

THE ROYAL BODYGUARD

written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. MIDDLE EAST - AMISTAN - BALAKAT - DAY

A long stretch of desert road runs between mountains on both sides. The hills are mostly barren, their foliage long since baked by the hot sun.

There are many openings visible, even from the ground - caves of various sizes. Hiding places are abundant on the rocky slopes.

NOTE: The men in this scene are Arab.

Multiple car engines ROAR as they come near. Then we see it. A convoy of vehicles kicking up dust as it approaches.

There are five vehicles in all, led by a military jeep with a machine gun attached to a sturdy bipod in the back. A SOLDIER mans the weapon, searching around him for potential danger.

A truck follows with a SOLDIER driving and three armed SOLDIERS riding in the back. They tote high-powered rifles and .50 cal machine guns.

A Hummer travels in the midst of the convoy. With its tinted windows, the occupants are unseen. Behind the Hummer, two more vehicles - a truck and a car.

Several SOLDIERS inside each lug similar weapons as the men in front.

In the sky, a chopper flies over the fleet, keeping a watchful eye. The PILOT handles his duties professionally while two SOLDIERS in the back watch over what takes place below. They hold machine guns strapped over their shoulders.

A Stinger fires from somewhere in the hills. It strikes its target - the chopper, which EXPLODES at impact. Pieces of fiery metal plummet to the ground around the vehicles passing below.

INT. HUMMER - MOVING - DAY - CONTINUOUS

A DRIVER and SOLDIER are seated in the front.

In the back seat, SHEIK OMAR El-KHAZEN (early 30s), ambitious to a fault with a sly mannerism, looks like he could faint any moment. He is chief advisor to the king of Amistan and speaks English well with a mild Arab accent. He wears a robe along with a head scarf.

Pieces of the destroyed chopper drop in front of the vehicle, creating an obstacle course. The driver swerves just in time.

Omar is more than a little worried.

OMAR  
We are under attack!  
(to driver)  
Do not stop, not for anything.

He looks over at someone unseen next to him in the seat.

OMAR  
Our situation is dire, Your Highness.  
Someone has tipped off Al-Karon of  
your whereabouts.

Hamid also speaks English well, using a noticeable Arab accent.

HAMID (O.S.)  
My men are trained soldiers. Have  
faith, Omar.

Omar tries to find some confidence, but it's a seemingly impossible task under the circumstances. He whirls to look outside, eyes scanning the hills.

EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

WHAM! The lead jeep goes tumbling off the road, the target of a roadside bomb.

In the first truck's bed, the soldier opens FIRE with the machine gun, targeting the hills.

Something is visible on the ledges... or someone. Dozens of TERRORISTS dressed in Arab pants and shirts head the assault. The white color blends them with the pale landscape.

One holds an RPG on his shoulder, aimed at the cortege. With him, others raise their machine guns and rifles, ready to act.

Each group opens FIRE. Bullets pelt the vehicles. The convoy is sandwiched in-between assailants on both sides.

A tire BLOWS on the car, bringing it to a swerving stop.

The four soldiers inside jump out, guns ready, and SHOOT at the men on the ledges. Two of the road soldiers fall to return FIRE.

The remaining two are forced to hide beneath their car, SHOOTING at the enemy that closes in all around them.

A few of the terrorists fall. Others make their way down the slopes, weapons ready to use.

The man with the RPG readies it and FIRES.

BAM! The second truck goes flying into the air. It lands upside-down, no sign of life inside.

The lead truck and Hummer accelerate. A roadside bomb BLOWS as they pass by, rocking both vehicles. Still intact, they keep going.

More terrorists drop to GUNFIRE from the truck.

The two surviving vehicles pass out of the danger zone, disappearing into the distance.

Several of the terrorists scamper to the road. Two of the men charge the car where the two soldiers still hide. One is out of ammo and falls to FIRE from his enemy as they rush the vehicle.

The second man takes out one of the enemy before he is SHOT down.

The rest of the ambushers from both sides assemble on the pavement. They're visibly upset. TERRORIST LEADER, a hardened man, is the angriest.

TERRORIST LEADER  
(in Arabic)  
Shit!

He is so angry that he SHOOTs one of his own soldiers. His remaining men watch with worry.

INT. HUMMER - MOVING - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Omar slumps back in his seat to catch his breath.

KING HAMID Al-FULANI (29), an Arab heartthrob with a selfish attitude, is seated next to Omar. He wears similar clothing to Omar's, a turban instead of a head scarf. Although Hamid puts up a non-caring front, he really has a heart of gold.

OMAR  
That was too close. Al-Akron grows  
desperate to dispose of you.

HAMID

I must stay in seclusion until Al-Sammari is elected president.

OMAR

Rahim, he is very smart. He will not rest until you are dead.

HAMID

I will not give him the satisfaction.

Omar nods. He does his best to calm his nerves after the close encounter.

EXT. DESERT ROAD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The two remaining vehicles continue onward in the direction of a palace far in the distance.

EXT. JEEP - MOVING - DAY

A TERRORIST drives.

GENERAL RAHIM (40s), Arab, a power hungry madman, sits in the passenger seat, a phone to his ear. You can smell the ambition coming from this man, as well as his ruthless nature that shows through in his eyes. He speaks with a heavy Arabic accent.

RAHIM

(into phone)

I could not pass on opportunity... My men had orders... You tell me where Hamid will be and don't expect me to act?... Be more careful next time.

He hangs up the phone and leans back in his seat.

EXT. ROAD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

The jeep travels down the barren road.

EXT. AL-KARON COMPOUND - DAY

Several tents stand together against the sandy backdrop. At least a half dozen vehicles parked around the area, trucks and jeeps. Some are equipped with machine guns.

Many TERRORISTS wander about.

INT. MAIN TENT - DAY - SAME

YASIR, a general's persona, sits at a long table with several of his key MEN, including Terrorist Leader. They're in the middle of an important meeting.

NOTE: The men speak in Arabic with English sub-titles during this scene.

YASIR

(to Terrorist Leader)

You have failed me again. Maybe I should make sure this is your last time.

Terrorist Leader swallows hard. He fears Yasir and it shows.

TERRORIST LEADER

Sir, we did the best we could. Hamid's vehicle took a beating but would not go down.

YASIR

It would have if my men were not so incompetent.

FEMALE SERVANT, dressed in a chador (Arab dress) and a head scarf wrapped around her face so only her eyes are visible, enters with a tray containing a pitcher of water and basket of bread and fruit.

She places the basket near Yasir at the head of the table and goes around to each man, filling their glasses half full of water as they continue with their plans.

The men occasionally grab an item from the basket and eat as they talk.

YASIR

We only had one chance at Hamid. He will not leave his palace after the attack. Things have become much more difficult.

TERRORIST LEADER

Maybe if we wait, Hamid will feel safe again and venture into the city.

Out of anger, Yasir slams the table with his hand, startling his men.