

The American Stranger

by

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9 EXT. BOSS' HOUSE BALCONY -- NIGHT

9

The Girl is shaking -- cigarettes -- a match.

ON THE STREET: The Mark finishes his bottle by the same store as before, jogs on around the corner.

She lights up -- the flame flickers -- a suppressed GUNSHOT. Back at The Mark -- dead in a pool of blood.

She looks up -- The Man climbing down a rooftop, briefcase in hand.

Frozen -- the match burns her fingers -- YELPS. The Man stops under a streetlight -- he heard.

They see each other dead-on. He hesitates, then leaves.

10 INT. CAFÉ -- DAY

10

A TV Screen on, the Mark's Wife on screen, a news segment "CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER ASSASSINATED" --

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

-- was also known for his strong stance against corruption within the ranks of the senate as well as alleged US involvement here in the Philippines. His wife was only available for this comment:

THE WIFE

We all know who's responsible. I shall see the guilty brought to justice. All of them.

Dozens of people gathered around, watching -- except one -- The Man is finishing up lunch. His cellphone beeps, a text -- "9 PM. \$."

Checks his watch -- leaves a few bills -- exits.

A phantom sketch of The Man is shown on screen as the assailant of the assassination.

11 EXT. RUNDOWN ALLEY -- NIGHT

11

Mud-lined dirt roads, decrepit wooden houses and shacks, third world at its worst.

The Man moves -- hand on a bulge under his shirt.

A scooter BLAZES past him, the Man ducks out, draws his gun.

32 INT. DINGY APARTMENT -- EVENING 32

He eats, she doesn't. She notices the shadow of a wedding band on his finger. He notices a cross around her neck.

The Girl slides the gun to him. He hesitates, but pushes it back. A flicker of a smile on his face.

On the TV, surveillance footage of him at the airport is played on the news. "MANHUNT CONTINUES". The Girl pictured as a suspect.

33 INT. PARKING GARAGE -- DAY 33

The Mark's wife is walking with her aide. Suddenly a van pulls up -- masked men with guns -- bag over her head -- she's gone.

34 INT. OFFICE LOBBY -- DAY 34

The Boss walks up to the receptionist with a couple of MEN. He shows his NBI badge.

35 INT. OFFICE -- DAY 35

Picture of the Mark on the wall. In memoriam. Papers flying around.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

-- stating that the NBI is taking every measure available in investigating the disappearance, which is now suspected to be tied to organized crime --

The Boss walks up the stairs, NBI MEN running around carrying boxes of papers -- all dumping it off the balcony.

36 INT. DINGY APARTMENT -- VARIOUS 36

The Man is doing push-ups, clearly healthier looking.

The Girl changes his bandages. Her hands wrapping it around his bare torso. His gaze fixed on her intently.

The Man walks into the bedroom, The Girl sits by the front door, on guard, gun in hand. She looks back at the Man. The bedroom door left open.

INSERT PHONE: "We have the girl. Kill him."

The Man's eyes darken.

49 **INT. PARKING GARAGE -- LATER** 49

Police gathered around the crime scene. The Killer's shirt ripped open. A message carved into his chest; "I'M COMING"

50 **EXT. CITY HALL -- NIGHT** 50

A dark Sedan pulls up -- The Politician with the Boss. The Boss orders BODYGUARDS into position. A distant thunder.

One GUARD wandering the compound with an assault rifle. A sniper scope following him. A single silenced gunshot and he's down. The scope finds a new target.

51 **EXT. ROOFTOP -- NIGHT** 51

The Man aims around and fires before he drops the rifle, draws his gun and climbs down.

52 **INT. DARK OFFICE -- NIGHT** 52

The Politician enters with the Boss and a bodyguard, the Agent there -- looking at the the Man's picture -- now taped together. Looking troubled.

The Politician looks scared. Suddenly the power goes out. The Agent rushes out.

53 **INT. CITY HALL CORRIDORS -- NIGHT** 53

ANOTHER GUARD is walking halls when the power goes out. He panics, checks his walkie-talkie. Dead silent.

Lightning strikes light up the darkened hall... The Man is behind him, a knife in hand.

54 **INT. CITY HALL OFFICES -- NIGHT** 54

A THIRD GUARD is running through, calling on his walkie-talkie desperately. As he rounds the corner he comes face to face with the Man. And the barrel of his gun.

55 **INT. DARK OFFICE -- NIGHT** 55

GUNSHOTS! The Politician and the Boss and the bodyguard jump. They draw their guns, aiming at the door nervously. They reach for the door, opening it slowly -- nothing.

THE MAN
 (sarcastic)
 Like back in Baltimore?

A beat. The Man guns him down.

He slowly approaches the monitors, showing cells of Filipinos locked up, in various forms of torture. They're numbered 150-101. Room 101's monitor is dark.

The Man looks furious, grabs a fire axe from the wall and plunges it into the monitors.

58 **INT. BASEMENT CELLBLOCK -- NIGHT** 58

The Man strides down to 101, opening every cell. Prisoners walk out in shock. The Mark's Wife among them.

The Man reaches the cell at the end of the hall. Room 101. He opens it --

59 **INT. BASEMENT ROOM 101 -- NIGHT** 59

Nothing. A chair. Blood stains on the floor, and --

The Girl's cross. His eyes well up and darken, his head sinking between his knees. Defeat.

60 **INT. MACTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT -- NIGHT** 60

The Man enters, tickets in hand, pale and sweaty, desperately looking around.

As he approaches the check-in -- a woman walks into the bathroom. Long dark hair. The same white shirt. Excited, he rushes over into --

61 **INT. AIRPORT BATHROOM -- NIGHT** 61

He enters when suddenly the woman lunges at him from behind the door -- stabbing him in the back -- twisting it. It's COBRA. She sets the Man down on a toilet seat.

The Man is in shock -- blood droplets on the lapel of her shirt -- she hushes him -- draws the knife -- leaves.

The Man slowly closes his eyes -- his head drops, dead.

FADE OUT:

THE END