

Mafia

A Stage Play

Written by Kevin Moore

JAMES CHASE (44) sits on a dimly lit set.

CHASE (VO)

I've been running since I left home at seventeen years old. As a kid, I always dreamt of being a police officer like my brother, my father, and my grandfather. They were my heroes, until I learned they were nothing more than street thugs with badges.

Everybody around them protected them, even our family members. I guess everybody had something to gain by keeping their mouths closed. Everyone except a kid who gets his heart ripped out when he discovers his heroes are actually evil villains.

It doesn't matter anymore. We're all just going through life like the next guy: Surviving, attaching ourselves to the things that benefit us and detaching from the things that don't. That's our lives rather we admit it or not.

Tonight, I decided after two failed marriages, a daughter I was never a father to, and a twisted conundrum of a career, that I wasn't going to run anymore.

Chase picks up a travel bag.

CHASE (VO)

Where I am about to go, I have no idea what to expect. My gut tells me it will be the end of me, but when your life adds up to one big disappointment, it's easy to detach from it, like everything else. Maybe it's my way of facing my demons for the first time, or maybe I'm running again. It doesn't really matter because I'm tired.

EXT. VIRGINIA BEACH, RESTAURANT - NIGHT

DAISY is talking on the phone while cleaning tables in a restaurant that is about to close. She doesn't notice MICKIE SHORT sitting aloof in the corner of the room.

DAISY

Screw the fat boy. Your child was rushed to the emergency room. Take the night off. I'll close and clean.

(listens)

I'll take the hit. Don't worry.

(listens)

No. I got it.

Daisy hangs up as the MANAGER yells from the rear of the store and off set.

MANAGER O.S.

Did Maria make it in?

DAISY

No. She had an emergency.

MANAGER

I told her if she misses one more shift...

DAISY

She has a sick kid.

MANAGER

Parents go to work every day with sick kids. I can't run a business if my people don't show up. She's missed too many days. Find a replacement.

DAISY

You can't fire her. I need her on days.

MANAGER

Don't tell me what I can't do.

DAISY

Maria works very hard when she's here.

MANAGER

Key words: when she's here.

DAISY

If you fire her, I'm done too.

MANAGER

This bleeding-heart crap is getting old, Daisy. Maria's got one more time to stand me up. One more time and I'm canning you both.

Daisy notices MICKIE SHORT sitting aloof in a corner with a Martini, a half-eaten lunch, a newspaper, and a travel bag sitting next to him. Daisy approaches embarrassed.

DAISY

I'm sorry, sir. I didn't realize you were still here.

Mickie places a hundred-dollar bill on the table.

MICKIE

No worries.

DAISY

You already paid your bill, sir.

MICKIE

That's not payment for the bill. That's a tip.

DAISY

I have to be sure I can break a hundred. How much change do you need?

MICKIE

No change needed.

DAISY

Wow! I don't know what to say.

MICKIE

You don't need to say anything. Have a seat.

She sits.

MICKIE

For a single mom with two kids, two jobs, school, and an abusive asshole for a boss, you hold it together pretty well, kid.

DAISY

Who are you and how do you me?

MICKIE

A better question is why I spent the time and money to know what I know about you.

DAISY

I'm listening.

MICKIE

I'm the guy who just bought this restaurant. I'm vetting the staff, and you're the main attraction.

DAISY

Okay. I don't know what that means.

MICKIE

It means I need you to step up and be ready to take charge.

DAISY

Take charge?

MICKIE

This place has a lot of potential. It's got a winning formula, but terrible management. Of course, you already know that.

DAISY

If you're suggesting I manage it, you should know I don't receive my degree for another two years.

MICKIE

Despite you only being a waitress, you've been the one really running this place for three years. You

weren't given the authority to make the right decisions, but you know what they are. Don't you?

DAISY

Yes.

MICKIE

I'm going away for a few days. When I come back, I'm gonna need you to be ready to leave your other gig and do a kick-ass job managing my new investment. Can you do that?

DAISY

Why me? There must be a thousand managers who have way more experience.

MICKIE

Ass kickers don't second guess themselves. Are you ass kicker, Daisy?

DAISY

I guess.

MICKIE

It can't be a guess. Ass kickers know when they are ass kickers. Either your being modest or you're not an ass kicker. So, let's try again. Are you an...

DAISY

Yes. I'm an ass kicker.

MICKIE

Good. I chose you because you were raised in this community. You know this demographic, the history, you have an excellent rapport with the people here, and above all, you care.

DAISY

How much money are we talking?

MICKIE

You won't have to work two jobs anymore, and you'll be able live comfortably, but that's not the best part.

DAISY

What's the best part?

MICKEY

You get to fire your boss.

INT. CALIFORNIA BEACH HOUSE - NIGHT

A Mafia BOSS is sitting at his desk whispering on the phone frantically as the sounds of fighting and gunshots can be heard inside the house.

BOSS

I don't know who it is, but they're getting closer. Get over here and bring everybody, now!

Just as the boss hangs up, all goes quiet in the house. Suddenly, a masked assassin enters carrying a travel bag.

BOSS

Who sent you?

The assassin places the bag near the door, and casually sits at the Boss' desk.

BOSS

Whatever they're paying you can't compare to what I'm willing to. Give me a number.

The Assassin reads an incoming text, looks at a watch, takes out a stick of chewing gum, eats it, then folds the wrapper with meticulous intent.

BOSS

Wait. I know who you are. You're that bodyguard who protects people from Mafia hits. What do they call you?

Silence, as the Boss tries to recall hi name.

BOSS

The Doctor, you're The Doctor. I'll be damned. All this time, I thought

you were a myth. So, there really is a guy moving around in the world stopping Mafia hits.

Okay. So, what? You're on a crusade for the righteous. Somebody paying you to protect some poor girl and be a thorn in the Mafia's side? I mean, why would you do this? What's your deal? Who hired you?

Silence.

BOSS

I heard how good you are. Now I know it's true. You just went through six of my best guys. That's impressive. You tell whoever hired you that they may have crippled my efforts tonight, but they can't protect her forever. That girl is a key witness in one of the biggest murder trials of the century. You know at some point we will find her. If not me, someone else will. It's what we do. Either way, she's a walking corpse.

The Doctor stands, picks up his bag, and proceeds to an unrushed exit.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

MONET ALLURE, a 17-year-old model argues with her boyfriend on the speaker phone. A travel bag sits in plain view.

BOYFRIEND

I'm always the last on your list of priorities.

MONET

I told you when we moved in together, my career comes first.

BOYFRIEND

This is not putting your career first, Monet. This is you trashing our relationship for your career. There's a difference.

MONET

I can't do what I need to do here
in Chicago.

BOYFRIEND

Honestly, I feel like you used me.

MONET

Used you? How did you come to that
conclusion? My modeling gigs are
the only thing paying the bills
until you finish school.

BOYFRIEND

In less than a week you won't need
me to sign for you to do anymore
gigs.

MONET

Seriously? You think the only
reason I'm with you is for you to
be my legal guardian in business.

BOYFRIEND

Forgive me for sounding a bit
untrusting, but everything started
happening conveniently weeks before
your eighteenth birthday.

MONET

I'm with you because I care about
you.

BOYFRIEND

But not enough to stay with me.

MONET

That's not fair. All my
opportunities are in L.A. and New
York. I asked you to come with me
and finish your last year of school
there.

BOYFRIEND

I don't want to raise my family in
Hollywood or New York.

MONET

We said we wouldn't start a family
until five years from now.

BOYFRIEND

I'm not moving out of the state.

MONET

And I can't stay here.

BOYFRIEND

Well, you've made your decision.

MONET

I guess I have.

BOYFRIEND

Fine, but don't expect me to go
running after you or wait for you.

He hangs up. She pours herself a glass of wine, walks out onto
the balcony.

EXT. BALCONY - NIGHT

Monet reveals and begins to observe an elegant, black linen
invitation as she enjoys the night breeze. Her nine-year-old
neighbor speaks to her from a bedroom window off screen.

KALEE

Hi Monet.

MONET

Hi Kalee. How long have you been in
that window?

KALEE

A while.

MONET

Sorry you had to hear us argue
again.

KALEE

It's okay. That's what couples do
sometimes. Right?

MONET

Yeah, sometimes. I just wish it
wasn't always about my career.

KALEE

I can tell when you're upset. It's the only time you drink wine on the balcony.

MONET

Well, aren't you the observant one. The truth is it calms my nerves.

KALEE

So, you're going to California?

MONET

Yes. I was invited to a very prestigious event over the weekend by some very important people.

KALEE

So, this is your chance at fame?

MONET

I don't really care about the fame part, but this is probably the best chance I'll ever get to do what I love.

KALEE

I think you'd make a great actress. Will you have to stay there long?

MONET

Well, they're talking about making me the lead in a television series. So, yes, I'll move if I get the part, and it looks like I'm going to get it.

KALEE

I know you gotta go, but I'm going to miss our talks out here and you have dinner with us.

MONET

I'll miss it too.

KALEE

Can I call you sometimes?

MONET

Of course. You guys are like family to me.

KALEE

Will you come back to visit sometime?

MONET

I'll do better. I'll ask your mom and dad if I can fly you out to visit me for some weekends, and maybe even a summer.

KALEE

Really? You would let me visit you in California for a whole summer?

MONET

Absolutely.

KALEE

Wow! I'd better start getting my outfits together.

MONET

Not so fast. Let me confirm that I have the job first.

KALEE

You're gonna get it. You're pretty, and the nicest person I know. They would be crazy not to give it to you. I'm going to pack a bag.

Monet laughs.

INT. OHARE AIRPORT - PRIVATE PLANE - NIGHT

There is an array of interesting people on the flight. Some are visibly armed. Chase sits watching everyone. SADY SHIDE sits reserved, "invisible" to the world and in much need of sleep.

CHASE (VO)

It wasn't until I got settled on the plane that I recognized some of the people. I had seen some of their faces at one time or another. A mug shot on the job, my father's photo collection, an unforgettable

moment at a family picnic when I was a kid. Whatever this confidential meeting was, it was something big. My concern was that the familiar faces were notorious criminals, and they were all invited to the same event as me.

(beat)

Sady Shide: they call her the widow. She's been through three rich husbands, and all are mysteriously deceased from unknown causes.

ANJ

This flight looks a little crowded, and I ain't talking about space. Are you seeing what I'm seeing? I'm Zack.

SHIDE

Why are you talking to me?

ANJ

Just trying to pass the time. Besides, you're sitting next to me, and I'm sure you want answers just like I do, unless you already know where we're going and why?

SHIDE

First, you sat next to me. Second, I'm not exactly the "conversation with strangers" type.

ANJ

Do you know what this gig is about? That's all I'm asking.

SHIDE

I don't think anybody knows any details for obvious reasons, and it's probably a good idea to limit conversation about it.

ANJ

Maybe you're right. You see that
guy in the black.

SHIDE

There are about four guys in black
within my immediate line of sight.

ANJ

That one.

SHIDE

Why are you pointing?

ANJ

You wanted to know which one.

SHIDE

I've never in my life concluded
anyone to be a moron after only 30
seconds of communication. That just
changed.

CHASE (VO)

Zack Anj, one of the most respected
black hats in the underworld. I
don't know where he's from or much
about him, but he talks too much. I
think it's a cover.

ANJ

Well, rumor has it, that guy is The
Doctor.

SHIDE

The what?

ANJ

The Doctor, you know the assassin
that chews a piece of gum before...

SHIDE

The Doctor is a myth that was
debunked ten years ago. Now stop
talking to me.

ANJ

You're rude.

SHIDE

No. I'm annoyed.

Mickie Short gets on the plane and approaches Chase.

SHORT

Excuse me. Is this seat taken?

CHASE

Not to my knowledge.

SHORT

Thanks.

CHASE

Are you New York Mickie?

SHORT

Do I know you?

CHASE

No, but I just read an article about you and some brilliant investments you recently made.

SHORT

Keep it to yourself.

Mickie takes the seat across the aisle Chase.

CHASE (VO)

What many don't know about Mickie Short is that he is a very high-end, professional thief. He doesn't do it for the money. He's a very wealthy man. Maybe he has a compulsion, maybe it's a hobby, or maybe he's a modern-day Robbin Hood. Whatever the case, New York Mickie can steal almost anything from anybody, and sometimes even make it legal.

The Blains enter and start getting situated to sit.

CHASE

Art and Connie Blain, over twenty years of marriage and never missed a beat. Always harmonic, always together and still obviously very

much in love after all these years. The only blemish to the perfect picture was the fact that they were two of the most notorious confidence artists in the world, who pulled off some very elaborate scams. They are exactly what you would call smooth criminals.

PAULA NASH just enters the plane.

CHASE (VO)

Paula Nash, aka Mrs. Wizard. A bad ass statistician. If you had something to hide or find in numbers, Paula was the one you called. She was expensive as hell, but worth every dime.

(beat)

Some of these people were once part of a crime syndicate and are now a secret society of over-the-hill criminals. I got the feeling everybody on this flight was connected by crime, and there I was in the middle of it all still holding on to the only semblance of peace I had left; that my choice to become a cop was better than my family's choice to become criminals. But sometimes, I question even that.

Monet makes it just in time before the door closes. She finds a seat. The pilot announces take off.

CHASE (VO)

Everything made sense up to this point. She was a kid. What was she doing in the midst of people like these people. Something didn't add up, or maybe I just had the wrong equation.

The plane starts to roll.

CHASE (VO)

Being a cop made it easy to hear things about people, even follow some of their activity through the years, but this kid was like the last piece that didn't fit in the last space of the puzzle.

The plane comes to an abrupt halt. Everyone starts murmuring as the plane door opens again. The door opens to except the beautiful SIMONE WINTER. A complete silence fills the plane as she strolls the aisle respectfully trying not to discomfort anyone.

CHASE (VO)

Who could stop a plane on a runway?
I'm sure only her.

She stops standing over Chase.

WINTER

Is that seat taken?

CHASE

You like window seats?

WINTER

No, but beggars can't be choosy.

Chase puts her bag away for her.

WINTER

Thank you.

CHASE (VO)

She smelled lovely. Her smile had to come from something beautiful inside of her.

He takes the window seat, leaving her the aisle seat. She sits.

CHASE (VO)

She was graceful, like a ballerina even though I could tell she wasn't trying to be.

WINTER

Thank you. You're a man after my heart.

CHASE (VO)

She had natural finesse, charm, she was delicate. Her presence was intoxicating, like an angel.

She stands and takes off her jacket, revealing an automatic handgun.

CHASE (VO)

Or maybe a stone-cold killer. What was I thinking? These people are criminals. Get your head straight, James.

WINTER

Are you from here?

CHASE

From Chicago?

WINTER

Well, it's only logical that "here" would be Chicago, since when I arrived last night, there was a big sign that read "Welcome to Chicago".

He chuckles a bit.

WINTER

I'm just teasing you, but you look familiar.

CHASE

I get that a lot, and your answer is yes. I'm from Chicago. You?

WINTER

I was born here. I'm Simone.

CHASE

Where do you live now?

WINTER

My job sends me all over the world, but I spend most of my time in Dubai.

CHASE

Wow! Strictly business?

WINTER

Nothing is ever strictly business for me. I make sure of that.

SHORT

Hi. I'm Mickie.

WINTER

New York Mickie?

SHORT

Do I know you?

WINTER

Let's just say we came close to doing business years ago.

SHORT

Keep it to yourself.

WINTER

I always do.

INT. MCCARRAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - HOURS LATER

Set lights dim. The pilot announces landing. Shortly after the plane touches down.

EXT. LUXURY HOTEL LOBBY - NIGHT

Everyone enters carrying their travel bags and being searched and stripped of any weapons by armed mercenaries. Most of the guests are carrying concealed weapons.

CHASE (VO)

We travelled for about two hours from the airport to an isolated city in the desert, void of any population or basic modern conveniences. The setup, though very elegant, reeked of something sinister.

WINTER

Somebody with a lot of money went out of their way to make us feel awfully comfortable and conveniently isolated.

CHASE

You read my mind.

After being searched, they move to a lounge area.

INT. HOTEL LOUNGE AREA - MOMENTS LATER

CHASE (VO)

The atmosphere encouraged us to drop our guard. There was food, wine, and comfort. Me and a few others knew better. We stayed alert, watchful. But something really bothered me.

WINTER

Are you seeing what I'm seeing?

CHASE

You noticed too?

WINTER

These guards are not here to protect us.

CHASE

They're here to contain us.

WINTER

Precisely.

CHASE (VO)

She's sharp.

WINTER (VO)

He's Sharp.

CHASE (VO)

Beautiful things are often poison.

WINTER (VO)

A person you fall for today, you may have to kill tomorrow.

CHASE (VO)

Can't let her lure me.

WINTER (VO)

Gotta keep my distance.

FRAN, a smooth, distinguished gentleman wearing a black, tailored suit is suddenly in the room. The talking simmers to a dead silence as all eyes focus on him.

FRAN

Good evening. My name is Francis Pope. I'd like to thank and congratulate all of you thus far. I hope everyone's flight and ride was comfortable. I'm sure now it is obvious that we spared no expense for you.

Everyone's phone alerts them with text messages.

LOVE

Is this correct?

FRAN

It is. A deposit of five-hundred thousand dollars was made into each of your bank accounts at midnight.

FRANK

This can't be for the job you initially offered.

FRAN

Some of you will receive another four and a half million at the end of this three-day event. We'll get to that in a moment.

FRANK

Did you say another four and a half million dollars?

FRAN

That is correct, Mr. House.

SHIDE

So, this job pays five MILLION?
What kind of job is this?

FRAN

We'll get to that shortly, Mr. Shide.

OTURO

You said some of us?

FRAN

Yes, Mr. Oturo. We'll discuss that shortly.

SHORT

Nobody pays that much money for something desirable. What's the fine print?

FRAN

Good question, Mr. Short, and I'm sure everyone is asking that.

SHIDE

Are you gonna tell us?

FRAN

You have all been personally selected by my employer to form a unique type of jury. However, you will not perform your service in a court of law.

Guards begin handing out personalized, enveloped packages.

FRAN

The information you are receiving contains documents that will tell you everything you need to know about why you are here and why it is in your best interest to cooperate.

They begin opening packages.

FRAN

It is important that you refrain from opening the packages until later.

SILVA

When do we open them?

FRAN

You will know the right time to do so, Mr. Silva.

NASH

So, what's the job?

FRAN

My employer gave me the daunting task of locating four of his enemies who have strong mafia ties. Even I, having the most sophisticated technology and high-level intelligence at my disposal, had a very difficult time locating them. This will now be your job over the next three days.

SHIDE

How do we find four strangers that you couldn't find with the most sophisticated technology and high-level intel?

NASH

And in three days.

FRAN

First, I did not say I couldn't find them. I said it was difficult. The four individuals are sitting among you right now.

ANJ

Wait a minute. You want us to find four people who are already in this room by your invitation?

MICKIE

Is this a game?

FRAN

That is precisely what it is, Mr. Short. Allow me to explain the reason you are here. At some point in time, each of you had dealings with my employer.

FRANK

Who is your employer?

FRAN

There is no need to disclose the name of my employer, Mr. House, as

it will be clear to all of you
shortly.

MONET
Am I in the right place?

FRAN
Yes, Miss Allure. You are.

MONET
Okay. I responded to an employment
opportunity for a role in a
television series.

FRAN
And like any employment contract,
Ms. Allure, payment will be
received when services are
rendered.

SHORT
What services?

OTURO
If I understand you correctly, you
called us here to play a game for
five million dollars?

FRAN
Not just a game, Mr. Oturo, but a
game with real life consequences.

ART
"Real life consequences?"

CONNIE
What does that mean?

MONET
You brought me here under a false
pretense?

SHIDE
I thought I was coming to close a
real estate deal. Why would you
expect us to cooperate with you
under this kind of deception?

FRAN

I will admit each of you was given a custom invitation that invoked your desire to be here. Forgive our deliberate deception, but it was the only way to ensure you'd come.

OTURO

Just tell us why we are here and stop being so elusive.

FRAN

I respect your desire for brevity, so I'll get to it. Each of you are guilty of one thing or another regarding my employer.

SHIDE

Which we still don't know.

FRAN

Since the mystery has created such anxiety, I will give you more details. Some of you were hired to do a job in the past that you did not complete. Some testified in court against an associate or didn't reveal information that you should have for my employer's sake. Others pursued things they were warned not to. Some have stolen from him.

The point is you are all in grave debt to my employer. The simplest and easiest solution was to eliminate you quietly, but my employer is one who loves amusement.

OTURO

So, these guys with guns posted around the hotel...

FRAN

Are here to maintain order.

ART

If I didn't know any better, I'd say...

CONNIE

...we're prisoners.

FRAN

Please, take your time and discuss what you need to.

MICKIE

You mean the fact that it appears we are hostages?

FRAN

We need you to come to terms with this situation before we proceed.

OTURO

And if we decline?

FRAN

I believe the answer to that question is rather obvious. We will leave you to your discussion.

Fran and the mercenaries exit. Panic starts to brew.

MONET

I can't do this.

WINTER

Stay calm.

MONET

You don't understand. I can't be involved in this.

CHASE

You're already in it.

MONET

Oh my God! This can't be happening.

FRANK

I counted eight guards since we've been here.

ANJ

There were a couple of snipers on the roof.

NASH

If we are going to survive this, we need to understand what they expect from us.

SILVA

I'm not going to leave my fate in the hands of these people.

ART

We don't have much of a choice...

CONNIE

...since they took our guns.

SILVA

It's nineteen of us. I say we rush them, tear them new asses, and make a run for it.

SHIDE

I agree.

WINTER

No.

ANJ

Why not? If we take those few guards and get their guns...

CHASE

Then what? Shoot our way out against trained mercs?

ANJ

Uhh. Yeah. You got a better idea.

WINTER

The mercenaries are only the obvious problem.

ANJ

What do you mean?

CHASE

She means people these people don't put people like us in positions like this unless they have complete control and a very viable plan.

CHASE

Exactly.

FRANK

I say we take our chances and go for the guns.

CHASE

How many of you ever fired an assault rifle in tactical combat? Nobody?

WINTER

How about knife fighting? Anyone here ever stabbed a person, or cut a human's throat?

CHASE

Bludgeoning.

WINTER

That's a big one...very underrated.

CHASE

Anyone here ever beat a person to death with your fist or a hard object? No? Well, here's a wakeup call. That's what it comes to if we engage these guys. These guys are trained killers. They won't hesitate to kill, and neither can you.

SHIDE

How do you know so much about who those guys are?

CHASE

Because I used to be one of those guys in the Marine Core.

NASH

I think it's in our best interest to let the host finish explaining what they want before we make any decisions that involve more risk.

SILVA

Not knowing what to expect is already too much risk if you ask me.

CHASE

We can't control what's outside these walls right now.

WINTER

What we can control is how we handle ourselves moving forward, which needs to be very carefully.

SILVA

Who made you the leader?

CHASE

I'm not. I'm just a guy not interested in getting shot today.

WINTER

He left us alone for a reason.

ANJ

He said we'd know when to look.

Everyone looks at their envelopes apprehensive about opening them.

CHASE

Fine. I'll go first.

Chase opens his envelope to see documentation and photos. He is stunned.

WINTER

What is it?

They all open their envelopes. Monet starts to cry.

NASH

Oh my God! They have everything.

SHIDE

Immediate family members, distant
cousins.

MONET

These are pictures of my neighbor's
children, and all my friends. Who
are these people?

SILVA

So, we just bend over and let them..

WINTER

We are not in a negotiating
position here.

ART

Unless someone has a better idea..

CONNIE

...the intelligent thing to do right
now...

ART

...is comply.

Fran enters.

FRAN

You will be divided into two teams.

SILVA

So, you're just going to ignore
what we just saw.

FRAN

I and you know exactly what you
saw, Mr. Silva. In fact, I spent
nine painstaking months and a
plethora of resources constructing
it. The situation speaks for
itself. Now this is the part where
you listen to your objective in the
game.

Silence.

FRAN

Team one is comprised of four people who are affiliated with an enemy of my employer. We will call them The Mafia. Team two is everyone else. We will call team two The Citizens.

NASH

The Mafia are the people you want to identify.

FRAN

Correct.

NASH

And they are all among us disguising themselves as citizens.

FRAN

Correct again. The Citizens have seventy-two hours to identify and eliminate all four mafia members.

SHIDE

And how do we do that?

FRAN

The details are in the documentation you're holding, but for now I will say, carefully.

HOUSE

And if the citizens fail?

FRAN

If the Citizens fail, The Mafia wins by default.

SHORT

What happens to the losers?

FRAN

Only the winning team goes home.

SHIDE

And there's the fine print.

ANJ

I don't like it.

FRAN

Allow me to give you a fair assessment, Mr. Anj, then tell me if you are willing to risk escape based on the odds. There is a total of thirty-two military personnel on the grounds. There are two snipers covering each side of the building twenty-four hours a day. Motion sensors will be triggered the moment you step outside and there is no cover from sniper fire within the first square block. Anyone seen outside this building before the game is finished is ordered shot on sight. In summary, to run means certain death.

SHORT

But if we play your game and win, we walk away five million dollars richer.

FRAN

That is correct, Miss Nash.

OTURO

How do we know we can trust you to let the winners go free?

FRAN

You don't, but you are in debt to a ruthless billionaire who would lose no sleep over ordering your deaths. If you see this game as anything other than mercy, then you are, by every conceivable metric, a foolish man.

NASH

What if both teams are standing at the end of seventy-two hours?

FRAN

Good question, Ms. Nash. If one team has not eliminated the other within 72 hours, we eliminate all. Yes, Mr. Chase?

CHASE

How do we play and what are the rules?

End