. Could you attend with Major
Camargo?

BAKER

It'll be a pleasure.

ESTEVAN (V.O.)

It's Black Tie.

BAKER

Fine -- send the invitation.

Baker walks back inside to Camargo.

BAKER (CONT'D)

Gassy water coming up. Ah -- could you make next Tuesday for a Black Tie do?

CAMARGO

A date? -- Think I can do that.

Alan calls out to all.

ALAN

Food is served.

INT. HILTON HOTEL, GALA ROOM, SAO PAULO - NIGHT

SUPER: "HILTON HOTEL, GALA ROOM, SAO PAULO"

The Governor of Sao Paulo, Gregory DERIAN, 50s, an entrepreneur of international standing, short in height with black hair and muscular body, is personally greeting his guests.

DERIAN

We haven't met before --

BAKER

No Governor -- Tom, Tom Baker journalist and my lady is Sylvia Camargo.

DERIAN

We don't have too many ladies here tonight as pretty as you -- from Sao Paulo?

CAMARGO

Yes -- Sao Paulo city.

DERIAN

How lucky for Mister Baker.

Smiles are exchanged as Baker and Camargo move into the room.

Politicians and entrepreneurs are in abundance.

A waiter approaches and Baker and Camargo accept a glass of French Champaign.

Baker turns and looks at the guests.

BAKER

Lots of politicians -- but can't remember what party they're in right now.

CAMARGO

They change like baby's nappies.

BAKER

Ah! There's one that doesn't change -- The Fixer.

Baker points his glass towards a group surrounding a young man.

CAMARGO

The Brigadier mentioned him. Shall we introduce ourselves?

BAKER

Lead on.

They make their way over to the young man, George WEBER, 30s, known as "The Fixer", lean, short in stature, with black hair and immaculately dressed, who turns his eyes towards Baker as he approaches.

Weber breaks from the group surrounding him and walks towards Baker and Camargo. He extends his hand and shakes hands with Baker.

WEBER

Journalist Baker -- how nice to meet you.

BAKER

A pleasure Mister Weber -- may I introduce Miss Camargo.

Weber half bows and shakes Camargo's hand.

WEBER

Delighted to meet you Major Camargo. Look around -- You're the female star of the evening. Please call me George.

CAMARGO

Thank you for the compliment -- kind Sir. We're delighted to be here.

(MORE)

CAMARGO (CONT'D)

Governor Derian's campaign is surging forward - doing well in the polls.

WEBER

Not as well as we want -- but we're moving in a positive direction. I hope you can report our progress to the international press Mister Baker.

BAKER

Of course -- we're peckish so we'll leave you to your followers.

Baker guides Camargo towards the buffet.

CAMARGO

My God! How did he know my name and rank?

BAKER

He does his homework -- everybody on the guest list would be checked out. Wouldn't expect anything else from The Fixer.

EXT. DIRT ROAD, COUNTRYSIDE, OUTSIDE BRASILIA - DAY

Hoppmann drives her SUV up the road to the entrance to Rancho Jesus Maria. It is a warm day with few clouds in the sky.

She stops before the entrance that has an arc with the name RANCHO JESUS MARIA. She notes the camera and presses the button on an interphone BOX.

BOX (V.O.)

Yes?

HOPPMANN

Senator Hoppmann to see Justice Frazier.

The gate opens and Hoppmann drives through, up and over the top of a hill and down towards a spacious ranch house built beside a lake.

EXT. RANCH HOUSE, COUNTRYSIDE, NEAR BRASILIA - DAY

Reginaldo FRAZIER, 50s, tall, slim and with European features, dressed in jeans, denim shirt, red kerchief and riding boots, strides off the porch to meet Hoppmann.

FRAZIER

Senator Hoppmann how nice to see you again. The sun and fresh air will do you good. You're looking a bit peely-wally, as my forebears would say.

HOPPMANN

A bit what?

FRAZER

Peely-wally -- pale -- you need some sunshine.

Hoppmann comes forward and they shake hands.

HOPPMANN

Can't say that about you Judge. In the prime of health.

FRAZIER

Please come in and call me Reg. I'm having some light refreshments prepared in the garden.

Frazier leads Hoppmann through the main living room and out into a lush tropical garden. A servant is finishing the preparation of various fruit juices.

Frazier invites Hoppmann to sit at a table in a shaded area and indicated the juices.

FRAZIER (CONT'D)

The mango is sweet, the raspberry neutral and the strawberry bitter.

HOPPMANN

Strawberry? -- my favorite fruit.

Frazier pores a glass of strawberry juice and passes it to her. He pours himself a glass of mango juice. Both drink their juices.

HOPPMANN (CONT'D)

Delicious -- bitter sweet.

FRAZIER

You said on the phone you had something urgent to discuss.

HOPPMANN

Yes -- We know that financially you're in a difficult situation.

FRAZIER

Doesn't everyone? No secret -- I
invested in the wrong companies.
So?

HOPPMANN

So we thought we could help out.

FRAZIER

Would be good.

HOPPMANN

A habeas corpus request from ex-
President Francisco da Silva will
arrive on your desk next week. --
We would like you to change your
opinion.

FRAZIER

Difficult -- very difficult.

HOPPMANN

But not impossible?

FRAZIER

I would need an incentive.

HOPPMANN

We thought -- a million.

FRAZIER

More like two.

HOPPMANN

OK -- two million reais.

FRAZIER

I only deal in dollars.

Hoppmann gasps and looks at her cellphone which has a text
message from Chico.

INSERT - THE MESSAGE, which reads:

"Up to three mill in dollars - half before and half after."

HOPPMANN

You drive a hard bargain Judge
Frazier. -- But I'm sure you'll
come through.

FRAZIER

Let me give you the account number
of my Uruguayan bank.

INT. BRAZILIAN SUPREME COURT, BRASILIA - DAY

The Chief Justice Tomas TOLEDO, 40s, lean, medium height and balding with a mustache and goatee beard, taps on his microphone.

TOLEDO

Thank you Justice Frazier for your vote. That brings the total to five in favour and four against the appeal. Justice Lucia can we have your opinion please.

Justice Lucia draws closer to her microphone.

LUCIA

I won't take up much of the Court's time. My opinion remains the same -- and I therefore negate the appeal.

Hoppmann, who is present in the court, sends a message on her cellphone.

INSERT MESSAGE, which reads:

"Lucia has voted against."

INSERT REPLY TO MESSAGE, which reads:

"Put the video on social media."

TOLEDO

Now five for and five against, it falls to me to give the deciding vote. -- I've thought long and hard about our Constitution of 1988 and its interpretation as well as the eloquent opinions we've heard today from both sides. On reflection I believe I may have been too harsh in my judgment last time. Therefore I am in favor of the appeal which is now granted.

Justice Lucia looks at Justice Toledo in astonishment.

Toledo avoids eye contact with Lucia.

TOLEDO (CONT'D)

This session is now concluded.

INT. BRAZILIAN SUPREME COURT, BRASILIA - LATER

As Lucia is about to leave an ASSISTANT approaches.

ASSISTANT
Justice Lucia an accident has
occurred --

LUCIA
Accident?

ASSISTANT
Your son Geraldo has fallen off his
building.

Lucia sits down and her eyes plead.

LUCIA
Is he injured?

ASSISTANT
I'm afraid -- he's dead.

LUCIA
Dead -- dead -- Oh no. Can't be --
my lovely son.

ASSISTANT
It happened a short time ago. He
was found at the entrance to his
building.

LUCIA
Where is he now?

ASSISTANT
At the morgue.

Lucia looks over her shoulder where Senator Hoppmann is
leaving the court.

INT. CREMATORIUM, BRASILIA - DAY

Estevan enters the room and makes his way to Lucia who is
standing beside her son's coffin.

ESTEVAN
Julia I'm so sorry for your loss.

LUCIA
Thank you for coming Carlos. Could
you find out if there were any
special circumstances?

ESTEVAN

Already done so -- nobody unusual entered the building and nobody stopped at his floor. It would appear that he was alone in his apartment.

LUCIA

Was there a video?

ESTEVAN

Yes -- taken down from the social media by my agency.

LUCIA

And?

ESTEVAN

Not one that a mother would want to see. -- Think he took his own life Julia.

LUCIA

Thank you Carlos. -- Politics can be very, very dirty.

INT. ROOM, FEDERAL PRISON, CURITIBA - DAY

The door opens, Baker enters and is met by Chico who offers his hand.

They shake hands.

CHICO

Thanks for coming Gringo. Let's sit.

They sit at a coffee table.

CHICO (CONT'D)

(jokingly)

Did you bring any wine?

BAKER

No. Think there's a case waiting for you in Sao Paulo.

CHICO

Hope so. I'd like you to write up my story for the international press -- an exclusive -- from my point of view.

BAKER

Your know I can't be biased -- but give me your version and I'll see what can get printed. When are you getting out?

CHICO

In about an hour -- after we finish.

INT. ROOM, FEDERAL PRISON, CURITIBA - LATER

BAKER

What about Judge Morato? Bear any resentment?

CHICO

He'll be dealt with in time. My sentences are still hanging in the air. Got to get rid of them.

BAKER

Are you going to stand for President?

CHICO

As I told you before -- the people will crave my return and I'll accept their wish. -- My prison was unjust and I want you to make that clear in your article.

BAKER

Was a bit of a surprise to see two judges change their opinion.

CHICO

Things change here in Brazil -- quite rapidly.

There is a rap on the door and Senator Hoppmann enters.

HOPPMANN

(gleefully)

Chico, you're free.

Chico and Baker get up from their chairs.

CHICO

Don't think you've met Senator Hoppmann, a dedicated PT politician.

Hoppmann and Baker shake hands.

BAKER

Heard a lot about you Senator --
maybe I could have an interview
some time?

HOPPMANN

Sure -- but not right now. Let's go
Chico -- the media are waiting.

Hoppmann and Chico leave the room and Baker looks around
contemplating how he would write the article on Chico's
imprisonment.

INT. BAKER'S FLAT, SAO PAULO - DAY

Baker's cellphone rings and he recognizes the call from Jack
CLARK the editor of The Guardian newspaper who is Baker's
boss.

CLARK (V.O.)

Hi Tom -- we published your
article, but -- our owner didn't
like it -- too left wing.

BAKER

It's reality here in Brazil Jack.
Like it or lump it -- that's what
we've got. Chico is out of jail,
thanks to the Supreme Court, and
looking for revenge.

CLARK (V.O.)

Couldn't you do a nice story on
reforestation or deforestation if
you want to be negative?

BAKER

I'll try to dream one up.

CLARK

Do that Tom -- our readers would
appreciate it -- and so would I.

The connection goes down and Baker rings a number.

ESTEVAN (V.O.)

Mister Baker -- to what do I owe
this pleasure?

BAKER

By any chance are you in Sao Paulo?

ESTEVAN (V.O.)

Yes I am.

BAKER

Can we have lunch at the same place
and time?

ESTEVAN (V.O.)

Yes I'll be there.

INT. HILTON HOTEL, SAO PAULO, DINING ROOM - DAY

Estevan, seated at a window table in a reserved area of the
dining room, rises to greet Baker with a handshake.

BAKER

Thanks for coming Brigadier.

ESTEVAN

I'm sure you didn't call just to
share some food.

BAKER

Need a favor. My editor wants a
story on reforestation or
deforestation. Where would I look?

ESTEVAN

There's illegal logging happening
all the time in Amazonia. In fact
an IBAMA inspector has just found a
mountain of logs on a tributary
near Manaus.

BAKER

That would involve a trip to the
Amazon. Never been there.

ESTEVAN

You'll love it. I'll have Major
Camargo fill you in on the details.

BAKER

Thanks.

EXT. MANAUS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Baker and Camargo, wheeling their travel cases behind, exit
the airport.

Humberto FERNANDEZ, 40s, medium height and build with native Indian features who works at the Eco-Lodge, recognizes Camargo and walks towards her.

FERNANDEZ

Miss Camargo -- recognize you from our Zoom call. I've a taxi that will take us to the plane.

CAMARGO

Plane?

FERNANDEZ

Seaplane -- ideal way to get around on the Amazon.

Camargo looks surprised and after shaking hands with Fernandez, introduces Baker.

CAMARGO

This is journalist Baker.

Fernandez nods at Baker and indicates the taxi whose driver opens the boot. Travel bags are loaded and Baker joins Camargo in the back seat. Fernandez enters the front seat and the taxi leaves the airport.

EXT. DOCKSIDE, MANAUS PORT - LATER

A monoplane, 172 Cessna, is tied up at the dockside.

Fernandez opens the plane's door and Baker and Camargo climb aboard with their luggage.

Fernandez casts off, starts the engine and maneuvers the seaplane into open water and accelerates.

The seaplane takes off.

INT. CESSNA 172 SEAPLANE - LATER

Camargo and Baker are admiring the view on a beautiful cloudless day.

FERNANDEZ

We'll be at the lodge in fifteen minutes.

BAKER

How far is the logging site from the lodge?

FERNANDEZ

Four to five kilometers, but it's jungle in between. We can fly over the site if you like?

BAKER

That would be good.

CAMARGO

How was it discovered?

FERNANDEZ

By chance -- the logs had been hidden from view by tree branches but a storm blew them into the river and an IBAMA inspector spotted them on his way upstream.

CAMARGO

The amount of wood has caused quite a stink internationally. Is anyone guarding it?

FERNANDEZ

IBAMA set up a camp on the site and there are armed guards on duty twenty four hours.

The Cessna flies over the site.

EXT. SITE OF ILLEGAL LOGGING, AMAZON RIVER - DAY

There are hundreds of logs in various piles at the side of a dirt road, near to the riverbank.

EXT. RIVERBANK, NEXT TO ECO-LODGE - DAY

The Cessna lands and cruises up to the side of a floating dock.

On the other side of the dock a hovercraft is tied up.

The lodge owner, Pedro SANTOS, 40s, tall and muscular comes forward to meet them.

SANTOS

Thanks Humberto for bringing my guests.

With a wave of the hand Santos dismisses Fernandez.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

You must be Miss Camargo and your companion journalist Baker. Great to have you.

Santos shakes hands with Baker and Camargo.

SANTOS (CONT'D)

My man will take your bags. -- Please let me show you to your rooms. -- And when you're ready, we can have cocktails in the bar.

INT. DINING ROOM, ECO-LODGE - NIGHT

Baker and Camargo are finishing their meal.

CAMARGO

It's been an interesting day. What do you think of Mister Santos?

BAKER

Seaplane and hovercraft -- and, along with the other couple over there, we're the only guests. Think he gets his money elsewhere.

CAMARGO

Probably got his fingers in lots of pies -- wood could be one of them.

BAKER

Possibly -- lets go Sylvia -- we've got an early start in the morning.

Camargo and Baker leave the dining room.

INT. BAR, ECO-LODGE - DAY

Santos picks up the keys to the hovercraft from a board inside the bar and joins Baker and Camargo who are watching him from the foyer.

They leave the lodge.

EXT. RIVERBANK, NEXT TO ECO-LODGE - DAY

Fernandez is waiting at the dockside.

Santos tosses the hovercraft keys to him.

SANTOS

You drive.

The hovercraft leaves the dockside.

EXT. SITE OF ILLEGAL LOGGING, AMAZON RIVER - DAY

The hovercraft runs up the sandy riverbank beach and stops.

An IBAMA official, Manuel BRANDON, 40s, tall and lean, walks down to meet the party.

BRANDON

Hi Senior Santos -- and these are the guests you mentioned.

SANTOS

Mister Baker is an international journalist who wants to write up a story on illegal logging.

BRANDON

You've come to the right place Mister Baker -- this is a huge haul. Have a look.

In front of him Baker can see hundreds of logs, cut, trimmed and piled into sections.

BAKER

Impressive amount of wood Mister Brandon. Sorry -- this is Miss Camargo, my assistant.

BRANDON

Lucky to have such a pretty assistant Mister Baker. Please -- let me show you around.

Baker and Camargo are shown around the site while Fernandez and Santos help themselves to coffee in one of the mounted tents.

BAKER

It was luck that caught the loggers?

BRANDON

None were caught -- my colleague spotted the logs and alerted IBAMA. By the time we got here they had scampered.

BAKER

Would they have been paid?

BRANDON

Oh yes -- for every log they cut,
trimmed and piled -- paid in
dollars. They even left a tractor --
it's around the next corner.

CAMARGO

Somebody must have lost a lot of
dollars.

There is the sound of an approaching helicopter which flies
over the site and lands next to the log piles.

EXT. HELICOPTER, AT THE SIDE OF THE LOG PILES - DAY

A tall slim and handsome man, Miguel SALAZAR, 40s, wearing a
blue two piece suit and rimless glasses, exits the
helicopter.

Brandon moves to greet him and Salazar shows him his
credentials.

As they walk away from the helicopter they are almost
shouting.

SALAZAR

(loudly)

Are you in charge?

BRANDON

Yes Minister, inspector Brandon
from IBAMA at your service.

SALAZAR

And your friends over their?

BRANDON

Journalists -- one from the UK.

SALAZAR

Not good -- not good at all. This
is an internal Brazilian matter not
for external gossip. Who is he and
what does he know?

BRANDON

British -- I've just shown him
around the site. He's writing an
article on illegal logging.

Salazar stops, turns and faces Brandon.

SALAZAR
(angrily)
Inspector -- this is not illegal logging. I repeat not illegal.

BRANDON
Not? But --

SALAZAR
I've brought the documents with me. They show the logging is legal and the logs belong to a company in Manaus.

BRANDON
Really? Can I see them Minister?

They reach Baker and Camargo and Brandon introduces them.

BRANDON (CONT'D)
Mister Baker, Miss Camargo may I introduce Minister Salazar from the Environmental Protection Ministry.

Salazar shakes their hands, smiles, nods and walks off towards the tented area.

INT. LARGEST TENT, SITE OF ILLEGAL LOGGING - DAY

There are tables and chairs inside the tent.

Salazar invites Brandon to sit and opens his briefcase.

He removes various documents and places them on the table.

Salazar furiously bangs his hand on the table next to the documents.

SALAZAR
(angrily)
These documents are from the Ministry. They prove the logging is legal. -- Yes -- I said legal.

Baker enters the tent.

BAKER
(quietly)
That's excellent news Minister -- saves me writing up the story about illegal logging.
(MORE)

BAKER (CONT'D)

My info about who owned the logs was wrong -- it wasn't Hugo Torres in Belem, import and export dealer?

SALAZAR

Not at all Mister Baker -- would you mind leaving please -- this is official business.

Baker leaves and joins Camargo outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE LARGEST TENT, SITE OF ILLEGAL LOGGING - LATER

Salazar leaves the tent and is joined by Santos.

They walk towards the helicopter that is warming up. Salazar nods in the direction of Baker and Camargo.

SALAZAR

Get rid of them -- feed them to the piranhas.

SANTOS

I'll do that -- and Brandon?

SALAZAR

I'll deal with IBAMA -- time it was like Obama -- retired.

Salazar enters the helicopter and it takes off.

Brandon joins Baker and Camargo outside the largest tent.

BRANDON

What an arse hole -- these documents he's produced are false.

CAMARGO

(quizzically)
False? -- How do you know?

BRANDON

We only use 100 milligram paper not 75 -- as well the official stamps we use impregnate the paper. Not so in these duds.

BAKER

(laughing)
So --I'm back writing an even bigger story.

Santos walks up to the trio.

SANTOS
We can all get back for lunch.

INT. ROOM, ECO-LODGE - DAWN

Baker awakes, alerted by the creaking of the wooden floorboards outside his room.

He rubs the sleep from his eyes as he realizes his bedroom door is open.

Fernandez appears with a machete in his hand.

He raises it and advances towards Baker.

FERNANDEZ
Fish time Baker.

Fernandez swings the machete as Baker rolls to the side and out of the bed.

The machete slices into the pillow.

Feathers sprout up into the air.

FERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Lucky.

Fernandez again swings the machete at Baker who raises the wooden bed.

The machete splits the wood.

FERNANDEZ (CONT'D)
Third time unlucky Gringo.

Fernandez raises the machete as Camargo appears at the door, Taurus pistol in hand.

She shoots Fernandez in the shoulder and he drops the machete.

Baker rises and punches Fernandez with a left hook to the jaw.

Fernandez is out cold.

BAKER
Get some clothes on -- we're leaving.

Camargo ducks out of the room.

Baker puts on jeans and a T-shirt and grabs his wallet.

INT. BAR, ECO-LODGE - LATER

Baker grabs the keys to the seaplane and hovercraft as Camargo joins him.

They run out of the lodge and down to the river bank.

EXT. RIVERBANK, NEXT TO ECO-LODGE - CONTINUOUS

CAMARGO

Do you know how to fly?

BAKER

No -- failed to get into the Flying
Corps at Uni.

They enter the hovercraft and Baker starts the engine.

Eco-Lodge workers appear as the hovercraft moves out into the river.

Baker throws the seaplane's keys into the muddy river.

INT. BAR, ECO-LODGE - LATER

Santos looks at the board and sees the helicopter keys are missing.

SANTOS

Where are my fuckin' spare set of
keys? Where?

Fernandez, who has been patched up and is wearing a sling, shakes his head.

FERNANDEZ

You wouldn't tell anyone -- always
said they were in a safe place.

INT. SANTOS'S OFFICE, ECO-LODGE - CONTINUOUS

Santos runs into his office and opens the safe.

He grabs the spare set of keys from the back of the safe.

From a cabinet he picks up a machine gun pistol and tosses it to Fernandez at the door.

SANTOS
Let's get these media fuckers.

EXT. RIVERSIDE, NEXT TO ECO-LODGE - CONTINUOUS

Santos and Fernandez enter the seaplane. Santos starts up the engine, move out into the river and takes off.

EXT. HOVERCRAFT, AMAZON RIVER - LATER

The hovercraft is moving at maximum speed near to the riverbank.

The seaplane flies over them and bullets from the machine gun pistol held by Fernandez hit the water beside the hovercraft.

INT. SEAPLANE, ABOVE AMAZON RIVER - CONTINUOUS

FERNANDEZ
Shit -- missed. My shoulder can't
take the recoil.

SANTOS
Use your other one.

The seaplane turns and comes down towards the hovercraft.

INT. HOVERCRAFT, AMAZON RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Camargo points to a tributary.

CAMARGO
There Tom -- to the left.

EXT. TRIBUTARY, AMAZON RIVER - CONTINUOUS

As the hovercraft enters the tributary, bullets ping off the metal roof. Baker slows the hovercraft and the jungle hides the hovercraft from the seaplane.

The tributary opens and Baker is in clear water. The seaplane spots the hovercraft and comes in for the kill.

Too late, Santos sees the electricity pylons straddling the narrow river tributary.

The seaplane hits the cable which snaps as the seaplane plunges and hits the river at full speed.

Baker sees the accident, returns to where the seaplane went down, but there are no survivors.

INT. ROOM, S.N.I. BUILDING, BRASILIA - DAY

SUPER: "ROOM, S.N.I. BUILDING, BRASILIA"

Estevan gets up from his large mahogany desk as Baker and Camargo enter.

ESTEVAN

Please -- lets sit on the sofas.

They sit, Baker and Camargo on one sofa and Estevan on the other.

ESTEVAN (CONT'D)

Quite an adventure you've had.

BAKER

One we would not like to repeat.
How is Salazar?

ESTEVAN

A dead duck -- you blew him out of the water. Fired from the Ministry -
- Maia had little option after your article -- and he's facing jail time.

BAKER

We know how jail time can be in Brazil -- years from now.

CAMARGO

What's happening to the wood? --
There was so, so much.

ESTEVAN

It's being shipped to Belem and then auctioned -- proceeds going to IBAMA for reforestation.

CAMARGO

And the election?

ESTEVAN

Chico's ahead in all polls and getting his sentences annulled so he can be an official candidate. Then he'll be after Judge Morato.

BAKER

Vengeance?

ESTEVAN

Absolutely -- the Workers Party goes for the kill whenever they can.

CAMARGO

The seaplane? Was it found?

ESTEVAN

It was salvaged -- the bodies were inside -- sad end.

BAKER

It was nearly our end.

All of them reflect.

ESTEVAN

Turning again to politics -- Judge Morato is rumored to be joining a party. I can set up an interview if you like Tom?

BAKER

That would be great.

INT. LIBRARY, JUDGE MORATO'S HOUSE, CURITIBA - DAY

SUPER: "JUDGE MORATO'S HOUSE, CURITIBA"

Judge Sergio MORATO, 50s, above average height with thick black hair and strongly built, shows Baker into his library.

MORATO

Which newspaper do you work for Mister Baker? Brigadier Estevan didn't say.

BAKER

The Guardian.

MORATO

Very English -- please have a seat.

They sit opposite each other at a large table which has books and notes piled at the side.

BAKER

The media here say operation Car Wash is finished. True?

MORATO

It looks that way.

BAKER

You sentenced lots of politicians and businessmen. Will they get off?

MORATO

Some will I'm afraid -- but I doubt if they'll get their money back.

BAKER

And Chico? -- The Supreme Court say you were biased in your judgment. Were you?

MORATO

Bias has never played a part in any of my judicial decisions. Facts were what I examined -- and they're not biased. You can have an opinion but that can't be made into a sentence, only facts.

BAKER

In the opinion of others, you were looking for facts to fit the decision in Chico's cases?

MORATO

Not at all -- and remember, he was found guilty on all charges by a superior court of three judges who increased his sentences. Nobody called them biased or asked for their opinion.

BAKER

You're right -- hardly mentioned. The international media is confused as to how this situation could arise.

MORATO

We're in Brazil Mister Baker -- where most politicians are corrupt and, unfortunately, it's spread to the judiciary.

BAKER

Can anything be done?

MORATO

Change the system. Do you know that each congressman has a clothing allowance?

Baker looks surprised.

BAKER

Clothes?

MORATO

Yes clothes -- that's why they all dress in expensive ties and tailored suits. The annual allowance is around eight thousand US dollars -- more than most Brazilians earn in a year.

BAKER

Didn't know that.

MORATO

For this election our public coffers will fork out around one billion US dollars -- Yes Mister Baker, a billion US.

Baker shakes his head in awe.

BAKER

My God. Think what that could do in education.

MORATO

And each political party gets millions.

BAKER

That I knew -- and that's why there are more than thirty of them. Which brings me to my last question. Are you joining one?

MORATO

It seems to me that the only way forward is to get into the fray and fight from the inside.

BAKER

As President?

MORATO

If that's what it takes -- yes.

BAKER

Which party? There are so many.

MORATO

The "WeCan" might be a good option. They seem to be honest -- at the moment.

BAKER

Good choice Your Honor.

MORATO

Please don't mention the political possibility in your article. Can you use the word "may" in reference to joining a party?

BAKER

Of course. I thank you for the interview and wish you luck in your endeavor to change Brazil.

Both men rise, shake hands and Baker leaves.

INT. BAKER'S FLAT, SAO PAULO - DAY

Baker FaceTimes Jack Clark.

CLARK

Hi Tom -- excellent article on Judge Morato -- our owner is very pleased.

BAKER

Thought he would be happy.

CLARK

Now what about President Maia? Any chance of getting him. He's not doing well in the polls and maybe he'd like to explain that to the international press.

BAKER

There are lots of international journalists chasing him for an interview. I'll see what the Brigadier has to say. Expenses?

CLARK

Just wired money.

Baker phones Estevan who picks up his call.

ESTEVAN (V.O.)
 Mister Baker -- read your article
 in the Guardian on line -- very
 direct.

BAKER
 I'd like to do an interview with
 President Maia, Can you help?

ESTEVAN (V.O.)
 He would ask for prior questions
 and you'd have to stick to those he
 allows.

BAKER
 Fine by me -- can you set it up?

ESTEVAN (V.O.)
 I'll see what I can do.

Baker's cellphone rings on "FaceTime".

He accepts the call that is from Camargo.

CAMARGO
 Hi Tom, how are you?

BAKER
 Keeping busy -- and you?

CAMARGO
 Organizing -- It's Cristina's
 birthday on Wednesday and I'm
 organizing her party guests. I
 asked if there was anyone special
 she would like to invite and low
 and behold she said Mister Baker.
 Can you come?

There is silence from Baker who is reflective.

BAKER
 Wednesday? -- What time?

CAMARGO
 Five o' clock at the FairyStory
 Playground in Moema.

BAKER
 Sure -- I'll be there.

INT. BAKER'S FLAT, SAO PAULO - DAY

Baker's cellphone rings again.

BAKER

Hello.

ESTEVAN (V.O.)

The Palace has edited your questions, I'll send them to you -- they confirm your interview on Wednesday at nine in the morning, Palacio Alvarado.

BAKER

Thanks Brigadier -- I'll be there.

INT. PRESSROOM, PALACIO ALVORADO, BRASILIA - DAY

Baker is seated at a table as the door opens.

Baker rises as President MAIA, 40s, medium height, balding and overweight, enters.

MAIA

Journalist Baker -- good to have you here.

BAKER

Great to be here Mister President -- and thanks for giving me some of your precious time.

Maia sits in the armchair opposite Baker.

MAIA

I've read your articles on Chico and Morato -- hope mine will be better for Brazil. We can start.

BAKER

Which of them do you fear most in the election?

MAIA

I don't fear anybody in the election.

BAKER

Chico is ahead in the polls.

MAIA

True -- the criminal Chico is at this moment. It's a disgrace that he got out of jail.

BAKER

The Supreme Court judges voted him out.

MAIA

Most who voted for him were put on the Supreme Court by him. Wouldn't Expect anything else.

BAKER

And now other judges are suspending his sentences -- hard to believe.

MAIA

But don't believe the polls -- the media is very left wing and adores Chico. Thankfully the people vote -- and they'll vote for me.

BAKER

Is the voting system safe here in Brazil?

MAIA

We're checking on it. We'll let you know later.

BAKER

And Judge Morato? If he entered the race would he not take votes from you?

MAIA

Maybe -- but maybe from Chico. Who knows?

BAKER

The economy is doing badly -- have you any plans to make things better?

MAIA

The Covid plague from China has dealt our economy a body blow. But we're recovering -- slowly.

BAKER

At the moment your without a political party -- can I say that you're likely to join the Liberal Party, the LP?

MAIA

Could be yes -- could be no -- we're negotiating. -- Don't say anything.

BAKER

Think we're just about covered all the items that were on the list. Is there anything else you'd like to discuss Senior President?

MAIA

As I said before - don't trust the polls. They don't win elections -- voters decide.

BAKER

Thank you Senior President.

They shake hands and Maia escorts Baker out of the room.

INT. DEPARTURE LOUNGE, AIRPORT, BRASILIA - DAY

SUPER: "LOUNGE, AIRPORT, BRASILIA"

A nervous Baker looks at his watch and then at the Departure Lounge board.

INT. DEPARTURE LOUNGE BOARD, AIRPORT, BRASILIA - CONTINUOUS

The Board shows: RED JET Brasilia/Sao Paulo: 14:00 - DELAYED

Baker shakes his head and tries his cellphone. He gets the reply: "NO SIGNAL".

Baker grits his teeth.

BAKER

(to himself)

Brazil -- The land of lateness.

INT. FAIRYSTORY PLAYGROUND, MOEMA - NIGHT

An out of breath Baker enters and sees Camargo who moves to greet him.

CAMARGO

Hi Tom -- we're about to cut the cake.

BAKER

Sorry Sylvia -- the plane was late leaving Brasilia -- couldn't do anything about it. How is Cristina?

CAMARGO

With her friends and living it up -- lots of presents.

Baker slips his hand into his pocket and removes a small box.

Cristina spots Baker and leaves her friends to greet him.

Baker puts the box behind his back.

CRISTINA

Hi Mister Baker - you're late -- but never mind you're here for the cutting of the cake.

Camargo gasps and looks sternly at Cristina.

BAKER

I'm sorry Cristina -- plane was late. Got here as quick as I could.

CRISTINA

Only joking Mister Baker -- it's great to have you here -- have to get back to my friends.

BAKER

Not before I give you your birthday present. -- At the BBQ you told me your iPhone was very, very old -- so I've got you a newer one.

Baker brings the box from behind his back and shows it to Cristina who opens it and gasps.

CRISTINA

It's an iPhone 12 Apple -- the best -- but the best.

Cristina takes the iPhone and hugs Baker who enjoys the moment.

CRISTINA (CONT'D)

Thank you Mister Baker -- thanks a million. This is wonderful.

Cristina looks at her mother.

CRISTINA (CONT'D)
Mummy -- he's just the best.

Cristina puts the iPhone back in the box, hands it to Camargo and runs to her friends who are calling.

CAMARGO
Tom -- what can I say? She's been asking for an update for some time - - but this is a huge update -- better than mine.

Baker smiles happily.

BAKER
Date and update -- sometimes difficult to know the difference.

The FairyStory OWNER, 40s, tall, good figure and well preserved, approaches Camargo.

OWNER
Sylvia, where have you been hiding this masculine hulk?

CAMARGO
Tom this is Teresa, who owns the FairyStory.

BAKER
Tom Baker --- a friend of Sylvia's.

OWNER
Friend? Huh!

There is a drumbeat and one of Teresa's assistants, ASSISTANT 2, calls the guests' attention.

ASSISTANT 2
Can we gather round please for the cutting of the cake?

A birthday cake and other treats are laid out on a large table.

The cake has 12 candles on it and the assistant starts to light them.

When they are lit, all start singing "Happy Birthday" in Portuguese. This is followed by the version in English as Cristina blows out the candles.

There is applause as Assistant 2 cuts the cake.

Cristina offers the first slice to her mother.

She offers the second slice to Baker who accepts with a smile.

BAKER

It's some time since I've attended
a children's birthday party.

CAMARGO

Same routine -- relax.

BAKER

Yes -- but a few years in between.

All the guests are served cake and shortly afterwards they begin to leave.

INT. FAIRYSTORY PLAYGROUND, MOEMA - LATER

Camargo sees the guests off the premises.

CAMARGO

Well Tom -- you're the last to go.
Many thanks for coming.

BAKER

Anything for a friend.

CAMARGO

We could be more than friends Tom.

Camargo gets closer to Baker.

BAKER

I'll keep it as we are now -- if
you don't mind.

Camargo backs off, disappointed in Baker's reply.

Cristina joins them carrying a bag full of presents. Baker turns to Cristina and gives her a kiss on the forehead.

BAKER (CONT'D)

One more year and you'll be a
teenager.

CRISTINA

Can't wait.

BAKER

Don't rush it -- you've got a long way to go. And for me it's time to go.

Baker turns to Camargo.

BAKER (CONT'D)

You've got a great kid Sylvia.

CAMARGO

I know it.

Baker, confused, leaves without giving Camargo a kiss.

INT. RICARDO HOUSE, SAO PAULO - LATER

Carolina, dressed to go out, welcomes Baker into the house.

CAROLINA

How was the interview and how was the party?

BAKER

Interview went OK -- restricted by the set of questions.

CAROLINA

The party? I'll catch later -- we have to go -- taxi is here. Do not feed Mateus with sweets -- even if he cries. We'll be back before midnight.

Alan comes downstairs dressed in Black Tie.

ALAN

Thanks Tom for baby sitting. I'm sure you remember how.

Carolina and Alan leave their house.

INT. RICARDO HOUSE, SAO PAULO - LATER

Carolina and Alan arrive home.

BAKER

He's been asleep for hours - hasn't blinked an eye.

Alan goes up stairs and Carolina and Baker sit on the sofa.

CAROLINA

So tell me -- how did the party go?

BAKER

I arrived late -- plane from Brasilia. But present went well.

CAROLINA

Where would the present you gave not go down well? And Sylvia -- how are you and her getting on?

BAKER

We're fine -- good friends.

CAROLINA

Is that all you want? To be friends?

BAKER

Carolina, she's your age -- what else could it be?

CAROLINA

She looks at you with lovey-dovey eyes -- she adores you. Haven't you noticed?

BAKER

I have -- but I think the age difference is too great.

CAROLINA

Daddy -- Mummy's long gone, you're out of retirement -- and -- you could do with a woman's touch.

INT. ROOM, WORKERS PARTY, HEADQUARTERS, SAO PAULO - DAY

The door opens and Chico enters leaving his guards outside.

He is met by Hoppmann, who is alone, and they sit.

CHICO

There were hundreds of them -- PT fanatics. Had to fight my way in.

HOPPMANN

They love you Chico -- it's adulation.

CHICO

Adored by idiots with no brains.
God -- we've brainwashed them well.

HOPPMANN

We have to define the "ticket", as
the Americans would say. Today's
the last day.

CHICO

OK -- I'll have you as my number
two.

HOPPMANN

Would prefer to be number one.

Chico looks at Hoppmann as if she has gone crazy.

CHICO

(puzzled)
You're joking Gladys.

HOPPMANN

No -- not really. Remember Claudio -
- Claudio Dariel?

CHICO

Who doesn't?

HOPPMANN

You're on tape - first ordering his
kidnapping -- and then his
execution.

CHICO

(screaming)
You shit arsed cow, what the fuck
are you talking about? -- On tape?

Chico raises from the chair with a threatening look.

Hoppmann remains seated, smiles and nods her head as Chico
reflects.

HOPPMANN

Bernard -- good photographer.

Chico pauses, contemplating.

CHICO

Your cousin? The wanker Bernard?

Hoppmann nods again as Chico slumps into his chair.

HOPPMANN
Was always good with a camera.

Chico looks appealing to Hoppmann.

CHICO
You'd lose.

HOPPMANN
Don't think so.

CHICO
How could I possibly justify
putting you as number one?

Hoppmann smiles as she gains confidence.

HOPPMANN
Feeling old -- as Vice you could
guide me along the path -- etc.
etc.

Chico's shoulders slump as he appears resigned to the
blackmail.

CHICO
You really are a witch -- but -- it
appears I don't have an option.

Chico nods his head, gets up and leaves.

INT./INT. PALACIO DOS BANDEIRANTES/BAKER'S FLAT - INTERCUT

Baker is sipping coffee when his cellphone rings.

BAKER
Hello.

WEBER
Mister Baker it's George Weber. Can
we talk?

BAKER
Sure -- fire away.

WEBER
Have you heard about Chico?

BAKER
No -- what about him?

WEBER

He's stepping down as the PT
presidential candidate -- going for
Vice President.

BAKER

Who'll be their presidential
nominee?

WEBER

Senator Hoppmann.

BAKER

My God! She must have something
very dirty on him.

WEBER

Could be -- but this changes the
polls in a big way -- Governor
Derian would like an interview
after the new polls come out
tomorrow. Can you come?

BAKER

Of course -- I'll be there.

INT. ROOM, PALACIO DOS BANDEIRANTES, SAO PAULO - DAY

Baker is shown into the room and sits.

A minute later Derian enters.

DERIAN

Mister Baker -- nice to see you
again.

As Baker rises, Derian shakes his hand and both sit.

DERIAN (CONT'D)

Interesting times -- who would have
thought that Chico would step down
as the PT presidential candidate?
He looked a certainty to win on the
first round.

BAKER

Thanks for inviting me Governor --
times are strange -- but Chico's
step down was a real surprise.

DERIAN

Hoppmann must have something really
nasty for him to drop down.

BAKER

Who knows? Can we start Governor?

DERIAN

Of course.

BAKER

Apparently you don't have the support of many Paulistas -- can you explain?

DERIAN

It's no secret -- when I ran for Governor I was supporting Themer for President and then Maia. Themer is dead and Maia is dropping in the polls like a rock in freefall. -- But still thinks he's going to win.

BAKER

Why are you against Maia now?

DERIAN

His handling of the Covid crisis has been disastrous -- hundreds of thousands died through no cause of their own.

BAKER

He wanted to save the economy -- is that so bad?

DERIAN

Didn't save anything - the economy or people -- and remember he was against vaccination. It was a 'little cold' according to him.

BAKER

Brazil is now well vaccinated.

DERIAN

Governors like myself have stepped up.

BAKER

What would you do differently from Maia?

DERIAN

For a start -- protect the Amazon forest -- this clown has been burning it and cutting it down.

BAKER
Not him personally?

DERIAN
His henchmen -- such as Salazar --
now being prosecuted.

BAKER
Coming back to Senator Hoppmann --
will you debate her in a possible
second round?

DERIAN
Of course -- it'll be a pleasure.

BAKER
(smiling)
Assuming Governor you make the
second round.

DERIAN
Let's hope so.

BAKER
Thank you Governor and I wish you
all the best in the election.

Baker rises and shakes hands with Derian.

INT. OFFICE, PALACIO DOS BANDEIRANTES, SAO PAULO - DAY

The door opens and ex-Minister Mirko BERNARD, 60s, a lifelong
socialist and PT executive enters.

Weber, The Fixer, gets up from his desk to greet Bernard.

BERNARD
Good to see you again George.
You're looking well.

WEBER
Thank you Mirko. You said on the
phone you had important info. --
About what?

BERNARD
Why Chico is dropping out of the
race.

WEBER
Not quite out -- just down a level -
- not out.

BERNARD

This could knock him out --
completely.

Bernard pulls his cellphone from his pocket, turns in on and presses on a program that shows a video.

INSERT THE VIDEO: "Chico is looking at Claudio Dariel who is bound hands and feet to a chair".

Bernard stops the video.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

Pay attention to the date.

Bernard replays the video and stops after five seconds.

BERNARD (CONT'D)

That was the day after Dariel had
been kidnapped. What I've shown you
is merely an appetizer.

WEBER

Interesting.

BERNARD

Look again in the background -- who
do you see?

WEBER

Senator Hoppmann?

BERNARD

The one and only.

WEBER

Presume this comes with a price?

BERNARD

Negotiable -- but six figures US.

WEBER

I'll have to talk to the Governor.

BERNARD

I'm staying at the Hilton -- phone
me.

Bernard rises and leaves.

INT. ROOM, HILTON HOTEL, SAO PAULO - NIGHT

Bernard, having drunk too much alcohol, flops onto the bed and falls asleep.

INT. ROOM, HILTON HOTEL, SAO PAULO - LATER

The door opens, a MAN, 40s, dressed in black, enters crosses the room to the bed where Bernard is snoring and removes a small bottle from his pocket.

The man drips drops from the bottle into Bernard's mouth and holds his hand over Bernard's mouth.

Bernard awakes, fights against the poison for a few seconds and then stops breathing.

The man removes the cellphone from Bernard's pocket, puts it in his own pocket and leaves.

INT. LIVING ROOM, FLAT, BUILDING, BRASILIA - NIGHT

Judge Scalia welcomes her brother VICTOR Scalia 50s, tall, well built into her flat. They hug and sit.

VICTOR

Good to see you Julia -- so sad about Geraldo.

SCALIA

It's been hard -- but -- I'm surviving. Need you to do me a favor.

VICTOR

Sure Sis -- tell me.

SCALIA

Hoppmann will be in Campos do Jordão to vote - she is resident there.

VICTOR

So?

SCALIA

Later she'll be driving back down to Sao Paulo. You own a network of car mechanic shops and maybe you have a mechanic you can trust -- trust completely.

VICTOR

I have.

SCALIA

Good -- I've a job for him.

INT. PT HEADQUARTER, SAO PAULO - NIGHT

Senator Hoppmann is talking to a PT employee when her cellphone rings.

HOPPMANN

Hello, who's calling?

BAKER (V.O.)

Senator Hoppmann -- it's journalist Baker, Tom Baker. I wondered if we could have that interview we talked about?

HOPPMANN

Yes -- of course Mister Baker. International exposure is good.

BAKER

What time would be suitable Senator?

HOPPMANN

Tomorrow -- late I'm afraid -- have to be in Campos do Jordão by the Witching Hour.

INT. ROOM, PT HEADQUARTERS, SAO PAULO - NIGHT

Baker is shown into a room where Senator Hoppmann is seated, talking on her cellphone.

She turns it off and turns to Baker who shakes her hand.

BAKER

Busy times Senator?

HOPPMANN

Yes -- lots of congratulations from PT supporters.

BAKER

And from others politicians -- no doubt? Local and international.

HOPPMANN

Of course -- please sit Mister Baker and fire away with your questions.

Both sit at the top of a large table.

BAKER

Chico has dropped out of the race to be President -- I don't understand why.

HOPPMANN

We talked and he agreed that it would be very, very stressful for him to be President once again. He's not getting any younger you know.

BAKER

But he's still in good physical health?

HOPPMANN

It would appear so -- but he's much slower now. So the solution we came up with was to exchange positions.

BAKER

When I talked to him he didn't seem debilitated -- very positive about what he wanted to do -- where he wanted the country to go.

HOPPMANN

I know -- that's him externally -- but internally he's a different person. One who realizes his age -- one who puts country before ego -- one who loves Brazil and wants to do the best for it.

BAKER

A true patriot?

HOPPMANN

Very much so Mister Baker.

BAKER

There have been rumors that he was forced to exchange positions.

HOPPMANN

Nonsense! We all love Chico -- he's been President twice -- my God! He's done so much for Brazil and now wants to guide me to steer the country to a better future.

BAKER

Very noble of you both -- think we can leave it there Senator Hoppmann.

Hoppmann beams a smile at Baker.

HOPPMANN

Thank you Mister Baker.

BAKER

No -- thank you Senator Hoppmann and may I wish you all the best in the results tomorrow.

They shake hands and Baker leaves.

INT. RICARDO HOUSE, SAO PAULO - DAY

Carolina has Mateus on her lap.

Beside her on the sofa are Alan and Baker eating nibbles.

All are glued to the TV which is giving the exit poll numbers.

INT. TV GLOBO NEWS, SAO PAULO - DAY

The ANNOUNCER looks at the cameras with surprise.

With one hour left before the polls close, the exit polls have Senator Hoppmann winning on the first round.

EXT. OUTSIDE OF HOUSE, CAMPOS DO JORDAO, SAO PAULO - DAY

Senator Hoppmann comes out of the front door to applause from her EMPLOYEE.

EMPLOYEE

Congratulations Senator -- knew you were going to win on the first ballot.

Hoppmann smiles and walks to her SUV, opens the door, enters, runs down the window and waves.

HOPPMANN

Thank you, thank you.

EMPLOYEE

See you back here soon as Senhora President.

Hoppmann drives off.

INT. HOPPMANN'S SUV - DAY

Hoppmann is driving down the steep escarpment without a care in the world, safe in the knowledge that she is a winner.

INT. ROOM, PT HEADQUARTERS, SAO PAULO - DAY

Chico is nervously pacing and watching the TV.

Furiously, he turns to an ASSISTANT 3

CHICO

Where the fuck is she?

Assistant 3 replies politely.

ASSISTANT 3

Coming back from Campos do Jordao -- had to vote there.

With anger, Chico shakes his hands in front of his head.

CHICO

Should've transferred her vote to Sao Paulo long time ago.

INT. HOPPMANN'S SUV - LATER

Hoppmann approaches a sharp bend and applies the brakes.

Her foot goes down to the floor without any pressure.

Fear shows in her face as she pumps the brakes -- to no avail. She tries to get around the bend but her speed is too great.

Hoppmann screams as she realizes what's happening.

HOPPMANN

No! No! Jesus -- save me!

The SUV plummets off the road into the air and makes a one thousand foot drop to the valley below.

INT. RICARDO HOUSE, SAO PAULO - LATER

The ANNOUNCER smiles at the camera and reads from a sheet.

ANNOUNCER

We have the final result of today's Presidential election and it's the following:

Social Dems candidate, President

Maia: 16.5 percent

PSDB candidate, Governor Derian:

17.1 percent

WeCan candidate, Judge Morato: 17.3 Percent

PT candidate, Senator Hoppmann: 44.1 Percent

Annulled and blanks: 5.0 Percent

Hence, Senator Hoppmann and Judge Morato will face off against each other in a run off election for the presidency of Brazil.

TV pictures show the PT and WeCan headquarters that display two different scenarios, one glum and one euphoric.

The ANNOUNCER comes back on the air.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

We've just heard that Senator Hoppmann's SUV has crashed while coming down from Campos do Jordão. The Senator did not survive.

INT. RICARDO HOUSE, SAO PAULO - DAY

BAKER

What now?

FADE OUT

THE END