

SEEMINGLY HARMONIOUS

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. DIAOYU ISLANDS - DAY

A red field, five-star flag washed by countless wars blows in the wind. It stands erect at the highest peak of China's Diaoyu Islands -- where it overlooks the panorama of the islands.

SUPER:

"Considering these uninhabited islands and islets. China calls them the Diaoyu Islands, while Japan has named them the Senkaku Islands. Since 1372, the envoy of Ming and Qing dynasties marked the Diaoyu Islands as the only way to the Ryukyu Islands. In 1872, Japan annexed the Ryukyu Islands. At the end of the Sino-Japanese War of 1895, Japan invaded and occupied it again, describing it as the "islands without lords," followed by Taiwan. During the Pacific war, the United States, an ally of China, handed administrative jurisdiction of the Diaoyu Islands and the Ryukyu Islands to Japan after retreat, which aroused the dispute of the Diaoyu Islands. The Diaoyu Islands not only have great economic value, but also are very important strategic locations. For example, Japan could expand to a 400 km range of defense against China. Instead, China regards it as the key leading to the Pacific, while the United States considers it as the first island chain to confine China. Due to the unceasing friction between the two countries, therefore, the United States claims that the Diaoyu Islands falls within the scope of the US-Japan Security Treaty. However, in 2019, when Japan had a conflict with China over the Diaoyu Islands, the United States just sent a warship, which aroused great resentment within Japan."

The flag ripples in the ocean winds.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BURJ AL ARAB - DAY

The sailboat-shaped hotel is the first seven-star hotel in the world and is built on a man-made island.

INT. DUBAI - BURJ AL ARAB HOTEL - ROYAL SUITE - DAY

JESSICA PAIGE, in her 30s, well-dressed and fashionable, the stunning secretary of US President Simon, is on the phone with her boyfriend. she is astonished by the extravagance of the royal suite.

JESSICA

The President will like it, Sam. If he doesn't, nothing will.

Behind her, SPECIAL AGENTS are checking the droplight, the carpet, and the air quality.

INT. DUBAI - SOUL LABORATORY - DAY

Her handsome boyfriend, Major SAM SMITH, who is in his 30s, keeps an eye on a nuclear briefcase in his custody. He is standing in a laboratory laden with advanced technology, patiently taking the call.

Like Jessica, he is well-dressed and fashionable, with similar temperament.

SMITH

All right, Jess, you said it twice already.

Behind him, Agent TOM CLARK leads other agents in sealing up the instruments they were using, having completed the inspection.

INTERCUT BETWEEN SMITH and JESSICA

JESSICA

Have you made reservations for dinner tomorrow? You did promise.

SMITH

I've been a bit tied up with all these inspections, babe.

JESSICA

Oh, stop, wait!

Jessica tilts the phone away from her ear and stops several staff bearing orchids. The flowers are in full bloom; they have yellow centers with white petals.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Wrong color! I've repeated several times that the president is only into pure white flowers!

STAFF

Only this kind on sale, Ms. Paige.

JESSICA

Look elsewhere! Keep looking until you find it!

Jessica doesn't put the cell phone to her ear until the staff retreat.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Fine. The day after tomorrow?

SMITH

OK.

Smith drearily hangs up the phone. Agent CLARK comes up.

Agent Clark, 35, has mischievous eyes. He speaks in a southern drawl that is classy instead of trashy. Think Frank Underwood from House of Cards.

AGENT CLARK

I'm startin' to worry about your health, Major Smith.

Agent Clark gives Smith a coy smile. Smith shakes his head at him.

SMITH

You just never fail to talk shop, sir.

AGENT CLARK

Come now, don't you think that's a bit illogical?

SMITH

Could you be any more obscure, sir?

AGENT CLARK

Ten years ago, when Ms. Paige was studying in Japan you were switched from the Special Operation Force to the Marines... stationed a mere twenty minutes from her. Coincidence? Hardly. Now, she becomes the high and mighty personal secretary to the President. And where are you? Why, you're the nuclear briefcase attaché. So tell me, why are you avoiding her like the plague?

Agent Clark shakes his head in seriousness. Smith smiles.

SMITH

You should get a check up on your logic, sir.

EXT. FOOTPATH - DAY

On a footpath on a large lawn lined with trees, Smith and PRESIDENT ETHAN SIMON are out taking a jog together. Smith is trailing behind President Simon by around 20 yards as they run on the weaving path.

In the distance, AGENTS and DOCTORS stand by with loaded guns.

In his Marine Corps uniform and the nuclear briefcase in hand, Smith is keeping his face serious as possible as he PANTS, keeping up with the President. President Simon, 56, is kind, amiable, and always smiling.

Suddenly, the President stops, raising a hand to his neck. Smith immediately catches up to him.

SMITH

Mr. President, what's the matter?

The President tilts his body slightly towards Smith.

PRESIDENT SIMON

I think it was only a sparrow that wants to take on our agents.

In the distance, two other AGENTS and a DOCTOR are hurrying toward the scene.

Smith peeks at the spot that the President is trying to reach with his hand and sees a pair of cabbage caterpillars.

SMITH

Oh no, Mr. President, just some bugs actin' up.

The President quickly swipes the caterpillars off of himself. The agents and the doctor arrive at the scene.

DOCTOR

How's your cervical spondylosis, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT SIMON

Not bad. These poor little bastards were falling and I caught them.

The President immediately continues his run, not wanting to stop for too long.

PRESIDENT SIMON (CONT'D)

Keep up, Smith!

Smith comes up right beside the President and they run shoulder to shoulder.

PRESIDENT SIMON (CONT'D)
 What's your take on the Russians?
 Do you think they'll actually throw
 nukes at us?

SMITH
 Don't think so, sir.

PRESIDENT SIMON
 What about the Chinese?

SMITH
 Don't think so, sir.

PRESIDENT SIMON
 Do you think we should throw some
 nukes at them? Just to be safe, of
 course.

SMITH
 You're thinking of cancelling the
 position of nuclear briefcase
 handler, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT SIMON
 Well actually, I gave the order
 already -- want to see where you
 guys want to go.

Smith looks at the President with a puzzled look on his face.

SMITH
 Mr. President, don't you think that
 the nuclear briefcase should be
 somewhere within your line of
 sight?

PRESIDENT SIMON
 No, seeing it makes me feel like
 we're never gonna get out of this
 mess.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Two squadron leaders, 30s, are indignantly interrogating Smith. The slim man is MAJOR WILLIAM OWEN, US Army, and the brawny one is MAJOR CARL BROWN, US Air Force.

MAJOR OWEN
 The President hates us, Smith!

MAJOR BROWN

Did you know we have to keep a distance from him on this vacation?

MAJOR OWEN

(dejected)

He said we're intruding into his personal space...

Smith, always the leader, cuts in and tries to pacify the men.

SMITH

It's the nuclear briefcase, makes him feel we're in this never-ending mess.

Silence for a moment.

Major Brown stands up from his seat, red-faced.

MAJOR BROWN

We competed against and were chosen out of hundreds of thousands, just to hear this crap?!

SMITH

With that language, you're never going to get it, Brown. You're working for the President now.

MAJOR OWEN

Ah... I've never been on a personal excursion with the President yet, Smith.

Smith shakes his head. He looks up at the two of them.

SMITH

The President will visit Dubai, how about I arrange the internship for you, Owen?

Major Owen beams.

MAJOR OWEN

Thank you, Major Smith.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

On the couch, President Simon, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff MATTHEW MAYNE, National Security Advisor MARCUS PAUL, Speaker of the House JEFF JAMES, and Secretary of Commerce ANDREW HUNT are discussing national affairs.

They are in their 60s. Each person has unique characteristics. CJCS Mayne is square and steady. NSA Advisor Paul is smarter than the others. Speaker James has firm ideas. Secretary Hunt likes to speculate.

PRESIDENT SIMON

Seven billion dollars, that's more than an aircraft carrier!

SECRETARY HUNT

Initially he wanted eight, sir. I knocked it down by telling him that if the public finds out about it, it won't be worth five billion.

CJCS MAYNE

Albeit far more useful than a carrier. With it, the relationship between China and Russia, and China and North Korea will be easily destroyed. What's worse, it might destroy the nuclear arsenal.

NSA ADVISOR PAUL

With all due respect, we need it, Mr. President. We will get it whether it is worth seven billion or seventy billion. Once China and Russia succeed, we'll be their easy prey.

SPEAKER JAMES

Can't we develop something like that ourselves?

NSA ADVISOR PAUL

Mister Speaker, the body-soul separator needs X-ray A, X-ray B, and X-ray Z. However, our scientists can only control X-ray A.

Jessica enters with a document in hand from her office.

PRESIDENT SIMON

That means it's the X-ray that actually separates the soul from the body?

Jessica, ever so steady, hands the document over to the President.

JESSICA

Your newly updated Dubai itinerary, sir.

NSA Advisor Paul watches Jessica as she turns and leaves, and then finally speaks.

NSA ADVISOR PAUL

Yes, I think so, Mr. President.

INT. SMITH & JESSICA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jessica is sitting lazily on the couch, munching away at some chips while watching a fashion show. Smith sits on the couch next to her, checking every inch of his red wingsuit.

Pictures hang on the walls that show their love from Mount Taishan, China, Osaka Tenshukaku, Japan, and the Taj Mahal in India. The sitting room is well-organized and clean.

SMITH

Tell me, Jess, do you want to make a jump from the Burj al Arab or from above the Palm Islands?

JESSICA

Nice try, Sam. I'm not over our last experience yet.

SMITH

It'll grow on you. One day, you'll love it.

Smith offers her an award winning smile.

JESSICA

You're cute, but it's not happening. How about we go to fashion week this Saturday instead?

After putting his powered flight suit away, Smith picked up the tools and headed for storage. A small wrench was left on the floor.

SMITH
I've got duties, Jessica.

JESSICA
The wrench, Sam.

SMITH
Oh, yes.

Smith returned and picked it up right-handed.

JESSICA
Of course you do.

INT. SMALL MEETING ROOM - DAY

Smith, Agent Clark, GREG HARRIS, BERNIE WRIGHT, MILO LOPEZ, and General Agent Leader CLARK DEAN are sitting together, listening as Secret Service Director EARL HANSEN assigns them tasks.

All of them are in their 30s except Hansen, who is in his late 50s. Even though he is older, with a head of gray-and-white hair, his amazing drive and energy is evident. He is an experienced veteran.

Director Hansen, with the Dubai map hanging from his waist, points to one of two red lines.

DIRECTOR HANSEN
This path here is the President's route for the first day. This other one is the route for day two. You've got ten days' time to report in with the locations of your guard points and analysis of the surroundings. Is that clear?

Director Hansen scans the faces of the squad leaders.

DIRECTOR HANSEN (CONT'D)
All right then. Finally, we'll have Major Smith come up to talk a little bit about his experience so far on the job.

Smith, taken by surprise, instinctively stands up.

SMITH
I... uh... Sorry, sir, I mainly came here today to learn.

DIRECTOR HANSEN

If you want to be doing this type of stuff you'll need to show some knowledge.

SMITH

Ummm... Okay, I'll see what little I've got then. First, I think that we should actually start work half a month ahead of time.

GENERAL AGENT LEADER DEAN

We're going there a month ahead of time, Major Smith. Even the ground workers there need to get there three days early.

SMITH

I think it's better to make the local police clear the terrorists one month in advance...

AGENT WRIGHT

They did three months ahead of time, Mr. Football.

SMITH

Then make sure nothing's wrong with the safety guard.

GENERAL AGENT LEADER DEAN

Heavily guarded, Major Smith.

They burst with laughter; only Earl remains solemn. They get serious soon.

DIRECTOR HANSEN

How do you intend to ensure the president's security, Major Smith?

SMITH

If so, I want to spend ten days as a researcher, ten days as a terrorist, and ten days as police. The research is for recognizing the local geography and the areas where there are possible terrorists. If we all think as Terrorist, trying to devise plots against the President, six hundred agents can think of six hundred ways. Pick the plots that are the most dangerous, and get rid of any possibility of them happening.

(MORE)

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