

Black Air
by
Jake Krakower

OUTSIDE AN EMBASSY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The embassy explodes in a burst of flames, and a showering of debris. People begin to run about in panic and fear.

INSIDE A CAFÉ ACROSS THE STREET

The café shakes violently as the embassy explodes. People inside begin to mill around trying to get to the exit, and eventually hurting each other. A man sits at a table near a large window, drinking an expensive cup of coffee and reading a newspaper.

The scene fades to black as you begin to hear the man's voice

MAN V.O.

My name is Kurt Lonsloe, and I am one of the best strategists in the world and the current leader of the largest and most powerful mercenary group in the world, Black Air. I have just orchestrated the destruction of the Embassy with no loss of civilian or my own team's life.

The darkness begins to fade as you hear Kurt continue. You see him sitting on a bed in a small hotel room

KURT V.O.

As I stated before, my name is Kurt, and I'm 24 years of age. I have a wife, two children, and we live in a nice, beautiful mid-sized apartment in Chicago, IL. My wife knows about what I do for a living, and she supports me in my endeavors completely. She would even on occasion, look out for people who might need to have a job done.

Kurt sighs and continues with a pained look on his face

I'm telling you my story so that if, in the near future I die, someone might find this, and deal with those slimy piece of shit which I used to call friends. I'm doing this so Jio and Emily will know what happened to their Mother and my wife, Selena...

Kurt pauses again, thinks and gets back on his subject

I always knew that one day, some how, this would come to pass, so I prepared, and everything is now set into motion. I will now tell you my story so that you can begin to understand what I went through.

You see Kurt fidde with something next to what you are watching from and the screen goes blank.

A MEDIUM SIZED HOUSE IN CHICAGO

(In a nice sized house you see a toddler and a woman holding her baby girl, sitting on the couch. The woman is reading a book quietly. You hear a door open, and the woman almost screams as her husband hugs her over the couch, and kisses her on the neck)

Kurt

(smiling foolishly)

Hey Selena... You miss your beautifully handsome husband?

Selena
(growling)
You moron...

(hits him over the hand hard with book. As he falls down and starts rolling around in mock agony, his two children wake up.)
You almost scared me half to death!

Kurt
(laughing as he stands up)
I'm sorry- I just missed the most beautiful woman in the world!

Selena
(blushing, she stands up and puts the baby in the play-pen next to the couch)
I missed you too....

(she turns around, wraps her arms around Kurt's neck and kisses him)
Kurt we-me and your friends- set something up for when you came back...
(she whispers it into his ear)

The babysitter is going to be here in an hour, and the reservations are in two.
(Selena said as she dragged Kurt upstairs, the two children fast asleep. As she leads him up the stairs, a pair of pants and the simple dress she was wearing are thrown down the stairs, followed quickly by Kurt's jeans and t-shirt.)

Fade out to black

ENTECA ROMA WINEBAR – NIGHT

The entire restaurant/winebar was rented out for this little party of Kurt and Selena's best friends. The sound of laughing, loud talking, and merry-making. You see Kurt and Selena surrounded by who you assume to be their friends, and they are all drinking.

Selena
(grinning)
So is this a nice surprise Honey?

Kurt
(steadying himself against the wall behind him)
It's perfect... It's just that...

Selena
Takes another sip of her vodka
What is it?

Kurt
(Kurt poses for a second as he thinks real hard with his sluggish drunken mind)
I think I'm forgetting something...
Thinks again very hard
The... babysitter? Who was she? I didn't recognize her...

Selena
I-I think she's someone new... The agency said they were sending a new girl soon... But
the guy on the phone he sounded....
(Selena pauses and thinks for a second)
Weird. Definatly weird.

Kurt
(Alert, and his mind racing)
How so? It's important dear... Please, think.

Selena
(looks at Kurt's face, realizes what that faces means thinks very hard)
He had... labored breathing, cracking voice, and he sounded nervous.

Kurt
(he has a very scared and rattled look on his face as he taps the glass with a spoon)
Everyone, we are gathered here tonight because of a glorious surprise that is a
collaboration between you all and my lovely wife, Selena. But I am sad to announce that
we need to get back home soon, so I must say that this party is now over... Everyone,
please gather your things and we shall begin to leave.

*Kurt turns around and pulls Selena to the side and begins to have a hurried and
whispered conversation with her*

Kurt
We need to get home. Now.

Selena
Why, what's wrong at home? Are Jio and Emily okay?

Kurt
I don't know... But I don't like the feel---

*Kurt is interrupted as all the windows in the bar are broken through, a wall implodes,
and Kurt is stopped mid-sentence as a steel bar runs his wife though the chest. Kurt
stares for a few seconds and then turns around at the people marching into the room.*

Kurt
(looks with wide eyes at the people, who a few moments ago, were his friends, who now
held semi-automatic weapons aimed at his chest)
You're... coming...
(clenches and unclenches his fists in pure rage.)
You... came, and killed my wife...

Man #1
(angrily)
Shut up Kurt! That was an accident!

Woman #1
(with a worried look)
Kurt, we're sorry... Black Air is being take—
(slapped hard by Man #1 onto the floor)

Man #2
(screaming hysterically)
Shut the fuck up woman! Do you want him to kill us all?!

Woman #2
(brandishing her own rifle)
All of you shut up! We need to make sure he doesn't kill u---
She screams as a metal rod is shoved through her left knee by a grim-faced Kurt. He then picks up her gun and fires three shot rounds into one knee of the other 13 people. He quickly picks up the other weapons and breaks the triggers. He then marches out of the restaurant after kissing his dead wife on the lips again, and closing her eyes.

Kurt
I'm going to kill them... All of them, and then I will take down Mr. Zero...
(mutters to himself as he shoots people who came after him with their own guns.)
They will pay for killing my precious Selena...
(says as he gets into his 1961 GTO with a Flat black paint job. He then starts it and drives to his house where he finds 5 men watching it. He quickly dispatches them with three bullet bursts to the knee and both arms.)

Kurt
(he kicks the door to his house down and enters with his gun set up so that he can fire on a moment's notice. He then does a sweep of the entire house and finds both of his children asleep in their beds, and the babysitter, a new girl, barely 19 bound and gagged.
He unties her and then rips the tape off of her mouth.)

Kurt
I am sorry, but I am going to need you to come with me and help care for Jio and Emily.
Would you be able to do that Ms...?

Girl
(frowns as she rubs her mouth and begins to flex her wrists. She stares at the gun in Kurt's hands, and the blood all over his shirt.)
Clerwhen... Janel Clerwhen... What happened to your wife? And who are those weird men who---?
(stops as Kurt aims the gun at her, and fires a three round burst, killing the man who had a knife less than an inch above her.)

Kurt
(grimacing)

It doesn't matter. Just grab both of them, and come to the car in the garage. I will have supplies, and spare clothes for all of us. You're the same size as my late wife I think...

(glances up and down Janel)

Janel stands at around 5'6", and maybe 135lbs. She was of average build, but her face was beautiful, just as beautiful as his late wife's. Her skin was a light bronze color, and she had long, thick, unruly black hair.

Kurt

Yes, just about the same size... Meet me at the car in the downstairs garage in 10 minutes. Call your boyfriend, friends or family, but only the one you trust the most. Tell them that you are going to be busy for the next month or two, and that reaching you will be impossible. I will give you a cell phone once we are in the car. That phone can call only 5 numbers, but it is nearly impossible to trace. I need to set somethings in motion...

(Janel nods and begins to do as Kurt instructed)

Kurt

And Janel, don't mention my name or my wife's name. I want you to be safe for the time being... If our names surface, it could be bad... I'll explain it later.

Janel runs to finish her tasks and Kurt begins to walk around the room, flipping hidden switches, and grabbing two bags hidden under a floorboard. They contain 2 weeks worth of food, and a weeks worth of clothing for himself, the kids, and now, Janel Clenwhen. After gathering all of the needed equipment, including his first aid kit, and a sniper rifle, two handguns, and Sig Sauer, he walked down to basement, where Janel was looking around in confusion.

Janel

Where is this car? I need to sit down...

Kurt

(looks at her, and puts one of the bags down. He then reaches for a bookcase next to Janel, and pulls out three books to reveal a blank wall. Kurt then pushes the wall in, and you hear a grating noise as the wall next to the book case swings in, and there is a privately owned Range Rover, in flat black, and with extra dark tinted windows.)

Janel, once we get in the car, you cannot get out until I say so. There will be men shooting at me, but the car is perfectly sealed. I designed it myself, and did all of the testing. Gases, and even an RPG or a Rocket would have trouble puncturing this beautiful machine.

(Pauses and then continues)

I am also wondering if you know how to use these...

(pulls out a handgun and a full spare clip)

Janel

(stares at the gun)

Mr. Lonsloe, I don't like guns... But if it will keep me safe...

(she takes the gun and puts it in her purse, but she first checks to see if the safety is on)

Kurt

(watches)

Okay then. We'll get going and light this place in history with my burning passion.

(smiles as he opens the car, and gets into the driver's seat. The two back doors pop open, and Janel puts Emily and Jio in their car seats, then climbs in next to Kurt. As the last door closes you hear slight hissing noise, and the air pressure increases slightly)

Kurt

(turns the key in the ignition, and pushes some gas into the system)

Okay Janel, let us have our steel chariot take us to safty.

(Smiles at his own words as he guns the engine, and plows through the wall in front of him, destroying the wood paneling, and as the car leaves the proximity of the house, a little remote detonator sets of a chain reaction in the house, destroying each and everyone of the switch boxes that Kurt had flipped)

Janel stared at the 50ft fireball in the air from the rearview mirror in wonderment.

Janel

So, Mr. Lonsloe, what exactly do you do for a living that would have men with guns chasing after you, a car that is more like a tank, a through understanding of firearms, and expert knowledge of warfare?

Kurt

(pausing)

What would you say if I said that I, up until tonight, owned the largest military organization in the world, and we only took jobs that interested us?

Janel

(without thinking blurts out)

I'd say you were a damned fool and the biggest fucking liar in the world. So exactly do you do?

Kurt

(smiles with an amused twinkle in his eyes at the response he got)

Exactly what I just said.

You hear a loud slapping noise as you hear Kurt being hit in the head with Janel's hand.

Janel

You freakin idiot!

(continues to hit him with varying intensities as the screen fades to black)

OUTSIDE A LARGE SEEMINGLY ABANDONED BUILDING – NIGHT

The black Range Rover pulls up in front of the build, and in the background you can see the flames from Kurt's house, over 30 miles away. The door opens and you see Kurt in his own form of battle gear; a completely black suit with blood-red tie and he had his cell phone out, and was talking to someone.

Kurt

(talking into his cell phone with slightly angry tones)

No, I need them at the safe house soon. Soon was 15 minutes ago.

(Kurt got back into the car and pulled out a little beeper as he turned the car back on. He then looked next to him and smiles)

You're getting a very good pay for this, you know that right?

Janel

(mutters and gives a sour face)

It's the only reason I'm helping... If the pay you promised as good as you say, I'm with you all the way.

Kurt

(clicks the button on the beeper as the front of the garage opens up to show a new steel platform. Kurt then begins to drive onto it.)

We're safe for a while here... There are some very powerful people who I also work with on the side... They don't like the old owner, the good Dr. Duncan Van Steele, who I now suspect to be behind the coup...

(he stops the car on the platform as it begins to rapidly descend)

Now Janel, they know that there are more than myself and the children. You cannot stare at them, and you cannot bother them. There is a very good chance they will kill you. We are dealing with mob bosses now, and if everything works out correctly, the path will become much clearer after tonight.

Janel

(stares at Kurt as if he is insane)

Re-re-re-al mob bosses? You mean mafia? Organized crime?

Kurt

(smiles as if nothing is wrong)

Yes, like that.

Suddenly the lift stops, and a door on the wall opens, revealing 13 armed guards, one of whom bears a striking resemblance to Selena, but in a more masculine way. Kurt gets out, and frowning speaks.

Kurt

Why are you here to greet me, you fool?

Mysterious Man
(laughing as he hugs Kurt)
It is good to see you brother!

Kurt
(grimacing as the hugging causes one of his ribs to crack)
Jared---please---stop!
(Jared lets go as Kurt begins to take deep breaths, refreshing his deflated lungs)
Jared... Why do you do that every time you see me? It always ends up with me needing
to have my ribs fixed...

Jared
(stares at Kurt confused)
Why...? All I did was hug you...

Kurt
(rubbing his ribs ruefully)
Janel, this is Jared, he is Selena's younger brother, and the second in line to be the Don. I
am currently in line to be the Don for the largest Family in town... And I didn't know it
when I married his sister, which the rest of the Family loves me for... I don't understand
why though...

*Janel steps out of the car, and looks around at the room as the guards step forward and
Kurt and Jared stop them.*

Kurt
You all know me, and under the rules that Selena explained to me, you are to trust me.
The woman is armed, and I will be responsible if anything happens to the Don at her
expense. The other two are the heirs to I and Selena, and are only infants, and therefore
are not required to be searched.
(Jared nods his agreement)

Janel
(moves to the back opens the doors, and retrieves both of the kids)
Am I gonna be caring for them myself? Or is someone from your... Family going to help
me?

Kurt answers before Jared or the other can.

Kurt
You will. You will have someone from the family helping you, but no armed guards. I
don't trust anyone from the Family with the exception of Jared because they have all
been on my payroll at one time or another.
Jared looks at Kurt with a Hurt look on his face and opens the door.

Jared

Come, the Don wishes to see his sons, and the future heirs to the Family.
Kurt, Jared, Janel, and the armed guards all exit through the door as it fades to darkness.

DON'S ROOM-INSIDE

The Don's room is richly furnished, and has an air of foreboding and imposing architecture. The walls are tall with books lining all of the shelves. The desk is a rich mahogany, and the curtains are a rich dark red. The man behind the desk is not as you would expect the Don. He is a thin wirey man, who doesn't seem like he could scare a mouse.

Don

Kurt! How good it is to see you again! Where is my daughter...?
(Asking looking next to Kurt for his beloved daughter Selena)

Kurt

(staring right into the Don's eyes)
She is dead. She was killed by my company, and someone you know well... Our old boss, Dr. Duncan Van Steele.

Don

He... is going to pay. Who killed her?

Kurt

It doesn't matter, I killed them already. I just need help with getting revenge on the good Doctor.
(looking at the Don with eyes of sadness)

Don

Kurt, I hate that man, but I need to keep the actual Family running... Do you think you could organize a counter plan, if you were to have the man power of a few smaller Families?

Kurt

Yes. I could Father.

Don

The go out, and take this ring.
(The Don slips off a large ring that is gold with silver engravings and holds an air about it. On the top part of the ring is a demon's head with two small rubies for eyes and a black opal for its mouth.)
This ring will grant you an audience with any Don in any Family. I am also naming you the next Don, so that when I die, you will take over the business.

Kurt bows and takes the ring as the scene fades to black, and you see Kurt walking out with Janel and Jared.