

# **RUN & GUN**

An Original Screenplay

By

Cody Glenn

FADE IN:

EXT. N'DJAMENA, CHAD - AFRICA - FOURTEEN YEARS AGO - DAY

It's blistering hot in Chad's capital city. Modern buildings rise above slums. Motorbikes, micro vans and a few massively overloaded cars share the streets with towering stacks of goods being carried to market on women's heads.

INT. COLONIAL HOTEL BAR - N'DJAMENA, CHAD - DAY

The shelves behind the bar are empty. The only sign of potential refreshment in the heat is an old refrigerator humming loudly in one corner.

Three AMERICAN MEN sit around one of the tables enjoying cold bottles of local beer. Nobody else is in the room.

JAKE BRONSKI (29), a US Army Special Forces Captain, and MANUEL MENDOZA (32), a Special Forces Master Sergeant, are both wearing nondescript civilian clothes.

CREIGHTON TALBOT (30), a CIA Agent, wears a dress shirt but no tie. His suit jacket hangs over the chair next to him.

JAKE

Yeah, we're hearing it from the military guys we're training, but our medics out doing tent clinics are also hearing it... the high ranking twin brothers are planning something with Colonel Haggar.

CREIGHTON

(shaking his head)

I met with the Erdimi twins, and, I coordinated a meeting between them and President Deby. The bad blood that was between them is gone.

JAKE

(resolute)

We're hearing it from too many different sources. They're gonna try to take President Deby down.

CREIGHTON

Jake, what you're hearing is right, but it's a week old. They worked it out.

(MORE)

CREIGHTON (CONT'D)

Being the only CIA agent in town sucks, but it also means that I get to talk to both sides... and they're both happy now.

JAKE

Okay. You're the one in the meetings with them. All right.

EXT. COLONIAL HOTEL - DAY

Jake and Mendoza walk out into the scorching sun. Three STREET URCHINS run up to them. One of them, BEEBO, knows the two men and also knows a little bit of English.

BEEBO

Hey, Jake! You pull my finger!  
You pull my finger!

Jake chuckles, he likes this kid.

JAKE

No way, Beebo. I taught you that.

BEEBO

(laughing)  
You have candy for us? We want candy!

Jake pulls three hard candies out. The kids snatch them out of his hand and race away. Mendoza sees Jake's grin disappear as the kids leave.

MENDOZA

You still worried, Captain?

JAKE

Yeah... It's not going away.

INT. BEAT UP SUV - N'DJAMENA - DAY

Mendoza drives them through light traffic along the edge of a slum, windows down. Loud motorbikes zip past them. Local gang members walk two HYENAS wearing homemade muzzles down the side of the street, on their way to a fight.

Mendoza turns up a narrow street and has to swerve hard to get out of the way as six GUN TRUCKS loaded with Chadian soldiers race past them going the other direction.

MENDOZA

Oh crap! Did you see who that was?

Mendoza stops. Jake is already dialing his cellphone.

JAKE

Yeah, I did.

(into phone)

Hey, Top, it's me. What's going on over there? Yeah, we just saw some of them. That's why I was...

He lowers his cellphone and looks at it - NO SIGNAL.

JAKE (CONT'D)

Shit! They cut the cell service.

MENDOZA

(groans)

Just like we taught them - when we thought we were on the same side.

JAKE

All right. Things are changing. Get back to the compound with this set of wheels. Top's gonna need them. Link up with the guys on MEDCAP and get everyone over the river. Our whole team needs to be out of the country so we don't get caught in the middle of this coup, or whatever's going down.

Jake steps out of the vehicle.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I'll get a ride back to the hotel to find Creighton. He's gonna be blindsided and he's got nobody to watch his back. We'll meet up with you guys over in Cameroon.

INT. COLONIAL HOTEL - N'DJAMENA - DAY

Jake hurries through the deserted lobby and goes up the steps two at a time. As he's going up, he HEARS the footsteps of several people enter the stairwell above him and start down.

INT. COLONIAL HOTEL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jake ducks out of the stairwell and hides as a Chadian Colonel and two Chadian soldiers hurry down the stairs. Their footsteps recede. Knowing he's too late, Jake silently continues on up the stairs.

INT. COLONIAL HOTEL - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Jake moves quickly down the hall with his PISTOL low and ready. The door to one of the rooms is open in front of him. He hears activity inside and silently moves so he can see in.

JAKE'S POV INSIDE THE ROOM as Creighton zips up a DUFFEL BAG FULL OF CASH, picks it up and turns toward the door.

The two men suddenly find themselves face to face. Creighton is surprised. Jake is absolutely stunned.

JAKE

Creighton..? What did you do?

CREIGHTON

What do you care?

Creighton slings the duffel bag of cash over his shoulder.

JAKE

We're the good guys here, Talbot!

CREIGHTON

The world isn't good guys and bad guys, it's winners and losers. I'm taking the bull by the horns.

They HEAR a HELICOPTER swoop around the building and settle down to land in the street out front.

CREIGHTON (CONT'D)

And, that's my ride.

JAKE

What'd they pay you for? What'd you give them?

CREIGHTON

The president's schedule, copies of his keys and the security codes.

JAKE

What? They'll kill his whole family!

Creighton reaches to grab his suit jacket off a hook with his left hand, hiding his right hand from view for a half second.

CREIGHTON

They're gonna kill each other sooner or later anyway.

His right hand comes back into view - holding a GUN. BLAM - BLAM! The bullets catch Jake in the chest and slam him backward into the wall.

Jake tries to raise his gun, but his arm won't work.

Creighton watches without any emotion as Jake slides to the floor - leaving a trail of blood down the wall.

CREIGHTON (CONT'D)

You shouldn't have come back here.

Creighton shakes his head with a dry, half chuckle.

CREIGHTON (CONT'D)

Not your lucky day, huh, Bronski?

Jake struggles to keep his eyes open but can't... his vision BLURS around the edges and then goes BLACK.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MANSION - WASHINGTON DC - FOURTEEN YEARS AGO - DAY

Creighton walks down a cavernous mansion hallway that reeks of old money and power. He pauses in front of a huge door. Taking a deep breath, he opens the door and marches in.

INT. MANSION - LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

MR. TALBOT (82), the hard edged family patriarch, glares at Creighton and growls.

MR. TALBOT

What happened?

Creighton looks down sheepishly, and then grins a little as he catches himself reacting to the old man like a kid.

CREIGHTON

A little string of bad luck.

MR. TALBOT

(dry chuckle)

Your dad and uncle are on the way.

EXT. MANSION - WASHINGTON DC - FOURTEEN YEARS AGO - DAY

TALBOT 1872 is carved into an arched stone transom over the majestic front doors.

Two very well dressed, mid-fifties brothers, a SENATOR and a FEDERAL JUDGE, come up the steps from separate limousines. A uniformed doorman opens the door for them and nods.

UNIFORMED DOORMAN  
Senator. Your Honor.

INT. MANSION - CAVERNOUS HALL - CONTINUOUS

The brothers march down the hall toward the library.

JUDGE TALBOT  
What's going on? Must be good.

SENATOR TALBOT  
Creighton facilitated a coup over in Chad... and, on his way out he had to shoot one of ours; an army special forces officer. But his coup failed... and the SF guy he shot survived.

JUDGE TALBOT  
Aw jeeez!

SENATOR TALBOT  
Yeah. Some street kid evidently found the SF guy and got an Aussie doctor staying in the hotel to him in time to keep him breathing.

INT. MANSION - LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

The door opens and Judge and Senator Talbot stride into the library. Judge Talbot impales Creighton with his eyes.

JUDGE TALBOT  
Sounds like you're having a little run of bad luck. Your dad just brought me up to speed.

Creighton gives him a reserved, almost sheepish nod.

MR. TALBOT  
Nothing a US Senator and Federal Judge can't help him sort out though, right boys?

SENATOR TALBOT  
Don't worry, dad, we won't let any mud get on the Talbot name.

JUDGE TALBOT

I'm thinking the fact that the special forces guy you had to shoot survived could be a good thing. It always looks suspicious when you pin one on a dead somebody.

Senator Talbot knows where his brother is going with it.

SENATOR TALBOT

Is the Chadian Colonel who fumbled the coup attempt alive or dead?

CREIGHTON

Beaten unconscious. In a coma.

SENATOR TALBOT

Be there when he "wakes up" so he can tell you a few things nobody else would know and name the SF guy as co-conspirator... before he dies from his injuries.

JUDGE TALBOT

What's the SF guy's name?

CREIGHTON

Captain Jake Bronski.

JUDGE TALBOT

Family?

CREIGHTON

Wife and daughter.

MR. TALBOT

Does he care about them? Some folks would be thankful if you got rid of their wife for them.

The men share a dry chuckle.

CREIGHTON

Yeah, he cares about them; a lot.

JUDGE TALBOT

Perfect. How do we let him know they're in danger every single second for the rest of their lives?

Creighton knows exactly what his uncle is asking...

CREIGHTON

One of Bronski's team guys was always with him; Manny Mendoza.

JUDGE TALBOT

Great. He'll carry the message and the system will do everything else.

Mr. Talbot slaps his palms down on the arms of his chair.

MR. TALBOT

Excellent! Let's eat! I never get to have lunch with all you boys at once anymore!

INT. MILITARY HOSPITAL - FOURTEEN YEARS AGO - DAY

Two uniformed MILITARY POLICE and a DOCTOR get off the elevator and approach the DUTY NURSE.

DOCTOR

Captain Bronski, being transported in from OCONUS, has he arrived?

DUTY NURSE

They checked him in downstairs but he's not up here yet.

The elevator door opens and an orderly pushes Bronski out on a wheeled gurney.

DUTY NURSE (CONT'D)

That'll be him right there.

The two MPs and the Doctor go to the gurney. Pale, weak and sedated, Bronski struggles to focus on them.

MILITARY POLICEMAN

Captain Bronski, we're placing you in custody under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for actions in the Coup attempt in Chad.

Bronski is baffled. The sedative makes it difficult to talk.

BRONSKI

I wasn't involved in the Coup.

MILITARY POLICEMAN

Sir, the Chadian Colonel who led the attack identified you and your accomplice as co-conspirators before he died in custody.