

RENO NOVAK

Screenplay by

ANITA HEISE

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FIRST DRAFT
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FADE IN:

INT. A MOTEL, SOMEWHERE IN THE USA - NIGHT

The room is old but orderly. A lonely green bag lies on the bed, next to it a bloody blue shirt, damaged blue pants and bloody white sport shoes on the ground, next to a few silenced guns, two saber and some holster. We can hear water running in the bathroom...

...and somebody sobs behind the door.

FADE TO:

INT. BATHROOM, MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

The bathroom door opens slightly, the establishment seems as old as in the bedroom.

The wounded back of a woman braces over a dirty, bloody sink. We guess she's broken, hopeless and lost...

...and hear her sobbing again...

...coincident splashing some water in her face...

...which runs through the sink, mixed with blood. The water suddenly stops, simultaneously the woman straightens up. We guess that something has changed. A beat... and her hands holding the sink, stronger now, her whole body language changes, turning into convulsive movements-

-REGINA/RENO NOVAK, 30s, raises her head, observes carefully but ignited her dirty and bloody face in the lightly broken mirror, tears welling in her eyes. A beat...

...and Reno grabs her long hair that is laying on her shoulders, watching it thoughtfully, then paying particular attention to the shear on the sink, heavily breathing...

...and undecided she takes another look into the mirror. A beat...

...and she raises her heavy trembling hands, watching them, tries to fix them impatiently, but it doesn't work out. A long beat...

...as a helpless shout breaks out of her, getting her into rage, raising her desperation, determination...

...on which she finally grabs her hair, the shear, and cuts them off. A long beat... and Reno sobs, cuts stoic simultaneously, and watches how bushes of hair falling into the sink. Another beat...

...and the shear drops into the sink a moment later...

...then Reno takes a scrutinizing look into the mirror...

...as she fixes the green bag through it, she stares at it, deeply affected by watching it for a long moment, motionless...

...until she starts to rage again.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. A DEPOSITORY, RENO, NEVADA - NIGHT

Regina's running exhausted and worried towards her sister...

...who's sitting captivated on a chair in the middle of the room.

Determined she wants to destroy the MAN next to DEBRA, 40's.

REGINA (RENO)

Debs? Are you ready?

Her saber in one hand she does a roll over the ground, reaches finally PETER STERLING, 40s, who pulls the trigger-

THUMP!

-stands up in front of him, and pushes her saber right through his body, cuts him in two...

...and Sterling dies immediately.

REGINA (RENO) (cont'd)
Told ya. I cut you in two-

She takes a look at her sister who sits with a bullet in her head...

...and grows still.

Reno loses ground, knows she's too late. Impatiently she unties Debra from the chair, takes her to the ground to hold her...

...and cries.

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. BATHROOM, MOTEL - LATER

Reno takes a long shower, washing the blood from her body, paralyzed. A beat... and mechanically she grabs the towel...

...and once dried, she limps right back into the bedroom slowly.

INT. BEDROOM, MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Reno takes some black clothes and gets dressed, her thoughts far away. The dress is a different style as we saw before on the bed. Black pants, a black tailored shirt, black boots...

...at least she puts on the holster on her back.

Sitting on a table, she's having a cigarette, her hands still trembling, as she begins to unravel her mind. A long beat... and she stands up, begins to sort silencer, ammunition, pistols, knives, and both saber, still thinking. With a keen eye Reno takes and studies one pistol...

...and back on the table, she cleans it concentrated. With every step, Reno seems to be less stressed, seems to change her mind slowly.

Carefully she takes her silenced pistols, the knives, slips them into the back of her pants and into the holster. A long beat... and Reno grabs the saber, intensively watching...

...then sliding them thoughtfully into the holster on her back, and turning around, limping back-

INT. BATHROOM, MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

-to the mirror, to observe calmly her face, short hair and the new dress. A beat... and with a deep breath and no emotions, she's combing her wet hair back, and we are able to guess that a change had taken place.

Sure about her next steps, she turns around, takes the green bag, her black jacket...

...and leaves the motel.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

FLASHBACK

SUPER: "ONE WEEK EARLIER"

INT. THE SALOON, SOMEWHERE IN TEXAS - DAY

Back in the days Debra and Regina sitting next to another in their Saloon, as a man enters the room...

...like all belongs to him.

Interested who gains access, Debra raises her head, observing the newcomer, and as he comes closer she recognizes Sterling, her old boss.

STERLING

Debra, darling... always a pleasure.

Slowly and with a slight smile he takes her hand...

...and kisses her on the back of the hand.

Debra remains silent, bows her head with a little smile to welcome Sterling, without taking her eyes from him, irrespective of an alerted short glance to Regina...

...who nods knowingly, takes slowly her cigarette, inhales, and observes Sterling suspiciously...

...who for his part takes an interested look around the Saloon.

Just a few MEN sitting in a dark corner, talking silently. Fume is everywhere, dimmed light and low-keyed country music in the background.

Sterling's glance touches Regina again...

...who returns his look dispassionate. A long beat... and calmly he waits for any kind of reaction.

Regina remembers Debra's warning about him, and what happens to anyone who stares at Sterling like this...

...but she never cared about those things...

...and still holds his glance without blinking.

Astonished about her braveness or her ignorance, Sterling bows his head a bit.

DEBRA

What are you doing here? You never showed up before. You never leave your castle, Sterling.

(a beat, she lights a new cigarette)

Thought we were through?! You agreed, didn't you?

Silence.

Sterling keeps an eye on both of the sisters, and while he switches slightly from Regina back to Debra...

...staring at her without blinking for a long moment...

...he nods knowingly.

STERLING

Right. How could I forget.

He looks around again, raises his arms and stops...

...with a dangerous glance on Regina.

STERLING (cont'd)
Always a kind word for everyone.
(shifts his
attention, then)
Right... Debra?

Silence.

He turns around, indicates his leaving, but freezes, and turns back to Debra again. A beat... then he makes a few steps forward until he stands too close in front of her, pissed off now.

STERLING (cont'd)
(whispering)
Don't you forget anything?

DEBRA
What?

Regina watches that charade highly attentive...

...and hasn't a clue what's going on right now.

STERLING
Our agreement?

He's rolling with his eyes, turns a finger around in the air.

STERLING (cont'd)
The other one.

DEBRA
Nope. How could I?

With a quick glance sideways to her sister.

STERLING
You owe me a simple favor.
(a beat)
I think you know that.

DEBRA
(sharp)
You don't want me to owe you something. That's what you know.

STERLING
Common, Debra. Just this one time.

With narrowed eyes he turns his attention back to Regina...

...and she watches him carefully, doesn't like him very much.

DEBRA
(sighs, then)
What do you want, Sterling?

STERLING
Finally...
(highly satisfied)
...it's a contract.

Silence.

Debra changes eyes with Regina, jumps off her chair...

...and takes Sterling short-tempered aside, to talk with him without her sister.

DEBRA
Who? When? How much?

STERLING
That is, what I want to hear from you. Fabulous.
(a beat)
John Wick. As fast as possible. 2 Million Dollars.

Silence.

He observes her interested...

...because Debra freezes, trying to hide her surprise. A long beat... and another glance to Regina...

...who quite not understands, but noticing the dismay of her sister.

DEBRA
What's his fault?

STERLING
That, my dear, is not your business.
(a beat)
Just fulfill the contract and you're free to leave... anytime. Deal?

Debra hesitates, standing and looking at some point, seems to remember something, until she slowly turns back her attention on Sterling.

DEBRA

How many got this contract, me included?

STERLING (O.S.)

Just you.

Debra agrees, with the appearance of being beaten by Sterling. A beat... and unlucky about this deal she watches Regina concerned.

STERLING

That's my girl.

(a beat)

Do anything to kill him. I guess, you need the money, dear.

(bows his head a bit

and moves away, then)

No contact until it's done.

Understand?

DEBRA

Wait! Who ordered the contract?

Sterling freezes, without turning around.

STERLING

Even that, darling, is not your business.

He leaves the bar silently.

Debra stays, thoughtful she hesitates about this new situation. A beat... and she follows Sterling out of the bar.

EXT. THE SALOON - CONTINUOUS

The sun is hot, the heat is burning. Easy he walks to his car - as Debra steps out of the saloon, watching him a moment, before she decides to follow him.

DEBRA

I take Regina with me, to get this contract done. And, that's not a question!

Sterling freezes again.

Silence.

STERLING

No.

Debra stops.

DEBRA

Why not? She's good...

(a beat)

...and fast... and she doesn't know him in person.

(a beat)

She's my best option to kill him, you know that!

Sterling shakes his head.

DEBRA (cont'd)

It's a farce that you pop up in my Saloon in person and call me for this contract, isn't it?

(a beat)

I mean, you know exactly what happened!

STERLING

Isn't it the reason why I'm here?

(a beat)

Honestly. He trusts you, doesn't he? An effective way to kill him.

Silence.

Speechless about his words, Debra stares at Sterling, anger grows in her.

DEBRA

You're such a fucking asshole, you know that? Fuck you and your contract! I don't take the job!

(a beat, then)

Not without Regina.

Sterling finally turns around, steps back close to her, angry now...because he doesn't like to play this game anymore.

STERLING

(pissed off)

You HAVE to take this contract! I even could kill you now...

(a beat, a deep breath, then)

...okay. Take your sister with you.

(a beat)

But if you fail, both of you are dead! Understand?

DEBRA

Yeah.

STERLING

No, no, no. Do you really understand what that means?

(a beat, then)

If you fail, Debra... the whole High Table turns on you. It's a contract to death!

Debra raises her head, feels an inner conflict for the first time in her life and... fear. She tries to hide her feelings, but it's still not working.

STERLING (cont'd)

Good! I can see it in your eyes that you quite understand what I said.

(a beat)

So. Either you or your sister kill John Wick... or both of you, plus your target... will be destroyed!

(a beat)

Understand?

Debra watches him, furious, but still agrees.

STERLING (cont'd)

Great. Now we're clear! Good hunting!

(a beat)

And like always -- was a pleasure, darling.

He's done with her, walking away from Debra...

...who watches him leaving.

Concerned and angry twice, she heads back to Regina, closes the Saloon...

...steps into her private room to provide herself with all kind of weapons.

FADE TO:

EXT. THE CONTINENTAL, NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT

Debra and Regina stepping into the Continental, with black bags in their hands. It's the first time for Regina to enter this Hotel. Curious she watches everyone...

...specially the concierge...

...who observes them interested.

CHARON

Welcome back.

His glance moves from Debra to Regina.

DEBRA

Good to be here again...
(a beat, then)
...my little sister.

CHARON

Welcome. What can I do for the ladies?

Regina bows her head. A beat... and with great interest she's watching the new environment.

DEBRA

A room, please.

CHARON

Of course. One night or more?

DEBRA

Maybe more. I don't know how long it takes.

CHARON

Room 717 for you. Anything else?

DEBRA
 (breathtaking)
 Yes, indeed. Is the Manager
 available? Please?

Debra slides some gold coins across the counter.

CHARON
 You know where to find him. And of
 course, I guess you know where to
 find any help if help's needed...
 (a beat)
 ...don't I?

He gives Regina the Room Key Card.

DEBRA
 Indeed. Thanks again.

She takes her sister by the arm and pushes her forward as
 she remembered another thing. A beat... and she freezes...

...and turns around again.

DEBRA (cont'd)
 Just one more question. Do you know
 where Mr. Wick stays?

Charon raises his head again, interested and observantly he
 watches Debra.

CHARON
 No. Unfortunately not. I'm sorry,
 Miss Novak. Good night.

DEBRA
 (shaking her head)
 It's okay. Thank you. Good night!

They're leaving.

CHARON
 You're welcome. It's a pleasure to
 have you here again.

Debra thanks him again...

...and walks off to the elevator.

INT. THE CONTINENTAL, NEW YORK CITY - LATER

Debra walks alone through the Hotel...

INT. THE CONTINENTAL, BAR - CONTINUOUS

...coincidence Regina sits at the bar, enjoys the rest of her drink, and orders a new WHITE RUSSIAN. A beat... while she looks around with great interest...

...until the barkeeper puts a new tumbler on the bar counter.

BARKEEPER

With kindest regards from this gentleman.

He's bowing his head in the right direction, showing Regina that gentleman...

...who raises his tumbler, as she's turning around, to consider him. With a slight smile, she raises her tumbler too...

...then she turns back and watches the barkeeper...

REGINA

Thank you.

...who smiles, while Reno takes a casual swallow.

BARKEEPER

Oh, no. You shouldn't thank me, Miss!

(a beat, then)

He's wondering if you would do him the favor to join him.

Puzzled she looks at the barkeeper...

...then she turns around, observing the guy again. She doesn't know him and isn't sure if she would enjoy his company. Reno hesitates for a moment...

...but decides to go to his table. With a big smile she requires the attention of the barkeeper...

REGINA

Who is this?

...who's watching her surprised by her question...

BARKEEPER
John Wick, Miss.

...while Regina understands slowly. A beat... she understands nothing.

BARKEEPER (cont'd)
(whispering)
You don't know Mr. Wick, Miss?

With a slight recognition, Regina thinks about the name...

REGINA
Huh! Of course. I know him. Who not?

...harrumphs, and empties her tumbler in one swallow...

REGINA (cont'd)
Would you bring me another drink,
please?

...and shows to the table.

REGINA (cont'd)
Thanks again!

BARKEEPER
No problem, Miss Novak. Thank you!

Regina jumps off her chair, slowly walking to the table, and sits down in front of John...

...who considers her exactly.

JOHN
I never seen you here before.

Regina keeps silent, just watches him. A long beat...

...then-

REGINA
First time.

JOHN
You're Debra's little sister, aren't
you?

REGINA

Damn. Debra said this just one time recently -- and everyone knows it now. What is this for a freaky Hotel?

JOHN

(laughs, but holds
eye contact)
Yeah. Absolutely.

Regina's WHITE RUSSIAN arrives, both stop talking simultaneously until the waiter is gone.

JOHN (cont'd)

But it's safe and ...
(a beat)
... quiet.

With a last swallow he empties his tumbler...

...while Regina is watching him curious, still thinking about his name.

REGINA

Safe and quiet. Okay. But anyone knows you.
(a beat)
Um. Really don't know if I like it here, actually.

JOHN

(a long beat, then)
So. What are you doing here?

His smile grows still as he leans forward, very attentive, because he heard some interesting rumors recently. In an wait-and-see attitude he watches Regina...

...who takes another swallow first. With a suspicious glance she puts her glass aside.

REGINA

Why?

JOHN

Just interested in knowing you.

REGINA

Huh.

(MORE)