

"Torn Curtain"

By Reid Johns

Fade in to the inside of a dank bar in the former East Berlin where we see CIA Agent John Coker nursing a beer and a bad attitude. Once a brash and dashing operative with a rapidly rising star within the agency, circumstances from a botched assignment in 1979 Teheran have seen John's career fall and fall hard. He's now tasked with hunting and killing Stasi agents before they can regroup inside the new German government.

On this particular day, John tails a disheveled middle-aged man to an apartment house near the Reichstag building. He sneaks in and confronts the man in his nondescript flat. After killing him, John searches the apartment for personnel files before cleaning out an open safe in the corner.

John reports his findings to the Berlin Station Chief, Stanley Jacobs, a career desk jockey who both fears and loathes John. After looking through the files, he assigns John another target. This process continues a few more times.

On New Year's Eve 1990, John breaks into the luxury apartment of a Stasi agent only to discover that he's forgotten his trusty silencer. When the agent comes home, John confronts him and tries to hold him at gunpoint until he can kill him without drawing attention. The agent resists and starts taunting John, accusing him of being nothing more than a cowardly assassin. The accusations hit home and John snaps, beating the man to near death. Angry and disgusted at what his life has turned into, John contemplates suicide and places his gun to his chin as he watches the New Year's party goers down below on the street. The clock hits midnight and we hear a lone gunshot. As the camera pans out, we see John still standing at the window, but the gun is now facing backward. He's killed his intended target but mutters that this is the last one.

Before John returns to his office, Stanley takes a phone call from CIA Director Doug Scanlon. He explains to Scanlon that he's afraid John has burned out and become a liability. Scanlon agrees, but has known John for years and knows that he'll violently snap before he'll kill himself. Scanlon orders Stanley to assign John the Moscow Job, knowing that John will more than likely be killed during the operation.

When John reports in, he sits silently in Stanley's office staring off into space. Seeing John in this state of mind unnerves Stanley, but he gives John his new assignment regardless.

Stanley explains that the Soviet Union is beginning to crumble and factions are vying for power. The US knows it can negotiate with either Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev or Russian President Boris

Yelstin, but the third faction leader, Defense Minister Vladimir Kravchenko is a wild card. Kravchenko has left Moscow for Kiev and is rallying his base for something big.

Stanley tells John that the biggest threat Kravchenko poses is that he's managed to gain physical custody of all three Soviet nuclear chegets, the briefcases that hold the launch codes for all of the Soviet Bloc's nuclear arsenal. John is initially skeptical that this intel is correct until Stanley tells him that Kravchenko's wife, Anna, is their source. Anna is a former dancer for the Bolshoi who believes her husband has gone power mad. She contacted the CIA and has asked to defect in exchange for the final cheget that is housed in the couple's flat on the Moskva River.

John tries to turn the assignment down knowing that it would be a suicide mission to pull Anna out of Moscow during a power struggle. Stanley counters that if John doesn't take this job, the agency will reopen an investigation into the Teheran debacle from 1979. To reiterate his point, Stanley holds the Top Secret file up for John to see.

John realizes that this assignment will either lead to his redemption for his past failings or his death. He decides that he's fine with either outcome and reluctantly accepts the assignment. Once John leaves the office, Stanley accidentally spills the Teheran file and we see that it's full of blank paper.

John receives a last minute briefing from Deputy CIA Director Bert Simmons, the only man John remotely trusts. Simmons tells John that Moscow has been compromised and he can only promise John one drop before he's on his own. Simmons warns John not to trust anyone since the mole might be fairly high up in the organization. Just before hanging up, Simmons asks John if he knows anything about millions of German marks that were supposed to be in the possession of the Stasi agents John has killed. John nonchalantly dismisses it as an unfounded rumor.

Upon his arrival in Moscow, John is immediately tailed by the KGB, a fact that he warns the cab driver of so as not to lose them. After checking in at the hotel, John runs into a businessman at the elevator who switches briefcases with him. John knows that'll be his last contact with the CIA until he completes the mission.

In his hotel room, John changes into "work clothes" and prepares to search for Anna. The drop has provided him with his .9 millimeter pistol, silencer and clips along with a fake passport that he leaves out forcing the KGB into a wild goose chase.

Knowing that Anna is a wealthy debutante, John immediately heads for the most exclusive shops in Moscow. KGB agents still tail him as he locates Anna and her security entourage, the leader of which

is Viktor Meshki, a former member of Alpha Group, the Red Army's most dangerous special forces unit.

John follows Anna's security detail around the store, deftly dropping tracking tabs in each of their coats. He eyeballs Anna's size and buys some clothes for her as well. When the clerk turns to bag the items, John snatches a couple of the security tags for later use. John "accidentally" trips one of Anna's security team sending all of them, along with her packages, to the ground. In the process of helping them pick up the items, John is confronted by Viktor. John taunts Viktor when he sees how Anna treats him and manages to plant a tracking tab on Anna's watch.

As the security team leaves, John turns and walks past the KGB agents and drops the stolen security tags into the pockets of their coats. He then leaves the store as the KGB agents trigger the store's security alarms. Moscow Police shows up to confront the agents giving John ample opportunity to slip away.

Using his tracking monitor, John is able to follow Anna and her security detail to her apartment building on the Moskva River. John watches as the security detail is changed out, but before he can make his move, he sees a surveillance unit across the street. He sits back and waits as a commando unit comes across the street and kills Anna's security team and enters her apartment house.

John enters the building across the street to investigate, but hears more commandos coming down the stairs. He picks the lock to an apartment and prepares to slip in when the commandos catch him. They think he's coming out, so they order him back in and leave. After they exit the building, John starts to run up the stairs where he's confronted by another commando. The two start to fight and John is able to snap the commando's neck. John takes the commando's mask and earpiece and continues up the stairs to the top floor. He finds the point man for the surveillance team and kills him.

Having neutralized the second building, John makes his way into Anna's building. He pins the talk button on one of the walkie talkies to create a distraction and then bounds up the back stairwell quietly shooting each commando until he reaches the top floor.

Anna begins to change clothes for the evening when she's surprised by two masked men entering her bedroom. She threatens them that her husband will have them killed, but is shocked when the lead commando reveals himself to be Viktor. Viktor sends his partner out to check out a noise in another part of the apartment and then takes a call from Vladimir who indicates that it's no longer necessary to keep Anna alive. He pulls a gun on Anna and prepares to shoot her. At that moment, John has killed Viktor's partner and taken his place in the room. As Anna closes her eyes and prepares

to be shot, John grabs a heavy brass candlestick and knocks Viktor out.

While John explains to Anna who he is and why he's there, Viktor starts to stir. John crushes Viktor's skull with the candlestick and gives Anna clothes to change into. While Anna gets ready to leave, John tries to find the cheget. He locates a safe in the closet, but can't figure out how to open it; however, Anna knows the series of combinations and gets the cheget for John who opens the briefcase and discovers the cheget is basically a high-tech sat phone similar to the one he carries. John gives Anna a gun to carry in her bag for her protection.

Anna refuses to leave without her dog, Misha. John threatens to leave without them since he already has the cheget, but changes his mind and agrees to take Misha along. They grab the keys to one of the security detail's cars and make their way to the airport, hoping to hop a flight to Berlin before anyone notices Anna's disappearance.

At the airport, John switches out his sat phone for the phone in the cheget and checks the briefcase in at the airline counter. The clerk at the counter pushes the briefcase onto the conveyor belt to the plane, but refuses to let John and Anna board with Misha. Instead of arguing, John decides they'll have to find other transportation out of the country. The couple locate a taxi at the airport, but before they can leave, John spots two more KGB agents tailing them. He lets Anna get in the taxi, but doubles back inside to overnight a sat phone to a friend in Berlin. The KGB agents catch up to Anna in the taxi, but John kills them before they can grab her. The taxi driver takes them to the train station.

At the train station, John buys tickets on the first train out which is in en route to Latvia. Again, they're barred from bringing Misha along, but John bribes Gregor, the disgruntled ticket taker, into allowing them on board. As John and Anna scramble to get settled on the train, two Ukrainian agents try to board, but Gregor doesn't let them because his wife is Ukrainian and he therefore hates the Ukraine.

Finally able to relax momentarily aboard the train, John is struck by how beautiful Anna is. Anna misinterprets the attention as condescension and accuses John of looking down on her because of her status. John explains that he sees the two of them as pretty much the same - pragmatists who make the best decision for themselves regardless of the consequences to others. John tells Anna of his history with the CIA and how the failed op in Teheran forced his career to fall to this point. It's also changed the way he sees the world and his job. He then tells her he admires her desire to leave everything she's ever known to keep the cheget out of Vladimir's hands.

Realizing that John is willing to put his life on the line for her, Anna warms to John and tells him about her past in the Bolshoi and admits she's in a sham marriage to Vladimir just to keep elite status in Moscow society. She tells him that the only joy she's ever known in life was through dance and the ballet, but that those days are long gone for her. John sees the hurt in Anna's eyes and goes to comfort her. The two share a dance in the quiet train car which ends with the two of them starting to kiss. Misha sticks his head out of the bag and barks his disapproval which forces John to realize that this is the wrong place and time for a romantic distraction. Before heading to the dining car, Anna makes John promise that they'll finish the dance at some point in time.

Back in the Berlin airport, we see the cheget revolving on the conveyor belt at baggage claim. Finally, a gloved hand reaches down and picks it up. The camera follows the arm up to reveal that the hand belongs to Stanley Jacobs. Stanley takes one last look around the airport and leaves with the cheget.

Upon arriving in the dining car hand-in-hand with John, Anna is terrified to see Jack Armstrong, the arrogant young CIA agent she initially made contact with in Moscow. She pleads with John to leave the car, but Jack has already noticed them. John decides to confront Jack and sits down across from him. After a few introductions, Jack explains that Stanley sent him for backup. John begins to get suspicious when Jack appears too anxious about the cheget. John lures Jack back to their sleeper car and peppers him with questions unrelated to the cheget. Jack gets more and more nervous and finally attacks John with a knife he'd pocketed in the dining car. John's arm is gashed as he and Jack wrestle around the tiny sleeper compartment. Jack gets the upper hand and is about to plunge the knife into John's chest when Anna pulls the gun from her bag and shoots Jack.

In shock by what she's done, Anna starts to cry. John tries to console her only to see Jack start to move. John and Anna open the window to the train car and John is able to kick Jack out of the moving train to his death. Anna gets medical supplies from the bathroom and patches up John's arm while rambling on about how crazy John's life with the CIA must be. John finally calms her down and thanks her for shooting Jack and not him. At that point, they both begin to realize that they have deep feelings for each other.

John and Anna again try to get a bite to eat in the dining car. This time, they bring Misha along in his bag. Anna hears an announcement over the intercom that they're checking identification on the train. John notices that they're closer to the Latvian border than he initially thought. They double back toward the back of the train to jump off when they are stopped by two armed agents. Anna deduces that they're Romanian spies from

their accents, but the lead spy is more interested in proving that John knows who he is than in detaining them. In the argument that ensues, Anna is able to slip John the gun from her bag and John kills both agents. John and Anna then jump from the train and make their way across the border into Latvia.

Cold and exhausted, John finds an old barn for them to sleep in for the night. He constructs a makeshift bed from a huge hay pile and he and Anna climb on top. John tells Anna a story about his childhood in Moscow. When his father was the Ambassador to the Soviet Union, he would sneak out of the house to attend concerts. One of the concerts he attended was a Christmas showing of Swan Lake. Anna realizes she danced in that performance and John tells her that he remembers her. The two again share an intimate moment of kissing and begin to make love when Misha barks his disapproval. Both are frustrated over Misha's timing, but John again has to admit it's the wrong place and time. Anna makes him promise that he'll not only finish their dance from the train, but also this tryst from the haystack as well. John gladly agrees and the two fall asleep in each other's arms.

John is awakened in the morning by the muzzle of an AK47 as he looks up past the scope to a grizzled Latvian mercenary. The mercenary takes John and Anna to his commander, the Colonel. John recognizes the Colonel as the two banter back and forth about a ridiculous cover story that John ad libs. They finally let a confused Anna in on the ruse and she playfully hits John in the chest telling him that he'll pay for it. The Colonel explains that there are huge bounties on each of their heads and after contemplating whether he wants to collect on those, he decides the best option is to help John and Anna escape back to Berlin. The Colonel arranges for a cargo plane to fly them into East Berlin's airport. Getting to the safe house from that point is all on John. John thanks the Colonel and loads Misha, Anna and himself into the plane's cargo hold. The Colonel's imparts one last warning to John and tells him that the KGB's most notorious killer, Dimitry Radinov, is already in Berlin waiting for him.

On the plane, John admits to Anna that he stole \$15 million in German marks from the Stasi agents he'd killed. He has the money stashed in a locker at Berlin's main train station. John attaches the key to the Misha's collar and forces Anna to agree that she'll take the money and run if something happens to him. Anna initially refuses, but relents when she realizes that John is serious when he says that he will die for her if need be.

When the plane lands in Berlin, the pilot pops the cargo door and John and Anna quickly scurry out into the warehouses that line the perimeter of the airport. John gives Anna some final instructions about how they're going to get to the safe house, but before exiting the warehouse, he grabs her and gives her a big kiss, telling her that he's not sure what to expect once they leave the warehouse. They run across the street to an empty train terminal

and buy tickets to the central station. Two Stasi agents in the airport notice them and begin to give chase. John and Anna make it through the security gates before the Stasi agents get there, but one jumps the gate and continues chasing them. The other Stasi agent kills the ticket vendor and slowly makes his way to the train platform.

John and Anna board the train immediately, but it doesn't leave out in time and the first Stasi agent catches up with them just as the doors are closing. While the agent struggles to open the train doors, John shoots him in the head and finally settles in for the ride.

At the central terminal, John is elated to see that there are hundreds of late night party goers hanging around to help provide cover; however, John still notices that they've managed to pick up at least seven tails as they walk through Berlin to the safe house. John strikes up a conversation with a group of American college kids and invites them to a dance club. At the dance club, John sets up a tab and slowly cases the establishment while Anna dances with one of the collegians. After watching Anna for about 30 minutes, John decides to put his plan in place. He bribes the deejay to switch the music out and turn on only the strobe lights. He then asks Anna to dance with him. While the two dance, John uses the music and the strobes to mask his gunshots as he methodically kills each Stasi agent in the club. Once the house lights are turned back on, chaos ensues as the panicked club goers realize what has happened. John and Anna use the pandemonium to slip out of the back of the club, through the alley way and into the streets of Berlin.

Slowly zig-zagging their way toward the CIA safe house, John never realizes that they've picked up a tail. A mysterious man in a black trench coat surreptitiously follows them from a distance. Once they make it to the safe house, John takes them around to the back entrance and uses one of the many identification cards in his pack to gain access. The couple slip inside the large apartment house and up the stairwell toward the control room. On the other hand, the man in the black trench coat walks directly through the front entrance of the safe house.

Two Marines manning the control center are perplexed that the system shows both Director Scanlon and Deputy Director Simmons accessing the house within minutes of each other. Suspecting a glitch in the software, they decide to be cautious and call for backup, but before they can sound the alert, the man in the black trench coat shoots both Marines in the head killing them. The man is startled by Director Scanlon who chastises Radinov (black trench coat) for not being more clandestine. Radinov fires back that Scanlon told him John was a burn-out and non-factor. Instead, John has systematically killed every one of Radinov's agents, both in Berlin and in Moscow. While the two argue about whose problem is whose, John emerges from the shadows with a gun.

Knowing that he's outgunned, John keeps the two men distracted by firing questions at them and getting them to turn their guns on each other. Scanlon finally stops the standoff and offers to swap John's life for Anna and the cheget. While John contemplates the offer, Anna slips the second gun into John's waistband. A noise outside the door causes enough cover for John to pull the second gun and shoot both Radinov and Scanlon.

Deputy Director Simmons rushes the room with a team of Marines in tow and he and John square off momentarily before each decides to holster his gun. The Deputy Director assumes Director status but realizes Scanlon is still alive. In response, Simmons stands over Scanlon and shoots him in the head. He then tells the Marines to clean up the two bodies and to notify the Press that Director Scanlon neutralized a threat at the highest level of the government, but tragically died in the aftermath. As the Marines clean up, Acting Director Simmons welcomes Anna to the United States and tells her that the cheget was never the target. He used John and Anna to flush out the moles - Scanlon, Armstrong and one other. John determines the other mole must be Stanley Jacobs. He explains to Simmons that he switched up the sat phones in the cheget and all Stanley took possession of was John's CIA issued sat phone. John then turns to the computer and finds the tracking beacon for his phone that shows his phone in Kiev. Simmons realizes that once Stanley delivers the wrong sat phone to Vladimir, Stanley will be killed and all three moles will have been neutralized.

With the operation wrapped up, Simmons tells John and that he pushed through John's retirement earlier that day and he and Anna are free to go. As the couple try to leave, Simmons stops them and says he still needs the real sat phone. Although they've been in communication with Gorbachev and had the nuclear codes changed, the US still wants to study the technology in the cheget. John informs Simmons that he sent the real cheget to a friend who runs a bar in West Berlin, but he promised him \$50,000 American for holding it. Simmons shrugs and considers it a small price to pay and lets John and Anna leave.

As John and Anna walk away on the bridge spanning the Spree River, John pulls the real cheget from his pack, smashes it on the bridge and kicks the components into the river. He tells Anna that he sent Viktor's phone to his friend and that he smashed the real cheget as his lasting contribution to world peace. John and Anna kiss and head toward the train station to get the money John has placed in the locker.

Fade out as John and Anna walk away arm in arm.