

THE SPORTSMAN

A

Script

Written

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. RIO DE JANEIRO MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Covered in sweat, PAUL, 30s, long dark hair, side burns, jogs along a road bordered on one side by a deep abyss.

Coming around a curve, he can see the immense statue of Jesus Christ. Exhausted, Paul slows down, admiring the statue.

EXT. STATUE COMPLEX - DAY

Climbing the long stairway up to the base of the statue, Paul looks up into the eyes of the immense sculpture.

Its eyes slowly move down, staring at Paul. Amazed, he backs off. The Christ statue slowly moves, coming to life.

EXT. RIO DE JANEIRO MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

Desperately, Paul runs down the road chased by the gigantic statue.

Suddenly, a huge hand blocks his way and grabs him.

The giant Christ looks directly into Paul's eyes.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

Paul looks at the clock radio dial flashing "12:00" as if the power had gone off and come back on.

PAUL

Wonderful.

Hurriedly, he gets out of bed.

INT. CAR - DAY

Paul uses a portable shaver while maneuvering the car through the crazy rush hour traffic.

Stuck behind a slower car, he tries to make the green light up ahead.

PAUL
Come on... Damn!

The light turns red. Pissed, he bangs the shaver on the steering wheel and it flies out the window.

Locating the shaver on the pavement, Paul gets out. The light turns green. A moving car smashes the shaver. The cars behind HONK.

Paul gets back in and sticks his head out.

PAUL
I'm moving.

The light turns red. Paul implodes his anger.

He searches for a paper in his briefcase, on top of a pile of junk, on the back seat.

The light turns green. Paul takes off at a high speed.

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - DAY

The audience applauds as an "elegant Englishman," wearing a suit and a bow tie, DAN WISBURG, 40s, leaves the stage, shaking hands with the host, WILLIAM ROSENFELD, 60s, who walks to the microphone.

WILLIAM
And now my friends, after this brilliant exposition of the archeological treasures of the Old Testament, I will be proud to invite to the stage one of the brightest archeologists of this country. As soon as he gets here. I was informed he experienced some mechanical problems with his automobile, but he is on his way.

EXT. STREETS OF LOS ANGELES - DAY

A HIGHWAY PATROLMAN writes a ticket and hands it to Paul.

PATROLMAN

You were driving 55 in a 35 zone.
Drive safely and there won't be a
next time.

PAUL

Thanks officer.

INT. CAR - DAY

Paul takes off. He crumples the ticket.

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - DAY

WILLIAM

Archeology, my friends, requires
certain skills: Organization,
precision and most importantly,
patience. Paul Willander would
certainly agree that archeology does
not, and cannot, produce extensive
evidence from the world of the New
Testament. It is also very difficult
to find corroborative evidence for the
facts described in the Bible in other
sources.

Dan signals that he wants to speak.

WILLIAM

Paul Willander will update us, in a moment I hope, with the evidence archeology has produced, so far, of the world of Jesus of Nazareth, or Jesus of Galilee if you prefer, since there is no conclusive evidence of the existence of a place called Nazareth. As you see, my friends, the task of rediscovering the villages or cities where Jesus lived, preached and died isn't an easy one...

Just as William is running out of words, Dan walks up onto the stage.

DAN

(British accent)

Allow me to help you out, Professor Rosenfeld. It isn't very easy to try to fill in for responsibilities that belong to others. I would like to enlighten the audience with my knowledge of one of the oldest New Testament writings: a manuscript, in Greek, dating about 98-117 A.D., discovered in Egypt, in 1935.

Dan continues his exposition, as the AUDIENCE looks bored with his snobbish attitude.

A screen shows a slide with a Roman inscription.

DAN

I wasn't prepared for this exposition, but as you see, we can always improvise something interesting. My years at the University of Pennsylvania were very fruitful, not only in terms of studying archeology, but also in terms of studying ancient languages that are a must for those interested in exploring the historical world of the Bible: Latin, Greek and Hebrew. Latin is my favorite, although I studied the Gospel of John in the "Papyrus Bodmer II" manuscript, written in Greek. Can anybody tell me what this inscription says?

Dan points to the slide: a photograph of an inscription on a cracked stone.

STUDENT IN THE AUDIENCE

(to himself)

Shut-up?

DAN

Latin: tius Pilatus. Pon-tius
Pilate!

EXT. UNIVERSITY - DAY

Paul's car arrives in the parking lot.

Grabbing his briefcase, Paul gets out in a hurry, straightening the traffic violation ticket he had crumpled.

He tries to make his way up a long stairway, crowded with STUDENTS. Obstructed by the "traffic jam," he slides under the banister and climbs up the hill on the grass.

Almost at the top he slips and rolls all the way down, ending up at the bottom of the hill, lying flat on the sidewalk.

The passing students surround him. He stays there motionless, calm, convinced that it just isn't his day.

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - DAY

The back door bursts open. Sweating, some grass on his shoulders, Paul walks down the central aisle.

At first relieved, William looks at Paul reprehensibly. Dan smiles at the embarrassment caused by his "rival."

Paul walks up onto the stage. William greets him, examining his face.

WILLIAM

What happened? What's with your face?

Paul puts his hand on his face, realizing it's only half shaved.

PAUL

Sensitive skin. I rest this half on Tuesdays.

He walks to the microphone looking at his watch.

PAUL

I'm sorry for the delay. You wouldn't believe what I just went through, so let's get down to business. We still have some time left.

Paul looks back to the slide on the screen.

PAUL

I see Professor Wisburg has shown you the Pontius Pilate inscription from Caesarea. Thank you Dan, I'll take over from here.

Dan steps down from the stage, upset.

PAUL

Speaking of Pontius Pilate, I would say that the descriptions of the trial and crucifixion in the Bible are historically trustworthy events. They have been checked scientifically to the last detail. The main witnesses have been indirectly verified. The Pavement in Pilate's court was discovered, thanks to the archeological work of Father Vincent.

Dan shakes his head, disagreeing.

PAUL

He used in his work the exact description given in the Bible of the place where the sentence was pronounced. There was a man named Jesus, a trial and a crucifixion, almost 2000 years ago, no doubt about it. But that's about it.

A STUDENT walks to the microphone placed for questions from the audience.

STUDENT

What about the "Turin Shroud?" The linen cloth the body of Jesus was wrapped in.

PAUL

Supposedly wrapped in. In 1988 it was proven, conclusively, using the Carbon 14 method that the linen shroud is dated between 1260-1390 A.D.

ANOTHER STUDENT

And the Holy Sepulcher?

PAUL

The site was determined during the time of Emperor Constantine. They built a tower over the allegedly discovered sepulcher of Jesus: a cave hewn in a rock, as described in the Bible. Is this the sepulcher of Jesus? We don't know.

Dan again shakes his head and gives a sigh of boredom.

PAUL

But as I said, the martyrdom of a man named Jesus is historically accurate. Did he have great philosophical ideas to divulge? No doubt about it. Did he have any uncommon capacities that led him and his followers to believe he was unique, different from everyone else? That's something we can discuss. Is he the son of God? That's a question to be answered by your personal religious beliefs.

Dan walks to the microphone.

DAN

My answer to this question is yes. Yes, Jesus is the son of God. What's yours?

PAUL

As I said, that's something personal. But if you insist on avoiding an unnecessary collision of beliefs, I'll say that my answer to that is simple: I don't feel the need to answer it.

MOMENTS LATER

The presentation and debate are finished. The audience crowds into the central aisle, walking to the exit.

An old man, 70s, SHIMON, remains seated. Paul arranges papers in his briefcase and walks down the stage. The old man stands.

PAUL

Can I help you?

SHIMON

Yes, and I think I can also help you.

Shimon hands a folder to Paul who looks tired as he gazes at the one page manuscript: a photo of an old brownish manuscript.

PAUL

Greek. Do you have the original of this?

SHIMON

Yes, back in Israel. Perhaps you would like to join me.

Impressed, Paul examines the manuscript closely.

PAUL

Very impressive.

A WOMAN walks into the auditorium.

WOMAN

Professor, the Dean wants to see you.

PAUL

Would you excuse me for a second?
I'll be right back.

Paul walks out of the auditorium, carrying the folder.

MOMENTS LATER

Paul comes back in. Shimon is gone.

Disappointed, he takes a moment to examine the manuscript photo. There's an address and phone number in the folder.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

Paul drives into the garage.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

IN THE FRONT ROOM

KAREN, 15, lying on the sofa listening to MUSIC with headphones, watches Paul walk across the front room.

IN THE OFFICE

Paul sits at a desk piled with thick books, papers and a lap top computer, examining the one-page Greek manuscript photo.

He grabs a book, opens it, sets the manuscript photo on the side, comparing the Greek letters.

IN THE FRONT ROOM

BILLY, 10, storms in the front door and runs up the stairs.

IN THE OFFICE

Billy enters the office, holding a baseball.

BILLY

Let's play.

PAUL

I can't right now. I'm going on a trip tomorrow.

BILLY

Again? Your Brazilian girlfriend must be a babe. Can I come? I always wanted to surf in Rio.

PAUL

I'm going to Jerusalem. The "sacred city."

BILLY

Again? Is there a beach around there? I'll bet Jesus would have been a surfer if there was one.

EXT. JERUSALEM AIRPORT - DAY

An airplane lands.

SUBTITLE: JERUSALEM.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Paul talks on a public phone watching the heavy airport security: A police dog sniffs some unattended luggage. A RABBI approaches to claim it. PASSENGERS AND FAMILIES go by.

EXT. SHIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

Paul pays the TAXI CAB DRIVER.

Walking to the front of a house, he RINGS the bell and waits. RINGS again, KNOCKS at the door and waits. No one answers.

He checks the address, takes a peak in the front window, walks back to the street and sits on the curb.

Shimon approaches, walking down the street, carrying a newspaper.

SHIMON

I'm sorry. But you arrived so fast.
It usually takes much longer to
get here from the airport. I
just stepped out to get a
newspaper.

PAUL

It's all right. I just got here.

Shimon opens the door.

INT. SHIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

IN THE FRONT ROOM

Paul and Shimon walk in. There are thick books piled on a desk and two huge panels with maps and notes leaning against a wall.

SHIMON

Would you like something to drink
or eat? Or perhaps you would like
to rest for awhile. You look tired.

PAUL

I'm fine and ready to work. I'll
take the drink.

SHIMON

How about a nice cold lemonade?

PAUL

Great.

Shimon leaves the front room. Approaching the panels, Paul examines a map.

It shows the Lake of Galilee and a red line connecting four red Xs with names surrounding the lake: "Tiberias," on the top; following to the right, "Magdala, Tabgha, and Capernaum."

A second map shows a specific area. "Capernaum" is written on the top.

Shimon returns with the drink.

PAUL

Thank you. I see you pretty much deciphered the manuscript.

SHIMON

Yes, I got the general idea but there are flaws. Perhaps you could explain them. But I don't want you to be influenced with my work. I want to hear your own perspective.

Paul finishes drinking the lemonade and sets the glass on the table, looking re-energized.

PAUL

I think this manuscript had more pages. The bottom sentence is complete, but suggests a continuation. We could start by reexamining the site where it was found.

SHIMON

That's a dead end, believe me. It comes from the Givat Hamivtar excavations of 1968 in Jerusalem. I bought it in Damascus in 1971. Don't ask me how it got there.

PAUL

As I said, it answers a lot of questions. The graves found in Givatar were of people who lived around the time of Jesus. We can assume something bad happened to our Greek friend, since the letter never got to its destination.

SHIMON

Not necessarily.

PAUL

...I know what you mean ...Let me show you what I got, but first I would like to take a look at the original.

Shimon pulls a wooden box from under a black cloth beneath the table.

He takes out the manuscript, concealed in a high tech vacuum glass box, setting it carefully on the table, as if it were the most precious treasure of the world.

Paul takes a close look, sharing Shimon's appreciation for the simple piece of brownish “paper.”

PAUL

Beautiful, absolutely beautiful.

Paul gets a paper from his briefcase and hands it to Shimon.

PAUL

This is what I got. The underlined words are best-guesses, considering the partially readable symbols and/or a match to the context of the manuscript or of known history.

Shimon reads it and is satisfied, nodding as if Paul surely lives up to his credentials.

SHIMON

Fantastic. Excellent job. You did more in days than I did in many years.

PAUL

But you seem much more ahead in the geography of the sepulcher site.

Paul walks to the "Capernaum" map.

PAUL

How did you determine this area
was a possible site?

SHIMON

I made the final journey of our
Greek man on horseback, just like he
did two thousand years ago, from
Tabgha to Capernaum. His description
of the site just grows right before
your eyes. But it's still a large
area. It will take a long time to
explore it.

PAUL

But what we already have is
absolutely incredible. Take a look
at the beginning: Three women
surprised him as he was removing
Jesus' body from the original
sepulcher.

SHIMON

Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of
James and Salome. They saw a "young
man(...) clothed in a long white
garment." Mark 16:4.

PAUL

"Be not affrighted, ye seek Jesus
of Nazareth." Jesus "resurrected"
or our Greek guy?

INT. JEEP - DAY

Paul drives the Jeep along a modest road. Shimon studies a map.

SHIMON

This is it.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Paul stops the car between a rocky hill and a lake. He steps out and looks around, excited with the view.

PAUL

That's it! The hill. The lake. "The shore curves into a small bay. It's not far from where the Jordan waters pour into the lake."

Paul stares at the hill.

SHIMON

Go ahead... I must have walked up this hill a thousand times.

AT THE HILL

Paul walks up the rocky hill.

MOMENTS LATER

The sun is setting. Exhausted, Paul sits on a rock, examines a notebook and adds a note.

Admiring the view, he watches the sun disappear.

Twilight. Paul's blurred figure walks down the hill.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

AT THE CAMP

Paul and Shimon sit in front of a tent, beside a fire.

PAUL

I don't get it. That site looks like a usual place for a burial. The Jewish people had no formal cemeteries, and burials in caves or on a hillside were common.

SHIMON

I know. But your deciphering of the manuscript states that the burial site is "a place where they wouldn't bury him."

PAUL

...In the lake, perhaps. Under the water... No.

SHIMON

No.

PAUL

Alongside a main road. They wouldn't bury someone less than 50 cubits from a house or alongside a main road like this.

SHIMON

Yes. That's a new perspective worth following. We can start tomorrow morning.

HOURS LATER

Waking up with the NOISE OF STONES ROLLING, Paul looks into the darkness. He notices Shimon isn't at the camp fire. Hearing the NOISE OF SOMEONE APPROACHING in the darkness, Paul lies back.

Shimon enters the camp, takes off his shoes and lies in his sleeping bag. Paul closes his eyes.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

AT THE CAMP

Paul wakes up, staring at the shining surface of the lake as the sun rises.

Noticing the Jeep is gone and that Shimon is still asleep, Paul wakes up Shimon.

PAUL

Where is the Jeep?

SHIMON

What do you mean where is the Jeep?

PAUL

It's gone.

Shimon gets out of the sleeping bag, looking at the place where the jeep had been parked.

SHIMON

It is gone indeed.

PAUL

Was it there last night?

SHIMON

...What do you mean?

PAUL

Yeah, last night. I saw you coming back to camp.

SHIMON

...Oh, yes... I went to relieve myself... Yes, the Jeep was there. It must have been stolen.

Disappointed, Paul looks at the surroundings.

PAUL

"Holy land" thieves. I can't believe this.

SHIMON

Don't worry. I can walk to the next village and find us another vehicle. I'll be back by night.

PAUL

Maybe I should go.

SHIMON

No, no. It's all right. I have done it before. I know my way around. I have been here thousands of times. You go on with the work. I'll be back soon.

MOMENTS LATER

Walking along the road, followed by his shadow, Paul examines rocky formations potentially hiding buried caves. He inserts small sticks in front of them.

HOURS LATER

The sun is now very bright. Sweating, Paul walks holding a small pickax, his shadow is gone. The shirt he was wearing is now tied on his head, like an Arab turban.

He stops in front of a promising rock formation, removes a smaller rock and clears the dirt around a bigger rock surface.

Paul STOMPS the flat side of the pickax on the surface, attentive to the sound it produces. He's disappointed with the muffled sound of a solid surface.

AT THE CAMP

Paul drinks water, spilling some on his red face burned by the sun. The sun is setting.

Staring at the lake for a moment, he runs and dives in the placid waters.

Paul swims on his back, relaxed.

EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

Paul wakes up with A NOISE and stares into the darkness.

PAUL
Is that you, Shimon?

No one answers. Paul runs a flashlight over the darkness.

Worried, he lies in the sleeping bag with his eyes open.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

Paul works his pickax at another rock formation. Again he looks disappointed and finally gives up, noticing the gray sky. It starts to drizzle.

The rain falls harder. Lightning strikes on the horizon. A moment later comes the sound of THUNDER.

Paul stares at the pickax he's holding and throws it in the direction of a big old tree across the road, just in time, as a lightning bolt strikes the pickax in the air following it to the tree. The pickax sticks in and the lightning explodes.

Paul runs back to the camp as the rain pours down heavily.

AT THE CAMP

Paul approaches running. The canvas of the tent blows wildly. He struggles to pull the canvas down.

Paul wraps himself in the canvas and sits in the middle of the tent's metal structure.

The tent's metal structure is struck by a lightning bolt. The electricity flows around the structure and dissolves in the ground. Paul sits unharmed, embracing his knees and shivering.

HOURS LATER

It's still drizzling. Soaked, Paul walks along the road, carrying a small ax.

Approaching the partially burned old tree, he notices the burned pickax stuck in the trunk. The rain stops.

Paul touches the pickax briefly, feeling it's still hot.

Noticing a rock formation on the ground, next to the tree, he clears the burned vegetation around the rock with the ax.

Stomping the rock with the other side of the ax, Paul is surprised with the **HOLLOW SOUND**.

He digs around the rock, uncovering a solid flat surface. The sun appears behind the gray clouds as the sky begins to clear.

A flat solid square surface appears from under the mud as he uncovers the edges. Paul stomps the ax on the surface. The **HOLLOW SOUND** makes him even more excited.

He deepens the surface edges with the ax blade. It's a stone sealing an entrance. Using the ax blade as a lever to pull up the stone, he uncovers an opening in the rock formation.

Paul leaves the site running.

MOMENTS LATER

Paul returns carrying a flashlight and a bag. The sun is shining brightly in the sky.

Kneeling at the opening, he illuminates a passage with the flashlight. It's very narrow. He crawls in with difficulty.

INT. TOMB - DAY

Illuminating the walls, Paul reaches a cavity. He runs the light through the chamber. It's a natural formation.

The light stops on something at the far end of the cavity. Paul gets closer. It's an old white cloth, covering a body.

Carefully, he uncovers the head of a perfectly preserved body. The face of the corpse is pale and bearded.

Amazed, Paul steps back, staring at the body.

He returns through the passage towards the daylight.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

AT THE TOMB SITE

The bright sun blinds Paul for a moment as he reaches for the bag he brought from the camp and takes out a camera.

He snaps photos of the tomb site.

INT. TOMB - DAY

Paul returns through the passage, reaching the tomb chamber.

He snaps a photo. The flash illuminates the cavity for a second. The body under the old cloth is gone. There's a blurry image of a man, G, 30s, sitting on the floor with his back against the wall.

Illuminating the spot where the corpse had been with the flashlight, Paul is stunned to see just the old cloth.

PAUL

What the hell...

He runs the flashlight around the chamber frantically. The light stops on the face of G.

Startled, Paul drops the flashlight.

PAUL

Oh, God...

G picks up the flashlight and illuminates Paul's terrified face.

G

(Aramaic, subtitle in English)

Be not affrighted.

PAUL

Oh my God...

G

Oh... You're a Briton.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

AT THE TOMB SITE

G crawls out of the ground opening. Already outside and still amazed, Paul takes a photo.

G

What are you doing? Paul of Los Angeles.

PAUL

I'm taking a photograph. It's sort of a painting done in a second.

AT THE CAMP SITE

A Jeep approaches. It comes to a stop near Paul. Shimon steps out excited and smiling.

PAUL

So you found our Jeep.

SHIMON

Yes, the sinners didn't go far. I repossessed it. So how is the work? I saw some digging down by the old tree.

PAUL

I think you better sit down. We
have made substantial progress

AT THE LAKE SIDE

G swims, approaching the shore. He comes out, shakes his long hair wildly
sprinkling water all over and does twenty push-ups.

He takes a deep breath of the lake breeze while admiring the view.

AT THE CAMP SITE

Shimon notices G approaching.

SHIMON

Who is that?

PAUL

Well...

G reaches Shimon and Paul.

PAUL

This is...

G

...Sustein. Gaza Sustein
of Jerusalem. But you can
call me G.

G and Shimon shake hands.

SHIMON

Shimon Stein.

PAUL

Also of Jerusalem. He likes to
know where people come from...
We found the sepulcher!

Shimon doesn't know what to say.

SHIMON

By the old tree?!

PAUL

Yes.

Shimon walks to the tomb site.

Paul stares at G.

G

I took your advice. They would probably end up crucifying both of us if I said something else.

EXT. SHIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

The Jeep stops in front of the house. Paul and G step out.

Paul unloads some bags, his eyes just can't let go of G who contemplates the modern habitation.

Shimon remains in the driver's seat. He hands Paul a key.

SHIMON

Make yourselves comfortable. I'm going to meet with a friend of mine. We need to seal the tomb site and further the archeological work.

Shimon leaves.

INT. SHIMON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

IN THE GUEST BEDROOM

Paul sits on one of two beds, talking on the phone.

PAUL (ON THE PHONE)

Yes... Yes... No Karen, I can't...
Okay, I can, but I won't. Anyway,
I'll be there by noon. I'm bringing
...a friend. Tell Billy to clear
out the green room... I know. Make
him do it.

IN THE BATHROOM

G cuts his hair and beard short. He looks in the mirror and grabs a razor.

IN THE GUEST BEDROOM

Paul hangs up the phone. The door of the bathroom opens and G comes out, drying his face and head with a towel.

G

Surprise!

G's face is totally shaved and so is his head: bald and shining.

Paul is surprised by the unusual look.

PAUL

...Where's your hair?

G

It's gone.

PAUL

I know. What did you do with it?

G

The water bowl swallowed it.

PAUL

Did you flush it down the toilet?

Paul walks to the bathroom.

IN THE BATHROOM

Finding some hair under the sink, Paul collects it, wrapping the hair in a piece of paper.

IN THE BEDROOM

Paul puts the hair sample in his brief case.

G

Did you find some?

PAUL

Yeah... It's kind of a souvenir... Actually, I'm running some tests on it.

G

It's all right. I know sometimes we need an objective, impartial view of what we see. We just can't believe our eyes.

PAUL

Yes. We call it science.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

AT THE TOMB SITE

The place is crowded with REPORTERS AND CAMERAMEN. ISRAELI SOLDIERS separate the crowd from the tomb site where ARCHEOLOGISTS work.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Paul and G sit next to each other.

PAUL

You could say Christopher Columbus was an Italian, working for the Spanish. How we end up speaking English is still another long story. Your English is very good. Shimon got you this.

Paul hands a passport to G.

PAUL

Foreigners need a passport and a visa to get in. But this country is as free as it gets, compared to the rest of the World.

G

Freedom is absolute and unconditional.

PAUL

A man doesn't have the freedom to break the law.

G

Yes he does. Other men are free to lock him up. And there is no law that can't be changed.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

Paul and G leave the arrival area. A CROWD OF REPORTERS is waiting for them.

Cameras flash, microphones are shoved in Paul's faces. He is surprised. G remains relaxed and smiling as they try to go through but get surrounded by the struggling reporters.

REPORTER

Professor Willander! Professor
Willander! How sure are you, that
the sepulcher you found belongs to
Jesus Christ?

Paul is very uncomfortable with the pushing and shoving.

PAUL

Right now I can't say. I will
answer your questions later.

G remains a silent spectator, ignored by the reporters.

ANOTHER REPORTER

Is it true you were guided by the trajectory
of a comet?

PAUL

No, please. I promise to give you
all the details at a press
conference.

REPORTER

Do you have an exclusive deal with
National Geographic?

Followed by G, Paul breaks through the crowd and heads to the exit.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

IN THE FRONT ROOM

Paul sets his bags on the floor. G takes a look around, appreciating the comforts of
the modern home.

Karen runs down the stairs and gives Paul a warm welcome hug.
She looks at G and they exchange smiles.

KAREN

So this is your friend... Nice
hair cut.

IN THE KITCHEN

Paul and Karen sit at the kitchen table, watching the TV news.
Paul cuts a slice of chocolate cake and pours a glass of lemonade.

Behind them, the back door is open. G and Billy play baseball in the yard. Billy teaches G the basics, showing him how to swing the bat.
Karen looks at the chocolate cake.

PAUL

Aren't you going to eat some?

KAREN

I'm on a diet. This time is for
real.

ON TV

The BROADCASTER reads the news, alternating images of the tomb site and of Paul's arrival at the airport.

BROADCASTER (ON TV)

Some archeologists call it the "discovery of the century," some religious authorities, like the Pope himself, call it "most likely an error." The world will have answers at tomorrow's press conference at UCLA. That's the promise of Professor Paul Willander, who arrived this morning at the Los Angeles Airport.

KAREN

Billy! Dad's on TV!

PAUL

...I don't know what I promised.

Billy arrives too late, as the news changes subjects.

G remains outside, practicing his swing with the baseball bat.

BILLY

Where?

Paul watches G in the back yard. Karen leaves the kitchen. Only Billy still pays attention to the TV.

ON TV

News footage shows the scene of an aircraft disaster. The subtitles read:
"LACKFIELD, ENGLAND."

BROADCASTER (VOICE OVER)

The police have a description
of a suspect, an international
terrorist, believed to be also
involved in other horrendous
acts of violence. His eyes were
described by an airport employee
as "the eyes of the devil."

A drawing of the terrorist suspect, CARLOS SIX, appears on the screen. His eyes indeed are the eyes of the devil.

Billy stares at the TV screen. A ball bounces into the kitchen and he picks it up. G walks in carrying the bat.

PAUL

...Would you like to come with me
to the University, tomorrow? I'm
giving a press conference...

G

No, thanks. I 'm going with
Billy to the park. We're going
to play the spaceball game.

Billy throws the ball to G.

BILLY

Base-ball. Not spaceball.

EXT. PARK - DAY

A ball flies in the sky. Running back, trying to catch the ball, G crashes into a trash can. The ball bounces on the ground.

COLLEGE GUYS, wearing USC T-shirts, approach carrying bats, mitts and balls. They look more like a line-up of football players.

FIRST COLLEGE GUY

Oooh. What a catch.

Second college guy grabs Billy, who just completed the home run.

SECOND COLLEGE GUY

Okay kids. Time to clear the area.

The college guys take over the place, ignoring Billy and his FRIENDS. They are carried off like pieces of furniture.

G returns from the outfield.

G

What's the matter boys? We have a game going on here.

FIRST COLLEGE GUY

Had. You had a "thing" going on here. The game is starting right now. And don't call me "boy," egghead.

G

All right. The game starts now. Our team against yours.

FIRST COLLEGE GUY

Tell you what. if you hit one out of five of my fast balls, I'll think about it.

G grabs a bat and takes position.

The first college guy concentrates, preparing his killer fast ball and as he swings his arm...

G

Wait.

Annoyed, the first college guy waits. G ducks to the ground and performs ten fast push-ups. Billy and Friends laugh.

FIRST COLLEGE GUY

That's it egghead! Get the hell out of here. And fast, if you don't want your bat up your ass.

The second college guy pushes G.

G

Okay. Okay. One out of one.

FIRST COLLEGE GUY

One out of one. But it's going to cost you twenty bucks if you don't hit it.

G

If I hit it, you'll buy everyone one of those.

There's an ice cream van parked on the street. KIDS eat their cones next to the ICE CREAM MAN.

FIRST COLLEGE GUY

Whatever. I'll also wax and polish your egghead for free.

The first college guy reassumes his position and throws a fast ball.

G blasts the ball almost into outer space.

Billy and his friends look up in the sky, cheering. The college guys look up, stunned.

G

I think it's coming down.

The ball comes down in a lake, at the far end of the park, hitting a metal buoy, producing a LONG LASTING BELL SOUND.

BILLY

Wow!

FIRST COLLEGE GUY

Oooh... Not bad.

EXT. JERUSALEM - DAY

The majestic view of several monuments in the "sacred city."

SUBTITLE: JERUSALEM.

INT. MUSEUM - DAY

Shimon uncovers a huge glass frame containing the "real" sacred shroud, spread out.

A crowd of PHOTOGRAPHERS snap their cameras. Shimon stands proudly next to the archeological treasure.

EXT. UCLA - DAY

The main entrance show the letters: UCLA.

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - DAY

In a press conference, Paul, William, Dan, and the DEAN sit at a table, behind microphones. A crowd of excited REPORTERS stand in the audience.

PAUL

We'll be conducting Carbon 14 tests on the samples we have of the shroud and of the human hair found at the sepulcher.

The mention of the hair creates NOISE in the audience.

REPORTER

You mean it could be the hair of Jesus Christ?

PAUL

As I was saying, we will perform a test to determine the approximate age of the samples.

DAN

But that won't prove that they are connected to Jesus. We would have to study the manuscript that places Jesus in this Sepulcher, to determine its authenticity.

PAUL

No doubt about it. That's what I was going to say if you hadn't interrupted me.

WILLIAM

Calm down boys. Let's take some more questions.

EXT. PARK - DAY

G, Billy, his friends and the college guys eat ice cream cones, sitting on the grass, talking and having a good time.

A POLICEMAN approaches.

POLICEMAN

That was a hell of a hit. Are you
a professional?

G

No. Just playing for fun.

The policeman takes a card out of his wallet and hands it to G.

POLICEMAN

My brother is a scout for the
Cougars. If you want to give it
a try, call him. Tell him Joe
said you are a "Cape Kennedy."

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - DAY

PAUL

Nitrogen is altered into the
radioactive isotope of Carbon C-14,
as a consequence of the showers of
cosmic rays that are always entering
our atmosphere from outer space. Everything that
lives, plants or any other organism, absorbs the
C-14 with the food and air it consumes daily
during its lifetime--

REPORTER

--Don't tell me the shroud has been
eating and breathing all this time.

Dan laughs.

PAUL

The shroud is made of linen,
which is a cloth made from flax, and
in case the reporter doesn't know,
flax is a plant. Now, in a period
of 5600 years, this C-14 loses 50%
of its initial radioactivity. In
the case of our shroud, a dead
organic substance, a highly
sensitive Geiger-counter can
determine how much radiation has
been lost. This makes it feasible
to establish how many years it has
been since it absorbed the C-14 for
the last time.

The audience doesn't seem to be understanding the "complicated" concept.

PAUL

We'll burn the pieces of linen of
our sample to ashes and put them
into a battery of Geiger-tubes.

EXT. SUBURB STREET - DAY

The sun is setting. Dirty and tired, G and Billy walk up the street carrying their
baseball equipment.

Billy takes a look at the card the policeman gave G.

BILLY

Are you going to call him?

G

I don't know. What do you think?

BILLY

I would. You can get rich playing
with the pros.

They approach Paul's house. Sad, Karen sits on the street curb next to a dead cat.

BILLY

Oh my god... Tiger...

G

What happened?

KAREN

I don't know... Why do we
have to die? ...like mom...

BILLY

I wish I was immortal.

G

You are.

BILLY

Yeah? Since when?

G

It's a question of logic.

KAREN

Logic?

G

The only way to prove that you're
not immortal is if you die. But
then you'll never know since
you're already dead.

Billy smiles and nods. Karen disagrees shaking her head.

INT. UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM - DAY

Paul drinks a glass of water, as the press conference goes on.

REPORTER

Have you had contact with
the Pope or other religious
authorities?

PAUL

No. This is a scientific investigation. I'm concerned with history not religion.

DEAN

We are very concerned about keeping the whole world informed of our work. I will personally report to the Pope about our investigations. I am sure all Christians around the world are following our work anxiously.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

IN THE TV ROOM

Exhausted, Paul enters the room. G and Billy are having a good time playing a football video game.

BILLY

Touchdown!

G puts a pillow in Billy's face, maneuvering his controls, while Billy struggles to see the screen.

G

Touchdown!

Paul observes G, still intrigued with the "absurd concept" of a "resurrected man."

PAUL

So how was the baseball game?

Billy gets up excited.

BILLY

You should have seen it! He
hit a ball into orbit. A guy
invited him to try out for the
Cougars tomorrow. You're going,
aren't you?

G lies on the sofa, lazy.

G

I don't know. I'm kind of tired.
Maybe I shouldn't.

EXT. COUGAR STADIUM - DAY

ON THE FIELD

PLAYERS practice. A pitching machine, "The Exterminator," spits out balls.

The batters take turns, but no one is able to hit the "maximum speed" ball from the machine.

The SCOUT talks to the COACH who is not impressed with what he's hearing.

G looks around, impressed with the hugeness of the stadium.

The scout signals G to approach. The Coach takes a look at G, very unimpressed.

COACH

He tells me you are 25 years old
and that you played in some
crummy Middle east league.

Scout winks at G.

COACH

You look 35 to me. And I'm absolutely sure I'm wasting my time with you. But since "scouty" here is buying me a dinner, I'm going to give you a chance to realize for good, that if you didn't make it until now, it's because you never will. Tell you what. I'll give you one chance against the exterminator, max speed.

SCOUT

Come on, nobody hit that one.

G walks to the batting position, swings the bat a couple of times, drops to the ground and performs fast push-ups.

Annoyed, the coach takes off his cap and looks at the Scout.

All the players follow the action.

As soon as G stands, the Coach FIRES a ball with a remote control. Unprepared, G jumps out of the way of the burning "warp speed" ball, falling to the ground clumsily.

The coach smiles. The players laugh. The scout looks doubtful. "Maybe he's wasting everybody's time."

G gets up and reassumes position.

The coach holds the firing device, waits for a moment and presses the red button.

The Exterminator fires a ball like a bazooka. The ball is so fast it can't be seen. A split second later G stikes the ball, sending it into "orbit."

Perplexed, the coach and the players follow the ball's trajectory out of the stadium.

IN THE PARKING LOT

The ball lands outside the stadium, directly on the windshield of a brand new Cadillac, CRUSHING it.

INT. UNIVERSITY LAB - DAY

The Dean, Paul, Dan and William await anxiously, as the LAB WOMAN stands beside a printer spitting out a report.

Everyone looks at the lab woman. She shakes her head, circling some numbers with a pen.

LAB WOMAN

I'm sorry gentleman.

Dan opens a smile. The Dean shakes his head. William is disappointed. Paul examines the report.

LAB WOMAN

Just kidding.

The Dean breaths a sigh, relieved.

DEAN

That wasn't funny, Missy.

LAB WOMAN

Bingo. Linen sample, 1990 to 2010 years old. The hair sample really wasn't an ideal quantity but we could say that whoever used to comb it, was walking around 2000 years ago. For sure, he never used shampoo.

All smiles, the Dean hugs Paul who is intrigued and a little confused. Dan is disappointed.

DEAN

Congratulations, Paul. You're going down in history. This is the archeological discovery of the century!

INT. COUGAR STADIUM

IN THE LOCKER ROOM

G showers. He walks out and gets dressed.

A YOUNG PLAYER approaches.

YOUNG PLAYER

What's your secret?

G

For what?

YOUNG PLAYER

I've never hit a home run since I left the minor leagues.

G

My secret is so simple, but so simple, that sometimes it's difficult to understand.

YOUNG PLAYER

And what's that?

G

No secret at all. I just hit it.

EXT. COUGAR STADIUM - DAY

IN THE PARKING LOT

The coach walks alongside OLAV, 50s, approaching a limousine.

COACH

I'm telling you, this guy is worth whatever it takes. I never saw anything like it. Ten smoking fire balls, ten hits, three of them outside the stadium.

OLAV

We'll sign him.

The LIMO DRIVER opens the door for Olav. The coach's attention is diverted to the shattered windshield of his Cadillac.

COACH

Son of a gun...

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

A cab arrives. G steps out looking at the confusion of REPORTERS AND CAMERAMEN. As G walks to the front door, the reporters jump on him.

REPORTER

Sir, Sir! What's your relationship with Professor Willander?

G

He's a friend.

ANOTHER REPORTER

Are you involved in his archeological work?

G

Well... Sort of.

The Reporters surround G for more answers, but as soon as the front door opens and Paul steps out with a megaphone, G is left standing by himself, as the reporters run towards Paul.

PAUL (THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

I have just one thing to say: I won't say anything. I mean absolutely nothing, here at my house. If you guys want answers, go camp at the university. End of conversation. Please step off my lawn. Remove yourselves to public property.

G enters the house. Paul follows him and shuts the door.

The reporter ends her live report in front of her cameraman.

REPORTER

That was Professor Paul Willander, the archeologist responsible for what everyone is calling the discovery of the century. We'll return to our studios for more information.

INT. TV STUDIOS

The ANCHORMAN adds information to the story that's monopolizing all the media.

ANCHORMAN

You just saw the man of the moment. For those of you who just turned on the TV, it has been confirmed that the sepulcher site discovered near the ancient city of Capernaum, on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, in Israel, is in fact the real burial site of Jesus Christ. Researchers from UCLA have carbon dated the shroud and the hair found at the tomb to around 2000 years ago. Our correspondent in Israel has also informed us that the manuscript that led to the discovery of the tomb, a letter addressed to John, the apostle, had its authenticity confirmed by scholars from the Tel Aviv University Institute of Archeology and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

IN THE TV ROOM

Karen and Billy are watching the news as Paul and G enter the room.

KAREN

We just saw you on TV!

BILLY

(to G)

Did you get a place?

G

I think so, they want me to sign a contract.

PAUL

The baseball thing? Are you sure you want to do this? It's no game in the park.

BILLY
Believe me Dad, it is.

PAUL
(to G)
Why can't you come to the University?
The exams are no big deal.

Someone KNOCKS on the door. Paul walks out of the room, pissed.

IN THE FRONT ROOM

Paul opens the front door prepared to holler at an annoying reporter.

PAUL
I said, no interviews!

It's Olav. Behind him, a man looking like a LAWYER.

OLAV
I'm sorry. My name is--

PAUL
--Olav Bronson. I'm sorry,
come in. I'm a big Cougar
fan... Have a seat gentleman.

G walks down the stairs playing with a baseball bat, followed by Karen and Billy.

OLAV
This is the man! How're you doing
G?

G shakes hands with Olav and his lawyer. Everyone takes a seat.

OLAV
I'm prepared to make you one of
the richest athletes on this planet.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

AT THE TOMB SITE

Lights illuminate the site where archeologists work. There are plastic bags with number tags on a table. An archeologist, enters the tomb tunnel beside the old tree.

INT. TOMB

Archeologists work in the fully illuminated chamber, looking at minuscule details on the floor and on the walls.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

Karen and Billy stand in the driveway admiring a brand new Harley-Davidson, with a red ribbon and a Cougar cap on its front.

G steps out the front door and takes a look at the machine.

BILLY

Can I take it for a ride?

KAREN

You don't know how to drive a lawn mower.

INT. PAUL'S UCLA OFFICE - DAY

Paul is lost in thoughts. A KNOCK and the door opens. William walks in excited by everything that has been going on.

WILLIAM

We're getting interview requests from all over the world.

PAUL

Yeah... William, there's something I know... I don't know how to tell you this.

WILLIAM

Go ahead, just tell me. It's about...

PAUL

...The sepulcher. There was something
in it. Actually somebody.

Very curious, William gets closer.

WILLIAM

Somebody? You mean...

PAUL

...The body of... You know who...

William is amazed.

WILLIAM

You mean you're hiding the body?!
Holy Christ! Are you crazy?! This
is not the time to keep personal
"souvenirs."

PAUL

I'm not hiding anything. You won't
believe this, but... The body came to
life. I mean, he was lying there... next
thing I know he's alive and kicking.

WILLIAM

You mean like a re-resurrection...
I don't know. I don't want to get
into religion here but... It seems
to me this all could be... A fraud.

PAUL

I thought of this possibility? That tomb was totally sealed. What's your idea? That this guy buried himself? The ground was very firm. Besides, the hair we carbon dated came from his head.

WILLIAM

Did you personally collect a sample from his hair?

PAUL

Not exactly. But that's not all. He has something special. You can feel it. Can you believe he just got in town and he signs a multimillion dollar contract with the Cougars!

WILLIAM

You mean he's here? In Los Angeles, California?

EXT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY STREETS - DAY

Riding his Harley and wearing sun glasses, G comes to a stop light, in Malibu. TWO BEAUTIFUL GIRLS walk across the Pacific Coast Highway towards the beach. The light turns green and he takes off.

He rides through Malibu, Pacific Palisades and Santa Monica: ocean on the right, cliffs and mountains on the left.

Driving into the Santa Monica tunnel and coming out on the 10 Freeway, G picks up speed, cruising in the fast lane. DRIVERS look at the exotic bald figure on his beautiful Harley-Davidson.

G rides into the downtown area. On the 110 freeway, he exits after the sign indicating "COUGAR STADIUM."

INT. COUGAR STADIUM - DAY

IN THE LOCKER ROOM

Olav examines two Cougar shirts. G walks in. Olav smiles, showing the names on the back of the jerseys: "G. SUS." and "G."

OLAV

What do you think? I like this one.
Gaza Sustain: "G. Sus." With all
this archeology bullshit on the news
it certainly would be an attraction
to have a "G. Sus" on the team. On
the other hand we usually don't put
first initials on the jerseys. I like "G"
also. What do you think?

G

G is fine.

The coach approaches.

COACH

What are you going to do about G's
balls flying out of the stadium?
They can do a lot of damage.

OLAV

Who cares. I'm sure every fan would
like to have a broken windshield
like yours.

G

I could keep them in.

OLAV

He can keep them in! I love this
guy. Do whatever you want!

EXT. COUGAR STADIUM - DAY

ON THE FIELD

G sits on the bench. The Coach is agitated and angry.

A COUGAR PLAYER swings and misses. Strike out.
The coach pulls his cap down over his face, cooling off. He looks at G regaining confidence.

COACH

Come on. The rocket ball. Send it
to Mars.

G walks onto the field.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S YARD - DAY

Billy and friends cheer as they see G on the TV screen.

EXT. COUGAR STADIUM - DAY

ON THE FIELD

G looks at the crowd in the stands and walks to plate.

IN VIP STANDS

Olav smiles. With him are OTHER EXECUTIVES, his beautiful young
GIRLFRIEND, Paul and William.

EXT. COUGAR STADIUM - DAY

ON THE FIELD

THE PITCHER stares at G and throws a smoking fire ball. G swings and misses.
Strike one.

The coach's confidence breaks down a bit. But he excuses the mistake, regaining
confidence.

COACH

He's just warming up.

The pitcher throws a second good ball. G doesn't even try. Strike two.

The coach shakes his head. There's something wrong, he knew it, it was too good to be true.

INT. VIP STANDS - DAY

Olav's good humor disappears. Paul's apprehensive, as the pitcher prepares for his third shot.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S YARD - DAY

Billy and friends in silence stare at the TV screen.

EXT. COUGAR STADIUM - DAY

ON THE FIELD

The pitcher throws the ball. G hits it modestly and runs to first base, barely making it.

IN THE TV BROADCASTING SECTION

SPORT BROADCASTER

Hello Mr. Olav Bronson! You owe me one thousand dollars. The expectations for our mysterious rookie player were too high I guess. The owner of the Cougars thought his new man would hit a home run on his first attempt in a major league game. He mustn't be very happy right now.

IN THE VIP STANDS

Olav empties a glass of whisky with one gulp, containing his disappointment. William and Paul look at each other.

ON THE FIELD

ANOTHER BATTER takes position. The pitcher fires the ball. The batter hits it and tries to make it to first base, unsuccessfully.

G is no longer there. Second base is empty. Third base is empty. G reaches home.

IN THE TV BROADCASTING SECTION

SPORT BROADCASTER

Did you see that?!

ON THE FIELD

G is congratulated by his TEAMMATES. The coach grabs him by the arm.

COACH

Why didn't you send it out of the stadium.

G

Nothing is perfect.

SEQUENCE of G's plays:

G hits. The ball flies over the right field out of the stadium.

Another hit. The ball flies out over the left field.

Another hit. A SPECTATOR catches the ball in the stands.

G dives to catch a ball in the outfield.
He hits a ball into the upper deck.

G pitches. He strikes out one player after the other.

IN THE VIP STANDS

Olav is all smiles with his Girlfriend on his lap. Everyone around is cheering. Paul and William clap enthusiastically.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

IN THE FRONT ROOM

The PHONE RINGS. Again and again. No one answers.

INT. SHIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

Shimon holds a phone, waiting. He gives up and hangs up.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

G pulls up the driveway on his Harley.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

IN THE KITCHEN

Paul, William, Karen and Billy eat dinner. Billy jumps up and runs to the front room when he hears the NOISE of the Harley.

William steals the chicken thigh from Billy's plate. Karen smiles. Paul waits apprehensively.

G and Billy walk into the kitchen. Karen claps.

KAREN

Congratulations, I heard you had
a great game.

PAUL

Great game? Incredible,
unbelievable, miraculous.

G grabs an apple and bites it. William stares at G intrigued.

WILLIAM

...So, how many years have you
played this game?

BILLY

Years? You mean hours.

G

Unfortunately, not very long.

The telephone RINGS. Billy answers.

BILLY

Paul's Pizzeria, how can I help you? Hold on.

BILLY

It's a reporter. Are we available?

PAUL

No, we're not.

BILLY

It's for G.

G

Tell him I'll be at the Park tomorrow morning.

EXT. PARK - DAY

A TV van parks on the street. A WOMAN REPORTER and CAMERAMAN get out.

CAMERAMAN

I don't think this is an exclusive.

G jogs around the park, followed by SEVERAL REPORTERS who are losing ground.

The media gathers in a spot waiting for G to make his way around. The arriving woman reporter and cameraman join the group.

G reappears, stopping near the anxious group of news seekers. He ducks to the ground for his favorite exercise: push-ups.

The reporters get impatient. Paul approaches, joining the group. The woman reporter breaks the silence.

WOMAN REPORTER

Do you see a connection between your push-ups and your powerful batting?

G jumps up in an acrobatic move.

G

I have no idea.

SHORT REPORTER

Where did you play before coming to LA?

G

Let's talk about the future, not the past.

WOMAN REPORTER

How much money will you be making?

YOUNG REPORTER

Who'll get to the World Series with the Cougars?

PAUL

Will you participate in the upcoming Olympics?

The question grabs G's attention and silences the other curious reporters.

WOMAN REPORTER

(to Paul)

Aren't you the archeologist guy?

G

Baseball?

PAUL

No, running. You are the new world record holder for the 100 meters.

This statement makes everyone even more curious.

PAUL

I check it one hundred times. In yesterday's game, you ran from first base to second base in 1.97 seconds. That's 90 feet or 27.43 meters. From second base to third in 1.95 seconds. Third, home in 1.96 seconds. That's 82.29 meters in 5.88 seconds. If you had finished the last 17.71 meters at your average speed, you would have completed 100 meters in 7.84 seconds! A new world record!

SHORT REPORTER

Are you sure about that?

PAUL

I sure am.

INT. DAN'S UCLA OFFICE- DAY

Dan reads the paper, sitting down very elegantly. His bow tie and suit are impeccable.

The headlines of the "LA Times" read: "Thousands of pilgrims try to visit the real tomb of Jesus." Sports: "Rookie sensation hits five home runs."

He reaches for his cup of coffee, smells the aroma of the steaming cup and takes a sip of the hot drink.

The coffee is hot as hell. Dan spits the drink on the paper. The cup shakes and coffee falls on his lap. He jumps up. The paper gets all wet and crumpled.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

Paul's car pulls up the driveway. He gets out in a hurry, leaving the door open.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

IN THE FRONT ROOM

Paul grabs a binder on the sofa, hearing a loud discussion in Hebrew coming from upstairs.

IN THE OFFICE

G argues on the phone in Hebrew, in a tone never heard before, impatient, almost angry. He hangs up.

IN THE FRONT ROOM

Noticing the end of the conversation, Paul heads out the front door.

As the front door closes G appears at the top of the stairs with a mysterious look in his eyes.

INT. OLAV'S OFFICE - DAY

Paul sits in front of Olav's desk. They are in a luxurious high rise office.

OLAV

I like it. If he could win a gold medal it sure would increase our media exposure and his endorsements. In Sportswear, he's an exclusive of Zike.

PAUL

And you just bought the company.

OLAV

Right. But as you said, the final entries are closed. He can't make the US team and he's still not a US citizen anyway, so let's stop dreaming.

PAUL

But you didn't let me finish. The Olympic committee decided to allow a Palestinian team.

OLAV

But isn't he Jewish? Israeli?

PAUL

He was born in Palestine. Besides, he runs 100m in 8 seconds, and God knows what else he can do. And it was his idea. He considers himself Palestinian and Israeli... And I think he's also Christian...

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - DAY

ON THE FIELD

The BRAZILIAN TEAM comes in, at the opening day ceremonies, hundreds of athletes. The ISRAELI TEAM enters, a smaller group.

The RUSSIANS march in, a huge team. The USA TEAM enters the stadium, thousand of athletes. The CROWD cheers.

Out from the dark tunnel appears a Palestinian athlete holding the flag of Palestine, followed by two other Palestinian athletes and G, completing the tiny PALESTINIAN TEAM.

IN THE TV BROADCASTING SECTION

SPORTS COMMENTATOR

He's the mysterious baseball player
who just signed with the LA Cougars.
And what an incredible performance he
has had so far. But this is no baseball
game.

ON THE FIELD

G smiles and waves to the crowd.

IN THE TV BROADCASTING SECTION

SECOND SPORTS COMMENTATOR

He'll be competing for the Palestinian
track and field team.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR

He has entered the 100, 200, 400,
800, 1500, 3000, 5000, 10000 races
and the marathon!

INT. PAUL'S UCLA OFFICE - DAY

Paul and William watch the Olympic news coverage on TV.

There's a "USA Today" paper on top of the table with the headline: "Two in the sack, seven to go." There's a photo of G with two gold medals hanging from his neck.

Dan walks in.

PAUL

I didn't hear a knock.

WILLIAM

Neither did I.

DAN

I have a question for Mr. Willander.
Look in my eyes and answer me: Do
you swear that you have told us
everything you know about your recent
"archeological adventure?"

Paul looks at William who shakes his head, denying he has told Dan anything.

PAUL

What do you mean?

DAN

You know what I mean.

PAUL

I have no idea what you're talking
about. And if I did, I probably
wouldn't tell you. And please close
the door quietly behind you, we
have a game going on here.

DAN

That's not what I was told. But no
problem, if that's the way you want
it.

Dan walks out and SLAMS the door. Paul looks at William.

WILLIAM

Don't look at me. I didn't speak
to anyone.

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - DAY

ON THE FIELD

G warms up for a 800 meter qualifying race.

IN THE TV BROADCASTING SECTION

SPORTS COMMENTATOR

This is the second semifinal for the 800 meters. The first four qualify for the final. The man of the moment, Gaza Sustein, "G" for the fans, is warming up on the track. Let's take a look at what this amazing athlete has done so far.

ON TV

The sports commentator describes the VIDEO TAPE of the 100 and 200 finals.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR (VOICE OVER)

Let's take a look at the 100 meter final. Notice how he takes an extra one second to respond to the starting shot. The competitors are way ahead before he takes his first step. But he just explodes like a rocket and takes the lead, winning by a wide margin. Now this is the 200 meter final, same pattern, late start, early finish. Amazing! He sticks out his head to take the victory, overcoming the disadvantage.

SECOND SPORTS COMMENTATOR

I guess no one is perfect. Our super man has an ear problem, but if it didn't affect him in the sprints it sure won't bother him in the longer distances.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR

He would have broken the world record in both races, if you discount from his time the 1.1 and 1.4 seconds he lost in the start. Too bad. The current world records will stand.

ON THE FIELD

G and the other runners take position: A KENYAN, a BRAZILIAN, a RUSSIAN, an AMERICAN, a GERMAN, an ENGLISHMAN and a CANADIAN.

The OFFICIAL fires the starting SHOT. The runners take off. The spectators cheer.

When the runners merge lanes, there's some pushing and shoving. G falls back to last place. The Russian and the American take the lead, side by side.

G leaves the German and the Englishman behind, joining the middle group, with the Kenyan, the Canadian and the Brazilian.

The Russian steps up and leaves the American behind.

The German joins the middle group and steps on G's foot from behind, taking off his right running shoe.

Falling to last place, G takes both sneakers off and follows barefoot. The crowd cheers.

The official RINGS the last lap BELL.

The Russian is still in the lead but the second group, led by the American, followed by the Kenyan and the Englishman, catch up.

As they come to the final curve the Russian is swallowed up by the second group. The Kenyan rushes into the lead, leaving the American and the Englishman behind, crossing the finish line.

The other runners struggle for the last spot in the final. G is catching up, running to the sound of RHYTHMIC CLAPPING from the crowd.

G passes the other runners taking the fourth spot in the final.

IN THE TV BROADCASTING SECTION

SPORTS COMMENTATOR

Oh my God! This fourth place is worth a gold medal and will put him in tomorrow's 800 meter final. He'll also be competing in the upcoming 400 meter final.

ON THE FIELD

G picks up his sneakers and throws them into the crowd.

INT. PAUL'S UCLA OFFICE - DAY

Paul and William head to the door. They are leaving for the day.

WILLIAM

What about Shimon, doesn't he know?

PAUL

No... Let's go to my house. We can watch the Olympics.

INT. OLYMPIC VILLAGE APARTMENT - NIGHT

In bed, G watches TV and falls asleep.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

IN THE TV ROOM

Paul, William, Billy and Karen devour a pizza.

ON TV

The 400 meter final VIDEO TAPE is on. G in slow motion crosses the finish line. It cuts to the podium with G receiving a gold medal.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

IN THE OFFICE ROOM

Wearing old fashion pajamas, Dan stuffs several envelopes. His WIFE walks in the room wearing a night gown.

WIFE

Aren't you coming to bed, pumpkin?

Dan continues licking and closing the envelopes.

DAN

I'm almost finished, honey.

(to himself)

Throwing some shit in the fan.

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - DAY

ON THE FIELD

The stadium screen displays "800 meters men - final."

The starting SHOT sounds. Running barefoot, G takes off like a rocket, as if it was a 100 meter dash.

When the runners merge, G is already far ahead.

The crowd cheers. G runs alone, opening an incredible distance ahead of the other competitors running in a tight pack.

Impressed, the Official rings the last lap BELL, as G zooms by.

G enters the last straightway and crosses the finish line, still with full energy.

The stadium screen flashes "WORLD RECORD." The crowd goes crazy.

G gets a Palestinian flag from a fan in the stands nearby and runs around the track holding it in the air. Ahead he gets an Israeli flag and continues with both flags.

INT. SHIMON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Shimon, CLAPS his hands enthusiastically. The above scene is on the TV screen, G with both flags.

INT. DEAN'S UCLA OFFICE - DAY

Paul sits in front of the Dean's desk. Dan is next to the Dean.

DEAN

This is a serious accusation, Paul.
Our reputation is at stake here.
Now, Dan tells me that somebody
else was in the Tomb before you.
As I recall you said you had to
unseal it, you had to dig your way
in. But don't get me wrong here. I
couldn't care less if somebody else
doesn't want to take credit for the
discovery. But I agree with Dan, it
raises credibility questions.

Paul takes a moment.

PAUL

There was someone.

DAN

I knew it! This whole thing is a
fraud.

DEAN

My God Paul! Why didn't you tell
us?!

PAUL

It's not a fraud.

DAN

Oh, no. "It's not a fraud." This guy could have planted the shroud and the hair. He probably found them in some stinky grave, like the ones on the hill of Givat. And don't tell me he's the same guy that came up with the manuscript!

PAUL

He's not. And you know something, I'll just give you the facts, you can judge for yourselves.

DAN

Thank God! He has finally decided to become a scientist.

DEAN

Shut up, will you? Go on Paul.

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - DAY

ON THE FIELD

G sits on the grass next to the stands. NEARBY FANS take photos of the "sensation" of these Olympic Games.

Olav tries to break through the crowd.

OLAV

Excuse me. G! Excuse me. G!

G looks back to the stands, noticing Olav signaling.

G approaches. The Fans push and shove for an autograph. G signs a couple. A POLICEMAN tries to contain the overexcited fans.

OLAV

I want you to wear the sneakers.
You know, the Zike running shoes.
It's in your endorsement contracts.
Please?

G

All right. What's the next race?

OLAV

3000 meter hurdles. You know, the
one with some obstacles. Keep an
eye on the Kenyans, the black guys
wearing green shirts.

INT. DEAN'S UCLA OFFICE - DAY

DAN

Give me a break! What are you
suggesting? That this guy is the
re-resurrected "Jesus of Nazareth?"

PAUL

I'm not suggesting anything. I just
gave you the facts.

The Dean is fascinated by that possibility.

DAN

Even if it was true, who would
believe it?

DEAN

You disappoint me Dan. I tell you
who would believe it, the men of
Faith. He believes he saw the
spirit of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

PAUL

Who said anything about spirits.
I'm talking about flesh, alive
and kicking.

DEAN

Give me a break!

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - DAY

ON THE FIELD

The RUNNERS, including TWO KENYANS, an AMERICAN and a big nosed ITALIAN prepare for the start. G, barefoot, is wearing the Zike sneakers on his hands. The Italian looks intrigued at G's "hand shoes."

THE ITALIAN

Good luck.

The pack comes together for the starting shot. BANG! The competitors take off. G takes the lead.

He reaches the first hurdle, vacillates for a moment, puts his "hand shoes" on the hurdle and jumps over it.

IN THE TV BROADCASTING SECTION

SPORTS COMMENTATOR

Is that allowed?

SECOND SPORTS COMMENTATOR

Why not?

ON THE FIELD

G runs alone in the lead. All of a sudden TWO KENYANS go by and jump over the next hurdle, the way it should be done. G again uses his "hand shoes" to get over.

MOMENTS LATER

They are in a single file coming into the final straightway. One Kenyan, followed by the other Kenyan, G, the American and the Italian.

The second Kenyan steps up and is side by side with the first Kenyan. G steps up and is side by side with the first two.

The American gives on his last effort to join the front row. The Italian, almost dropping dead, also joins the group.

They run to the finish line together. Everybody, except G, struggles, reaching their last breath. The Italian is completely exhausted.

As they cross the finish line G extends his arms with the Zike sneakers in his hands. The other four competitors lean their heads down and forward.

The Italian's nose seems to make the difference, as it can be distinguished ahead of the others as they cross the line.

The Italian falls to the ground, exhausted. The American has his hands on his knees struggling for air. The Kenyans hug each other and shake hands with G.

The five contenders look up at the stadium screen.

The stadium screen displays the order of the finish. The first five are: 1-Giancarlo Napoli ITA; 2-Kib Ambebe KEN; 3- Mark Rondavid USA; 4-Akim Owindo KEN; 5-Gaza Sustein PAL.

The Italian jumps around in ecstasy, with a smile bigger than his nose. He takes an Italian flag and his BABY child from his WIFE in the stands and runs around the track as if it was the most wonderful moment of his life.

INT. HOTEL - DAY

Olav speaks on the phone, with the "LA Times" in his hands. The precise sideways photo of the 3000 meter hurdles' close finish. G's hands with the Zike sneakers are ahead of the Italian's nose. The headline reads: "Better one nose than two hands."

OLAV (ON THE PHONE)

Wonderful, genius! The Zike logo is on the front page of every newspaper in the world. But please wear them on your feet for the marathon. We don't want people getting the wrong idea about running barefoot.

INT. UCLA BUILDING LOBBY - DAY

Dan speaks to a GROUP OF REPORTERS.

DAN

All I can tell you is that there are now serious doubts about the credibility of this discovery. Professor Willander, who I deeply respect, has definitely crossed the line of science into what I think is a delirious fantasy. I mean if I told you that Jesus Christ is alive and competing in the Olympics you would probably lock me up.

REPORTER

Are you saying Professor Willander is insane?

DAN

I'm not saying anything. I'm giving you the facts.

Paul comes out of the elevator. The reporters surround him in a confusion of questions.

PAUL

Yeah, yeah. It's true, it's true.

EXT. OLYMPIC VILLAGE - DAY

AT THE POOL

G swims with futuristic mirror sun glasses on. A GIRL, a famous professional tennis player, watches him beside the pool.

G

So what kind of sport are you into?

GIRL

Tennis.

G

I have to try that some day. Maybe you can give me some lessons.

GIRL

Sure, whenever you like. What about your running? How did you get so good?

G

I really don't know. One day I had this incredible strange experience: Wham! And here I am.

GIRL

That really answers a lot of questions.

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - DAY

ON THE FIELD

Sitting on the grass, G ties his running shoes while the other COMPETITORS warm up on the track.

IN THE TV BROADCASTING SECTION

SPORTS COMMENTATOR

The final day of the Olympic Games and G, the "super man," already has 7 gold medals around his neck. The 100, 200, 400, 800, 1500, 5000, 10000 and now maybe one more. The marathon. The ultimate test of endurance. Can he do it once again? The experts who doubted that anyone could win so many races now don't know what to expect. There seems to be nothing impossible for this man. But as we saw in the 3000 hurdles, he can be beaten.

ON THE FIELD

A blond ENGLISHMAN, trots around, warming up.

SPORTS COMMENTATOR (VOICE OVER)

If someone can do it, it's the World record holder: Christian Poe.

The runners pack up for the start. G avoids the pack, stepping back.

The official FIRES the starting. The runners head to the tunnel, leaving the stadium. The crowd cheers.

OUTSIDE

The runners leave the stadium. G is the last one.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Along the streets, FANS clap and cheer as the runners go by.

The front vehicle, carrying a CAMERAMAN, comes out of a curve, escorted by TWO MOTORCYCLISTS. The front runners follow behind.

G runs in the middle a crowd of competitors.

The Englishman gains several positions, catching up with the leaders, a BRAZILIAN and a JAPANESE.

An AMERICAN joins the group. The street crowd cheers as the front runners head down a long straightway.

Far down the straightway, G runs in the middle of pack.

Coming to a water point, the Englishman is now alone in first place.

A group follows behind, the American, followed by the Japanese and the Brazilian.

G appears far behind, catching up. He grabs a cup of water.

The group in second catches up to the Englishman. The Japanese takes the lead.

The American followed by the Brazilian passes the Japanese. The Englishman falls to the last of this pack as G passes him.

The four front runners, the American, the Brazilian, the Japanese and G, run together. All of a sudden G changes gear and takes off, leaving the others behind.

The front vehicle and the two motorcycles come out of a curve. G runs alone in first place. The street crowd cheers, as the Olympic stadium reappears far away.

The Brazilian and the Japanese run side by side in second and third place, followed by the American. The Englishman has fallen behind, almost out of sight.

G runs with a comfortable lead. All of a sudden, a YOUNG SKINHEAD breaks from the street crowd, knocks G down and runs away.

Dizzy, G lies on the ground.

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - DAY

IN THE STANDS

The crowd, on its feet, looks up stunned. G's image is on the stadium screen.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

G tries to get up, as the now second place American, slows down and helps him get up. The Brazilian and the Japanese go by taking the lead.

G stands motionless, still dizzy. The American follows on.

The American passes the Brazilian and the Japanese retaking the lead.

The American approaches the stadium.

G catches up to the Brazilian and the Japanese. Both look exhausted. G goes on, one gear ahead with the American in sight.

EXT. OLYMPIC STADIUM - DAY

OUTSIDE

The American approaches the tunnel. Suddenly he slows down in pain, with a hand on the back of his thigh, falling on his knees.

G is catching up. The American gives one last effort and enters the tunnel limping.

ON THE FIELD

Looking at the stadium screen, the crowd roars, surprised.

Everyone looks at the dark tunnel entrance, waiting apprehensively.

And out of the tunnel comes G, carrying the American in his arms.
The crowd goes crazy as they circle the track.

G enters the last straightway and crosses the finish line to the sound of a delirious crowd.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Paul and William are having lunch.

WILLIAM

It's not your fault, and I
don't think he's going to care.
He's already on the front page
of every paper in this country.

PAUL

I know. It's just that...

WILLIAM

Isn't there a passage in the Bible
that says. "Except if they see
wonders they will not believe?"

PAUL

He sure is amazing. But you know
what usually happens when religious
passion gets in the mix.

INT. PRINTING ROOM - DAY

"Time" magazines pop out. The cover line reads "G, the super-man with a heart of gold." There's a photo of G with his eight gold medals.

ANOTHER PRINTING ROOM

The press rolls and newspapers come out. The headline of "USA Today" reads: "Archeologist claims G is the returned messiah."

EXT. NEWSPAPER STAND - DAY

A bundle of "LA Times" newspapers is dropped on the ground. The headline reads "Pope recognizes the real burial site of Jesus Christ."

The cover of "Sports Illustrated," shows G wearing an LA Clippers' jersey, hugging a sad Charles Barkley wearing a Chicago Bulls' shirt. The cover line reads "Clippers, NBA champs."

G is on the cover of "Fortune" magazine. The cover line reads "All time richest athlete."

"Life" magazine: G embraces a poor African child. Cover line: "Millions believe G is the returned messiah."

INT. G FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS - DAY

IN THE MEETING ROOM

There's a "Time" magazine on a table with a huge "G" logo above the cover line. "Health to the world: the multibillion dollar search for cures by the G foundation."

AN EXECUTIVE sits at a huge meeting table, accompanied by OTHER EXECUTIVES AND SCIENTISTS. There's a "G" logo on the wall.

Olav and G sit at the end of the table. They are on the top floor of a high rise with huge glass windows.

OLAV

When will we receive the European Union grants?

SCIENTIST

We already got some for the HIV projects. Only after we discovered the cure for the Chagas disease, did money from governments start coming in.

G

That's what we need, huge bucks. Charity money won't take us anywhere.

EXT. TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY - DAY

A sign reads "TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY."

INT. TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY OFFICE - DAY

Paul examines reports and photos next to an Israeli ARCHEOLOGIST.

ARCHEOLOGIST

This group of rocks doesn't have the same compactness as the rest. The clay in between has a different composition from the earth in the Sepulcher. We were able to force ten meters of wire in between these rocks, while the maximum we got at several other points of the chamber was less than one meter.

PAUL

So there was another entrance.

ARCHEOLOGIST

And quite fresh I would say. But we don't have authorization to proceed with digging. And I'm afraid we'll never get it, now that it's "officially" sacred ground, after the Pope recognized the sepulcher and the shroud as being the ones of the real Jesus Christ.

PAUL

And millions of Christians believe G is Jesus Christ himself.

ARCHEOLOGIST

And some think you are a Saint.

PAUL

I wish.

EXT. G FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS - DAY

It's a high rise with a huge letter G logo on its top. There's a helicopter with its engine running on the building's heliport.

G walks to the edge of the building followed by Olav and TWO MEN carrying huge bags.

He looks down at the crowd in front of the main entrance.

The two men lift their bags to the edge.

OLAV

Didn't the Police prohibit this?

G

No. I promised not to toss one dollar bills. These are five dollar bills.

The two men pour thousands of bills over the building.

The bills float down towards the crowd.

The crowd cheers, awaiting the slow falling rain of bills.

G and Olav walk to the helicopter.

OLAV

Don't you think that's a waste of money?

G

No. Most of it is returned any way.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

Paul and Olav take their seats.

G

A lot of people down there don't have that much money.

G adjusts his seat belt.

G

So they love the chance to return
the money, as their contribution.
Besides it's kind of fun to try to
grab the most bills. I got 45 one
time.

Olav shakes his head as if he thought it's all a nuisance.

G

I disguised myself as a homeless
beggar.

EXT. G FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The people in the crowd jump in the air trying to catch the bills as the wind blows
them everywhere.

The helicopter flies away.

EXT. TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY - DAY

Paul and the Israeli archeologist walk towards the parking lot.

ARCHEOLOGIST

What are you going to do?

PAUL

I know someone who can give me
some answers. I'll keep you
informed. I really appreciate
your contacting me.

ARCHEOLOGIST

We're all after the truth.

PAUL

But I'm not sure everyone is.

EXT. JERUSALEM STREETS - DAY

A car swerves through the traffic.

EXT. SHIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

Paul parks the car in front of Shimon's house.

He gets out and knocks on the front door.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST - DAY

G's helicopter flies along the Pacific Coast towards Malibu. Wonderful beaches and cliffs go by.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

Olav goes through some papers. G examines a report rapidly and hands it back to Olav.

G

Seems okay to me. As long as we keep our priorities I don't care what we buy. The lawyers and accountants can do the rest.

OLAV

But some executives think you are pushing these priorities too hard. Investing so deeply in poor countries and sharing profits and power with the employees aren't that popular with some of our stockholders.

G

Who cares. Name one of our companies that isn't doing well.

OLAV

But they think it could be even
better.

G

The more they have, the more they
want.

PILOT (ON SPEAKER)

Point Dume ahead, G.

G

(into speaker)
Slow down, Joe.

G takes off his clothes.

OLAV

What are you doing?

G

Going for a swim.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST OCEAN - DAY

The helicopter remains steady above the water.

INT. HELICOPTER - DAY

G opens the helicopter door. Wind blows in. Olav holds on to his papers.

G

See you at the beach house.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST OCEAN - DAY

G jumps off the helicopter, diving into the ocean. His bald head remains in the middle of the ocean as the helicopter flies away.

EXT. G'S BEACH HOUSE - DAY

Olav sits on the deck facing the beach, having a drink. He looks to the ocean with binoculars. The sun is setting.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST OCEAN - DAY

G swims vigorously. The reddish rays of the setting sun color the dark ocean.

EXT. G'S BEACH HOUSE - DAY

Olav spots G reaching the shore.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

G catches a wave, bodysurfing to the sand. Getting up with full energy, he feels the cold wind blowing and runs to the house.

EXT. G'S BEACH HOUSE - DAY

G runs up a stairway, shivering. Olav watches him on the deck.

G dives into an illuminated and steaming heated pool on the deck. Olav laughs, admiring the vigor of his friend.

EXT. SHIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

Paul sits on the front steps, as if he has been waiting forever. Walking back to the front door, he looks around. Noticing no one, he tries the door handle, finding it unlocked. Curiosity burning, Paul opens the door and slips in.

INT. SHIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

IN THE FRONT ROOM

Paul walks around, looking for something.

IN THE CORRIDOR

He heads to a bedroom slowly, almost tip toeing.

IN THE BEDROOM

Noticing a desk with some papers and a framed photo, Paul picks it up. It's a picture of A YOUNGER SHIMON, 50s, his WIFE, 50s, and his SON, teenager, 15, long hair.

Turning around, he finds a whole collection of magazine covers, newspaper headlines and articles on the wall, all about G.

EXT. JERUSALEM STREETS - DAY

Shimon walks down the street, carrying a bag of groceries and a newspaper.

INT. SHIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

IN THE BEDROOM

Paul hears A NOISE coming from the front room.

IN THE CORRIDOR

He takes a peak and finds Shimon, staring surprised.

SHIMON

What are you doing here ?

PAUL

I'm sorry. It's just that... I was...
I was waiting for you outside...
And I really had to go to the
bathroom. The door was open...

SHIMON

...It's all right. But you scared
me.

PAUL

I'm sorry. Maybe I should come
back later.

SHIMON

No, no. Come on, have a seat.
What brings you here?

They walk to the front room.

IN THE FRONT ROOM

Paul takes a seat and is ready to go from defense to attack.

PAUL

I came for the truth.

SHIMON

The truth.

PAUL

G, G. Sus, Gaza Sus-tein. Or
should I say Gaza Stein.

Shimon gets up and walks to the window, thoughtful.

SHIMON

Isaac Stein.

PAUL

I knew it! What a fool I was.

SHIMON

Don't jump to conclusions so
fast. You were no fool.

PAUL

No fool! You and your son set up
the biggest fraud in the history
of humanity, and you got "Mr.
Archeology" here to endorse the
whole thing.

SHIMON

My son was dead, "Mr. Archeology!"
How do you explain that?!

Paul calms down, waiting for further explanations. Shimon goes to the bedroom and comes back with a folder of papers.

He takes out a letter and hands it to Paul. It has a PAN AM airlines letterhead.

SHIMON

My son was on the 747 that exploded
and crashed in Lackfield, England,
on the 22nd of December, 1988. More
than two hundred people died.

Paul reads the letter carefully.

SHIMON

I had just discovered the sepulcher
of Jesus Christ. I had prayed so
much, asking for God's help. It was
like he had chosen me. Two days
later I received a message. My son
was dead. I felt like God gave me
something with one hand and took my
son with the other.

Intrigued, Paul listens to the faithful old man.

SHIMON

On Christmas Eve I almost lost my
faith. It crossed my mind to destroy
the sepulcher. Burn the shroud...
And it happened...

Shimon is taken by emotion.

EXT. TOMB SITE - NIGHT - 1988

Dirty and tired, Shimon hugs G, long hair and beard. Shimon cries with happiness.

SHIMON (VOICE OVER)

A miracle. God took my son to
bring back his.

INT. SHIMON'S HOUSE - DAY

PAUL

Why did you need to use me?

Shimon breaks his state of emotion and responds vigorously.

SHIMON

What do you think?! Nowadays the
religion that counts is Science.

PAUL

Science is not a religion.

SHIMON

That's what you think. Anyway,
it's not important anymore. You
can believe what you want. He'll
go on. His mission will go on.

EXT. STREETS OF LOS ANGELES - DAY

G rides his Harley-Davidson with his BLOND GIRLFRIEND, around the curves
of Sunset Blvd., from Pacific Palisades to Westwood.

He turns right and enters the UCLA university campus.

MOMENTS LATER

G comes out of the university campus riding alone.

Back to Sunset Blvd., G makes a turn into Bel Air and rides up into the Bel Air
hills.

EXT. BEL AIR MANSION - NIGHT

G comes to a stop in front of a huge mansion. The gate is open.

He rides up the driveway.

INT. JERUSALEM HOTEL - NIGHT

IN THE SUITE

Paul talks on the phone.

PAUL

I need a big favor, William.
Remember the Lackfield plane
crash?

EXT. BEL AIR MANSION - NIGHT

A motorcycle headlight speeds down the driveway, to the sound of the ROARING
MOTORCYCLE ENGINE.

G loses control of the Harley as he tries to make the curve into the street. The bike
hits the ground and slides on the asphalt, raising sparks.

Confused and desperate, G gets up and runs down the street.

A JOGGER running in the opposite direction watches G go by.

INT. JERUSALEM HOTEL - DAY

IN THE LOBBY

Paul approaches the FRONT DESK CLERK.

PAUL

I'm expecting a fax. Did you
get anything?

The front desk clerk checks under the counter.

FRONT DESK CLERK

Not yet.

Paul walks around, waiting.

FRONT DESK CLERK

Here it comes.

The front desk clerk gives the fax to Paul.

EXT. BEL AIR MANSION - DAY

A private security vehicle stops in front of G's crashed Harley.

A PRIVATE PATROL MAN steps out, takes a look at the bike and at the mansion's open gate across the street.

He crosses the street and rings the intercom. No one answers. He tries again. Nothing.

Walking up the driveway, the patrol man finds a dead dog shot in the head lying on the grass.

The patrol man runs down the driveway back to his car.

INT. JERUSALEM HOTEL - DAY

IN THE RESTAURANT

Paul examines the long list of names faxed.

EXT. BEL AIR MANSION - DAY

A police vehicle arrives at the mansion's front gate. TWO POLICEMEN step out, talk briefly with the private patrol and rush up the driveway with their guns in hand.

The two policemen get to the house. The first policeman looks at a parked Ferrari and at the surrounding gardens. The second policeman approaches the open front door slowly.

INT. BEL AIR MANSION - DAY

IN THE FRONT ROOM

The second policeman finds a puddle of blood on the floor next to the body of a DEAD WOMAN, 40s, Latino, in a maid's uniform. She has bullet hole in her eye. He touches the body to feel its temperature.

SECOND POLICEMAN

Cold.

The first policeman walks up the stairway that leads to the second floor with two hands on his gun.

INT. JERUSALEM HOTEL - DAY

IN THE RESTAURANT

Paul reads a list of names with a title it. The heading says "UNIDENTIFIED/UNRECOVERED BODIES." He runs his finger down the list and circles one name with a pen, "Isaac Stein."

INT. BEL AIR MANSION - DAY

IN THE BEDROOM

The first policeman walks in, carefully. The huge bed is made. Everything is in order.

IN THE CORRIDOR

The second policeman walks down a corridor into an office.

IN THE OFFICE

The desk light is on. There's a puddle of blood under a chair in front of the desk. The second policeman walks around the desk to find Olav's body. There's one shot in his chest, one in his forehead.

EXT. BEL AIR MANSION - DAY

As one body is loaded into a van, the second one is stopped by the FIRST DETECTIVE, who opens the black body bag to take a look at the deceased. The SECOND DETECTIVE approaches.

FIRST DETECTIVE

Olav Bronson.

SECOND DETECTIVE

I think we have a witness.

CRIMINALISTS examine and take pictures of the crashed Harley-Davidson across the street.

The two detectives approach the jogger from last night, now wearing up in a suit. They talk.

Next to the mansion gate, the first policeman signals to the two detectives and they approach.

The first detective picks up a gun from behind the gate with a pen through the barrel.

FIRST DETECTIVE

Escape vehicle, witness, murder
weapon.

SECOND DETECTIVE

Police 3, murderer 0.

FIRST DETECTIVE

End of game.

INT. AIRPORT - DAY

In the arrival area, there's a big line forming for passport checking. Paul goes to a smaller line where a sign says U. S. citizens.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

IN THE INTERROGATION ROOM

FIRST DETECTIVE

Mr. G , I don't happen to believe you're Jesus Christ, but I am a big fan of yours. However you're not helping us here.

G

I'm giving you the crucial information. I did not kill Olav. I did not kill Maria. They were my friends. It's up to you to find who did it.

SECOND DETECTIVE

All the evidence points to you. And you are telling me they were already dead when you got there. Problem is we can place you at the crime scene at the time of the murders. So either you saw or heard something or you killed them yourself. Why don't you tell us the truth and make it easier for everyone.

G

Easier for you.

OUTSIDE THE INTERROGATION ROOM

Behind the glass of the interrogation room, the CHIEF INVESTIGATOR talks to the PROSECUTOR, while the detectives continue talking to G.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

We found the blood of one of the victims splattered on his clothes. Either he witnessed the murders or pulled the trigger himself.

PROSECUTOR

We still don't have a motive. We are talking about prosecuting the most popular man in the world.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

Power, money. There's always some shit under the carpet.

The Prosecutor is still doubtful.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

What's the matter? Don't tell me you believe all these "Jesus resurrected" bullshit stories.

Prosecutor looks at G from behind the glass and takes a deep breath.

PROSECUTOR

Read him his rights.

EXT. BEL AIR MANSION - DAY

There are police cars everywhere. A TV REPORTER talks to a camera.

TV REPORTER

The police continue to investigate the murders that shocked the country. The billionaire Olav Bronson was staring directly into the killer's eyes when he took a bullet in the forehead. The murderer's identity will be buried with the victim unless these men are successful in their work.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

IN THE KITCHEN

Karen and Billy are have a snack watching TV. Paul walks in, arriving from the airport.

PAUL

Is anyone home?

Karen and Billy get up to hug their father. Paul's attention shifts to the TV set, as the BROADCASTER gives more information on the breaking news: The "Murder of Olav Bronson" subtitle appears under Olav's photo.

BROADCASTER (ON TV)

And we have new information coming in about the murder of the sports tycoon and philanthropist Olav Bronson. Let's go to Lynn Rhodes at the West Los Angeles police station.

Stunned, Paul takes a seat to watch the news.

PAUL

What happened?

LYNN RHODES (ON TV)

We were informed that there has already been an arrest in the Olav Bronson case. And if you were stunned by the news of the murder, you better take a seat. Gaza Sustein, G for some, Jesus himself for others, has been arrested and charged with double homicide.

KAREN

Oh my God...

LYNN RHODES (ON TV)

A witness places Mr. G leaving
the crime scene minutes after
the shootings. The murder weapon
has also been recovered.

Paul heads out the kitchen.

BILLY

Can I come with you?

PAUL

No, stay here with your sister.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

IN THE JAIL CORRIDOR

THE JAILER escorts G down the corridor, as PRISONERS look curiously and
stunned at the new prisoner.

The jailer opens one of the cells. G walks in.

IN THE CELL

The prisoners stare at him. Mean looking, depressed, drunk and "smart" guys stare
at their new cellmate.

JAILER

God can't help you now, can he?

IN THE LOBBY

Paul speaks to a POLICE CLERK. The chief investigator approaches.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

Who are you?

PAUL

I'm a friend. Paul Willander.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

Oh, that's right. You are the
"great archeologist." How's it going?
I heard you are close to discovering
the tomb of Julius Caesar... Oops,
he's alive!

The police clerk laughs. Paul remains impassive.

PAUL

Where's his lawyer? I hope you
read him his rights.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

We sure did. And he said "no
thanks."

PAUL

Can I speak to him?

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

Yes you can, since you seem to be
his closest "relative" around here.
Except for his father, of course.
But I don't think God will be
stepping down from heaven to help
his son.

IN THE CELL

The jailer returns to G's cell. He watches G, a HELL'S ANGELS BIKER and a SOUTH CENTRAL GANG MEMBER are competing in a push-up contest. The other prisoners surround them, cheering.

The South Central guy drops to the floor, giving up. The Biker, red and sweating, slows down. G continues pumping, as if he just started. The Biker uses his last drop of energy and gives up.

G continues pumping, faster than before. The jailer opens the cell.

JAILER

Okay, okay. That's enough.

G continues pumping, completely absorbed in his purposeless effort.

JAILER

There's someone here to see
you.

G gets up in a flash with an acrobatic move, taking the jailer by surprise. The prisoners laugh.

IN A PRIVATE ROOM

The door opens. G walks in, followed by the chief investigator. Paul is waiting for him.

G and Paul exchange looks. The Chief Investigator looks at the expression on both faces and closes the door behind him.

G hugs Paul. Paul corresponds less enthusiastically.

PAUL

What the hell happened?

A KNOCK on the door. JOHN, 60s, wearing an old wrinkled suit, walks in.

PAUL

Hello John.

Paul and John shake hands. John stares at G. They shake hands.

PAUL

G, this is John, William's cousin
and a very good criminal Lawyer.

G

I don't need a very good Lawyer.
I'm innocent.

PAUL

Trust me, you need the best lawyer you can get, regardless of your innocence. They've got you by the balls.

G

Do you believe I'm innocent?

PAUL

...I do. But I hope you have some answers to the questions that are jamming my head right now.

JOHN

Why don't you start by telling us what went on in that house.

G

I know what you know. Olav and Maria were murdered.

PAUL

John, do you mind stepping out for a moment?

JOHN

The more I know, the better.

PAUL

I know. It's just that I have some personal unfinished business here. You can get the details later.

John leaves the room.

PAUL

I spoke with your father, Shimon. I know what you two set up. And right now there are other people who know about that other entrance to the sepulcher: you were not buried in there; you are not Jesus Christ; you are Isaac Stein. The police will soon find out. Bottom line. You lied once, you may be lying now.

G

Isaac Stein is dead.

PAUL

They never recovered or identified your body.

G

What are you suggesting?

PAUL

I have no idea. Why don't you tell me?

G

There is nothing to tell. You can believe what you want.

A KNOCK on the door. It opens and John sticks his head inside.

JOHN

Listen gentleman, we are wasting our time here. The DA's office isn't wasting a minute.

INT. DEAN'S UCLA OFFICE - DAY

Dan throws a newspaper on the table. The Dean is very preoccupied reading another paper.

DAN

I knew there was something wrong.
That G fellow never fooled me.

DEAN

This time Paul really crossed the
line. But what if he didn't know
about it?

DAN

Come on. He knew there was someone
inside that cave and didn't tell us.
He knew there was another entrance
and again he didn't tell us. He
could have spared us this
embarrassment.

DEAN

Absolutely. We announced the
discovery to the world. We had
the opportunity to fix it. But
now the Israelis are already
riding that wave.

DAN

They are saying we are responsible
for this archeological fiasco. And
this "G" character, he made a
fortune out of this whole thing. I
wouldn't be surprised if Paul is
taking a share.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

IN THE LOBBY

Paul and John walk towards the exit.

JOHN

I'm going to be honest with you. I know he's your friend, but let's face it. This guy is in deep shit. Have you seen the newspapers? They are painting him as a smart ass who fooled the whole world. A lot of people really believed he was the "messiah."

PAUL

But that doesn't make him a murderer.

JOHN

It sure doesn't. But what the prosecution has so far is enough to convince a jury. And they will add a motive. G killed Olav because he knew about this scam; maybe Olav was an accomplice; they had a fight; Olav threatened to reveal their secret.

PAUL

They met at my house.

JOHN

Would you bet your life on it? All I'm saying is let his father deal with this. There's no reason for you to get involved.

PAUL

You think he's guilty.

JOHN

It doesn't matter what I think. My job is to give him the best defense possible.

PAUL

I'll talk to his father. I think
he's still hiding something.

JOHN

He must have a reason for that.

PAUL

I'm not talking about the murders.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Shimon's worried eyes stare out the window. A nun sleeps on the seat next to him.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

IN THE FRONT ROOM

Paul stares out the window, pissed. William is behind him.

WILLIAM

They'll hire you back as soon as
the press forgets this whole mess.
You know politics.

PAUL

They want to fire me, that's fine.
But they will have to explain
themselves in court.

WILLIAM

Calm down, I'm on your side. But
you must let G take care of himself.
They show you on national television
beside his lawyer--

PAUL

--I think you should be leaving.

Paul walks out of the room.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

IN THE LOBBY

The police clerk checks some papers. Shimon loses his temper.

SHIMON

I want to speak with him!

POLICE CLERK

Calm down, sir. He was transferred.

The police clerk writes something on a piece of paper and gives it to Shimon.

POLICE CLERK

Any cab can take you there.

INT. PENITENTIARY - NIGHT

IN THE CELL

The cell is dark. G's lost in his thoughts, face partially illuminated by the light coming from the small cell window.

EXT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

Paul comes out the front door. Reporters surround him in a confusion of questions.

PAUL

You got the wrong man. I'm Peter
Willander, Paul's twin brother.

Paul gets inside his car and backs down the driveway, through the crowd of reporters.

INT. PENITENTIARY - DAY

IN THE VISITING ROOM

Crying, Shimon hugs G very tightly. G remains calm. They exchange some words in Hebrew.

EXT. LOS ANGELES COURT - DAY

AN OLD MAN reads a newspaper next to the white Greco-Roman columns of the building. The headline on the front page reads "THE TRIAL OF THE CENTURY BEGINS."

SUBTITLE: ONE MONTH LATER

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

The prosecutor approaches the jury.

At the defense table G and his lawyer, John, exchange some words. Paul and William sit in the courtroom, behind G.

PROSECUTOR

This man convinced half the world he was the "re-resurrected" Jesus Christ, but he is not on trial today for fooling millions and millions of faithful people. Today he is on trial for the brutal murder of two human beings, a man, Olav Bronson and a woman, Maria Gonzalez. The prosecution will prove that on the night of the 20th of September...

PROSECUTION FLASHBACK

EXT. UCLA CAMPUS - DAY

PROSECUTOR (VOICE OVER)

After leaving one of his girlfriends at UCLA, between 6:30 PM and 6:45 PM, as she will testify in this court, the defendant headed to the victims' house.

Riding his Harley, G drops off his sexy blonde girlfriend, gives her a long tongue kiss and squeezes her butt.

He heads to Sunset Blvd. at high speed, REVVING THE ENGINE.

EXT. BEL AIR MANSION - DAY

G arrives at Olav's mansion breaking his bike, SCREECHING the tires and swerving sideways.

He spins his bike, 360 degrees, leaving a tire mark on the street and heads up the driveway at high speed.

INT. BEL AIR MANSION - DAY

IN THE OFFICE

PROSECUTOR (VOICE OVER)

He went inside after Olav and shot
him.

Olav has an expression of terror in his face. TWO SHOTS. One hits his chest, the other his forehead, throwing him to the floor.

G stands with the smoking gun in his hands, a deep mean look in his eyes.

IN THE FRONT ROOM

PROSECUTOR (VOICE OVER)

On his way out, the defendant ran
into an unexpected witness, Maria
Gonzalez, Olav's house keeper. He
killed her with shot in the head.

G comes down the stairs with the gun in hand. At the bottom of the stairway, Maria stares terrorized.

MARIA

(Spanish)

Madre de Dios! Que passa?!

Without blinking an eye, G puts a bullet through her eye.

The maid's dead body lies on the floor, blood streaming from her eye. G heads to the door with a mean, icy look in his eyes.

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

PROSECUTOR

The defendant then took off on his motor bike at high speed. His reckless driving, or the hand of God, sent him to the ground when he was turning into the street. We have an eye witness who saw the defendant fleeing the scene, leaving his wrecked motorcycle behind. The police recovered the murder weapon next to the gate, near the scene of the accident. As you will hear from an expert, the bullets found in the victims' bodies match this weapon. There is no doubt in my mind. The defendant brutally murdered two human beings. Why? We now know the answer, as his scams to fool the faithful become public.

The Prosecutor stares at the Jury for a moment and goes back to his seat.

John takes a look at some notes and approaches the Jury.

JOHN

We are prepared to prove to this court that G, the defendant, was not only a business partner of Olav Bronson, one of the victims, but also friends, dear, close friends. They shared their work, they shared their dreams for a better future for humanity. You know them, you know their work, and you also must know the meaning of the term "circumstantial evidence." As close friends and partners, Olav and G frequently visited each other's houses. And on the 20th of September it was supposed to be no different. As he always did, G drove to Olav's house. But this time he drove into a crime scene.

DEFENSE FLASHBACK

EXT. BEL AIR MANSION - DAY

G rides up the driveway, slowly, parks his motorcycle next to Olav's red Ferrari. He walks right in, as if it was his own house.

G

(Spanish)

Maria! Otro platillo a mesa!

SUBTITLE: Maria! Another dish on the table!

JOHN (VOICE OVER)

He discovered the bodies of the victims.

INT. BEL AIR MANSION - DAY

IN THE FRONT ROOM

G walks in and finds Maria's body in a puddle of blood.

He grabs a nearby phone desperately and tries, unsuccessfully, to get a tone by banging on the receiver.

G runs up the stairway.

G

Olav!

IN THE OFFICE

G bursts into the office. Everything seems in order. He realizes he's stepping on a stream of blood coming from under the desk.

He slowly walks around the desk, hoping he won't find what he already knows will be there, Olav's dead body, eyes wide open.

In tears, G kneels down, hugs Olav and closes his eyes.

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

JOHN

Why didn't he pick up the phone and call the police? Because as we will show, someone had cut the phone wires. G fled the scene of the crime in despair. And he did call the police once he reorganized his shocked mind. Now, ladies and gentleman, let me give you the real meaning of a case based on "circumstantial evidence," Police and Prosecution incompetence. Not finding who to blame, they will connect someone to the evidence they have, instead of the other way around. Who? Whoever was around. I hope this never happens to one of you. But if one day, you walk into your house, as you always do, and find your love ones dead, you better hope your neighbor doesn't call the police first and that you didn't touch anything around, because if the police do not find someone to blame, they will blame you, and then dig up a motive.

Shimon walks into the courtroom.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

The first detective talks to the chief investigator. The second detective approaches with a computer report in hand.

SECOND DETECTIVE

I've got good news and bad news.

The second detective hands the report to the chief investigator.

SECOND DETECTIVE

The good news is that we got the
real name for our man, Isaac Stein,
Israeli citizen.

The chief investigator looks at the report.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

I knew it. That son of a bitch
never fooled me.

FIRST DETECTIVE

What's the bad news?

SECOND DETECTIVE

Isaac Stein is dead.

A WOMAN DETECTIVE approaches with a newspaper.

WOMAN DETECTIVE

He's back in business.

The chief investigator takes the newspaper.

The newspaper headline reads "MAN OR GOD? G lives in body of man dead ten
years ago."

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

Oh Lord.

The chief investigator hits the second detective with the newspaper.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

I thought you had made an
investigation.

SECOND DETECTIVE

I did. I don't know how they found
out first.

FIRST DETECTIVE

Do you buy this story?

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

Of course not, idiot. If he's living in someone else's body, I'm George Washington. This guy is pure scam. I wouldn't be surprised if he pulled some ID trick.

The chief investigator reads the newspaper.

SECOND DETECTIVE

Photo, fingerprints, blood. They all match.

WOMAN DETECTIVE

Maybe the man's innocent. Maybe someone else killed those people.

EXT. SANTA MONICA CLIFFS - DAY

Shimon admires the setting sun, "submerging" into the sea. Paul and William sit on a bench behind him.

WILLIAM

Could you ever imagine this whole story? It's fascinating.

PAUL

What can be fascinating in a real story of murder?

WILLIAM

You know what I mean. I'm talking about this whole mess mixing religion, science, law. I really don't know what to believe. I think I lost my scientific objectivity.

Shimon turns around.

SHIMON

Beautiful. Absolutely beautiful.
One of God's masterpieces.

Paul joins Shimon, contemplating the last rays of the disappearing sun.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

IN THE OFFICE

The chief investigator sits behind a desk.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

They never found his body. Very
interesting. What does it tell you?

FIRST DETECTIVE

They didn't do a good job.

SECOND DETECTIVE

The body burned or exploded to
pieces.

CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

No, idiots! He never boarded that
plane!

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

Sitting at the defense table beside John, G runs his hand over his growing hair and beard.

The jogger, Albert Fish, is sitting on the witness stand. The prosecutor approaches.

PROSECUTOR

Mr. Fish, can you point to the man
you saw getting up from a crashed
motorcycle, outside Olav Bronson's
house and running down the street,
on the night of the 20th of
September?

Albert points very timidly at G.

PROSECUTOR

And, at what time was that?

ALBERT

Around 7:30 PM.

Prosecutor gets closer to the jury.

PROSECUTOR

Around 7:30 PM. That's about around
15 minutes from the established
time of death.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

IN THE OFFICE

The woman detective walks in. The chief investigator sits at his desk eating a donut and drinking coffee.

WOMAN DETECTIVE

The FBI call you were waiting for
on line 2.

The chief investigator grabs the phone, spilling some coffee.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

IN THE FRONT ROOM

Paul, William, Shimon and John sit facing each other.

JOHN

I have been talking to Mr. Shimon
and we came up with some ideas. He
wants us to pursue the path of...
How would I say... That his son is
different, a gifted human being...

SHIMON

...He's the lord, Jesus Christ, in my son's body. How can he be a murderer?

WILLIAM

What are you going to do? Prove that he is God and therefore above human law?

JOHN

Not a bad idea, considering our current situation.

WILLIAM

You surely can prove he's dead. Dead men don't commit crimes.

JOHN

Not a bad idea also.

PAUL

If we believe he's innocent, someone else committed those crimes.

John looks as if he doesn't believe in that possibility.

PAUL

I don't see anyone working on it.

Shimon gets up.

SHIMON

Listen gentlemen, I am exhausted. I trust whatever you decide. God will have the last decision anyway. If you will excuse me.

PAUL

Goodnight. There's a blanket in the closet if you need one.

Shimon leaves the front room and walks up the stairway to the bedrooms.

JOHN

I think we should put G on the stand and let him express his beliefs. You know, he is the son of God or whatever. We can play the insanity card.

Annoyed, Paul moves closer to John and speaks right in his face.

PAUL

Problem is he's not insane. And I never saw him stating that he is God or Jesus Christ. That's what people around him believe.

WILLIAM

He never denied it either.

JOHN

All I'm saying is it's better to be insane or look insane than to die in prison, or from a lethal injection. Just in case you forgot, that's what happens in California if you "look" guilty of murder.

PAUL

I think searching for the truth is still and always the best way.

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

The prosecutor gets up.

PROSECUTOR

The people call Miss Shamira Assad.

John looks at some notes and opens his arms, surprised with what is going on. G looks down.

JOHN

May we approach your Honor.

The judge signals to the Prosecutor and Lawyer to approach.

JOHN

Your Honor I was not notified about this witness.

PROSECUTOR

I was informed by the Police investigators just this morning. Your Honor this witness is under Federal custody, awaiting extradition to another country. Her deposition is crucial, we may never get another chance.

The judge and John take a look at the papers handed to them by the Prosecutor.

JOHN

What the hell does a "terrorist" have to do with this case?

PROSECUTOR

You can ask your client.

JOHN

This is absurd.

JUDGE

I will allow the deposition.

JOHN

I request a one day recess, Your Honor.

PROSECUTOR

The witness won't be here tomorrow.

JUDGE

You have two hours.

INT. PRIVATE ROOM - DAY

G sits, impassive. John sits on the corner of the table very worried and looks directly down at G.

JOHN

Who the hell is Sham-ira Assad?

G tilts his chair back, running his hands over his growing hair and beard.

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

SHAMIRA ASSAD, brunette, 30s, sits in the witness stand.

John shakes his head. G remains impassive.

Shimon, Paul and William, sitting behind the defense table, are very concerned and curious.

The prosecutor approaches the witness.

PROSECUTOR

Miss Assad, please describe to this court the events, related to the defendant and yourself, that took place on the 22nd of December, 1988.

SHAMIRA

We were supposed to take the plane together. The initial plan was to hijack that PAN AM airplane. But the plan was changed. We never boarded.

NOISE erupts from the courtroom.

PROSECUTOR

Let's make this clear. You know the defendant?

SHAMIRA

Yes.

PROSECUTOR

You were part of the same political organization?

SHAMIRA

Yes. We were fighting for Palestinian independence.

PROSECUTOR

It was the intention of your organization to hijack the PAN AM 747 which exploded and crashed in Lackfield, England, on the 22nd of December of 1988, a crash that killed more than 200 people.

SHAMIRA

Yes.

PROSECUTOR

But there was a change in your plans, and you and the defendant never boarded that plane.

SHAMIRA

We never boarded the plane.

PROSECUTOR

But you and the defendant appeared
on the list of dead passengers,
whose bodies were not identified
or recovered.

SHAMIRA

Yes.

PROSECUTOR

Are you dead?

SHAMIRA

I guess not.

Prosecutor points at G.

PROSECUTOR

Is he dead?

SHAMIRA

No.

PROSECUTOR

Why did you and the defendant
never board that plane? Why did
you change your plans?

SHAMIRA

We were told to. The command told
us to abort the mission.

PROSECUTOR

But why couldn't you stay on the
plane?

SHAMIRA

They were going to blow it up.

NOISE in the courtroom. Paul and William are perplexed. Shimon leaves the court.

PROSECUTOR

No more questions.

John gets up and approaches the witness stand.

JOHN

Did the defendant take part in
any action of this kind before?

SHAMIRA

It was his first time. And last.

JOHN

Did you or the defendant know
your commander intended to explode
that plane?

SHAMIRA

Not me.

JOHN

Isn't it true that the defendant
left your organization after this
incident, and that he is considered
a traitor by your people?

SHAMIRA

A traitor and a coward.

JOHN

Isn't it true that you, on the other hand, went on with this "wonderful" organization, and that you are now under arrest and awaiting extradition for planting a bomb in a restaurant in Paris, a bomb that killed five people, and injured several others?

SHAMIRA

Yes, but I'm innocent.

JOHN

I'm sure you are. Isn't it also true that you were offered total immunity in the Lackfield case, to make this deposition today?

SHAMIRA

Not exactly--

JOHN

--Isn't it true that your "commander," known as "Carlos Six" is in fact the one responsible for the murders the defendant is being charged with?

SHAMIRA

I don't know anything about that.

EXT. G FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS - DAY

A CRAZY CROWD vandalizes the place, throwing rocks at the beautiful all-glass skyscraper.

A GUY lights up a molotov cocktail and throws it into the lobby. Flames burst up.

EXT. LA STREETS - NIGHT

Fire engines ROAR down an avenue.

EXT. G FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

The building burns. The huge letter G still shines on the top of the building, waiting to be consumed by the flames.

A helicopter circles the building.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

IN THE TV ROOM

Billy and Karen stare at TV showing images from the helicopter circling the building on fire on TV.

ON TV

Lynn Rhodes, the reporter is at the fire scene. The FIREMEN work behind her.

LYNN RHODES (ON TV)

Today's revelations on the so called trial of the century, were the spark that exploded the anger of millions of people around the world. Some of them just set on fire the luxurious headquarters of the G foundation, currently under investigation by the IRS... They believed he was God. Now they woke up to find out they were dealing with the devil himself. And they don't want to believe any of his new stories. This is Lynn Rhodes for the channel 12 News.

INT. PENITENTIARY - DAY

IN THE PRIVATE ROOM

G sits at a table, facing Paul and John.

PAUL

Why didn't you tell the police
about this Carlos guy?

G

As far as I'm concerned Isaac
Stein is dead.

JOHN

I keep telling him how serious
the charges are, but he doesn't
seem to care.

PAUL

You could be facing life in
prison... Or the death penalty.
They set the G foundation building
on fire last night.

G

Too bad for the insurance company.

PAUL

Everything you worked for is in
danger.

G

No it's not. The foundation's
work will go on. They don't need
me.

PAUL

Olav is dead, in case you didn't
realize. Don't you want to help
find the real killer? You must
know something.

G

The police know who he is.

PAUL

The only thing that connects him
to this crime is your word. The
police won't move an inch to help.
They've already got their killer.

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

The prosecutor finishes addressing the jury with his closing statement.

PROSECUTOR

...Lie, after lie, after lie, after
lie. You have the power to stop this
man right here, right now. Don't let
him get away with this one.

MOMENTS LATER

John and G await the verdict.

JUDGE

Has the jury reached a verdict?

JUROR

Yes, Your Honor.

JUDGE

On the two counts of murder in
the first degree, how does the
Jury find?

JUROR

We find the defendant guilty.

The prosecutor raises his fist.

John shakes his head, disappointed, putting a hand on G's shoulder. G remains impassive.

JUDGE

I'm ready to pronounce the sentence right away. Mr. Isaac Stein, have you something to say before I do so?

G

Yes. I know something that you don't know. Something that the jury, the prosecutor and almost everybody does not know.

JUDGE

And what is that?

G

I know whether I killed someone or not. Unfortunately for you people, I did not. The truth will eventually come out and you may have to face the feeling of guilt. But it's all right, I'll forgive you.

JUDGE

You are the one who should be feeling guilty. And you'll not be forgiven. You have shown a pattern of behavior of deceiving people. And this time you have crossed the line where society finally says, no more. I condemn you to death by lethal injection. The sentence shall be carried out on the following 28th of December.

The judge slams his gavel.

EXT. G FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The building is totally burned. The huge letter G at the top is completely burned.

The building **IMPLODES** to the ground.

INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - DAY

Paul and JOHN'S ASSISTANTS, a young woman and a young man, go through a mess of papers and books on the table.

John slams down the phone.

JOHN

Son of a bitch!

John runs his hands through his messy hair. It looks like he has been working 24 hours nonstop. He tries to think.

JOHN

The governor wants to make sure that G's executed while he's still in office.

WOMAN ASSISTANT

Sure, he wants to run for president with "Tough-on-crime" bullshit.

MAN ASSISTANT

Bullshit that works.

PAUL

Bullshit can turn out to be bullshit.
What if they find out G is innocent?

The woman assistant looks at the man assistant as if they did not believe in that possibility.

WOMAN ASSISTANT

Innocent or not, no one deserves the death penalty. It's unchristian and uncivilized.

MAN ASSISTANT

I believe in "an eye for an eye."

PAUL

I don't think one mistake justifies another.

JOHN

Listen guys, let's forget politics, okay. We are lawyers, let's work the law. We got the execution postponed to the 31st. I can't believe we can't get a couple extra hours.

MAN ASSISTANT

It would take the execution to the next year. But I don't know if the next governor will change the death sentence to life in prison.

INT. PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Lynn Rhodes presents a live report after the press conference given by the GOVERNOR. He smiles to the cameras, as he leaves the stage behind the reporter.

LYNN RHODES

The Governor has reassured us that he will not leave "dirty laundry" for his successor. He promised to fight in his presidential campaign for a new era of prosperity and security where law abiding people can live and prosper in peace. The Supreme Court, in unprecedented speed, has overruled all the defense motions to spare G's life. The man who wanted to be God will be executed on the upcoming turn of the year at 9:00 PM Pacific time, 12:00 AM Eastern.

INT. PENITENTIARY - DAY

IN THE HIGH SECURITY VISITING ROOM

G, long hair and beard, is brought in by a GUARD, cuffed. Paul sits behind a table.

PAUL

Are the cuffs really necessary?

GUARD

Standard procedure.

The guard walks out of the room.

G

I... I just felt that I owed you
the truth... face to face.

PAUL

You owe me nothing.

G

No, I do... When I told you Isaac was dead, I meant the man I was... A lost soul... My mother was Palestinian. She died in an Israeli air strike... I broke relations with my father... I joined one of the hundreds of Palestinian liberation organizations... I didn't know they were going to blow up that plane... When I found out that all those people were dead... It was the end of the line for me... I deserted my father... It had been years since I last saw him. I decided to kill myself... But I didn't have enough strength left to do it... I went back home, to Jerusalem. My father wasn't there. He was on another of his archeological hunts. I walked from Jerusalem to Capernaum. I made the journey opposite to that of Jesus in his last days... I could never imagine it would end up the same way. When I found my father, he actually believed I was the resurrected Jesus Christ in his dead son's body... I really didn't know what to do...

G pauses. Paul stares.

G

I felt something I never felt before. My mind was free. I felt the power of life beating in my heart. I could feel this spiritual power overflowing to physical power. I could do anything. I believed I had received a gift from God. My father thought I was actually the son of God... He wanted me to spread the Christian wisdom... But I really don't know if I believe in "wisdoms." The rest I guess you already know. My father always had this thing against archeologists, against science. He thought they didn't have the passion he did. He thought they were unbelievers. They didn't have the right to search for the Bible's treasures as he felt he did...

PAUL

So he decided to fool us all.

G

No. It was something more pragmatic. Science would never believe in a resurrected Jesus Christ... So he felt he had to play the game according to the established rules. He really believed he was doing the right thing.

PAUL

Perhaps he was... Look at all you have done.

G

I actually had a great time.

PAUL

I bet you did. Remember your first
baseball game?

G laughs. Paul is excited.

PAUL

And when you came out of the tunnel
carrying that runner.

IN THE CORRIDOR

The guard watches through a glass window, Paul and G talking and laughing, as if that sense of humor was really odd for a man in death row.

EXT. NEW YORK TIME SQUARE - NIGHT

It's New Year's Eve. The square is crowded. The decoration of lights is surreal.

PEOPLE talk and laugh, having a good time.

The huge clock shows 11:45.

EXT. HILL - NIGHT

Alone in the dark, Shimon holds a lit candle and a necklace with a cross. He has a view of the penitentiary.

INT. PENITENTIARY CORRIDOR - NIGHT

G, escorted by Two Guards, all chained up, long hair and beard, walks peacefully determined, "following his destiny."

EXT. TIME SQUARE - NIGHT

The clock shows 11:50.

The roaring crowd at the lit up packed square.

EXT. GOVERNOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

The mansion is beautifully illuminated for a black tie party.

In black tie, Paul runs across the garden, passing by a distracted SECURITY MAN.

Carrying a cellular phone, Paul swiftly goes over a fence. TWO GUESTS talking don't notice Paul going by and joining the New Year's party.

INT. GOVERNOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

GUESTS are gathered in the main front room.

A pendulum clock on the wall shows 8:50(Pacific time).

Paul looks around, trying to find someone.

EXT. PENITENTIARY - NIGHT

PROTESTERS shout and hold signs. They are outnumbered by SUPPORTERS of the execution. POLICEMEN separate the two groups.

INT. PENITENTIARY - NIGHT

IN THE EXECUTION CHAMBER

Calm and accepting his destiny, G is escorted by the TWO GUARDS into the execution chamber.

G looks at the sinister, poorly illuminated chamber of death. The execution bed is in the middle of the room.

G lies on the bed. The guards strap him up.

THE EXECUTIONER walks in carrying a case. On a small table he opens the case and takes out the intimidating lethal injection needle.

One of the guards stares at G. There's no sign of fear in G's eyes.

GUARD

Maybe the governor will call...

EXECUTIONER

He never calls.

G is impassive. The executioner fills the syringe with the lethal substance.

INT. GOVERNOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

Paul spots the Governor chatting with a group of guests.

He walks through the crowd of guests.

PAUL

Excuse me... Excuse me...

Paul bumps into a waiter, spilling a drink on a lady. The lady is very upset.

PAUL

I'm sorry.

Paul goes on, approaching the governor.

PAUL

Governor! Governor!

Paul attracts the attention of the Governor.

PAUL

Governor I have something very
important to say...

The Governor tries to be polite in front of the other guests.

GOVERNOR

...Calm down my friend.

PAUL

You must stop the execution.

The Governor is annoyed.

A SECURITY MAN heads towards Paul and the Governor, speaking on a walkie-talkie.

PAUL

Listen. G is innocent.

GOVERNOR

The truth already has been established, young man.

PAUL

All I'm asking for is a delay.

GOVERNOR

The evidence is overwhelming. I thought you were a man of science.

The security man closes in behind Paul.

All the guests follow the confusion.

PAUL

The truth will come out.

GOVERNOR

Listen this isn't the time...

Paul grabs the Governor's arm and gives him the cellular phone.

PAUL

There is no time! Please make the phone call.

The security man grabs Paul from behind. The Governor tries to break free from him. Paul shoves the phone in his face.

PAUL

Make the call, you son of a bitch!

The security man pulls Paul down. Gripping the Governor's suit, Paul pulls him down too.

There's NOISE and confusion among the guests, as the men wrestle on the floor.

The clock on the wall shows a couple of minutes to nine o'clock (Pacific time).

EXT. TIME SQUARE - NIGHT

A group of FRIENDS, in the middle of the ROARING CROWD, stare excitedly at the huge clock: 11:58 (Eastern time).

INT. PENITENTIARY - NIGHT

IN THE EXECUTION CHAMBER

The executioner approaches G with the lethal injection.

EXT. PENITENTIARY - NIGHT

Shimon stands holding a lit candle.

A fight breaks out between the protesters and supporters of the execution. The policemen try to intervene but the outnumbered protesters are beaten by the supporters of death penalty.

Dark clouds move covering the full moon.

EXT. GOVERNOR'S MANSION - NIGHT

Paul stares at the almost covered full moon, as the security man cuffs him.

EXT. TIME SQUARE - NIGHT

The crowd looks up at the clock, making a delirious countdown.

CROWD

...Seven, six, five, four, three,
two, one!

INT. PENITENTIARY - DAY

EXECUTION CHAMBER

The executioner plunges the syringe into a vein in G's arm.

G's eyes get glassy as he fights the pain.

EXT. TIME SQUARE - NIGHT

A WOMAN screams.

A huge apple slides down a pole, followed by a stream of sparks. Fireworks explode as it hits the base.

People shout and scream, jumping and hugging each other.

Fireworks illuminate the sky.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

IN THE LOBBY

Depressed, clothes all wrinkled, hair messed up, Paul walks towards William.

WILLIAM

You sure look like you spent the
night in jail.

Paul walks to the exit, followed by William.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Karen and Billy run towards Paul and hug him.

KAREN

Is he really dead?

PAUL

I don't know...

WILLIAM

He passed away, my dear. We have
to accept reality.

PAUL

Where's Shimon?

WILLIAM

I don't know. He received the body
this morning. I don't know where
the burial is going to be.

EXT. SMALL COTTAGE - DAY

Shimon sits outside a small mountain cottage in the wilderness. He's impassive,
dazed, rocking his body.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

IN THE FRONT ROOM

Saddened, Paul, Karen and Billy walk in. William opens up the curtains. Karen and
Billy head upstairs.

Paul goes to the kitchen. William follows him.

IN THE KITCHEN

Paul searches for something to eat in the refrigerator.

WILLIAM

Do you think he took his son's
body back to Israel?

Paul drinks a glass of orange juice and devours a sandwich.

PAUL

I don't know, but I don't think
he'll be burying G very soon, at
least not underground.

WILLIAM

What do you mean?

PAUL

The old man is very faithful.

WILLIAM

A fanatic I would say.

PAUL

Perhaps. He probably thinks his son will rise from the dead, again, just like most people believe Jesus did.

WILLIAM

Death is a fact of life. We must move on. You should start thinking about your new life, now that you are a millionaire.

PAUL

What are you talking about?

WILLIAM

Oh my God. Don't you know about it?

PAUL

Know about what?

WILLIAM

He left you twenty million dollars. Plus, he appointed you as the Curator for his multibillion dollar foundation.

Paul is perplexed. Karen enters the kitchen.

KAREN

Dad, the keys for the cottage are gone. I told Mr. Shimon about it.

PAUL

Maybe he's up there.

Paul grabs his car keys and exits. William and Karen follow him.

PAUL

You stay here with your brother.

KAREN

But it was my idea.

Paul and William leave her behind.

EXT. SMALL COTTAGE - DAY

Paul drives up a road and parks next to another car.

He walks to the cottage. William follows him at a slower pace.

Paul opens the door and backs off, feeling a strong bad odor. Approaching, William covers his nose.

WILLIAM

Oh my God.

Paul enters.

INT. SMALL COTTAGE - DAY

The large single room is partially dark. The curtains are closed. Shimon is in tears, sitting on the floor, embracing the dead bluish body of G.

Emotional, Paul observes the scene for a moment.

William looks stunned at the inconsolable father holding his dead son.

Paul kneels next to Shimon and puts his arm around his shoulder.

SHIMON

It's all my fault... It's all my
fault...

PAUL

It's time to go now.

SHIMON

No... It's all my fault...

Paul tries to pull Shimon away from his dead son.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Karen kneels down, putting a single flower on G's grave.

The tombstone reads "G; WE BELIEVE YOU; WE LOVE YOU." Karen stares at the grave for a moment. The wind blows her hair. The moment is of pure silence.

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

A huge ROARING CROWD is gathered in New York streets. A sign reads "NEW YORK MARATHON."

RUNNERS warm up. There are several unfamiliar faces until we recognize one, Paul.

He warms up, trotting around, wearing a colorful T-shirt that reads "G IS INNOCENT." The back of the T-shirt reads "G FOUNDATION ; HEALTH TO THE WORLD."

Paul offers the same T-shirt to other runners. They all decline.

A YOUNG MAN accepts the gift and puts it on, taking the running number from his former T-shirt and pasting it on his new one.

A SIREN SCREAMS and the crowd ROARS. The marathon is about to begin.

An OFFICIAL looks at his watch.

The marathon clock, placed at the back of the vehicle which is supposed to escort the front runners, is adjusted to zero. It's also carrying a CAMERAMAN.

Two motorcycles are side by side with the vehicle and the PILOTS start their engines.

The front pack of PROFESSIONAL RUNNERS wait for the starting shot.

The official SHOOTs in the air.

The runners explode like a crazy herd of cattle. They run down the avenue. The STREET SPECTATORS cheer.

A never ending stream of runners goes by.

Delighted with the experience, Paul runs in the middle of the crowd, careful not to stumble on someone.

Up front, the escort vehicle pulls away from the thick pack of runners, followed by the group leading the race: A MEXICAN, TWO AFRICANS, AN ITALIAN and A CHINESE.

EXT. STREETS OF NAPLES - DAY

In a poor neighborhood, with old buildings and narrow streets, a GROUP OF KIDS kick a soccer ball around, in a small alley next to the street.

SUBTITLE: NAPLES, ITALY

A stronger kick makes one of the kids chase the ball into the street.

INT. POLICE CAR - DAY

TWO ITALIAN POLICEMEN drive down the street.

The kid runs into the street chasing the soccer ball, right in front of the car.

The FIRST ITALIAN POLICEMAN hits the brakes. The tires SCREECH. The kid isn't hit, but stumbles to the ground frightened.

The first Italian policeman gets out of the car and hollers at the imprudent kid. THE SECOND ITALIAN POLICEMAN smiles.

FIRST ITALIAN POLICEMAN
Mamma Mia! Stupido!

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

The leading pack heads down a straightway.

Paul runs with a sea of heads ahead of him.

As he goes by, street spectators read his T-shirt. SOME GUYS boo, A MAN holds out his thumb down, A YOUNG GIRL applauds.

The leaders make a turn at a corner.

A RUNNER, in the thick pack, follows Paul running up front. We can't see the runner's face.

Running as if he was jogging in the park, not concerned with competition, Paul takes a quick glance at the runner going by him. For a moment he could swear that the runner was G.

Picking up his pace, Paul tries to follow this runner who is a gear above all the others.

The mysterious runner makes the curve of a street corner. We still can't quite see his face, but from behind he looks like G.

Paul passes several runners, getting out of the traffic jam, a gear above the others.

EXT. STREETS OF NAPLES - DAY

The first Italian policeman helps the kid up. The other kids tease and laugh.

INT. POLICE CAR - DAY

The second Italian policeman spots the soccer ball next to a car parked on the opposite side of the street.

He notices a SUSPICIOUS MAN sitting inside the car, messing in the glove compartment, avoiding making eye contact. The policeman steps out of the car.

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

Paul joins a group of pros, running in double file. There's no sign of the leaders.

Trying to spot the mysterious runner, he picks up his pace, leaving this group behind.

Making another curve, Paul's now in the clear. The street spectators cheer him on.

Perspiring, he comes to a water drinking point, grabs two cups of water, drinks one, throws the other over his head and speeds up.

The street crowd cheers the runners. A BEARDED MAN boos Paul emphatically and runs after him, grabbing Paul by the T-shirt.

BEARDED MAN

Take it off, bastard!

Paul breaks free and accelerates. The crazy man gives all he's got and runs side by side with Paul who bumps him into some trash cans.

Feeling great, Paul passes one of the Africans and the Chinese man going down a straightway.

EXT. STREETS OF NAPLES - DAY

The second Italian policeman steps out of the car, staring at the suspicious man who is clearly trying to avoid eye contact.

The first Italian policeman lectures to the kids on the sidewalk. One of the kids walks over to get the soccer ball.

The suspicious man looks at the kid coming towards him and then at the second Italian policeman who stares back, surprised.

The suspicious man makes a move, opening the door and grabbing the kid. The second Italian policeman goes for his gun.

The first Italian policeman is surprised, trying to figure out what is going on.

The approaching Kid socks his attacker, trying to break free.

The suspicious man holds the kid's arm, takes out his gun and fires at the second Italian policeman.

The second Italian policeman is struck but fires his gun, hitting the suspicious man's car windshield.

The first Italian policeman shoots twice at the suspicious man, who loses the kid and his gun, falling to the ground injured.

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

As Paul makes a turn, into a huge avenue, he can see the marathon clock vehicle up ahead escorting the two leaders.

The Italian and the Mexican run side by side. The street crowd cheers. The Italian looks more tired and starts to lose ground to the Mexican.

On the escorting vehicle, the cameraman focuses on the struggling leaders.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

ON TV

The Italian loses ground to the Mexican.

SPORTSCASTER (VOICE ON TV)

The Italian was having such a great race. He's definitely tiring. I think Jose Gutierrez has this one wrapped up.

Billy and A FRIEND watch the marathon, eating popcorn and drinking soda.

FRIEND

Isn't that your father?

SPORTSCASTER (VOICE ON TV)

We have another contender closing in.

Billy jumps closer to the TV set.

ON TV

Paul surpasses the Italian.

BILLY
Yes! Yes! Yes!

Billy jumps on the sofa, excited and dumps his pop corn bowl over his friend's head.

BILLY
Yeah!

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

Determination in his eyes, Paul catches up to the Mexican. The street crowd is delirious.

He goes for the kill, the final sprint, passing the Mexican.

The finish line appears. The escort vehicles move aside, clearing the way for the winner.

Paul opens his arms and runs towards the finish line. PHOTOGRAPHERS snap shots of the winner.

The Mexican crosses the line in second place.

One of the Africans and the young man wearing the "G T-shirt," sprint side by side. The youth makes it to the line in third place. The African is fourth. Another American crosses the line in fifth, completing the winning podium.

Paul waves to the crowd and to the TV cameras.

EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - DAY

At the winning podium, Paul shakes a bottle of champagne.

INT. PAUL'S HOUSE - DAY

ON TV

Paul and his "G is innocent" T-shirt are focused.

Billy and his friend are delighted.

EXT. NAPLES POLICE STATION - DAY

Injured, the suspicious man is cuffed to a stretcher and escorted by the two Italian policeman into an ambulance.

EXT. RIO DE JANEIRO - DAY

The immense Jesus Christ statue overlooks the marvelous city.

SAO CONRADO BEACH

A beach in the middle of huge mountains. One of these mountains has a huge rock plateau on its top. Hang gliders float in the air.

PEDRA BONITA ROCK PLATEAU

CHRISTINA, mid 30s, finishes mounting a hang glider. Paul helps her, holding some tools.

PAUL

The Italian Police caught "Carlos Six," the guy responsible for the bomb on the Pan Am Lackfield plane, and he confessed to the Bel Air murders. He said he was after G and that it was a pleasure to expose the mistakes of the American judicial system.

CHRISTINA

So now they're going to execute the right guy.

PAUL

No, he will serve life in prison in
England for the Lackfield bombing.

CHRISTINA

But after all, did you or didn't
you find the real burial site of
Jesus Christ?

PAUL

It was Shimon who found it.

CHRISTINA

But at least you have the credit
for discovering the pyramid of
Cleopatra. I saw a movie about
her.

PAUL

Pyramid of Cleopatra? Who told you
that?

CHRISTINA

Billy... Why? Isn't it true?

Paul laughs, putting his helmet on.

PAUL

Not exactly.

Christina is done with the glider. Paul helps her carry it to the launching ramp.

PAUL

Perhaps G's "clearness of mind" or
"spiritual enlightenment" led
to his physical prowess. I felt
something like that when I won
that marathon... Maybe Jesus of
Nazareth had a similar experience.

CHRISTINA

What are you talking about? There's no comparison with Jesus Christ's miracles. That could only be the act of the son of God.

PAUL

Jesus' philosophy of unconditional love, that's what made him great.

CHRISTINA

He's my religion. What's yours?

Christina helps Paul get into the hang glider equipment. She's taking him as a passenger. Paul fastens his helmet.

PAUL

Freedom.

Christina and Paul run down the ramp jumping into the blue sky. Below, there's a beautiful scenario of mountains, beach and sea. (Start closing MUSIC "SPIRIT IN THE SKY", NORMAN GREENBAUN, a rock ballad with a "Jesus theme").

PHOTO OF PAUL

SUBTITLES: Archeology became a hobby as Paul got involved with the G Foundation. After years of research and billions of dollars spent, equaling less than one fourth of the annual American military budget, the G Foundation found a cure for the HIV virus.

PHOTO OF CARLOS SIX

SUBTITLES: Carlos Six, serving a life term sentence in England, died of AIDS two weeks before the cure was found.

PHOTO OF SHIMON

SUBTITLES: Shimon died in Jerusalem still believing his son was the resurrected Jesus Christ.

PHOTO OF G

SUBTITLES: The State of California and City of Los Angeles agreed to pay a combined total of more than 100 million dollars to the G Foundation for the wrongful prosecution, conviction and execution of Isaac Stein. When authorities attempted to transfer G's remains to a huge Mausoleum, because of the incredible number of visitors to his sepulcher, they were never found. There was only the blanket in which his body was wrapped.

EXT. G'S MAUSOLEUM - DAY

It's a huge construction with a big statue of G as a runner going across the finish line with his arms open. The entrance is piled up with flowers.

G'S SPIRIT, happy sparkling eyes, is lying on a flat marble surface, next to the entrance.

He floats up to the sky.

FADE OUT.

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