

Fighting Spirit

by

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INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

HECTOR ALFAYEED, 30, monitors multiple computer screens. The screens record the perimeter. On the desk is blue prints for cell phone devices.

Hector dissects multiple phones.

HECTOR (V.O.)
It's been nine hundred and fifteen
days since escape. Nevada resembles
home in so many ways.

Hector takes a soldering iron to spare parts.

HECTOR (V.O.)
Afghanistan will always be a
blackened memory. As they sing in
song this is the "land of the
free."

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A firework EXPLODES in the sky.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Hector shrieks and drops his soldering iron.

HECTOR
I will never get use to these
American traditions.

Sharp BOOMS echo outside.

Hector picks up his soldering iron. He opens up the calendar application. On July 6 reads "OPERATION FIREWALL LAUNCHES."

Hector's stomach GROWLS. He clicks on the keyboard the time reads "8:30."

HECTOR (CONT'D)
Father why are you always so late?

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Hector enters. He opens the fridge and takes out Hummus.

A KNOCK comes from the front door.

Hector sets down the Hummus and exits.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Hector answers the door.

HECTOR
Father you better have Tachin and
an extra rack of lamb.

Standing in the doorway is PETER SIMMONS, 29.

PETER
Hey Hector.

HECTOR
Hello Peter I didn't expect you.

PETER
Sorry to bother you at this hour
but do you have an extra bottle of
wine?

HECTOR
Wine?

PETER
Yes I have a guest coming over and
want things to go right.

HECTOR
Please come inside.

PETER
Thanks.

Hector walks to the kitchen. Peter closes the door.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Hector opens the pantry closet. Three bottles are on the wine
rack.

HECTOR
Which wine do you prefer?

PETER
Red. Say this is the first time
I've been in your home. It's very
nice.

HECTOR
Thank you.

Hector takes a bottle.

PETER
Could I use your bathroom?

HECTOR
Sure it's down the hall.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Peter opens a closet.

PETER
Wrong door.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Peter enters. He notices the elaborate equipment on the desk.

PETER
Wow, the man has his hobbies.

Outside a firework EXPLODES.

Peter jumps back and knocks over a bookshelf.

PETER (CONT'D)
Dammit!

Peter sets the bookshelf back in place. On the neighboring wall a false door is slightly open. Peter pushes the false door inward.

PETER (CONT'D)
What is this?

Peter notices a large array of guns and small explosives.

PETER (CONT'D)
Holy shit!

Hector enters.

HECTOR
What are you doing?

Peter turns back in fright.

PETER
Hector!

Hector notices Peter found his weapons. He drops a bottle of wine the glass SHATTERS against the hard wood floor.

Hector violently grabs Peter by the collar.

HECTOR
Why are you snooping?

PETER
It was an accident!

HECTOR
I trusted you!

Peter pushes Hector away.

PETER
What is all this? Who are you?

Hector locks the door.

PETER (CONT'D)
You have assault rifles and
thermite grenades and only God
knows what else! Over half that is
illegal in the states!

HECTOR
You've just killed me!

PETER
You can't hold me here!

HECTOR
You were my friend all these years!
I trusted you! Then betray me?

Hector punches the wall. Peter pulls out his pocket knife.

PETER
I can't let this go. Wait til the
authorities hear about this!

HECTOR
Violence, always violence I just
wanted to be left alone. Always
having to look over my shoulder!

Peter picks up the phone blue prints and throws it at Hector.

PETER
Talk! What is Operation Firewall?

HECTOR
I can't tell you.

PETER
Wrong answer! I don't want to cut
you down but I will.

Peter lunges forward with the knife.

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The neighborhood residents launch fireworks. Kids run in the streets with sparklers.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Hector and Peter wrestle on the ground. Peter's knife slides across the floor. Hector breaks away from Peter and takes the knife.

Peter runs into the bedroom bathroom and locks himself inside.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Peter notices the small window above the toilet. He grabs a bath towel and wraps it around his fist. He PUNCHES out the glass.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Hector aggressively rams into the bathroom door. The hinges crack and loosen.

HECTOR

I've built a life here and no one
is going to take that away. Not
even you Peter!

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Peter is halfway through the window. Hector breaks the door down and grabs Peter's leg.

PETER

Let go of me!

Peter kicks Hector in the face. Hector pulls Peter out of the window and they both fall to the floor.

PETER (CONT'D)

You are crazy!

Hector climbs on top of Peter with knife in hand. He reaches back to stab Peter. Peter catches Hector's hand.

HECTOR

Goodbye my friend.

Hector forces the knife closer to Peter's face. Peter struggles under Hector's weight.

PETER
You don't need to do this!

HECTOR
I must.

Peter reaches for a piece of glass and stabs Hector in the shoulder. He punches Hector in the face and pushes him aside. Hector leans against the wall.

Hector takes out the glass and bleeds out. Peter takes the knife back and kneels over Hector.

PETER
What is Firewall?

HECTOR
Kill me.

PETER
No. Not until you tell me what I
need to know.

Hector spits blood at the floor.

Peter squeezes Hector's open wound.

HECTOR
It's a security network of my own
design to protect any private
information under any cyber attack.

PETER
That kind of programming is worth
millions of dollars.

HECTOR
The idea would be pitched to major
competitors.

Hector closes his eyes. Peter shakes him.

PETER
Hey! What about the weapons?

Hector opens his eyes.

HECTOR
I was like you once. A sense of
duty the belief of protecting my
country, my home.

Hector closes his eyes.

PETER

Wake up!

Peter grabs a towel and covers Hector's wound. Hector opens his eyes.

HECTOR

In Afghanistan we thought we were
the heroes fending off invaders.
But it was all a lie the propaganda
of powerful men.

Peter tilts Hector's head backward.

HECTOR (CONT'D)

But blood in blood out. So I escape
the Taliban and came here. Just
like the movies.

Peter stands up.

HECTOR (CONT'D)

As they sing in song this is the
"land of the free."

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Fireworks EXPLODE through the night. Patterns of color ignite the air. AABIR ALFAYEED, 52, parks in the driveway.

AABIR

Hector will be pleased to see I got
an extra rack of lamb.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aabir enters. He is holding a bag full of groceries.

AABIR

Hector! I'm back!

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Peter tucks the knife in his shirt.

HECTOR

I would've killed you.

PETER

We are prisoners of our flag.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Aabir lays out food on the counter top. He moves the Hummus to the side.

AABIR
Come here son! You will be happy to
know I got Tachin, grilled
Halloumi, Shawarma, and an extra
rack of lamb.

Aabir walks to Hector's bedroom. He turns the room and KNOCKS on the door.

AABIR (CONT'D)
Hector its time to come out! Food
is waiting!

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Peter climbs up the toilet. Hector closes his eyes.

HECTOR
Father, always late.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Aabir grabs a metal poker from the fireplace.

AABIR
That's it! No more locked doors!

Aabir slams the poker at the doorknob.

AABIR (CONT'D)
Enough of this game!

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Peter is halfway through the window. Hector remains still.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Aabir BREAKS the doorknob.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Aabir enters. He steps over spilt wine and notices the blue prints and weapons exposed.

AABIR
My god! Hector! Where are you?

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Peter exits. Hector remains still. Aabir enters.

AABIR

No! No! Not my Hector.

Hector sits in a pool of blood. Aabir holds Hector. He cries over Hector's body.

AABIR (CONT'D)

Who did this? Have they found us?

Hector remains quiet. Aabir shakes Hector.

AABIR (CONT'D)

Don't leave me. Please.

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Peter stumbles through the bushes. Fireworks race across the sky they BURST rapidly.

EXT. PETER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Peter falls to his knees on the front lawn. He notices his American flag wave on the pole. The colorful sparks highlight the flag.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Aabir takes a thermite grenade and pistol from the weapons vault. He pulls the pin and tosses the grenade in the vault.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Aabir enters. He loads the pistol and sits next to Hector. He CRANKS back the pistol hammer.

AABIR

I'll see you soon son. Tell your mother I'm on my way.

Aabir grabs Hector's hand.

EXT. PETER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Peter crawls to the flag pole. Tears and blood fall from his face as he grips through dirt and grass.

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Aabir shoots himself in the chest.

EXT. PETER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Peter trembles up the flag pole. He stands at the base of the pole. He unwinds the rope.

Peter lowers the American Flag. He unbuckles the flag from the pole. He folds the flag in a triangle.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Hector and Aabir sit next to each other. Fire builds up in the bedroom. Sharp BOOMS echo from the weapons vault.

Fire spreads to the rest of the house.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Fire engulfs the food and turns black. The wooden floor CRACKS to the extreme heat.

INT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - BATHROOM

Fire enters and surrounds Hector and Aabir. Skin melts from their faces. Aabir's hand still grips Hector's.

EXT. HECTOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Smoke trails out the bathroom window. Fireworks light up the night. The smoke mixes with the elaborate hues.

EXT. PETER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Peter walks to his front door. He enters and shuts the door. Children play in the streets with roman candles.

A child runs with a miniature American flag in hand. The flag waves in the wind.

END.