INQUEST

by

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Based on true events.

EXT. LES LOUETTES FRANCE - ROADWAY - DUSK

A small Peugot races its way through a dense forest of soaring pines.

INT. PEUGOT - CONTINUOUS

MICHAEL DAVIES (33), wearing a battered suit, is on his cell...

CLARKE (O.S.)
Got some info back from the phone records.

DAVIES
Find anything?

CLARKE (O.S.)
Usual listings for police stations, officers. Two names with the abbreviation DST next to them --

DAVIES
La Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire. Handles espionage and terrorism.

CLARKE (O.S.)
Checked with a source at the phone company. No records of any of those numbers dialed from Henri's phones the 30th.
(beat)
No large cash withdrawals from his bank account either.

Untangling a paper map, DAVIES spots his turnoff...

DAVIES
I've gotta run. Tracked down someone else who could be a break.

CLARKE (O.S.)
Something about Henri?

DAVIES
Tell you when I'm back tomorrow.

CLARKE (O.S.)
Okay, safe travels Michael.

EXT. LES LOUETTES - WOODED AREA

DAVIES scans a secluded area -- eventually spotting a car parked in the distance.

DAVIES
(shouting)
James?

His voice echoes. Then silence. Slowly approaching the car...

DAVIES (CONT'D)
James? I'd like to speak with you. Your wife said I could find you here.

A MASSIVE FIREBALL as the car ERUPTS. DAVIES dives for cover. A hail of shrapnel and foliage. Off his confused look we...

CUT TO:

INT. LONDON FLAT - BEDROOM - MORNING

SUPERIMPOSE:

Three months earlier.

September 2007

DAVIES frantically dresses. Attractive and well-groomed, he nails the perfect necktie length in one go, all the while practicing a speech--

DAVIES
And so Lord Justice, it is imperative that what has amounted to a clear conflict of interest violates...
(beat)
...an overt conflict of interest that offends any sense of decency...
(beat)
...a flagrant...

Scours for something in the cramped bedroom -- tossing sheets on the unmade bed, moving around stacks of books...

DAVIES (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Honey?

No response. Racing downstairs.

INT. DAVIES FLAT - KITCHEN

DAVIES
Catherine, have you seen my --

Bingo. Calmly eating cereal, his daughter HANNAH (7) sports the traditional white powdered wig worn by British lawyers. Kisses her on the cheek and grabs it.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Not a toy.

Wife CATHERINE scans the newspaper.

CATHERINE
What time should we be there today?

DAVIES
Closing arguments are at noon. But with the amount of media expected, security could take an hour.

CATHERINE
Speaking of media, is that the tie you're wearing?

DAVIES
If my ability to persuade the jury rests on fashion, then we have larger problems.

Flipping the pages, CATHERINE suddenly visibly about something...

DAVIES (CONT'D)
What is it?

DAVIES looks at the paper. SLAMS his fist in disappointment.

CUT TO:

INT. CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE HQ - MORNING

DAVIES storms through the corridors of England's headquarters for criminal prosecutors. A maze of cramped offices and overflowing file boxes.

He carries a briefcase in one hand and a stack of folders in the other, atop which a cup of coffee is balanced.

DAVIES struggles to open his office door. The coffee cup tumbles and the split coffee clings to his white dress shirt in a flailing attempt to avoid free fall.

DAVIES
Bullocks!

Just missing his cue, CHRISTOPHER CLARKE (55) finds use for his considerable heft -- throwing it into the jammed door.

CLARKE
Help you with that?

CLARKE grabs some of the folders and helps DAVIES into the office.

DAVIES
Just in time.

CLARKE
What's gotten into you?

Throws him the newspaper...

DAVIES
Alistair let the Smithe case settle out. Two years of my work and I find out in the bloody Times.

CLARKE
A year in jail isn't an awful result.

DAVIES
Despite taking 5 million pounds worth of bribes from BAE, on release he'll still be called The Right Honourable.

CLARKE
Eighth generation House of Lords. Did you expect he'd get sacked away in Tower of London for the rest of his life?

DAVIES
Case could have made my career. Ends up I get more respect from the criminals I prosecute than my own boss.

CLARKE
Not much of a distinction there.

MRS. TRACY (65), more boarding school headmaster than secretary, stands at the door and delicately clears her throat.

MRS. TRACY
Mr. Davies, telephone for you.

CLARKE
Who is it?

MRS. TRACY
Didn't say.

DAVIES
(to CLARKE)
Right then, off you go.
(picking up phone)
This is Michael Davies.

Indistinct chatter on the other side of the line.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
This is quite a surprise.

Skeptical, DAVIES peeks outside his office, looking up and down the halls to make sure this isn't a joke.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Yes, I'm still here ... I know where it is ... See you then, cheers.

DAVIES gathers his briefcase.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Mrs. Tracy, I'll be back this afternoon. Have to go take care of a few things.

CUT TO:

EXT. HARRODS DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY

DAVIES navigates a side street alongside the million-square foot shopping palace. Adjusting his suit to hide his coffee-stained shirt, he enters through the door labelled EXECUTIVE OFFICES.

INT. HARRODS DEPARTMENT STORE - OFFICE LOBBY

Tentatively approaching the secretary --

DAVIES
(whispering)
Hello, I'm Michael Davies. Here for an appointment with Mr. Al Fayed.

SECRETARY
Yes, Mr. Davies. He'll be with you shortly. Can we get you anything while you wait?

DAVIES
No thank you, I'm fine.

DAVIES takes a seat, trying to conceal his nervousness, which is made all the more difficult upon noticing the store motto emblazoned above two large oak doors:

***Omnia Omnibus Ubique* - All Things for All People, Everywhere.**

DISSOLVE TO:

One hour later. DAVIES has skimmed most of the available reading material. His impatience grows...

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Excuse--

SECRETARY
(without looking up)
Almost ready Mr. Davies.

The large doors thrust open and MOHAMMED AL FAYED emerges. DAVIES' frustration is no match for the natural charm of the well-tanned, grandfatherly billionaire.

AL FAYED uses both hands to grasp for one of DAVIES'.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
My deepest apologies for keeping you waiting.

DAVIES
Yes sir, not a problem.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Right this way.

INT. HARRODS DEPARTMENT STORE - AL FAYED'S OFFICE

Panoramic views of London. Walls lined with pictures of AL FAYED and practically every world leader.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Please, have a seat.

The SECRETARY delivers two cups of tea.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED (CONT'D)
These tea leaves are flown in weekly from my farm in Assam. The best you've tasted, yes?

DAVIES
Rather pleasant, thank you.
(beat)
I must admit, I was a bit perplexed when you telephoned earlier.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
And I'm guessing you probably still are.

DAVIES
Quite accurate, yes.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Do you remember a case you prosecuted about two years ago? This whole Arlington nonsense.

DAVIES
Our nation's largest defence contractor knowingly selling weapons to arm rebels in the Congo. Violating a dozen national and international laws.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
I followed the case closely. And was always impressed with the bravery you showed going after someone like that.

DAVIES
Thank you, sir.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
I've seen your name surface here and there since then. Which is why I wanted to reach out to you for some help.

DAVIES
Along what lines?

DAVIES, an OBSESSIVE NOTE-TAKER, manifests a distinctive brown, playing-card sized pocket notepad.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Ten years ago, my son's life was taken in Paris.

DAVIES
Of course. My condolences.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Allah has his reasons.

DAVIES
I have a daughter. I can't even imagine how difficult it is to lose a child in an accident like that.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
I know people think I'm crazy when I say this. But it wasn't an accident.

DAVIES
With all due respect sir, I know many theories exist as to the cause. But there was a very thorough investigation by the French police.

AL FAYED throws up his hands -- swatting away the air containing DAVIES' response.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
There's an old Egyptian saying -- because we focused on the snake we missed the scorpion. These investigators assumed it was an accident from the start. And they failed to look into darker forces.

DAVIES
And just who are you alleging these "darker" forces are?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
The night they died, my son and Diana told me that they were engaged. I spoke to Diana myself. She was completely full of happiness. They told me they would announce their engagement on Monday morning, once she had spoken to her sons when she had returned from Paris.

DAVIES
And how does that lead to something more than an accident?

AL FAYED takes a deep breath --

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Diana told me that she was pregnant. The people who do not want to see Dodi be step-father to the future king wanted them dead.

DAVIES
You're suggesting that the Crown had your son and Diana killed because they were worried about her marrying an Egyptian?

AL FAYED'S temper gets the best of him...

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
I lived here for 40 years, I give my life to the country, I pay billions in taxes, I employ hundreds of thousands of people, I pay hundreds of millions in charity. And yet I never receive any recognition from the Crown. Why do you think that is?

Calming down...

MOHAMMED AL FAYED (CONT'D)
Maybe someone like you, lucky to be born into a wealthy family, cannot understand.

DAVIES
Regrettably that wasn't the case.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Then you are just like me. I started out the son of a school teacher in Egypt. And on my own, I rise to become one of the wealthiest men in this world. And yet you think I sound like a lunatic.

DAVIES
I hope you can appreciate that it's difficult for me to digest the gravity of what you're saying. But help me understand, why come forward with this now?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
The French investigation is done. It is dead end.
(MORE)

MOHAMMED AL FAYED (CONT'D)
I need someone in this country to help. Someone on the inside.

DAVIES
You could pick up the phone and have my boss -- or the head of Scotland Yard for that matter -- on the phone immediately.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
I have plenty of powerful friends who owe me favours, yes. But they're all too scared for their reputation. Even if they weren't, we both know the special breaks given to royal associates, don't we Mr. Davies?

DAVIES
I don't have the power to initiate something like this on my own.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
For now, I'm just asking you to think about it.

Handing DAVIES a DVD...

MOHAMMED AL FAYED (CONT'D)
Please, my dear friend. Look at this. Then tell me what you think. I have no more options.

DAVIES
It was nice meeting you Mr. Al Fayed. I should go.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Please, call me Mohammed.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVIES FLAT - OFFICE - NIGHT

DAVIES heaves a massive file box of documents onto his desk. The top page reads "Official Notice of Dismissal: French Investigation."

He settles in and starts reading...

INT. RITZ HOTEL PARIS - NIGHT - (FLASHBACK)

Grainy, black-and-white security camera footage cuts between areas of a hotel: An empty hotel hallway. Loading docks. A service corridor.

CUT TO:

INT. RITZ HOTEL PARIS - CONTINUOUS

TITLE:

August 31, 1997. 12:04 AM.

Lobby of the oldest and most glamorous Ritz Hotel in the world. As F. Scott Fitzgerald once said, “When you’re in Paris, the only reason for not staying at the Ritz is lack of money.”

THIERRY ROCHER, in a perfectly tailored dark suit and matching communications earpiece, moves through the hotel. Focused. Determined. On a mission. Over this we hear...

BUSINESSMAN (V.O.)
Give us one secret.

HENRI PAUL (V.O.)
Impossible.

BUSINESSMAN (V.O.)
Impossible, can’t? Or impossible won’t?

HENRI PAUL (V.O.)
Well the moment I tell you, it no longer exists as a secret.

INT. RITZ HOTEL PARIS - BAR VENDOME

Flickering candlelight. Dark leather banquettes. Old school is too modern a description. HENRI PAUL, a balding, middle-aged man, holds a table of three BUSINESSMEN rapt in conversation.

A waiter delivers a round of drinks.

BUSINESSMAN
Better yet, maybe I should ask how you keep things that happen here from getting out.

HENRI PAUL
Concealing the truth is actually quite simple. But deception is like magic. Once you know how it works, it's always much less exciting than you expected.
(beat)
Your cocktail, for example.

BUSINESSMAN
Blood Mary?

HENRI PAUL
Invented here in this bar. Ernest Hemingway's fourth wife ... Mary ... hated his drinking. So a bartender came up with the idea of using tomato juice as a mixer.

BUSINESSMAN
And what's the genius in that?

HENRI PAUL
Tomato juice masks the smell of alcohol on the breath.
(beat)
Hemingway would say "Bloody Mary never smelt a thing."

ROCHER approaches the table, leans toward HENRI'S ear and whispers.

ROCHER
(*en francais*)
It's time.

HENRI PAUL
Gentlemen, if you'll excuse me. Time to go make some magic happen.

ROCHER gives a command into his cufflink walkie. PAUL throws back the last sip of Ricard and gets up. As they're walking away...

INT. RITZ HOTEL PARIS - LOBBY

PAUL walks through lobby straightening his suit. Enters an elevator. Doors slide closed. Quiet.

CUT TO:

EXT. PLACE VENDOME - NIGHT

Total bedlam. Hoards of paparazzi.

A small motorcade of armor-reinforced black Mercedes and Range Rovers are ready to roll. Security guards and hotel employees swirl.

Paparazzi kick-start motorcycles. Rev engines. Tighten gloves.

CUT TO:

INT. RITZ HOTEL PARIS - GUEST FLOOR

HENRI PAUL emerges from the elevator. At the end of a long, corridor, the doors to the Imperial Suite swing open. Two bodyguards, TREVOR REES-JONES and KIEREN WINGFIELD, flank a man and woman.

HENRI PAUL
Your highness. Mr. Al Fayed. Good evening.

DIANA, PRINCESS OF WALES. Even at midnight, sunglasses perfectly perched atop her trademark blond bob to protect from the deluge of blinding paparazzi flashes. DODI AL FAYED wears designer jeans, a black shirt, and beige suede blazer.

NOTE: Substantial footage of DIANA and DODI exist from security cameras located throughout the hotel. For the remainder of these scenes, the actors playing them are obscured. But we rely heavily on actual Close Circuit Television (CCTV) footage when possible.

WINGFIELD
Henri, you've been briefed on Mr. Al Fayed's plan?

HENRI PAUL
Yes, the car is arriving at *Rue Cambon* out back.

WINGFIELD
I'll head to the front and meet up with the others. We'll make it look real -- the paparazzi will follow us.

HENRI PAUL
(to Dodi and Diana)
This way please.

INT. RITZ HOTEL PARIS - SERVICE AREA

Beneath the hum of fluorescent lights, HENRI leads DIANA, DODI, and REES-JONES through the bowels of the hotel's service corridors.

REES-JONES
You know the route to Mr. Al Fayed's apartment?

HENRI PAUL
I do. Shouldn't take more than ten minutes this time of night.

INT. RITZ HOTEL PARIS - REAR SERVICE ENTRANCE

The group arrives near the exit. A hotel phone mounted on the wall rings. HENRI answers and hands it to REES-JONES.

HENRI PAUL
It's Wingfield for you.
(beat)
Excuse me for a moment.

HENRI disappears into a side office alone. CCTV footage shows DODI and DIANA playful and affectionate with each other and in good spirits.

REES-JONES
Hello.

WINGFIELD
It's Thierry.

INT. RITZ HOTEL PARIS - LOBBY - SIMULTANEOUS

WINGFIELD
We can't let Dodi go through with this plan.

WINGFIELD holds his hand giving the team out front the standby signal.

REES-JONES
(hushed into the phone)
I tried to stop him. But he just wants to get away from these Paparazzi.

WINGFIELD
Henri isn't a licensed chauffeur. And we're not even using a chase car.

REES-JONES
Short of calling his father, there's nothing else I can do.

Henri Paul emerges from the office. A black Mercedes S280 arrives at the back exit.

REES-JONES (CONT'D)
Transport's here now. Have to go.

WINGFIELD
(into his cufflink)
Departure imminent, copy.

EXT. PLACE VENDOME - NIGHT

ROCHER exits the front of the Ritz with two other men and jumps into the awaiting motorcade. The cars speed off and the paparazzi fall for the decoy bait and follow.

INT. RITZ HOTEL PARIS - SERVICE AREA

HENRI PAUL
Your highness, follow me to the passenger side. Mr. Al Fayed will follow Trevor. And we'll be off.

CUT TO:

CCTV footage shows DIANA playfully saluting HENRI PAUL.

EXT. RITZ HOTEL PARIS - RUE CAMBON

The rear entrance, along a narrow side-street, is nearly empty. TWO MEN on motorcycles linger in the distance.

HENRI leads DIANA to the car, shuts the door, then slides in the driver's seat. Glancing at the distant motorcycles in rear-view mirror, he speeds off.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARIS - VARIOUS STREETS - NIGHT

The Mercedes winds its way through Paris at night. Starting off on narrow streets at first, it darts past some of the city's most notable landmarks. The Eiffel Tower glowing in background.

Finally emerging onto the open *Cours Albert*, a wide straightaway embankment road along the River Seine.

The Mercedes picks up speed as TWO MOTORCYCLES give chase. A DARK SEDAN appears in front of the Mercedes while a WHITE FIAT UNO keeps pace just behind.

The pack blazes towards an underpass, PAUL signals to try and take an exit slip road on his right to avoid the tunnel and remain above-ground -- a route favoured by professional drivers. But the Mercedes is boxed in by a motorcycle and can't make the exit, forcing it underground.

INT. ALMA UNDERPASS - NIGHT

As the camera makes the transition from the illuminated Paris skyline to the underpass, blackness. Tires screech. Piercing sounds of crunching metal.

CUT TO:

INT. DAVIES FLAT - OFFICE - (PRESENT DAY)

DAVIES overhears KNOCKING at the front door. CATHERINE answers it and arrives with a package.

CATHERINE
From Harrods? Should I be worried about a secret mistress?

DAVIES
Thanks love. Something for work.

CATHERINE
Finish up and come to bed?

DAVIES
Few minutes. I promise.

DAVIES peels back the package's delicately wrapped layers revealing an expensive white dress shirt, £250 price tag still attached. The enclosed note on Harrod's stationary:

"For our next meeting. MAF"

After thinking for a moment, he quietly closes his office door and puts the DVD AL FAYED handed him into the player.

A blank screen appears with the title: “Repossi Jewerly. Paris. August 30, 1997.” Black-and-white security camera footage shows two men shopping for rings.

DAVIES (CONT’D)
Dodi Al Fayed buying jewellery for a beautiful woman.
(sarcastically)
I’m sure that doesn’t happen everyday.

Jumping ahead three hours later, security footage shows the same man DODI was shopping with return to the store alone.

DAVIES takes a screen grab of the man and pastes it into an online image search index. Results return his identity: CLAUDE ROULET, assistant to the President of the Ritz Hotel.

ROULET pulls out a brochure, pointing to a specific picture and is handed a package.

PAUSE. With a few clicks, DAVIES zooms in. The ring comes from a line called “*Dis Moi Oui*.” DAVIES types those words into his web browser and reads the results: “Tell Me Yes”

CUT TO:

INT. CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE HQ - MORNING

A knock on his office door...

MRS. TRACY
Michael, Alistair’s office just called. He wants to see you immediately.

INT. CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE HQ - SENIOR OFFICES

If the lack of bustle and clutter on this floor doesn’t indicate the seniority of its occupants, then the life-size paintings of aged jurists in white wigs certainly do.

SECRETARY
Head right in.

INT. CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE HQ - ALISTAIR SILSBURY'S OFFICE

ALISTAIR SILSBURY (60) is on the phone. A full head of white hair, SILSBURY has the square, sturdy frame of a Brit whose heritage can be traced back to Arthurian times.

SILSBURY
(into the phone)
Yes, sir. No, I completely understand how sensitive this is.
(beat)
You too. Good day Mr. Prime Minister.

SILSBURY slams down the phone and DAVIES goes pale.

SILSBURY (CONT'D)
Why in bloody hell would you take it upon yourself to pay a visit to Mohammed Al Fayed?

DAVIES
Sir, he called me and asked for a meeting.

SILSBURY
Well, according to him, that wasn't the case.

DAVIES
I was half expecting it to be a practical joke in the first place.

SILSBURY
Why don't you phone up the PM and tell him your side of the story? I'm sure that explanation will smooth things over.

DAVIES
I'm extremely sorry. If it's any consolation, I agree the man is crazy.

SILSBURY
He's spent years hawking his conspiracy theories.

DAVIES
He mentioned something about an engagement ring, and --

SILSBURY
-- the Repossi security footage?

DAVIES
You've seen it?

SILSBURY
Let me guess, he also brought up some old case you worked on. Complimented your earnest work.

DAVIES is deflated.

SILSBURY (CONT'D)
Did you really believe you're the first one in this office to whom he reached out with his inane conspiracy theories?
(beat)
And by the way, he gets his fucking tea from Tesco.

Picking up a hefty report.

SILSBURY (CONT'D)
This has been well investigated by the French authorities.

DAVIES
Point taken. My apologies. I'll happily stay clear of this one.

SILSBURY
Quite the contrary.

DAVIES
Pardon?

SILSBURY
You're not doing anything <u>except</u> this case for the immediate future.

SILSBURY tosses a stack of photos showing DAVIES coming and going from AL FAYED'S office.

SILSBURY (CONT'D)
PM received a copy of these too.
(beat)
(MORE)

SILSBURY (CONT'D)
If the press finds out that someone from our office was looking into these accusations -- which Al Fayed is able to prove thanks to your meeting -- and it looks like the PM has put a stop to it, the tabloids will have a field day.

DAVIES
I'll do whatever it takes to make this right, Alistair.

SILSBURY
Quickly prove these damn theories are nothing more than a grieving father's madness.
(beat)
You are not to speak with Al Fayed or his associates.

DAVIES
So who can I talk to?

SILSBURY
Clarke. Otherwise, corroborate the French report. I just want to make sure our assess are covered.
(beat)
And Michael, be careful to not get outplayed again. A man like that didn't get to where he is by always being honest.

INT. CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICES HQ - KITCHEN

DAVIES and CLARKE crowd a table in the office break room, doubling as their conference room. Stacks of documents litter the space.

DAVIES
Can't believe I've gotten dragged into this.

CLARKE
Let's just run down some of these leads so we can put this to an end.

DAVIES
Most of the witnesses from that night only saw Henri Paul having one or two drinks, blood alcohol tests showed him barely over the limit. Maybe if we can shoot down the engagement, the case collapses.

CLARKE
People say Diana publicly hinted at it, but most hardly give it an ounce of credibility.

EXT. SAINT-TROPEZ MARINA - DAY - (FLASHBACK)

A group of reporters gather along a dock where The Jonikal, a 60 meter mega-yacht, is moored. As DIANA climbs aboard the yacht, she fields some questions from the press.

CLARKE (V.O.)
Reporters are assembled waiting for Diana's arrival. She answers questions about her land mine campaign in Bosnia. And then as she's boarding the yacht, she turns and says "You're going to get a big surprise, you'll see, you're going to get a big surprise with the next thing I do."

EXT. CONFERENCE ROOM - (PRESENT DAY)

DAVIES erases grocery items from a white board and sketches down dates.

CLARKE
What is it?

DAVIES
Diana's invited on holiday to St. Tropez by Mohammed Al Fayed -- she arrives on July 11 with her sons. The accident happens on August 31. I pulled their schedules. There were only a total of 29 days where they could have seen each other.

CLARKE
She only dated Charles for 6 months before they were engaged.

DAVIES
He was future king of England. I'd get hitched to that old banger in 6 days.

CLARKE
Dodi was the son of a billionaire. She could have lived the royal life without the baggage of being a royal.

DAVIES
But we've phoned about half a dozen of Diana's close friends to find out what they knew of her relationship with Dodi.

CLARKE flips through some pages.

CLARKE
Her best friend Lucia Flecha de Lima: "I am sure she wouldn't have married Dodi. I don't think she was ever that much in love with him."
(beat)
Richard Kaye, a journalist and confidante: "We spoke about whether she was going to get married. She said 'Absolutely not. I've just got out of one marriage and I'm not going to get involved in another one.'"
(beat)
And my personal favourite, Lady Annabel Goldsmith who point blank asked "You're not doing anything silly are you, like getting married?" And Diana replied "I need marriage like a rash on my face".

DAVIES silently thinks for a moment...

DAVIES
Someone could argue that we spoke to the wrong people.

CLARKE
I phoned twenty of her closest friends. What more do you need?

DAVIES
They were her friends. Since when does a woman know when a chap's popping the question -- especially coming from someone as dramatic as an Al Fayed?

CLARKE
And Silsbury was clear not to get back in touch with him his father. Or any of his associates.

DAVIES
Associated with Mohammed, yes. But he didn't say we couldn't speak to someone associated with his son.

INT. WHITE'S CLUB - NIGHT

CLARKE and DAVIES inside the lavish St. James street mansion housing London's only surviving 17th century all men's club (the Queen was invited only once).

CLARKE
Hate these places.

CLARKE under his breath, completely ignoring an arrogant host.

HOST
Excuse me, but this club is for member's only.

CLARKE rolls his eyes and keeps walking.

HOST (CONT'D)
I'm going to call security.

DAVIES
We'll spare you the step.

DAVIES flashes his Queen's Council identification.

HOST
My apologies.

DAVIES
Is there a way we can call for Mr. Rene Delform?

HOST/DELFORM
Looks like I can save you the step.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR AREA

A secluded corner of the bar. DAVIES and CLARKE talk to the DELFORM.

DELFORM
(nervously)
As I've told you and every investigator, I don't know anything.

DAVIES
You were Dodi's personal butler and saw nothing?

DELFORM
One doesn’t spend seven years travelling the world with one of the richest men if he can’t be discreet.

DAVIES
That's amusing. Because your book agent is an old friend of mine from law school. And he tells me you're writing quite a tell all. Which is unfortunate, because given how strict libel laws are in the UK, if the manuscript were to leak to authorities, like my colleague Mr. Clarke here, its chance of getting published would be rather bleak.

A beat. DELFORM considers his options...

DELFORM
That night, Dodi told me he was going to propose to the Princess and asked for champagne on ice when they came back.

DAVIES
And did it happen?

DELFORM
Later that evening I went to enter the living room; I saw the Princess sitting on the coffee table.
(MORE)

DELFORM (CONT'D)
Dodi was on one knee in front of her, caressing her belly and she was looking at her hand. The only thing I heard, was her say the word 'Yes.' I never thought much about it until after their deaths when the press claimed she was pregnant. And I swear, that's all I know.

EXT. WHITE'S CLUB

CLARKE
Impressive that you went to law school with his agent.

DAVIES
Don't know who his bloody agent is. But figured since everyone else wrote one, why not him.

CLARKE
I'll meet you back at the office tomorrow morning then? Alistair wants an update at ten.

DAVIES
Hopefully that will be the end of it.

INT. WESTMINSTER METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE - NIGHT

A frantic, noisy police precinct. A cadre of hooligans wait for processing. DAVIES whispers something to the DUTY OFFICER, who then points him through a doorway.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DAVIES sits alone in a decaying interrogation room. An OVERWEIGHT OFFICER enters, staring at a clipboard...

OFFICER
Let's have it -- says you want to confess to a murder?

DAVIES
Two of them actually.

The OFFICER, CHIEF INSPECTOR CLAYWORTH (55), looks up an smiles. Instant recognition.

CLAYWORTH
Hell, I thought just one night I'd get lucky here.

DAVIES
Who says you're not?

CLAYWORTH and DAVIES hug.

CLAYWORTH
The guys were expecting to see you at Lion tonight. Haven't seen you around here in years.

DAVIES
Can't blame me for missing being around guys like you.

CLAYWORTH
Uh oh, here come the compliments. Cut the horse shit and tell me what you need.

DAVIES
You catch any bodies tonight.

CLAYWORTH
Two so far.

DAVIES
What jurisdiction?

CLAYWORTH
One from Leeds and another from Hammersmith. Why?

DAVIES
Let's go check out the situation at Hammersmith.

CLAYWORTH
Do I even want to know what this is about?

DAVIES
I'll tell you on the way.

CUT TO:

INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - WHITE DRAWING ROOM

Black tie aristocrats mill about one of the palace's most ornate rooms. Guilt-bronze treasures. Massive chandeliers.

SILSBURY speaks to a group of distinguished looking older guests.

ATTENDEE ONE
Eton, you don't say. What house?

SILSBURY
College.

ATTENDEE ONE
A King's Scholar is among us.

ATTENDEE TWO
I contribute to that endowment myself.

ATTENDEE ONE
Wonderful to allow boys to attend on scholarship.

SIR DAVID VENESS (60), striped insignia on his tuxedo, pulls SILSBURY aside.

SILSBURY
Gentleman, if you'll excuse me.

VENESS
Silsbury, I've been meaning to talk to you.

SILSBURY
Yes, same. But figured I'd wait until this was over.

VENESS
It is.

INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - GRAND HALL - CONTINUOUS

VENESS and SILSBURY walk through the hall past a massive curving marble grand staircase to a small side room. An elevator is protected by a member of the Queen's Guard.

VENESS swipes his ID badge and punches in a code, opening an elevator door.

INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE TUNNELS - CONTINUOUS

The two emerge from the elevators into a sprawling tunnel system beneath the palace.

SILSBURY
Where does this lead?

VENESS
Picadilly Tube line to the right, in case they need a quick escape to Heathrow. To the left it stretches on to 10 Downing and Ministry of Defence. And this way to my home away from home, Scotland Yard.
(beat)
Considering the number of those dreadful events I must attend, it proves invaluable.

Walking through the dim tunnels...

SILSBURY
The sad life of being Commissioner.

VENESS
I hear one of your tarts is asking questions about Diana’s passing.

SILSBURY
To my dismay, yes.

VENESS
I’m sure you can imagine the pressure I’m getting on this.

SILSBURY
Al Fayed finally got someone to fall for his bait. And I promised we’d do some looking so he’d hold off the media.

VENESS
If the tabloids find out about this, they’ll have a field day. And even though neither of us were quite lucky enough to be born into the bloodline, we’re still nourished off the royal teat.

SILSBURY
I’m on the same page David. This will go away.

CUT TO:

EXT. HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM MORTUARY - NIGHT

Located along a traffic restricted street, the block long brick building serves as the headquarters for Her Majesty's Coroner.

CLAYWORTH
Really want to put yourself in the middle of this?

DAVIES
Like you taught me chief, just following the facts.

CLAYWORTH
What's the plan here?

DAVIES
This is where Diana's body was taken after it was repatriated. I'd get sacked if my boss found out I was here. But if I just happen to be paying an unofficial visit with an old buddy--

CLAYWORTH
This is your ass Davies. Nothing comes back to me on this one.

INT. HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM MORTUARY - EXAMINATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DAVIES and CLAYWORTH push through the double swing doors. Bodies rest on stainless steel gurneys. DAVIES approaches a junior lab tech.

DAVIES
Do you know where I can find Dr. Chapman?

The tech points to a surly looking coroner in the distance, deep in concentration, slicing into a body. CLAYWORTH remains a few steps behind, within ear shot but keeps out of the fray.

DR. CHAPMAN
Can I help you?

DAVIES
Here with the second unit from Westminster. Waiting on some info from a body that came in tonight.

DR. CHAPMAN
You need room 224. There's some fresh coffee down the hall.

DAVIES starts to wander, then turns back...

DAVIES
Dr. Chapman, would you mind if I asked you a quick question?

Watching CHAPMAN dissect a body, DAVIES takes the lack of response as affirmation.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Is it possible to know if someone is newly pregnant post mortem?

DR. CHAPMAN
(not looking up)
We have many ways of telling. Visible signs, obviously. If it's an early stage pregnancy, you need blood or urine.

DAVIES
What if the body is embalmed?

DR. CHAPMAN
Makes the examination more difficult because it fixes or hardens the tissues and involves the use of a rather unpleasant irritant.

DAVIES
And it's pretty typical?

CHAPMAN shrugs...

DAVIES (CONT'D)
What about for bodies being repatriated?

CHAPMAN drops his tools, and looks up.

DR. CHAPMAN
I get the feeling this isn't just a general inquiry.

DAVIES
To be honest, I'm curious about Princess Diana.

CHAPMAN shakes his head. But CLAYWORTH rolls his eyes and nods, signalling it's okay for CHAPMAN to keep talking.

CHAPMAN
I was quite surprised that there had been time for embalming to take place. And given the rapid return the body here, it wasn't necessary for my purposes.

DAVIES
Do you know who approved it?

CHAPMAN
We don't.

CUT TO:

INT. PITIÉ-SALPÊTRIÈRE HOSPITAL - SURGICAL ROOM - (FLASHBACK)

TITLE:

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST 1997 1:30 PM

Diana's body lays covered on a gurney.

CHAPMAN (V.O.)
There's protocol in place for funerals of any of the Royals. The Princess of Wales no longer had 'Her Royal Highness' status but she was effectively still regarded as a member Family.

A team of nurses move fans into the room.

CHAPMAN (V.O.)
I didn't communicate with the French authorities, nor did anyone about the decision to embalm Diana's body. Colin Tebbutt, a security consultant and driver for the Princess, travelled to Paris to assist with repatriation of her body. He was directly in contact with Levertons, the family of royal undertakers.

TEBBUTT (55), stature of a former soldier, directs staff in the room as he talks on his cell phone.

TEBBUTT
This room is getting hotter. Everyone says the body will start to deteriorate quite rapidly so I'm not sure if we can wait for Levertons to arrive. Not to mention Prince Charles is supposed to be here by five.
(beat)
Let me ask.

Pulling aside a doctor assisting with the portable air condition units...

TEBBUTT (CONT'D)
Can we move her to the mortuary?

DOCTOR
It's on the opposite end of the grounds. Given the media interest, No way to move her body right now.

TEBBUTT
(into the phone)
You hear that?
(beat)
Okay, we'll put ice around her and hopefully we can cool things down enough.

INT. HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM MORTUARY - EXAMINATION ROOM - (PRESENT DAY)

CHAPMAN
The embalming took place later that afternoon by a French company. After the body was viewed and respects paid by her family and other dignitaries, her body was returned here that evening. And as for who gave formal approval, I have no idea. No one does.

DAVIES
Did you test for pregnancy once the body was back here?

CHAPMAN
Impossible. A urine sample would have been obtained if available for toxicology studies. But the bladder was empty.

DAVIES
What if we had access to blood now? Could we test it?

CHAPMAN
Unreliable because of the amount of transfusion the Princess had as part of her medical treatment. Plus impact of embalming fluid.

DAVIES
Dr. Chapman, very appreciative of your time.

INT. THE RED LION PUB - NIGHT

A cramped, centuries old pub. DAVIES and CLAYWORTH finish their fourth pints. Surrounded by a rowdy group of cops, CLAYWORTH holds court.

CLAYWORTH
...We'd been on this damn stakeout for seven hours already. Davies goes out for a piss. Comes back into the van with something brown stuck to his shoe. Saying it smells real bad. Then sticks his finger in it. Licks it. And declares it's dog shit. Man, the sergeant almost threw up right then and there.

Roars of laughter...

DAVIES
The old peanut butter trick works every time.

CLAYWORTH
And look at him now. Nice suit. Fancy job.

DAVIES
Still stepping in dog shit.

CLAYWORTH
Three years of law school at night, with us covering for your ass. Don't tell me it wasn't worth it.

DAVIES
Just saying. It's not necessarily any better.
(MORE)

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Here at least you can make a little street justice on your own.

Simulates an elbow to the gut.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Doesn't quite fly in court.

CLAYWORTH
It could if you wanted it to. Just like captain always said, we might do things we're not proud of...

Raising their drinks in unison...

COPS
...but never anything we're ashamed of.

DAVIES
Sorry chaps. I've got an early morning appointment ... at Kensington Palace.

Sarcastic "ooohs" from the group.

CHAPMAN
Same time next week, punk.

EXT. KENSINGTON PALACE - DRIVEWAY - MORNING

The familiar palace where hundreds of thousands of flowers were placed when Diana passed away.

Clad in perfectly tailored pinstripes, the always felicitous PAUL BURRELL (50) greets DAVIES & CLARKE.

BURRELL
Good day sirs.

DAVIES
Thanks for meeting us Mr. Burrell.

BURRELL offers a polite bow.

BURRELL
My pleasure. Haven't been back in years and quite miss it.

DAVIES
Figured given how much time has passed, it might jog your memory to meet here.

EXT. KENSINGTON PALACE - PATHWAY

Walking through the manicured grounds...

BURRELL
Most people don't realize this but Kensington is divvied into multiple homesteads. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, Prince and Princess Michael of Kent, and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge all live here.

Arriving at a large door...

BURRELL (CONT'D)
And, here we are. Number 8. Diana lived here from her wedding in 1981.

INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - NUMBER 8

BURRELL leads through the stately apartment, with trappings similar to a modern resort suite.

CLARKE
You worked for the royals for quite a while?

BURRELL
I went to visit Buckingham as a teenager. I was captivated by the history. Started working there when I turned eighteen and became a footman for the Queen. And came here to work for Diana as her personal butler in 1987.

CLARKE
Few people closer to her than you.

BURRELL
Given her lifestyle, likely true.

INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - NUMBER 8 - SITTING ROOM

They walk through a bedroom and into a bright, yellow-walled sitting area. BURRELL gestures toward chairs and they both sit.

DAVIES
Diana was always worried someone was listening in on her phone calls. Do you find that credible?

BURRELL
Yes, I do. I believe that.

DAVIES
The flats at Kensington Palace were swept from time to time, were they?

BURRELL
We had a former MI-6 officer sweep her apartment on a few occasions. One time, the equipment detected an electronic signal, which indicated a possible bugging device may have been present behind that wall.

Pointing behind the bed...

BURRELL (CONT'D)
A day or two later, the gentleman came back for a more detailed sweep and the signal was gone. On one occasion the Princess -- we went looking ourselves.

DAVIES
You and she?

BURRELL
She was convinced there was a bug. The security specialist persuaded the Princess to take down the mirror above her mantelpiece because with modern technology you can actually send a beam into a room and reflect it from a mirror and listen to the conversation. So the Princess took down the mirrors.

CLARKE
They never went back up?

BURRELL
No.

CLARKE
Did she think that she was being bugged anywhere else?

BURRELL
She did think that there could be a tracking device on her car. And that her mobile phones and the landline were all being recorded. The Duchess of York was a good, close friend to the Princess and told her to be careful because the services monitored everything they did.

DAVIES
Any idea how this paranoia started in the first place?

BURRELL
If I had to guess, I'd say with the death of Barry Mannakee. A Personal Protection Officer who had on occasions been assigned to her. Diana thought he had been deliberately killed in a motorcycle crash. In reality, he was sadly struck by a seventeen year old girl who had just passed her driving test. But Diana never wavered.

BURRELL steps up to a television.

BURRELL (CONT'D)
May I?

He inserts a VHS tape. A grainy picture shows Diana in the same sitting room talking to someone off camera.

BURRELL (CONT'D)
Diana worked with a speech coach who video taped many of their sessions.

INT. KENSINGTON PALACE - SITTING ROOM - (FLASHBACK)

We now see the actual scene from the video tape unfold...

SETTELEN
What about your relationship with Barry?

DIANA
When I was 24, 25, I fell deeply in love with somebody who worked in this environment, one of my protection officers ...
(MORE)

DIANA (CONT'D)
I was quite happy to give all this up ... just to go off and live with him. Well not all this, at this moment, at the time, it was quite something to have all this. Just to go off and live with him. Can you believe it? And he kept saying he thought it was a good idea.

SETTELEN
Were you intimate with him?

DIANA
I suppose you could say yes. I was like a little girl in front of him the whole time. Desperate for praise. Desperate. I was always wandering around trying to see him. I just wore my heart on my sleeve and was only happy when he was around.

SETTELEN
Which eventually people caught on to?

DIANA
It got so difficult, and people got so jealous, bitchy, in this house. And eventually he had to go.

Diana takes a breath, looks down at her hands --

DIANA (CONT'D)
Charles told me about Barry's death while we were in a limousine heading to a glitzy function in Cannes. That was the biggest blow of my life ... Charles thought he knew, but he never had any proof. And he just jumped it on me like that. I sat there all day going through this huge high-profile visit to Cannes -- thousands of press. Just devastated.
(beat)
I should never have played with fire and I did and I got very burnt.

SETTELEN
You think the death was deliberate?

DIANA
It was all found out and he was chucked out. And then he was killed. And I think he was bumped off. But, urm, there we are. I don't, we'll never know... he was the greatest friend I've ever had.

INT. SITTING ROOM - (PRESENT DAY)

DAVIES sits captivated by what he just saw.

DAVIES
You have more of these tapes?

BURRELL
The rest are completely innocuous. You have to understand, Diana was like a little girl at times. I'm not sure she truly believed this.

EXT. KENSINGTON PALACE - DRIVEWAY

CLARKE
I'll head back to the office and write this up.

DAVIES
Thanks. Got dinner with the in-laws tonight.

CLARKE
I'll send over the write up.

As CLARKE leaves, Davies takes out his cell phone.

DAVIES
Clayworth, it's me.
(beat)
Yeah, I know. Can you look up an NI number. Paul Burrell.

Jotting down the info in his notebook.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Got it. I owe you one.

CUT TO:

EXT. SELF STORAGE FACILITY - NORTHWEST LONDON

DAVIES arrives at a multi-unit warehouse facility in an industrial part of town.

DAVIES (V.O.)
I misplaced my credit card and want to make sure there weren't any fraudulent charges.

OPERATOR (V.O.)
For security purposes can I get your name and account or National Insurance number?

He jumps a wrought iron fence, slightly tearing his suit.

DAVIES (V.O.)
Yes, it's Paul Burrell. JS 33 37 16 A.

OPERATOR (V.O.)
I have your account here sir.

DAVIES (V.O.)
I got a call from my bank about a potential fraudulent safe deposit box scam of some sort.

OPERATOR (V.O.)
Not seeing any charges related to that.

DAVIES (V.O.)
And anything related to storage?

OPERATOR (V.O.)
I am seeing charges for fifty-seven pounds at Nationwide Self Storage number 56 in Park Royal.

INT. NATIONAL SELF STORAGE - CONTINUOUS

Davies quietly walks along a warren of seemingly unending storage units.

DAVIES (V.O.)
You know what, my mistake. I've actually located my card. Thanks for your help.

Davies reaches Unit 56. He rustles the bolt and the aluminium door thunders against its frame. A flashlight clicks on in the distance.

SECURITY GUARD
Everything alright down there?

DAVIES
Yes, sorry. Just fumbling for my keys.

DAVIES uses a simple device to discretely jimmy the lock.

Rooting around musty furniture, he notices a stack of video tapes, similar to what BURRELL presented earlier, atop a file cabinet.

The echo of FOOTSTEPS down the hallway move closer.

DAVIES opens and closes drawers, finding a file that catches his interest. Skimming through paperwork, he reveals a look of total shock.

Grabbing a single piece of paper, DAVIES frantically puts things back in order and locks up.

Seconds from getting caught, he peaks back from around the corner to see BURRELL unlocking the unit.

CUT TO:

INT. CAVENDISH MANOR - NIGHT

DAVIES is led through a massive great room, lined with portraits of austere British aristocrats.

INT. DINING ROOM

In the distance, dinner service is being cleared by a cadre of white gloved servants. And older man and woman are getting up from the table.

But these aren’t strangers ... HANNAH bolts from her seat.

HANNAH
Daddy!

Picking her up...

DAVIES
Sorry I’m late.

CATHERINE
Come, sit down. Mum and dad asked to save you a plate.

LORD CAVENDISH
Certainly don't want you to go hungry.

LADY CAVENDISH
We were just about to take Hannah to the Friesen stables.

DAVIES
Again, terribly sorry for being late.

CATHERINE
I told them how busy you've been. How was Kensington?

CATHERINE is clearly proud of her husband, though he bristles a bit at the question.

LADY CAVENDISH
I was there for a luncheon last week hosted by the Duchess of Kent.

DAVIES
Well my presence was probably not quite as welcome.

LORD CAVENDISH
How so?

DAVIES
Nothing to bore you with.

LORD CAVENDISH
Nonsense. We're very interested in your work.

DAVIES
Well if you must know, I've been asked to look into the death of Princess Diana.

CAVENDISH can't stifle an incredulous laugh.

LORD CAVENDISH
Apologies, Michael. Don't blame you. I know you've always been a go getter, but I find it amusing Alistair's judgement hasn't changed much since our days at Eton.

LADY CAVENDISH
Let’s go Hannah before it gets too late. We’ll let you two eat in peace.

CATHERINE and DAVIES remain alone.

CATHERINE
I know you’ll hate me for saying this but my father is right.

DAVIES
(sarcastically)
I do appreciate him not wanting me to starve.

CATHERINE
About Diana. I don’t think you should be doing this.

DAVIES
Your father is the last person I’d listen to on this. If I had taken his advice, you wouldn’t have me as the perfect husband.

CATHERINE
I’m being serious Michael.

DAVIES
I uncovered a letter tonight. From Diana. That she wrote to her butler warning that she thought someone was out to murder her.

DAVIES shows her the letter.

CATHERINE
You believe it’s real?

DAVIES
This obviously isn’t the original. But I’ll find --

CATHERINE
-- I’m sorry but I just don’t believe it. I know you’re frustrated with the Smithe case settling and you want to prove yourself, but over this?

INT. CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE HQ - DAVIES OFFICE - MORNING

DAVIES has been reading through documents all night -- and looks of it. A mail cart comes by and drops THE DAILY MIRROR on his desk.

DAVIES is jolted by the lead story.

DAVIES
How in bloody hell...

We see the headline:

DIANA LETTER SENSATION: 'THEY WILL TRY TO KILL ME'

EXT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - MORNING

A dozen satellite news trucks are stationed along the security barrier. DAVIES pushes his way through a crowd of photographers.

INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - OFFICE OF THE QUEEN'S CORONER

DAVIES, SILSBURY, and ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER VENESS cram into the office, otherwise filled with decaying textbooks and a collection of ancient medical instruments.

The white-haired MICHAEL BURGESS, the Queen's coroner, and SIR PAUL CONDON, New Scotland Yard Commissioner burst in...

COMMISSIONER CONDON
Bloody unbelievable.
(reading from the paper)
"Princess Diana claimed there was a plot to kill her in a car crash in a handwritten letter only 10 months before she died. She gave it to her butler Paul Burrell with orders that he should keep it as "insurance" for the future."

DAVIES
We think Burrell released it to the media? Why now?

SILSBURY
Publicity is my guess. Rumour has it he's writing a book. No word of this from him yesterday I presume?

DAVIES
No, none.
(beat)
You have the original?

CONDON slides the letter, in a plastic sleave, across the table to DAVIES.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
(reading out loud)
"This particular phase in my life is the most dangerous. My husband is planning 'an accident' in my car, brake failure and serious head injury in order to make the path clear for Charles to marry".
(skimming)
The letter was written in October of 1996. Only ten months before the accident.

VENESS
Burrell claims Diana thought that the Queen was trying to undermine her. Her public support was growing while the royal subjects were losing respect for her own precious son.

DAVIES
Is Burrell for real on this?

COMMISSIONER CONDON
Unfortunately, we think he's very trustworthy on this topic.

DAVIES
How so?

COMMISSIONER CONDON looks around the room and takes a deep breath.

VENESS
We have actually been aware of Diana's claims for some time now.

CORONER BURGESS
You knew of the letter?

COMMISSIONER CONDON
It's a bit more complicated than that.

VENESS
We were previously made aware of similar concerns.

BURGESS' discomfort is palpable.

VENESS (CONT'D)
I know you have plenty of reason to be pissed. But let me explain.

CORONER BURGESS
Please try.

VENESS
Is the name Lord Mishcon familiar to you?

DAVIES
Diana's former legal representative.

VENESS
In 1995, the Princess of Wales apparently believed that both she and Camilla Parker Bowles were to be 'put aside'. She shared her concerns with Mishcon. Told him that 'reliable sources' whom she didn't wish to name had informed her that whether by car accident or other means, efforts would be made to get rid of her. Or at least to see that she was so injured as to be declared unbalanced. Mishcon didn't really believe it was credible. But for good measure, he took notes and dated it.

COMMISSIONER CONDON
Couple weeks after Diana's death, he met with David and me to bring the note to our attention. He read out the note and emphasised that he was acting in a private capacity rather than on behalf of his firm or the Royal Family.

DAVIES
And you did nothing?

VENESS
We decided it best kept private unless there was some relevant suspicion concerning the death or Lord Mishcon gave us permission. Everyone agreed that the Princess died in a tragic accident. If the circumstances of her death were to be regarded as suspicious, the note and the Princess of Wales' concerns would be revisited. In our view these conditions never arose.

DAVIES
Until today, when the Mirror printed an article.

SILSBURY
We should talk to Mischon and clear all of this up.

VENESS
He passed away a year ago.

BURGESS rises from his chair and looks out the window at the phalanx of cameras.

BURGESS
Gentlemen, you don't need me to tell you it's only a matter of time before the press finds out about this as well. We don't have any other options but to open a formal and public inquiry.

VENESS
We're really elevating this to a full blown trial inquest?

BURGESS
Jury hearing and all. In open court. My duty is to investigate the death of anyone whose body is lying within the limits of any of the Queen's palaces or any member of the family. A formal inquest is the only way to do it at this point.

SILSBURY
So, what do we tell the press about timing. Why now?

BURGESS
We say the delay in holding the inquests arose from legal proceedings in France. Despite the fact that a two-year French investigation concluded that the driver Henri Paul, who was also killed, was drunk and driving too fast, our laws require an inquest when an unnatural or violent death occurs abroad and the body is brought into England or Wales.

SILSBURY
So how should we proceed?

BURGESS
I need you to make inquiries and prepare a report that will determine the basis for the courtroom process.

COMMISSIONER CONDON
Silsbury and his team will lead the investigation.

BURGESS
After you report back to me with the official investigation, we'll empanel a jury, hear witnesses and conduct a formal inquest to put this to rest once and for all.

As the meeting breaks up, SILSBURY pulls DAVIES aside.

SILSBURY
Bloody awful your first time at Buckingham is spent in the Coroner's office.
(beat)
Let me help keep your career out of the quicksand Michael. My advice: tie this up as fast as possible. Your next step should be Paris.

DAVIES
Retrace the original investigation, right.

SILSBURY passes him a name and phone number.

SILSBURY
Take this with you.

INT. GARE DU NORD STATION - MORNING

Throngs of travellers weave around DAVIES as he stands out front of the station, jotting in his notepad.

SILSBURY (V.O.)
An old Eton pal who worked for the French embassy here. He can be trusted and is connected enough to get you whatever you need.

Deep in thought, DAVIES is startled --

LECONTE
Monsieur Davies?

DAVIES
Yes.

LECONTE
Michel Leconte. Pleased to meet you.

DAVIES
Appreciate your being available on such short notice.

LECONTE
Anything for Alistair.

DAVIES
My apologies for the inconvenience.

LECONTE
Not at all. He didn't tell me you used to be a detective.

LECONTE pulls a similar brown, fraying notepad from his pocket.

LECONTE (CONT'D)
Tools of the trade. I did 20 years as an inspector for the national police here. Retired now, but always happy to get back in the game for a bit.

DAVIES
Well in that case, let's get started.

LECONTE
Where to first?

DAVIES
Meeting scheduled at the Ritz.

CUT TO:

INT. CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE HQ - ALISTAIR SILSBURY'S OFFICE

CLARKE
You wanted to see me sir?

SILSBURY quietly gets up from his desk and closes the door.

CLARKE (CONT'D)
Nothing like a closed door to pique my interest.

He sits down uncomfortably close to CLARKE and almost whispers...

SILSBURY
You were at the Burrell meeting?

CLARKE
Yes, did you read my write up?

SILSBURY
During the interview he showed you a tape of Diana?

CLARKE
He did.

SILSBURY
Those have been missing since the initial police investigation at Kensington after her death.

CLARKE
What are you suggesting?

SILSBURY
Burrell stole the tapes. And who knows what else. I'm getting a warrant issued immediately.

CLARKE
Burrell was awarded the Royal Victorian Medal by the Queen. He practically worshipped that family. There's no way he'd do anything that outrageous.

SILSBURY
In a best case scenario, this turns up nothing and he was merely protecting Diana's legacy --

CLARKE
-- but if we arrest him, his credibility will be shot. The letter from Diana and everything he's given us will be undermined --

SILSBURY
-- and this ends quickly.

CLARKE
Don't do this to Davies.

SILSBURY
Do not to breathe a word to Davies about this until after Burrell is in custody. Is that clear?

CLARKE, a bit torn, is silent.

SILSBURY (CONT'D)
Michael can't see it, but we both know what this will do to his future. I'm not getting dragged down with him.

INT. RITZ HOTEL PARIS - DAY

DAVIES and LECONTE enter the same lobby we saw in flashback the night of the crash.

LECONTE
I have some background information for you on Mr. Paul.

DAVIES
I didn't even ask --

LECONTE
Figured I should at least know what I was getting myself into.

Pulls out the familiar notepad.

LECONTE (CONT'D)
Born in July 1956, son of a school teacher.
(MORE)

LECONTE (CONT'D)
Between December 1978 and November 1979 he did his stint in the National Service and went to the Rochefort airbase, where he became *Chef de Section Protection*, a security team leader.

DAVIES
When did he start here?

LECONTE
In 1983. After trying to open a private detective agency. Worked here ever since. Most people describe him a discreet and few knew anything about his private life.

ROULET approaches, immediately displaying the exceedingly friendly demeanour of someone who has spent a lifetime in the hospitality business.

ROULET
Messieurs, welcome to the Ritz. I'm Claude Roulet.

DAVIES
Thank you for seeing me on such short notice.

INT. BAR VENDOME - CONTINUOUS

ROULET
So, what can I answer for you?

DAVIES
You were here the night of the accident?

ROULET
I was the assistant to the President, who was away on holiday. So I was filling in.

DAVIES
What do you remember about Henri that night?

ROULET
At around 7 PM he told me he was leaving here. The Princess and Dodi had left for Dodi's apartment, where they were planning to stay.

DAVIES
So Henri didn't expect them to come back to the Ritz?

ROULET
They were planning to have dinner at Benoit's Restaurant, but at the last minute they decided to eat here.

DAVIES
And did you inform Henri at that point?

ROULET
With the arrival of Dodi and Lady Di and the paparazzi following them, it was chaos in the entrance to the hotel. I called Henri and got the answering machine. Then I called him on his mobile and it was on voice mail. I didn't leave a message.

DAVIES
But somehow he ended up back at the hotel on his own accord?

ROULET
I called Monsieur Tendil, the guard in the lobby, again at around 23:25 hours but it was Henri who answered. I was very surprised and asked him what he was doing there. Henri Paul decided to return to the hotel off his own bat and without being asked by Tendil or myself, that anyway is what he said to me himself over the phone.

DAVIES
Is Mr. Tendil available?

ROULET
I believe he should be here by now.

INT. SERVICE COORIDORS

The same hallways navigated by Dodi and Diana preceding the accident. DAVIES spotting security cameras...

DAVIES
I've seen security footage from August 30, but not any tapes from this area.

ROULET
We had a very rudimentary system until recently. These are all new. In 1997, these cameras didn't cover the bar or the area near the Imperial Suite.

ROULET swipes an access card, ushering them into the security office.

ROULET (CONT'D)
Right this way.

INT. SECURITY OFFICE

A bank of television monitors show various security cameras from throughout the hotel.

ROULET
Francois, this is Messieurs Davies and Leconte. I briefed you about their presence today. Would you mind if they asked you a few questions?

TENDIL
Of course not.

DAVIES
What I'm wondering is if you remember Henri Paul's mental state the night of the accident?

TENDIL
Same as normal. Despite what's been written, he wasn't intoxicated.

DAVIES
The plan was to simply drive Diana and Dodi back to Dodi's apartment. Did you speak to anyone about the new itinerary?

TENDIL
I spoke about it with Henri. At one point, Mr. Paul went off upstairs to the suite where Dodi and the Princess were, and a few minutes later he returned and told us that there had been a change of plan.

DAVIES
When Henri told you that, did he tell you he was going to drive the vehicle?

TENDIL
Yes. I told him it was not for him to do so in view of his position at the heart of the hotel. He was the head of security, and it was rather the job of Dodi Al Fayed's usual driver. But Henri insisted.

DAVIES
Did the other bodyguards voice concern with the plan?

TENDIL
Trevor Rees-Jones was very frustrated. Eventually he seemed to calm down. Remained totally professional. He was just frustrated at the lack of information and the disregard of his advice.

DAVIES flips through his notepad...

DAVIES
One final thing. Henri Paul had roughly £1,200 on his person the night of the accident. About 13,000 Francs. Is it typical for him to carry that amount of cash?

ROULET
Sometimes our guests provide generous tips. But that amount is rather large. And I usually hear word of it, which I did not in this case.

EXT. RITZ HOTEL PARIS - EVENING

DAVIES
What time is the roadway shut down tomorrow?

LECONTE
At nine after morning traffic. And we only have a three hour window to reconstruct the accident scene.

The valet arrives with LECONTE's Mercedes.

LECONTE (CONT'D)
Shall I drop you at your hotel?

DAVIES
I'm going to visit Henri Paul's neighbourhood. See if anyone can remember seeing him the night of the accident.

LECONTE
I think your time might be better spent resting up for tomorrow. The police canvassed that route immediately after the accident and no one remembers seeing him.

DAVIES waving his notebook...

DAVIES
You should know, this thing doesn't fill up by itself.

LECONTE
Very well. I will pick you up at 8.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARIS - RUE DES PETITS CHAMPS - NIGHT

HENRI'S apartment entrance is jammed between romantic cafes and tiny boutiques. DAVIES canvasses a tangle of narrow, classically French streets.

Tslking on his mobile...

DAVIES
I'm sorry for being so frustrated my love.
(MORE)

DAVIES (CONT'D)
After visiting about two dozen establishments, at least I know where Henri Paul wasn't on August 30. He just seems to have vanished that night. Anyway, enough about work. Does Hannah miss me?

DAVIES stops and notices a suspicious reflection from behind in a shop display window.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
I need to call you back.

Hanging up, he quickens pace and turns a corner. Still sensing a presence, he deliberately darts across an intersection. Horns blare as he's nearly run over. DAVIES peels off into a pub...

INT. PUB - BATHROOM

...pushing through the crowd into the loo.

A gangly, tall man with dark features slowly enters.

Before the man can react, DAVIES flips him around and pins him against the wall --

MAN
-- Please ... I'm sorry I had to follow you. I needed to make sure you're alone --

DAVIES
-- Who are you?

MAN
I'm an American journalist working on a story about Henri Paul.

DAVIES cautiously release the man allowing him to turn...

DAVIES
I'm listening.

MAN
You're not the only one with good sources. I know what you're doing here. And I think I have some information about Henri Paul secretly working for French intelligence.

DAVIES
What do you mean?

MAN
Tomorrow night, meet me here.

He hands DAVIES a slip of paper with an address.

DAVIES
But how did you --

MAN
That’s all I can say.

The man exits. DAVIES composes himself, and by the time he follows, the man is absorbed by the crowd.

EXT. PUB - CONTINUOUS

On the street, DAVIES runs directly into LECONTE. A bit suprised...

DAVIES
Leconte?

LECONTE
I was just having dinner there across the street. Now would like that lift to your hotel?

DAVIES
That’s okay, but thank you.

LECONTE
Is everything okay?

DAVIES
Yes, fine. Just need a little fresh air.

LECONTE
Okay, see you tomorrow.

DAVIES walks off and pulls out his phone.

DAVIES
Clarke. I need you to look into something for me.

CLARKE
What is it?

DAVIES
Can you take a look through Paul's phone diary. We have a copy in evidence. Cross reference the numbers with any known French government related listings. Also, check his bank records and see if he made any large withdrawals within a couple weeks of the accident.

CLARKE
Easy enough.

DAVIES
Anything else going no?

Silence.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Clarke?

CLARKE
Michael, you should get back here soon.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Darkness. DAVIES, sound asleep, is BOLTED awake by the ringing telephone. Needs a moment to get his bearings.

DAVIES
Hello? Okay, give me five minutes. I'll meet you downstairs.

Gets up. Wipes his face. Looks at the alarm clock: **4:19 AM**

EXT. SIPA PRESS AGENCY - NIGHT

Glowing police sirens illuminate a commercial business district. LECONTE and DAVIES push their way underneath the crime scene tape.

LECONTE
Sipa is one of the leading photo agencies in France. They cover news events, celebrities --

DAVIES
And royal visits --

LECONTE
One of the biggest repositories of paparazzi photographs of Diana.

INT. SIPA PRESS AGENCY - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

A team of paramedics hoist up a stretcher with a security guard groaning in agony. They're approached by a female OFFICER.

OFFICER
He'll survive. Shot in the foot.

LECONTE
I'm Michel Leconte. This is Michael Davies. Sergeant Fouquet called me.

OFFICER
Yes, I'm Captain Annie Sibra. I was one of the first investigators to arrive on the scene.

LECONTE
So what happened?

SIBRA walks them through the office lobby pointing out key locations.

SIBRA
At approximately zero thirty suspect enters the building saying he's here to drop off photos. Security guard opened the door and the suspect pulled a gun and demanded to be taken to the second floor.

DAVIES
So he knew what he wanted.

OFFICER
Struggle ensued as the security guard tried to overpower the suspect, and that is how our howler was shot in the foot.

INT. SIPA PRESS AGENCY - SECOND FLOOR

Emerging from an elevator.

OFFICER
The guard and a computer programmer in the building were secured face down on the floor here. Then the suspect called someone and two more hooded suspects came up about five minutes later. Suspects demanded alarm and door codes. They hit a few locations on this and the third floor.

LECONTE
What'd they get?

OFFICER
Right now, still taking inventory. But looks like they left with a few laptops and some CD photo archives.

LECONTE
Here's my number. Call me when you have a final inventory of what specific photos are missing.

OFFICER
Yes, sir. Will do.

EXT. SIPA PRESS AGENCY - DAYBREAK

LECONTE and DAVIES talk quietly on a street corner, out of earshot of early morning commuters.

DAVIES
What are you thinking here?

LECONTE
You know, there was another photo burglary the night after the car accident.

DAVIES
What do you mean?

LECONTE
September 1, 1997. A man by the name of Lionel Cherruault, a press photographer specialising in the Royal Family and Diana in particular, was asleep with his wife. Someone broke in and stole his computer hard drive containing his photo archive. Still unsolved.

DAVIES
Somebody is trying to cover up any photographic evidence from around the time of the crash. Do we know what press agency represented Cherruault?

LECONTE
You’re standing right in front of it.

CUT TO:

EXT. COURS ALBERT - ALMA UNDERPASS - MORNING

The normally bustling urban highway is cordoned off by police. A forklift delicately lowers the smashed Mercedes from the wreck into the exact place in the tunnel where the accident occurred.

His paunch making bending over a chore, DAVID PRICE (57) spray paints numerical markings on the roadway.

PRICE
First time these roads have been blocked since the morning after the accident.

DAVIES
You must be David Price?

PRICE
I am.

DAVIES
(to LECONTE)
Mr. Price is a forensic accident investigator at the Transportation Research Laboratory. Figured he’d be worth having here today.

PRICE
Before we get to the car, let’s walk the scene.

DAVIES
Leconte, what do you know from that night?

They start a hundred meters from the tunnel entrance. The road starts above ground and slopes down into an underpass.

LECONTE
The Mercedes was travelling along the Cours Albert in this direction. At that time of night, there aren't many cars on the road here. Witnesses claimed to have seen the Mercedes being followed towards the underpass by motorcycles. At least six witnesses described a dark car ahead or level with the Mercedes as it entered the underpass.

DAVIES
What about blocking its path?

LECONTE
Professional drivers would have taken the exit slip road off to the right here and not gone underground. Witnesses say a motorcycle to the right impeded its exit.

Walking towards the entrance to the tunnel...

DAVIES
What about the car itself?

PRICE
No evidence was found of anything attached to the car that could have affected its control. Nothing considered likely to have affected control of the car during the approach to the crash was found.

DAVIES
So what happened in your opinion?

PRICE
I think you're dealing with a driver who lost control when the he started to perceive the extent of the hazard presented by a nearby car, and thus the need to take avoiding action.

DAVIES
Witnesses described seeing a white flash before the crash. Make anything of that?

PRICE
When a car is travelling in a straight line on a level surface, the pattern of the headlights on the road and walls ahead will be steady. However when a car turns suddenly, for whatever reason, the beam of the headlights will alter direction accordingly. To an observer who is momentarily aligned with the beam or with its reflection off a wall as the car turns, the brief increase in light intensity will effectively be a flash.

Approaching the car...

LECONTE
No one was wearing seat belts.

DAVIES
And Diana was sitting here in this side, right?

LECONTE
Yes.

Noticing a small drop of blood on the carpet...

DAVIES
Leconte, can we have someone take this sample?

LECONTE
We have plenty of samples from everyone in the car. But as you wish.

Signals to a tech to take care of the swab.

DAVIES
A motorcycle was described by witnesses leaving the underpass immediately before the collision travelling ‘fairly quickly’, at ‘high speed’ or as taking ‘off like a shot’.

Inspecting at scratch along the door...

DAVIES (CONT’D)
What about these white marks?

LECONTE
Based on paint samples taken from the side mirror and the door, we think a white Fiat Uno was involved in the crash.

DAVIES
And whose Fiat did that turn out to be?

LECONTE
Frankly, we don't know. The paint was from a model year 1983-1987. For over a year the police looked at almost 5,000 White Fiat Uno's that matched this scenario. Ultimately, they were unable to identify a driver or the vehicle.

DAVIES
Do you have a list of the owners the searched?

LECONTE
We can get one at the station, yes.

INT. POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

DAVIES sorts through one filebox after another while LECONTE sits calmly at a desk fiddling with a computer.

LECONTE
You seem like a natural police. How'd you end up as a suit?

DAVIES
About six months after making detective, I was working on a sex crimes task force and arrested a member of the House of Lords who was caught paying an underage call girl.

LECONTE
And? I'm guessing that sort of thing happens rather frequently.

DAVIES
Specifically so here. Had actually arrested the same guy about a year prior for a similar offence. Was supposed to be put away for it.
(MORE)

DAVIES (CONT'D)
But of course, given who he was he beat the charges. It happens all the time and I'm not naive to the power of privilege. Figured as a prosecutor I'd actually make criminals pay a price. With my background, I'm not really beholden to anyone.

LECONTE
Anything surprise you?

DAVIES
Yeah, the first time I arrested him, quite literally with his pants down, turned out he was wearing women's underwear.

LECONTE
I meant about those files.

DAVIES
Ah, not really. Seems like most of these leads were covered off. No names that mean anything.

DAVIES leans back and a news report on a TV screen catches his attention.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Turn that up --

NEWS V.O.
Today, Scotland Yard authorities arrested Princess Diana's former butler Paul Burrell at his home in Chester on suspicion of theft of Diana's belongings.

ONSCREEN police cart boxes of evidence out of BURRELL'S modest countryside home.

NEWS V.O. (CONT'D)
According the sources, the police conducted a 12-hour search of Burell's house, tearing up carpets and floorboards, and finding 342 items reportedly worth five million pounds, which are said to have been stolen from Diana's former London home at Kensington Palace.

DAVIES grabs for his cell phone.

DAVIES
It’s Michael, is Alistair there?
(beat)
Can you get him out of the meeting?
(beat)
Transfer me to Clarke.

CLARKE
This is --

DAVIES
-- What the hell is going on?

CLARKE
Michael, calm down.

DAVIES
Did you know about this?

CLARKE
This was all Alistair.

DAVIES
He’s sabotaging me.

CLARKE
That’s what he says you’re doing to your career. Thinks you must be bloody mad or drunk. He wants you home tomorrow.

DAVIES slams down the phone. After a beat, something is triggered.

DAVIES
Pull up the list of photographers working with Sipa Press.

A few keystrokes...

LECONTE
Got it.

Studying the screen.

DAVIES
I’ve been like a drunk looking for his car keys where the street lamp is instead of where he dropped them.

LECONTE
How so?

DAVIES
Cross reference this with the motor registry database.
(best)
I've been trying to find a culprit. The obvious answer. Maybe I should be looking for a witness. Someone who saw what happened and is afraid to come forward.

LECONTE
James Andanson. He has a White Fiat Uno. But it was from the model year 1998. Outside the year the paint at the scene was from so it didn't come up in the initial search.

DAVIES
What's his address? I'm going to talk to him.

LECONTE
I'll come.

DAVIES
No, you stay here. Find me everything you can on his whereabouts that night.

I/E. PEUGOT - DUSK

Davies driving. We hear Leconte's voice over the phone.

LECONTE (O.S.)
Andanson was in the South of France covering the Jonikal yacht with other photographers. He returned home two days before Diana and Dodi flew to Paris. None of the security footage from the Ritz shows him there on August 30.
(beat)
His wife said James is likely at some property they have in Les Louettes.

DAVIES notices his call waiting.

DAVIES
Have another call coming in I need to take. But thanks for the info.

Switching over...

CLARKE (O.S.)
Got some info back from Henri's phone records.

DAVIES
Find anything?

CLARKE (O.S.)
There were two people with the abbreviation DST next to their names --

DAVIES
La Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire. Means he was in contact with the organisation that deals with espionage and terrorism.

CLARKE (O.S.)
And by the way, someone handed him the money that night. There weren't any large cash withdrawals from his bank account.

Untangling a paper map, DAVIES spots his turnoff...

DAVIES
I've gotta run. Tracked down someone else who could be a break.

CLARKE (O.S.)
Something about Henri?

DAVIES
Not really. Tell you when I'm back tomorrow.

CLARKE (O.S.)
Okay, safe travels Michael.

EXT. LES LOUETTES - WOODED AREA

Parking in a secluded clearing, DAVIES gets out of the car and scans the area -- eventually spotting a WHITE FIAT UNO in the distance.

DAVIES
(shouting)
James?

His voice echoes. Then silence. He slowly approaches...

DAVIES (CONT'D)
James? I'd like to speak with you. Your wife told me I could find you here.

And before he can take a step further, the Uno ERUPTS into a MASSIVE FIREBALL.

CUT TO:

EXT. LES LOUETTES - WOODED AREA - LATER

Davies dismisses a medic attempting to treat his cuts and bruises. Approaching a group of investigators looking at the car...

DAVIES
Find anything so far?

CORONER
Everything's almost disintegrated due to the intense heat.

Peaking into the car...

DAVIES
Is that the head in between the two front seats?

CORONER
Could've resulted from the fire.

DAVIES
And what about the hole I'm seeing here in the left temple?

CORONER
I'll need to look into that back at my lab. We did pick up traces of accelerant -- some sort of petrol -- around the driver's seat and footwell.

DAVIES
How long will the autopsy take?

CORONER
I'll have more definitive analysis in the next 24 hours.

DAVIES
I'm heading back to London in the morning. But please call me when you have an update.

EXT. PARIS STREET - NIGHT

CLOSE ON DAVIES face looking at the scrap of paper passed from the journalist. We pull back and see he's standing at the base of the Eiffel Tower.

EXT. EIFFEL TOWER - OBSERVATION DECK

Paris flickers in the background. An occasional gust blows DAVIES off balance. He spots the JOURNALIST in an empty corner.

JOURNALIST
Thanks for meeting me up here. It's a little outlandish, but as I'm sure you know protecting confidentiality is important.

DAVIES
What do you have for me?

POSNER casts his line...

POSNER
My name's Gerald Posner. I'm an American investigative journalist writing an article about Henri Paul's whereabouts the night of the accident.

DAVIES
Forgive me if I'm less than inclined to believe anything you have to say.

POSNER
Have you wondered why Mr. Paul had thirteen thousand Francs on him the night of the accident?

With that heretofore confidential piece of bait, DAVIES is hooked....

POSNER (CONT'D)
I've been an investigative reporter for 25 years. New York Times. Vanity Fair. You name it.
(MORE)

POSNER (CONT'D)
Law enforcement and intelligence sources have built up a faith in me. Figured knowing each other could be mutually beneficial.

DAVIES
I guess that depends what you know.

POSNER
On August 30, when Henri Paul left the Ritz, he had a meeting with a member of the French intelligence service, DGSE.

DAVIES
He was head of security at a major international hotel where diplomats and businessmen came regularly. Not highly unusual.

POSNER
He was a paid informant. That evening they discussed various things, including something about Diana, and money was transferred to Henri Paul. The bulk of which, I gather, was the money that was found on him the night of the accident.

DAVIES
And you trust this source?

POSNER
Sources. Two of them. I don't publish something because somebody sits across a table from me and says: I happen to work for MI6 or NSA. My word is my bond and that's the reason why I'm able to get access to sources like this.

DAVIES
I suppose you won't tell me who this source is?

POSNER
Wish I could. But to do so would be to narrow the window down so that the individuals who would like to identify this source could do so.

DAVIES
As I’m sure you’re smart enough to know, there’s nothing I can do with third-hand anonymous sources. I’d be better off quoting a tabloid.

POSNER
In my dealings with intelligence agencies, they will often obfuscate, lie, and refuse to release information until they are absolutely forced to. They create the fodder for conspiracy theories. I called on the DGSE to release the files they have on Henri Paul. They won’t listen to me, but maybe they will you.

DAVIES
And let me guess, in return you want me to leak you the information.

POSNER
We can help each other.

DAVIES
I could lose my job over leaks like this.

DAVIES turns to leave.

POSNER
Mr. Davies. When you do finally get them to fold. You might want to also ask about the white flash in the tunnel. An MI6 technique to disorient drivers. An agent under the cover NDO might have some info.

CUT TO:

INT. CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE HQ - ALISTAIR SILSBURY’S OFFICE

Relationships frayed all around, DAVIES, SILSBURY, and CLARKE can hardly stand to look at one another.

SILSBURY
Burgess is commencing the official jury inquest process in one week. He plans to read your full report to the public then.

Total silence. DAVIES shakes his head.

SILSBURY (CONT'D)
What is it?

DAVIES
You know that isn't enough time.

SILSBURY
Don't be so feckless, Michael.

DAVIES
Unsolved burglaries targeted photos from the days surrounding the crash. Not to mention one of those photographers -- a potential key witness -- blown to bits in a car that could be linked to the accident scene.

CLARKE
Andanson left his wallet, Cartier watch, mobile telephone and his attaché case -- objects that he would normally keep with him -- at home. He posted a letter to Sipa Press agency asking for all of his photographic royalties to be put into his wife's name. He took his own life. And there is no forensic evidence linking his Fiat to Diana's accident scene --

DAVIES
-- the evidence doesn't rule it in or out --

SILSBURY
-- listen to yourself. I never thought you'd throw away your career over this.

CLARKE tries to be a voice of reason...

CLARKE
Michael, we got the lab work back from Diana's blood sample you found in the Mercedes. From before she had any transfusion. She wasn't pregnant.

DAVIES
That doesn't mean people didn't think she was. Or that she wasn't planning to get engaged.

CLARKE
Even if every shred of evidence was accurate, you still need to prove someone ordered these assassinations. And that someone being the Queen. That will never happen. Your case is nonexistent.

DAVIES
Witnesses clearly saw a white flash in the tunnel. If I can track down this agent NDO, we might be able to link MI6. If I can prove that, I can come pretty damn close to proving what this was.

SILSBURY
You've got nothing, as I expected.

DAVIES
Wanted.

SILSBURY
Excuse me?

DAVIES
It's what you wanted. It's not one or two minor coincidences here. We're talking about dozens of open ends --

SILSBURY
Enough.

Dead silence.

SILSBURY (CONT'D)
Christopher, will you excuse us for a moment.

CLARKE
(mouthing to DAVIES)
Good luck.

CLARKE exits.

SILSBURY
I got a call from the PM today.

DAVIES
(somewhat resigned)
Alistair, I'm just doing --

SILSBURY
-- he was looking for a recommendation for a new deputy Solicitor General.

CLARKE
Cohen's post?

SILSBURY
Retiring at the end of this year.

Leaning in close...

SILSBURY (CONT'D)
Finish your written report and get it to Burgess. No more of this conspiracy nonsense.

DAVIES
You're trying to bribe me?

SILSBURY
Bribery is beneath me. I think this is actually called blackmail. Michael, I know you met with the reporter Posner in France.

DAVIES
Leconte.

SILSBURY
He kept tabs on you at my behest.
(beat)
Leaking information to a journalist is enough for me to have you expelled from the Bar Council. Your career as a solicitor will be ended forever.

The gravity of his threat sinks in.

SILSBURY (CONT'D)
Stick to the facts. No hinting at cover ups. Nothing about the white flash. And we'll see what we can do about that recommendation.

INT. DAVIES FLAT - KITCHEN

An exhausted DAVIES ambles into the house and drops his briefcase.

CATHERINE trudges in.

CATHERINE
Finally put Hannah to sleep.

DAVIES
I'll go say goodnight in a bit.

He opens a bottle of scotch and pours two drinks.

CATHERINE
Meeting with Alistair that bad?

DAVIES
We're celebrating.
(beat)
Alistair offered to put me up for a new post. Deputy Solicitor General.

CATHERINE
That's amazing! Are you going to take it?

DAVIES
It's not that simple. The only way he'll recommend me is if I bury half of what I've learned in this investigation.

CATHERINE
What are you going to do?

DAVIES
Even if I present what I want to at the Inquest, my reputation will be pulverized. Likely forever. This conversation is as close as I'll ever come to deputy anything.

CATHERINE turns serious.

CATHERINE
There's something I need to tell you.

DAVIES
Go on.

CATHERINE
(nervously)
The night you came by dinner at my parents house. When you told me about the letter you found -- it's just, I was so worried --

DAVIES
-- what is it?

CATHERINE
I told my father about it. He was so against what you were doing. And I wanted to stick up for you. I wanted him to know you weren't crazy. I was trying to convince myself you weren't crazy.

DAVIES smiles.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
What?

DAVIES
That's what you wanted to tell me?

CATHERINE
I thought it was private. Evidence. And I've been paranoid all this time. With the job offer, who knows what they look into. Wanted you to know.

He grabs her hand.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
You're not mad?

DAVIES
Quite the contrary.

CATHERINE
I love you. And I hope you know, no matter what you choose, you always make me proud.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE - DAVIES PREPARING INQUEST REPORT

...over which, we hear Royal Coroner Michael Burgess' opening remarks to the jury.

-- Davies organizes stacks of thousands of documents across a large conference room table.

BURGESS (V.O.)
A criminal trial is an adversarial process. The prosecution makes an allegation that the defendant has committed a particular offence and sets out to prove it; the defendant says he has not committed the crime and sets out to show why not. An inquest is an inquiry or inquisition where the court is trying to find out what happened. There is no prosecution, no defence, just a search for the truth.

-- On a dry erase board, a number of categories (Itinerary, Henri Paul, Accident Scene, Autopsy) are crossed off. In red marker he circles “MI6 Connection” and “Burrell” and stares at the board.

BURGESS (V.O.)
Members of the jury, in the early hours of Sunday 31st August, 1997, a Mercedes motor car, in which Diana, Princess of Wales was a passenger, crashed into a pillar in the central reservation of the Alma Underpass in Paris. Most, if not all of you, will remember where you were when you heard about the subsequent death of the Princess of Wales.

-- Davies hovers over his assistant’s computer giving edits as she types away.

BURGESS (V.O.)
Your duty is to inquire into the deaths of two of the people who died. Why, you may ask, are we doing this over ten years after the event, a delay which will inevitably make the investigation more difficult.

-- Coming off a printing press, the 600-page opus entitled **“The Inquiry Report Into the Allegation of Conspiracy to Murder Diana, Princess of Wales and Emad El-Din Mohamed Abdel Moneim Fayed”**

BURGESS (V.O.)
Mohamed Al Fayed has maintained throughout, that the crash was not an accident but murder in furtherance of a conspiracy by "the Establishment", in particular His Royal Highness Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh, who used "the Security Services" to carry it out. The French authorities' views were sought and they declined to re-open their investigation into the circumstances of the crash in the light of those allegations.

-- The massive Royal Courts of Justice building. The gothic architecture of a church. Over three miles of twisting hallways. DAVIES enters holding the report.

INT. ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE - COURTROOM 73

Oak panelled and stately. BURGESS is backed by intricately carved wooden Royal Coat of Arms.

We finally see the faces of eleven jurors of mixed age and ethnicity.

BURGESS
Members of the jury, the background: it may help you to have a chronology which has been prepared. This simply sets out the bare details in chronological order and you may find it is helpful to use it as a peg to hang your information on as you get it.

CLOSE ON Burgess slamming his gavel.

CUT TO:

INT. COURTROOM 73 - DAYS LATER

All eyes on DAVIES addressing the court. CLARKE sitting nearby.

DAVIES
At this point you've heard the history and chronology of the investigation from a variety of sources.
(MORE)

DAVIES (CONT'D)
I'd now like to add a few human elements to help bring out some of the more, shall we say, puzzling points to this case, by calling Mr. Paul Burrell to the stand.

Eager chatter sweeps the courtroom.

BURRELL is sworn in and takes his seat in the witness box. They begin on friendly terms...

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Mr. Burell, when did you start working for the Royal family?

BURRELL
December 1976. I was originally one of 12 Household footmen and eventually very fortunate to be appointed to become Her Majesty's personal footman within.

Smiling as he relives these memories...

DAVIES
Did you first get to know the late Princess at about the time of her engagement?

BURRELL
Even before. She came to stay as a house guest at Balmoral Castle long before she was ever known by the public.

DAVIES
In 1987, did you leave the personal service of Her Majesty and go to work as butler for the Prince and Princess of Wales at Highgrove?

BURRELL
Yes, I did.

DAVIES
Was the relationship that developed between the Princess and you and your wife and your respective children merely one of employer and employee?

BURRELL
I was a very fortunate man to be embraced by the Princess in such a personal way and my family were too. My two children grew up in the royal nursery with William and Harry.

Treading lightly...

DAVIES
Given how close you were, did she speak about the nature of her relationship with Dodi?

BURRELL
Not in specifics I can recall.

DAVIES
Is it a fair assessment that you were one of her most intimate confidantes.

BURRELL
I think that's fair.

DAVIES
We have heard that she compartmentalised her friends.

BURRELL
Not everyone knew everything. People knew certain amounts.

DAVIES
Insofar as anyone knew everything, and that's, as I say, insofar as --

BURRELL's arrogance on display, he pushes back evasively.

BURRELL
-- I can't say I knew everything.

DAVIES
No, but do you think you were in the best position to know most?

BURRELL
I was pretty well informed.

DAVIES frustration mounts...

DAVIES
So would it not surprise you if the Princess was planning to get married or potentially pregnant that she would not tell any of her friends?

BURGESS
Mr. Davies, please stick to the facts.

BURRELL
I would appreciate that as well.

DAVIES fumes at being rebuked. Looking to put BURRELL back in his place...

DAVIES
You were arrested for allegedly stealing over 300 items from Diana after she passed.

BURRELL
Every last charge was dropped.

DAVIES
After your arrest a member of the royal family surprisingly came forward and said you were actually allowed to keep the items you had taken?

BURRELL
The Queen.

DAVIES
So it was Her Majesty who helped clear your name?

BURRELL
(smug)
The Queen has come through for me, yes.

DAVIES pauses for a moment and scans the courtroom. Making eye contact with SILSBURY, he takes a deep breath...

DAVIES
You are aware, aren't you, that it is suggested that there were letters from Prince Philip to Diana of such a vituperative and unpleasant nature that they would provide some support for the suggestion that he loathed his daughter-in-law, and thus some support, as I understand it, for the suggestion that he murdered her.

BURRELL
I understand the inference, yes.

CLARKE leaps from his chair.

CLARKE
Lord Justice, if I may confer with Mr. Davies for a moment.

BURGESS
Quickly, yes.

CLARKE pulls DAVIES aside and whispers...

CLARKE
What in bloody hell are you doing?

DAVIES
A butler spared prosecution by the Queen herself. Preventing that subversion of justice is why I got into this job. I'm certainly not going to turn a blind eye just to keep it.

DAVIES turns his back and returns to questioning.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Did the Princess show to you any correspondence from Prince Philip?

BURRELL
I saw a bundle of letters. They were all distinctive because they were all written on His Royal Highness's personal stationery and typed on what would seem to be an old-fashioned typewriter.

DAVIES
Could you give a general description of the tone of the letters.

BURRELL feeling uneasy...

BURRELL
The letters could be described as startling with a tone that was quite cutting and cruel, but at other times very supportive and kind.

DAVIES
These letters, do you know where they were?

BURRELL
I do. I know where all the Princess's belongings were.

DAVIES
Letters from Prince Philip, no doubt important?

BURRELL
Yes.

DAVIES
Letters from the Queen, no doubt very important. Were they kept somewhere special?

BURRELL
They were kept in a box in the Princess's room, in a locked box. The Princess had a secret box in which she kept personal correspondence of a sensitive nature.

DAVIES
What sort of box?

BURRELL
It was a mahogany box about 2 foot long by about 8 inches deep.

DAVIES
She kept the key?

BURRELL
She kept the key.

DAVIES
Did you have a separate key?

BURRELL
No.

BURGESS
Mr. Davies, may I ask where you're heading with this?

DAVIES
Lord Justice, it's clear that there is a pattern of cover up going on here. Potential photographic evidence from the night of Diana's crash has been stolen. And now we're learning of missing letters from Prince Philip.

BURGESS
Make this expedient Mr. Davies.

DAVIES
Mr. Burrell, did you deal with the mountains of correspondence in the apartment when Diana passed?

BURRELL remains silent...

BURGESS
Please answer Mr. Burrell.

Reluctantly...

BURRELL
Well it was a very difficult time when the Princess died and having to wrap up her world, and Mrs. Shand Kydd, Diana's mother, came to my assistance and installed herself in the Princess's apartment from 9 to 5 every day, sorting out her daughter's belongings. During that time she shredded a great deal of correspondence and personal papers.

DAVIES
How long, roughly, was Mrs. Kydd in the apartment sorting and shredding?

BURRELL
Every day for a week.

DAVIES
Did she discuss with you what she was shredding or why?

BURRELL
She thought it was appropriate to protect her daughter's legacy and to protect her name. She didn't tell me what she was shredding and I never saw what she was doing. I was only responsible for removing the bags of shredded paper.

DAVIES
What sort of volume -- are these in black plastic sacks?

BURRELL
There would have been half a dozen black bin bags of correspondence.

DAVIES
And you were concerned by what you saw?

BURRELL
So much so that I asked to see Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

DAVIES
Is it right that in due course Her Majesty agreed to see you?

INT. BUCKINGHAM PALACE - SITTING ROOM - (FLASHBACK)

The Queen’s private meeting room. Mint green walls. Gold carpet. Matching gold chairs.

BURRELL greets HER MAJESTY formally: One step, neck bow. Next step, second neck bow.

BURRELL (V.O.)
Yes, she did. The Queen knows me well.

DAVIES (V.O.)
Can you remember when the audience with Her Majesty took place?

BURRELL (V.O.)
I received a note that said: “The Queen would be delighted to see you at 2 o'clock on Thursday 19th December. I think you know your way here.”

BURRELL sits and they begin to chat.

BURGESS (V.O.)
Was anybody else present or just the two of you?

BURRELL (V.O.)
Just the two of us, sir.

BURRELL
Your majesty, I wanted to bring to your attention a matter that transgressed when Lady Diana’s personal items were being packed after her passing.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II
Go on.

BURRELL
Diana’s mother was shredding a large variety of letters. The Princess fought long and hard to establish herself on the world stage. I felt it inappropriate for members of her family to come into her world when she was no longer there to protect it and rearrange it or rewrite history.

The Queen takes a sip of tea and delicately places her cup on the saucer. Looking directly at Burrell...

QUEEN ELIZABETH II
Be careful, Paul, no-one has been as close to a member of my family as you have. There are powers at work in this country about which we have no knowledge. Do you understand?

INT. COURTROOM 73 - (PRESENT DAY)

DAVIES
There was, in fact, some controversy about the length of the meeting because a number of newspapers suggested that your recollection of a long meeting was absurd because you were a footman, Her Majesty was the Head of State, and to suggest that there was a meeting that was hours long, you must be wrong.

BURRELL
But then they would, wouldn't they?

DAVIES
What happened when that suggestion was made in the newspapers?

BURRELL
Buckingham Palace issued a statement that to their best recollection -- of course it wasn't a timed meeting, it wasn't a scheduled meeting; it was a private meeting -- to their best knowledge the meeting lasted for at least 90 minutes.

DAVIES
Did you ask what Her Majesty meant by that “powers at work.”

BURRELL
One doesn't ask the Queen what she means by something.

DAVIES
You say that you had “a written farewell” from Diana sometime in August.

BURRELL
Yes.

DAVIES
This letter you have amongst your letters?

BURRELL
Yes.

DAVIES projects the letter on an overhead screen.

DAVIES
“Dear Paul, clearly from your third eye, this coming weekend is an important one!” When you read this, did it have a meaning for you?

BURRELL
I am sure it did.

DAVIES
What was the meaning?

BURRELL
It was obviously something very private.

DAVIES
It's the next paragraph, so the jury can follow: “I wanted to write on paper how enormously touched I am that you share this excitement with me as well. What a secret!”

BURRELL
Some secrets will go with me to my grave.

DAVIES
I appreciate that, but if that's right, you presumably know what this secret is then, do you?

BURRELL
I know many secrets, sir.

DAVIES
What was it?

BURRELL
It was nothing to do with Dodi Al Fayed and I am not prepared to tell you what that secret is.

DAVIES
So you know what the secret was? “Yes” or “no”?

BURRELL remains silent.

DAVIES (CONT’D)
“Yes” or “no”"?

BURRELL
Yes, I know what the secret was.

DAVIES
You do know what the secret was.

Getting defensive...

BURRELL
I am beginning to feel I am on trial.

DAVIES
The secret that you have in relation to this letter -- you can remember it as you sit there, can you, what it was?

BURRELL
It could be one of many.

DAVIES' impatience shows...

DAVIES
I really don't want you to guess. I do not want you to say "I have a lot of secrets and it could be any of them" --

BURRELL
Okay, I cannot remember what that particular secret was.

DAVIES
You said "yes" before; now you are saying it's one of a number -- do you remember what this secret was about, a farewell letter as you interpreted it?

BURRELL
No.

DAVIES
One of the reasons that it is suggested that Prince Philip should seek to murder his erstwhile daughter-in-law is that he would be unable to countenance, as would the establishment, a liaison between the Princess and a Muslim. You appreciate that's one of the reasons that's put forward?

BURRELL
Nonsense. She dated a Muslim -- Dr. Hasnt Kahn -- before Dodi for two years.

DAVIES
What was the quality of that relationship?

BURRELL
Well, the Princess said that this was her soulmate. But I remember it coming to an abrupt halt. She had had it, she had tried everything she could to bring this man out into the public spotlight and he was having none of it.

DAVIES builds to his point...

DAVIES
So Mr. Khan couldn't cope with the public life. And everyone knew that. Thus, there was no fear of a marriage. But for Dodi, the situation was different. Isn’t that spotlight something Mr. Al Fayed would be better equipped to deal with?

BURRELL
Well, I supposed so, yes.

DAVIES
Her Majesty was concerned that the Princess was rather over-excited at the moment. She was at the start of a long-term union with Dodi Al Fayed; is that right?

BURRELL
Her Majesty was concerned about the future.

DAVIES
A “long-term union”, was that the expression that she used?

BURRELL
I didn't keep notes at that meeting.

DAVIES
You had a lifelong and very personal relationship with many prominent members of the royal family. You were Diana's confidante. And we are not to expect that somehow you are not protecting her majesty in some way by revealing what secrets you know?

BURRELL remains silent.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
It's quite confounding that you are so private now about this "farewell" letter, when you had no reservations about leaking to the Daily Mirror the other letter Diana wrote you about concerns for her life.

BURRELL
(very serious)
My desire is to protect Diana's legacy. I had absolutely nothing to do with releasing that letter.

DAVIES pauses, sensing he might actually be telling the truth on the matter.

INT. CAVENDISH MANOR - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Buried in the study of a moldering antique map, CAVENDISH is startled by DAVIES sudden appearance.

DAVIES
Figured I'd let myself in. What with us being family and all.

LORD CAVENDISH
Is everything okay with Catherine?

DAVIES
I know you never much cared for me. But betraying one's own. That's something I wouldn't have expected.

LORD CAVENDISH
What on earth are you talking about Michael?

DAVIES
I know you leaked the letter.

LORD CAVENDISH
Excuse me?

DAVIES
The Burrell letter. Catherine told you about it, and you tried to bury me with it in the press.

LORD CAVENDISH
However ill you think of me, you really think I'd stoop so low as to speak with a reporter.

DAVIES
If it meant hurting me, yes.

LORD CAVENDISH
Quite the contrary. I was trying to protect you.

DAVIES
I find that hard to believe.

LORD CAVENDISH
The only person to whom I spoke about it was Alistair. Figured he might be able to talk some sense into you.

DAVIES feels the wind knocked out of him, but regroups.

LORD CAVENDISH (CONT'D)
Obviously, there wasn't much I could do to stop you.

DAVIES
But there is something you are going to do for me.

LORD CAVENDISH
Pardon?

DAVIES
I need a name. Someone who works for MI6. But I only have a cover name of NDO.

LORD CAVENDISH
Don't be silly. How can I help with that?

DAVIES
I know Silsbury isn't the only government friend who owes you favours. MI6 is practically run by your set. I don't care who you call. But you're getting me that name.

LORD CAVENDISH
And if I don't?

DAVIES
I'll tell Catherine about the letter. And what you did.

LORD CAVENDISH
She wouldn't believe you.

DAVIES
She already chose me over you once. And if you want any semblance of a relationship with her, I don't think you want to take that chance again.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE - COURTROOM 73 - MORNING

BURGESS
Mr. Davies, considering the amount of material we've covered thus far, and the direction your examination took yesterday, I've decided that today should be the last day of open questioning. The jurors have heard more than enough information at this point.

DAVIES
I only have two witnesses remaining.

BURGESS
You may proceed, but these are your last two.

DAVIES
Thank you. I'd like to call Richard Tomlinson.

TOMLINSON (45), swarthy and rugged, is sworn in and takes the stand. Curious murmurs from the courtroom.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
Mr. Tomlinson, from 1991 to 1995 were you employed by the British Secret Intelligence Service, or SIS, under the cover name NDO?

TOMLINSON
Yes, that's correct.

DAVIES
And can you tell us what the SIS is?

TOMLINSON
The SIS, which most know as MI6, essentially provides foreign intelligence to the government.

DAVIES
Now, as I understand it, in 1992 you saw a detailed report outlining some options for a possible plan to assassinate then Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

TOMLINSON
As the civil war in the former Yugoslavia became increasingly topical, I started to work primarily on operations in Serbia. During this time I became acquainted with the MI6 officer who was in charge of planning Balkan operations. During one meeting he casually showed to me a document that turned out to be an outline plan to assassinate Milosevic.

DAVIES
And what was the plan specifically?

TOMLINSON
There were three scenarios for his assassination. One consisted of causing a road traffic accident during a trip by Mr. Milosevic to Switzerland for the peace talks on the former Yugoslavia. The scenario was very brief, but it involved causing an accident with a serious risk of the Serb President being killed with as few witnesses as possible, in a tunnel for example.

The jurors are rapt with silence. Though SILSBURY, sitting near the back of the courtroom, looks none to pleased.

TOMLINSON (CONT'D)
The possibility of using a very powerful flash, capable of blinding the driver of the vehicle, was mentioned.

DAVIES
A white flash?

TOMLINSON
Yes, using a strobe flash gun, a device which is occasionally deployed by special forces to, for example, disorientate helicopter pilots or terrorists and about which MI6 officers are briefed during their training. But in this case to disorient a chauffeur.

BURGESS cutting in...

BURGESS
Mr. Davies, if I may.

DAVIES
Of course.

He flips through a small report and removes his glasses...

BURGESS
Mr. Tomlinson, I don't want to delve too far but were you released from your position in 1995 under acrimonious circumstances?

TOMLINSON
I did have some differences with my superiors yes.

BURGESS
Were you not arrested in relation to Official Secrets Act offences?

TOMLINSON
On the advice of my counsel, I'd prefer not to answer that. The matter is still pending.

BURGESS
Understood. That is your right. Anything else Mr. Davies?

DAVIES
No thank you Lord Justice.

TOMLINSON leaves the stand.

BURGESS
Mr. Davies, looking at the time we can take a short break --

DAVIES notices SILSBURY glaring at him...

DAVIES
I'd like to continue if it suits your honour.

BURGESS
Please proceed.

DAVIES
For my last witness, I'd like to call Mohammed Al Fayed.

AL FAYED is sworn in and takes the stand.

DAVIES (CONT'D)
You are a very well-known man, a great and buccaneering businessman, but you are here today as the father of a son who died in a crash, for whom you still grieve deeply. What I should like to do is elicit from you your account of the events of the summer and then ask you a few questions about the main allegations that you have been making. Are content with that sort of course?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
I make no allegations.

DAVIES
All right.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
My belief that my son and Princess Diana were murdered was confirmed when I learned that two leading commissioners did not show the Coroner the notes made by Lord Mishcon detailing the Princess's fears for her life. Princess Diana also told me personally of her fears.
(MORE)

MOHAMMED AL FAYED (CONT'D)
She told me that she knew Prince Philip and Charles want to get rid of her. I believe that they acted unprofessionally and they must have no conscience. They have no courage and have given into the dark forces that want the note to stay secret.

DAVIES
So your first concern that you want the jury to understand centres on the Mishcon note and the decision to disclose it?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
I am talking to the jury, a jury of ordinary people, if they accept it. You don't want this as a major cover-up from two leading police officers in charge of the security in this content. She said that she is going to die or be killed in a car crash in the note and this is what happened, with my son.

DAVIES
You will have to allow me to interrupt for just a moment, Mr. Al Fayed. You know you are here to give evidence, rather than to argue a case or even to make speeches --

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
I am just talking black and white points why I am convinced --

DAVIES
I know, because you have identified a handful of points that particularly concern you.

BURGESS
You have more points?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Princess Diana told me that she had proof that her life was in danger and that she kept in a wooden box, that Paul Burrell knew about -- she told me that if she was ever killed or anything happened to her, I must make sure that the contents of this box were made public.
(MORE)

MOHAMMED AL FAYED (CONT'D)
I told Paul Burrell the day after what happened. He promised me that he would keep the contents of the box safe and tell me that if anyone tried to tamper with them -- he did not kept his promise. The next I heard was that he had been arrested and that he had stolen Diana's possessions and he was then set free by the Queen.

DAVIES
So the Queen is also part of the cover-up?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Where is this box? Where is the letters? You asked me -- to say I have no proof. How can you want me to get the proof? I am facing a steel wall of the security service. I have been fighting for ten years to reach where we are, to have a formal and to have a jury of ordinary people.

DAVIES
The last point that you particularly wanted to emphasise concerns dark forces.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
I believe Richard Tomlinson and I believe the evidence that he gave to the inquest, very convincing, that MI6 assassinates people of great importance and relevance. He believes that there is a file on the paparazzi member in the pay of security services. This is likely to be James Andanson, who has executed the murder in his own Fiat, pushed the car, and the strobe lights have been used to blind Henri Paul.

DAVIES
Can I just interrupt you there to check that I understand what you are saying? It is your belief then that James Andanson was driving the Fiat Uno at the time?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Definitely.

DAVIES
And that he was later murdered?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Yes.

DAVIES
I see.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
He has been later murdered because--
for the security service, avoiding
that he will again turn against
them and say exactly what happened.

DAVIES
I see.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
They had to get rid of him.

BURGESS
You said you would expose the
gangsters who killed Diana and your
son. Would you like to explain who
you believe that those gangsters
were?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
The gangsters are the members of
MI6 which Richard Tomlinson has
told me and he mentioned in his
witnesses. I think Prince Philip is
the actual head of the Royal
Family. This is the guy who is now
in charge and manipulating
everything and can do anything.
They are still living in the 18th
century.

JUSTICE BURGESS interjects...

BURGESS
One final matter I want your help
about: do you think that there is
any possibility, however remote,
that your beliefs about a
conspiracy might be wrong and that
the deaths of Diana and Dodi were
in truth no more than a tragic
accident. Any possibility?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
No way. One hundred per cent. I am the father who lost his son and I know exactly the situations, I know exactly the facts.

BURGESS
Mr. Al Fayed, I do not think anybody doubts the anguish that you have been through. But at the end of the day, we have to work on evidence rather than assertions.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
How can I get the evidence? I am faced with the power of the state.

DAVIES
It is right, isn't it, that during the last ten years you have spared no expense to try to seek evidence that supports the conclusion that you reached in those first moments?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Definitely. I will continue. I am not resting until I die. If I lose everything to find the truth, who slaughtered Princess Diana and my son.

BURGESS
A whole team. Their job was to unearth every shred of evidence that could be found that Dodi and Diana were murdered?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
That is right.

BURGESS
No expense was to be spared?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
That is right.

BURGESS
No stone was to be left unturned?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
That is right.

BURGESS
And all the resources of the Al Fayed empire were to be made available?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Yes.

BURGESS
And you are confident, are you, that every shred of evidence that they found has been given to me, the Coroner?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Definitely.

BURGESS
I think we understand your case.
(beat)
Let's take a short recess and I'll give closing instructions to the jury.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COURTROOM 73 - LATER

BURGESS
Members of the jury, for the last ten and a half years, there have been those who claimed that what happened in the Alma Tunnel was no tragic accident but a staged collision. The fact that one of the dead was Diana, Princess of Wales, created the most enormous media interest, and even leaving aside Mohamed Al Fayed, there were mutterings from the start, "Was this really an accident?" As for your verdicts, it is open to you to find gross negligence of Henri Paul because of the speed and manner of his driving and any alcohol he may have consumed. Further, it is open to you to find negligence by both the surrounding vehicles and Henri Paul together. Finally, it is possible for you to return an open verdict if you conclude that the evidence suggests some other factor was involved.
(MORE)

BURGESS (CONT'D)
It is for you to decide which, if any, of the causes I have provided you wish to add to your narrative conclusion. Will you please now retire to consider your verdicts? Take as long as is necessary.

INT. CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE HQ - DAVIES OFFICE - DAY

DAVIES finishes boxing up Inquest-related documents. SILSBURY knocks and enters.

SILSBURY
A shame things have ended up like this. I never thought you'd be willing to take it this far.

DAVIES
I know you leaked Diana's letter to the Daily Mirror.

SILSBURY
Don't be ridiculous.

DAVIES
Catherine's father tipped you off about what I had found. At least he had good intentions. Trying to have you stop me from doing something stupid.

SILSBURY
Your conspiracy theories continue.

DAVIES
You tried to cover things up at the start. But must have known about the Mischon letter. And once Alistair told you I knew about Diana's claims too, you worried if you killed the investigation at that point, there was a chance I'd speak out and your cover-up would come to light. So you had to protect yourself and instead blew it wide open. Betting that as long as a junior underling like me was on the case, it would end quickly.

SILSBURY glowers at Davies, attempting to conceal his guilt.

SILSBURY
So this is it then?

DAVIES
No matter what the verdict, we both know there's no future for me here.

SILSBURY
At least while I'm around, probably correct. You should have listened to me, Michael.

DAVIES
I did. What was it you said about Al Fayed? A man like that didn't get to where he is by always being honest.
(beat)
Be careful Alistair. Al Fayed actually thought he and I were quite similar.

DAVIES' secretary interrupts...

MRS. TRACY
Just received word from the clerk. The jury has reached a verdict.

CUT TO:

INT. ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE - COURTROOM 73

Spectators and journalists pack the courtroom.

BURGESS
Madam Foreman have you reached a verdict on which a majority agreed?

JURY FOREMAN
We have.

BURGESS
Could you give us the verdict and indicate the number of jurors assenting to the verdict?

JURY FOREMAN
The verdict is grossly negligent driving of the surrounding vehicles and of the Mercedes by Henri Paul. We found no other conspiratorial factors at play. There are nine of us who agree on those conclusions.

A burst of emotions from the gallery. SILSBURY and BURGESS share a passing glance and smirk.

BURGESS
Thank you. Could you now read the rest of the narrative on the inquisition.

JURY FOREMAN
The deceased are Emad El-Din Mohamed Abdel Moneim and Diana, Princess of Wales. The crash was caused or contributed to by the speed and manner of driving of the Mercedes, the speed and manner of driving of the surrounding vehicles, the impairment of the judgment of the driver of the Mercedes through alcohol. In addition, the death of the deceased was caused or contributed to by the fact that the deceased was not wearing a seat-belt, the fact that the Mercedes struck the pillar in the Alma Tunnel rather than colliding with something else, and we are unanimous on those, sir.

BURGESS
Is that the conclusion of your narrative verdict?

JURY FOREMAN
It is.

BURGESS
Thank you very much, members of the jury. It simply remains for me, on behalf of everyone, to give thanks to you for the obviously very, very great care that you have given to this case.
(beat)
This inquest is adjourned.

INT. ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE - GREAT HALL

Soaring arches. 82-foot tall ceilings. Marble floors stretching the length of a soccer pitch.

DAVIES is stopped and congratulated by passers by. To the outside world, he did an outstanding job presenting evidence and getting a verdict and laying the issues to rest.

He notices AL FAYED, by himself, quietly studying a statue.

DAVIES
Charles the first.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
“A subject and a sovereign are clean different things” he said. Absolute power turned a country against him and led to his beheading.

DAVIES
Didn’t realize you were quite the expert on British history.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
Three applications for citizenship here have been refused. I’ve made billions for this country. My four children carry British passports. The monarchy has never refused a charity event I’ve thrown in their honour.

DAVIES
And you think that’s some sort of conspiracy.

AL FAYED shrugs his shoulders. We finally seem the calm, calculated rationality of a man who built an empire...

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
To carry the Egyptian passport of a civilisation of 7,000 years is a pleasure. I guess what do I care about fitting in here for.

DAVIES
I’m glad I was able to help you finally have your voice heard. Though you realize if the jury had seen this side of you, things might have turned out differently.

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
When Charles was brought to the scaffold for his execution, he wore two shirts to keep from shivering. Didn’t want the crowd to mistake the cold for fear of weakness.
(beat)
They say the monarchy never regained the power it had previously.

DAVIES
You don’t really think the Queen had anything to do with your son’s death, do you?

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
We will never know for sure. But everything the jury saw. What you helped discover. The people of this country heard about their actions. About how they treat me. How the Crown treated their own daughter--

DAVIES
And you just wanted to make them shiver.

AL FAYED offers his hand to DAVIES...

MOHAMMED AL FAYED
We both did.

CUT TO BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSE:

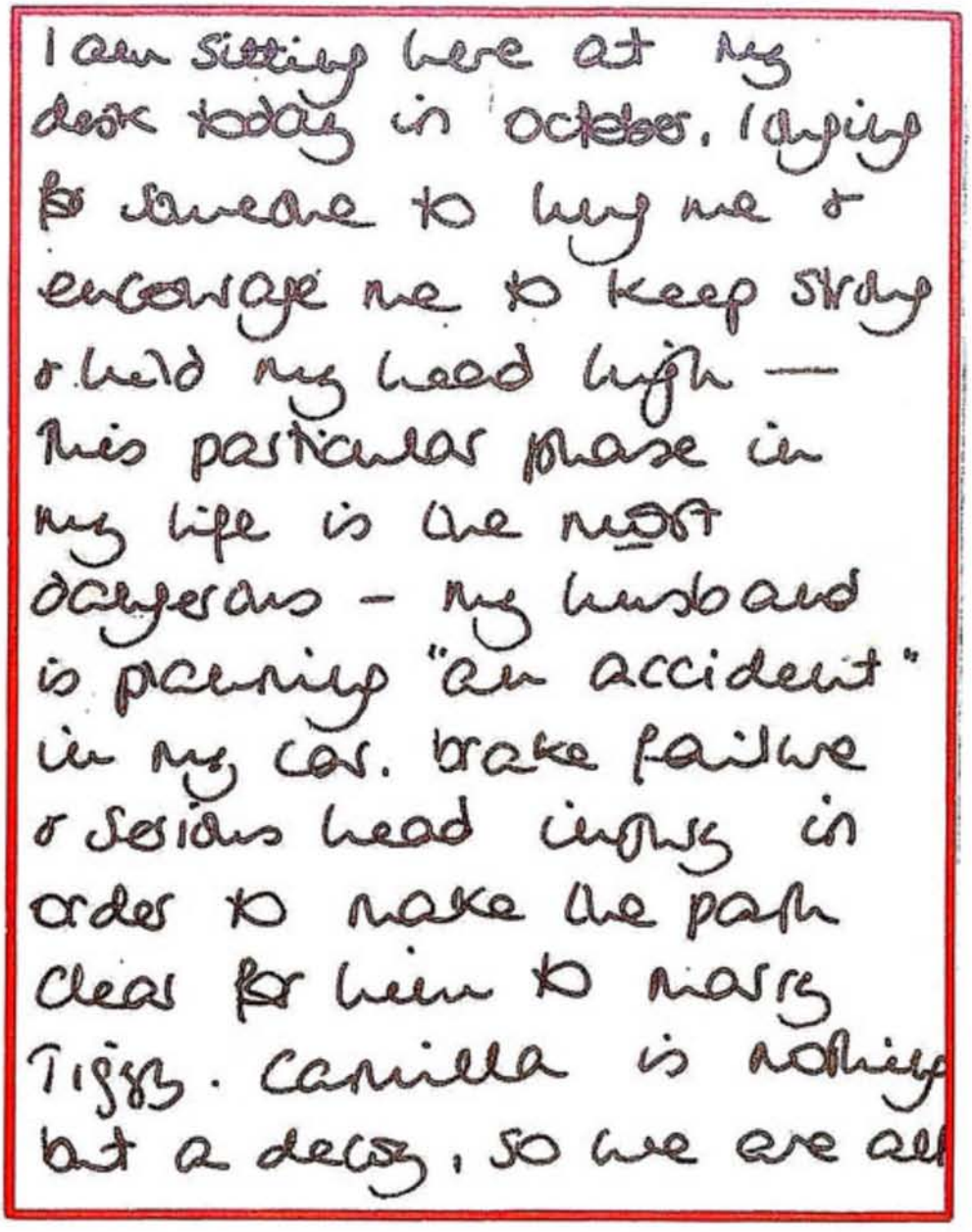
After conclusion of the Inquest, Paul Burrell admitted that hadn’t told the whole truth while on the witness stand. “Do you honestly think I've told everything I know? Of course I haven’t.”

Eyewitnesses spoke of observing a vehicle or a motorcycle leaving the scene of the crash at high speed. The driver or drivers of any such vehicle or vehicles have never been traced.

Forensic evidence ties a white Fiat Uno to the scene of the crash. Despite the forensic evidence and an exhaustive search, that exact car has never been found. The physical evidence did not show whether James Andanson’s Fiat was or was not involved in the collision.

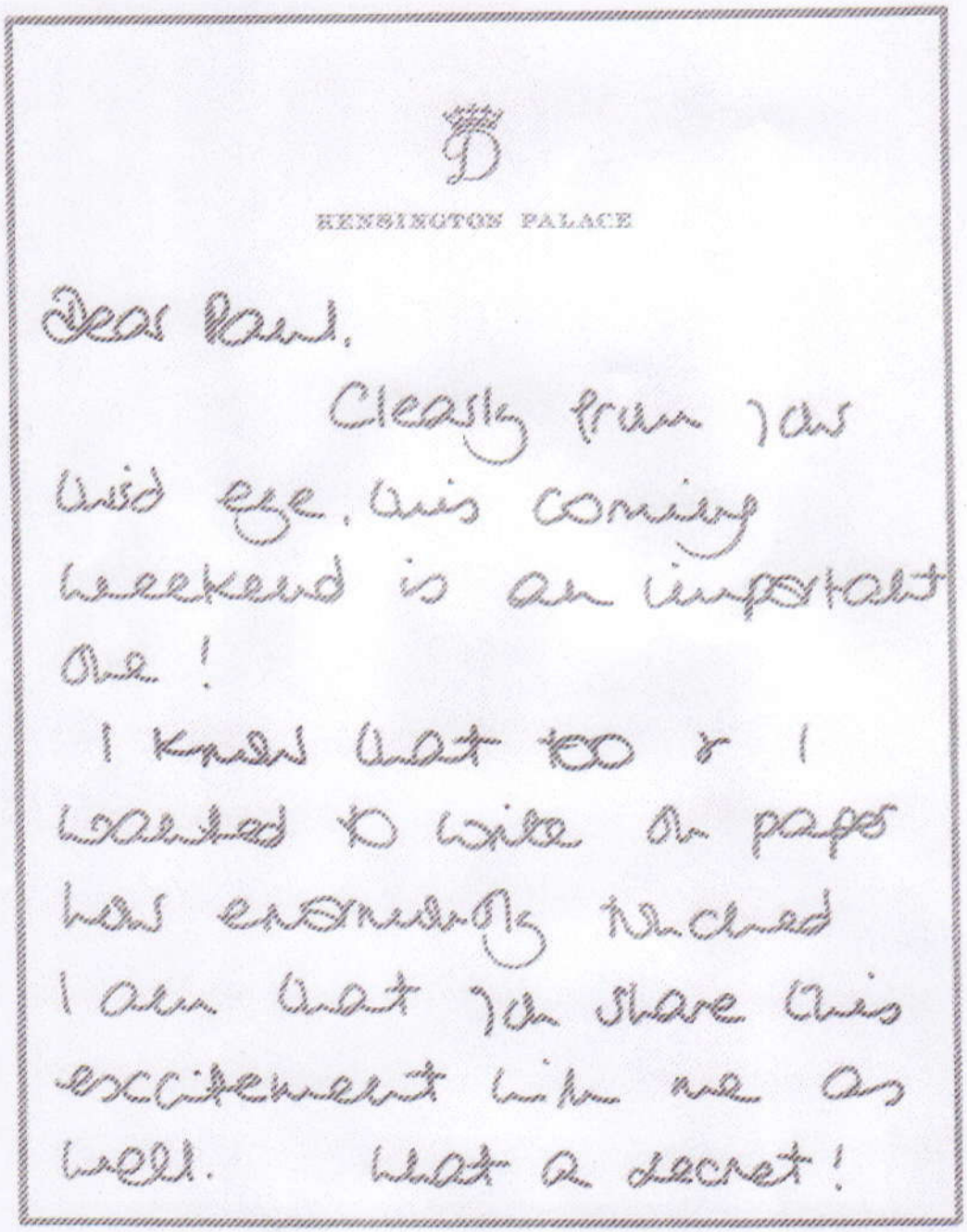
Select Inquest Evidence

Diana "Car Accident" Letter to Paul Burrell


I am sitting here at my
desk today in octobr. longing
for someone to hug me &
encourage me to keep strng
& hold my head high —
This particular phase in
my life is the most
dangerous - my husband
is planning "an accident"
in my car. brake failure
& serious head injury in
order to make the path
clear for him to marry
Tiggs. Camilla is nothing
but a decoy, so we are all

"I am sitting here at my desk today in October. Longing for someone to hug me and encourage me to keep strong and hold my head high — This particular phase in my life is the most dangerous — my husband is planning "an accident" in my car. Brake failure and serious head injury in order to make the path clear for him to marry..."

Diana Letter to Paul Burrell Referencing a "Secret"



D

KENSINGTON PALACE

Dear Paul,

Clearly from your third eye this coming weekend is an important one!

I know that too and I wanted to write on paper how extremely touched I am that you share this excitement with me as well. What a secret!