

## Scene 1

Darkness. Darkness everywhere. Although summer has officially started a few days ago, tonight is unexpectedly cold and cloudy with no stars showing at the sky on the outskirts of Freedom, the capital city of Ethos Island.

Although it is already late at night and most of the people are in their houses sleeping, a tall, muscular man in his late forties is walking towards the main front entrance of an abandoned wooden, empty factory located on the outskirts of the city. He keeps murmuring to himself as if he is rehearsing his lines trying to sound confident and certain of himself.

While approaching the main entrance of the factory, he takes his mobile phone from the front right pocket of his trousers and turns on the torch. As soon as he enters the factory, he takes a few steps inside, closes the torch on his phone, puts his phone back to his pocket and impatiently waits for his appointment to arrive.

A few minutes later, the noise of a car is heard. The man takes a few deep breaths and involuntarily touches his gun, which is hidden in his back left side, under his jacket.

A few seconds later, a tall, muscular man in his fifties enters through the main, front entrance of the abandoned factory alone with determined, confident steps. He is wearing a black suit, a black tie and a white t-shirt and he is holding a silver suitcase. He walks towards the other man and stops in front of him, being only about 2 meters away from him.

"I am glad you came," Alex mentions. "And as I can see, you brought the money I asked you for."

"Were you worried that I wouldn't bring it?" the man chuckles.

**Commented [MG1]:** You can include more details about Alex, the pov character, such as his occupation and physical appearance to orient the readers.

**Commented [MG2]:** The passage contains unnecessary description that slows down the pacing of the scene. Summarise the passage in one short sentence.

**Commented [MG3]:** You can include more details about the character such as his name (or nickname if you don't want to reveal the identity of the killer), his occupation or physical appearance to orient the readers.

**Commented [MG4]:** From this point onwards in the scene: Include more action and narrative to balance them with the dialogue of the scene and make the story more interesting to the readers.

“No, I was sure that you would bring it this time.”

“This time? This is the first and only time, Alex. The amount of money that this suitcase contains is more than enough for you to retire and live comfortably for the rest of ~~their~~ your ~~life~~ lives.”

“I am pretty sure, you don't want the world to know your group's secret activities regarding the investment program and what you really do with that.” Alex replies confidently. “I am a living example. I could just go to the cops and tell them who I am, how I came to this country and who helped me settle. Do you know how ironic it is that the founders named it “Ethos Island”, the capital “Freedom” and the rest of the main four cities “Justice”, “Happiness”, “Honesty” and “Love”? What were the founders of this country thinking?”

“Are you threatening me, Alex?” the man angrily shouts. “You know who I am and that I have the power to destroy you and your business. You might have had a successful business in your country where you managed to sell drugs with the police turning the blind eye, but not in this country. This is my territory-” the man points to himself.

At that time, footsteps are heard outside the factory near the main entrance.

“Is someone outside?” Alex worriedly asks while pulling his gun and aiming towards the entrance of the factory. “I told you to come to come alone. I did.”

At that time, the man receives a text message.

“I did.” The man replies while grabbing his mobile phone from his pocket and reads the text message.

“But it seems that you didn't. And honestly, who comes alone without back up in an ~~an~~ isolated place to close a deal?”

**Commented [MG5]:** The passage contains unnecessary information that slows down the pacing of the scene. Summarise the passage.

“What are you talking about?” Alex shouts.

The man doesn't reply but instead takes a few steps forward and shows Alex the text message from his mobile phone. -Alex reads the following message: “Bodyguards eliminated.”

Alex involuntarily takes 2 steps back and with his right hand touches his gun.

“Why do you look so pale? Did you actually think that I would come alone or that I wouldn't check, if you have?” the -man replies.

As soon as he finishes his sentence, the man grabs his gun from his back and points it towards Alex.

“What are you doing?” Alex shouts. “ This is a disagreement between friends. No guns needed.”

“Then, why did you bring a gun with you?” the man replies while approaching Alex. “And we are not friends. We were associates,” the man replies while grabbing Alex's gun from his back and -throws it to the other far side of the factory.

“Were?” Alex replies in a shaken voice while the man -takes a few steps back and returns to his original position.

Alex remains frozen without being able to utter another word.

*What should I do ~~to~~ to get out of this situation? The gun is too far away.*

“What are you thinking about?” the man speaks first as soon as he returns to his original position. “There is no escape.”

At that moment, the man raises his hand and -shoots Alex twice in the chest.

“ You were right. I don't know into what kind of utopia ~~the~~ e founding members of this country were living centuries ago. But ~~it~~ it doesn't matter. At least, not for you. In a

**Commented [MG6]:** Nice example of Alex's thoughts!

few seconds, you won't be living at all," the man says while watching Alex -bleeding to his death.

**Commented [MG7]:** Interesting first scene! I am looking forward to see what happens next.