

The Martyr

By

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1 EXT. CAPE TOWN - EVENING

SUPERIMPOSED: "Cape Town, July 4, 2029"

Everything is peaceful, citizens mill about down the streets as the sun is setting in the distance. An army barracks is nestled on a hilltop on the outskirts of the city.

2 INT. ARMY BARRACKS - EVENING

Chaos. Soldiers rush around the hallways of the building. Medics are tending to the wounds of the injured. A pair of canvas flaps burst open and two soldiers drag a captive down the hall, followed by two South African soldiers. The former take the prisoner into a makeshift interrogation room.

3 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - EVENING

The soldiers toss him onto the ground and THOMAS ROSE, 37, athletic, controlled, gives him a swift kick to the ribs. SAM GREEN, 39, hardened, powerful, grabs Thomas and forces him to exit the room.

The two men exit, leaving TAU BALE, 19, thin, toned, alone, to get himself together. He rolls over onto his back, wincing in pain. He breathes heavily.

4 EXT. INTERROGATION ROOM - EVENING

Outside, a jurisdictional battle ensues.

THOMAS

We should come at him hard, he's just a kid.

SOLDIER 1

You're not doing anything, that man is from this country, he is ours to question.

THOMAS

Not a chance.

SAM

Yeah, we're the ones who got this kid, we'll be the ones to question him.

(CONTINUED)

SOLDIER 2

Think what you want, we're going in there.

The two South African soldiers start to enter the room. Thomas quickly grabs one and tosses him to the ground, pinning him. He simultaneously pulls out his pistol and holds it to the other soldier's face.

THOMAS

He's ours.

SOLDIER 2

Are you out of your mind?

Thomas lets Soldier 1 up off the ground and the two scurry off. Sam gives Thomas a disapproving look but moves on.

SAM

It doesn't matter how old he is, Thomas, there's a reason that he's involved in this. We need a more tactful approach.

THOMAS

We don't have time for tact, Sam, we need answers, now.

A colonel walks up, Sam pauses, expecting some type of punishment for what just happened.

COLONEL

He's right, we need more information as soon as possible.

Sam is skeptical.

THOMAS

Great!

Thomas reenters the room hastily. Sam takes a deep breath and follows his partner.

5 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - EVENING

Thomas and Sam come in to find Tau still resting on the floor. Thomas lifts him up by his shirt and drops him in a chair.

Sam settles down in a chair opposite and leans in a little bit.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

What's your name?

Tau just looks at him and says nothing. Sam smacks him across the back of the head.

THOMAS

Answer him.

TAU

(heavy South African accent)

Tau. Tau Bale.

SAM

OK. Now I am going to ask you one question, and that question will decide how you're treated from here on out, do you understand?

TAU

Yes, I understand.

SAM

Where is the bomb, Tau?

Tau shrinks back, confused.

TAU

What bomb?

Thomas kicks the chair out from under him and he crashes to the ground.

THOMAS

Tell him where the bomb is, Tau.

TAU

What bomb?!

Thomas comes in again with a flurry of punches, Tau defends himself as best he can. Sam is intrigued.

SAM

What is your position inside this organization?

TAU

My position? I don't have a position, I just help my brother.

Sam stands up and scratches his head.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

What are you doing in Cape Town,
Tau?

CUT TO:

6 EXT. HIGHWAY CHECKPOINT - CAPE TOWN - DAY

A van with a trailer pulls up to the checkpoint and stops at the security booth.

TAU (V.O.)

We were told to take over the eastern checkpoint on the highway and let some people through.

Two men are in the front seat, Tau comes up to the window and nods at the men in the van.

SAM (V.O.)

And after that?

TAU (V.O.)

They told us to sit and wait for word, which we were doing until you showed up.

He pushes the button that raises the gate and the van continues on.

SAM (V.O.)

How many of you were there?

7 EXT. ARMY BARRACKS - EVENING

KATO BALE, 24, average height, determined, walks through a sea of people who are running about. He is dressed in military attire and walks with a purpose.

TAU (V.O.)

There were eight of us, three were killed in the takeover, one of the remaining men is my brother.

SAM (V.O.)

Where is your brother now?

TAU (V.O.)

We're told to meet back at rendezvous point, no matter what.

Kato enters the barracks.

8

INT. ARMY BARRACKS - EVENING

EMILE MARCHANT, 37, quirky, sincere, is dressed in a lab coat and devoting his attention to a metal sample on his table. His LAB ASSISTANT stands next to him.

EMILE

(in French)

Because I am a man of science, not faith, and the odds of failing far outweigh the chances of a successful encounter.

LAB ASSISTANT

(in French)

Oh please. You haven't gone one day here without bringing this up, forget logic, this is bigger than that.

Emile shakes his head and glances up, holding his gaze on something in the distance.

EMILE

I don't have time for this.

He is still looking up. ALINE BORDEAUX, 28, slender, dark hair, is tending to a wounded soldier. The soldier is clearly in pain but Aline's laugh puts a smile on his war torn face.

LAB ASSISTANT

Yeah, no time.

(pauses)

ALINE!

Aline looks up from her work to see Emile staring awkwardly at her. She smiles and waves at him. He cautiously raises his hand. She hangs on to his attention for a moment more then resumes her work.

The lab assistant, now pretending to work, grins.

LAB ASSISTANT (cont'd)

That was lovely.

Emile happily goes back to his work.

A few feet away, Kato walks through the barracks, surveying his surroundings.

(CONTINUED)

KATO

Where is the interrogation room?

Emile doesn't know the question is directed at him.

Kato puts urgency in his tone.

KATO

The interrogation room?!

Emile is startled and looks up, slowly pointing to back corner of the barracks. Kato goes.

9

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - EVENING

Sam is showing signs of stress, Thomas is even more enraged than before.

TAU

No, you've got it all wrong, we don't hurt innocent people. My brother said our purpose is to create a better world.

THOMAS

Oh, so now it's "we?" How could you be so stupid? You are part of a terrorist organization, Tau.

TAU

NO!

SAM

Your group, SPT, is in the process of developing a chemical weapon that targets a very specific type of person. With the information that you have given us, that weapon could be in Cape Town.

TAU

We aren't developing any chemical weapon!

Thomas clocks Tau across the face, sending him reeling to the ground. Sam jumps up and grabs Tau, shaking him violently.

SAM

Think, Tau, think! Have you heard anything that could be in reference to a bomb, of any kind?

(CONTINUED)

TAU

No! They don't tell me anything, my brother gets all of the orders.

SAM

Damn it!

Sam throws him to the ground and storms out of the room. Thomas quickly follows him out.

10

EXT. INTERROGATION ROOM - EVENING

Sam blows by the Colonel and grabs a phone on the table in the distance. Sam comes out and approaches the Colonel.

THOMAS

The kid doesn't know any specifics, he believes that SPT is fighting for a better world.

COLONEL

Well then what's got him in a lather?

THOMAS

That's the thing, based on what he does know, the weapon that they are making could be inside Cape Town.

COLONEL

Well we need to move on this information, get Sam, get back in there and find out if he knows anything else.

THOMAS

Yes, sir.

Thomas walks over to Sam who hangs up the phone.

THOMAS (cont'd)

Colonel wants us to go back in there and get anything we can out of him.

SAM

They're not picking up the phone.

THOMAS

Sam, don't worry about that just yet, we haven't learned anything concrete. Let's go see if we can get more information.

(CONTINUED)

SAM
(hesitantly)
Yeah, yeah alright.

Thomas pats him on the back as he turns and walks back towards the interrogation room.

11 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - EVENING

The room is empty. They immediately notice a long cut in the canvas of room. They turn right around and rush out of the door.

12 INT. ARMY BARRACKS - EVENING

THOMAS
(to the Colonel)
He's gone!

The Colonel turns around and starts barking orders. Thomas and Sam run toward the area where the tear led.

Soldiers rush around. Everyone is at high alert.

13 EXT. ARMY BARRACKS - EVENING

Emile is now smoking outside. Aline is walking across the yard with medical supplies in her hands. She notices Emile.

Emile looks up and is startled at the sight of her. He puts out his cigarette on the ground.

ALINE
Why didn't you come out with us
last night?

EMILE
I had to work.

ALINE
Oh, I see, well what about tonight?

Emile smiles, growing red in the face.

EMILE
Well-

Suddenly the canvas behind him is ripped clean through and Kato and Tau emerge from the crevasse. Emile and Aline jump back in surprise.

(CONTINUED)

Kato is startled by their presence and points his gun at Aline. Emile rushes over in between him and Aline.

EMILE (cont'd)
No, no, no, no, no.

Kato is about to pull the trigger when Tau grabs his shoulder.

TAU
Don't draw attention, leave them.

Kato pauses. He then makes a forceful movement towards them, showing his unsatisfied desire to shoot.

The pair move off into the distance as Tau looks back at Aline and their eyes meet for a moment. They disappear.

Aline is less rattled than Emile. She looks at him, he is ghost-white and almost out of breath. She grins, clearly she's familiar with violence. She embraces Emile.

14 INT. ARMY BARRACKS - EVENING

Sam and Thomas are now standing at the exit point of Tau and Kato.

THOMAS
Son of a bitch.

They walk through the tear.

15 EXT. ARMY BARRACKS - EVENING

They notice Aline and Emile a few feet away.

THOMAS
Hey, did you see a young man come out of here?

Aline nods unconvincingly.

EMILE
There were two of them.

SAM
Two?

EMILE
Yeah. They took off through the forest.

(CONTINUED)

Emile points up the thickly wooded hillside.

THOMAS
Thanks, Emile.

Sam and Thomas walk towards the front of the barracks.

THOMAS (cont'd)
We need to evacuate the city.

Sam worriedly looks at Thomas.

THOMAS (cont'd)
Don't worry, we can escort your
family ourselves.

SAM
OK.

16 INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

SARAH GREEN, short, brunette, enters the restaurant with her young son and her in-laws.

THOMAS (V.O.)
Where are they right now?

SAM (V.O.)
I'm supposed to meet them in...
five minutes ago at that place we
ate at last month.

THOMAS (V.O.)
Alright, that'll be where we go.

Sarah approaches the hostess.

SARAH
Hi, we have a reservation for five
under 'Green.'

The hostess scans the reservation book.

HOSTESS
Alright, Mrs. Green, they're
preparing your table right now,
it'll just be a minute.

Sarah goes back to her family and sits with them, putting her son on her lap. The four of them seem very happy together and they pass the time by playing with RYLEE, the young son.

17 EXT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

People walk by the front of the restaurant, the city is at ease, unknowing. Only a couple blocks away sits a lone trailer, surrounded by cars in a parking lot.

18 INT. TRAILER - EVENING

Inside the trailer is what looks to be a bomb. A timer is only seconds away from hitting all zeros.

19 INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING

Two blocks away from the parking lot, a restaurant is at the height of the dinner rush. SARAH GREEN, short, brunette, sits with her young son and her in-laws, waiting for a table. The hostess approaches them.

HOSTESS

Mrs. Green? Your table is ready.

The group stands up and follows the hostess to their table. They all sit down.

SARAH

Well-

A BLAST tears through the restaurant. Tables are overturned, people are thrown, the air is riddled with debris.

20 EXT. ARMY BARRACKS - EVENING

Thomas and Sam are getting into a truck when they hear the blast. They look down onto the city to see the radius expanding quickly and a gas beginning to grow rampant throughout the interior of the blast range.

21 EXT. FOREST - EVENING

Tau and Kato are making their way through the trees when the sound of the blast draws their attention toward the city. Tau stares in disbelief. Kato smiles with satisfaction.

TAU

Did you know, brother?

KATO

Of course I did.

Tau is speechless.

(CONTINUED)

KATO

Come on, we have to meet the others.

Tau is furious but keeps it suppressed as Kato continues walking through the forest. He reluctantly follows.

22 INT. ARMY BARRACKS - EVENING

Emile and Aline are sitting across from each other on two makeshift cots. The blast is heard through the canvas and they both get up to look.

When they look out over the city, they see chaos, people have filled the streets although no one seems to be able to move. They look on in horror.

23 EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

The streets are consumed with panic which is quickly dissipating into realization as people begin to drop like flies, unable to breathe from the gas that has devoured the city.

24 EXT. ARMY BARRACKS - NIGHT

Sam reaches for the keys to the truck but Thomas quickly grabs them instead. Sam makes a desperate attempt to get them away from Thomas.

SAM

Give them to me!

THOMAS

I can't let you go, Sam.

Sam begins to punch Thomas until his rage towards Thomas becomes just pure rage and he begins to slam his fists into everything around him, tears streaming down his face.

Thomas does his best to comfort him, but is unable to do so and just stares out over the city in horrified awe.

25 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

It is silent. Not a soul is moving. Gas and debris fill the air as Sarah Green and her family lay on the ground.

FADE TO BLACK.