"The Fifth Estate"

The motion picture screenplay

WikiLeaks release: 23:00 GMT, September 18, 2013

Read the WikiLeaks internal memo on the film

Read the Dreamworks script

THE FIFTH ESTATE

***

OVER BLACK:

A WHISPER OF VOICES, barely audible at first. Confessional, personal, people sharing SECRETS.

WE FADE IN:

EXT. GUARDIAN – LONDON, ENGLAND – NEAR MIDNIGHT

A looming modern structure, steel and glass, home of...

July 2010


The whisper builds, pushing us into --
INT. GUARDIAN, BULLPEN – LONDON, ENGLAND – NEAR MIDNIGHT

A low buzz, a hustle of activity, journalists swirling. REPORTER NICK DAVIES, 50s, handsome, hustles along with RUMPLED EDITOR ALAN RUSBRIDGER, 50s. Alan's on a blackberry.

NICK DAVIES
If we hold the shooting in Kabul we can keep it all to 14 pages.

They pass ONE SHEETS tacked to the wall, we note the FRONT PAGE -- MASSIVE LEAK OF SECRET FILES EXPOSES TRUE AFGHAN WAR.

ALAN RUSBRIDGER
(off his blackberry)
The Times wants to go.

Alan glances over at Nick. Nick frowns.

NICK DAVIES
Let me talk to Rosenbach.

INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT – BERLIN, GERMANY – NIGHT (SAME TIME)

A quiet room. CLOSE ON a laptop screen, The Guardian website, no mention of the Afghan War Logs.

The cursor moves, hits the REFRESH BUTTON. The screen refreshes. Nothing's changed. The cursor HITS the button again. The screen refreshes, again it's the same.

As the cursor hits the button AGAIN --

EXT. POTSDAMER PLATZ – BERLIN, GERMANY – NIGHT (SAME TIME)

A SMALL BUILDING overshadowed by an array of GRAND MODERNITY.

Der Spiegel – Berlin, Germany

A rumble of German voices take us into --

INT. DER SPIEGEL, STARK'S OFFICE – BERLIN – NIGHT (SAME TIME)

A small office, ICONIC SPIEGEL COVERS on the walls. A BUTTONED UP EDITOR, STARK, 40s, stands over a PROGRAMMER working on the front page of SPIEGEL ONLINE. An English headline -- AMERICA'S SECRET WAR.

[IN GERMAN WITH SUBTITLES]--

STARK
No, I don't want to have to scroll
down for the Task Force 373 story.

ROSENBACK
Holger, I've got Nick.

Stark turns. A DISHEVELED REPORTER, ROSENBACK, stands in the
door with a laptop. Nick in an open Skype window.

STARK
(pleading, IN ENGLISH)
Five minutes. Five more minutes.

INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT (SAME TIME)

CLOSE ON a hand holding down the SHIFT KEY. RACK FOCUS to
the other hand, clicking a MOUSE over and over.

CUT TO --

EYES covered with THICK BLACK GLASSES. In their REFLECTION
we see the screen. Refreshing again. Still the same.

EXT. NEW YORK TIMES - NEW YORK, NEW YORK - 5PM (SAME TIME)

The familiar TIMES LOGO sprawled across a SLICK NEW
BUILDING.

BILL KELLER
(O.C.)
Alan, you said five o'clock.

INT. NEW YORK TIMES, BUNKER ROOM - NEW YORK - DAY (SAME
TIME)

A small room, BILL KELLER stands over a TECH, reads a story
on a laptop, DEPUTIES crowded round. A SPEAKERPHONE squawks.

ALAN
(ON SPEAKERPHONE)
Yes, Bill, I know but...

Bill NODS to the tech, he starts typing, taking the site
live.

The deputies start to clear out as...

INT. RUSBRIDGER'S OFFICE - LONDON, ENGLAND - NIGHT(SAME
TIME)

Nick stands with Alan, on the phone, as AGITATED as he gets.

ALAN
(ON THE PHONE)
...Nick just spoke to Rosenbach,
they need at least another few --

IAN
(O.C.)
They're live. The Times is live.

Alan lowers the phone, turns to DEPUTY EDITOR IAN KATZ, 40s, at a desktop. WE SEE the TIMES SITE live with THE WAR LOGS.

NICK DAVIES
Patience, humility, such cardinal
American virtues...

ALAN
(irritated)
Go.

As Nick rushes out of the office, Ian at his heels --

INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT (SAME TIME)

WE'RE WIDER NOW, we see a dimly lit office CLUTTERED with routers, servers, network gear.

In the middle of it all, the MAN IN GLASSES sits on a stool, his back to us, staring at a laptop. He's SHIRTLESS... A HUGE UNFINISHED WIKILEAKS TATTOO stretches across his back.

He holds shift, clicks the mouse, the site refreshes. He reaches for a mug, lifts it and PAUSES. Over his shoulder, THE GUARDIAN SITE: SECRET FILES EXPOSE AFGHAN WAR.

CUT TO --

DANIEL BERG, 31. His beard UNKEMPT, a WEARY LOOK, complex emotions playing across his face as he stares at the screen.

Off his reaction, we SMASH TO A SERIES OF MEDIA CLIPS --

TELEVISION MONTAGE (REAL FOOTAGE)

WOLF BLITZER and others report on the leak of the AFGHAN WAR LOGS. They show WAR FOOTAGE and pivot from military cover ups to the impact of Wikileaks on journalism, diplomacy, national security...

Finally, a few reports suggest Wikileaks is about to release HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF STATE DEPARTMENT CABLES...

TELEVISION (REAL FOOTAGE)

Obama speaks at the Rose Garden.

PRESIDENT OBAMA
...the disclosure could
potentially jeopardize individuals or operations...

EXT. PARCHIN MILITARY COMPLEX – TEHRAN, IRAN – DAY

DESERT landscape, a jagged mountain backdrop, barren save for an oddly located COMPLEX of STERILE WHITE BUILDINGS.

PARCHIN MILITARY COMPLEX – TEHRAN, IRAN

INT. PARCHIN MILITARY COMPLEX, CORRIDOR – TEHRAN, IRAN – DAY

FOUR SCIENTISTS in WHITE COATS walk through a WINDOWLESS CORRIDOR towards a MILITARY CHECKPOINT.

[ALL SCENES AT PARCHIN PLAY IN Farsi WITH SUBTITLES].

OLDER SCIENTIST'S VOICE

(O.C.)

A high speed camera will measure the explosive charge we've designed to trigger the chain reaction.

The youngest, SIM SARNA, 40s, carries a pad. He speaks up.

SIM SARNA

The dimensions are consistent with the Shahab missile payload?

The older scientist nods as ARMED GUARDS check IDs, do a RETINAL SCAN and then wave them through into --

INT. PARCHIN MILITARY COMPLEX, OBSERVATION ROOM – IRAN – DAY

A room of Iranian scientists. Sarna and his team walk in and join them at a LARGE OBSERVATION WINDOW that looks out on...

A HUGE SUBTERRANEAN COMPLEX. Technicians scurry around a large, cylindrical containment vessel surrounded by high speed cameras and cocooned with fiber-optic cables.

Sarna spots a BLUEPRINT with NUCLEAR SYMBOLS on the wall. A Teller-Ulam design for a NUCLEAR BOMB. Sarna opens his pad to take notes when a GENERAL walks up.

IRANIAN MILITARY GENERAL

Gentlemen, if you'll follow me.

He starts to lead them into the main complex when Sarna's cell RINGS. He checks the ID and HOLDS BACK. CONFUSED.

SIM SARNA

(ANSWERING THE PHONE)

This is Sim.
PUSH IN on his face as his EYES GO WIDE. A beat, then trying to remain calm, Sarna heads for the exit...

OLDER SCIENTIST
(O.C.)
Sim? They're detonating in fifteen minutes.

SIM SARNA
I... left my log book in the car.

As he turns, we SMASH TO --

EXT. PARCHIN MILITARY COMPLEX - TEHRAN, IRAN - DAY

A CAR barrels down the two lane road that cuts through the desert.

As we spot Sarna, FREAKED, at the wheel, SMASH TO --

INT./EXT. SARNA'S CAR (MOVING) - TEHRAN, IRAN - DAY

Sarna's PALE and SWEATING, eyes filled with FEAR as he SWERVES past slower moving vehicles. The car SCREECHES round a corner, SPEEDS down a residential block and SLAMS into a driveway of a PRETTY TWO STORY HOUSE.

Sarna BLOWS out of the car and we PULL BACK to... A LONG LENS tracking Sarna racing into the house.

REVERSE TO --

Two IRANIAN MEN IN SUITS in an unmarked sedan. WATCHING. One pulls back his jacket, reaches for a HOLSTERED GUN.

INT. SARNA'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - TEHRAN, IRAN - DAY

A well appointed kitchen. Sarna's young wife SHIDA is in modern dress and sings to a baby in her arms. Behind her, a MAID IN A BURKA cooks. [ALL IN PARI WITH SUBTITLES].

Sarna RUSHES in, PALE, SWEATING. He turns to the maid.

SIM SARNA
You need to go home.

SHIDA
She's cooking dinner.

SARNA
Now! She needs to go now, Shida!

The maid exits quickly. Shida turns, CONFUSED.

SARNA
(CONTINUED)
We need to pack. Everything.

Sarna's wife PALES as we hear a KNOCK at the door. Sarna turns. Through the window, we see the TWO MEN IN SUITS. LOOMING.

Off Sarna, TERRIFIED, we PRELAP --

JAMES BOSWELL
(PRELAP)
Any other sources we still need to notify in the Middle East?

EXT. U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT – WASHINGTON DC – DAY

The blocky, limestone architecture of Foggy Bottom.

The State Department, Washington D.C.

URGENT, AGITATED AMERICAN VOICES pull us into --

INT. U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, BUNKER ROOM – WASHINGTON DC – DAY

A chaotic swirl of TENSE DIPLOMATS on phones and BlackBerrys, sifting through a MOUNTAIN of dossiers all marked CONFIDENTIAL -- the fabled DIPLOMATIC CABLES.

DIPLOMAT
(O.C.)
Qaddafi's body man is one of ours.

FIND a DIPLOMAT at a WHITE BOARD: A MAP, a LIST OF COUNTRIES, and NAMES OF SOURCES in two columns, NOTIFY or EXTRACT.

STAFFER
Pulling him will torch the
Ambassador.

A STAFFER hands a file marked STRICTLY PROTECT to...

JAMES BOSWELL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DIPLOMATIC SECURITY. BOSWELL, 62, has the wisdom and unflappable air of someone who's been in the foreign service for over 30 years.

JAMES BOSWELL
We're pulling the Ambassador.

DIPLOMAT
Jesus. How long do we --

JAMES BOSWELL
Assange is talking to the press in
an hour, let's not screw around.

The men react but Boswell's already MOVING.

SPIN TO --

YOUNG DIPLOMAT
Karzai's going apeshit, I need the Secretary to put in another call.

A YOUNG DIPLOMAT with a FEW CABLES catches up with him.

JAMES BOSWELL
She's still talking Cameron down, let me handle him.

He TAKES the cables, moves past a BANK OF TVS -- CNN, FOX coverage of the leak -- and lands at a TABLE OF DOCUMENTS.

SARAH SHAW
You think the President of Turkmenistan will be more annoyed that I called him a practiced liar or that I called him vain?

DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE, SARAH SHAW, early 40s, eyes a cable. Sarah's brittle, a searing intelligence that hasn't always served well in the world of diplomacy and politics.

JAMES BOSWELL
He's heard worse.

SARAH SHAW
(reading)
The President doesn't like people smarter than him. Since he's not very bright, he's suspicious of a lot of people.

JAMES BOSWELL
Berdymukhamedov has been around a while, he doesn't tend to worry about the opinions of mid-level foreign attaches.

SARAH SHAW
(off the cable)
Yes, that's why I signed Hillary's name to it.

Tight smile from Boswell. That could get Sarah fired.

JAMES BOSWELL
I'll see if the Times will hold it.
SARAH SHAW  
I've got bigger issues.

She holds out a LARGE STACK of cables. Boswell BALKS.

JAMES BOSWELL  
Sarah, I'm collecting cables from the head of every foreign desk, I can't --

SARAH SHAW  
Then you tell me what to ignore.  
(off a few cables)  
This could destroy the Sudanese peace talks, this screws a source in Cairo...

JAMES BOSWELL  
The Times will redact the names.

SARAH SHAW  
What about him? Will he?

AGITATED, she eyes the TVs, each with a DIFFERENT IMAGE of JULIAN ASSANGE, ANGLED SHOTS so we can't see his face.

SARAH SHAW  
(CONTINUED)  
And don't tell me your buddy Keller's got him under control. Every news network on the planet is covering his press conference, he's bigger than the Times, he's going to do whatever the hell he wants. Just like he did with the war logs.

Boswell softens. CONCERNED --

JAMES BOSWELL  
Any word on Sim?

Sarah shakes her head, WORRIED.

SARAH SHAW  
300 million people gave us the responsibility of deciding what's public. Who in God's name elected him?

We push past her, towards the bank of tvs, towards the VAGUE, FRACTURED OF IMAGES of ASSANGE and we hear...

CBS ANCHOR  
Love him or loathe him,
MSNBC ANCHOR
(ON THE MONITOR)
Assange provokes debate --

Julian Assange is not your
average journalist --

CNN ANCHOR
Some have argued he’s not really a
journalist at all...

Push into a MONITOR -- MORE STOLEN GLIMPSES of Julian...
putting on boots, hauling a backpack...

CBS ANCHOR
The peripatetic internet muckraker
is used to bounding...

INT. ANKE’S APARTMENT – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAY (SAME TIME)

MATCH CUT TO A LAPTOP, STREAMING VIDEO from CBS and a
COLLAGE of other NEWS SITES, all open to stories on the war
logs. On the video, Julian pulls the wrapping off a new cell
phone...

CBS ANCHOR
(O.C.)
...from city to city, regularly
changing his cell phones,
hairstyles and general appearance,
he says to avoid surveillance...

We hear the BRITISH DOUBLE PURR of a recently placed phone
call and FIND Daniel, AGITATED, phone to his ear. A shirt on
now, he rifles through a BACKPACK just like Julian’s.

DANIEL
Come on. Come on, pick up.

Daniel grabs a SECOND LAPTOP as the DOUBLE PURR takes us
to--

INT. LONDON TAXI CAB – LONDON, ENGLAND – DAY (SAME TIME)

MATCH SOUND TO A RINGING PHONE... in the hands of ZIGGY, a
17-YEAR-OLD INTERNS in a rear facing jump seat in the back of
a crowded cab. We spy a FRACTURED REFLECTION in the
window...

A GLOWING LAPTOP SCREEN, a SHOCK OF WHITE HAIR.

PAN TO...

A MAN WITH WHITE HAIR opposite Ziggy, hunched over his
laptop. Beside him, the SAME BACKPACK as Daniel. We don't
see his face, but we know it's JULIAN ASSANGE, 39.

ZIGGY
It's Daniel.

Julian waves him off. Ziggy SILENCES the phone as the cab pulls up in front of the FRONTLINE CLUB.

The intern opens the door and we CUT INTO --

INT. FRONTLINE CLUB, PRESS ROOM - LONDON - DAY (SAME TIME)

PRESS MILLING. Photos of soldiers on the wall, copies of The Guardian everywhere -- MASSIVE LEAK EXPOSES TRUE AFGHAN WAR. A BBC REPORTER stands near a PODIUM, doing a live feed.

BBC REPORTER (TO CAMERA)
A few months ago, most people had never heard of Wikileaks or its mysterious and eccentric founder...

OFF TO ONE SIDE, a small group of reporters congratulate Ian Katz, now in GUARDIAN PRESS TAGS.

Suddenly, he hears --

NEWSMEN
(WHISPERING)
He's here. / Assange is here.

Ian looks up, spies Ziggy on the edge of the room.

As he starts to move, we hear a loud KNOCK and we SMASH TO --

INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY (SAME TIME)

Daniel pulls open the door. MARCUS, 30s, a BEARDED HACKER with an IMPOSING PRESENCE, pushes in carrying a laptop bag.

Daniel leads him to his desk, where several laptops are now up and running. Marcus pulls another out of his pack.

MARCUS
Did you reach him?

DANIEL
No.

As Marcus pops open the laptop, Daniel glances at a TV. We see our BBC Reporter in the Frontline Club press room.

BBC REPORTER
Mr. Assange dismissed reports of internal dissention and defections
Daniel and Marcus trade a LOOK, Daniel moves to a laptop. We see the WIKILEAKS SITE and an OPEN CHAT BOX. Daniel TYPES.
  ddd: Julian? Are you there?

INT. FRONTLINE CLUB, GREEN ROOM – LONDON – DAY (SAME TIME)

MATCH CUT TO ANOTHER LAPTOP. A CHAT pops up in a CHAT BOX.
  ddd: Julian? Are you there?

Next to the chat, a collage of PAUSED VIDEO CLIPS and ONLINE ARTICLES... all about Assange. REVEAL Julian, back to us, typing a speech on a second laptop. Julian pauses, looks at the chat box, IGNORES it, but glances over at the ARTICLES.

Ian Katz walks in and peers over Julian's shoulder.

  IAN KATZ
  A man points to the moon and the idiots look at his finger.

  JULIAN
  Then I suppose we'll have to give them the moon again.

Julian smiles up at Ian. It's the first time we've gotten a good look at him. And he's fucking MAGNETIC.

Julian takes the laptop he was working on and exits. HOLD ON the other laptop. On Daniel's BLINKING MESSAGE.

SMASH TO --

INT. FRONTLINE CLUB, PRESS ROOM – LONDON – DAY (SAME TIME)

Julian shuffles to the podium, Ian behind him. The press hushes as Julian opens up his laptop. He pauses, looks out at the crowd, TAKING IN THE MOMENT. A beat, then --

  JULIAN
  If journalism is good it is controversial by its nature...

INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAY (SAME TIME)

MATCH CUT to Julian on TV.

Marcus and Daniel watch.

  JULIAN
  (ON THE MONITOR)
  Of course, powerful abusers always attempt to criticise the messenger--
As Julian speaks, we PUSH IN on Daniel...

    JULIAN
    (ON THE MONITOR)
    (CONTINUED)
    ...to distract from the power of
    the message...

    MARCUS
    Daniel. If you want to do this, we
    need to do it now.

Daniel turns back towards his laptop. As he rubs his eyes, we push past him, to the laptop screen, the blinking cursor.
    ddd: Julian? Are you there?

PUSH IN as faint ELECTRONICA starts WHISPERING, PULSING...
Suddenly, THE LETTERS CHANGE FROM GREEN TO WHITE. SLAM INTO--

INT. EDS (ELECTRONIC DATA SYSTEMS) – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAY

White letters on black. Tinny electronica a little louder.
    ddd: Julian? Are you there?

PULL BACK to REVEAL another computer screen. Another chat box. And a man wearing HUGE BLACK HEADPHONES. SPIN TO --

A YOUNGER DANIEL BERG, now 28, in a CATASTROPHE OF A
CUBICLE. FILES everywhere, a DIRT BIKE against the wall, desk littered with BOTTLES of CLUB MATE energy cola, WILLIAM
GIBSON NOVELS, CALL OF CTHULHU BOOKS, an odd ANTENNA made of
PRINGLE'S CANS.

    December 2007

    Electronic Data Systems – Berlin, Germany

Daniel's in T-SHIRT and JEANS, CLEAN SHAVEN, no world weary
to his mien... a YOUTHFUL LIGHT in his eyes as he looks
hopefully at the screen.

ON THE SCREEN, we WIDEN to reveal TIME CODES and SCROLL UP
[NOTE: There should be 15 or 20, these are representative.]
  07-12-23 11:29 jjj: hey daniel, see
  you in Berlin?
  07-12-23 11:30 ddd: julian! you're
  coming?
  07-12-23 11:30 ddd: you send in the
  forms for your talk?
  07-12-24 12:41 ddd: julian? are you
  there?
  07-12-26 13:56 ddd: heya, you still
  logged on?
07-12-27 16:41 ddd: julian? are you there?

SUPERVISOR
(O.C.)
Mr. Berg.

REVEAL DANIEL'S SUPERVISOR, black suit and gray temples, at the cubicle door. He's trying to get Daniel's attention. Daniel, OBLIVIOUS, reaches for a bottle of CLUB MATE.

ANNOYED, the Supervisor TAPS on Daniel's headphones. Daniel turns, pulls off a headphone; the electronica WHINES.

SUPERVISOR
(CONTINUED)
Have you seen this?

He holds out a STACK OF PAGES, GERMAN TEXT over IMAGES OF THE GRINCH: ACHTUNG! LASSEN SIE SICH NICHT DER GRINCH! [LISTEN! DON'T BE A GRINCH!]

SUPERVISOR
(CONTINUED)
They're printing on ... every printer in the office.

Daniel looks to the printer outside his door. CHURNING.

DANIEL
Guess someone's pissed you made New Year's Eve a work day.

SUPERVISOR
Yes, and as our resident computer freak, could you find out who that someone is?

Daniel pulls up a DIAGNOSTIC on his computer. He scans it...

DANIEL
Whoever did it disguised his IP address. According to this, the print jobs are coming from... your computer.

The supervisor STARES. Daniel stands, starts PACKING UP.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
It's thousands of pages. You'll have to manually reboot if you want it to stop.

SUPERVISOR
(off Daniel packing up)
Where are you going? I need you to finish the Opel --

Daniel hands him TWO FOLDERS from the bottom of his pile.

DANIEL
I costed out GM too, in case you need something to do tomorrow.

As the Supervisor stares down at the folders, Daniel grabs his bike, takes off... exiting the cubicle and crossing with ANKE DOMSCHEIT (CUTE, 20S). Daniel’s clearly into her.

ANKE
Charlie in maintenance said you left this by the scanner.

She holds out a German edition of The Grinch Who Stole Christmas (WIE DER GRINCH). Daniel takes the book.

DANIEL
Happy New Year.

Daniel SMILES, pops on his headphones and wheels off. Anke, not quite sure what to make of him, watches as he heads past SEVERAL CHURNING PRINTERS. Tinny electronica SWELLS and...

WE RISE UP over A MAZE OF CUBICLES, little boxes, each with a SUIT at a TIDY DESK. Daniel weaves through the maze, moving to music no one else hears, music that POUNDS US INTO --

EXT. ALEXANDERPLATZ – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAY

A CRANE SHOT of the famous plaza. Industrial Eastern Bloc architecture broken up by COLORFUL MURLS and western ADS.

The camera PANS DOWN through the gentle snowfall and we PICK UP A BACKPACK on a BIKE -- Daniel, HEADPHONES ON, weaving through clusters of pedestrians in the vast square.

EXT. BCC (BERLINER CONGRESS CENTER) – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAY

Daniel glides to a stop at the edge of the plaza. He hops off the bike, looks up.

A HUGE ROCKET stands outside the entrance to the HUGE CONFERENCE CENTER. A COLORFUL SIGN flaps in the wind.

24c3: DECEMBER 27TH-31st, 2007 24TH CHAOS COMPUTER CONGRESS - VOLLDAMPF VORAUS!

Daniel watches as a CROWD of GRUNGY YOUNG MEN STREAM into the building.
A SMILE crosses his face and we CUT TO --

**INT. BCC (BERLINER CONGRESS CENTER) – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAY**

NERDY MEN with TATS and EAR BUDS push into a hall of PULSING MUSIC, FLASHING MONITORS, and JERRY-RIGGED ELECTRONICS.

FIND DANIEL in the throng, CAPTIVATED as he passes BOOTHS of HACKERS working on various high and low tech initiatives. In one, a REEDY KID with thick glasses TAKES APART an iPhone...

REEDY HACKER
Once you crack the source code, you
can reprogram it for any carrier...

...in another, a FAT HACKER powers up a QUADROCOPTER...

FAT HACKER
A 4K cam, varifocal zoom... it's
the future of government
surveillance...

The hacker paws a REMOTE CONTROL and the QUADROCOPTER RISES. THE CAMERA FOLLOWS as it flies over booths -- Electronic Graffiti, Quantum Cryptography -- it's WILD, a stark contrast to the lifeless EDS cubicles.

The copter CIRCLES BACK to --

Daniel, ABSORBED, much more at home here than at EDS, grabs a PAMPHLET from the quadrocopter booth and heads towards--

**INT. BCC, VOLUNTEER DESK – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAY**

Three guys in 24c3 shirts sign in participants, volunteers. Behind them, a MAN pulls NETWORK SWITCHES from an EDS BOX. Daniel walks up, hands a form to one of the volunteers.

DANIEL
Daniel Berg, I volunteered to sell
shirts tomorrow?

As Daniel hands a form, the MAN at the EDS box turns. We recognize him -- it's a well-rested, almost jovial MARCUS.

MARCUS
Hey, Daniel, thanks for getting EDS
to donate again.

DANIEL
Donate may be the wrong word.

Marcus smiles, exits with the switches. A volunteer returns with a STACK OF SHIRTS. As Daniel grabs them, glancing at an
EASEL with the LECTURE SCHEDULE, we hear an AUSTRALIAN
TWANG--

JULIAN
(O.C.)
We must be on the schedule. My
associate Jay Lim sent in our
proposal months ago.

Daniel turns, sees JULIAN ASSANGE, a strange picture with
two backpacks and a TENT. Irritated, he lobbies OTTO, one of
the guys at the desk. Otto has an EARLOBE CORK, is
UNIMPRESSED.

OTTO
We didn't get anything from
Wikileaks --

JULIAN
Wikileaks. This is ridiculous.
Who's in charge here?

DANIEL
Julian?

Julian turns, doesn't recognize him.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
It's Daniel. Daniel Berg. I
contacted you over chat?

JULIAN
Daniel. Thank God.
(leans in,
conspiratorial)
For a moment, I thought you were...

He nods towards a BLUE HAIR ED WEIRDO with a ton of
piercings, gripping a laptop and staring at them from a
nearby couch.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Online dating has gotten me into
trouble before.

A MISCHIEVOUS grin. It's MAGNETIC. Daniel smiles.

OTTO
(O.C.) (out of patience)
I have people waiting here.

DANIEL
Otto, his organization is super
cool, they've been doing crazy shit in Kenya, they just leaked a major report on government corruption.

OTTO
(skeptical, off the tent)
You took on the Kenyan government from a tent.

JULIAN
I thought it more prudent than checking into the Nairobi Hilton.
(to Daniel)
Of course that didn't stop Kibaki from raiding our compound.

OTTO
The President of Kenya attacked your compound?

JULIAN
Twenty men, with heavy artillery...
(to Otto, an edge)
Least you could do is put me on the program.

OTTO
I'm afraid the small conference rooms are all booked.

DANIEL
(off the schedule)
What about the auditorium? It's empty 'til the X-Box Security talk.

OTTO
(beat, then relenting)
You can have it for a half hour.
But you'll have to print flyers if you want an audience.

JULIAN
That shouldn't be a problem.

Julian grabs his things and heads directly for a printer room... marked CLUB MEMBERS ONLY. Otto shoots Daniel a look.

DANIEL
God forbid we give free toner to human rights activists.

INT. BCC, PRINTER ROOM - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY

CLOSE ON a laptop hooked up to a printer... SPITTING OUT FLYERS with WIKILEAKS LOGOS.
Daniel enters. He sees the laptop sitting by a ROW OF PRINTERS, but no Julian. Until --

JULIAN
(O.C.)
Sorry, I totally spaced on that proposal. Of course I was a little busy in Nairobi.

Julian gets out from UNDER A TABLE WITH a BCC EXTENSION CORD.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
By the way, that report we leaked shifted voting 10% in the Presidential election. You should mention that when you introduce me.

DANIEL
Sure.

But Daniel's STARING at Julian, who's pulled out a pen knife, cut the extension cord and swiftly started to FUSE it with a shredded power cord. Julian notices Daniel staring.

JULIAN
Shredded my power cord in Mombasa, I'm almost out of juice. I assume the club won't mind making a small donation?

DANIEL
I'll pay for the cord if you actually get it to work.

Julian plugs the newly repaired cord into his laptop... and the screen BRIGHTENS.

JULIAN
If you're going to take on global corruption, you need a few super powers.

Daniel can't help but SMILE. He picks up a flyer.


JULIAN
(PRELAP) (CONTINUED)
I'm a mathematician by training...

INT. BCC, MAIN AUDITORIUM - BERLIN, GERMANY - EARLY EVENING
MATCH CUT TO projection of the image from the flyer.

JULIAN
When I was a grad student in
Melbourne, I began thinking about
information. How it flows through
people and society...

PULL BACK to find Julian with his laptop at a podium.

To one side of the stage, THE NEXT SPEAKER sets up a few
deconstructed X-BOX 360s beside a CORKBOARD covered with
exhibits for his talk: 'Deconstructing Xbox 360 Security.'

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
...and how, when new information
comes to light, it can bring about
great change.

Daniel, also on stage, watches as Julian pulls out a WAD of
TWINE, moves to the corkboard.

The X-Box guy looks up, CONCERNED, as Julian wraps the twine
around a PUSH PIN holding up part of the X-Box exhibit,
STRINGING THE TWINE to another pin holding up another part.

Julian POINTS to the two pins and the twine. ILLUSTRATING.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Two people and a secret. The
beginning of any conspiracy, of all
corruption. As it grows...

Daniel watches, RIVETED, as Julian STRETCHES the twine to
another pin. And another. And another...

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
More people... and more secrets.

CLOSE ON THE BOARD as Julian RAPIDLY RUNS TWINE AROUND PINS,
ensnaring more of the exhibit in his web. It's MESMERIZING.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
But. If we can find one moral man,
one whistleblower...

Julian focuses on a PIN at the CENTER of his web of twine.
CLOSE ON THE PIN as he LOOPS MORE TWINE AROUND IT...

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Someone willing to expose these
secrets --

Julian PULLS THE TWINE TAUT... then YANKS THE CENTER PIN...
PULLING THE TWINE SO THAT ALL THE PINS POP OUT OF THE BOARD.
THE FLYERS FALL, SCATTERING ALL AROUND JULIAN.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
That man... can topple the most
repressive of regimes.

Julian pins a WIKILEAKS FLYER on the NOW EMPTY CORKBOARD.

X BOX GUY
Was zur hoelle!

JULIAN
And there's the problem.
Retribution.

X BOX GUY
Otto, my talk is in ten minutes.

The X-Box guy, PISSED, looks to Otto who's with a CUTE HACKER GIRL in back of the EMPTY AUDITORIUM, maybe A DOZEN HACKERS.

OTTO
Okay, we're done here.

Otto glares at Daniel, who would be embarrassed, if he weren't so focused on Julian. Julian keeps going, oblivious.

JULIAN
Whistleblowers are afraid to come
forward because they fear
retribution. What if we could take
that fear away?

Otto moves to stop Julian, but the hacker girl, INTRIGUED, reaches out to STOP HIM. Otto frowns as Julian continues.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Twenty years ago I got my first
modem and joined a legion.
Cypherpunks fighting for freedom,
for privacy -- for the right to
remain concealed in clouds of code.

Julian hits his laptop. NUMBERS and CODE appear on screen.
It's not the most advanced graphic you've ever seen.

JULIAN
Today's hackers take it for granted, but they surf the net in peace thanks to the turf wars we fought. And the crypto --

ON SCREEN, the numbers and code fade a bit, revealing the outline of a person. Again, the graphic is AMATEUR, but it gets the point across... the person is hidden in code.

**JULIAN**

(CONTINUED)
The programs we created to hide data, to hide our identities -- even then I knew this technology could be the key to a whole new form of social justice.

(then)
We could expose a thousand dark secrets if we could keep just one.

ON SCREEN, the graphic morphs into the WIKILEAKS WEBSITE.

**JULIAN**

(CONTINUED)
Hundreds of volunteers work on the documents we're sent, but we've honed our technology to the point that even I don't know the identity of our sources.

Julian, ENERGIZED, talks like he's speaking to a huge crowd.

**JULIAN**

(CONTINUED)
If no one knows the whistleblower's identity, he has nothing to fear.
And if he has nothing to fear...

Julian taps a laptop and WIKILEAked DOCUMENTS appear on the screen: a MILITARY CRACKDOWN in ZAMBIA... CORRUPTION IN SOMALIA... TOP SECRET U.S. DOCUMENTS on GUANTANAMO BAY.

**JULIAN**

(CONTINUED)
As Oscar Wilde said, man is least himself when he talks in his own person. Give him a mask and he will tell you the truth.

**INT. BCC, LOBBY - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT**

THE X-BOX GUY apologizes to a crowd at the auditorium door.

**X-BOX GUY**
(O.C.)
Sorry, it's going to be a few
minutes. We had some... technical
difficulties.

DANIEL
Cool talk, huh?

Daniel walks out of the auditorium with Otto, whose arm is
around the hacker girl.

OTTO
No, not cool. People anonymously
sharing secrets, isn't that why we
tore down the wall?

Julian joins with his gear.

JULIAN
Believe me, no one's interested in
your secrets.
(to Otto's girlfriend)
Yours on the other hand...

She blushes, CHARMED. Otto, THREATENED, pulls her off.

DANIEL
Great talk, shame turnout wasn't
better.

Julian's still watching Otto's girl, who smiles back at him.

JULIAN
One convert at a time.

Daniel laughs, pulls out his 24c3 FAHRPLAN.

DANIEL
By the way, I can soup up those
graphics if you want. From the end
of the talk?

JULIAN
What's wrong with the ones I have?

DANIEL
Nothing. I'm sure they would have
blown people away in the eighties.

Again, Julian considers Daniel... who holds out his
FAHRPLAN.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
You want to check out the talk on
Microcontrollers? I hear the guy who invented TV-B-Gone is speaking.
(off Julian's BLANK look)
It's a remote, you walk into a bar, you can turn off all the TVs and...

Daniel reads Julian's contempt, WILTS a little.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
...I guess it's kind of stupid.

JULIAN
No, it sounds interesting. But...
don't you find it tiring? Spending
time with all these wankers?

Daniel grows still. He LOVES these wankers. Or did, until
just now. Julian pretending not to notice, leans in --

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Look at them. Useless idiots,
cracking X-Boxes, building antennae
out of Pringles cans, probably
spending all their free time
reading Neuromancer and playing
Call of Cthulhu. What a waste.

Daniel BLANCHES. Julian's just described HIM.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Capable generous men, men of
purpose- we need to seek nobler
inspiration.
(then)
Come on.

Julian flashes a SEDUCTIVE SMILE then races out the door.

As Daniel follows on his heels, we SMASH TO --

EXT. ALONG THE RIVER SPREE - BERLIN, GERMANY - NEAR MIDNIGHT

Government buildings loom, modernist sculptures along the
river. Two figures race down a street, one checks his watch.

JULIAN
Shit! We've only got twenty
minutes! Come on!

Julian rushes ahead, Daniel chasing after him as we CUT TO --
EXT. GLASS BUILDING - BERLIN, GERMANY - NEAR MIDNIGHT

Daniel, out of breath, catches up to Julian, as he approaches a HUGE GLASS GOVERNMENT BUILDING, all lit up.

JULIAN
The guard goes on break at midnight.

Julian eyes his watch, slips into the building. Daniel, INTRIGUED, follows.

We watch through the glass as they race up the STAIRCASE, towards a BRIDGE OVERHEAD...

EXT. BRIDGE - BERLIN - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

Julian and Daniel run onto the bridge. Julian, GIDDY, slides across the last few yards, coming to a stop in the middle.

DANIEL
Wow.

Daniel pulls up beside Julian, STARING at a CRAZY VIEW of THE REICHSTAG, it's MAJESTIC GLASS DOME shining in the moonlight.

JULIAN
A government destroyed by tyranny then rebuilt with a dome of glass so the whole world could look in. There's an ideal to aspire to.

Julian turns, gestures the other way. THE ENTIRE CITY stretches before them, it's TOTALLY FUCKING SPECTACULAR.

JULIAN (CONTINUED)
Just look at it, Daniel. Reborn from the ashes -- a city once ruled by fascists, now overrun with artists and anarchists and sunlight... transparency...

Daniel reacts. He looks to Julian, INSPIRED.

DANIEL
My father took me to see the dome when they first built it. I was 13. He wasn't quite so eloquent.

JULIAN
When I was 13, my mother started dating a guy who was part of a nasty Australian cult. The Family.
They believed in blue auras and cleansing souls and had a surprisingly large network of influence, extending to the highest levels of government. My mum knew the guy was a wanker, but by the time she came to her senses they'd had a kid together and... we spent the next three years on the run. The Family chased us all over the country.

\[\text{DANIEL}\]
\(\text{(beat)}\)
Jesus. That's terrifying.

\[\text{JULIAN}\]
Why do you think my hair's white?

Julian's straight faced. Is he serious? Before we can hazard a guess, an ALARM BLARES. Julian spots TWO GUARDS heading up the staircase towards the bridge.

\[\text{JULIAN}\]
\(\text{(CONTINUED)}\)
Shit! Abandon ship!

Julian, LAUGHING, GRABS Daniel, pulls him the other way...

\[\text{EXT. TACHELES - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT}\]

A cathedral-like building with a mural: 'HOW LONG IS NOW?' Julian and Daniel approach the building.

\[\text{DANIEL}\]
It's called the Tacheles, it's an artists' squat. They were gonna tear it down in the 90s, but some painters occupied it.

\[\text{JULIAN}\]
That's cool.

They walk through the gate and we CUT INTO --

\[\text{EXT. TACHELES, ARTISTS' GARDEN - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT}\]

A garden of AVANT-GARDE METAL SCULPTURES and IRIDESCENT PAINTINGS. We hear techno music drifting down from above.

FIND a Bocconi style PORTRAIT OF A MAN staring out at us...

\[\text{JULIAN}\]
\(\text{(O.C.)}\)
Pretty great, isn't it?
Julian stands in front of a canvas with Daniel. Daniel nods.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Now look closer, beyond the image, past the colors... until you've found the element that unlocks the portrait, the single brushstroke that reveals the essence of the painting, of the painter.
(then)
To me that's what hacking is. Finding that stroke, that code, that tiny point of entry...

Julian looks at Daniel. Looking for his point of entry?

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
I should get to work.

Abruptly, he heads for the building. Daniel checks the time.

DANIEL
Now?

INT. TACHELES, STAIRWAY - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

Julian sprints up the stairs, calling out...

JULIAN
Life on the run, Aussie jet lag, you stop distinguishing between night and day.

Julian brushes past exiting club goers, knocking a GREEN HAIR ED TATTOO QUEEN into... Daniel, struggling to keep up.

DANIEL
Uh, excuse me.

The woman gives Daniel a LOOK as he slips past her.

INT. TACHELES, UPSTAIRS CLUB - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

More AVANT-GARDE ART and ECCENTRICS moving to MELLOW ELECTRONICA. Daniel finds Julian opening his laptop at one of the TABLES in the corner. Daniel sits and follows suit.

DANIEL
So... what are you working on?

Julian lowers his laptop screen, scrutinizing Daniel.
JULIAN
Look, today was fun, but these are sensitive documents, people's lives are at stake.

DANIEL
You can trust me.

JULIAN
Can I?

Julian eyes an ANARCHIST TATTOO, a BLACK CAT on Daniel's arm.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
When I was your age I called myself an anarchist too. But do you really want to change the world, Daniel? Or is that just some sticker you wear to look cool.

Daniel's surprised at Julian's SUDDEN CHANGE IN TONE. It's tough, CONFRONTATIONAL, like the tone he took with Otto.

DANIEL
I mean, I've read Orwell, Kropotkin, some Chomsky. 'The burden of proof has to be placed on authority.' You know, all animals are equal.

Julian eyes him, impassive, not responding.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
That's Animal Farm? Maybe you've read it.

Daniel gives him a little smile. It's endearing. Julian takes it in... and makes a DECISION. Julian flicks on a CELLULAR MOBILE ROUTER and starts TYPING ON HIS LAPTOP. A CHAT BUBBLE appears on Daniel's laptop.

CLOSE ON CHAT: ircs://chat.wikileaks.org/

Daniel, mystified, glances at Julian then clicks the link. A CHAT WINDOW appears on his computer. Julian TYPES.

jjj: we talk in here.

Daniel, getting it, leans forward and TYPES. [NOTE: CHAT APPEARS ON OUR SCREEN, LIKE SUBTITLES].

ddd: it's secure? encrypted?

jjj: yes. and quiet.
Daniel SMILES. They start TYPING in QUIET CONVERSATION.
  jjj: there's a new leak on the submission platform.

  ddd: the submission platform?

Daniel looks up at Julian. Julian smiles, mysterious...
  jjj: In my twenties, I created a tool called Rubberhose...

And suddenly, we SMASH INTO --

INT. INTERNET - NIGHT

A UNIVERSE OF DATA. A DOCUMENT moves at great speed through an infinite abstraction of facts, figures, information...
  jjj: It hid sensitive information beneath layers and layers of fake data. Wikileaks is based on the same idea...

...and whenever we move close to the document, it's suddenly PROTECTED, wrapped in a multi-layered SMOKESCREEN OF DATA...
  jjj: We constantly upload fake data from fake sources to make it impossible to monitor our real sources...

...the document slides down through WORMHOLES of data...
  jjj: Their very presence is infinitely deniable.

...FLITTING AWAY from us as we catch up to it...
  jjj: We keep no records as to when or where you uploaded from, your time zone, your browser...

...the document slips through what feels like the inside of the internet, until at last we SMASH TO --

THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM - NIGHT (SAME TIME)

A door opens and a document lands on a FLOOR OF SAND.
  jjj: The system makes leaks untraceable.

They simply turn up on the submission platform.

PULL BACK to find THOUSANDS OF DOORS line walls of a space receding to infinity. WELCOME TO THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM.

A SURREALISTIC VISION, Julian's romantic view of journalism. ROWS of STEEL DESKS set in sand, a different COMPUTER on each, FLUORESCENTS hanging oddly above. Behind the doors, we
hear the SOUND OF AN OCEAN. In front, find...

Julian with Daniel, at their Tacheles table. Daniel, taking it all in, spots a few OCCUPIED DESKS. Glowing monitors obscure faces, but we see NAME PLATES. J LIM. T BELLMAN.

A beat, then Julian nudges Daniel. A STACK OF DOCUMENTS sits in front of one of the doors. Daniel looks at them, maybe noticing a JULIUS BAER LOGO on the front page. He TYPES.

    ddd: who's it from?

    JULIAN

    (V.O.)

    I have no idea.

INT. TACHELES, UPSTAIRS CLUB - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

Julian smiles at Daniel.

    JULIAN

    See the beauty of it?

He nods to his laptop, a doc with THE SAME JULIUS BAER LOGO.

    jjj: ever hear of Julius Baer?

    ddd: it's a big Swiss Bank, right?

And now, we SMASH TO --

EXT. JULIUS BAER BANK - ZURICH, SWITZERLAND - EARLY EVENING

The grand neoclassical facade of BANK JULIUS BAER.

    jjj: huge. manages $100 billion for the ultra rich.

We PUSH past the large logo, through a window into --

INT. JULIUS BAER BANK - ZURICH, SWITZERLAND - EARLY EVENING

The rich, traditionally decorated LOBBY of BANK JULIUS BAER. BANKERS in wealthy suits greet obscenely wealthy CLIENTELE.

    jjj: wealthy assholes in Germany, Switzerland, UK...

A POV SHOT walks us out of the lobby and into...

A HALLWAY OF WOOD CUBICLES, THICK DOORS. The bankers pass us, leading their clients down the hall.

    ddd: the leak is from someone inside the bank?

    jjj: think so, my associate Jay Lim is working the docs.

The POV SHOT FOLLOWS the bankers and their clients into...
A POSH CORNER OFFICE. We see a stack of DOCUMENTS on a TABLE beside a WHITE BOARD with a SHELL COMPANY DIAGRAM.  
jjj: we think they show how the bank uses offshore secrecy laws to hide $$ for fat cats.

PAN AROUND THE TABLE TO FIND Daniel and Julian sitting there, looking from the documents to the WHITE BOARD DIAGRAM.

WAITRESS
(O.C.)
Guten tag.

SMASH BACK TO THE TACHELES

Julian and Daniel stare at the WHITE BOARD DIAGRAM, now on Julian's laptop. A WAITRESS with a NOSE RING smiles at them.

Julian SLAMS SHUT his laptop, paranoid, HOSTILE.

WAITRESS
(CONTINUED)
(smile fading, bored)
Let me guess. Secret plans for the revolution?

EXT. TACHELES - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

Julian walks out of the cathedral-like building, TAPPING on his computer, a MEMORY STICK in the USB slot.

DANIEL
So it's tax evasion.

REVEAL Daniel following behind, carrying all the bags.

JULIAN
On a grand scale. How secure is your computer?

DANIEL
GELI full disk encryption with two factor authentication.

JULIAN
Good. Unlike most reporters, we verify our sources. Jay and our volunteers in Switzerland will analyze the docs, but I need you to confirm they're real.

Julian pulls out the MEMORY STICK, holds it out to Daniel.
JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
The meta data should list the authors. Extract it and verify these people work at the bank.

Julian's warm, but Daniel STARES at the memory stick.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
What? Did you think we just threw what we got up on the website?

DANIEL
No, but.. you're just giving me the docs?

JULIAN
You said I could trust you.

DANIEL
(mans up, takes the stick)
You can.

JULIAN
I know. I'm a good judge of character.

Julian flashes a smile then grabs his things, heads off.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Stay off the internet when working on the docs. And buy yourself a cryptophone.

INT. JULIUS BAER BANK - ZURICH, SWITZERLAND - DAY
A familiar hallway. A phone RINGS, breaking the silence.

FIND a FORMIDABLE ASSISTANT in a cubicle outside the posh corner office. She picks up the phone.

ZILKE'S ASSISTANT
(INTO THE PHONE)
Julius Baer, Ralf Zilke's office.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. EDS, NINTH FLOOR STORE ROOM - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY
CLOSE ON Daniel, cryptophone to his ear.

DANIEL
(INTO THE PHONE)
I'm sorry, I must have the wrong
extension. What division is this?

ZILKE'S ASSISTANT
This is Personal Wealth Management.
Who were you looking for?

REVEAL Daniel in small closet filled with cleaning SUPPLIES.
He sits on an overturned MOP BUCKET, a document on his lap.

DANIEL
Sorry, I was actually looking
for...

Daniel eyes TWO LAPTOPS crammed on a shelf. On one, the
WHITE BOARD DIAGRAM. On the other, a window of META DATA
with A TIME STAMP and a LIST OF AUTHORS, Ralf Zilke and...

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
...Leisal Grop.

ASSISTANT
Ms. Grop is down the hall in Client
Services. Can I transfer you?

DANIEL
Yes, please. Thank you.

Daniel waits a beat... then HANGS UP THE PHONE. He pulls out
a pencil, looks down at the document on his lap.

CLOSE ON a marked up LIST OF NAMES. Daniel CHECKS OFF Zilke
and Grop, begins writing down their divisions when...

The STORE ROOM DOOR OPENS BEHIND HIM.

ANKE
Daniel? What are you doing in here?

Daniel turns. Anke is in the door. Just then, one of his
computers BEEPS. A chat pops up.
TBellman: Daniel, I'm Thomas
Bellman, WL's Swiss spokesman.
Julian said you're working on the
bank docs?

ANKE
(CONTINUED)
Daniel, what's going on?

Daniel looks from the computer to Anke, AWKWARD.

DANIEL
I'm doing some... sensitive research.

The laptop BEEPS again. Daniel, UNCOMFORTABLE, turns to it.
   TBellman: Daniel? Have you confirmed authorship of the docs?

Anke is CURIOUS. Daniel TYPES, tries to block her view.
   ddd: The authors are all bank employees... THE DOCS ARE REAL.

As he finishes, a FLURRY OF CHAT pops up on screen --
   JayLim: Hey, is Julian plugged in?

   jjj: Hoi. Just landed. What's up?

   JayLim: Our source agreed to explain the docs, can anyone get to Liege-Guillemins in Belgium by 4pm?

   TBellman: Daniel's in Germany, that's not too far.

   JayLim: Is he up for it?

   jjj: I think so... if he's not too busy sucking off THE CORPORATE OVERLORDS :P

   INTERCUT WITH --

THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM — DAY (SAME TIME)

Brightly lit monitors obscure faces but the nameplates are now familiar. J LIM, T BELLMAN, J ASSANGE...

Julian PEEKS OUT from behind his monitor, smiles at Daniel.

   ANKE
   (O.C.)
   Is this some kind of geeky, hacker version of Dungeons and Dragons?

SMASH BACK TO THE EDS STORE ROOM

Daniel turns, sees Anke LOOKING OVER HIS SHOULDER. He quickly shuts his laptop. Then, TRYING TO IMPRESS --

   DANIEL
   We're investigating corruption in a large swiss bank.

Anke BLINKS, intrigued... a political side to Daniel.
ANKE
Well, in that case, I can cover for you.

Off Daniel, a HINT OF A SMILE --

EXT. LIEGE-GUILLEMINTRAIN STATION - LEIGE, BELGIUM - DAY

The Calatrava marvel. It's EERILY EMPTY... as we FIND DANIEL walking up the platform, texting on his phone.

CLOSE ON THE TEXTS
Daniel Berg: at the train station, where's our guy?

A beat then...
Thomas Bellman: Le Chat Noir.
Heavyset, brown suit.

Daniel starts walking inside. His phone BUZZES, He checks it.

Thomas Bellman: WATCH YOUR BACK.

Daniel pauses, looks over his shoulder. A few travelers, nothing out of the ordinary... until from HIS POV WE SEE a HARD LOOKING BALD MAN leaning against a wall, STARING at him.

Is he WATCHING Daniel? Or is it in Daniel's head? Daniel, NERVOUS, pulls up his coat, hurries onward...

INT. LE CHAT NOIR CAFE - LIEGE STATION, BELGIUM - DAY

CLOSE ON a thick hand, SHAKING, nervously paging through a document with more diagrams like the one we saw above.

DANIEL
(O.C.)
(in whispers)
Our team has been having trouble...
the diagrams are a bit impenetrable.

REVEAL HANS, 40s, SWEATING in the rail station cafe. He and Daniel sit at a table. Talking in HUSHED TONES.

HANS
They're meant to be. They reveal the bank's most intimate secrets.
(passionate, intense)

I worked for these assholes for years before I understood the extent of the deception. It's a massive tax dodge.... last year,
those diagrams cheated your country
alone out of 30 billion in tax
revenues.

**DANIEL**

And you'll explain them to us?

**HANS**

(nervous)
You understand I won't just be
exposing the bank. They have
hundreds of clients -- wealthy,
powerful clients from New York to
Moscow who will go to great lengths
to hold on to their money.

Just then, Daniel spots a BALD MAN at the bar. Shit, it's
the guy from the platform. Daniel TENSES, tries to cover.

**DANIEL**

We understand the risks.

But Hans follows Daniel's gaze to the bald man... watching
them. Hans looks NERVOUS. Daniel struggles to project calm.

**DANIEL**

(CONTINUED)
We've got incredible infrastructure
and hundreds of volunteers, people
who've dealt with threats like
this. Our process is totally secure
-- we don't even know your real
name.

**HANS**

You're damn right.

A WOMAN joins the man at the bar. Hans, anxiety
dropping...

**HANS**

(CONTINUED)
I'll explain the documents, but you
don't know me, you never met me and
when the shit comes down, it's on
your house. Are we clear, Mr...

Daniel eyes a SIGN on the wall. A black cat, 'LE CHAT NOIR.'

**DANIEL**


Off Daniel's ADRENALINE RUSH, we hear a SHRILL WHISTLE --

**EXT. LIEGE-GUILLEMIN'S TRAIN STATION - LEIGE, BELGIUM - NIGHT**
The station's arch glows above Daniel in the dark night. Daniel, WIRED, glances furtively at other travelers.

DANIEL
(OUTSIDE THE PHONE)
The bank has a huge network, they've got billions of dollars buried in the Caymans.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. NAIROBI, KENYA - DAY

A smog filled street. ANCIENT MINIVANS, THRONGS of PEOPLE.

Nairobi, Kenya

We PUSH IN on a DILAPIDATED BUILDING and PRELAP --

JULIAN
(OVER THE PHONE)
This is absolutely colossal.

INT. KENYAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS - NAIROBI - DAY

A shabby OFFICE, a few HUMAN RIGHTS POSTERS. Julian helps two Kenyan human rights activists (OULA and KINGARA) hand out PICKET SIGNS to VOLUNTEERS. He talks on a cryptophone.

JULIAN
(OUTSIDE THE PHONE)
We're gonna nail these bastards.

Daniel warily looks at the passersby. No sign of the bald man from inside, but Daniel's still ON EDGE.

DANIEL
(OUTSIDE THE PHONE)
You know, our friend was pretty jittery.

JULIAN
(OUTSIDE THE PHONE)
Of course he was.

On Daniel, cold comfort.

OULA
Hey, Julian, let's go.

Oula, SCAR on his cheek, beckons to Julian -- they're heading out. Julian looks at his sign: 'ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE.'
JULIAN
(INTERPHONE)
How fast can you get Bellman a summary?

DANIEL
(INTERPHONE)
I'll stay up until it's done.

JULIAN
(INTERPHONE)
Good. Remember, Daniel, courage is contagious.

Daniel reacts as a train WHISTLES again, the sound fading into a PIERCING TELEPHONE RING --

INT. JULIUS BAER BANK - ZURICH, SWITZERLAND - DAY

CLOSE ON A RINGING PHONE. A hand reaches in and we REVEAL the assistant we met earlier, as she picks up.

ZILKE'S ASSISTANT
(INTERPHONE)
Julius Baer Bank, Ralf Zilke's office

As she listens, her expression changes and we CUT TO --

INT. JULIUS BAER, ZILKE'S OFFICE - ZURICH - DAY (SAME TIME)

A SILVER-HAIRED BANKER (ZILKE) works in a posh corner office, noblesse oblige in a BRIONI SUIT. He reaches for a pen when--

ZILKE'S ASSISTANT
(O.C.)
Mr. Zilke?

Zilke looks up.

ZILKE'S ASSISTANT
(CONTINUED)
I'm sorry, I just got an odd call from the tech department. They said there's a report on this website... it's posted some of our files. I sent you the link.

Zilke eyes her, then turns to his COMPUTER. He clicks an e-mail link and up pops THE WIKILEAKS SITE with a DOCUMENT:

CLOUDS ON THE CAYMAN TAX HEAVEN -- THE JULIUS BAER DOCUMENTS: How the Swiss Bank hides Millions for your favorite fat cats.
Below, a FAMILIAR DIAGRAM. ZILKE SEES IT AND GOES WHITE.

ZILKE
Get me Gregor. And wake up our lawyers in London, in New York, in California...

INT. EDS, NINTH FLOOR STORE ROOM - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY

Daniel back on his mop bucket, staring at two laptops on the shelf. On one, a THREATENING E-MAIL from Julius Baer lawyers.

ANKE
And I thought grinchng the printers was impressive.

Daniel turns and finds Anke standing over him with a print out of the Julius Baer doc. She eyes his computer.

ANKE
(CONTINUED)
Their lawyers are threatening you?

DANIEL
Julian says you can spend your life in cushy cubicles or you can march. You can brave the truncheons and breathe the tear gas or --

ANKE
Take a girl to dinner?

An INVITATION. Daniel smiles.

INT. DANIEL'S APARTMENT - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

CLOSE on Anke, asleep, NAKED under a cheap coverlet. We hear TAPPING on a keyboard. Anke stirs, blinks up at the CHAOS COMPUTER CLUB POSTERS over the bed.

Anke smiles, turns to see... Daniel at a messy desk, tapping on his laptop and pulling on his jeans.

ANKE
Hey.

Daniel, distracted, TRIPS and FALLS. Anke LAUGHS.

ANKE
(CONTINUED)
Sorry, I've just never had a guy try to sneak out of his own apartment.
DANIEL
The bank got a judge in California
to shut down our primary domain.

He nods to his LAPTOP. A WEB BROWSER points to wikileaks.org
but the site is down: THE REQUESTED PAGE IS UNAVAILABLE.

ANKE
A judge in California?

DANIEL
It's where our domain is
registered.

ANKE
Right, but I thought Americans put
free speech up there with mom and
apple pie.

DANIEL
So did we. Julian wants to meet up
right away.

Daniel throws his laptop in his backpack then pauses.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
You know this isn't what I imagined
for our first... get together.

ANKE
How often did you imagine it?

Daniel smiles, CAUGHT. He grabs his bag.

DANIEL
You don't have a cryptophone do
you?

ANKE
No, but that may be the best excuse
I've ever heard for not calling.

They trade a SMILE and we SMASH TO --

INT. BERLIN TEGEL AIRPORT - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

Julian glides down a people mover, TAPPING his phone. As he
does, e-mail SCROLLS UP THE SCREEN:
Friends - Solzhenitsyn says no one
can bar the road to truth.
Wikileaks.org has been forcibly
shut down but you can still learn
the truth about Julius Baer on our
mirror sites. Send press to
http://wikileaks.be,
http://88.80.13.160 --

As Julian glides along, typing, we SMASH TO --

INT. STRASSENBAHN BERLIN TRAM – BERLIN, GERMANY – NIGHT

Daniel rides the tram talking on his cryptophone.

    DANIEL
    ...blogs, twitter, they're
defrauding the world, we can't let
them cover it up...

As the tram lurches forward, we see TWITTER FEED start to
scroll up the LEFT of the screen...
  EthanZ Walk the road to truth!
  http://wikileaks.be Mlsif Break the
bank! Send press to 88.80.13.160

The twitter feed CONTINUES TO SCROLL and we SMASH TO --

EXT. ALL NIGHT CAFE – BERLIN, GERMANY – NIGHT

Julian walks into an all night cafe, hauling his bags.

    JULIAN
    We never thought we'd need extra
servers to fight censorship
attacks--

INT. ALL NIGHT CAFE – BERLIN, GERMANY – NIGHT

Julian walks into the dingy cafe.

    JULIAN
    (INTO THE PHONE)
    ...from the bastion of free speech.

Julian sees TWO OPEN LAPTOPS, a few empty bottles of Club
Mate... and DANIEL, on the phone. Daniel doesn't see him.

    DANIEL
    (INTO THE PHONE)
    ...I sent links to our mirror
sites, if you can post...

Daniel spots Julian, lowers his phone. WARM --

    JULIAN
    More fun making history than
reading about it?

Daniel smiles. A NICE MOMENT... until Daniel's laptop BEEPS.
A news alert, WIRED.COM: ACLU, EFF, HEARST FILE BRIEFS IN SUPPORT OF WIKILEAKS CASE. They spring back into action.

DANIEL
(INTO THE PHONE)
...Yeah, and there's a new Wired blog you should post as well...

Julian pulls out his laptop as TWITTER FEED TAKES US TO --

EXT. CITYSCAPE – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAWN

Dawn breaks over Berlin. We hear Julian --

JULIAN
(PRELAP)
Yes, of course, we're pleased the EFF and the ACLU are behind us...

INT. ALL NIGHT CAFE – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAWN

The sun rises over EMPTY BOTTLES, COFFEE CUPS... Daniel and Julian each have two laptops, still going strong. Julian talks on the phone, eats hummus with his finger.

JULIAN
(INTO THE PHONE)
...but the court of public opinion has already ruled in our favor.

Daniel's computer BEEPS again as SITE NOTIFICATIONS start to SCROLL UP the RIGHT OF OUR SCREEN, opposite twitter feed...
www.largeleaker.de is now pointing to 88.80.13.160
www.screwthebank.com is now pointing to 88.80.13.160

DANIEL
Some french hackers donated domains.

Daniel shows Julian his laptop. Julian lowers his phone, wipes his hummus finger on his pants. Daniel notices.

JULIAN
Send the links to Bellman, he'll blast the list serve.

Daniel reaches forward to type and we SMASH TO --

THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM – DAWN (SAME TIME)

Half the monitors are lit, DOZENS OF VOLUNTEERS working away.
Daniel opens a CHAT BOX and we RACK FOCUS TO A DESK. We note the nameplate, T BELLMAN.

We CUT BEHIND THE DESK --

Daniel's CHAT pops up on Bellman's MONITOR. As he reaches forward, TWITTER FEED and URLs SCROLL UP our SCREEN. And if it's OVERWHELMING, that's what we're going for.

SMASH TO--

INT. GUARDIAN, BULLPEN - LONDON, ENGLAND - NIGHT

ALAN RUSBRIDGER and IAN KATZ (from the OPEN) review a row of one sheets tacked to the wall -- TOMORROW'S PAPER.

ALAN RUSBRIDGER
Move the US primaries to page three to make room for the Diana inquest.

NICK DAVIES
Yes, Diana still sells papers. 21st century churnalism at its finest.

Rusbridger and Katz turn to find NICK DAVIES (also from the OPEN), all looks and charm in an out of date leather jacket.

NICK DAVIES
(CONTINUED)
Can't afford reporters? Grab a story off the wire, give it a little scrub and drop it in your paper.
(mock smells the print)
Just the kind of quality journalism I left Oxford to pursue.

IAN KATZ
This how you're chatting up the totty in your golden years?

NICK DAVIES
I certainly can't impress them with stories that've been rattling round the mainstream media echo chamber. The women I meet are smart enough to know what they're missing out on.

IAN KATZ
I assume you're going to tell us what that is?

NICK DAVIES
I'll leave that to Mr. Assange and
his merry band of programmers.

He hands them a printout of another tech blog from WIRED. Alan glances at the headline: 'WIKILEAKS VS. GOLIATH.'

As Alan reads, a GOOGLE NEWS SEARCH scrolls over him, UP THE SCREEN, REPLACING THE TWITTER.

EXT. KREUZBERG STREET - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

A VIBRANT TURKISH CAFE in an polyglot neighborhood... oddly set against a backdrop of blocky West German architecture.

Our GOOGLE SEARCH scrolls up the screen and we MATCH CUT TO--

INT. TURKISH CAFE, KREUZBERG - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

A LAPTOP with the Google News Search.

Wikileaks is still live, and
kicking THE GUARDIAN - 6 hours ago

Judge Shuts Down Site, Raises
 Constitutional Issues NEW YORK TIMES - 3 hours ago

Freedom of Speech has a number -
88.80.13.160 CBS NEWS - 30 minutes ago

A mouse CLICKS on the CBS story, which OPENS in a window... next to OPEN STORIES from the Times and the Guardian.

DANIEL
(O.C.)
The Guardian, The Times, CBS... are all linking to our mirror sites.

REVEAL Daniel with Julian in a mostly EMPTY cafe, surrounded by coffee cups and NEWSPAPERS with JULIUS BAER HEADLINES.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
(reading the article)
The Bank's injunction has brought an obscure group of dreamers to prominence, paradoxically generating more attention for their apparently uncensorable leaking machine...

Daniel and Julian are HAGGARD, it's plain they haven't slept in days, but they're both FLYING. Daniel scans the paper...

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
And the bank's clients may now face
prosecution in Germany, the US...
(thrilled)
Jesus, can you believe it? Actual
justice for those assholes.

Just then Julian's laptop BEEPS. He reads, STUNNED.

JULIAN
Wow. The judge pulled the
injunction. We're back online.

He pulls up wikileaks.org on his laptop. Daniel is FLOORED.

DANIEL
Holy shit. We won!

Julian is proud, but Daniel's OVER THE MOON.

DANIEL
(continued)
We took down a billion dollar bank!
This is crazy, we have to
celebrate!

JULIAN
...sure, we should order some
beers.

DANIEL
I mean with everyone. Bellman and
Jay Lim and all the others. This
was a team effort, we should get
everyone up on Skype or something.

JULIAN
I don't know. It's... late.

DANIEL
I just got an e-mail from Bellman.
And Jay was on chat 15 minutes
ago..

(then)
What? You think Skype isn't secure?

Julian hesitates. Considering SOMETHING. Then --

JULIAN
No... it's probably time for you to
meet everyone face to face.

Daniel smiles, pulls up Bellman's account and Jay's. Julian
watches, PENSIVE... as Daniel INITIATES the VIDEO CALLS.
We hear the SKYPE RING on Daniel's computer and INTERCUT WITH --

THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM - NIGHT (SAME TIME)

ANGLE ten desk rows deep, CAMERA behind a dozen volunteers, Daniel and Julian at the cafe table in the distance.

A few monitors LIGHT UP WITH SKYPE CALLS. As volunteers lean forward to answer, WE HEAR an ANSWER CHIRP and Daniel's face pops up in a couple of screens.

SMASH BACK TO --

DANIEL IN THE CAFE, staring at his laptop. CONFUSED.

DANIEL
I don't get it, it says I called...

Daniel looks at Julian, something DAWNING.

SMASH TO --

A SUBMISSION PLATFORM DESK. Nameplate: T BELLMAN. DOLLY AROUND the monitor on the desk... REVEALING JULIAN.

SMASH TO ANOTHER DESK.

Nameplate: J LIM. DOLLY AROUND this monitor... Julian again. He looks up, coy.

SMASH BACK TO --

DANIEL IN THE CAFE. TWO SKYPE BOXES OF JULIAN on his screen.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
You're Jay and Bellman?
(unnerved)
How many volunteers do we have?

JULIAN
Hundreds.

SMASH TO THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM

DOLLY AROUND A SERIES OF DESKS/COMPUTERS IN RAPID SUCCESSION. Each time, we find Julian at the computer.

THEN WE PULL BACK TO THE FRONT OF THE ROOM... an infinite number of Julians peek out from the infinite monitors.

JULIAN
(O.C.)
(CONTINUED)
We have hundreds of volunteers.

SMASH BACK TO THE CAFE

Daniel's pale. He stares at Julian.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
What? I have hundreds of e-mail addresses.

DANIEL
That's not the same th--

Julian puts a finger to his lips, WARILY eyes a waiter. HE grabs his pack, moves to the back. Daniel follows.

JULIAN
Every startup exaggerates its size. No one's going to leak sensitive material to two freaks with a single server.

DANIEL
We only have one server?

JULIAN
Not as far as the rest of the world is concerned.

(then)
Castro began a revolution with 82 men. It doesn't matter how small you are if you have faith and a plan of action.

But Daniel is STUNNED...

DANIEL
I told dozens of reporters... our source at Julius Baer...

JULIAN
Necessary fictions. If Julius Baer knew they were up against an army of two...

DANIEL
What, they'd 'rub us out'? They're a bank, not the mob.

JULIAN
Then why have you been using an alias?

(pressing)
Come on, Daniel. It's just a hack,
an inelegant solution.

DANIEL
I have a hundred friends I could call, people who would be happy to help. This is bullshit.

Daniel turns away, pissed. A beat. Then Julian GRABS his backpack and RIPS IT OPEN...

ANGRLY, VIOLENTLY pulling out LAPTOPS, POWERCORDS, CLOTHING; SINGLE SERVINGS of CANNED FRUIT, GLASS JARS of USB STICKS...

JULIAN
...where is it, where the hell...

Daniel turns, stunned, as Julian pulls out WIRELESS ROUTERS; SOCKS, SHOES, NOTEBOOKS... until at last he finds...

A SMALL PIECE OF PAPER. Newsprint. Folded and soft with age. He THRUSTS it at Daniel. Daniel blinks, confused.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Open it.

Daniel hesitates, then unfolds it.

CLOSE ON an old newspaper article.

May 1995. LEAD 'SUBVERSIVE' TO STAND TRIAL FOR 31 COUNTS OF HACKING.

Beside the headline, a MUG SHOT of a younger Julian -- a long ponytail and a defiant expression.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
There were three of us. Mendax, Trax, Prime Suspect, three boys with cartoon names, off on a series of harmless adventures, 'Subversives' one and all. But when the Federal Police finally caught up with us, Trax pled guilty and Prime Suspect -- he turned Crown Witness against me.

(beat)
I remember waiting for the verdict in this little room, walking in figure eights like some demented bee, imagining life in a tiny cell. The stress, that was... actually the moment my hair turned.
Daniel takes this in. A beat, then internal, wounded --

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
You don't get far in this world by relying on others. People are loyal until it seems opportune not to be.

And now Julian reaches out. Vulnerable.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
The tyrants we're up against have money and men and guns and I don't have an army to fight them. All I've got is a website and a couple of fake e-mail addresses and... you.

Off Daniel, YIELDING, we HEAR a recording --

L. RON HUBBARD
(PRELAP, ON VIDEO)
The only way you can control people is to lie to them.

EXT. ANTWERP CONVENTION CENTER -- ANTWERP, BELGIUM -- DAY

The SUN sets over the GORGEOUS BUILDINGS of OLD ANTWERP.

A HUGE BANNER stretches across the CONVENTION CENTER: 'GLOBAL VOICES CITIZEN MEDIA CONFERENCE -- ANTWERP, BELGIUM -- 2008.'

INT. ANTWERP CONVENTION CENTER -- ANTWERP, BELGIUM -- DAY

A table COVERED with WIKILEAKS NEWS CLIPS. Some are old ('US investigates Julius Baer') but many are new. US MILITARY MANUALS, a PROTEST RIOT IN TIBET... the clips mostly in small, alternative papers. Julian and Daniel have been BUSY.

L. RON HUBBARD
(O.C., ON VIDEO)
The only way you can control anybody is to lie to them.

JULIAN
He founded the damn religion.
Gobsmacking isn't it?

FIND Julian and Daniel streaming video of Hubbard for a few reporters, their HUMBLE BOOTH dwarfed in a vast room filled with MORE IMPRESSIVE DISPLAYS of old and new media ventures.
GERMAN REPORTER  
(off the Hubbard video)  
This is on your site?

DANIEL  
We're streaming it now. See, there  
are links to all our fresh leaks.

Daniel shows him another laptop. The site is rudimentary, a  
column of analysis and a column of FRESH LEAKS including...

JULIAN  
People need to see how they treat  
their members. The memos on their  
'introspection rundowns' -- forced  
isolation, regulation of meals...

FRENCH REPORTER  
Six Apart would love a piece on  
this, you have a French spokesman I  
can follow up with in Paris?

NICK DAVIES  
Like watching a young Woodward and  
Bernstein...

Nick Davies and Ian Katz walk up in GUARDIAN PRESS PASSES.

JULIAN  
The hallowed Guardian gracing us  
with their presence?

Julian starts to move towards them but the French reporter,  
pad out, is in his way. Brusquely pushing past --  

JULIAN  
(CONTINUED)  
Would you mind?

The reporter is offended. Daniel, used to this, jumps in...

DANIEL  
Our associate Jay Lim is based in  
Paris. Can I give you his e-mail?

PAN OFF the mollified reporter to Nick shaking Julian's  
hand.

NICK DAVIES  
Hustling for a story, trying to get  
the world to pay attention, I  
almost wish I were working for him.

JULIAN  
The way they're sacking
journalists, you might not have a choice.

IAN KATZ
Sounds like you want to put us all out of business.

JULIAN
I want you to do your job. If you can't, someone needs to pick up the slack.

IAN KATZ
Is that what you're doing? Anyone can take a bundle of information, toss it up on a website and call it news. But people buy our papers for something a little more discerning.

JULIAN
They're still buying your papers?

NICK DAVIES
Gentlemen, we're all on the same team.
(to Ian)
It's the samizdat of our day, Ian, a new nervous system for the planet.

Ian considers the Scientology video... which FREEZES.

IAN KATZ
Looks like his nervous system's a bit twitchy.

JULIAN
10,000 hits an hour does that to you. How's your website doing?

Nick LAUGHS. But as he and Ian exit, Julian's smile FADES. Daniel joins him.

DANIEL
We're down again. We need to add servers.

JULIAN
Yes, that's the downside to selling truth for free. No money.

DANIEL
(coniders, then)
...I've got a few thousand euros saved up. Bet that'd get us a half
dozen machines on eBay...

Julian reacts, a little surprised.

**DANIEL**
(CONTINUED)
Are we not inspired, men of purpose? Capable, generous men?

Julian SMILES BROADLY and we --

**INT. EDS (ELECTRONIC DATA SYSTEMS) – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAY**

Daniel's cubicle. A mess as before. Exactly as before. Daniel's supervisor stands at the door. IRRITATED.

**ANKE**
(INTO THE PHONE)
I thought you were coming back today.

REVEAL Anke, on her phone, a few cubicles away. CONCERNED.

**INTERCUT WITH:**

**EXT. ROOFTOP, HERTZ PARKING STRUCTURE – BERLIN – DAY**

Daniel, on the phone, stands by a RENTAL MERCEDES STATION WAGON, filling out a form. Julian is in the car, door open.

**DANIEL**
(INTO THE PHONE)
Little detour. Why, do you miss me?

At EDS, Anke eyes Daniel's Supervisor, who walks towards her.

**ANKE**
No, but our friend Andreas seems to.

**DANIEL**
Andreas is a wanker.

**ANKE**
...and my sister was looking forward to meeting you.

**DANIEL**
Shit. I forgot.

**ANKE**
She'll understand, she's an understanding person. Fortunately for you, so am I. But Andreas...
DANIEL
Tell him I'm still sick.

ANKE
(for Andreas' benefit)
Pneumonia? Is it serious?

DANIEL
Very. See if your sister's free for
dinner on Friday.

ANKE
By Friday, I'll want you to myself.

Daniel smiles, hangs up and hands the form to a RENTAL AGENT.

RENTAL AGENT
Where'd you say you were going?

JULIAN
We didn't.

Julian GLARES at the agent. Daniel gets in.

PUSH INTO --

INT. MERCEDES (PARKED/MOVING) - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY

Daniel slips behind the wheel and starts the car. Julian stares at the rental agent and starts to SUCK ON A RAW LEMON.

JULIAN
Nosy prick.

DANIEL
He was being friendly.

JULIAN
Servers are vital organs, if people
know where they are...

DANIEL
No one's going to know where they
are, he was just being friendly.

JULIAN
I'm telling you, he was acting
weird.

Daniel stares at Julian's lemon. He was acting weird?

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
What? I need some vitamin C. Have you seen how pale I am?

An ODD BEAT... then Julian SMILES. He's joking.

   JULIAN
   (CONTINUED)
   You're looking a bit pale yourself, young man. Maybe you should have one.

Julian playfully tosses a lemon at Daniel who SMILES...

EXT. BERLIN STREET/INT. MERCEDES (MOVING) – BERLIN – DAY

Still smiling, Daniel drives out of town. He casually checks the REARVIEW... as a BLACK BMW falls in and begins to follow close behind. Julian sees Daniel's smile FADE.

   JULIAN
   What?

   DANIEL
   Probably nothing...

But Julian sees him peering into the rearview. FREAKED --

   JULIAN
   Someone's following us?

Julian looks back just as Daniel makes a HARD RIGHT, POPPING THE CAR up on the curb. Julian SLAMS against the door.

   JULIAN
   (O.C.)
   (CONTINUED)
   Shit!

Daniel struggles with the wheel, barely managing to get the car back on the road. He glances again at the rearview...

   JULIAN
   (CONTINUED)
   Did you lose him?

   DANIEL
   Yeah.. no, shit, I think that's him.

As Daniel guns the engine, Julian FLIES OUT OF FRAME...

   JULIAN
   (O.C.)
   I think I'm going to vomit.
Music takes us through a SERIES OF QUICK SCENES --

**EXT. DANIEL'S APT - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY**

Daniel rushes out of his apartment, carries a server to the Mercedes and tosses it in the trunk beside six others.

Julian, waiting, hastily throws a TARP over them.

As Julian and Daniel jump into the car and take off, we SMASH TO --

**EXT. MERCEDES (MOVING) - AUTOROUTE - OUTSIDE PARIS - NIGHT**

The Mercedes FLIES towards the SKYSCRAPERS of LA DEFENSE.

**EXT. MERCEDES (PARKED) - A DATA CENTER - PARIS, FRANCE - DAWN**

Julian and Daniel crouch behind the car, holding a SERVER. The data center door cracks and A SKINNY FRENCH HACKER beckons ANXIOUSLY.

As they RUSH towards him, SMASH TO --

**INT. MERCEDES (MOVING) - FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE - DAY**

Julian works on his laptop, struggling to stay awake. He considers, then reaches for a Club Mate and takes a sip...

It's disgusting. Julian looks at Daniel, CHUGGING IT. Wide awake. As Julian FORCES HIMSELF to take another sip...

**EXT. MERCEDES (MOVING) - OUTSIDE ZURICH - NIGHT**

The car races towards the twin spires of the GROSSMUNSTER.

**EXT. MERCEDES (PARKED) - A DATA CENTER - ZURICH - NIGHT**

Old town. Daniel, Julian with a server, banging on a DOOR, nervously looking around. The door cracks, they rush in...

**EXT. JULIUS BAER BANK - ZURICH, SWITZERLAND - EARLY MORNING**

JULIUS BAER SWISS HQ. The Mercedes rolls into frame. Daniel and Julian hop out, shouting and GIVING THE BANK THE FINGER.

    JULIAN
    Screw you, assholes!

    DANIEL
    Suck my tax paying German weiner!

They JUMP AROUND, CELEBRATORY, as we SMASH TO --
INT. MERCEDES (MOVING) - AUTOBAHN - GERMANY - NIGHT

Daniel clings to the wheel, EXHAUSTED.

    DANIEL
    Can you pass me a...

Daniel looks over... Julian's WIRED, typing on his laptop, polishing off the last Club Mate.

Music fades as we PRELAP --

    JULIAN
    (PRELAP)
    Doesn't look like a data center.

EXT. MARCUS' FARMHOUSE - SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY - DAY

A WORKING FARM. Julian eyes the sleeping cows. Daniel opens the trunk of the Mercedes, pulls out a case of Club Mate.

    MARCUS
    You know the way to my heart
    Daniel.

Daniel turns, sees Marcus in the farmhouse door.

He smiles --

INT. MARCUS' FARMHOUSE - SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY - DAY

A LARGE BARN, PACKED with SERVERS. TECH HEAVEN. Marcus walks in, leading Julian and Daniel who carry a server. Julian looks around, blown away.

    MARCUS
    (off the server)
    Hook that up next to the other old
    IBMs. And take any tags off it -- I
don't want to know which one it is.

They set the server down. Daniel starts hooking it up as Marcus cracks open a Club Mate.

    DANIEL
    You're protecting us from yourself?

    MARCUS
    Plausible deniability is never a
    bad thing. Especially when there
    might be jackboots at the door.

    JULIAN
    (impressed)
A man who understands security.

MARCUS
Just following in the tradition of some excellent hackers. One in particular who went by this curious name, something out of Horace... in parentum splendide Mendax.

It's Julian's hacker name. He looks up, GUARDED.

MARCUS
(CONTINUED)
The way Daniel talks, I suspected an illustrious past. So I did some digging. Hacking Nasa? Impressive. And Milnet...

DANIEL
You hacked the US Defense Network?


JULIAN
That was a long time ago. There were dozens of back doors, it wasn't all that difficult.

MARCUS
Delightfully deceiving, like his name. And your 'robust' infrastructure.

He looks at Julian, whose smile fades.

MARCUS
(CONTINUED)
Any leet hack could see your tech was junk. Good thing you're adding servers.

JULIAN
(dismissive, looks out the window)
Mmm. So the cows... do you milk them yourself?

INT. HERTZ PARKING GARAGE – BERLIN, GERMANY – EARLY MORNING

A TRUNK OPENS on a CASE of EMPTY BOTTLES. Daniel grabs them. Julian sits on the car hood, working on his laptop.

JULIAN
He can do some coding, but I don't want him on the primary server.
DANIEL
Marcus just wants to get involved.
He's a bit of a legend in the club.
He could be a big help.

JULIAN
People with that much experience
tend to have minds of their own.

ON DANIEL. Something about that bothers him. But before he can comment --

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Holy Shit.
(staring at his laptop)
The Scientology video is generating
a ton of new traffic... we've got
half a dozen new leaks. A nuclear
cover up in Iran, a list of British
National Party members.

Daniel, intrigued, looks over Julian's shoulder.

DANIEL
Jesus, it's thousands of neo-nazis,
right in the heart of London...

RENTAL AGENT
2100 kilometers? Where were you?

They turn. The rental guy STARES at the ODOMETER.

JULIAN
Mind your own business.

DANIEL
None of your goddamn business.

WE HEAR the sound of A DOOR SWINGING OPEN and we SMASH TO --

THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM - DAY

A STACK of DOCUMENTS as it drops just beyond an OPEN DOOR.

The door closes and we REVEAL the long LINE OF DOORS. A few
open, STACKS OF DOCUMENTS tossed into the room...

We see NUCLEAR SYMBOLS on an IRANIAN REPORT; a GERMAN SECRET
SERVICE document labeled TOP SECRET; FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS
from the KAUPTHING BANK in Iceland... it's MESMERIZING.

As we watch we notice a familiar WHINE.
FAINT ELECTRONICA pulls us through the sea of empty desks to...

A LONE OCCUPIED DESK. Docs, Club Mate bottles and a NAMEPLATE: D SCHMITT.

DOLLY AROUND to find Daniel in headphones, hunched over a laptop. He POUNDS away to thumping music. PLUGGED IN.

SUPERVISOR
(O.C.)
Daniel?

Daniel keeps typing as we SMASH TO --

INT. EDS, NINTH FLOOR STORE ROOM – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAY

Daniel, headphones on, plugged in, hunched over a laptop… eyeing a list, members of the BRITISH NATIONALIST PARTY.

REVEAL DANIEL'S SUPERVISOR in the door, peering past Daniel at the WIKILEAKS ICON on his screen. PISSED. Daniel turns, HOLDS his gaze then TURNS BACK TO HIS LAPTOP.

INT. EDS, NINTH FLOOR – DANIEL'S CUBICLE – BERLIN – DAY

CLOSE ON Daniel, who finishes what he was doing then closes his laptop. As he tosses it in his backpack we PULL OUT and see HIS DESK IS EMPTY, his things packed up in a few BOXES.

Anke walks in, grabs a box. Daniel grabs the other, exits past his supervisor, who shakes his head.

SMASH BACK TO--

THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM – NIGHT

Daniel walks in, drops the box on his desk and sits back down to work. As he types, the CAMERA SPINS…. EMPTY CLUB MATE BOTTLES and TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS piling up as time passes...

At last, Daniel pauses, picking up a copy of THE GUARDIAN.

ANKE
(O.C.)
Daniel?

Daniel keeps reading. We see the paper over his shoulder: BNP MEMBERSHIP LIST NAMES POLICE OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS.

ANKE
(O.C.)
(CONTINUED)
Daniel.
Now Daniel hears her. He rubs his eyes and we're in --

**INT. DANIEL'S APARTMENT – BERLIN, GERMANY – NIGHT**

Same computer, now in Daniel's bedroom. A WIKILEAKS WAR ZONE. Documents, newspapers, bottles everywhere. Daniel surveys the carnage then stands, carrying THE GUARDIAN into --

THE LIVING ROOM. A table set for a ROMANTIC DINNER, a VOTIVE burning low, Anke passing time on a laptop with OPEN DATA STICKERS (EFF, FSF, CC). Daniel walks in, kisses her cheek.

    ANKE
    You're alive.

    DANIEL
    And starving.

He hands Anke the paper then picks up a knife, starts to carve the roast on the table. He serves Anke...

    DANIEL
    (CONTINUED)
    The British press is going nuts over the National Party member list.

Anke looks less than enthusiastic, but Daniel doesn't notice. He makes himself a plate and sits.

    DANIEL
    (CONTINUED)
    People are donating money. Not a lot, but some. And we keep getting more leaks. Toxic dumping in Ivory Coast, corruption in Kosovo...

Daniel takes a bite, pauses, trying not to make a face.

    ANKE
    What? You don't like it?

    DANIEL
    No, it's delicious. Just a little cold.

    ANKE
    Yes, it's been sitting there for an hour.

    DANIEL
    (ah)
    Sorry. I didn't hear you.
(then)
You could have gotten me. Anke?

ANKE
It's just the addresses I don't get.

DANIEL
...sorry?

ANKE
The National Party members. I mean, those people should be exposed, but you published their personal information. Phone numbers, home addresses...

DANIEL
They were in the document.

ANKE
Yes, but why not cut them out? Those people have families, children... someone could get hurt.

DANIEL
Editing reflects bias. Our sources, people on the site, they trust us cause we don't screw with the docs. As Julian says, a free people must have knowledge.

ANKE
Or as Orwell says, Big Brother is watching.

DANIEL
(beat)
Is this cause I stayed in on Friday?

ANKE
I couldn't care less about Friday, I had a perfectly good time with Nik and Claudia, despite the fact that Nik tried to get me to go home with him again.

(Off Daniel's look)
Don't look so concerned, he bores the shit out of me.

DANIEL
Maybe that's what you want.

ANKE
(don't do that)  
I'm the one who told you to quit your job. And I'm glad you did. I'm just saying that if you're gonna nail yourself to a cross you should probably know what it's made of.

DANIEL  
I'm not nailing myself to a cross.

Anke raises an eyebrow. Daniel looks down, notes his own disheveled appearance.

DANIEL  
(CONTINUED)  
But I guess I could use a shower. Care to join me?

Daniel smiles, suggestive. Anke softens.

ANKE  
Do you even remember the last time we had sex?

DANIEL  
I'm sure I'll remember the next time.

He kisses her. A hint of Julian.

ANKE  
So goddamn clever.

DANIEL  
It's a little clever.

He moves in, PULLS A STRING at her back. Her dress SLIPS to the floor. She smiles, despite herself.

SMASH TO --

THE FLOOR. A CHAIR FALLS as Daniel pulls Anke down.

ANKE  
Cold floor.

DANIEL  
We can go into the --

ANKE  
No. I like it.

Sexy. Things start to get even sexier when... Anke FREEZES.

ANKE
(CONTINUED)
Did you hear that?

Daniel looks at her confused when... THUMP. Daniel FREEZES.

ANKE
(CONTINUED)
Was that the door?

THUMP THUMP. Shit. WHO THE FUCK IS THAT?

ANKE
(CONTINUED)
You weren't expecting anyone?

DANIEL
No.

Daniel TOTALLY FREAKED, reaches up, KILLS THE LIGHTS.

ANKE
Neo-nazis wouldn't knock, right?

Anke, NERVOUS, grabs her dress as Daniel picks up a heavy WIRE CUTTER. SHAKING, he peers past the Tibetan flag he uses as a blind... and then RELAXES.

DANIEL
Jesus.

Anke confused, watches him open the door... JULIAN blows in.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
Weren't you in Australia?

JULIAN
I thought it best not to telegraph my movements. By the way, you should take your name off the door.

Julian sits at the table, not bothering to acknowledge Anke as she pulls her dress on. Daniel glances at Anke, TORN.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
When was the last time you were online?

Julian pulls out his laptop, pushes the roast out of the way.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
There's a new expose from the
Kenyan National Coalition on Human Rights.

Julian shows Daniel the computer. Daniel can't help himself.

DANIEL
They've got evidence that Kenyan police are running death squads?

JULIAN
Friends of mine wrote the report, Kibaki is trying to bury it, we've got to get it up on the homepage.

Daniel hesitates. Now?

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
It details hundreds of murders, major human rights violations-- it's like exposing Chile under Pinochet. (he starts typing, then) You have any of that disgusting energy drink? Could be a long night.

Daniel heads into the kitchen. Julian notices Anke, still wrestling with her dress.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
I'm sorry, did I interrupt something?

He's both CAVALIER and LEWD.

Anke REACTS and we CUT TO --

Daniel walking in with two Club Mates. The front door SLAMS. Anke. Shit.

EXT. DANIEL'S APT - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

Daniel runs out of his apartment, chasing after Anke.

DANIEL
Anke. Come on.

He catches up to her, reaches for her arm.

ANKE
We were having sex! I was half naked!

Daniel looks down. She shakes her head.
ANKE
(CONTINUED)
Did you invite him to Paris, too?
Because he's really not my type.

DANIEL
I didn't invite him. Anke, please.
Come back inside. It's late.

ANKE
Then tell him to go.

DANIEL
What?

She looks at him. Simple. Direct.

ANKE
You want me to come back inside,
tell him to go.

DANIEL
I... Anke, he's got nowhere else to stay.

ANKE
Well, I do.

She turns and walks off.

INT. DANIEL'S APARTMENT - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

Daniel walks in, numb. He stands there for a moment, then
notices Julian... WEARING A SUIT JACKET.

DANIEL
Is that my suit?

JULIAN
I'm working on a press release on
the Kenyan death squads, I needed
something to match the gravity of
the occasion.

Julian reaches for the roast, PICKING at it WITH HIS
FINGERS. Daniel blinks. This is who he's following into the
abyss?

Upset, Daniel grabs the roast and walks it into the kitchen.
Agitated, he starts to wrap up the roast.

JULIAN
(O.C.)
(CONTINUED)
I have a son in Melbourne, you know.

Daniel turns. Julian stands in the doorway.

**JULIAN**
(CONTINUED)
He turns 19 next week, I haven't seen him in a year.

Julian pulls out his wallet, shows Daniel a picture.

**JULIAN**
(CONTINUED)
It takes two things to change the world. You'd be surprised how many people have ideas. But commitment, true commitment, that's the hard one. It requires sacrifice.

Daniel, stirred, stares at the photo of Julian's son.

**DANIEL**
What's his name?

**JULIAN**
Daniel. His name is Daniel.

Off Daniel, reacting --

**TELEVISION (REAL FOOTAGE) - RUV**

An anchor. Gray haired and GRAVE [in Icelandic, subtitles].

**ANCHOR**
We lead tonight with the collapse of the Kaupthing bank. Due to a court injunction, we can't bring you the whole story. But there is an organization that can. You'll find them at Wikileaks.org.

As the WIKILEAKS URL flashes on screen we CUT TO --

**INT. EGILL HELGASON'S TV SHOW - REYKJAVIK, ICELAND - DAY**

CLOSE ON HOST EGILL HELGASON, on his Icelandic TV News show.

**EGILL HELGASON**
Iceland was bankrupted by the Kaupthing, but we wouldn't know it if not for my guests tonight.

Helgason turns to Daniel and Julian, beside him. We notice that Daniel has STARTED GROWING A BEARD...
EGILL HELGASON
(CONTINUED)
You've done so much for our
country, how can we show our
thanks?

JULIAN
Protect free speech. Strengthen
your laws, give activists in
countries without freedom of the
press a home. We have too many
offshore tax havens, we need more
offshore media havens.

Helgason starts CLAPPING. He's joined by more applause and
we PULL BACK to REVEAL the ENTIRE CREW CLAPPING WITH HIM.

EGILL HELGASON
(TO CAMERA)
How about it, Iceland?

On Daniel, THRILLED, the APPLAUSE SMASHES US TO --

EXT. ALTHINGI PARLIAMENT BUILDING - REYKJAVIK, ICELAND - DAY

An ICELANDIC TV CREW (RUV) interviews BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR in

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
WikiLeaks is redefining the
public's right to information, I'd
like to add whatever legitimacy I
can...

The crowd CHEERS as we FIND TWO IDENTICAL BACKPACKS in their
midst. Julian and Daniel watch as Birgitta wraps up.

DANIEL
She's a Member of Parliament?

JULIAN
And apparently our new
spokesperson. Some animals are more
equal than others.

Julian smiles at Daniel as the music SMASHES US TO --

INT. ICELANDIC CLUB - REYKJAVIK, ICELAND - NIGHT

Birgitta stands at a bar with Daniel and a small crowd.

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
Making Iceland a media haven, it's
an inspired idea.
Daniel smiles, sees Julian dancing with THREE HOT WOMEN under a CHEAP DISCO BALL. Julian spreads his arms, calls to him --

JULIAN
You need space for your ego to flow.

Daniel smiles and starts dancing like Julian. Daniel's ON TOP OF THE FUCKING WORLD.

THE MUSIC SWELLS as we SMASH TO --

INT. RUSBRIDGER'S OFFICE - LONDON, ENGLAND - NIGHT

PAPERS WITH WIKI-HEADLINES dropped one by one on a desk.

NICK DAVIES
The Iceland bank. The Natanz cover up. Corruption in Kosovo, in Kenya--

REVEAL Nick dropping the small, foreign paper clippings on Alan's desk. Alan and Ian Katz eye the papers skeptically.

NICK DAVIES
(CONTINUED)
Great big scoops in tiny, local papers, stories that could have been picked up by the mainstream press. It's an opportunity, Alan.

Off Nick, wry, the music SMASHES US TO --

EXT. CITIESCAPE - NAIROBI, KENYA - DAY

Third world gridlock, beat up cars inching their way through squalid, downtown Nairobi. Beggars and vendors swarm.

KENYAN NEWS ANCHOR
(ON THE CAR RADIO)
..earlier this week Wikileaks posted a human rights report detailing...

We see a BEAT UP STATION WAGON and we --

INT. CAR (IN TRAFFIC) - NAIROBI, KENYA - DAY

FIND Oula and Kingara, the activists we saw with Julian earlier. They're in traffic, FAMILIAR PICKET SIGNS in back.

KENYAN NEWS ANCHOR
(ON THE CAR RADIO)
...shocking police misconduct.

KINGARA
The Student Union wants to hold a protest at the University next week.

Oula, behind the wheel, is frustrated by the traffic.

OULA
Might take that long to get there.

Oula shoots a wry look at Kingara, who cracks a SMILE... ...but as he does, WE HEAR A POP. Oula STARTS, then stares as BLOOD SPREADS ACROSS KINGARA'S WHITE BUTTON-DOWN SHIRT.

Oula reacts, TERRIFIED. FRANTIC, he reaches for the door...

BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG! The car is RIDDLED WITH BULLETS. Oula FLAILS then SLUMPS across the wheel. The horn BLARES...

...and we see BLOOD oozing over a folder on Kingara's lap, over a SYMBOL for THE KENYAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

The horn's wail SILENCES the music and we FADE TO --

EXT. HACKING AT RANDOM - VIERHOUTEN, NETHERLANDS - NIGHT

AERIAL SHOT: a CAMPGROUND overtaken by an ODD HACKER CIRCUS -- NEON WIRES snaking among dozens of HUGE, ILLUMINATED TENTS.

HACKING AT RANDOM - VIERHOUTEN, NETHERLANDS

WE FOCUS IN on a BIG TENT with a HUGE WIKILEAKS FLAG.

DANIEL
(O.C.)
We've exposed death squads in Kenya, an Iranian nuclear cover up...

INT. HACKING AT RANDOM, WIKILEAKS TENT - NETHERLANDS - NIGHT

A MOB of REVELERS drink beer and smoke pot under BIG MONITORS displaying the WIKILEAKS SITE. Large tables hold PILES of Wikileaks NEWS CLIPPINGS and the latest leaked docs/photos.

DANIEL
...in Iceland, the government has taken over the Kaupthing bank...

Daniel stands in front of dozens of fans, including a CUTE
FEMALE REPORTER with a NOTEBOOK labeled WIRED.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
...and the 9/11 pager message leak
will have huge privacy
implications.

Daniel beams. It's INFECTIOUS... the reporter is SMITTEN.

WIRED REPORTER
Wired wants a longer piece, can you
make time for a one on one session?

DANIEL
Absolutely.

WIRED REPORTER
Great. Call me.

She hands him a CARD and exits, crossing with Marcus.

MARCUS
Look at you. With groupies.

DANIEL
She's a reporter.

MARCUS
She's certainly working an angle.

Daniel laughs. We hear the RING of a CRYPTO PHONE and follow
the sound past happy revelers to Julian, with Birgitta and a
few CUTE HACKER GIRLS.

Julian notices the cryptophone's RING, picks up --

JULIAN
(INTO THE PHONE)
This is Julian.

EXT. STREET - NAIROBI, KENYA - DAY

A crowd chants, SCREAMING, FIGHTING with police. A MAN in
the foreground presses a phone to his ear, WEEPING.

MAN
(INTO THE PHONE)
Julian... I have horrible news.

INT. HACKING AT RANDOM, WIKILEAKS TENT - NETHERLANDS - NIGHT

Julian GRIPS the phone, listening.

He PALEs and we PRELAP --
KNN NEWS ANCHOR
(PRELAP, ON CLIP)
The victims, Oscar Kamau Kingara
and John Paul Oula had worked
closely with the Kenyan Commission
on Human Rights on a report
documenting...

INT. HACKING AT RANDOM, WIKILEAKS TENT – NETHERLANDS – NIGHT

CLOSE ON A MONITOR, a KNN CLIP of the crowd fighting police.

KNN NEWS ANCHOR
(ON CLIP)
...complicity of the Kenya police
in over 400 murders. The report
gained local notoriety after it was
published on the Wikileaks site...

REVEAL Birgitta and Marcus staring up at the screen. Julian,
VERY UPSET, hovers over Daniel, typing on a laptop.

JULIAN
This can't be some mealy mouthed
press release. Kibaki killed them,
the language needs to be stronger.

DANIEL
It's already pretty strong.

JULIAN
Give me the damn computer.

Julian, IRRITATED, takes over, pushing Daniel out of the
way. Birgitta sees how upset Julian is, leans in to comfort
him.

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
This wasn't your fault. They left
their names on that report, they
wanted the world to know they stood
behind it. They knew the stakes.

Julian keeps typing, FRUSTRATED...

JULIAN
Yes, they wanted the world to know.
It's an astonishing story, we put
it on the front of the damn website
and we couldn't get a single paper
outside of Kenya to pick it up.
(then, upset)
We're not breaking though. They
were my friends and I... if we'd
gotten that report more publicity, they'd have been heroes. Murdering them would have had a political cost, Kibaki wouldn't have dared.

**DANIEL**

He's a tyrant, Julian, I don't think more publicity would have --

**JULIAN**

(turning on him, HARSH)

What the hell do you know about publicity? Outside of self-promotion? Sucking up to reporters, it's disgusting.

**DANIEL**

The woman from Wired? I was selling her a story.

**JULIAN**

Why don't you leave that to me.

Julian grabs the laptop, stalks off. Daniel stands, NUMB.

**MARCUS**

I wouldn't take it personally. He's scared. You should be too.

**DANIEL**

(catching his tone)

Our operating system is secure, our other sources are safe, we're okay. Really.

Marcus doesn't look impressed.

**DANIEL**

(CONTINUED)

You think the site is vulnerable?

**MARCUS**

I think you're taking on Presidents and Kings and kingpins -- people who can afford to hire the kind of Black Hats that get off on breaking into a so called secure operating system. And, believe me, if your O.S. is anything less than secure, it's not gonna take long for them to I.D. the rest of your sources and hunt them down... to say nothing of what they'll do to you and Julian.

(then, serious)
Ask for my help, Daniel.

Off Daniel, FREAKED, convinced Marcus is right --

EXT. STATE DEPARTMENT PLANE - SOMEWHERE OVER EUROPE - NIGHT

A plane arcs through the night sky.

CNN NEWS ANCHOR
(PRELAP, ON CNN)
...WikiLeaks commemorated 9/11 by publishing a half million pager messages originally sent on the tragic day.

And now WE SEE the letters, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. And on the wing, the SEAL of the SECRETARY OF STATE.

PUSH INTO --

INT. STATE DEPARTMENT PLANE - SOMEWHERE OVER EUROPE - NIGHT

A small conference room with an empty video screen. Sarah Shaw, on the phone, eyes a monitor broadcasting CNN.

CNN NEWS ANCHOR
(ON CNN)
Many have hailed the messages as a fresh level of insight into 9/11, a vital addition to our historic record...

SARAH SHAW
(INTO THE PHONE)
Okay. Okay.
(pause)
Yeah. Keep your man on them.

Sarah HANGS UP. An OPEN FOLDER is on the table, a PROFILE OF JULIAN. As she eyes it, an AIDE walks in.

AIDE
You wanted the Deputy NSA?

Sarah nods and the aide pulls up a SECURE VIDEO CONFERENCE. On screen, we see SAM COLSON, 32, perennially impatient.

SAM COLSON
(ON THE VIDEO)
I thought if I sent you to Cairo I might get a minute to myself.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. WHITE HOUSE, SIT ROOM - WASHINGTON, DC - DAY
A LONG TABLE, several computers, TV monitors, military display screens. Surprisingly quiet, a small skeleton crew.

SARAH SHAW
(ON VIDEO DISPLAY)
Turn on CNN.

Sarah is on a DISPLAY beside the long table... which is empty, save Sam. He flips a TV to CNN, sees the 9/11 story.

SAM COLSON
This the site that skewered Palin?

SARAH SHAW
And the Iranian nuclear program, Petroperu, Bank Julius Baer...

SAM COLSON
...right, we just indicted the bankers. These guys have an agenda?

SARAH SHAW
Truth, justice... the American way.
(then, pointed)
They got the 9/11 texts from someone monitoring the top pager services.

Colson pauses as it DAWNS on him...

SAM COLSON
You think they got the leak from us?

SARAH SHAW
The CIA's concerned, they've put a man on it. And we think it's time to get the Pentagon involved.

SAM COLSON
The Pentagon? This is a website, right? Not a terror cell. Let me call Justice.

Diplomat JAMES BOSWELL enters, cool and calm as in the OPEN.

SARAH SHAW
Justice will tell you there's a first amendment issue. And even if there weren't, the site has mirrors outside the US, it's beyond the law.

SAM COLSON
I don't even know what that means.

JAMES BOSWELL
It means information transfer is too damn easy and we're not prepared. Call the Pentagon, Sam.

Boswell ends the video conference.

SARAH SHAW
I had it under control.

JAMES BOSWELL
I know.
    (sits, all business)
We're a half hour out of Cairo, you want to brief me on this source?

SARAH SHAW
Sure.

Sarah reaches for a folder marked SECRET. She opens it, we see a PHOTO: SIM SARNA from the open.

Off the photo --

EXT. BCC (BERLINER CONGRESS CENTER) – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAY


ELECTRONICA HUMS and a LIGHT SNOW FALLS as we PUSH INTO --

MARCUS
(PRELAP)
The program code is a mess, the OS has massive problems...

INT. BCC, LOBBY – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAY

The lobby is crowded with hackers registering for 26C3. In a corner, Marcus huddles with Daniel, Birgitta and Julian.

MARCUS
...and there are ways to trace your sources -- they aren't protected nearly as well as you say they are.

JULIAN
(to Daniel, agitated)
You let him on the primary server?

DANIEL
He could have hacked it himself. That's the point. We need help.
JULIAN
We need to be careful who we trust.

Julian glares at Marcus, it's awkward.

DANIEL
Julian, I've known Marcus for years. We knew Birgitta all of five minutes when you asked her to --

JULIAN
Yes, I asked her. I have experience with these things, I don't make mistakes. At least not usually.

The implication is clear. Daniel's STUNG. And UPSET.

DANIEL
We make a promise to our sources...

JULIAN
You made a promise to me.

Julian's angry. But more than that, he's HURT. BETRAYED. OTTO, the volunteer from the last Congress, walks up.

OTTO
You might wanna get backstage, a couple of guys are sniffing around, real Patriot Act types...

Otto nods towards two blond men in suits by the registration desk. WATCHING THEM. They're calm, PROFESSIONAL. The team TENSES, Julian quickly packing up. Birgitta leans in --

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
Daniel is right. You have real enemies, no need to make ones up.

Julian considers as APPLAUSE and CHEERS take us INTO --

INT. BCC, MAIN AUDITORIUM - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY

The room is the same as two years ago but the contrast is ENORMOUS. A ROWDY CROWD of HUNDREDS cheer Julian and Daniel.

DANIEL
According to The Guardian we've had more scoops in three years than the Washington Post has had in thirty...

Daniel clicks a pointer. A MAP OF THE GLOBE, leaks appearing by country, a presentation more polished than any we've
seen.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
...we've exposed corruption in
dozens of countries...

Again, we see Julius Baer and Scientology, but there's also
the Petroperu oil scandal (Peru), the Natanz nuclear cover
up (Iran), and toxic dumping by Trafigura (Cote d'Ivoire)...

Daniel catches Julian's eye, a moment of shared amazement as
they realize how much they've accomplished. WE HEAR a LOW
HUM... PULL BACK... it's the AUDIENCE. ON ITS FEET.
CHEERING.

It's POWERFUL. As the cheering fades and the audience sits,
an EAST BERLIN WOMAN moves to a microphone in the aisle.

EAST BERLIN WOMAN
I grew up in the East. We... if we
even wrote a letter about a broken
sewer pipe, we were watched. Maybe
interrogated. Thrown in jail...
(her eyes welling)
I think, Mr. Assange, that if we'd
had someone like you... the wall
would have come down years before.

Hard to say whether it appeals to his vanity or his
altruism, but Julian is clearly moved.

JULIAN
Yes, security. That's the essence.
Security guaranteed by anonymity.
(working something out)
Of course, as much as you try to
protect, there will always be those
who seek to destroy. But we, we
make a promise to our sources...

Julian glances over at Daniel. An admission.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
...which is why we're continually
adding qualified partners to
strengthen our team.
(and then)
You can change the world with a
good idea... but you can't do it
alone. You need people... willing
to put themselves on the line.

Off Julian, looking at Daniel --
EXT. KAHN EL-KHALILI SOUK – CAIRO, EGYPT – DAY

Men and women barter in the crowded, ancient BAZAAR. We notice a FALAFEL PLACE at the edge of the market...

SIM SARNA
(PRELAP)
I copied it from memory.

INT. FALAFEL RESTAURANT – CAIRO, EGYPT – DAY

CLOSE ON A HANDWRITTEN DIAGRAM of the Teller-Ulam NUCLEAR BOMB... the same diagram as we saw in the Open.

SIM SARNA
They're testing the explosive in the next six months.

REVEAL a tense SIM SARNA with Sarah at a corner table in a dingy falafel place.

SARAH SHAW
Shit. We thought they were at least three years away from a bomb.

A beat. It's grim.

SIM SARNA
I had such hope this summer. Even after Mousavi lost and the Basij broke up the marches, you could still feel something in the air. The protest letters, the 'death to Khamenei' graffiti in the very heart of Tehran, it was unimaginable ten years go. But if Khamenei gets the bomb, if he succeeds...

Sim trails off, upset.

SARAH SHAW
You remember that New Years party in Sharm el-Sheikh? I'd just started my Fulbright, I had a bit to drink --

SIM SARNA
A lot to drink --

SARAH SHAW
Shida begged you to go home but you stayed. You hardly knew me.
SIM SARNA
Someone had to keep an eye on you.
And on that short Egyptian doing
the bad Omar Sharif impression.

She smiles. Then looks at him, POINTED.

SARAH SHAW
DC's a nice place to raise a child.

SIM SARNA
I thought you believed in reform.

SARAH SHAW
(she does, but...)
You have a family now. I want you
to do what's best for your family.

SIM SARNA
(beat)
You know, they say that if a boy is
not given a proper kebab before he
hits puberty he'll lose his
manhood. Tell me, where have you
had proper chelo kebab outside of
Sa'adat-abad?

(then)
Tehran is our home, Sarah. I am
doing what's best for my family.

Sarah reacts. A beat, then she notices a WAITER taking an
interest. Cool and professional, she changes the subject...

SARAH SHAW
...so how are Shida and the baby?

Off Sim, switching gears --

INT. BCC, MAIN AUDITORIUM - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY

The aftermath of a very successful talk, a LARGE CROWD
hovers around Julian. Reporters, fans, groupies...

DER SPIEGEL REPORTER
We'd love a bio piece.

CUTE WOMAN
Julian, are you still taking
speaking engagements?

 HACKER DUDE
How about in kind donations?
Routers, USB sticks...?

Julian moves up the aisle with his entourage.
JULIAN
Yes, yes, just e-mail Daniel.

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
Jesus. Look at the PayPal account.

Marcus and Birgitta fall in with Julian, eyeing a smartphone.

MARCUS
...it's thousands of euros. We can upgrade servers, get new laptops...

JULIAN
Shall we find some mistletoe and celebrate?

Julian smiles at Birgitta, IMPISH. She rolls her eyes.

DANIEL
I'll see you guys at the party.

Julian looks over, sees Daniel... with his PARENTS.

JULIAN
Mr. and Mrs. Berg. Daniel didn't tell me you were coming.

Daniel clearly didn't know. He's less than thrilled.

DANIEL'S MOTHER
We kept reading about you in the papers. Can you join us for dinner?

DANIEL
Julian's busy, I'm sure he can't --

JULIAN
(taking Mrs. Berg's arm)
I'd love to.

EXT. DANIEL'S PARENTS' HOUSE - OUTSIDE BERLIN - NIGHT

A small cottage in a sleepy suburb of Berlin.

DANIEL'S MOTHER
(PRELAP)
That was taken in Belgium.

INT. DANIEL'S PARENTS' HOUSE - OUTSIDE BERLIN - NIGHT

A cozy living room. Mr. Berg brings a coke to Julian, who looks at one of many FRAMED PHOTOS on the mantle, 16-YEAR-OLD DANIEL in a JUDO ROBE, with a TROPHY and his
BEAMING PARENTS.

JULIAN
You all went?

DANIEL'S FATHER
I organized the competitions. We traveled to Dusseldorf, Geneva...

DANIEL'S MOTHER
Remember that boy he beat in Prague? He was so big.

Daniel and his mother walk in with cheese and bread.

DANIEL
She means he was fat. And slow.

Julian STARTS. There's a CAT. It HISSES at him.

DANIEL'S MOTHER
Schmitt. Leave him alone.

Julian looks at Daniel. The cat is named Schmitt? Daniel shrugs as his father reaches for a stack of LOCAL PAPERS.

DANIEL'S FATHER
By the way, have you seen these?

DANIEL'S MOTHER
He's been keeping all your articles.

DANIEL'S FATHER
There was this one piece on Julius Baer in the FAZ. It was wonderful.

He pulls the paper out of the stack, holds it out to Julian.

JULIAN
We don't really bother with local press.

DANIEL'S MOTHER
It's a national paper. It's so impressive, what you've done.

Julian forces a smile, looks past the paper to the BOOKSHELF. Kropotkin, Chomsky. He turns to Daniel's father.

JULIAN
That's some collection. Quite the anarchist, hmm?

Daniel's father gives a small shrug.
JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
It's the oddest thing. I didn't
meet my biological father until I
was in my twenties. I walked into
his house and on the shelves,
Kropotkin, Kafka, Solzhenitsyn...

Julian pulls down the Kropotkin. Daniel and his parents
watch, frozen, as Julian stares at the book, OBLIVIOUS.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
...all the books it had taken me
years to discover on my own...

It's AWKWARD. Not knowing what to say --

DANIEL'S MOTHER
Perhaps you'd like to borrow one?

JULIAN
(tossing the book aside)
Where's the bathroom?

Daniel nods. Julian grabs his backpack and heads off.

DANIEL'S FATHER
He takes his backpack to the
bathroom?

DANIEL
(awkward)
Security.

But as he says it, Daniel catches a glimpse of a backpack... and turns to see Julian HEADING OUT THE DOOR.

Off Daniel --

INT. TACHELES - BERLIN, GERMANY - LATER

Like two years ago, East Berliners of all sorts in the cafe club. But unlike two years ago, Julian's SURROUNDED by WOMEN and GROUPIES. He's holding court, soaking up the attention.

DANIEL
That wasn't cool.

Julian turns as we FIND Daniel. Standing there. Pissed.

JULIAN
Sorry, lost my appetite. You have
to admit, they're a bit
suffocating.

Julian heads for a table.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
You haven't picked up on that?
Well, I suppose we each have our
own unique way of looking at the
world. In fact, here's an
interesting one --

Julian pulls out the copy of WIRED UK from his backpack,
flips to the article. EXPOSED: WIKILEAKS' SECRETS.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Did you see it, the new Wired
piece?
(reading)
Cofounder Daniel Schmit got
involved with Wikileaks prior to
launch.

Below the headline, there's a picture of Daniel. ALONE.

DANIEL
I didn't say that.
(off his look)
Julian, the reporter screwed up.

JULIAN
Maybe you're used to people
exaggerating your successes. But
while you were out winning judo
trophies with Mutti und Vati, I was
studying information systems in a
shitty squat outside Melbourne,
obsessing over code in a hot flat
in Paris, holding schizophrenic
meetings with myself: the Chairman,
the Secretary, sole volunteer and
founder of a website no one had
ever heard of. Including you.

DANIEL
(beat)
Lovely speech, are you done?

Daniel starts walking away. Julian calls out after him.

JULIAN
(off the Wired piece)
He adopted the nom de plume
'Schmitt' after his cat.
To think, I spent weeks reading
Horace searching for the right nom
de guerre. If only I'd had a cat.

Julian tosses the Wired article at Daniel, turns back to the
groupies. As Daniel stands there... a KID we might recognize
as ZIGGY, the 17-year-old from the OPEN, walks up to Julian.

ZIGGY
You're the leak guy, right? From
the Congress? You need volunteers?

JULIAN
We have hundreds of voluntes...
but we can always use loyal
followers.

ZIGGY
Great. I'm Ziggy.

Ziggy enthusiastically shakes Julian's hand. Julian pulls
him in, eyeing Daniel... who turns to the bar, ORDERS A
DRINK. Daniel POUNDS it, then TURNS BACK.

He sees Ziggy and two hot women FAWN OVER Julian... As
Julian whispers something to Ziggy, Daniel orders another
drink. He POUNDS it, then TURNS BACK.

The group laughs with Julian... laughing at Daniel? As the
cute blond STARTS TO TRIM JULIAN'S HAIR, Birgitta leans
in...

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
There's a reporter here from The
New Yorker? He says you agreed to a
profile?

Julian turns. A YOUNG INDIAN REPORTER waits in the door.
As Julian beckons him over, Daniel orders another beer.

Daniel POUNDS it, then TURNS BACK. He sees Julian, still
holding court, the reporter now taking notes...

JULIAN
I was divorced once. There was a
terrible custody battle.

REPORTER
...stressful?

JULIAN
Have you seen my hair?

Ziggy, packing up Julian's bag, looks up, AWE ON HIS FACE.
And for a brief moment HE LOOKS JUST LIKE DANIEL DID WHEN HE MET JULIAN, no beard, no weariness in his eyes...

Daniel GRIMACES, POUNDS a last beer and we --

**INT. TACHELES, STAIRWAY – BERLIN, GERMANY – NIGHT**

Daniel hurries down the stairs, passing... Marcus, against a wall, with a GROUPIE or two, DRUGGED OUT OF HIS MIND.

    MARCUS
    Hey man, five minutes, I just need
    a cup of coffee, I'll be clear...

    DANIEL
    (pushing past him)
    Don't worry about it.

    MARCUS
    But Julian wants me to drive you
guys to the airport.

    DANIEL
    Julian can go fuck himself.

He heads down the stairs to the exit.

Off Marcus, CONFUSED --

**EXT. STATE DEPARTMENT PLANE – CAIRO INTNT'L AIRPORT – NIGHT**

Diplomats walk up jetway stairs onto a LARGE 757 marked with the SEAL OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

We PRELAP --

    MILITARY PILOT
    (OVER THE PA)
    ...should be a smooth flight
    back...

**INT. STATE DEPARTMENT PLANE – CAIRO INTNT'L AIRPORT – NIGHT**

Diplomats board the plane. On a TV monitor, C-SPAN plays the speech the Secretary gave earlier.

    MILITARY PILOT
    (OVER THE PA)
    ...to Washington this evening...

    JAMES BOSWELL
    You think this is good intel?

FIND Sarah seated with Boswell, looking over Sim's diagram.
SARAH SHAW
I've known Sim for twenty years, he and his wife are like family to me.

JAMES BOSWELL
Write up a cable, I want everyone on the Middle East Desk up to speed.

Sarah nods, opens her laptop, pulls up the State Department NET CENTRIC DIPLOMACY DATABASE. She starts TYPING.

PUSH IN ON THE CABLE. We see an ID NUMBER, a SUBJECT (IRAN: NUCLEAR CAPABILITY REPORT), and a CLASSIFICATION (SECRET).

Type fills the TEXT FIELD: In a conversation with Iranian physicist Sim Sarna (STRICTLY PROTECT)... We HOLD ON the words STRICTLY PROTECT as we --

INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT, FOYER - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

The foyer of a familiar apartment, small but WARM. We HEAR A WOMAN on the phone in another room. Just as we start to recognize her voice, there’s a KNOCK at the door.

Anke walks in cradling the phone. She looks at her watch, surprised -- it's late, she clearly wasn't expecting anyone. At the door, she peers into the peephole. Then REACTS. And opens the door. Daniel stands with his bags. EXHAUSTED.

DANIEL
Hey.

He stands there, PRAYING she'll let him in. A beat, then Anke reaches out, PUTS A HAND ON HIS CHEEK.

We CUT TO --

INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

CLOSE ON a finger tracing a HUGE WIKILEAKS TATTOO.

ANKE
Never thought I'd fall for a rock star.

REVEAL Anke and Daniel, naked. Anke runs her finger over the WIKILEAKS TATTOO that SPANS DANIEL'S BACK. Daniel smiles.

DANIEL
I think rock stars have cooler tattoos. You should have heard Julian...
(imitating him)
'Compensating for something?'

ANKE
I'd be happy to tell him you're not.

DANIEL
(smiling, then)
I didn't care. It wasn't for him anyway.

ANKE
He's an asshole, Daniel. He's a manipulative asshole.

DANIEL
He must be. Why else would I have given up everything I cared about.

A beat.

ANKE
I've got a new job, too.
(then)
We consult with the legislature... push for transparency, citizen participation...

DANIEL
(a smile)
Sounds familiar.

ANKE
Yes, but we try to work with governments instead of terrorizing them.

Ouch.

ANKE
(CONTINUED)
I did see your talk, though.
(off Daniel's surprise)
I spent the past year thinking about you, I wanted to know if it had been worth it.

He looks skeptical. But she reaches out to him.

ANKE
(CONTINUED)
What you've done, it's staggering. Julian didn't create that alone. The two of you, you're a team.
Sure, he's the mad prophet, there's one at the heart of every revolution. But that's why most of them end badly.

(and then)
He needs boundaries, Daniel. He needs a line. You're the line.

A beat. Daniel gives her a wry smile --

DANIEL
You know, I had this fantasy about driving into the Alps and spending a month naked in front of a fire...

ANKE
Close your eyes, I'll turn up the heater.

As she moves to kiss him, we PRELAP --

NICK DAVIES
(PRELAP)
Investigative journalism is pricey.

INT. QUALITY HOTEL, MEETING ROOM - TONSBERG NORWAY - NIGHT

A small room of elite reporters. Nick Davies at a podium, a banner above: 2009 SKUP INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM CONFERENCE.

NICK DAVIES
When papers get squeezed, it's first to go. That's why providers of first rate source material like Wikileaks are so important.

IRRITATED REPORTER
Nick, is Assange ever going to show?

NICK DAVIES
(glancing at his phone)
It seems he's been delayed.

JULIAN
Passport control is such a bore.

The room turns as Julian walks in with a number of BAGS.

JULIAN
(CONT'D)
(CONTINUED)
Apparently, they're not such fans of first rate source material.
He gives the crowd a SMIRK.

As the crowd LAUGHS --

**INT. BAR, QUALITY HOTEL - TONSBERG, NORWAY - NIGHT**

Reporters fill a hotel bar. REINDEER PELTS on the walls.

**JULIAN**
There were CIA agents on my plane.
That's the real reason I was late.

FIND Julian at a table with Nick and an ATTRACTIVE FEMALE REPORTER (ALEX LANG). Julian's flush, almost giddy, embellishing for Ms. Lang. She eats it up.

**MS. LANG**
An international man of mystery.

**NICK DAVIES**
Yes, I've worked that line. Next he'll tell us these 'spooks' kidnapped his partner.

Julian stares BLANKLY at Nick.

**NICK DAVIES**
(CONTINUED)
The German fellow, Daniel. The grounded one, who helps you distinguish fact from fiction.

**JULIAN**
(to Ms. Lang, blithe)
We have hundreds of volunteers.
I can't keep track of them all.

**MS. LANG**
Well, do try to keep track of me.

She smiles at him, heads off to the ladies room. As Julian watches her go, admiring, Nick changes tone...

**NICK DAVIES**
So, what is this new leak you're sitting on? Must be big to have piqued the CIA's interest.

Julian turns. Somewhat surprised --

**JULIAN**
You believe me?

**NICK DAVIES**
I didn't til I noticed your
friends.

Nick nods to TWO MEN in the corner, WATCHING THEM. Julian BLANCHES. It's the BLOND SPOOKS from the BCC. He starts to RISE, but Nick puts a hand on his shoulder.

NICK DAVIES
(CONTINUED)
Let's not attract attention, shall we? Besides, the American spooks are civilized. It's the Russians you need to keep an eye on.

Nick glances over at TWO THICK RUSSIANS talking quietly at the bar. AND WATCHING THEM. Julian follows his gaze, ASHEN.

NICK DAVIES
(CONTINUED)
Room 376, can you remember that?

Julian nods. Nick discreetly slips him a KEY, then stands.

NICK DAVIES
(CONTINUED)
When Ms. Lang returns, bring her up. They'll assume you're in for the night, which should leave ample time for us to find a way to slip you out of the hotel.

NICK DAVIES
(CONTINUED)
And for you to show us what it is that's got their knickers in such a twist.

INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT, BEDROOM - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

Daniel and Anke sleep. Daniel looks peaceful, more content than we've seen him. Then...

His cryptophone RINGS. Daniel BOLTS UP, eyes FLASHING open. Anke stirs as he checks the caller ID. He looks to her... she already knows who it is. She nods and Daniel picks up --

DANIEL
(INTO THE PHONE)
Julian?

INT. HOTEL ROOM - TONSBERG, NORWAY - NIGHT (SAME TIME)

A well-appointed European hotel room. A FRENETIC Julian paces beside Nick, who watches VIDEO on a laptop. In the b/g, Ms. Lang is on a hotel phone.
JULIAN  
(INTO THE PHONE)  
I need you, can you be on the first  
plane to Reykjavik tomorrow?  

WE DO NOT SEE THE VIDEO, but we HEAR the HISS OF A MILITARY  
WALKIE. Nick watches, STUNNED.  

NICK DAVIES  
Jesus... I'm surprised they don't  
have more men on you.  

DANIEL  
(INTO THE PHONE)  
I thought you were in Norway--  

JULIAN  
(CONTINUED)  
(INTO THE PHONE)  
I can't stay here, it's not safe.  

MS. LANG  
They'll have a taxi here in twenty.  

Ms. Lang hangs up the hotel phone.  

MS. LANG  
(CONT'D)  
It'll be by the back stair, the  
Americans are out front.  

DANIEL  
(THROUGH THE PHONE)  
Julian, what's going on?  

Nick stands. Off the video --  

NICK DAVIES  
Shit, this is going to be...  
Julian, you should work with us on  
this.  

JULIAN  
What, so the Guardian can take all  
the credit?  

Julian a BALL OF ENERGY, takes Lang's arm, walks her into--  

INT. HOTEL ROOM, BATHROOM - TONSBERG, NORWAY - CONTINUOUS  

Julian pulls Ms. Lang into the small bathroom.  

DANIEL  
(INTO THE PHONE)
Julian --

But Julian HANGS UP the phone, closes the bathroom door behind Ms. Lang and PULLS AT HER DRESS.

MS. LANG
What are you doing?

She STOPS him. It's not an unwelcome advance, but under the circumstances, Ms. Lang is SURPRISED. He explains --

JULIAN
If I'm going to slip out of the hotel, I'll need a disguise.

She can't help but smile. And OBLIGE, pulling at her ZIPPER, the SOUND morphing into the ROAR OF AN AIRPLANE.

SMASH TO --

EXT. KEFLAVIK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - ICELAND - DAY

An AIRPLANE cruises in for a landing, flying over a RED VOLKSWAGON BEETLE that's pulling out of the airport.

JULIAN
(O.C.)
Are you sure no one's following us?

INT. BIRGITTA'S CAR (MOVING) - REYKJAVIK, ICELAND - DAY

CLOSE ON Daniel, in the front seat. He trades a look with Birgitta, who's driving, then peers into the REARVIEW at...

Julian, in back, IN MS. LANG'S DRESS. Looking a bit crazy.

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
I don't see anyone.

DANIEL
What's going on?

Daniel's phone RINGS. He checks the caller ID.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
It's Nick from the Guardian.
(then)
Julian, what is going on?

Off Julian's nervous smile, we SMASH TO --

INT. FOSS HOTEL, HOTEL ROOM - REYKJAVIK, ICELAND - DAY

CLOSE ON GRAINY MILITARY VIDEO from IRAQ. A HELICOPTER CAM
on A GROUP OF MEN near a building on a dirt road. The camera pans OMINOUSLY. We hear AMERICAN VOICES over MILITARY RADIO.

US SOLDIER
(ON THE VIDEO)
Just fuckin', just open 'em up.
Let's shoot, light 'em all up.

Suddenly, we hear MACHINE GUN FIRE.

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT -- the camera SHAKES. A small time delay then the men DUCK, and FALL. SHOT. DUST rises around them.

US SOLDIER
(ON THE VIDEO)
(CONTINUED)
Keep shoot'n, keep shoot'n.

RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT. The smoke CLEARs and we see DEAD BODIES on the ground. It's GRAPHIC, DISTURBING. So is the language...

US SOLDIER
(ON THE VIDEO)
(CONTINUED)
Look at those dead bastards.
(laughing)

REVEAL Birgitta, Daniel and Marcus in a hotel room, watching what we now know to be the COLLATERAL MURDER VIDEO. STUNNED.

DANIEL
Jesus. Were they even armed?

JULIAN
With cameras, mostly.

Julian stands behind them.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Two of the victims were Reuters news employees, a photographer and his driver. The Military claimed they died in a battle between US forces and insurgents and the press just bought it.

MARCUS
Didn't Reuters chase the story?

JULIAN
The Pentagon completely stonewalled them, it's a massive cover up.
BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
Julian, this is huge.

JULIAN
Nick thought so, I bet we could sell it to the Guardian for millions.

MARCUS
You want to sell this?

Julian's considering it. Marcus and Birgitta look APPALLED.

DANIEL
Of course he doesn't. And we won't have to. It'll spark a whole new wave of donations.

Daniel holds Julian's gaze, then pushes on --

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
That's assuming it's legitimate. Where did you get it?

JULIAN
A guy showed up in the chat, said he was US Military.

(following Daniel's lead)
But we'll want to track down the families of the victims.

ZIGGY
In Baghdad?

DANIEL
Yes, in Baghdad. We're journalists, we have to verify sources, maybe you should look into flights.

Ziggy SWALLOWES HARD. Julian watches Daniel with RENEWED APPRECIATION as he takes over, turning to Marcus...

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
We need to pre-process, improve resolution...

MARCUS
We can probably use FFmpeg...

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
I'll grab some more volunteers...

As the team springs into action, we --
INT. FOSS HOTEL, HOTEL ROOM - REYKJAVIK, ICELAND - DAY

CLOSE ON a MONITOR. A quote over black -- 'Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and give the appearance of solidity to pure wind.' George Orwell.

MARCUS
(O.C.)
Good. Now add some buzz over that, radio frequency, military comms...

REVEAL Daniel, Birgitta and Marcus and some volunteers making edits to the video. Daniel spots Julian out on the patio.

EXT. FOSS HOTEL, PATIO - REYKJAVIK, ICELAND - DAY

Julian stares out at the otherworldly landscape.

DANIEL
We need to set up a media launch.

Daniel walks up. Julian's a bit lost in thought.

JULIAN
I've heard people say that I dangle somewhere on the autistic spectrum. It's probably why I lean so heavily on those around me.

A small admission, it seems heartfelt. But this time, Daniel's not quite susceptible, not really moved --

DANIEL
Right. So the media launch?

JULIAN
Ziggy's planning something at the Parliament building.

DANIEL
Ziggy...
(off Julian's look)
You want to launch the biggest leak we've ever had in Iceland?

Julian's momentarily flustered. Daniel pats him on the back.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
Let's take the fight to them.
(heading back inside)
Courage is contagious, right?
As Daniel exits, we HOLD ON Julian, who realizes what he means.

Off Julian UNNERVED and IMPRESSED, we SMASH TO --

**EXT. WASHINGTON, DC – DAY**

The sun glistens off the CAPITOL DOME as WE PRELAP --

**JULIAN**

(PRELAP)
The video shows the brutal slaughter-

**INT. NATIONAL PRESS CLUB – WASHINGTON, DC – DAY**

Julian speaks to a room of REPORTERS, photos behind him.

**JULIAN**

...of two Reuters reporters... US soldiers clearly debased by war...

**INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT – BERLIN, GERMANY – NIGHT**

CLOSE ON A SMALL TELEVISION. WOLF BLITZER on CNN.

**WOLF BLITZER**

(ON THE MONITOR)
The video was released by the whistleblowing website wikileaks...

REVEAL Anke, standing with Daniel, watching.

**ANKE**

I suppose there's something to be said for terrorizing governments...

Daniel smiles at her as Blitzer continues, a large screen playing the beginning of the Collateral Murder Video.

**WOLF BLITZER**

What you're about to see is graphic--

**TELEVISION (REAL FOOTAGE) – CNN**

QUICK CUTS of the Video. We see the men mowed down again.

**TELEVISION (REAL FOOTAGE) – CNN**

Pentagon correspondent BARBARA STARR speaks to Wolf Blitzer.

**BARBARA STARR**

...the army found no one at fault, that the helicopters in the air had
no reason to believe there were journalists on the ground...

TELEVISION (REAL FOOTAGE) - CNN

QUICK CUTS of the Video. We see the men mowed down again.

TELEVISION (REAL FOOTAGE) - CNN

Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr speaks to Wolf Blitzer.

BARBARA STARR
Nonetheless it is a grim reminder of the nastiness, of the terrible things that do happen in war.

TELEVISION (REAL FOOTAGE) - FOX NEWS

Megyn Kelly interviews MILITARY ANALYST CAPTAIN CHUCK NASH.

MEGYN KELLY
He's calling this collateral murder. Captain, is that a fair description of the job our troops are doing?

INT. U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, SARAH'S OFFICE - WASH DC - DAY

Sarah and Boswell watch FOX NEWS.

CAPTAIN NASH
...if you are embedding with terrorists and they're engaged and you get killed, it is not murder.

SARAH SHAW
You don't want ugly pictures, you should get out of ugly wars.

JAMES BOSWELL
That decision's a bit above our pay grade, wouldn't you say?

AIDE
I've got Deputy NSA Colson for you?

Sarah hits the SPEAKERPHONE, her tone changing.

SARAH SHAW
(INTO THE PHONE)
12 million people have seen that video on You Tube, you still want to tell me it's just a little website?
INT. WHITE HOUSE, BULLPEN OUTSIDE PRESS BRIEFING - DAY

Colson on a phone outside the press room, working note pad.

   SAM COLSON
   General Thomason has been reviewing
   all the intel, he's fielding a
   tiger team, I told him to pull you
   in.
       (then)
   I'm on in five, you got anything
   for me?

   SARAH SHAW
   The guy on Fox is pretty good,
   maybe you should use some of his
   material.

   JAMES BOSWELL
   Sam, it's Jim. Tell the press the
   truth, those soldiers were
   following protocol, this is
   computer geeks looking at the war
   through a pin hole.

   SAM COLSON
   Those computer geeks are becoming a
   real menace.

   SARAH SHAW
   Welcome to the revolution.

Boswell starts to leave, crossing with an aide. The aide
hands a NOTE to Sarah. She scans it.

   SARAH SHAW
       (CONTINUED)
   Jim.

Boswell stops, turns back. And sees Sarah's PALE. As we
wonder what exactly the note says, we FADE TO BLACK.

INT. JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, GATE 47 - NEW YORK - DAY

FADE UP ON a GOOGLE SEARCH on Julian Assange.

A MOUSE clicks stories, WINDOWS pop up. Washington Post,
Wall Street Journal, New York Times. Quotes are read --

   JULIAN
       (O.C.)
   'Assange is disheveled.' 'Like a
   bag lady.' 'Changes cell phones
daily.'
REVEAL Julian with his bags, TWO LAPTOPS open, HEADPHONES on, a MOBILE ROUTER beside him. He talks to one of the laptops.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
A few days of serious analysis then it's all about how weird I am.

PAN OVER the SCREEN: he's SKYPING with Daniel.

We CUT TO --

INT. FOSS HOTEL, HOTEL ROOM - REYKJAVIK, ICELAND - DAY

Marcus is plugged in; Ziggy and a few staffers swirl around. Daniel talks to Julian.

DANIEL
(INTO HEADSET)
Come on, you had to enjoy Keller's diatribe on your filthy white socks.

JULIAN

Daniel smirks as Julian's cryptophone RINGS.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
Hold on.

As Julian answers, Daniel's cryptophone rings. And suddenly ALL THE OTHER PHONES IN THE ROOM ARE RINGING. Daniel turns, SURPRISED, when HIS COMPUTER STARTS BEEPING.

He looks down at the screen -- TWENTY IMs HAVE POPPED UP. Every one of them about a Private Bradley Manning.

DANIEL
What the...?

The same thing must be happening on Julian's side because he STARES at his screen, his face going WHITE. Then, NUMB --

JULIAN
They're going to kill us...
(then, to Daniel)
Get off skype, get off everything now.
As Daniel's Skype goes blank, Marcus starts BARKING --

MARCUS
We need to shut everything down!
You all have five seconds to save!

Daniel turns. Marcus is WILD EYED.

DANIEL
Marcus, what the hell is going on?

MARCUS
Five... Four... We can't let them trace us...

Marcus hits a button. All the computers freeze.

DANIEL
Who? Marcus?

Marcus hands him a laptop. On the frozen screen, an article in WIRED: 'U.S. Intelligence Analyst Arrested in Wikileaks Probe.' A photo of Manning, something about 260,000 U.S. diplomatic cables... As Daniel reads, Birgitta RUSHES in --

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
I just spoke to Kim Zetter at Wired, she said the US Military arrested a private for leaking secrets to us?

DANIEL
The video? This is the guy who leaked us the video?

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
(upset, pale)
She said it was more than that. Half a million classified US Army documents. And hundreds of thousands of internal communiques from the U.S. State Department. (then) She called it the biggest leak of classified information in history.

Daniel STARES at a PHOTO of BABY-FACED PRIVATE MANNING.

DANIEL
Oh god.

Marcus closes the laptop and we SMASH TO --

THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM – DANIEL'S VISION
Julian whispers to a young PRIVATE in a US ARMY UNIFORM. A HUGE STACK OF DOCS TOWERS nearby... SOME MARKED U.S. MILITARY, SOME U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, ALL MARKED CLASSIFIED.

The private turns to look at Daniel... we only get a glimpse of his face... IS IT MANNING?

Off Daniel, we SMASH TO --

**INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT, FOYER - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY**

CLOSE ON a cryptophone. RINGING.

We hear a door open and Anke walks in with a bag of GROCERIES. She reaches for the phone, answers. Light --

ANKE
(INTO THE PHONE)
Calling on the cryptophone, must be serious.

We don't hear what Daniel says, but Anke PALES.

SMASH TO --

**INT. FOSS HOTEL - REYKJAVIK, ICELAND - DAY**

Daniel's on his cryptophone.

DANIEL
(INTO THE PHONE)
..Wired broke the story, the soldier seems to have told someone online...

Nearby, Marcus types furiously, bringing them back online as Birgitta and the staffers huddle around a MONITOR, reading about Manning. UPSET, SCARED.

MARCUS
He bragged about it in a chat room?
What the hell was he thinking?

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
He's 22. He's just a kid.
(to Marcus, nervous)
Are you sure they can't trace us?

Marcus doesn't look so sure.

MARCUS
I'm adding another Tor circuit.

As he starts typing faster, we PICK UP Daniel --
DANIEL
(INTO THE PHONE)
...you need to wipe my portion of
the hard drive...

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT, KITCHEN - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY

Anke's totally freaked.

ANKE
(INTO THE PHONE)
Do you have those files?

DANIEL
(INTO THE PHONE)
(not answering)
You need to go to your mother's, do
you understand?

ANKE
(INTO THE PHONE)
(frightened)
Daniel, if you have those files and
they know about it --

DANIEL
(INTO THE PHONE)
I know. I've got to go.

Daniel hangs up. To Marcus, urgent --

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
Are we back up yet?

Marcus works a laptop.

MARCUS
Just a few more proxies...
(pissed, reeling)
The goddamn mission is to protect
sources...

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
We can't protect sources from
themselves.

Marcus' computer BEEPS.

MARCUS
We're online.

DANIEL
See if Julian's on the chat.

Marcus types into his Desktop.

[AS BEFORE, a CHAT BUBBLE appears on Marcus's laptop and AT THE BOTTOM OF OUR SCREEN].

mArc: Hey. Back online. You there?

INT. LUFTHANSA FLIGHT 85 - NEW YORK TO BRUSSELS - DAY

Julian's cramped into a COACH WINDOW SEAT, his LAPTOP ANGLED AWAY from the passenger beside him.

MARCUS' CHAT pops up on his computer screen. He glances WARILY at the passenger next to him... then TYPES. [In these scenes we see him silently typing, reacting to the chat].

jjj: We need lawyers for Manning.

SPLIT-SCREEN - FOSS HOTEL

They trade a NERVOUS look. Marcus reaches forward, TYPES.

mArc: So it's true? We have the docs?

SPLIT-SCREEN - LUFTHANSA FLIGHT

Julian KEEPS TYPING.

jjj: Creating a temp website, will send you the link.

SPLIT-SCREEN - FOSS HOTEL

DANIEL
Jesus. He's got them.

BIRGITTA JANSDOTTIR
How did he not tell us?

MARCUS
Daniel.

Marcus shows him the screen.

jjj: We need to publish everything. NOW.

Off Daniel. VERY CONCERNED --

INT. WHITE HOUSE, CORRIDOR - WASHINGTON, DC - DAY

Sarah and a YOUNG STAFFER, late 20s, hustle down a corridor.

SARAH SHAW
You're telling me this private stuck a thumb drive in a computer and --
YOUNG STAFFER
It was a CD.

SARAH SHAW
Excuse me?

YOUNG STAFFER
It was a blank CD. It was marked Lady Gaga.

Sarah STARES at the staffer as they walk into --

INT. WHITE HOUSE, SIT ROOM - WASHINGTON, DC - DAY

MILITARY BRASS, SUITS, everyone's on phones. Sarah joins Colson, conferring with a GENERAL (THOMASON).

SAM COLSON
Where's the Secretary?

SARAH SHAW
Jim's calling her now. Do we know which documents Manning leaked?

GENERAL THOMASON
He's refusing to talk but we think it's war logs from Afghanistan and Iraq. And cables from the NCD database.

SARAH SHAW
Which cables?

General Thomason looks down, EMBARRASSED.

SARAH SHAW (CONTINUED)
Which cables?

SAM COLSON
He may have leaked the whole database.

SARAH SHAW
That database has over a quarter million cables. Appraisals of world leaders, sensitive information on dozens of...

And then it HITS her. APOPLECTIC --

SARAH SHAW (CONTINUED)
Sam, there are names. Insiders,
informants in every country, people whose lives will be at risk if...

She trails off, OVERWHELMED. Thomason turns to Sam.

GENERAL THOMASON
There are informants named in the military logs as well. Hundreds of them.

Colson reaches for a phone, TENSE. Sarah, NUMB --

SARAH SHAW
A 22 year old private with a history of mental instability and a Lady Gaga CD and we're on the verge of a major international crisis?

SAM COLSON
(INTO THE PHONE)
We need the AG, the Joint Chiefs, whoever's running Wikileaks for the CIA and anyone else who might have a clue how to crush these assholes.
(to Thomason)
In the meantime, let's hope to God they're more responsible with information than we are.

Over this, Julian's chat POPS UP on the bottom of the screen
jjj: How fast can we format the US docs?

INT. FOSS HOTEL / INT. LUFTHANSA FLIGHT 85 - DAY

SPLIT-SCREEN as before.

SPLIT-SCREEN - FOSS HOTEL

Birgitta and Daniel stare at the laptop open to the chat, Marcus works on the other.

MARCUS
Jesus, it's three gigs of text.

Marcus pulls up a SET OF CABLES on the second laptop. Daniel stares. The words STRICTLY PROTECT jump out at him.

DANIEL
Shit.

Daniel eyes Marcus, who's seen it too. He looks NERVOUS...

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
Daniel, this is crazy...
Daniel glances back at Julian's text: How fast can we format the US docs? Trying to remain CALM, he dictates to Marcus.

    DANIEL
    Tell him we can't dump the data,
    tell him it's too dangerous.

Marcus starts TYPING.

**SPLIT-SCREEN - LUFTHANSA FLIGHT**

    mArc: Can't dump data. Too
dangerous.

Julian REACTS, VISIBLY ANGRY, starts BANGING on the keyboard.

**SPLIT-SCREEN - FOSS HOTEL**

Daniel dictates feverishly, Marcus types...

    DANIEL
    (CONTINUED)
    Tell him we need time to go through
    it all, tell him that once we've...

But they stop as Julian's chat FLIES ONTO THE SCREEN.

    jjj: MORE dangerous NOT to publish.
jjj: once it's out, there is
nothing they can do.
jjj: AND. if we don't publish, what
message does that send?
jjj: find our source and you can
stop us?

    DANIEL
    (CONTINUED)
    Give me the damn keyboard.

Daniel leans over Marcus, bangs on the keyboard ANGRILY.

    ddd: this is RECKLESS.

**SPLIT-SCREEN - LUFTHANSA FLIGHT**

Julian reacts as Daniel's chats fly across the screen.

    ddd: we don't know what's in the
docs.
ddd: you're putting people's lives
in jeopardy.
ddd: this is not the mission.

    JULIAN
    Fuck you, you disloyal...

The passenger beside him looks at Julian, UNEASY, as Julian
POUNDS his keyboard, livid, CLOSING the chat window.

The SPLIT SCREEN ENDS and we SMASH TO --

INT. FOSS HOTEL – REYKJAVIK, ICELAND – DAY

Daniel and the others STARE AT THE SCREEN. STUNNED.
jjj has logged out of the chat room.

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
He logged off?

MARCUS
Shit.

A moment of silence, then they're distracted by...

BOB BECKEL
(STREAMING VIDEO, FOXNEWS)
Who gets hurt from this? The American people and the national security of the United States. And the way to deal with this is pretty simple. We've got special ops forces, a dead man can't leak stuff.

They turn see Ziggy staring at his laptop, FREAKED.

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
(stunned)
That's their house liberal.

Daniel's phone RINGS. NUMB, he eyes it, picks up. COLD --

DANIEL
(INTO THE PHONE)
Nick. How can I help you?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. BULLPEN, GUARDIAN – LONDON, ENGLAND – DAY

CLOSE ON a an EARLY EDITION of tomorrow's Guardian, a BIG PICTURE OF MANNING on Page One.

NICK DAVIES
You can put me in touch with Julian.

REVEAL Nick holding the paper.

DANIEL
Julian's not available.

NICK DAVIES
Daniel, we both know you're sitting on the biggest story on the planet. And if you're thinking of going to ground on this, I'm afraid it's too late. Genie's out the bag, cat's out of the bottle, all the old cliches apply and now Manning's future and yours will be defined by one thing - how this material is handled.

Daniel STRUGGLES, eyes the text of the chat with Julian.

NICK DAVIES
(CONTINUED)
You have to tell Julian, I'm already working on a story to paint this as the next Pentagon Papers, but you need our help. This is bigger than anything you've done, you think they spun you on Collateral Murder, wait 'til you see what they do here. Tell Julian there's credit enough to go round, this is about survival.

Daniel's TEMPTED, they do need help... but he's not ready.

DANIEL
I'll get back to you.

Daniel hangs up and turns to Birgitta.

DANIEL
(CONTINUED)
Where's Julian flying into?

INT. BRUSSELS AIRPORT - BELGIUM - NIGHT

Julian walks out of customs. He ANXIOUSLY scrutinizes the men and women around him. From his PARANOID POV, they all seem suspect... they all seem to be STARING AT HIM...

Suddenly, from behind, a HAND REACHES OUT FOR HIM...

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
(O.C.)
Julian.

Julian spins, FREAKED. It's Birgitta.

JULIAN
Did anyone follow you?

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
No, I... I don't think so.

Julian pulls his hat low, spots Daniel waiting with a cart beside other drivers. He turns on Birgitta, accusatory.

JULIAN
I told you to come alone.
(looks around, panicked)
They're looking for us, they've got people everywhere...

BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
Julian, you need to hear him out.

But Julian, AGITATED, darts into the airport train entrance.

EXT. BRUSSELS TRAIN - BELGIUM - NIGHT

The train slowly snakes through the flat Belgian countryside. Glinting in the moonlight. Ominously.

JULIAN
(O.C.)
Daniel Ellsberg put out a statement, he said they're coming after us.

INT. BRUSSELS TRAIN - BELGIUM - MIDNIGHT

Daniel, Birgitta and Julian talk in HUSHED TONES on the relatively empty train.

JULIAN
We need to publish now.

DANIEL
Julian, it's hundreds of thousands of pages of sensitive material. This isn't like the video, the docs are full of jargon, they're totally impenetrable -- we wouldn't know what the hell we were publishing.

JULIAN
So we let the historians figure it out. Isn't that the point of this organization?

DANIEL
I thought the point was protecting whistleblowers.
The train stops, the doors open and Julian spots COPS walking on the platform. Panicked, he sees... the car's SURVEILLANCE CAM trained on them. Angry, scared, he glares at Daniel...

...then RUSHES off the car as the cops step on and casually sit down. OBLIVIOUS. Birgitta, SPOOKED, looks to Daniel... who PULLS OUT HIS PHONE. And DIALS.

**DANIEL**

(INTO THE PHONE)

(CONTINUED)

Mr. Davies, please.

**BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR**

(grabbing his arm)

Daniel, we bring him in, we're going to lose all control.

**DANIEL**

I think we already have.

Off Daniel, we PRELAP --

**NICK DAVIES**

(PRELAP)

This is a political battle.

**INT. HOTEL CAFE - BRUSSELS, BELGIUM - MORNING**

Nick calmly peels an orange at a cafe overlooking the city. Birgitta, Daniel and Julian, hat PULLED LOW, sit across the table. ANXIOUS. And SKEPTICAL.

**NICK DAVIES**

Don't get me wrong, you should keep an eye out for men with poison umbrellas, but if the US has any foresight they know they need to do more than kill you. You represent a terrifying future, they need to delegitimize all you stand for, the most powerful media machine on the planet is right now planning a smear campaign like none you've ever seen.

**JULIAN**

Amazing how someone can talk for ten minutes without saying anything.

Nick glances over at Daniel.

**DANIEL**
You said you'd hear him out.

JULIAN

(wary)
What are you proposing?

NICK DAVIES
An international media coalition. The Guardian, The Times, Der Spiegel, all standing with Wikileaks, legitimizing you as a news organization. Let the US attack, we print the news. And if we put you on the moral high ground, up with Mother Theresa and Nelson Mandela...

DANIEL
No one'll be able to screw with us.

Julian considers, SWAYED. A beat, then --

JULIAN
You'd want exclusives?

NICK DAVIES
Finding stories in all those documents will be a lot of work. You can't expect us to do it without an incentive.

JULIAN
And then what, we'd set a date? You'd run your stories, we'd post the raw data?

NICK DAVIES
(pausing)
I'm assuming the documents contain names? Sources? US informants?

Nick looks over at Daniel. Daniel nods.

NICK DAVIES
(CONTINUED)
You'd need to redact them.

JULIAN
You think that's necessary?

NICK DAVIES
The Guardian can't condone publishing something that could put lives in danger. And morals aside, this speaks to how you're
perceived. You're starting an information war with the US Government, you mustn't hand them ammunition.

JULIAN
I suppose it's just a name search.

Julian seems SWAYED. Nick's phone RINGS.

NICK DAVIES
That's my editor, what should I say?

JULIAN
How secure are your phones?

Nick gets it. He stands, picking up.

NICK DAVIES
(INTO THE PHONE)
Alan, I'm afraid it's a complete screw up. No, he won't talk to me.

As Nick hangs up, Daniel leans in.

DANIEL
Julian, this could be historic. The Guardian, the New York Times...

JULIAN
They'll take credit.

DANIEL
For the stories they find. But think of what that'll do for us. You want to break through, this kind of coverage gets people's attention. It could be the culmination of everything we've done.

NICK DAVIES
He's right, Julian. If you work with us, you'll have a golden trumpet, a Jericho horn, walls are gonna come tumbling. And when they do, you'll be atop an empire.

This gets through. Julian jots something on a NAPKIN.

JULIAN
This is a password for a temporary site. I'll e-mail the link in 24 hours, you'll find the war logs...
there.

NICK DAVIES
So we have a deal? We publish, you publish? We redact, you redact?

JULIAN
(nodding)
We'll put out the war logs in six weeks. If you behave, we'll move on to the cables.

As Julian pushes the napkin across the table, we --

INT. ALAN RUSBRIDGE'S OFFICE - LONDON, ENGLAND - DAY

Alan's meeting with a NUMBER OF EDITORS.

NICK DAVIES
Morning everyone, meeting's over.

Nick bursts in, sits at ALAN'S DESKTOP, pulls out THE NAPKIN. As he starts tapping away, Ian looks to Alan CONFUSED.

IAN KATZ
Alan?

Alan nods. The editors all stand and file out, save Ian.

NICK DAVIES
Call Keller at the Times and whatshisfuck at Der Spiegel.

ALAN RUSBRIDGE
You got it?

A website with the WIKILEAKS LOGO appears on Alan's computer.

NICK DAVIES
I'll know in a minute.

Ian looks over his shoulder. A file starts downloading.

IAN KATZ
Pretty slow for a tech wizard.

NICK DAVIES
He said it's 91,000 logs from Afghanistan alone, I imagine it might take a second.

Alan looks skeptical as his secretary HELEN walks in.
HELEN
Alan, I'm sorry, I told Nick --

NICK DAVIES
Well, look at that.

Nick SMILES, turns the laptop to Alan. Who reacts.

NICK DAVIES
(CONTINUED)
Helen, could you ring up Bill
Keller for Alan? And let's be
discreet.

Helen looks at Alan mystified. He nods.

SAM COLSON
(PRELAP)
What about going after their
infrastructure?

INT. U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, BUNKER ROOM - WASHINGTON DC -
DAY

CLOSE ON a screen, SECURE VIDEO. A window of Thomason at the
Pentagon and one of Colson and his staffer in the Sit Room.

GENERAL THOMASON
(ON VIDEO)
The site outsources storage to
Amazon, takes donations on Pay Pal
--

FIND Boswell in front of the monitor with a file, SNAPSHOTSOF JULIAN AND DANIEL at the BCC, on the Brussels train...

JAMES BOSWELL
Let's get Bezos on the phone. And
whoever the hell is running Pay
Pal.

YOUNG STAFFER
(ON VIDEO)
You really want us pressuring the
private sector to cut off a
journal--

JAMES BOSWELL
He's not a journalist, he's a
goddamn threat to national security
and American companies shouldn't be
helping him store thousands of
stolen classified documents.

PISSED, Boswell snaps off the video and turns to find...
A MAN with a HAND TRUCK adding to a HUGE TABLE STACKED WITH DOCUMENTS marked CONFIDENTIAL -- the compromised CABLES. We realize this is the room from the Open - before the chaos.

It's STAGGERING. Boswell sees Sarah reading through cables.

    JAMES BOSWELL
    (CONTINUED)
    These are the compromised documents?

    SARAH SHAW
    This is just the cables. They're going through the war logs at the Pentagon.

    JAMES BOSWELL
    (reacts, then)
    We've got some people coming to help you out with these?

She doesn't respond. Boswell sees she's SHAKING, a cable in her hands. WE SEE the words SIM SARNA and STRICTLY PROTECT.

    SARAH SHAW
    He's named in dozens of them. If they go out, if the Iranians see...

    JAMES BOSWELL
    Sarah. We got some intel yesterday. There are newspapers involved, responsible ones. The Guardian, The Times. They'll black out the names.

Off Sarah, hoping to god he's right, we hear the FIRST NOTES something like The Stones' Gimme Shelter and we SMASH INTO --

    INT. DER SPIEGEL, BUNKER ROOM - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY

Reporters work on large desktops. We hear hushed tones --

    STARK
    The spreadsheet is enormous, I'm sure it contains the scoop of the century but we can't access it, let alone analyze it.

STARK, the German editor from the OPEN, walks Daniel in.

    DANIEL
    You're working in excel?

Stark nods as they reach ROSENBACH, the reporter from the
Open. He looks up from his computer, BLEARY EYED.

ROSEN BACH
Daniel, thank god, every time I
open the damn thing the system
-crashes.

DANIEL
Yeah, you need to parse it in a
text editor then script it into a
searchable database.

Daniel sits down, starts working. As Daniel TYPES, Rosenbach
turns to a SKYPE VIDEO CHAT open on a nearby laptop.

ROSEN BACH
Are you getting this?

MUSIC PULSES and we CUT TO --

INT. NEW YORK TIMES, BUNKER ROOM – NEW YORK – DAY (SAME
TIME)

An AMERICAN REPORTER at a laptop in a small, MESSY room of
similarly FRENETIC reporters. Two men carry in a SHREDDER.

TIMES REPORTER # 1
Yeah, that helps.

A WAR CORRESPONDENT arrives, just off the plane from Kabul.

WAR CORRESPONDENT
I blew off a profile with
McChrystal in Kabul, this better be
good.

A BEARDED REPORTER holds out a pile of WAR LOGS.

BEARDED REPORTER
You know what 'E.O.F.' stands for?

The War Correspondent stares at the docs, his head
EXPLODING.

WAR CORRESPONDENT
It's 'Escalation of Force.'

The bearded reporter writes down EOF = ESCALATION OF FORCE
on a 3x5 card, then holds it up to a laptop with another
open SKYPE VIDEO CHAT. We see IAN KATZ on the other end.

BEARDED TIMES REPORTER
Can you see that?

IAN KATZ
(ON SKYPE)
Yeah, I got it.

The MUSIC SMASHES US TO --

INT. GUARDIAN, BUNKER ROOM - LONDON - DAY (SAME TIME)

The biggest of the bunkers, packed with reporters. Ian turns to a group at a WHITE BOARD covered with MILITARY ACRONYMS.

IAN KATZ
EOF is escalation of force. Which I believe means more dead civilians.

As a reporter writes it up on the board, WE HEAR --

NICK DAVIES
The espionage act? You can't be serious.

PAN OVER TO a LAWYER talking with Alan, Nick and Julian.

LAWYER
If the Attorney General can show he tried to convince a source to leak classified information --

ALAN RUSBRIDGER
You mean like every journalist who's ever covered the Pentagon? They could indict us under that rubric.

LAWYER
I wouldn't be surprised if they do.

Alan BLANCHES. Julian shoots him an IMPISH look.

JULIAN
Nothing draws people to a cause like a celebrity martyr.

IAN KATZ
(O.C.)
Can you e-mail a list of whistleblower prizes you're putting Manning up for?

We SPIN ACROSS THE ROOM to Ian, now skyping with Daniel.

DANIEL
(ON SKYPE)
No e-mailing. But I can fax you.

IAN KATZ
Right, of course. We need it by
Friday so we can run it in his bio.

The MUSIC SMASHES US INTO --

INT. DER SPIEGEL, BUNKER ROOM - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY

Daniel sits at the laptop.

    DANIEL
    Will do. Thanks, Ian.

Daniel turns from the laptop, starts to type on a desktop. Behind him, Stark looks at a story Rosenbach works on.

    STARK
    This task force 373 had a hit
    list with over 2000 names?

    ROSENBACH
    Yes, they refer to it as stopping
    birthdays.

Reporters start to work in a FRENZY, EXCITEMENT BUILDING --

    DER SPIEGEL REPORTER #1
    I've got the UK ambassador saying
    the campaign isn't under proper
    supervision.

    DER SPIEGEL REPORTER #2
    These civilian casualty
    numbers are devastating...

Daniel keeps typing as the MUSIC SWELLS and TIME SPEEDS UP. Behind Daniel, we see, in RAPID SUCCESSION...

JOURNALISTS COME AND GO. We hear snippets, pan to...

THE WHITE BOARD. ACRONYMS APPEAR. HA = Helicopter Assault ...
NAI = Named Area of Interest... TILT DOWN TO...

PAGES FLY OUT OF THE PRINTER. PICTURES of American troops in combat, every HEADLINE staggering. Someone grabs a page --

AND THROWS IT UP ON ONE OF THE WALLS. MOCK UPS ARE QUICKLY MARKED UP, PULLED DOWN, PUT BACK UP...

Daniel stops typing, EXHAUSTED. He turns to take it all in, everything SPEEDING UP TO A BLUR AROUND HIM.

PUSH IN ON DANIEL, OVERWHELMED. A huge leap from storage closet calls to Julius Baer. They've come so far so fast...

    DANIEL CLOSES HIS EYES and RUBS THEM, DIZZY. A beat, then --
STARK
(PRELAP)
Daniel.

INT. DER SPIEGEL, STARK'S OFFICE - BERLIN - NIGHT

Time SCREECHES BACK TO NORMAL and the MUSIC FADES. Daniel OPENS his eyes, finds himself in a chair in Stark's office.

STARK
You can sleep here if you want.

Stark smiles. Daniel, sheepish, starts gathering his things as Rosenbach walks in with a file.

ROSENBACH
T minus 4, you getting excited?

DANIEL
Sure.

But Daniel has MIXED FEELINGS. Rosenbach picks up on this...

ROSENBACH
Daniel, no one's ever had this level of detail... this is going to be massive, you guys should be on top of the world.

Daniel nods, but still looks NUMB. Stark turn to Rosenbach.

STARK
He must be exhausted. Hell, the redactions alone...

They trade a smile. Daniel catches it. He's CONFUSED.

DANIEL
...they shouldn't take that long. It's just a name search.

STARK
That's what we initially thought. but a lot of it is context. Nick told Julian -- a tip from 'the goat herder in the red house,' in small villages, it's as damning as a name.

ROSENBACH
We're only posting a few hundred of the actual logs and we're swimming. You'd need an army to go through all 91,000. Good thing you have
Another smile, but Daniel's FROZEN. PROCESSING. The MUSIC SWELLS again and Daniel grabs his cryptophone, DIALS. He holds it to his ear. A beat then we hear someone pick up --

DANIEL
(INTO THE PHONE)
Marcus, did Julian tell you anything about the redactions?

MUSIC drowns out his answer, score SCREAMING over Daniel's HORRIFIED expression, telling us everything we need to know.

INT. GUARDIAN, RUSBRIDGER'S OFFICE - LONDON, ENGLAND - DAY

Alan and Nick show Julian the soon to be famous headline: MASSIVE LEAK OF SECRET FILES EXPOSES TRUE AFGHAN WAR.

ALAN RUSBRIDGER
The story on the generals would typically be the lead, but everything's going out at once in case there's a gag order...

NICK DAVIES
We're struggling to keep it to 14 pages.

Julian nods to Ziggy, sitting with a laptop.

JULIAN
Talking point for the morning interviews.

As Ziggy starts typing, DANIEL BURSTS IN.

NICK
Daniel?

Julian looks up, SURPRISED.

JULIAN
What are you --

DANIEL
I've been trying to reach you for hours.

JULIAN
I was... I was just sending you a list. URLs need to be standardized, torrents need seeding...

DANIEL
Julian. The redactions.

Julian pauses. CAUGHT. Then, covering quickly...

    JULIAN
    That was on my list.

    DANIEL
    It's 91,000 documents! There are four days until publication!

Julian hesitates, then ABRUPTLY turns to Ziggy...

    JULIAN
    Let's go.

...and BLOWS OUT OF THE ROOM.

INT. GUARDIAN, BULLPEN – LONDON, ENGLAND – MOMENTS LATER

Julian heads for the stairs.

    DANIEL
    What the hell were you thinking?

Julian turns, ENRAGED.

    JULIAN
    Editing reflects bias. We make a promise to our sources, someone sent us those files under the assumption that we would put them out in full.

Daniel recognizes the words. He feels sick.

    DANIEL
    You lied to them. You lied to all of us.
    (then)
    We're going to have to push back, we can't release in four days.

    JULIAN
    Do you have any idea what we're about to do? 14 pages in the Guardian, 12 in the New York Times, it's more coverage than all the other leaks combined. I'm winning the information war and you're worried about a couple of names?

    DANIEL
    It's not a couple of names, it's people's lives, Julian. Those are
human beings.

JULIAN
They're government informants.

DANIEL
Yes, sources, just like ours, fighting for the very things we were supposed to stand for.

JULIAN
You have no idea how the world works. How much Afghan blood do the Americans have on their hands?

DANIEL
I thought this organization had higher standards.

Julian pauses. Then turns cold.

JULIAN
My bags, you know, they get heavy. Four laptops, all those cables... it's a lot for one person to carry around. And when you're on and off planes, always taking the computers out and packing them back up... it's a hassle.

(then, sharp)
So the next time you find yourself lecturing me about this organization, you should try to remember why I hired you.

He turns to go.

DANIEL
Funny, I don't remember you hiring me. I don't recall a contract... a salary. But I guess I should have known when I met Jay Lim... they don't exist, because this organization doesn't exist. There's just you... and the lies you tell to get whatever the fuck you want.

Julian turns on him. A tinge of sadness.

JULIAN
It's amazing how you can spend so much time with someone and still have no concept of who they are.

(then)
You're suspended. Effective
immediately.

Julian exits with Ziggy. Off Daniel, STAGGERED...

PAN to Nick, who's seen most of it. A CONCERNED LOOK, his new optimism fading as CHAT BEGINS STREAMING UP OUR SCREEN.  
jjj: There must be faith in leadership in times of crisis.

As Daniel tries to pull himself together, chat takes us to --

**INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT**

Daniel is on the phone. On his laptop we see MARCUS ON SKYPE... and an OPEN CHAT BOX.  
jjj: Manipulation by Daniel to undermine me is not tolerable.

**DANIEL**  
(INTO THE PHONE)  
Yeah, okay. Thanks, Marcel.  
(hangs up, to Marcus)  
Rosenbach said the bulk of the identifiable sources are in the threat assessments. It's 14,000 docs, but if you hold those, there are a lot fewer names in the rest.

We leave Daniel, CUTTING INTO --

**INT. MARCUS' FARMHOUSE - GERMANY - NIGHT (SAME TIME)**

Living quarters. Marcus works his laptop, Birgitta nearby.

**MARCUS**  
Got it.

JayLim: For any organization, leadership must have ability to take sanction against opportunism and destabilization

**BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR**  
We shouldn't publish any of it until it's been redacted.

We CUT BACK INTO --

**INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT (SAME TIME)**

Daniel STRUGGLES. He knows Birgitta's right.  
TBellman: Daniel is problematic and frankly, delusional.
BIRGITTA JONSDOTTIR
(On SKYPE)
Are you seeing the ridiculous crap
he's spouting on the chat?

DANIEL
Yeah, you probably shouldn't
mention that you were talking to
me.

MARCUS
(On SKYPE)
He's out of control. If he keeps
this up, he's gonna have to go. Or
we're gonna have to fork. All of
us. We can start our own site.

DANIEL
Just take care of those docs.

Daniel clicks off skype... nothing to distract him now from
the chat that streams across his screen and ours...
IcInd17: Daniel has a disease. It's
some kind of borderline paranoid
schizophrenia.

Now TWITTER FEED begins to scroll up the screen as well.
Crypdois Schmitt is sick and
dangerous, he has a disease.

Anke walks into the room, holding a laptop. UPSET.

ANKE
Daniel... he's on twitter...

TwitcheySphynctr Anke Domscheit =
CIA, Daniel Berg = FBI.

Trh_humunculus RT @Crypdois:
Schmitt is sick and dangerous.

ANKE
(CONTINUED)
These things he's saying,
they're...

DANIEL
I know.

Daniel reaches for her, trying to comfort her and himself.
A beat, then he leans forward and pull up THE GUARDIAN SITE.

The Twitter and Chat FADE as Daniel CLICKS REFRESH. Suddenly
sweating, he PULLS OFF HIS SHIRT... We spy his WIKILEAKS
TATTOO as MUSIC SLAMS US BACK TO THE OPEN --
INT. GUARDIAN, BULLPEN – LONDON, ENGLAND – NEAR MIDNIGHT

Alan and Nick hustle past the row of one sheets...

ALAN RUSBRIDGER
(off his blackberry)
The Times wants to go.

INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT – BERLIN, GERMANY – NIGHT (SAME TIME)

Daniel hits REFRESH.

MUSIC TAKES US TO --

INT. DER SPIEGEL, STARK'S OFFICE – BERLIN – NIGHT (SAME TIME)

Stark pleads with Nick on skype.

STARK
Five minutes. Five more minutes.

INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT – BERLIN, GERMANY – NIGHT

Daniel hits refresh. And there it is on the Guardian home page: SECRET FILES EXPOSE TRUE AFGHAN WAR. COMPLEX EMOTIONS play across Daniel's face as he turns to ANOTHER LAPTOP...

And pulls up the Wikileaks site. Afghan War Diary 2004-2010: Wikileaks today released over 75,000 secret US military reports... As Daniel scans the raw reports... his jaw sets.

CONVICTION fills his eyes. He picks up a phone and DIALS, the tones waking Anke, who was sleeping on the couch.

ANKE
Is it out?

DANIEL
(nodding, into the phone)
Marcus. How soon can you get to Berlin?

MUSIC takes us through --

TELEVISION MONTAGE (REAL FOOTAGE)

A series of quick cuts, the AFGHAN WAR LOG COVERAGE from THE OPEN, this time culminating in...

TELEVISION (FOOTAGE) – CSPAN

SAM COLSON
(ON THE MONITOR)
There are names, operations, sources-

**INT. U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, BUNKER ROOM – WASHINGTON DC – DAY**

CLOSE ON A MONITOR.

**SAM COLSON**
(ON A MONITOR)
This leak puts American lives and lives of our allies in country at risk, there's blood on their hands.

REVEAL frantic staffers poring through cables as in THE OPEN.

**STAFFER #1**
I've got a source in Colombia we're gonna have to extract.

**STAFFER #2**
Christ, Putin's gonna go ballistic.

Two aides start to mark up the WHITE BOARD we saw in the OPEN as Boswell walks in, on the phone...

**JAMES BOSWELL**
(ON THE PHONE)
No, still no intel on when they're planning to release the cables...
Yes, we'll start right away.

Boswell hangs up, walks through the CHAOS... until he finds Sarah, standing over a PILE OF CABLES. She stares at a MONITOR, CNN coverage of the afghan war logs.

**SARAH SHAW**
He didn't redact the war logs... he put them right up on his site with names and... Jim, if he does that with the cables...

**JAMES BOSWELL**
One hour, I need documentation on any sources that could be burned when he puts out the cables. Tell the other desk heads.

**WOLF BLITZER**
(ON THE MONITOR)
Mr. Assange said his organization...

**INT. GUARDIAN, BUNKER ROOM – LONDON, ENGLAND – DAY**
MATCH CUT to a TV MONITOR with the same CNN coverage.

WOLF BLITZER
(ON THE MONITOR)
...has always had a harm minimization procedure to keep innocents from harm...

REVEAL Nick Davies, watching the monitor.

IAN KATZ
(O.C.)
Well, at least he kept part of the bargain.

Nick turns, sees Ian walk in. He holds up a USB STICK.

IAN KATZ
(CONTINUED)
250,000 diplomatic cables in the palm of my hand. Amazing isn't it?

Alan, eyeing copy, looks up. Ian tosses him the stick.

ALAN RUSBRIDGER
The bugger came through?

IAN KATZ
Nick was right, it's huge, a window into every government on the planet. Already I've found a dozen page ones. Qaddafiy lying to his people, Putin stealing from Russian coffers, damning assessments of leaders in Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia...

Nick frowns, glances back at Julian on CNN.

IAN KATZ
(CONTINUED)
What? Still focused on yesterday's news?

NICK DAVIES
The high priest of truth bragging about a redaction process that didn't exist? I don't think that's yesterday's news.

ALAN RUSBRIDGER
Sorry, wasn't he your messiah?

NICK DAVIES
Yes, just like all the others, with
feet of clay...

IAN KATZ
So he's a liar. A callous little zealot... like every other oddball source.

NICK DAVIES
Seventeen little keystrokes and anyone in the world can read what he publishes. And now that we've given him a goddamn megaphone, they will.

(then, angry)
He's not a source. He's a reckless, irresponsible head of a huge media empire that's accountable to no one. And we put him there.

Over Nick, we PRELAP SARAH, SPEAKING IN ARABIC --

SARAH SHAW
(PRELAP)
Dr. Sarna? Hello?

INT. STATE DEPARTMENT, SARAH’S OFFICE – WASHINGTON, DC – DAY

CLOSE ON Sarah, holding a phone. Two CIA MEN listen in, a third monitoring a digital readout of the call.

Nearby, Boswell, Colson, Thomason review a DOSSIER -- Sarna’s photo, paperwork stamped STRICTLY PROTECT. On the long table, HUNDREDS OF DOSSIERS just like it. IN ARABIC --

SARAH SHAW
Remember the trip we once spoke of?

INT. PARCHIN MILITARY COMPLEX – TEHRAN, IRAN – DAY

A beat. Sarna's EYES GO WIDE.

Over this, WE PRELAP --

TV COMMENTATOR
(ON A MONITOR, PRELAP)
Blood on their hands?

INT. ANKE’S APARTMENT – BERLIN, GERMANY – DAY

CLOSE ON a monitor, a TV Commentator on CNN.

TV COMMENTATOR
(ON CNN)
That's ridiculous, there's no proof anyone was hurt...
DANIEL
(ON THE PHONE)
This isn't about me, it's about the
mission, everyone thinks that
you're...

FIND Daniel, on the phone, LAPTOPS spread out on the desk.

DANIEL
(ON THE PHONE)
...hurting the organization...

Julian's phone BEEPS.

JULIAN'S VOICEMAIL
(ON THE PHONE)
You have reached the time limit. To
re-record your message, press --

Daniel HURLS the phone across the room. FRUSTRATED. A beat
then there's a KNOCK. He moves to the door, opens it...

MARCUS
Did you reach him?

Marcus bursts in. He pulls a laptop out of his backpack.

DANIEL
No.

MARCUS
If we both plug in, we should be
able to do it while he's speaking.

Do what? As Marcus sets up, Daniel glances at the TV. We see
our BBC Reporter in the press room of the Frontline Club.

BBC REPORTER
(ON THE MONITOR)
Mr. Assange dismissed reports of
internal dissention and defections
--

Daniel frowns, opens up a chat box on his laptop. And TYPES.

ddd: Julian? Are you there?

INT. FRONTLINE CLUB, GREEN ROOM – LONDON – DAY (SAME TIME)

MATCH CUT TO ANOTHER LAPTOP. A CHAT pops up in a CHAT BOX.

ddd: Julian? Are you there?

Next to the chat, on the screen, STREAMING VIDEO CLIPS. PULL
BACK TO REVEAL Julian typing a speech on another laptop. Ian
Katz walks in, eyes a bank of TV MONITORS nearby.
BBC REPORTER  
(ON THE MONITOR)  
As a child, he went to 37 schools...

CBS REPORTER  
(ON THE MONITOR)  
Some call him a subversive. An anarchist...

CNN REPORTER  
(ON THE MONITOR)  
His hair is the result of a teenage science experiment...

IAN KATZ  
A man points to the moon and the idiots look at his finger.

JULIAN  
Then I suppose we'll have to give them the moon again.

Julian smiles up at him.

SMASH TO --

INT. SARNA'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - TEHRAN, IRAN - DAY  
An AGITATED Sarna stands talking to his frightened wife.

SARNA  
We need to pack. Everything.

The KNOCK comes, THE TWO MEN IN SUITS.

Off Sarna, TERRIFIED--

JULIAN  
(PRELAP, ON VIDEO)  
If journalism is good it is controversial by nature.

INT. ANKE'S APARTMENT - BERLIN, GERMANY - DAY (SAME TIME)  
Marcus and Daniel watch Julian's press conference.

JULIAN  
(ON THE MONITOR)  
We have a harm minimization process, we don't do things in an ad hoc way.

MARCUS
Daniel. We both know he's never going to step aside. If you want to do this, we need to do it now.

We push in on Daniel, INCREDISLY UNSURE.

    JULIAN
    ...to our knowledge no one has ever been physically harmed by the material we have released.

He rubs his eyes, Julian's voice growing LOUDER...

    JULIAN
    (CONTINUED)
    It takes two things to change the world. Lots of people have ideas. But commitment, true commitment, it requires sacrifice.

And now we INTERCUT WITH --

THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM - DAY (SAME TIME)

We're BEHIND Daniel as he surveys the familiar room. Doors open and shut, THOUSANDS OF LEAKS, STACKS OF DOCS pile up around the desks, waiting to be published.

Move in on Daniel, PUSH IN on his back... until he turns and LOOKS RIGHT AT US. A moment of CONFLICT, REMORSE, then he GRABS A KEYBOARD off a desk and HURLS IT at the LIGHTS.

As bulbs explode above him, SPARKS CASCADING DOWN, we CUT TO--

ANKE'S APARTMENT, Daniel and Marcus at laptops, WORKING FURIOUSLY.

Daniel looks PAINEd as we CUT BACK TO --

THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM, desks now piled in the center of the room. Daniel STRIKES A MATCH...

FLAMES shoot up, eerie light dancing across a SICK LOOK on Daniel's face as we CUT TO--

ANKE'S APARTMENT, Daniel working, SCREENLIGHT dancing across that same look on his face.

He plows ahead and WE'RE IN...

THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM, the doors FALL, ONE BY ONE. As they do, Daniel grabs a STACK OF DOCS at his feet. A LEAK. He hesitates for a beat, a tear STREAKS down his cheek... Then, TEARS FALLING, he TOSSES THE LEAK ONTO THE FLAMES...
JULIAN
(O.C.)
It is role of good journalism to take on powerful abusers and when power abusers are taken on there's always a back reaction...

INT. FRONTLINE CLUB, PRESS ROOM - LONDON, ENGLAND - DAY

Julian speaks to the press, enjoying his moment.

JULIAN
...an attempt to criticize the messenger, to distract from the power of the message...

Julian hesitates, SOMEHOW SENSING SOMETHING AMISS. He looks to the audience... for Daniel? A bit disoriented... he presses forward, waving THE GUARDIAN FRONT PAGE.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
But revolution is a struggle between the future and the past. And... the future has just begun.

As press stands, APPLAUDING, we SMASH TO --

INT. CAR (MOVING) - IRAN/IRAQI BORDER - EARLY EVENING

The two MEN IN SUITS who were outside Sarna's house sit in the front of their sedan. As they pull away from an AMERICAN CHECKPOINT, the driver talks into a phone.

DRIVER
(ON THE PHONE)

We've crossed the border into Iraq.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. STATE DEPT, SARAHÂ’S OFFICE - WASH, DC - DAY (SAME TIME)

The CIA men sit with a nervous looking Sarah.

SARAH SHAW
(INTO THE SPEAKERPHONE)
Can you put them on?

In the car, the driver holds the phone out to... SARNA. With his wife and baby, huddled in back. SHELL SHOCKED.

SARNA
(INTO THE PHONE)
Sarah?

SARAH SHAW
(INTO THE SPEAKERPHONE)
(relieved, fighting tears)
You're safe.

SARNA
(INTO THE PHONE)
What do we do now? Where do we go?

INT. STATE DEPARTMENT, SARAH'S OFFICE - WASHINGTON, DC - DAY

A GLASS OF SCOTCH. REVEAL Sarah, NUMB, pouring a scotch, watching coverage of Julian's press avail. Boswell walks in.

JAMES BOSWELL
The Turkmenistan comment wasn't a hit with the Secretary, huh.

He glances at the BOX on Sarah's desk, and we notice for the first time that THE DESK AND SHELVES ARE EMPTY. She's done.

SARAH SHAW
Actually, Berdymukhamedov himself called for my early retirement.

JAMES BOSWELL
I'm sure he called for more than that, but there's diplomacy for you.

SARAH SHAW
Well, let's drink to that. At least while we still can...

She pours Boswell a drink, nods to Assange on the TV.

SARAH SHAW
(CONTINUED)
I watched an interview with him while I was packing up. He said something about pursuing social justice for the last twenty years, so I started thinking... 2 advanced degrees, a Fulbright, 3 diplomatic posts, 10 years abroad... and like everyone else in the building I can barely remember how old my kids are.

(off Julian on TV)
He wants to take over saving the world? Be my goddamn guest.
Off Sarah, we SMASH TO --

INT. FRONTLINE CLUB, GREEN ROOM – LONDON, ENGLAND – DAY

A large green room, filled with supporters and a high end spread. Julian walks in, reporters on his heels.

REPORTER #1
Julian, we’d like to do a follow up for Channel Four.

REPORTER #2
Glenn Brown, the Economist, we’d like a profile piece?

JULIAN
Contact us online, I'll have my press person get back to you.

A GUARD closes the door on them and Julian's MOBBED by the a few YOUNG STAFFERS from Iceland with him earlier.

WIKILEAKS STAFFER #1
That was amazing. Genius.

They've got MAGAZINES, ALL OF WHICH HAVE JULIAN ON THE COVER.

WIKILEAKS STAFFER #2
Did you see Time? Newsweek?

WIKILEAKS STAFFER #3
We've got interview requests from Larry King, B Sky B...

WIKILEAKS STAFFER #1
(CONTINUED)
...Anderson Cooper, 60 minutes...

Julian takes the magazines, but walks past them to Ziggy. Who's on his laptop. Looking CONCERNED.

ZIGGY
There's something wrong with the submission platform.

Julian leans in, stares at the screen. He PALES, then reaches over Ziggy and starts to type.

JULIAN
It's disabled... it's completely... no one will be able to submit...

As he trails off, STAGGERED, we SMASH INTO --
THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM – DAY (SAME TIME)

The place is in ruins, the lights dark, the doors down, the bonfire of burning desks ... Julian stands there. STUNNED.

And then he realizes... He looks up and sees... ALL THE DOCS, AFIRE... FLOATING AROUND THE BONFIRE OF DESKS...

JULIAN
The leaks... The other leaks...

They dance above him, LITTLE LIGHTS OF FIRE taunting him... Julian GRABS HIS HAIR, begins pacing, FURIOUS. BETRAYED.

DANIEL
(O.C.)
You know he dyes his hair. I saw it once, we were at a conference and he went up to the hotel room and...

INT. HOTEL ROOM – SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE – DAY

Daniel walks into a hotel room. The BATHROOM DOOR is cracked. Through it, Daniel sees a HAIR DYING KIT on the sink. Daniel pushes open the door...

CLOSE ON HANDS. Applying dye to a BLOND HEAD OF HAIR.

DANIEL
(O.C.)
The cult he was in? The Family? They made the kids dye their hair white. I think he's been dying it ever since.

PULL BACK to REVEAL we're now in...

INT. SMALL APARTMENT, BEDROOM – AUSTRALIA, 1984 – DAY

A small room. 13-YEAR-OLD JULIAN sits on a bed, toweling his hair dry in front of a COMMODORE 64, a box of FLOPPY DISKS.

DANIEL
(O.C.)
I guess everyone has secrets. Scars. Moments in time that shape them.

He pulls off the towel, revealing a SHOCK OF WHITE HAIR.

THE SUBMISSION PLATFORM – NIGHT

Julian paces alone, ENRAGED, in the shadow of the bonfire. We CRANE UP as he paces, making FIGURE EIGHTS in the sand...
DANIEL
(O.C.)
Some we can get past...

...and as we PULL BACK, we notice CHILDREN, dancing 'round the bonfire, REACHING UP for the fiery, floating docs...

DANIEL
(O.C.)
(CONTINUED)
Some we can't.

INT. ALL NIGHT CAFE - BERLIN, GERMANY - NIGHT

The cafe where Daniel and Julian took on Julius Baer. Daniel stares at an empty table, and for a moment he sees...

JULIAN AND HIMSELF, EXHILARATED, WORKING ON JULIUS BAER.

The moment that shaped him, one he wonders if he'll get past.

DANIEL
We were really something, you know?
We could have done so much...

THE IMAGE FADES and Daniel looks down, DEVASTATED. REVEAL Nick with him, taking NOTES. He stops, takes off his glasses.

NICK DAVIES
You know, there was a time when papers in Britain couldn't report on parliamentary debate. And then a few men started printing pamphlets, leaking the debates to the public.
The men, well, I believe they were hanged, but the public saw those pamphlets and demanded access.

(them)
Of course, the pamphleteers that followed overwhelmed our tiny isle with rhetoric and distortion... but these men, these brave and irresponsible men... they were the fathers of the modern fourth estate.

Daniel looks up. Nick leans in.

NICK DAVIES
(CONTINUED)
The great flood is once again upon us. A new information revolution,
this one infinitely more powerful
and terrifying than the last. A...
fifth estate... seemingly hell bent
on destroying its predecessor.
Which is why we need more
responsible men...
(off Daniel)
...men of purpose... to harness its
power, to lead us into the future.

Daniel takes that in, then --

NICK DAVIES
(CONTINUED)
Daniel, you and Julian gave us a
glimpse of what the future could
be. You woke up the world,
democracies and dictatorships alike
should be on notice, two techno
dreamers --

FLASH TO --

REAL FOOTAGE of the TUNISIAN AND EGYPTIAN UPRISINGS...

NICK DAVIES
(O.C.)
(CONTINUED)
Have given us the voice, have shown
us we have the power...

REAL VIDEO FOOTAGE of OCCUPY WALL STREET.

NICK DAVIES
(O.S.)
(CONTINUED)
...to demand the waves of
information that, one day soon...

FLASH BACK TO NICK --

NICK DAVIES
(CONTINUED)
...will wash all their evils away.

Daniel takes that in. MOVED.

DANIEL
So. Where should we start?

NICK DAVIES
Most good stories start at the
beginning.

Daniel nods. Then, as he starts to tell our story, we...
FADE TO BLACK.

Text appears on screen.

In 2010, the Guardian and the Times published a series of articles on the US diplomatic cables. Activists around the world greeted these reports with great enthusiasm.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. ECUADORIAN EMBASSY - DAY

Julian sits for an interview, talks straight to camera.

JULIAN
We're not anti-American. Our values are those of Jefferson and Madison and if the cost of revolutions like we've seen in Tunisia, in Cairo, if the cost is that for a little while some foreign leaders are going to be a bit cautious when speaking to the U.S. State Department, then that is clearly a cost that bounces in favor of what people need.

As we continue, we INTERCUT THE INTERVIEW WITH TEXT CARDS --

In 2011, over the objection of the Guardian, the Times and numerous human rights groups, Wikileaks published all 251,287 cables in their original form. Without redactions.

By some estimates, the unredacted cables exposed over 2000 confidential sources around the world.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
That has always happened in the history of the world. We are taking on powerful groups that have vast and powerful lobbies to support them. So of course we are going to be attacked in all sorts of manners. Of course people are going to try and capitalize and distort and hype up any sort of possible criticism.

After Daniel left Wikileaks in 2010, Swedish Prosecutors issued a warrant for Julian's arrest, accusing him of two counts of sexual molestation and one count of rape. Julian claimed he did not know the women.
JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
My goodness. I know mainstream media is biased, but this is absurd. The charges are without basis and their issue is deeply disturbing. I have been warned that, for example, the Pentagon plans to use dirty tricks to spoil things for us.

Julian later admitted to having slept with both women, but denied any wrongdoing. He subsequently sought asylum and is now living in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
As an organization, clearly we've made mistakes. There are perhaps certain individuals -- an individual we employed that perhaps we should not have employed... That's probably the greatest mistake.

After leaving WikiLeaks, Daniel published a book about his time there. WikiLeaks threatened to take legal action.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
He was excitable. He became unstable, ambitious. Reckless. That's why he was suspended.

In 2010, Daniel announced plans for Open Leaks, a new whistleblowing website. The site has yet to launch.

JULIAN
(CONTINUED)
The WikiLeaks movie? Which one?
(then)
That one? It's based on the worst two books. Full of lies and distortion, like all bad propaganda.
(then)
(then)
You want to know the truth? No one is going to tell you the whole truth. They'll only tell you their
version. You want the truth, you have to seek it out for yourself.

(and then)
That's where real power lies, your willingness to look past this story, any story. As long as you keep searching, you are dangerous to them. That's what they are afraid of. You. It is all about you.

FADE TO BLACK.