

Reunion

By

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With Professor Ben Frahm

EXT.ON THE WAY TO THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

Anne, a middle-aged lady is driving in a car on the highway that points toward "Portland International Airport". Her dress is tidy. The dark circles under her eyes are attentively covered with makeup. She blankly stares straight ahead.

Cut to:

A WEEK AGO IN ANNE'S DINING ROOM

A diagnosis paper slips out of Anne's hands and falls onto the ground. Anne falls in the sofa. Her body seems out of strength. Tears begin to flow. The paper says, "oncology exam result: late-stage cancer." She crouches in the corner of the sofa. She covers her face with both of her hands. Memories appear in her head.

Cut to:

TWENTY YEARS AGO IN THE BACK YARD

Anne is playing water gun with a boy. The boy points the water gun at Anne and shouts, "Mom, here comes the water soldier!" Anne escapes from him at first but gets shot on the shoulder, saying "Mom gives up. mom gives up."

INT.IN A PLANE CABIN - DAY

The flight attendants observe the land outside from the window. The plane is now flying above the Indonesian Ocean and the border of land can be seen in a distance. Everything looks as usual. It has been a long journey. Most passengers are sleeping. Some are watching shows on their mini screens. There is one passenger getting up and going in the direction of the washroom.

Suddenly, the images on the screens turn to a man's face and his voice can be heard in the entire plane.

PASSENGER

Everyone, no move!

Throwing away a smoking gun to the ground. The cabin is suddenly full of smoke. Everyone begins to cough. There is a baby crying. He turns to the attendants.

(CONTINUED)

PASSENGER (CON'T)

Go back to your cabin. Put your hands over your head, and away from the phone.

TITLE ON THE SCREEN: "TWO HOURS AGO"

A passenger, thin and tall, walks towards the cockpit, a box cutter hidden in his sleeve.

COPILOT

Are we going the right direction, polit?

A voice from behind.

PASSENGER

No.

He presses the box cutter against the copilot's neck. His eyes open wide and a frightened look appears on his face. He turns to the pilot.

COPILOT

What's going on?!

PILOT

Don't move. I'm hijacking this flight.

The pilot changes the direction of his control stick. We see the plane's body turn rightward slightly. There is sweat rolling on the copilot's head and some noticeable blood on his neck against the cutter. Suddenly he was knocked down to the ground.

INT.IN THE EMBASSY OFFICE - DAY

Joshua, in his late twenties military formal look. He looks at the badge on his shoulder from time to time, suggesting his promotion recently. He looks courageous and mild at the same time. He gets a call from the headquarter.

GENERAL

Flight UA411 is missing for two hours after it entered the Indonesian Ocean. I need you to search on it.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA

Yes, general. I'll take care of it.  
Some strange number is calling me  
now.

He looks at the screen that now receives a signal. It then appears a cabin image where the passengers are been threatened not to move. Hijacker two is standing in the middle of the cabin, waving a smoke gun. Joshua turns to a private.

JOSHUA

Private, search everyone's  
background on this flight.

PRIVATE

Yes sir!

JOSHUA

Search deeply into this flight.  
Intercept all the line. Don't let  
the news leak to the outside.

PRIVATE

Yes sir!

A voice turns on loudly.

PILOT

We have one hundred and thirty  
passengers with us now. Either they  
will die, or you will give us what  
we want. The final time for your  
final answer is 12 o'clock tonight.  
Do you fully understand the  
situation going on here?

JOSHUA

Who are you?!

PILOT

I'm the chief pilot. And, I  
hijacked the plain.

JOSHUA

What do you want?

PILOT

We want the golden key. The missile  
map your government has charted  
around the Indonesian Ocean since  
2012.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA

That is impossible. I have no right  
to give you that.

PILOT

Ask your commander then. Remember,  
before midnight.

The sound of the line is cut off. The image of the plain  
becomes blurry. The pilot walks in and updates Joshua  
about their research.

INT. IN THE HEADQUARTER - DAY

The camera moves from the holographic map of the Indonesian  
Ocean to the multi-screens on the office table. Everything  
seems so organized and in control. The data and color bars  
on the elaborate screens change regularly. There is a red  
dot shining on the main screen. The general clicks on the  
"connect" button.

GENERAL

What the hell happened there?

JOSHUA

The pilot and his ally hijacked  
flight UA411.

GENERAL

Has your team located the plane yet?

JOSHUA

We are searching now.

GENERAL

What did the hijackers say?

JOSHUA

They demanded the golden key from  
us. I guess they are some rebels  
from the National Front. They try  
to disturb our plan over the  
Indonesian Ocean.

The general is shown mad and he punches on the table.

GENERAL

What?! That's impossible! They  
overestimate their power too much.  
Tell them to relieve the hostages.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA

They are trained pilots. They only give us eight hours to decide, general. I have checked their black box will run out in eight hours. The plane cannot sustain any longer.

GENERAL

In no way we can give them the golden key! You must know that clearly, Joshua. Plan G will expand our control over the nations. Our debts haven't done anything good to our state revenue so far. Indonesian Ocean is our rising star. If we lose it, we won't win this game.

JOSHUA

I know what you are saying, general. I have participated in charting Plan G since it started. We have kept on settling the military troops according to the map from then. But you are right on our ambition but not the total plan. We are mapping out the missile bases in Indonesia Island and have more than half of them done so far. I know every word you said is true. But the thing is, (beat)

Do you think we can lose the one hundred and thirty people on this flight? The news is about to leak anyway. That is beyond our control. We cannot leave the public opinion out of our concern!

GENERAL

I know you are right. I know you are right Josh. (beat)

But on the balance of life and our country's leading role, the latter is more of my concern.

JOSHUA

I didn't know you are like that before, general. But your demand is my highest order. I will handle the press.

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL

Check through all the passengers' background before you go to explain more details on the press meeting.

JOSHUA

That's what we are doing now.

GENERAL

I know you are a reliable hand, Josh, right from your first mission in shutting the east Europe's mouth for me. Give the press what they want. No words about the golden key. It's an accident.

JOSHUA (V.O.)

The plane cannot be found in 8 ours, before it is crashed.

INT. IN THE CABIN - DAY

The air on the plane is deadly. The passengers faces are pale. There's evidence of fight on the floor. Blood stain spreads on the carpet in the attendants' room. An over-weighted lady is almost out of her breath. She is spraying some liquid into her mouth. There's a baby crying and soon the voice is muffled by the mother.

HIJACKER TWO

Everyone keep quiet. I won't hurt you unless you don't fight against us. Or you will be in the same look as the one in front of you.

The wounded attendant is crouching her body in the corner near the washroom, hand pressing on her bleeding arm.

ATTENDANT

Please don't harm the other passengers.

HIJACKER TWO

Obedience, lady. Or you will be dead.

The attendant shuts her mouth immediately. The cabin is quieter.

HIJACKER HEAD

Where's the copilot?

(CONTINUED)

HIJACKER TWO

I knocked him down and tided him on  
the chair.

He turns to the attendant.

HIJACKER TWO (CON'T)

Sorry about that.

A desperately fearful look creeps onto the attendant's face.  
Someone in the cabin begins to cry and then is constrained  
to a low whining.

TV SCREEN IN A RESTAURANT - DAY

A corespondant reports on the current news: "Flight UA411  
from Los Angeles to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia is reported  
missing by the local government around Indonesia ocean area.  
Authorities will deploy an underwater drone to conduct sonar  
searches for the missing Malaysia Airlines plane..."

INT.ON THE PRESS - DAY

Joshua sits behind a military office table, conference  
calling with the press.

JOSHUA

I'm the US representative in  
Malaysia embassy. We are trying our  
best to search for the path of  
flight UA411 in the Indonesian  
Ocean, where the airplane has lost  
signal with the ground control. The  
black box will sustain for eight  
hours, which means we have time to  
find the passengers out until  
midnight. The reason is still under  
investigation.

The cameras flashe in the screen and the presses are eager  
to ask more questions.

PRESS

"What are the chance for them to  
survive?" "Has the UA411 been  
hijacked?" "What does the Malaysia  
government react so far?"

JOSHUA

The Malaysia government permits the  
international rescue team from our

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



JOSHUA (cont'd)  
emergence troop to enter. Our navy with the most-advanced radar is sent out to search for the losing passengers. We will update the latest news as much as we can. Let's pray for all the passengers on flight UA411. They have the biggest chance to survive in the first hour.

Cut to:

Joshua gives the screen to other officials and turns off the screen in front of him. The private comes in to the office with piles of documents. Seconds later he turns to a smaller screen on his desk.

JOSHUA  
Are these everything we have got so far?

PRIVATE  
Yes sir. These are all the background information for the one hundred and thirty passengers on this flight.

JOSHUA  
Anything unusual?

PRIVATE  
We scanned the face through our monitor and found out two of the passengers have fake identities. Out of the one hundred and thirty, sixty-eight are native, thirty-four are Malaysian, thirty are Chinese, six are Europeans.

JOSHUA  
Fake identity? Are they the hijackers?

He goes through the background list and suddenly lingers his eyes on the line which says "Portland, Oregon". The camera pans from the address to the name, "Anne Foster". Joshua becomes so restless that he begins to stand up and walk.

JOSHUA  
I want to see all the passengers' faces on this plain.

(CONTINUED)

PRIVATE

Yes sir.

Joshua stares closely at the screen for each face that passes through the screen. When the monitor turns to the seats in the middle close to the emergence exit,

JOSHUA

Stop!

It is Anne. Deep wrinkles lie on the corner of her both eyes. She holds her hands tightly into a fist in front of her chest. There are marks of dry tears on her cheek.

PRIVATE

What do you see, sir? Are you all right?

JOSHUA

Um...nothing...Keep me updated on our rescue team.

PRIVATE

Yes sir.

JOSHUA (V.O.)

Is she Anne?! My mom, running away from home twenty years ago! It's her! How can I forget her face, though it's not as young as before.

Joshua tries his best to press his breath not to be too heavy and obvious.

PRIVATE

Sir, the fake identities are made in a town in North Malaysia. They are both trained pilots in the military for the National Front. One is the chief pilot on this flight.

JOSHUA

Connect me with him!

INT. IN THE CABIN - DAY

PILOT

Have you decided to give me the golden key?

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA  
Where's the copilot!

PILOT  
He was knocked down.

JOSHUA  
How dare you! Has anyone else been hurt?

PILOT  
I won't harm the hostages til 12 o'clock.

JOSHUA  
Fine! Let me talk to the passengers. Please.

Looks at his watch.

PILOT  
Why. You are wasting our time here. Remember, there are only six hours left now for you!

JOSHUA  
I have already reported to the headquarter. It's still under discussion. Let me talk to the passengers, please. I need to be sure all of them are alive.

PILOT  
You'd better give me answers before the day gets darker. You know I can cut this signal in any minute! Choose one you want to talk with.

Hijacker two points forward and sneers.

HIJACKER TWO  
How about that one crying!

JOSHUA  
You'd better not, man. I need to talk to all the passengers first.

PILOT  
Cut his signal in.

Hijacker two puts Joshua's line in.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA

I'm the ambassador in Malaysia. Our troop has been sent out to search for your location. We have gathered your families and we are all waiting for you to return. I need you all to calm down and say something to your family. Is that okay?

PILOT

Which one to start with?

JOSHUA

I want to talk to the lady in the middle, in dark suit.

Hijacker two stretches the talkie to the middle seat, threatening her with the box cutter. The lady takes over the talkie, shivering.

ANNE

He..hi..

JOSHUA

Anne? I'm the ambassador from US. We are under negotiation with the hijackers. Calm down, okay? Everything's gonna be fine.

Still shivering and trembling. Tears fall through her face.

ANNE

O..Ok..

JOSHUA

Good! I know you can do it. You must believe you can make it, okay?

ANNE

O..Ok..

JOSHUA

So now, can you describe what had happened to you and other passengers?

Anne's body shakes, weeping.

ANNE

We...are..hijacked...one hour  
...before the landing...I..don't  
know where we

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANNE (cont'd)  
are...Someone...someone gets hurt  
in the back...

JOSHUA  
I see. Hang there, okay?

ANNIE  
O..Ok..

JOSHUA  
Do you have something to say to  
your family?

ANNE  
My son...I'm looking for my son...

Joshua is shocked when she says "son". He moves closer to  
the screen and becomes restless.

JOSHUA  
Your..son?

ANNE  
I'm going to see my son...before I  
die...

JOSHUA  
Believe me. You won't die!

Anne becomes calm now. She's finding the right words to  
explain.

ANNE  
I will...in three months...I was  
diagnosed cancer and have little  
time to live...before see my son  
again...

Joshua's eyes suddenly are full of tears. He wipes them fast  
away.

JOSHUA  
Do you have something to say to  
your son?

ANNE  
Yeah...a lot...I don't know where  
to start...I miss him... My little  
Josh.

The lady cannot help but weeping. Her shoulder shakes  
dramatically.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA (V.O.)  
But you abandoned him!

Anne's eyes are fixed to a point in the front air, as if seeing something. The hijacker two cuts her off from the line and gives the talkie to the one next to her.

FLASHBACK WHEN JOSHUA IS IN HIS MIDDLE SCHOOL - DAY

Little Josh returns home early. It's summer time and quite hot outside. Birds are chirping. There's a woman in the large house, cooking. Little Josh takes off his handbag and climbs onto the chair in the middle of the kitchen. A younger Anne turns to little Josh when she hears the noise.

YOUNGER ANNE  
My Josh, you are back! How's school today?

LITTLE JOSH  
We took off early. (Yaws) Mom, I'm so thirsty.

YOUNGER ANNE  
Sweetie. Look what I have for you today.

Little Josh walks to her side.

LITTLE JOSH  
The green tongue! I love you so much, Mom.

He bites on the ice cream happily.

YOUNGER ANNE  
We will have sesame chicken wrap for dinner. Don't eat too much ice cream dear. And...You forget to wash your hands!

Younger Anne frowns and drags little Josh to the sink. She pulls his shirt off his back which is soaked with sweat, looking at his face gently.

INT. BACK TO THE CABIN - DAY

PILOT  
How's the golden key. When are we going to have it?

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA

Give us one more hour. You know the golden key involves a lot of people. Everyone inside needs to vote on that.

PILOT

You have enough control over southeast. Your ambition is eating us up! You are exploiting our messy political election and taking advantages of it!

JOSHUA

I'll hold my words for it. Let's wait for the vote.

The line is cut again.

TV SCREEN IN A DOMESTIC HOME - DAY

People are watching the latest news from CNN, in full attention. The screen shows images of the hostages' families summon together to pray for their lost fathers, mothers, wives, husbands, children and relatives. They hug together, nervously waiting.

Cut to: "The search for the missing United Airlines flight 411 has been on for 2 hours. Searching teams are now focusing their attention on an area in the southern Indian Ocean after several pings were detected, suspected to be from the stricken jet's black box data recorders. Later today a sophisticated underwater search vehicle called Blue Fin 21 will plunge into the depths to try and locate any debris."

INT. IN THE OFFICE - DAY

Joshua sits back. His whole body sinks into the chair. He swipes his running nose. He nods his head as if to himself.

JOSHUA (V.O.)

You only have ten minutes to copy the file. You have only one choice!

Joshua presses a button under his office table. A door behind him is widely opened. He walks into the door like a thunder.

This is a room full of monitors. There are images of some unknown troops training in a remote place, wars going on, path of missile flying across the land and exploding...

(CONTINUED)

Joshua goes to the farthest corner where there is a safe box. He proficiently types in the combination and the safe box opens automatically. He puts a thumb drive to the interface and turns on the screen of a laptop. It says "password". He types in a series of numbers and it turns to a complicated map of Indonesia Ocean. He clicks on an icon says "copy". Then a window pops up and says "fifteen minutes." He double checks the name of the file is golden key. He then walks out of the door. The private happens to come in as the door is still open. The private looks at it then turns his sight to Joshua.

PRIVATE

I didn't know there is a room sir.

JOSHUA

You don't know a lot of things.

He presses the button again and the door is closed. The private looks even more suspicious.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Has the plane been found out yet?

PRIVATE

No sir. We cannot locate their signal. But we have found out some pings around Diego Garcia island. That's an island no one has reign over.

JOSHUA

Anything new about the fake identity?

PRIVATE

Yes sir. The hijackers are once trained pilots in Malaysian military for the People Alliance party. They want to overthrow the National Front party government. (Beat) Are you sure nothing's wrong with you sir? You looks different today.

JOSHUA

Thank you for your concern. I'm good. Connect me with the pilot now.

PRIVATE

Okay sir. But I suggest you report to the General first.

(CONTINUED)



JOSHUA

You can do that on the side room.  
Connect me with the pilot.

The private says nothing and walks to the side room after connecting Joshua with the pilot. Joshua begins to talk when he sees the Private goes away.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

Listen, the truth is our government won't give you the golden key. At all! I was there only to put off your time. And find a good excuse to kill you and tell the press.

The pilot becomes angry all of a sudden.

PILOT

Then we will die together! I'm going the crash the plain right now. There will be a viral video about all the truth on line tomorrow. Let's see how the public will react!

JOSHUA

Listen! But I have another plan for you! I have the golden key with me now! Do you hear me?! If you will release the hostage to the island and let them go, I'll give it to you right now!

PILOT

Give it to me first! Send it to my receptor. NOW!

JOSHUA

Can you keep your words?! Release the hostage.

PILOT

Not until I get all the data.

JOSHUA

Okay give me a second.

Joshua opens the hidden door again and begins to transfer the data from the thumb drive to the signal receptor . The bar on the screen reads "Processing in five minutes".

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

You have to wait for another five minutes for the data to sent to you completely. Keep your words! Or the troop will block off on all the sea lines.

PILOT

Deal.

JOSHUA (V.O.)

Where is the private? It's been so long now. I know it's gonna destroy my career, even my life. But there's no time for that. Right, mom? I cannot forgive when you left me twenty years ago. But you are my only mom.

He sighs and remembers something. Then he connects with the general.

JOSHUA (CONT'D)

General, the hijackers have a viral video and they threaten to put it on line. We need to tell the truth to the press! Those families out there waiting. One hundred and thirty families!

GENERAL

Are you insane?! What we need is cover, not coverage! DO your job, Joshua. Don't disappoint me. I give you my precious trust only because you are by my side for more than ten years. Don't ruin it.

JOSHUA

I won't. Our searching team finds they may locate on the Diego Garcia island. But no one has reign over it.

GENERAL

Has the press known that yet?

JOSHUA

They don't.

GENERAL

You tell them now. But nothing about the hijackers.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA

Yes general, I know what to do.

General's face on the screen blacks out.

INT. IN THE PRIVATE OFFICE - DAY

The window bar says "Done". Joshua takes off the thumb drive from the laptop and puts the laptop back to the safe box. He locks it away and closes the private door with his trained fastness. He returns to normal the office, turning to the screen with the hijackers' images.

JOSHUA

It's me. I sent you all the data in the golden key. Release the hostage! Now!

PILOT

Good. That's fast. I need to check if you are fooling me first though.

JOSHUA

Go ahead. I've involved in this plan surrounding Indonesian Ocean right when I got first promoted. I gives it all my energy in the past several years.

Pilot turns to hijacker two.

PILOT

Check it with our database.

JOSHUA

Can we talk about how are you going to release the hostage now?

Hijacker two turns to pilot.

HIJACKER TWO

It's not the one pilot at all! He's fooling us with a fake thing!

JOSHUA

That's not true! I get the data right from my laptop. It must be the golden key. Are you playing tricks with me now?! If you want both the golden key and the people, I will let our troops block your way right now. We've already

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA (cont'd)  
located your plane. Diego Garcia  
island. Correct me if I'm wrong.

HIJACKER HEAD  
You bastard! You damn play tricks  
with us. How dare you! You will see  
a viral video tomorrow. About your  
lies and your evil conduct to the  
hostage. There's no way you can  
have my trust. No more.

JOSHUA  
Wait! Wait! I have given you the  
golden key! Release the hostage.  
Please! Please! I beg you! No!

Joshua starts to punch on the screen. The hijacker two has recorded everything from the beginning. He is send out the entire video to some station. The pilot pulls the steering handle forward and makes a suicidal landing to the island underneath. The screen turns black.

JOSHUA  
No! Mom!

Then the two more privates show up. They gives a salute and starts to shackle Joshua.

PRIVATE  
Sir, you are under arrested. We get  
the order from the general. For  
betraying our country.

Joshua's still crying. He doesn't resist. He almost falls into the ground when the privates take him off.

JOSHUA  
When did the genral find out?

Joshua desperately looks at his familiar privates.

PRIVATE  
Sorry sir, I just reported to the  
general about the open room in your  
office. And the general and I  
monitored your line. We found out  
your private deal with the  
hijackers.

Joshua uses all his strengths.

(CONTINUED)

JOSHUA

Do you know what a mistake you have done?! You are the sinner! You killed all the people! You killed my mom! I will kill you!

Joshua runs to him and tries to punch him hard. The other privates stop him and shackle his hands to the back. They press him to the ground.

PRIVATE

I'm sorry sir. But it's my duty.

They are taking him away.

JOSHUA

I can go myself.

Joshua stands up and starts walking. He cleans his tears and uniform, murmuring "mom, mom, your son didn't protect you...".

FLASHBACK THE DAY ANNE PLANED TO LEAVE - DAY

Ann squats in front of the big house, holding Little Josh tight in her arms.

ANNE

Josh, my little boy. You are a little man now. Mom needs to leave. Mom needs a new life.

LITTLE JOSH

Mommy, don't leave me!

ANNE

We will meet again one day. When you grow up. You must be a strong man before I see you again.

Little Josh begins to cry. He drags Anne's hands, clothes and lastly legs. But Anne forces him away and goes into a taxi already waiting.

LITTLE JOSH

Don't leave me mom...

Anne pushes him away determinedly and shuts the door hard. She withholds her tears, bending herself down. Then it leaves.