

1

1

1979. A summer's night in Baghdad; the grounds of a large, opulent villa. Glimpse CHILDREN fleetingly as they chase one another through bushes and disappear leaving only the sound of their laughter.

Find a LITTLE GIRL, creeping, hiding; when suddenly the camera rushes up on her! The LITTLE GIRL is snatched and lifted into the air by big, strong hands; she squeals in delight. The OWNER of the big hands (SADDAM) laughs and bites at her tummy making her laugh more. The simple joy is interrupted by a man's voice.

Saddam?

SADDAM HUSSEIN (40) holds his daughter, HALA, and looks to the man, BARZAN (28).

Ready when you are.

SADDAM nods.

(to his DAUGHTER)
Baba has work to do; let's find Mama.

HALA grabs hold of her father's neck and protests.
SADDAM (and HALA) and BARZAN move towards the villa.

On to the terrace; it's a party; an important party; a child's birthday party, yet the ADULTS are decked out in Chanel, Dior and gaudy but expensive jewellery.

GUESTS smile at SADDAM seeking approval. He finds his wife, SAJIDA, and hands over HALA.

I believe this child belongs to you.
(eye contact with SAJIDA)

What time will he be here?

Soon.

SADDAM and BARZAN move into the villa.

(gathering the children)
Children. Children come to me, we are going to play a game.

Marble floors and expensive furnishings. WAITERS flash past carrying food and drinks to the terrace. We move through the villa leaving the party behind.

SADDAM and BARZAN move along a dimly lit but ornate corridor, the party music fades...and is replaced by the sound of an Ayatollah in full flow - an initially faint but forceful VOICE of a determined old-man speaking in Farsi: praising Allah, the revolution and his people; denouncing the Shah, America and the infidels of Iraq's Baath Party.

(easy; about the voice)
Khomeini has a big mouth.

SADDAM smiles and put his hand on BARZAN'S shoulder. At the bottom of a corridor is a set of double doors - the VOICE is emanating from behind these doors.

The brothers move to the doors and enter...

SADDAM enters and finds SEVERAL smartly suited MEN, seated in armchairs around a long low-table. The MEN occasionally sip from tumblers of whiskey and ice.

The RECORDED VOICE of Ayatollah Khomeini fills the room; the gathered men listen as Khomeini berates Iraq and its leaders and urges the Shias of the south to rise-up (like their brothers in Iran) and overthrow

(quietly)
He is a dog with teeth Ali.

(calm, easy; everyone
listens)
Sharp teeth.
(lights his cigarette)
We can offer a hand of friendship but
he will bite it off. He wants his
revolution to infect all of the Arab
world.

Beginning with the Iraqi Shia.

Exactly... He will become more
dangerous by the day... And if Al
Bakr's treaty with Syria proceeds... he
will scent Iraqi weakness.
(pause)
America hopes for a strong Iraq; the
Arab world demands it, and the Iraqi
people themselves deserve it.
(pause)
But time is running out...

See the faces of the gathered MEN. SADDAM picks up a
glass of Shivas Regal, poured for him by BARZAN.

To a new Iraq.

The OTHERS join the toast. See TARIQ AZIZ raise his
glass and join in the toast.

A large cage in a windowless room. Inside, leaning
casually against the cage, is a clean-cut Defense

The CASE OFFICER picks up the deck of cards and turns the first few cards over, flicking the faces out in front of the TARIQ.

(watches; then)
Do you consider the invasion of my country a game?

We are going to find each and every card; every face, and you are going to help us... starting with Saddam

TARIQ looks down at the over-turned cards: see Saddam, Ali Hassan Al Majid (Chemical Ali), Barzan, Watban, Uday, Qusay and Tariq himself.

(teases gently)
Then I must merit more than an eight.

Pause, TARIQ considers the cards. He pulls Saddam to the centre. Then Chemical Ali alongside.

(decides to talk a little)
Ali Hassan Al Majid.

Chemical Ali.

He will be pleased that you consider him to be a King.

(then he moves Barzan to
the other side) Tw (TARIQ AZIZ (CONT'D)) Tj / .16 TET.

Before you will find any of these men,
you have to understand who they are...
and how they fit together.

(pause, indicates cards)

They weren't loyal just because they
were family; they were loyal because
Saddam was a man to admire... A man to
follow.

5

5

HAMDANI and SANAA (HAMDANI'S wife) are overseeing a
game of musical chairs for the children. The GUESTS are
gathered around.

SADDAM pours a tall glass of lemonade. SAJIDA
approaches him and links his arm lovingly.

Aren't you going to join in the game.

No.

SADDAM'S eldest daughter, RAGHAD, moves to SUBHA.

Find Mohammed, ask him to join the party, he's shy.

(RAGHAD glances to SADDAM who nods; she moves off)
She's becoming a woman.

Not quite; she's still my baby.

RAGHAD passes HUSSEIN KAMEL, who gives her a broad smile. RAGHAD blushes. SUBHA watches.

She should marry Barzan's son Mohammed, as soon as she is old enough.

(beat)
It will bond the family closer still.

KAMEL HANNA (SADDAM'S valet) approaches SADDAM, he bows.

Mister Deputy, the President is about to arrive.

SADDAM nods.

6

6

The Presidential limo pulls up. A BODYGUARD (of two) opens the door to the limo and out steps AHMED AL BAKR, 60, PRESIDENT OF IRAQ, a small dapper man, holding a beautifully wrapped gift. SADDAM steps forward.

Mr President.

Mr Deputy.

The two men embrace warmly.

Sajida, you look beautiful.

You are too kind. Thank you so much for coming Mister President. Halal will be thrilled.

Not at all; thank you for inviting an
old man to a seventh birthday party;
it is an important occasion!

They are moving into the villa.

7

7

The party applaud the PRESIDENT, AL BAKR as he enters
the arena flanked by SADDAM, SAJIDA and further back
the BODYGUARDS.

(to the room)
Please everybody carry on. Where is
the birthday-girl. I can't see her?

HALA is standing proudly in the centre of the room.

She is here.

Where?

Here.

Where? All I see is a grown-up
Princess, where is little Hala.

(beaming)
Amo Ahmed, it is me!

No.

(laughing)
Yes.

The room share the joke.

Then this gift must be yours Princess.

He hands the gift to HALA.

You are very kind.

SADDAM scoops her up in his arms.

And you are very lucky. What do we say to the President?

Thank you, Amo Ahmad.

SAJIDA claps her hands and the lights are dimmed.

(mock shock, to HALA)
Ah, what's happening Princess? What is it?

A chorus of Happy Birthday begins as an elaborate cake is wheeled in. The cake moves past a sullen looking boy, UDAY HUSSEIN, 15, (SADDAM'S eldest son).

AL BAKR and SADDAM, still with HALA in his arms, stand side by side. The candles light their faces in an eerie glow.

A singing circle forms around the cake; UDAY remains outside the circle. He has a cane in his hand which he uses to lift the dress of a YOUNG GIRL - who turns her head and instinctively brushes down her rising dress with her hand. UDAY responds by slapping her hand with the cane. The YOUNG GIRL doesn't cry out.

The incident is witnessed by a the GIRL'S MOTHER, who looks at UDAY then looks away, distressed (continuing with the Happy Birthday song). Once again, UDAY lifts the dress of the GIRL, who this time does nothing. Her eyes fill.

The birthday song finishes.

Make a wish habibi ti, and your dreams will come true.

HALA screws up her eyes and then she and SADDAM together blow out the candles. Everybody applauds.

(to AL BAKR, a hand on his arm)
Let's leave the women and children to their games. We have much to discuss.

You must save me a piece of cake.

Of course I will.

(patting his tummy)
Just a small piece.

AL BAKR moves off with SADDAM, BODYGUARDS on either side. SADDAM'S inner circle, TARIQ, BARZAN, CHEMICAL ALI, ADNAN KHAI RALLAH and HAMDANI follow close behind them.

They enter the room at the bottom of the corridor. The double doors close and the BODYGUARDS wait outside.

8

8

AL BAKR stands in the middle of the room. He takes a silver cigarette case from his pocket; offers it to SADDAM who refuses. He puts a cigarette in his mouth and SADDAM lights it...AL BAKR draws deeply.

Please, sit down. There is something I have to say.

BARZAN, ADNAN, CHEMICAL ALI, TARIQ and HAMDANI have 'casually' positioned themselves around the room.

AL BAKR is a little wary; he chooses the seat behind SADDAM'S desk; he looks at the faces in the room. His BODYGUARDS are positioned by the door.

(calmly)
I am concerned about Khomeini...and the proposed union with Syria.
(a gesture from AL BAKR encourages him to go on)
Khomeini continues to call on our people to join his revolution; because he knows we are weak.

Nonsense.

Not at all, it's true...and an Alliance with Syria will make us weaker still.

Two Arab people coming together will make for a strong Alliance.

Headed by a Syrian President; Asad of Syria will be first and you will be second.

With Saddam Hussein third? Is that your true objection?

I have no objection. Why object to something that does not exist? And will never exist; I will not allow it.

You will not allow it Mister Deputy?
(pause)
I smell more than disquiet.

Comrade Bakr, it's over.

Stop. Say no more!

(pause, moves closer, more personal; softly)

Saddam...Your time will come; set aside personal ambitions and accept this alliance for the good of the nation. It is what the Party wants.

(pause)

And we are a team you and me...look at what we've accomplished; look at what you've accomplished - Iraq has schools and hospitals and food for all of the people...for the first time in our history their minds are developed and their bellies are full...because of you and me!

(pause)

Iraq can not be ruled from beyond its borders, nor by a President whose time has passed.

AL BAKR looks to his two BODYGUARDS at the door but they do not move.

They won't help you.

(to SADDAM)
Of course. They're yours.

SADDAM looks to his cousin ADNAN KHAI RALLAH.

(beat)
Adnan Khairallah, provide Comrade Al
Bakr with the protection of your army.
He is going home to rest. He can
remain in the Presidential Palace
until matters are resolved.

SADDAM nods and the door is unlocked and opened. AL
BAKR leaves with ADNAN. The door closes.

(Looks to SADDAM)
Mister President...

They embrace.

My friend...

Then BARZAN.

Brother.

TARIQ and CHEMICAL ALI follow suit.

The party is over. Two friends sit and have a quiet
drink together - SADDAM and HAMDANI. In the near
distance, their wives gossip (SAJIDA and SANAA). The
GUESTS have left and children are in bed. They discuss
the main event of the evening. HAMDANI is just a little
drunk; giddy.

Yes.

(smiles)
And you like it.

Yes!... Very much.

They laugh; HAMDANI more than SADDAM...and it is in this moment that SADDAM decides that HAMDANI will be his example.

(calls over)
What's so funny.

Power.

We like it.
(laughter fades; more seriously)
We have a lot of work to do.
(pause)
You will be a fine President Saddam Hussein... I will always be by your side.

They smile.

10

10

SADDAM is alone. He is standing, staring through large sliding glass door, out into a courtyard (or perhaps at the reflection of a President).

A second reflection appears - it is his mother, SUBHA.

(evenly)
So it's done. You are to be President.

He turns to his MOTHER who has casually sat herself down.

Yes Mama, it is done.

No-one must be allowed to do to you,
what you have to Al-Bakr...
(MORE)

You'll need your brothers more than ever. Keep the Ibrahims close. They are your family.

BARZAN moves to his brother. SADDAM puts a hand on his shoulder.

*
*

Now we have control... I want you not only by my side but at my back - protecting me, protecting what we have achieved.... You will be my Head of National Security, Barzan.

*
*
*
*
*

BARZAN grows taller.

*

I won't fail you... Never.

*
*

They embrace.

*

*



CLOSE on AL BAKR. The Ba'ath Party Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) is seated round a long table. Nervously AL BAKR starts to read out a prepared statement. Those on the inside are impassive. The new faces - including MUHIE MASHHADI, 50, Secretary General of the Council - are in a state of shock.

For some time now my health has been deteriorating. I feel I can no longer shoulder the responsibilities of government... Conscience demands that I must step down.

See MASHHADI frown, surprised.

And it is my view that the man best qualified to assume the leadership is my esteemed deputy, Comrade Saddam Hussein.

Mister President, this is absurd. Now is not the time to be stepping aside. We are on the brink of a new era in Arab brotherhood.

AL BAKR looks to SADDAM for guidance.

Comrade Mashhadi I have tried already to dissuade our President from retiring, but he has made up his mind.

We must respect his decision.

Very well, we will have a vote in our next session; the members of the council will, I'm sure, need some time for thought and reflection.

SADDAM looks across the room to BARZAN - the instruction is there in the look.

14A SCENE DELETED

14A

15

15

Close in on MASHHADI; he is slumped and bound to a chair, his once crisp shirt hangs off him. He shows signs of having been whipped and beaten around the chest.

A FIGURE (obscured BARZAN) speaks...

(quietly; evenly)
....Now I want you to imagine your daughter - sitting where you are sitting.

Hold as a tear rolls down MASHHADI'S face.

16 SCENE DELETED 16

17 _____ 17

SADDAM washes his hands, letting the water flow between his fingers. BARZAN knocks and enters. SADDAM sees him, nods. BARZAN exits. SADDAM looks into the mirror.

18 _____ 18

SADDAM remembers...

The barefoot BOY runs through reeds, carrying a pistol.

19 _____ 19

SADDAM dries his hands and exits.

20 _____ 20

HAMDANI hands his coat to a SERVANT, and enters the meeting room.

21 _____ 21

HAMDANI enters to find SADDAM with BARZAN, waiting.

(easy; a smile)
My President. I came as soon as I got
your message.

Hamdani; forgive me.

SADDAM embraces HAMDANI.

(perplexed)
I have nothing to forgive you for.

You are like a brother to me. Believe me, I do this for the country we love.

SADDAM steps away and HAMDANI is confronted with a PISTOL held by SADDAM. He fires. HAMDANI drops to the floor. BARZAN recoils just a little as tiny spots of blood land close to his mouth... HAMDANI'S foot is twitching; see SADDAM'S troubled face as he fires a second bullet into HAMDANI - the foot-twitching stops.

On on SADDAM - it was something that he didn't want to do, but felt he HAD to do. Hold. See BARZAN'S discomfort also - he drags the tiny spots of blood from his face.

22 SCENE DELETED

22

23

23

200 REPRESENTATIVES of the Ba'ath Party have packed themselves into the hall. The crowd wait in anticipation.

SADDAM walks out on to platform, a huge Havana cigar in hand - the PARTY MEMBERS applaud. SADDAM looks out at room from the podium, he stands behind a set of microphones.

A TV CREW is at the foot of the stage. In the front row

(relaxed)
Comrades, it causes me great pain,
that one of my first duties as
President is to tell you that we have
uncovered an atrocious plot against
our beloved Baath Party.

Pause for effect, then he continues to speak slowly and without notes.

My pain is not eased by the fact that
these plotters, these collaborators
are sitting amongst us here today.
(pause; every man in the
room begins to sweat!)

We have the evidence...and now is the
time to act.
(pause)

The witness.

SADDAM moves to a seat stage left. MASHHADI steps out from the wings and moves to the podium. He unfolds a piece of paper and begins to read.

Since 1975, I have been part of a
Syrian plot to overthrow both Comrade
Saddam and Bakr, in order to pave the
way for an illicit Syrian Iraq
union...When we, the conspirators,
realised that Bakr was to step down in
favour of his deputy, the assumption
of the presidency by Comrade Saddam
Hussein forced us to put into action a
plan to remove him. But as we did so,
we revealed ourselves and our plans
were uncovered.

SADDAM shakes his head in sorrow as MASHHADI folds his piece of paper and a suited bodyguard escorts him from the stage. SADDAM resumes his position at the podium.

Comrades, you can imagine how stunned
I was to discover that I had been
betrayed by my closest colleagues.
After the first of these criminals
were arrested, I asked them: "What
political differences are there
between you and me? Did you lack any
power or money? If your opinion
differed on anything, why didn't you
submit it to the party?"... They had
nothing to say to defend themselves.
(pause)

(MORE)

SADDAM (CONT'D)

The conspiracy spread wide...
(he produces a list;
pause)

The people whose names are read out,
should leave the hall.

SADDAM passes the list to a SECURITY OFFICIAL and moves back to his seat, appearing to be upset. The SECURITY OFFICIAL nervously steps in front of the microphones.

A sense of terror grips the room. The audience look around in disbelief.

The first name is read out and BARZAN directs his SECURITY MEN to the alleged CONSPIRATOR who they escort from the room. As more names are read out SADDAM watches scornfully continuing to smoke his cigar. One of the victims starts to struggle as he is led away.

We are innocent. We have done nothing.

Out! Get out!

SADDAM draws on his cigar.

Long Live Saddam!

God save Saddam from the conspirators!

Applause and cheering break out in the room, and SADDAM takes the applause - but even his inner circle are left feeling vulnerable.

24

24

A line of dishevelled PARTY MEMBERS are led blinking into an enclosed but open-aired, dusty yard. All have their hands tied behind their backs, their feet shackled and their mouths gagged. MASHHADI is amongst them.

The line of wretches face a line of "saved" PARTY MEMBERS. The two lines of men, ex-colleagues stare across at each other.

A HANDGUN is cocked at the ready. We see it is in the hand of SADDAM.

SADDAM then calmly passes THE HAND-GUN on to the nearest SAVED PARTY MEMBER.

Very reluctantly, the MEMBER steps up and with a trembling hand, points the gun to the head of an ex-colleague; MASHHADI'S head... the MEMBER is having difficulty summoning up the courage to squeeze the trigger. MASHHADI'S breathing increases as he is tortured with the feel of the gun at his head. SADDAM is aware of the prolonged agony.

(angrily)
FIRE!

See the face of the PARTY MEMBER as he fires, a bloody mist alights on his face and a BODY drops before him. Hold on his silent horror.

The PARTY MEMBER, in shock, the HANDGUN is passed to another PARTY MEMBER. Then a hand is placed upon his shoulder - he looks to the owner of the hand SADDAM.

(softly)
You have done your duty.

... Thank you Mister President. May you live longer.

More shots are fired; more bodies drop to the floor. Find TARIQ standing apart, alone, removed from the line. Watching in horror.

Good boy.

They sit with the inner-circle. BARZAN is a little drunk.

(evenly)
No women gentlemen? No dancing? You should be making the most of life; tomorrow we could all be dead.

(evenly)
You're a funny man Ali.

So who saw it coming; Hamdani?

Saddam.

You didn't know?

BARZAN just looks.

...Did he tell you why?

(evenly; no spin)
Only Saddam knows what Saddam is thinking. Only Saddam knows what we're all thinking.

You believe that?

If Saddam believes it that's all that matters.

But Hamdani was the fixer; he was as good as Saddam's right hand.

(aimed at CHEMICAL ALI)
Maybe he had a big mouth; maybe he couldn't handle his whiskey; the two don't mix.

Cousin, I'm simply talking; amongst friends, amongst family.

Hamdani wasn't family.

Be careful; nor am I.

Yeah but you're a fucking Christian
Tariq. You're a threat to no-one but
yourself.

TARIQ smiles, takes the joke.

Hamdani was too clever for his own
good.

(beat)

He's the past.

The truth is that they're not sure of the reason for
Hamdani's murder; each of the inner-circle are just
glad that it was Hamdani and not them!

(takes a mouthful of
drink)

...Tonight my friends, I'm getting
drunk, I'm getting laid, and in the
morning I won't remember a
thing...except my loyalty to our
President;

(aimed at BARZAN)

Who is neither Al Majid nor Ibrahim -
but half and half.

ALI offers his glass to BARZAN. BARZAN picks up his
glass and goes to "clink" ALI'S glasses, but ALI moves
his glass away.

Go fuck a donkey.

The table laughs, including HUSSEIN, BARZAN gives him a
"what the fuck are you laughing at" look.

SAJIDA doesn't answer, exits leaving RAGHAD confused.

28

28

TERRACE - UDAY, 15, smokes the cigar, he looks quite the expert. His brother, QUSAY is slouched in a chair.

You'll make yourself sick again.

UDAY pulls a handgun from his waistband and points it at QUSAY (who remains relaxed).

(easy; tough guy)
If your name is called you're a dead man.

(beat)
Qusay Saddam Hussein.

If Baba sees you waving that gun around the only dead man will be you.

QUSAY gets up and calmly walks away.

(easy, as he exits)
You're an idiot Uday.

(easy, no anger, aiming gun)
You're lucky you're my brother.

A light goes on in a room across the garden, the window of which have the blinds closed. UDAY looks to the light, he sees a shadow of his father.

28A

28A

A vast, dimly-lit, marble corridor. Hear footsteps; see SAJIDA walking with a purpose... toward a thin strip of light beneath huge double doors.

SAJIDA is banging on a closed door. She is angry and upset. Bang, bang, bang.

(at the closed door;
controlled anger)
He was your friend Saddam!... His wife
was my friend! How am I supposed to
face her now? What am I supposed to
say to her?
(she bangs on the door)
Answer me!

We find UDAY a distance away, watching from a hiding place. SAJIDA keeps banging.

Then click - the door is unlocked and it is opened. A rough looking SADDAM looks at SAJIDA.

...He was your friend!

SADDAM'S EYES are red, he looks tired... He reaches out and touches SAJIDA'S face, SHE AVOIDS HIS TOUCH.

(softly; firstly about the
"rejection")
You are right.
(pause, still softly)
Yes, he was my friend... but only
history and God can judge me.
(pause)
He could have been a threat Sajida; to
ours dreams, to our country... so I
did what was necessary.
(beat; stronger)
And a man who can sacrifice even his
best friend, is a man without a
weakness... In the eyes of my enemies,
I am stronger; Hamdani has made me
stronger.

Hold. He reaches out to touch her face again - and she allows the contact.

29A

29A

Find UDAY - who has been watching.

30

30

The Presidential car flashes past as part of a motorcade.

Inside the car find SADDAM and SAJIDA.

31

31

The motorcade pulls into a residential street and stops outside a villa. Inside the car:

I can't do this. I can't face her.

A BODYGUARD opens the door of the car. SADDAM looks at SAJIDA, shakes her head. SADDAM gets out of the car alone and straightens himself and his suit. People stop and stare at this unexpected sighting. Some edge forward to kiss the hand of the PRESIDENT as he makes his way to the door of the villa - which opens as he reaches it. SADDAM enters the villa. SAJIDA is still sitting in the car...she knows she has to follow SADDAM.

32

32

SANAA HAMDANI and the other WOMEN of her family are MOURNING the death of her HUSBAND (ADNAN HAMDANI). Dressed in black they sit in a circle, holding framed photographs, and wail.

Suddenly there is silence. SADDAM has entered the room. The women hold their breath. SANAA is the last to notice his presence. When she sees him she is convulsed with horror and fear. She manages to remain steady and still with the aid of the other WOMEN.

SADDAM stays still and waits, shaking his head slowly, as if in disbelief - how did this happen?

SANAA then realises, as do we, that SADDAM is crying.

I loved him like a brother. I want you
to know, you will never need for
anything as long as I live. I loved
him...

He holds his arms out to her, as though asking for her
to comfort him. SANAA holds back for a moment, but then
realises that she has no option. She receives a nudge
in the back from a relative and she steps forward,
SADDAM embraces her.

He and I spoke often, so very often,
about how we would put the nation
before our own needs... Did he ever
talk like that to you?

...Yes.

So I know in my heart, that he would
have understood. In my place, he would
have done the same.

SANAA'S DAUGHTER (8), comes up and puts her arms around
her mother's waist, comfortingly, protectively, staring
dumbly up at SADDAM. He puts his hand on the little
GIRL'S head.

(protecting her daughter)
What is good for Iraq, is good for me
and my children... He followed you in
all things Amo Saddam;
(because she has to)
...And so do I.

SAJIDA has entered the room and appreciates the
perversity of the scene she is witnessing.

:

SADDAM and SAJIDA emerge from the house.

A larger crowd have gathered and as SADDAM emerges
there is a referential "buzz" from the crowd - it is
him, it is the President. Then a few echoed calls "Long
live Saddam", "God save Saddam". CROWD begin to find
their voices and cheer and call his name.

SADDAM acknowledges his people and moves slowly to his car, the CROWD are kept a short distance away by BODYGUARDS. SAJIDA is a little nervous. SADDAM decides. . .

We will walk with the people for a while.

SADDAM walks past the Tw 4a0 01e and move wi pt.

A WORKERS CAFE - the TV shows SADDAM and the FIRST FAMILY on WALKABOUTS (it is a different walkabout to the previous scene) - the TV COMMENTATOR is lavishing praise on the PRESIDENT and his family (in arabic).

The WORKERS in the crowded cafe talk mainly between the themselves; a few loners at the counter watch the TV.

Find a nervous YOUNG MAN at the counter, sweating. He has a bag over his shoulder. He glances at the TV; he finishes his Turkish coffee. He wipes his mouth, brow and hands. He takes the bag and nudges it under a table. He exits the CAFE.

The YOUNG MAN exits the cafe and walks away, very briskly.

Inside the cafe, Saddam is still with his people on TV.

BANG! The window of the cafe blows out; bodies, tables and contents are sent flying.

Through a heat haze, see a motorcade approaching in the far distance, then-

The motorcade flashes past. Inside one of the cars, find TARIQ AZIZ, working papers on his lap.

Saddam is a true son of Tikrit... and
in the tribal mentality, there exist
no values beyond power.

TARIQ AZIZ (CONT'D)

He surrounds himself with blood relatives, Tikritis; they are the people he can trust - they won't give him up.

(pause)

I can't tell you where he is because I don't know... All I can tell you is that he'll never leave Iraq - Iraq belongs to Saddam.

40

40

The MOTORCADE drives away from us and disappears into the haze from which it emerged.

41

41

A glorious desert landscape; the sands shift, move and change shape.

Find a father and son walking together, tiny figures in the expanse, SADDAM and UDAY, both carrying rifles.

(easy; warmly, as they walk)

... Look around you Uday... Mesopotamia: the land between two rivers. Do you know the first great armies and empires were founded here?... The first laws were written here. We have the birthplace of civilisation beneath our feet, and it's ours.

(pause)

We are lucky men Uday; you and me... we have a land to die for.

UDAY says nothing, the father and son walk on.

Baba, I'm hot.

(keeps moving)

Have you heard a word I've said!

(no response)

You are your mother's son!

(beat)

Of course you're hot, you're in the desert... drink some water. We are Hunters...

Following them, some distance behind is CHEMICAL ALI and HUSSEIN KAMEL (carrying several rifles).

42

42

Find a large traditional Bedouin tent; around it, the VEHICLES from the previous motorcade. SERVANTS unload food, clothes and equipment from cars and continue to make camp.

SUBHA (SADDAM'S MOTHER) is there; she sucks on a plate of dates. She watches as SAJIDA talks to ADNAN KHAI RALLAH in the near distance. The CHILDREN are also present.

(having a good moan)
I don't know why we have to come back
to this Godforsaken place.
(immediately, at a
SERVANT)
Be careful with that!

(about the Godforsaken
place)
It's home.

44

44

SADDAM remembers. . . .

The barefoot BOY stands on the cliff top. Bang.

45

45

HUNTING PARTY. UDAY has missed. The HARE runs off.

(evenly)
Bastard.

Never mind Uday, he moved.

(a trace of
disappointment)
. . . . When I was a boy; if I missed it
meant empty bellies for my family, and
a beating from my step-father.
(beat, easier)
Now he was a bastard.

He ruffles his SON'S hair and they move on.

These days I have to feed a nation.

. . . . I want to shoot at something
bigger.

46

46

SADDAM drops SEVERAL HARES at the feet of KAMEL HANNA.

Prepare them.

The HUNTING PARTY have returned. SAJIDA greets SADDAM
with an embrace.

Your mother would like to see you.
She's inside.

Cars pull up - it is TARIQ'S motorcade.

(watching TARIQ emerge)
I'll be with her as soon as I can.
Tell her.

47

47

SADDAM, ALI, TARIQ, ADNAN KHAI RALLAH and KAMEL HANNA are gathered. SADDAM looks through the report, which include PHOTO'S OF THE BOMB-SITE (CAFE) and a mug-shot of the bomber.

(a report in his hands)
An agent of Iran?

No doubt.

(throwaway)
Bastard.

And in the south Mohammed Bakr Al-Sadr and his Dawa Party have now pledged open allegiance to Khomeini.

(evenly; not unexpected news)
Treason.

I have my army units at the ready, in case of up-ri sing.

(continues, calmly)
Iraq's army.

Of course.

Mohammed Bakr Al-Sadr is one man. It is Khomeini who is the problem. Khomeini is a Cause.

(pause)
It's time for all our people to declare themselves as Iraqi; first and foremost... I struggle to see any option but military.

With what military objective?

...We value your opinion Adnan, let us have it.

We don't want to appear weak, but would it be an idea to seek the views of our allies? Both Arab and Western?... If there is

And talking! Where's Barzan? Where's Sabawi; Watban?

They are busy.

They should be here! Ali Hassan Al-Majid is here! He brings his cousin Hussein.

Who is also my cousin. They are eager to show their loyalty.

They are eager to make their fortunes. Nor should you be trusting Adnan Khairallah; yes, he's clever, but he knows it; he has ambitions... It is your brothers who should always be beside you in council.

Pause, SADDAM decides that it's best not to be drawn into the argument. SUBHA seems to be pacified. Until...

.....and your son has the grace of pig.

Uday.

And your wife allows it! All the way here he did nothing but break wind.

He's a boy, what should I do, beat him Mama? Drive him away from his home?

...You have too much to say to your Mother. Leave me...I'm tired.

(quietly serious)
Mama tells that you don't have enough work?

(wary; quietly)
...She said this?

She says you should be involved in everything I do, is that what you want? To be the President's shadow?

.....No.

No?

No Mi ster Presi dent.

(quiet edge)
You have a job and that is to protect me, my government and my people; I suggest you concentrate on doing it.

(overlaps protests calmly)
I haven't spoken to Mama.

Do you have no ambi ti ons Barzan?

Hold a moment on BARZAN, how does he answer this - but he already has, with a pause!

(pause)
Only to serve my country.

As the GUARD pushes the revolving door, a grenade is thrown into the open end. The GUARD can only stare at the momentarily dormant grenade, then BANG!

The grenade explodes and the GUARD, TARIQ and OTHERS are blown backwards. The glass in the door and the windows of the front of the lobby area shatter.

SCENE DELETED

...We will have their support.

(pause)

It's time to show the Cleric the will
of the People's Army..... It is time
for war.

See TARIQ doubting the decision internally.

53

53

SADDAM fastens up his Field Marshall's uniform and
admires his reflection. He salutes himself. Hold.

53A

53A

TARIQ and the CASE OFFICER.

I don't know how many ways I can say
it - I do not know the whereabouts of
my President.

He is not your President any more.

As long as Saddam is alive he will
still be President - don't take my
word for it, ask the people.
(MORE)

TARIQ AZIZ (CONT'D)

(pause)

They have followed him into many battles; from our war against Iran, to the present day - the people have followed him...

(pause)

You have promised how many millions of dollars for information - and still he's free... Why?

Hold.

54

54

An Iraqi propaganda cartoon plays on the TV. Iraq is at war with Iran; a cartoon tank fires shells at a cartoon Khomeini.

The cartoon is playing on the TV of a cafe; watched by Iraqi CIVILIANS... when their coffee disturbed by suited MUKHARBARAT OFFICERS herding the CIVILIANS out into the street.

55

55

A market street in a small town. SADDAM, HUSSEIN and two AMERICAN JOURNALISTS, DEAN BRELIS and a PHOTOGRAPHER, are walking through the PEOPLE.

The CIVILIANS from the cafe are cajoled into cheering for SADDAM.

We want to have good relations with the U.S. We want people in America to understand what has happened inside Iraq. Ask the people directly; go into their homes and see for yourselves their love for their country.

And for their President; it is remarkable. Nobody forces them to put pictures of Saddam Hussein on their walls, they choose to do it.

At the appropriate time, we will say to the Americans "Come".

(MORE)

SADDAM (CONT'D)

Only the war prevents us from
establishing trade and other relations
with the U.S.

Is it true that the war is going to
bankrupt the economy?

These stories are lies. Speak to the
people; ask them if they want for
anything.

And what of the reports of Iran's
military success - forcing Iraqi
troops back to the borders?

A WOMAN rushes up to SADDAM with flowers.

There are always set-backs on the road
to victory, and recently Iran has been
aided by foreign expertise. But we are
capable of over-coming them now.

(beat)

Gentlemen, we have arranged a surprise
for you.

56

56

GUNMEN emerge from a crowd and fire shots into a 1950's
ESTATE CAR. The CAR slews and stops; the MEN within
return fire. A YOUNG SADDAM HUSSEIN is hit in the leg
and drags himself off.

(shouts)

Cut!

Pull back to reveal that this is a film set. YOUNG
SADDAM is being played by SADDAM KAMEL. The real SADDAM
is watching with HUSSEIN KAMEL and the two JOURNALISTS.

Very good. Impressive. Is that what it
was like?

(easy)

No not at all, in reality when I was
shot in this leg here, the bullet
actually hurt.

The film will cover the early life of the President, when he was fighting for a free Iraq.

(the modest President!)
It is for the people, for the purposes of morale.

(calls)
Saddam!

SADDAM KAMEL (YOUNG SADDAM) looks over and sees SADDAM HUSSEIN, he walks immediately across.

Amo, what an honour.

You did well.

Thank you.

These gentlemen are from Time Magazine.

(to the JOURNALISTS)
A remarkable resemblance don't you think.

You're cousins right?

That's correct.

Saddam Kamel is my brother.

And he's Saddam and you're Hussain.

We have a lot to live up to.

Unbelievable.

A CLASS of SCHOOL CHILDREN sing a patriotic song for SADDAM; or recite a chant. SADDAM applauds. GART and BRELIS watch.

Excellent. Wonderful.
(to the TEACHER)
You have worked very hard.

The children enjoy it Amo, very much.

The SCHOOL-TEACHER is a beautiful blonde in her late twenties, SAMIRA. CUT TO -

SADDAM walks along the line of little CHILDREN

(as SADDAM places his hand
on their heads)
Thank you Amo Saddam.
(each CHILD says the same)
Thank you Amo Saddam.

SADDAM stops at a pretty little GIRL.

(to SAMIRA)
This one looks like my own daughter,
Hala.

She is very pretty.

He stoops to the LITTLE GIRL'S level.

(softly; with a smile)

SAMI RA smiles "shyly". SADDAM looks to the JOURNALISTS.

58

58

SADDAM rides in the back of his car, next to him is BARZAN. HUSSEIN KAMEL AL MAJID drives. They flash past poster after portrait after mural after picture of Saddam. See on HUSSEIN'S wrist that he is wearing a Saddam Rolex!

*
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*
*

Hold - then the motorcade is overtaking a truck - carrying a load of roughly manufactured, empty, coffins. Soldiers' coffins.

*
*
*

SADDAM leans, watches the truck as they ease past. We see the DRIVER glance nervously towards the blacked-out windows of the limos.

*
*
*

(about the truck; calmly)
Hussein, the Driver of that truck is to be arrested; his cargo should be covered.

*
*
*
*
*

I'll see to it.

*
*

Wives and mothers do not needed to be reminded of their sacrifice.

*
*
*

(pause)
Everything in the City should be normal.

*
*
*

See that BARZAN may disagree - he is quiet for a moment but has something to say.

*
*

(tentatively)
Should we also be thinking of other towns and cities? Our soldiers come from all over; what of the wives and mothers of Mosul, Basra, Dujail?... Our losses are many; normality is a dream in these places.

*
*
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*
*
*
*

Glimpse HUSSEIN in the rear-view.

*

(must say something!)
...Victory will heal everything.

*
*
*

...You are right Hussein; victory will bring rewards for all.

*
*
*

Of course... but these many families
have lost fathers, son's, brothers...
and what will heal them right now, is
sight of their President!

(SADDAM'S ears prick up at
the praise; pause)

Your people need you Saddam, you have
to go to them... Let them see you! Let
him reach out to try and touch you!...
The war is casting a shadow only you
can lift.....

SADDAM agrees with a look and a nod. BARZAN LOOKS INTO
HUSSEIN eyes in the rear-view - point won.

The motorcade moves on.

58A

58A

SADDAM moves through the palace and finds his daughters
(RAGHAD, RANA and HALA) playing (maybe the two older
girls are dressing up HALA - a living doll).

Raghad, where's your mother?

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Still.

(beat)

Baba she won't be back for days...

The CHILDREN continue playing; see that SADDAM isn't happy.

59 SCENE DELETED

59

60

SADDAM is around a table with HUSSEIN, ADNAN, BARZAN, WATBAN and TARIQ. Still angry, after the argument with Sajida.

60

She took 21 of her friends, on an Iraqi Airlines 747 -

- And that justifies this kind of expenditure? Three million pounds sterling... Why wasn't I informed?

You would have been informed.

Were you keeping it from me Barzan?

No! A report is being prepared; Saddam she hasn't finished shopping! The bills are still arriving!

SADDAM glances to ADNAN, who can only shrug.

(a pause; not happy)

.....A 747... ..She'll fill it.

(pause; new subject;
refers to a report;
evenly but the dark mood
carries)

What else has been hidden from me...?

(pause)

Why am I reading of Iranian successes on the battlefield? ...Why did we fail at Al-Mohammerah?

(evenly)

At Al-Mohammerah, our lines were simply overwhelmed by force of numbers.

(MORE)

ADNAN KHAI RALLAH (CONT'D)

We were taking too many casualties,
and a withdrawal was ordered.

So our soldiers refused to die for
their country?

It was becoming a massacre Mister
President. It was a tactical decision
to fall back and regroup.

(calmly)

It was a coward's decision and because
of it we have lost Al-Mohammerah.

(he consults the paper)

I want Colonel Ahmed Al Dulaimi and
General Jawad Shiatna executed.

HUSSEIN writes this down.

Mister President, they are two of our
best; their decision was purely
tactical.

(overlaps with edge)

The Iraqi Army does not retreat!

(pause)

We must show courage and leadership
General Khai rallah.

(beat)

Barzan, summon the Commanders in
question and oversee their execution;
immediately.

SADDAM stands, he's had enough.

Stand for the President!

SADDAM exits, HUSSEIN proudly marches alongside SADDAM
and out of the room.

The OTHERS are left standing...

... Hussein's like Saddam's Siamese
fucking twin.

He's doing his job Barzan, nothing
more.

(not happy)
He's doing something.

61 SCENE DELETED

61

61A

61A

SAJIDA is surrounded by clothes and shopping bags. She is holding her purchases up to her body...when SADDAM startles her.

(evenly)
How was London? Besides expensive?

...It was what I needed.

We are at war.

SAJIDA sees that he wants an argument.

(touch of sarcasm)
I thought we were pretending
everything is normal?

(overlaps with edge, and
the argument starts)
Iraq is at war, and the wife of the
President goes and spends millions of
pounds shopping in London!

Yes! Because the wife of the President
doesn't get to see him anymore! He
prefers Cabinet rooms and Night-clubs
to his home! So what if I spent some
money, I'm entitled!

How do you think this looks to the
people...to the world?

Mr President the world doesn't
care!

KAMEL HANNA moves off.

She's pretty.

(easy; playful)
She's married...not that it matters.

SAMI RA and her HUSBAND join SADDAM, CHEMICAL ALI and HUSSEIN.

Mister President, we are honoured.

And I'm honoured you're honoured;
please
(he indicates a seat next
to ALI; then to SAMI RA)
You look beautiful. Sit here, next to
me.

Thank you.

SADDAM is now totally focussed on SAMI RA.

And may I just...
(he pushes her hair back a
touch)
..so I can see you.

And I you.

Thank you for coming.

(I'm still here!)
We are honoured.

Yes, you said.

SADDAM is engrossed with SAMI RA. Her HUSBAND has been side-lined; is feeling humiliated and there's nothing he can do but sit there! HUSSEIN watches for a few moments then sits beside the HUSBAND and twists the knife.

May I say that your wife is very
beautiful.
(MORE)

HUSSEIN (CONT'D)

(no response)

You must love her very much.

I do...

(pause)

I think the President likes her.

She is my wife.

He is the President.

SAMI RA'S husband goes to move, or even try to talk to SADDAM - HUSSEIN gently stops him.

I'd really do nothing if I were you.
There will be compensation.

HUSSEIN enjoys the power buzz. SADDAM strokes SAMI RA'S smooth skin.

63 SCENE DELETED

63

64

64

SADDAM moves through the palace to find the FAMILY gathered outside SUBHA'S ROOM; he pauses then moves towards them - he looks to SAJIDA who says nothing.

(softly)

She's very weak...

SADDAM enters the room.

65

65

SADDAM enters to find BARZAN at their MOTHER'S bedside. SUBHA'S breathing is weak and shallow.

... Mama...

(weakly)
Barzan, leave us... I wish to talk to
Saddam.

BARZAN reluctantly leaves. SADDAM moves closer to his
MOTHER.

66

66

SADDAM remembers...

GLIMPSE the BOY in the desert - he is standing over a
dead HARE. The BOY picks up the carcass.

67

67

SADDAM takes his MOTHER'S hand, but without affection.
Her breathing is wheezy and shallow.

(struggling)
In your family lies your strength.

On SADDAM, he doesn't want to hear this.

Blood is permanent... I want Raghad to
marry Barzan's boy. I want you to keep
the family together, my family

I know you do.

Keep Barzan close. He has always been
loyal to you, ever since you were
little.

(continues)

You should rest.

Look after Watban... He's too weak to
look after himself.

SUBHA is near death, and she knows it. Long pause.

It's a good thing you never knew your
father... he was bad blood.

SADDAM takes her hand, almost cold. He's going through
the motions.

(evenly; emotionless)
You gave me everything Mama.

SUBHA breathing quickens; shortens... SADDAM watches as
she slowly dies... He feels nothing.

68

68

SADDAM remembers...

GLIMPSE - The BOY drops the HARE carcass.

69

69

SUBHA is dead. SADDAM drops her hand from his grasp.
Hold on SADDAM.

70

70

We see the funeral. The MEN of the family carry the
coffin, putting it down in the appropriate spot.

We see and hear the IMAM (standing at the shoulder of
SUBHA'S body) and the prayer - holding on an implacable
SADDAM.

(recites the DUA after
silent prayers)
Oh Allah! Forgive those of us that are
alive and those of us that are dead;
those of us that are present, and
those of us that are absent; those of
us that are young and those of us that
are adult; our male our females. Oh
Allah! whomsoever of us You keep
alive.

(MORE)

IMAM (CONT' D)

Let him live as a follower of Islam,
and whomsoever You cause to die, let
him die as a believer.

71

71

BARZAN approaches SADDAM and they embrace.

(softly)

She was proud of you... and of our
strength as a family.

As I am.

(BARZAN nods gently,
assuming a meeting of
minds; pause)

But you should know Barzan... it was
her wish before she died, that Raghad
should marry Hussein.

(BARZAN is rocked)

...What?

HUSSEIN is standing dutifully near-by with CHEMICAL ALI
and SADDAM KAMEL (HUSSEIN'S younger brother).

I was as surprised as you.

Raghad has been promised to my son
Mohammed for years, you know it.

It was her wish.

No.

(a degree firmer)

She thought it was time to recognise
my father's family.

(a challenge)

She said this?... Not to me.

(pause)

Saddam, I have been loyal to you,
always; and now this insult - not just
to me but to all the Ibrahims,
please..... think of my honour.

SADDAM's car is now travelling at speed, the third car in a motorcade of four.

Silence - the CAR glides along the road - Palm groves pass outside the windows - it's been a perfect day!
Then NOISE...

Gunfire. The car brakes, slews and shunts into the car in front. Machine-gunfire shatters the windows and the DRIVER is killed. The car in turn is shunted. All hell breaks loose. It's an ambush.

The occupants of all cars in the motorcade come out FIRING. Some are HIT. SADDAM scrambles out of his car and crouches at the back of the car, next to a wheel. All around him is gunfire.

SADDAM remembers....

Glimpse the image of a rancid, maggoty hare on a plate in front of the barefoot BOY - he snaps it up and take a bite!

The ATTACKERS, in the palm grove, can now be seen and the gun fight ensues. The SOLDIERS begin expertly picking them off. GRENADES are thrown into the PALM GROVE and the ATTACKERS begin to take flight.

The immediate threat is past...bodyguards arrive by SADDAM. SADDAM notices that his hand is trembling and it fuels his anger further.

(dismissive of BARZAN)
The investigation is after the fact,
it comes too late... Hussein; how many
rounds of ammunition was fired at my
cars?

I estimate in excess of 300.

(to BARZAN)
300 rounds; I'm not immortal. All it
takes is one bullet; yet these
traitors were given 300 opportunities
to kill me.

(evenly but defensive)
And they will be found and punished.

(overlaps calmly)
I hear you're the second most powerful
man in Iraq Barzan.
(beat)
Some might say it's you who has the
most to gain from my assassination?

...No...no Your Excellency. No one is
more loyal than me. I am your brother.
(pause; a glance to
HUSSEIN)
I will

81

81

Bulldozers tear into houses. INHABITANTS, now REFUGEES, shuffle past in the line and are beaten with sticks and cables if they dare to dwell. Children scream. Find BARZAN, overseeing the brutality - himself screaming at the bulldozers!

(losing it!)
TEAR IT ALL DOWN! EVERYTHING! I WANT
EVERYTHING DESTROYED! CRUSHED! EVERY
HOUSE, EVERY BRICK! EVERYTHING!

82

SCENE DELETED

82

83

83

RAGHAD, 16 is getting ready for her wedding ceremony. She is surrounded by women - her sisters RANA, 14 and HALA, 11; a sister-in-law to be; some older women in black. There is a festive atmosphere as they perfect her make up and fuss with the dress.

(holding the veil)
Nearly there...

HALA enters and watches for a moment.

Mama says Baba wants to see Raghad. As soon as she is ready.

RANA puts the veil on the floor to adjust the dress. HALA snatches up the veil, puts it on her head and runs out of the room and down a corridor - the veil flowing behind her. RANA chases after her on to the mezzanine of the ballroom.

84

84

SAJIDA watches as (above her) HALA is caught by RANA and escorted by to the dressing room.

SAMI RA enters above, at the first floor level and begins to descend the curved stair-way (escorted by KAMEL HANNA). SAJIDA watches SAMI RA; ADNAN passes a drink to SAJIDA.

BARZAN passes ADNAN.

(stops BARZAN, easy tease)
Barzan. Did you enjoy Dujail?

See BARZAN is wired. It can't distinguish the tone of the question and answers it straight.

...It was necessary. My duty.

ADNAN can see BARZAN is pre-occupied and possibly a little drunk. Then above...

The MAJIDS arrive, smiling on the Mezzanine; CHEMICAL ALI, HUSSEIN KAMEL (the groom) and SADDAM KAMEL. HUSSEIN is wearing an expensively cut cream suit, the others are in dark lounge suits. SADDAM KAMEL is in military uniform. BARZAN sees them, he moves off towards the stairway. ADNAN follows, fearing a confrontation.

WATBAN, SAWABI and MOHAMMED watch... as BARZAN begins to descend the stairs towards the AL-MAJIDS.

They meet on the stairs - there is a moment where they stop and eye-ball each other.

...Barzan, you look wasted.

BARZAN completely blanks the AL-MAJIDS and pushes past them to the mezzanine level. ADNAN greets the AL-MAJIDS.

85

85

SADDAM looks at his DAUGHTER. He takes hold of RAGHAD'S hands.

Beautiful... you look simply beautiful, Raghad.

(pause)

I would only trust the happiness of my daughter to a man who owed me everything. Hussein is such a man. He will be a good husband.

RAGHAD looks over SADDAM'S shoulder and sees BARZAN. SADDAM turns.

Mister President; I have things that need to be said.

...Here?

BARZAN steps closer to SADDAM for intimacy and privacy; he desperately wants approval!

It's done... I have carried out your orders to the letter. Dujail has gone... it is my wedding gift to you.
(no reaction from SADDAM)
The traitors, their families and their associates are no more.

I know.
(pause)
You look tired Barzan.

No. Not at all. I am ready to serve my President; my brother.

(calmly; casually)
From now on Hussein will be responsible for my Personal security, he will be my son, I trust him.
(pause)
We will talk more later. I have plans for you.

SADDAM attempt to move away from BARZAN but BARZAN takes hold of his arm. The audience seem to grow increasingly nervous.

(overlaps, hurt by the rejection; still quietly; close in)
I want to talk now. Why are you insulting me this way? I have been loyal to you? I have done everything you've asked of me... I have even accepted this wedding!?
(pause; frustration growing)
By continuing to favour the Al-Majids you are surrounding yourself with weakness! They are not interested in Iraq!

(takes hold of BARZAN'S
face)

Know your place Barzan! They are my
blood!... You may be my brother but I
see unrest in you; for your own sake;
for the good of your son; don't make
me feel that this unrest is permanent.

BARZAN feels a chill down his spine.

....I have given you my soul....

(long pause)

You will attend the wedding, and then
you will leave Iraq...because I love
you.

(pause)

You'll have work to do elsewhere...

(pause)

I have guests waiting.

Hold on BARZAN.

86

86

Bang! BARZAN kicks the door of a cubicle as hard as he
can with the sole of his shoe - BANG - the door flies
back hits a wall and swings back towards BARZAN - he
kicks again - BANG! Again, BANG!

87

87

Houses crumbl e.

BARZAN KICKS THE DOOR.

REFUGEES are now a line of PRISONERS, CHILDREN and
ADULTS, they are beaten and whipped with cable as they
run a gauntlet to their cell.

BARZAN KICKS THE DOOR.

Staring blankly out from the bars of a crowded cell is
the face of the WOMAN who kissed Saddam's hand in
Dujail.

BARZAN KICKS THE DOOR.

The shadow of a four man gallows against the wall.
Four waiting shadows, suddenly drop through with an
awful thud. Shadow feet kick against the wall. And
then the BODIES drop as they are cut down.

A SWEATING BARZAN HAS STOPPED KICKING. HOLD.

Glimpse a pile of BODIES - a mass grave.

BARZAN WIPES HIS FACE AND HANDS WITH A TOWEL AND AGAIN
LOOKS AT HIS SMART REFLECTION....

88

88

RAGHAD and her procession emerge on to the mezzanine to
the gasps of the GUESTS below. HUSSEIN is sitting on
his throne; he beams at his bride-to-be as she descends
the stair-case. UDAY is less happy as he watches from a
corner of the room.

TARIQ smiles and nods his approval. RAGHAD makes her
way to her throne besides HUSSEIN. Then, and only then
does SADDAM make his own grand entrance..

SAJIDA looks from SADDAM to SAMIRA (KAMEL HANNA still
by her side); as SAMIRA watches only the PRESIDENT. The
smile momentarily falls from her face as she thinks she
spies a look between her husband and the beautiful
blonde.

(to ADNAN)
Who's the blonde?

In a glass elevator, SADDAM descends from the heavens
to the applause of the adoring family and GUESTS..

89

SCENE DELETED

89