

Covert Heirs

by

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COVERT HEIRS

FADE IN:

EXT. MIAMI YACHT CLUB - ESTABLISHING - DAY

The Miami skyline in the BG, a 200 foot yacht is berthed at the end of a row of multi-gazillion dollar boats.

EXT. YACHT - UPPER DECK - DAY

JOHN COATES (40-something), a ridiculously handsome lady-killer in Armani leads SOFIA (23) Latina, a spoiled temptress in a slinky dress, to a lunch table.

JOHN

Darling.

He holds her chair. She's surprised and flattered.

Behind her back, he checks his cell phone. No signal.

He takes her hand and kisses it in a chivalrous gesture. While she's distracted, he lifts the cell phone from her purse.

SOFIA

So gallant. And your yacht,
beautiful.

JOHN

Gracias, but it pales in the shadow
of your own.

She doesn't really get it but smiles anyway.

He takes off his jacket and quickly checks her phone - no signal. He pockets it and settles in the seat next to her, flashing a million-watt smile. She's hooked.

A CREWMAN brings them champagne on ice.

John pours. She loosens his tie.

EXT. PIER - DAY

FOUR HISPANIC THUGS led by CARLOS hurry toward the yacht. One checks the silenced pistol hidden under his jacket.

EXT. MARINA - SPEEDBOAT - DAY

A slick racing speedboat zooms into the marina headed for the yacht.

A BOAT DRIVER, TWO AGENTS and ALLISON (24) on board. She's the junior agent but athletic, smart and beautiful.

Ready for trouble, they check weapons and adjust body armor.

Allison scans the decks with hi-powered military binoculars.

THROUGH THE LENSES

John, visible only from the back, and Sofia share a passionate kiss.

AGENT

Anything?

ALLISON

I see her.

EXT. PIER - DAY

Carlos and his Thugs are at the yacht. A quick check around - all clear. They go up the ramp.

EXT. YACHT - UPPER DECK - DAY

John and Sofia tumble onto a chaise lounge. He nuzzles her neck.

JOHN

Beautiful.

INT. YACHT - LOWER LEVEL - DAY

Carlos and the Thugs are confronted by the CAPTAIN and Crewmember, DANIELA.

CAPTAIN

Who are you?

Carlos raises his gun.

PHWIP - the Captain is dead.

DANIELA
Upper deck.

Carlos hands her a gun and a stack of cash.

EXT. YACHT - WATERLINE - DAY

The speedboat drifts up next to the yacht's stern. Allison and the two Agents ease on-board. The speedboat drifts away.

INT. YACHT - LOWER LEVEL - DAY

Carlos, Daniela and the Others move into the kitchen. A COOK and CREWMAN are caught by surprise. They are shot down.

CARLOS
Find her, kill the rest.

The bad guys split up.

EXT. YACHT - UPPER DECK - DAY

John and Sofia are mid-kiss.

OVER HER SHOULDER

John spots a moving shadow inside with the silhouette of a gun and silencer.

He breaks the kiss and moves fast. All business now.

SOFIA
Hey!

He grabs his jacket, pockets the phone, a handgun and a spare clip. Sofia takes a deep breath - she's working up to a scream.

He clamps his hand over her mouth.

JOHN
Be quiet and do exactly what I tell you. Come on.

He leads the way - they keep low.

John looks over the railing, ready to jump with her. He spots the speedboat and the Driver, assumes the worst, and scrambles back from the railing.

John and Sofia duck inside just as a Thug steps out further down the deck. It's a close call.

INT. YACHT - STAIRCASE - DAY

John and Sofia clear the bottom of the staircase. Suddenly, a Thug appears in the hallway ahead of them.

JOHN

Run!

John drags Sofia down another level. Bullets slam into the wall behind them.

INT. YACHT - LOWER HALLWAY - DAY

One of the Agents inches along.

A Thug steps out behind him. At point blank, the Agent is shot in the head.

INT. YACHT - UPPER HALLWAY - DAY

John and Sofia still running from one Thug round the corner into Carlos. Carlos opens fire.

JOHN

Go!

John shoves Sofia through the closest door into the Main Lounge. He's hit in the arm as he follows.

INT. YACHT - LOWER HALLWAY - DAY

Allison comes across the dead Agent. She whispers into her earbud and keeps moving.

ALLISON

Man down, call the wagons.

INT. YACHT - MAIN LOUNGE - DAY

John slams and locks the door. There's another way out. He checks it - it's locked from the other side.

SOFIA

What do they want?

JOHN
I don't know.

The first door rattles. Carlos fires a couple rounds through it.

JOHN
Get down.

John tips up a Sofa, ready to make this his Alamo. He pulls Sofia down with him.

A THUMP as Carlos tries to break in. John shoots back through the door. The thumping stops.

SOFIA
Who are you?

He doesn't answer.

John checks his phone again - no signal. He checks the phone on a nearby table - Nothing.

A subtle CLICK - the lock releasing on the second door, the one behind him and...

BAM!

The door is kicked in. John freezes, his back to the intruder.

It's Allison - she has them in her sights. She holds up her badge.

ALLISON
Drop the gun! Federal Agent.

John glances over his shoulder - a stunned moment of recognition.

JOHN
Boo?

ALLISON
Dad?

Carlos shoots again through the far door. Allison takes cover behind the sofa.

John returns fire.

SOFIA
Oh my God. Who are you people?

JOHN
(To Sofia)
Give us a second.
(To Allison)
Boo, what are you doing here?

ALLISON
Don't call me that. I'm working.

JOHN
Since when is pointing a Beretta at
your old man work?

ALLISON
(To Sofia)
I have to get you out of here. The
Dante cartel are here for you.

JOHN
We were just leaving.

SOFIA
(To John)
I trusted you!

Allison spots his bloody sleeve.

ALLISON
Are you OK?

JOHN
Its nothing.

Allison looks him over.

His shirt is wide open, chiseled chest and abs showing. He's
the guy she saw through her binocs. Allison looks at Sofia,
then back at John - then looks a little ill.

She motions to his shirt with the gun.

John 'gets it' and pulls his shirt closed while she checks
her ammunition.

Carlos THUMPS on the far door with renewed vigor.

Sofia fires a round through it. Carlos goes quiet again.

ALLISON
What are you doing here? You're in
Mexico?

JOHN
You know? That I'm a --

ALLISON
Yeah, of course.

SOFIA
Can we go now, Johnny?

ALLISON
Johnny?!
(To Sofia)
How old are you?

JOHN
Don't answer that.

SOFIA
Twenty-three.

Allison lunges forward, grabs Sofia and pushes her through the open door. Allison glares at John.

ALLISON
(Whispered)
She's younger than *me*, Dad.

JOHN
I don't even know what you're doing here. Your mother said you were hiking in Nepal. 'Finding yourself' or some nonsense.

More rounds rip through the far door. In a moment, Carlos will be through.

ALLISON
Nonsense? Why are you always like this?

SOFIA
Johnny!

He snaps to action. He and Sofia go through into...

INT. YACHT - HALLWAY - DAY

John pulls the door shut and re-locks it.

Sofia wants an explanation - she gets right up in John's face.

SOFIA

Johnny!

He pushes her aside.

JOHN

Just give me a minute.

(To Allison)

Nepal?

ALLISON

It was a cover, Dad.

JOHN

Why do you need a cover? You're still in school.

ALLISON

I graduated ages ago. I was recruited right out of college. You might have noticed if you paid any attention.

They're right in the middle of the hall. Sofia looks both ways - frantic. John and Sofia ignore her.

JOHN

You still could have called. I have a right to know you've taken a job - especially this job.

ALLISON

Oh, 'cause you've been so honest with us?

JOHN

God, what were you thinking? I wish you'd called me.

Allison is too angry to answer that.

John ejects the clip on his gun, checks it - not happy with what he sees under...

JOHN

So, what are you? FBI? NSA? Miami PD? Oh no, you aren't ATF are you...?

ALLISON

It's called Crossfire - It's NSA. We investigate internal threats across agencies. Dirty agents.

Allison hands him a spare clip. He loads his gun.

He doesn't like the look of one of the straps on her bullet-proof vest. As they talk, he adjusts it almost out of habit. Sofia is still frantic - and still ignored.

JOHN

So they send my daughter? Like that
won't be distracting in a fire-
fight?

She checks her ammunition, she's good.

ALLISON

We were closest. Look, I thought
you were in Mexico. I don't think
we knew you were here.

JOHN

You keep tabs on me?

ALLISON

When I can. A lot of your work is
classified higher than my
clearance.

JOHN

(Mumbles)
Good.

He storms to the end of the hallway - Allison and Sofia follow. A door enters onto the deck.

John checks out the window - it looks clear. They go outside to...

EXT. YACHT DECK - DAY

Allison eyes Sofia while John scopes for bad guys.

ALLISON

(To John)
Do you do this a lot?

JOHN

What?

She can't bear to speak the words so she motions toward Sofia.

ALLISON

This...

Sofia, insulted, adjusts her dress and sticks out her chest. She's disheveled, but smoking hot.

John doesn't answer.

Further down the deck. A Thug rounds the corner and opens fire, narrowly missing Allison.

Barely glancing, John and Allison, focused on each other, fire in unison, killing the Thug. Sofia cowers.

ALLISON

How long?!

JOHN

Today, just today... Can we talk about this later?

ALLISON

No. How long?!

SOFIA

Ah Cabron!

Allison points the gun at her. Sofia yelps.

ALLISON

You shut-up.

JOHN

Honey, don't shoot her, we need her.

ALLISON

How long!?

He gives in.

JOHN

I don't know... a long time.

Allison suddenly appears woozy, about to hyperventilate.

ALLISON

Oh my God, you *did* cheat on Mom.

He doesn't know what to say. Luckily, the bad guys show up.

CLOSE-BY

A door flies open and Carlos jumps out. There's no escape - he has them clean.

Allison and John raise their hands in surrender. Carlos moves to grab Sofia and makes the mistake of stepping in too close to Allison.

Allison punches him and takes out all her frustration in one hit. He's out cold. She secures his hands with a zip-tie.

John is impressed.

ALLISON
It's no wonder she left.

JOHN
It's complicated.

Allison shoots a pointed look at Sofia.

ALLISON
Yeah.

He doesn't answer.

Allison puts her finger to her ear, she's getting a transmission - she turns away.

Sofia moves in on John, her finger inches from his nose.

SOFIA
This is charming, but if you are going to save me, you and that horse-faced 'puta' G.I. Jane should do something other than argue.

He's had enough. He straight-arms her over the railing. There's a scream and a splash. Allison runs over.

ALLISON
How did you know the rescue boat is coming?

John looks over the side, surprised.

JOHN
There's a boat?

The Driver on the agency speedboat pulls the girl on-board. She flips John her middle finger. The boat races away.

JOHN
If they didn't know who I was before, they do now. I can't throw away two years of work.

ALLISON

Is that what you call that? Work?

JOHN

Can it wait?

He's deadly serious. Banter over. 'It can' - she concedes.

JOHN

We have to split up, we can't let
any of them off this boat. We have
to be sure.

INT. YACHT - LOWER DECK - DAY

Allison works her way down a hallway and into the galley
area. Kitchen equipment block the views.

Something CLANGS.

Allison follows it to where Daniela lies face-down on the
floor near the dead Cook and Crewman.

Allison moves up to her but keeps her eyes up, looking for
threats. When she looks down, she's staring down the barrel
of Daniela's gun.

DANIELA

Drop it.

Allison does.

ALLISON

I'm not with the men who attacked
you.

DANIELA

I know.

ALLISON

So, now what?

DANIELA

They'll want to talk to you.

Daniela stands, keeping her distance. She's wary and Allison
doesn't have an opening to attack.

Daniela motions for the door - Allison goes ahead.

INTO THE HALLWAY

Allison walks in front, hands up. Daniela covers. They round a corner into...

John.

Hair disheveled, wild eyed, he staggers past Allison to Daniela. He grabs his bloody arm - he's going to drop at any moment.

JOHN
Daniela! Thank God.

He stumbles, reaching out for her, not registering she has a gun. He's no real threat and Daniela lets him close.

JOHN
Where's the-- (Captain)

POW.

John clocks her. She's out cold.

Allison, off his earlier performance, jumps to his side.

ALLISON
Dad, are you OK? Let me help you.

He straightens, he's fine. He gives her a charming smile. Allison punches him in the arm.

JOHN
Ow!

SIRENS outside. Back-up has arrived.

EXT. DOCKSIDE - DAY

A YOUNG FEMALE PARAMEDIC puts a bandage on John's arm. Allison hovers and she's not happy.

JOHN
It's OK, Boo.

ALLISON
Dad, none of this is OK. We're no closer to the leak.
(MORE)

ALLISON (cont'd)

Sofia clammed up - she's demanding a lawyer so you're no closer to her father's shipment. I don't think the Dante guys are going to give us much.

The Paramedic finishes up and John flashes her a winning smile. The woman blushes, returns the smile then moves away to help the others. Allison groans.

ALLISON

Dad, stop it, please, would ya?

JOHN

Stop what?

ALLISON

We need to focus.

JOHN

I am focused.

Allison settles heavily on the ambulance bumper.

JOHN

Boo..

ALLISON

Please stop calling me that.

He considers. Nope.

JOHN

Boo. I had a solid thirty with the girl before the Dante goons showed up.

ALLISON

Don't remind me.

JOHN

Sofia and her father are staying with friends in South Beach. He's very interested in boats, has recently bought a yacht and hired a Captain and crew. He called it "Sofia", after her. They gassed it up this morning with enough fuel for an extended cruise. He's been investing locally, too. He got a half -dozen warehouses down by the cruise ship docks.

Allison gapes.

ALLISON

That's great! What's your next move?

JOHN

We keep her. Let her old-man think Dante got her. He's got to go through with the shipment - he has no choice, but he'll be off-guard - he'll make mistakes.

ALLISON

Due Process, Dad. We can't do that!

JOHN

Sure we can.

ALLISON

No way, I'm not going to be part of that. We don't do that shit anymore.

JOHN

Language... Of course we do. Do you have a better idea?

She doesn't... yet. John walks for his car.

JOHN

You coming?

ALLISON

I'm not helping you do that... Listen to me! Dad!

She follows.

(TO BE CONTINUED?)