

De Profundis

By

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An original screenplay

June 2012

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INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

GREGOR (early 20s) does press-ups. Pumped up, he looks in the mirror and kisses his biceps. Behind him stands VITALI, a smart, elderly Ukrainian, looking satisfied. Vitali hands Gregor a rucksack and an envelope. Gregor checks the cash in the envelope..

VITALI
(with strong accent)
You'll get the rest when the job
is done. Do not fail me, Gregor.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Gregor is on a bicycle. He pulls the house door shut, checks the coast is clear, pulls up his hood, and cycles away.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

Gregor is at the locked gates of the entrance. Nervously, he pulls bolt cutters from his rucksack. He cuts the chain on the gates, pulls on a mask and sneaks inside.

EXT./INT. STATION PLATFORM - NIGHT

Gregor crouches in dim torchlight. He checks his phone..it is 14/02/2013 and the time is 4am. He sets his stopwatch and opens the rucksack.

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. ANOTHER STATION PLATFORM - DAWN

AMANDA (chic early 60s) is waiting bleary-eyed. She checks the station clock: 7am. A train approaches.

INT. TRAIN CARRIAGE - DAWN

Amanda yawns and does facial exercises in her window reflection. The train pulls into Gregor's station. As it slows, Amanda notices the station name signs have been covered with new signs. The first says 'Vitali', the next says 'loves', the next says 'Amanda'. She gapes, incredulous, as the train stops. When the train pulls out, she reads the consecutive signs, now saying 'Will' 'You' 'Merry' (she rolls her eyes at the misspelling) 'Me?'. She laughs, embarrassed, tears welling up.

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

The train's tail-lights disappear into a tunnel.

FADE TO BLACK. FADE UP ON:

INT. PUBLIC AQUARIUM - DAY

Vitali stands at the edge of a huge tank, weeping freely, clutching a gemstone ring. Sharks swim amongst other fish. He removes his coat, takes a deep breath, closes his eyes...and throws the ring into the water. An aquarium worker (60-ish, beautiful) approaches. Her name badge says 'NADEZHDA'.

NADEZHDA

So misunderstood, no?

VITALI

Hmm?

NADEZHDA

The shark. Always seen merely as a predator, when in fact, he is a glorious miracle of nature. So elegant, grey and sleek (Vitali smooths down his hair). The most advanced creature, yet as old as time itself.

A manta ray breaks the water's surface. She tickles it and blows it a kiss. Vitali is entranced.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Vitali, a la Blofeld, sits in a chair, cuddly manta ray toy on his lap, dialling excitedly on the telephone. By the phone is a flyer and souvenirs from the aquarium. Ringing tone is heard. Then..

VITALI

Hallo?..Hallo Gregor! Listen, (glances at rucksack with flippers sticking out) I have another job for you.

INT. PUBLIC AQUARIUM, TANK - EVENING

The ring glints as it settles onto the sand.