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(Name of First Writer)

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Revisions by  
(Names of Subsequent Writers,  
in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by  
(Current Writer, date)

Name (of company, if applicable)  
Address  
Phone Number

PHOENIX PROJECT

by

Jerry Smith

Jdevilkb@aol.com

FADE IN:

The opening scene is a SERIES OF SHOTS of inner city drug activities. NEWSCASTS are heard during the scene.

A) EXT. PHILADELPHIA - STREETS - NIGHT

A Scene of absolute decadence: a breeze blows trash and newspaper over a sleeping bum, addicts eye up victims, pimps and hookers on corners, drug dealers on every street.

NEWSCAST (V.O.)  
Tonight, in Germantown, a man, 68,  
was found dead, stabbed 27 times...

B) PHILADELPHIA - ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

A junkie bolts out of an alleyway carrying a purse. A SIREN BLASTS as police give chase. They lose him over a fence.

NEWSCAST (V.O.)  
...taxes are expected to rise along  
with the crime rate...

C) INT. PHILADELPHIA - CONDEMNED BUILDING - DAY

A man in boxer shorts, razor in hand, hunches over and cuts a plate of crack cocaine. A junkie wearing a shirt that reads 'JUST SAY NO' trades in food stamps for a half dozen vials.

NEWSCAST (V.O.)  
...over crowding and rising costs  
of hospitals attributed to the  
widening use of illegal drugs...

D) INT. PHILADELPHIA - CONDEMNED APARTMENT - NIGHT

A torn window shade allows a street light to flicker on the lifeless body of a girl. A hypodermic needle in her arm.

NEWSCAST (V.O.)  
...in Washington today, the House  
Judiciary Committee puts together a  
new Crime Bill Package. They  
promise things will change.

The NEWSCAST CONTINUES BUT SOFTENS as the scene INTERCUTS to a jungle in Asia. The newscast ends with the first explosion.

EXT. ASIA - JUNGLE - NIGHT

The jungle is pitch black. Quiet except for CRICKETS. In the distance, surrounded by barbed wire, is a dimly lit village that is also a heroin manufacturing plant.

SUPER: SOMEWHERE IN ASIA

The FAINT SOUND OF SOMEONE CRAWLING for a moment, then stops. A set of eyes seen momentarily, then start to CRAWL again.

In the jungle are 12 mercenaries led by the lead character, JOHN JURICK, an old Viet Nam vet. Jurick is a well built former counter intelligence man whose specialty is improvised munitions and silent killing. Jurick has spent the last 20 years as a CIA operative. He has one goal in life: find the enemies of his country and destroy them.

EXT. JUNGLE - PERIMETER OF VILLAGE

is dimly lit. Heavily armed guards patrol the fence surrounding the village.

INT. JUNGLE - VILLAGE BAMBOO HUT

belongs to a Chinese drug vice-kingpin. Behind the desk on the wall is a PORTRAIT of Cun Saw, the king-pin of the Asian heroin market. Slumped over the desk, dead with eyes open is one of his vice-kingpins, an ASIAN MAN.

EXT./INT. JUNGLE - HEROIN PLANT IN THE VILLAGE

Seen through the windows to the inside of the plant; hundreds of Asians work on various stages of heroin manufacturing. A FEW WORKERS package and weigh out kilos.

EXT. JUNGLE - HEROIN PLANT

A montage of fingerless gloved hands of the mercenaries place explosives at different areas outside the plant.

They FLICK A SWITCH and the TIMERS FAINTLY CLICK.

EXT. JUNGLE - PERIMETER OF VILLAGE

Unseen mercenaries covered with body sized clumps of jungle grass move slowly from the village toward the fence.

The NEWSCAST STARTS TO GET PROGRESSIVELY LOUDER.

EXT. JUNGLE - VILLAGE GUARD

patrols next to the fence. Moments after he passes a clump of grass, it starts crawling toward and under the barbed wire.

INT. JUNGLE - VICE-KINGPIN'S HUT

The DOOR OPENS. A GUARD enters, sees the dead body.

EXT. JUNGLE

is pitch black except for a DOZEN SETS OF EYES at various positions.

In the distance, the GUARD SCREAMS.

The NEWSCAST IS BACK TO NORMAL VOLUME.

ANCHORWOMAN (V.O.)  
... a family of four, including an  
infant, die as a Meth lab explodes  
in West Kensington...

Moments later the heroin plant EXPLODES with 5 EXPLOSIONS in one second intervals. With each explosion the scene flashes back to a junkie in a row house. Each explosion advances, for a split second, the steps of the junkie SHOOTING UP until he goes into convulsions and dies of an overdose during the last explosion. The NEWSCAST ENDS.

EXT. JUNGLE - LIST - MOMENTS LATER

List of 8 ASIAN NAMES, barely seen in the dark, is held in a hand. The name CUN SAW is the eighth name at the bottom of the list. The flashes of fire from the explosions light the list. A pen crosses out the top name on the list.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. D.C. OFFICE - LIST - DAY

List on top an oak desk in a Washington, D.C. office. The list is the same except the name of Cun Saw is missing.

An unseen person hangs up the phone and crosses out the top name on the list. A VERY DISTINCT RING is on the pinky finger.

CUT TO:

EXT. ASIA - WOODEN BRIDGE ACROSS A RIVER - NEXT NIGHT

Dark except the sliver of a moon. The bridge is 80 feet over a river in a chasm.

SILHOUETTES of 12 mercenaries dressed in black with black face hang from the underside of the bridge.

EXT. JUNGLE - JURICK

hangs from a harness closest to the end of the jungle bridge. He ties a six volt battery that is attached to a brick-sized plastic explosive to a joist.

Jurick swings on the harness to the underneath of the center of the bridge roadway and starts to POUND the underside of the bridge with his hand checking for loose boards. He finds one that RATTLES.

JURICK'S HANDS

unroll electrical wire. The bare end of the wire is twisted around a long thumb tack that is shoved into the edge of a loose board.

A second wire is unrolled and attached to a 6 inch firm metal strip. The metal strip is attached to the board next to the loose board so that the end of the metal strap is a quarter inch directly below the head of the tack.

When the loose board is run over it will make the contact of the tack and the metal strip and set off the explosion.

JURICK

swings on the harness from the middle of the bridge back to the edge where the battery is.

EXT. JUNGLE - BRIDGE

The silhouettes of the other mercenaries rappel down into the river below.

JURICK

attaches the 2 wires to the battery posts. Once the wires are secure Jurick rappels into the river and makes his way out.

EXT. JUNGLE - APPROACHING THE BRIDGE

are the head lights from 6 vehicles.

EXT. JUNGLE - JURICK

runs out of the water toward the jungle. He reaches his men and joins them behind the shelter of boulders.

Jurick removes the list rapped in plastic from his pocket and looks up at the bridge.

Jurick watches as the vehicles: 2 military, 2 Mercedes, and another 2 military respectively, start to cross the bridge.

The first military vehicle reaches where Jurick was on the bridge.

EXPLOSIVE CHARGE

under the bridge. LOOSE BOARDS RATTLE as the vehicles approach. When it drives over the LOOSE BOARD, the board depresses and sets off a SPARK.

EXT. JUNGLE - BRIDGE

Jurick and his men watch as the CHAIN REACTION OF EXPLOSIONS demolish the bridge.

The vehicles drop and burn in the river as the bridge burns in the darkness.

EXT. JUNGLE - JURICK

takes the list of 8 names out. The flickering flames of the burning bridge illuminate the list as Jurick crosses out names 2 and 3 on the list.

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. D.C. OFFICE - LIST - DAY

The list is on top of the oak desk. The unseen person ENTERS THE OFFICE and crosses out the same 2 names. Again the PINKY FINGER RING is seen.

CUT TO:

INT. JUNGLE - HEROIN MANUFACTURING PLANT - NEXT NIGHT

Several of the mercenaries rummage through the plant. Moments later they run from it. Once they're far enough away the PLANT EXPLODES.

INT. JUNGLE - QUONSET HUT OFFICE - LATER

Like the office of the other drug vice-kingpin. Same portrait of Cun Saw behind the desk on the wall.

Slumped over the desk, dead with eyes open is another one of his VICE-KINGPIN.

INT. D.C. OFFICE - LIST OF 7 NAMES - DAY

The list is on the desk. The first 5 names are crossed out on the list. Once again we see the PINKY RING as the unseen person crosses out the sixth name.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - RIVER BANK - DUSK

Jurick stands with ANDREW VALKO. Valko, Jurick's second in command and his cousin, early 50s and a chest like a barrel. Valko has a slight Slavic accent.

Jurick spreads out a map of the countryside on a huge rock.

The rest of his men sleep under makeshift lean-tos.

JURICK  
Our next job is 4 clicks north.

Valko quickly looks to the map, then to the jungle.

VALKO  
(incredulous)  
4 clicks?!

EXT. JUNGLE - MAP ON ROCK

Jurick points to an X on the map.

VALKO(O.S.)  
(pointing to the jungle)  
You thinking about going through  
there? That's secondary jungle!

EXT. JUNGLE - RIVER BANK

Valko looks at Jurick as though he's looking at a nut.

Jurick turns to the jungle.

JUNGLE

is very dark and seems too dense to penetrate.

EXT. JUNGLE - RIVER BANK

Jurick looks back to where he's still pointing to the X on  
the map.

JURICK  
No worse then the coal mines back  
home. You forget about them,  
cousin?  
(beat)  
You're not getting soft on me, are  
you? There are only 2 left.

Jurick hikes his thumb to the jungle.

JURICK  
It's good coverage and easy access  
to Lee.

Valko shakes his head, disgusted.

VALKO

I'd like to know what you consider hard access?

JURICK

That recon job in Laos. That was harder'n Chinese Algebra.

VALKO

Yeah, and it was more than 25 years ago.

(mumbling, barely audible)

Old man still acting like we're kids.

Jurick shrugs as he folds up the map.

JURICK

Let them sleep a couple more hours then we head out.

INT. D.C. - OFFICE - DAY

The Secretary of Justice, CHUCK BIDEN, still unknown at this point, talks on the phone. Only his mouth and hand with the PINKY RING are seen on the receiver.

BIDEN

Yes, that is good news.

INT. D.C. - OFFICE - LIST

The list of 7 names lies on the oak desk. The seventh and final name on that list is crossed out with the pen.

BIDEN(O.S.)

We can proceed as planned. I'll send you the necessary information.

ASIAN MAN(V.O.)

(Asian accent)

Thank you, Mr.,...

CLICK. Biden hangs up the phone.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - JURICK'S LIST - NIGHT

The list of 8 names with all but the last 2 crossed off. In the faint light of flickering flames, a blackened hand crosses off the seventh name on the list leaving only CUN SAW's name at the bottom.

Jurick CIRCLES the name.

JURICK(O.S.)  
 And that leaves you, old friend.  
 (beat)  
 Sorry.

EXT. JUNGLE - JURICK

Jurick stares at the list not liking what he has to do.

CUT TO:

EXT. JUNGLE - MERCENARY CAMP - DAWN

The camp is in a clearing in the thick of the jungle. Military backpacks and duffel bags are piled up high to form a wall. The mercenaries, wearing jungle camouflage, are behind the wall.

JURICK(O.S.)  
 .... and Gooden on the south wall.

EXT. JUNGLE - MERCENARIES

Jurick, kneeling at a map spread out before him, has a bamboo pointer and instructs his men on the upcoming attack.

Valko sits next to Jurick scratching square pint-sized glass bottles with a glass cutter. Jurick points to 2 men.

JURICK  
 Thomson, you spot for Mathews. You  
 guys will be at the north wall.  
 It's thick with guards up to here.

Jurick points to a section on the map and arcs a line with his pointer.

JURICK

We start at dusk. You're going to have to circle wide. You'll leave after lunch.

Valko finishes with one bottle then grabs another from a cardboard case full of them and starts to scratch it.

MATHEWS, a wiry man in his 20s, points to the box of bottles.

MATHEWS

We going in loud?

JURICK

Have to. There's a forty meter clearing around the entire compound that acts like a moat around a castle.

Jurick circles the compound on the map with his pointer.

JURICK

We can't get close enough to place the bombs.

Jurick walks to where 6 long crates with rope handles are piled. The crates are approximately 2 feet by 2 feet by 6 feet long. Next to the crates is a box marked "Mn" and another unmarked crate.

Jurick pops the end out of one of the crates and pulls out a small catapult. He holds one up.

JURICK

These will toss 4 pounds 150 meters. Your spotter will get you where you need to be.

Valko finishes scratching the bottles then takes a funnel and starts to fill the bottle with Nitric acid from a large can marked "HNO3". When Valko fills one, he caps the bottle, then fills the next.

MATHEWS

(questioningly)

Those bottles weigh 4 pounds?

VALKO

They will.

Jurick nods.

JURICK

And once it gets loud, I get in and  
take out Cun Saw. Then we go home.

Valko points to the box marked "Mn" and calls to Jurick.

VALKO

Hey, Yunner, bring that Manganese  
over here.

Jurick cocks a suspicious brow at Valko.

JURICK

How about I just keep this over  
here until the bottles are capped.

Valko HUFFS A LAUGH as he shakes his head then points to  
another crate.

VALKO

How 'bout the C4? Trust me with  
that?

Jurick grabs the SMALLER CRATE and tosses it to Valko. The  
crate partially cracks as it lands.

Jurick points to KAWOLSKI who has the look of a college  
football star from the 1950s.

JURICK

Kawolski, there's a scale in my  
bag. Work with Valko.

KAWOLSKI

Yes, Sir.

VALKO

grabs and uses a pry bar to fully open the crate of C4  
plastic explosive.

EXT. JUNGLE - MERCENERY CAMP

Kawolski sets up the scale on a rock next to Valko.

In the b.g. Jurick goes over plans MOS with the other men.

VALKO

I need it cut up into two and a  
half pound squares.

Kawolski pulls a M-9 bayonet from his M16A1 rifle and starts to cut the C4 into squares.

He puts the square on the scale. It weighs a hair shy of two and a half pounds.

Kawolski hands the C4 to Valko then cuts another square.

Valko tapes the C4 to the capped bottle and sets it aside.

EXT. JUNGLE - TALL VEGETATION - NEXT MORNING

Mathews and Thomson, in camouflage ponchos, crawl slowly through tall grass.

Mathews hand signals to Thomson for a reading.

Thomson looks through his spotting scope.

EXT. JUNGLE - HEROIN PLANT

is viewed through SPOTTING SCOPE MARKINGS. The clearing all around the plant makes it impossible to get close enough to the compound without the use of helicopters or horses.

There are 10 horses tied up to railings outside the house and stables. There is a 40 meter clearing around the entire plant. 50 yards to the right of the heroin plant is the small, but stylish house of Cun Saw. Behind that are the stables.

MATHEWS(O.S.)  
We where we want to be?

EXT. JUNGLE VEGETATION - MORNING

Thomson hand motions to move ahead another 10 yards.

They slowly crawl another 10 yards forward. Thomson looks through his scope. Mathews watches as Thomson nods.

Mathews checks and levels the catapult, then drives stakes into the ground to secure it. Mathews opens his pack and takes a thickly rapped bomb from it. There are another 3 bombs in the pack. They are all wrapped very heavily with a thick cotton-like cloth. Mathews unwraps and places the bomb on the catapult.

Thomson checks his watch, then looks back through his scope.

Mathews steadies the catapult with one hand and presses a button with the other. The catapult arm PROPELS the bomb.

EXT. JUNGLE VEGETATION - THOMSON'S POV

GUARDS patrol the compound. A moment later the north side of the plant BLOWS UP.

HORSES ARE SPOOKED.

Within a couple seconds, 4 more BOMBS EXPLODE, destroying the plant.

Guards run for cover. Jurick quickly makes his way to Cun Saw's house.

Valko, with a 50 caliber sniper rifle, SHOOTS guards that may be a threat to Jurick.

CHOPPERS (O.S.) APPROACH.

EXT. JUNGLE VEGETATION - SIDE OF HILL

Mathews puts another bomb on the catapult. Thomson hears the CHOPPERS and looks up. As he does, the area of jungle grass he and Mathews are in EXPLODES from a BLAST OF NAPALM.

EXT. JUNGLE - CUN SAW'S COMPOUND

Jurick heads to Cun Saw's house. He turns toward the NAPALM EXPLOSION and watches as the jungle vegetation where Mathews and Thomson are is ablaze.

Moments later a series of NAPALM BLASTS HIT. The grass surrounding the entire compound is an inferno.

3 choppers fly toward the compound FIRING MACHINE GUNS at Jurick as he tries to get into the house.

A few of the ASIAN GUARDS are cut down by the MACHINE GUN FIRE. 2 other guards take cover behind a small tree as the choppers approach.

EXT. CUN SAW'S COMPOUND - VALKO

takes aim with his sniper rifle and SHOOTS.

EXT. CUN SAW'S HOUSE - JURICK

runs directly toward the house, BREAKS THE DOOR DOWN and dives inside the house as MACHINE GUN FIRE falls just short of hitting him.

EXT. CUN SAW'S COMPOUND - SKY - CHOPPERS

One of the choppers smokes as it flies passed the compound and over the horizon where it EXPLODES moments later. The other 2 choppers circle around and hover over the compound looking for Valko.

Valko lies face up in the horse trough full of water. As the chopper hovers overhead, Valko pops up out of the water and FIRES A ROUND into the chopper EXPLODING it.

Valko ducks back down into the water as the chopper fireball drops 30 feet away from the trough.

The 2 guards run from behind the tree toward the house.

Valko jumps out of the trough and pulls his Colt .45 from his holster and runs toward the 2 guards heading for Cun Saw's house.

The guards see Valko approaching and turn to him, weapons drawn. Valko FIRES 2 SHOTS, hitting each guard, killing them, then runs around to the side of the house to a window.

EXT./INT. CUN SAW'S HOUSE

through the window, Valko sees Jurick in the office going through files and then to the desk.

INT./EXT. CUN SAW'S HOUSE - OFFICE

Valko BREAKS THE WINDOW GLASS.

Jurick turns quickly and draws his weapon toward the window.

Valko holds up his hands.

VALKO

Yunner!

Jurick sees Valko and quickly points his gun to the ceiling.

JURICK  
(angry)  
There's nothing here. Nothing's  
been here.

Jurick opens the bottom desk drawer as Valko climbs through the window.

INT. CUN SAW'S HOUSE - DESK

Jurick's eyes WIDEN when he open the drawer seeing a DIGITAL TIMER ATTACHED TO A BOMB. The timer is at 8 seconds and counting down.

INT. CUN SAW'S HOUSE - OFFICE

Jurick mouths the words "Oh shit!" as he jumps back from the desk.

Valko, just inside the office, freezes for a moment.

JURICK  
(screaming)  
Andy, we've been set up!

Jurick dives, CRASHING THROUGH THE WINDOW.

Valko starts toward the window he just came through.

EXT. CUN SAW'S COMPOUND - HOUSE

Jurick flies through the window, rolls, and runs for a second toward the stables when the BOMB GOES OFF. The force of the blast totally destroys the house and drives Jurick through the air into the stables full of hay.

INT. CUN SAW'S COMPOUND - STABLES

A moment passes. Jurick digs himself out of the pile of hay. Jurick, groggy, shakes his head as he makes it to his feet.

EXT. CUN SAW'S COMPOUND - WHERE HOUSE WAS

Jurick, slightly staggering, runs out of the stables and heads toward where the house once stood. The only things remaining are rubble and flames.

Jurick frantically rummages through the burning rubbish, tossing pieces to the side looking for the body of Valko.

EXT. JUNGLE - VEGETATION

The vegetation and the bodies of the mercenaries are still burning strong. Smoke from Cun Saw's house smolders in the b.g. as Jurick picks through the rubble. After several seconds, Jurick drops to his knees.

CUT TO:

INT. HONG KONG AIRPORT - 'EMPLOYEE'S ONLY' DOOR - DAY

The terminal is very crowded with typical airport activities.

Jurick, face cut and bruised, dressed in jeans and a sweatshirt reading "BEAVERDALE PENNSYLVANIA" walks with a slight limp around the corner toward the door.

Jurick heads through the 'EMPLOYEE'S ONLY' door.

INT. HONG KONG AIRPORT - EMPLOYEE'S LOCKER ROOM

Jurick stops at a locker and opens the door. He takes his passport from a black satchel inside the locker. He opens his passport.

PASSPORT

It's a typical passport with a photo of Jurick. The name in it reads "John Joseph Jurick" Date of birth- 09, Jan. 1943 PENNSYLVANIA U.S.A.

CUT TO:

INT. DC OFFICE BUILDING - SEC. BIDEN'S OFFICE - MORNING

Secretary Biden, still unknown, talks on the phone. Only his mouth and ringed finger are seen. It's the same plush office in which he crossed off the names on the list.

LACEY(V.O.)

No, Mr. Secretary, the pilots said  
no one could survive that blast.

BIDEN

You're sure they're dead?