SCREENPLAY WRITING

SPREAD | Original feature screenplay

Selected scene: A detective challenges military authority

This two-page excerpt illustrates character voice, escalating conflict, dialogue economy, and cinematic scene construction. It is presented without the screenplay's principal revelations or ending.

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CONTINUED:

ZIHAN (CONT'D)
(to another soldier)
You, check for secur—

WEN
Commander. This is an active crime scene. My officers are documenting the bodies and evidence. Your men stay clear until we're finished.

Soldiers halt, looking to Zihan. He gets into Wen's grill.

ZIHAN
Detective, we are tracking several dangerous suspects pursued from our lab. They came through here and obviously had an altercation with our men. Did you find them?

WEN
I see that vendor shot dead there.

ZIHAN
(looks at floor)
Looks like another body was here.

WIV SOLDIER
Sir, look at this!

The Soldier shows Zihan the bodies.

WIV SOLDIER (CONT'D)
Our men. The vendor. One suspect got away.

WEN
Or one of your men did.

Zihan gives him a cold stare, turns to WIV SOLDIER 2.

ZIHAN
(to WIV SOLDIER 2)
What do you have?

WIV SOLDIER 2
Rounds in both freezers.

ZIHAN
Someone hid inside. We missed.

WEN
He didn't miss the unarmed civilian.

Zihan steps over the vendor's body.

CONTINUED:

ZIHAN
You seem awfully concerned about our suspects.

WEN
I'm concerned about your victim.

ZIHAN
Careful, detective.

WEN
No, you be careful. That hole in his chest looks like a probable match to your rifles...
(gestures to soldier; soldier hands him rifle)
One of these in particular. I'll let ballistics sort out the rest. So you do you, I'll do me.
(turns)
Sergeant, collect this body and firearm for the coroner. Tape this area off.
(turns back)
Commander.

Wen exits.

ZIHAN
The institute isn't afraid of your pitiful little group across the river, detective! We operate with the full weight and force of the CCP, and we won't be talked t—

WEN
(waves him off; keeps walking)
My God, he's still talking.

EXT. HUANAN MARKET STREET - DAY

Urban road, Yuchen and his crew wait. Wen studies Yuchen's press badge. Looks up. Runs after him.

WEN
Hey, Yuchen Chou! I'm about ready to give you a ride to the station in the back seat. You knew that man. Your eyes were the tell. Who are you?