

TARGET: BLACK SWAN

Target: Black Swan is an action / mystery / thriller in the vein of James Bond.

LOGLINE: With a price on his head, Jack Malaney, a second generation MI6 operative, races to bring down a double agent and terrorist ring by piecing together clues left by his dead father.

CHARACTERS:

Jack Malaney – A brief character description here (1-2 sentences)

Moirra Malaney -

Peter Malaney –

Bryant –

Wisham –

Target: Black Swan (Part 1)

ACT 1

Opening Sequence - Flashback

It's 1992, Peter Malaney sits in a dimly lit office writing a letter to his son. A noise catches his attention, he ignores it, keeps writing. He seals the letter into a large bulky envelop and writes "For Jack only" on the front. He walks quickly down the hall into his daughter's room and stashes into a built in safe, behind the wall. Another noise comes from downstairs, he peers out of the window into the dark street – nothing. He looks in on his son sleeping soundly in his bed, he continues down stairs.

Another noise – this time a little louder, sounds like kids mucking about. He opens the front door and a kid is throwing stones at his house, he runs when he sees the door open. Peter steps outside onto the lawn to see which way the boy was heading. Just then a group of hooligans appear out of the darkness and attack him. Peter is severely beaten, blood oozes from his mouth. A man in black approaches and stabs Peter several times, he tries to fight back but is too weak, he gasps, falls and is dead. The boys run, the man disappears slowly into the foggy night.

Present Day - London

Jack sits in an abandoned warehouse, his temporary home littered with papers, documents a laptop and a few weapons. He looks out of the window with binoculars toward the warehouse next door. Shadows rush to and fro behind a large opaque window. His cell phone rings, it's his sister, Moira, with the news of his mother's passing and the funeral arrangements. He is clearly saddened.

The next night he is closing in on the terrorist target in the warehouse when there is a huge unexpected explosion and is almost killed. He makes it out alive, but suspects foul play within the agency. He meets with his boss, at headquarters to have a de-brief of the incident and his suspicions. He's still covered in smoke and debris.

He waits for the elevator, but is in no mood and takes the stairs down to the showers to clean up. A dark figure emerges from the elevator, just missing him. The smell of smoke fills the air still. He runs into his old friend, Brindle, in the shower room as he is getting out of the shower. Jack leaves his smoky clothes in the floor and puts on clean ones. Brindle is shot while in the shower, mistakenly to be Jack.

Jack rushes to the train station to make it to his mother's funeral, but misses his train to Glasgow. He goes to a coffee shop across the street to get a tea and wait for the next train. He feels as though he is being followed. He bumps into a teenage boy, and shakes it off as paranoia. He catches the next train and dozes off. He is abruptly woken up by the same teen as he sits next to him, out of breath. As the train stops they both get up and the kid pulls a gun on Jack. He forces him onto the platform and Jack fights him off and recovers a photo in his pocket just before he pushes him onto the tracks to his death. The photo is of Jack and on the back it reads "Jack Malaney = Peter Malaney. Cuba 1962. Scotland 1992. New mission. Black Swan. Target co-ordinates. Ghazali failure. Don't go home."

Jack arrives to the church by taxi, to find it empty, he's too late. He sits in the pew alone, and has a flashback of his mother. Fond memories of his mother, his angry sister Moira, his father... He heads out to the grave site. Just as he bends down to pick up a couple flowers, a silenced bullet hits the nearby headstone. He ducks behind it and runs back into the church, narrowly missing a couple more shots.

ACT 2: The pieces of the puzzle...

The priest, Father MacKenzie, takes Jack into his office. He tells him that his mother entrusted him with an envelope that was meant only for him. He pulls it out of the drawer. "For Jack only" is written on the front. When they hear noises coming from the chapel, Father pulls out a gun and shoots a man, drags him into his office. He tells Jack to hurry and leave, that there will be more coming.

Jack heads to a very public shopping centre. He heads to the toilets so he can read the letter. He hides in the stall, pulls his feet up to read it. V.O. of Peter reads the letter.

Dear Jack,

My boy, I am sorry to burden you with this, but once you read what these – and other – pages contain, I am positive you will understand, and you will be able to put things right, or change the course of how things are going. Whatever is best at the time. I have a feeling that I won't be able to help you, hence the letter. Hence this confession. Although it is hardly a confession, as I can't write what I want to write.

So to it then. A week ago I began to hear about leaks coming from inside Russia. Leaks about some sensitive information that should never come to light. This is information about something that I thought I had put a stop to in 1962, and that, if it happens, will cause one little ripple to spread out across the entire western world. It might even bring war.

If you have this letter in your hands, then you should also have my diary. Of course, I will not leave these things together unless absolutely necessary, so I am hoping that Joe has found you. He will know the right time, so if you haven't heard from him, there is nothing yet to concern yourself about.

Do you remember my diary? You should do, it might become important to recognise it. I was always putting my thoughts down in there rather than speaking them out loud. It was safer. It was easier. It gave you and your mother and Moira that much more stability.

At least, I hope it did.

Russia. Always sneaking and sniping. Always scratching and biting. And now the secret is coming out. Read the diary when you have to Jack, I don't dare write it down again. I spoke up about what was happening back in 1962, and if Russia lets out any more information, of if I hear about it from another source, then I

will have to do it again. Only this time I am hearing other things, more worrying things. Things about double agents and an attempt to actually start a new world war. For what reason, I don't know. That's not important.

I am a marked man, Jack. Because of what I did in 1962, because they know I wouldn't hesitate to do it again, no matter what, they are going to have to stop me if their plan can ever see the light of day.

So I am passing the baton to you now, son. You know what they are like – not just the Russians, but our side too – and they all know that I was instrumental in preventing a devastating attack back then. If another attack is imminent then I have to ask why. Why now? Why us?

Can it be stopped as it was before? See Joe. Read the diary. Yours, Dad.

He puts the envelope and letter back into his pocket. He opens the stall door and sees a man slumped at the sink washing his hands. Jack instinctively goes to wash his hands too. The man doesn't move, he senses something is wrong and looks down at his feet. They are twisted together and there is a huge gaping hole in his stomach, he's pale and lips are blue – he's dead. He rushes out of the bathroom, cautiously, and heads outside and sees a familiar pub.

He goes inside and instantly remembers being there as a teenager – flashback sequence at the bar with his father. The bartender, Joe, recognises him. They catch up on old times. Another patron, Doug, recognises him too, and buys a round of drinks.

Doug mentions the name of the painting over the bar is called Black Swan. Jack realises this is possibly a clue to where the diary is located. Doug offers Jack a place to sleep upstairs, it's full of books and papers everywhere. Joe comes upstairs and gives Jack the diary, actually a stack of papers bound together with string. He tells him he's been holding on to it for more than 20 years, and is glad to finally hand it over to Jack. Jack is exhausted, tries to read it but falls asleep.

Jack wakes up to smoke, coughing, fire in the bar, the papers, the diary all on fire. He crawls to the window and barely makes it down the fire escape before the entire floor is flooded with flames. He is in shock. He hears a scream from inside, it's Joe, he's on fire, he falls dead. Jack hears the sirens approaching, he runs in the opposite direction into the cold darkness.

The only safe place he could think to go is to head for his mother's house, where his sister Moira is staying. He collapses in a nearby park, looking up to the starry sky he remembers....

Flashback of when he was a 12 year old kid. Peter wakes up Jack in the middle of the night in a rush. He tells him to bring a blanket and come out to the back garden quickly. Jack in a sleepy haze follows him out. They look up to see an amazing meteor shower in full glow. They lay on the cool crisp grass and throw the blanket over them to fight the chill. Peter reveals that he is a spy that night, Jack barely understands what it all means. But he knew he better not tell anyone, not even his mother or sister.

Jack wakes up, it's still dark, he heads to see Moira. When he finally gets to the house it's around 4am. She is not at all happy to see him, he didn't show up to the funeral and they have an argument. He asks her if Peter ever gave her anything that might be a clue. She has no idea, but mentions that Rum, an old friend of her father's might have some answers. She tells him what nursing home he's in, Jack stays there for the night before heading there the following morning.

Jack visits Rum in the old nursing home to hopefully find out a bit more information. Just as Rum is telling him there was a copy of the diary and an original. Stu barges in and kills Rum and fights with Jack. Jack knocks him to the floor, and cradles Rum – who mentions POLARIS. Rum dies in his arms while Stu escapes.

ACT 3: The Diary

Jack heads out of the home and ends up staying the night in a seedy hotel, the last place anyone would look. He phones Bryant, trying to piece together the pieces of the puzzle, where to find the diary, what is Polaris. He heads back to see Moira and to see if she knows anything else.

He enters the house and finds it a shambles, no one is home. He sees a note on top of a huge chocolate bar that reads, *“To Peter, Jack, and Moira – I have bought myself a bar of chocolate to enjoy when the girls come round for nibbles tomorrow. Leave it alone! You will eat this only over my dead body! Love Mum.”*

It couldn't be that simple? He knows where the diary is, now to retrieve it. He heads for the church, and runs into Bryan who is there waiting for him. He tell him he must dig up his mother, he believes the diary is buried with her. Father MacKenzie must have done it as she instructed him to.

They get a digger and Jack is unable to face his mother's corpse, so Bryant agrees to climb in and try to find it. He says there is nothing in there, but hides the diary in his jacket – he's the double agent. Jack sees the diary – grabs it out, knocks him out – breaking his neck. He buries Bryant when he covers back over the grave.

FINAL SCENE:

Jack sits alone in a secluded park, opens the diary to read. A kid rides his bike up to him and says, “They have your sister.” and rides off. Jack closes the diary.

SCREEN GOES BLACK