

Follow

By

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INT. RENTAL CAR (COUNTRY ROAD) - NIGHT

ELI, a man in his late 20's dressed in all black drives a black rental car at speed along a country road as he follows a white car in front.

ELI (V.O.)
She's driving too fast.
It's only a matter of time,
I won't be able to keep up with
her.

Eli approaches a sharp corner and drifts off the road as he attempts to make the corner.

The rental car hits a tree before coming to a rest in a ditch.

INT./EXT. RENTAL CAR (COUNTRY ROAD DITCH) - NIGHT

Eli slips in and out of consciousness as the car engine smokes.

Eli attempts to open the car doors which are jammed shut from the impact as the engine of the car bursts into flames.

ELI (V.O.)
Panic, Panic is what kills people
in this situation.

Eli looks around the car before he turns his attention to the sunroof which he opens and climbs out of the sunroof.

Eli climbs up the bank and out of the ditch as he steps back onto the country road where he sees the white car stopped.

He looks inside to see a girl sat at the steering wheel of the car who stares back at him.

The white car pulls away as the rental car explodes in the ditch behind Eli.

INT. ELI'S APARTMENT (BEDROOM) - EARLY MORNING

A black suit, white shirt, black tie and smart black shoes lie very precisely on a bed next to a black duffel bag and a packet of chewing gum.

Eli emerges dressed in only a smart set of white socks and white boxer shorts as he carries a digital SLR and prepackaged white painter suit.

He places the digital SLR and painter's suit into the duffel bag which is full of a number of items and zips it closed before he begins to get dressed.

In the background a news channel can be heard on the TV

where journalist discuss the discovery of an unmarked grave containing multiple unidentified bodies.

EXT. ELI'S APARTMENT BLOCK - EARLY MORNING

Eli exits the apartment block and approaches a taxi which waits for him.

He stops stood at the rear passenger door of the taxi and stares at the handle as AKHBAR (the taxi driver) winds down his window.

AKHBAR

You getting in or not?

Eli turns to look at Akhbar who stares at him and his hands.

ELI (V.O.)

How many people have have touched that handle.
Dirty hands, unwashed hands,
hands people have urinated on and not washed.

AKHBAR

What's wrong with you, are you getting in or not?

Eli continues to stare at Akhbar before he turns his attention back to the rear passenger door handle.

TAXI DRIVER

Jesus Christ.

Akhbar gets out of his taxi and opens the back door of the taxi. Eli gets into the taxi as Akhbar closes the door behind him.

INT. TAXI (ELI'S APARTMENT BLOCK) - EARLY MORNING

Akhbar gets into the drivers seat of the car as Eli inspects the taxi. A news report covering the story of the discovered unidentified bodies plays on the radio.

AKHBAR

It's too early for this.
Where to?

Eli passes a piece of paper to Akhbar who take the paper and reads the address off it.

AKHBAR

Ok.

Akhbar places the car into gear and pulls away.

INT./EXT. TAXI (ZOTOV APARTMENT BLOCK) - EARLY MORNING

The taxi pulls up outside the apartment block and stops as Akhbar makes a note of the taxi fair.

He turns to tell Eli the cost. Eli hands him some money before he turns his attention to the door handle as Akhbar counts the money.

Akhbar goes to hand Eli back the change as Eli stares at the Akhbar's hands.

ELI
Keep it.

AKHBAR
It's way too much.
Are you sure?

Eli's attention is fixed on the rear passenger door handle before Akhbar exits the taxi hurriedly and opens Eli's door.

Eli makes his way to the apartment bloc where a DOORMAN opens the door as he approaches.

AKHBAR
Hey, anytime you need a taxi just
ask for me ok?!
It's Akhbar!

Akhbar gets into his taxi as Eli enters the apartment block.

INT. FRONT DESK (ZOTOV APARTMENT BLOCK) - EARLY MORNING

Eli approaches the front desk where a smartly dressed RECEPTIONIST greets him.

RECEPTIONIST
Good morning sir how may I help
you?

ELI
I have an appointment with Mr
Zotov.

RECEPTIONIST
It's rather early sir are you
sure the time of your appointment
is correct?

ELI
I'm expected.

The receptionist picks up a telephone and dials a room number.

RECEPTIONIST
Please take a seat and I will

call you when they are ready for you.

Eli places his bag at the side of his seat and sits as he watches the receptionist make the call.

The receptionist tries to remain calm as the person on the other end of the phone speaks aggressively and abruptly to her.

She hangs up the phone and addresses Eli.

RECEPTIONIST
Mr Zotov will see you in 20 minutes.

Eli looks at his watch and sets the timer for 20 minutes.

ELI (V.O.)
Time, it isn't really real, a human construct which only ever seems to matter to people when they don't have enough of it, a lot like money and power.

INT. ZOTOV APARTMENT (CORRIDOR) - EARLY MORNING

Eli approaches the front door of the Zotov apartment. He checks the timer of his watch which reads passes 40 minutes.

He presses the door bell. He places himself in front of the eye hole in the door and watches as the eye hole illuminates with light before the door unlocks and opens.

A **YULIA ZOTOVA**, a woman in her late 20's dressed in a dressing gown shows him in.

INT. ZOTOV APARTMENT (MAIN ROOM) - EARLY MORNING

Eli is lead into the main room where he is shown to a dinning table.

YULIA ZOTOVA
Take a seat.
Do you want a coffee or something?

ELI
Coffee is good.

YULIA ZOTOVA
Milk? Sugar?

ELI
Espresso.

Yulia walks over to the coffee machine and begins to make

Eli his coffee.

YULIA ZOTOVA

You said you were going to come this early but it does seem a bit ridiculous to come this early, he won't be impressed.

ELI

I'm paid by the day so I need as much of it as I can get.

ALEXANDER ZOTOV, a man in his early 40's dressed in a smart white shirt and suit trouser carries the jacket as he enters the room and gives Yulia a kiss.

YULIA ZOTOVA

Relax Sasha, deal with this whilst I get changed.

Yulia places Eli's espresso on the table before she leaves the room as Alexander joins Eli sat down at the dining table.

ELI (V.O.)

Coffee, I never like it but drinking it in the morning makes people think you are normal. Espresso makes people think you are serious.

ALEXANDER ZOTOV

When you said you would come at this time I didn't think you were serious.
Is it really necessary?

ELI

I don't say things I don't mean.

Eli takes an audio recorder out of his jacket and places it on the table. Eli slides a copy of an NDA (None Disclosure Agreement) across the table to Alexander.

ELI

It was your lawyer who contacted me, probably because I'm discrete.
Everything we discuss is covered by the NDA.

Eli presses record on the audio recorder.

ELI

Any recent physical or sexual acts, violent or not, involving your daughter from yourself, your wife, a friend or family member?

Eli watches Alexander as Alexander stares back at him.

ALEXANDER ZOTOV
"Myself or my wife."

Eli sits looking at directly at Alexander and picks up his coffee drinking it.

ALEXANDER ZOTOV
No.

ELI
A friend or family member?

ALEXANDER ZOTOV
Not that I know of, no.

ELI
Any lovers, boyfriends, or girlfriends?

ALEXANDER ZOTOV
No.
My daughter is not gay.
Any other questions other than if my daughter was sleeping with anyone?

ELI
Sex is one of the strongest motivators for any anything.

Sex, money, power, or fame.
Motivation always falls in one those categories.
(Pause) I need to see her room.

ALEXANDER ZOTOV
Is that it?
Is that all the question you have?

Alexander stands up from the table and leads Eli towards Milena's Bedroom.

ELI (V.O.)
He's angry, I can understand why.
He thinks he's wasting his time, that I'm incompetent but in reality he's given me all he can. Everything he gives me from this point will be opinion or an illusion of who he thinks his daughter is.
Nobody lets their parents know their secrets or who they are.

ALEXANDER ZOTOV
I'm told you are driven, that you
are brutal?

ELI
I can be.

ALEXANDER ZOTOV
Like a brick through a glass
window.

ELI
When I know which window to go
through.

Eli picks up the large black bag and throws it over his
shoulder.

**INT. MILENA'S BEDROOM (ZOTOV APARTMENT) - EARLY/LATE
MORNING**

Alexander unlocks the door and opens the bedroom door.

ALEXANDER ZOTOV
This is her room.

Eli steps into the room and looks around at the tidy room.

ELI
Did you ever lock her in the
room?

ALEXANDER ZOTOV
No, very seldom.
She would lock herself in her
room when she was upset. I guess
all kids do that.

ELI
And when they want to hide
themselves or something.

Eli places his large bag down at the entrance before he
turns to Alexander.

ELI
I need to analyze the room.
Please leave the room.

Alexander begins to leave the room.

ELI
The key.

Alexander reluctantly hands Eli the key before Eli backs
Alexander out of the room.

Eli locks the room and goes over to his large bag. He opens

the bag and takes out a digital camera and a set of white painters overalls which he promptly changes into.

He takes out a set of rubber gloves and places them on before taking a folder containing several plastic pockets with each pocket numbered with an accompanying razor blade.

He measures the dimensions of the room and inputting them into the computer.

Eli takes detailed photos of every object within the room along with recording their position in the room and their dimensions.

He opens and closes each book, CD case, DVD case before photographing the cases.

He opens each wardrobe, desk side table, and cupboard taking detailed photos of their contents before examining and photographing the structure of each wardrobe, cupboard, etc.

He takes samples of every material, paint, plastic, etc of every object, piece of furniture, clothing, etc and places them into individual pockets in a plastic folder.

Eli finds a small hard circular object in the lining of a jacket and reaches into the hip pocket finding a small hole which he uses to remove the object.

Eli analyzes the object which is a small pill before he places it into one of the folder pockets.

Eli takes several large clear plastic bags out of large duffel bag and strips the bed of its pillows and bed covers placing them in the bags.

He looks carefully at the bed mattress cover and notices a few discolored areas before he unzips the cover and places it into the remaining bag.

He takes down the curtains and places them into the bags before rolling up a mat which lies on the floor and bags it.

INT. MILENA'S BATHROOM (ZOTOV APARTMENT) - LATE MORNING

Eli enters the bathroom carrying the camera, folder, another set of plastic bags and an electric kettle into the bathroom.

He fills the kettle with a little water and plugs it in as photographs the bathroom and takes samples before placing all the products into specific plastic bags.

He bags all the cosmetics and beauty products. He takes particular care with her hair brush and toothbrush before turning his to the shower and bath drainage plugs.

He reaches into the plug and pulls out some hair which he places into one of the folders plastic pockets.

Eli drains the toilet and carefully takes samples from the toilet water.

Eli takes the kettle of boiling water and places it by the mirror as the steam from the kettle reveals nothing written in the steam.

Eli takes a photo of the mirror before he places all the towels and the bathroom mats in bags he leaves the bathroom.

INT. MILENA'S BEDROOM/ZOTOV APARTMENT - LATE MORNING

Eli writes an sms message to COLLECTOR which reads "Ready" and sends.

Eli undresses from the white painters overalls and places them into a clear bag.

Eli takes a flat packed rucksack out of the duffel bag and opens it placing the camera and laptop into it.

He unlocks the bedroom door carrying only the rucksack.

ELI

I need to analyze a few things.

Eli hands Alexander the key to the bedroom as Alexander looks at the plastic bags in Milena's room.

ELI

How many people did you hire before me?

ALEXANDER ZOTOV

3 before you?
3 less intrusive teams.

ELI

When was the room cleaned, before or after the other teams came to analyze it?

YULIA ZOTOVA

Before, we have a cleaner who comes every couple of days. We didn't realize Milena had gone.

ALEXANDER ZOTOV

Sometimes she stays out with friends.

ELI

Which friends?

ALEXANDER ZOTOV
Some losers.

ELI
What mobile phone does she have?

YULIA ZOTOVA
An iPhone.
The latest one.

ELI
Just one?

YULIA ZOTOVA
Yes, as far as I know.

ELI
"As far as you know."

YULIA ZOTOVA
As far as we know.

ELI
You have the contract.
The fee is \$500,000 the time
frame is 2 weeks.
The fee reduces by \$35,000 for
every day she remains unfound,
starting from today.

Do you have any questions?

ALEXANDER ZOTOV
Not yet.

YULIA ZOTOVA
No.

Eli walks to the front door and stop as he waits for it to be opened for him.

Yulia rushes over and opens the door. Standing outside stand 5 men dressed in anti-contamination clothes with masks on.

ELI
They will collect the bags and
will need to take DNA samples
from both of you and the cleaner.

Eli points in the direction of Milena's room as the 5 men walk into the apartment and begin to collect the bags as Eli leaves.

INT./EXT. TAXI (ZOTOV APARTMENT BLOCK) - LATE MORNING

Eli walks out of the apartment block and hails a taxi which pulls up and stops in front of him.