

THE FIRST BITE

Shooting script
(26.09.2022)

Idle Films
Stockmeyerstraße 43
20457 Hamburg - DE

1 **I/E. VOLVO BREAK - TWILIGHT**

A rugged landscape and rolling hills. A dusty road weaves through cork oak forests.

Parked under the shadows of a large tree, a 90s VOLVO BREAK.

OVER BLACK: NO.15

Behind the driver's wheel, a MAN turns a NOKIA 3310 off, then removes the battery.

We never see this Man's face as he picks up a HANDGUN and attaches a TAC 65 SOUND SUPPRESSOR to its barrel. He hides the weapon underneath his seat. We'll call him THE ASSASSIN.

The Assassin starts the engine and drives away.

OVER BLACK: THE FIRST BITE

2 **EXT. WORKSHOP - DUSK**

A desolate, cluttered junkyard where a dinghy shack stands behind the fences.

The noise of DOGS BARKING mixed with the sizzling sound of GRINDING METAL echoes from inside the hut...

OVER BLACK: Tuesday, 11th June, 7:43am

3 **INT. WORKSHOP - DUSK**

Sunbeams glow inside the room, cutting through welding fumes. A PAIR OF GLOVES smoothly strikes an arc on a metal surface.

IVAN unclamps a barrel and uses a brush to clean the freshly welded piece. He blows the remaining. He pauses to study his work, then leaves. *

We follow him in a continuous shot as -- *

4 **INT. GUN STUDIO - CONTINUOUS**

Ivan enters a poorly lit studio. He lays out the metal barrel on top of a working table and a few other gun parts: bolts, recoil springs, receiver, and tubular butt stock. *

In a SERIES OF QUICK SHOTS:

-- The barrel is inserted into the front of the receiver.

-- The tubular stock is attached to the back and secured with a bolt.

-- Ivan slides back the bolt to load the chamber and snuggles the butt to his shoulder.

Throughout all this, Ivan works with the utmost gravity to detail.

Ivan finishes assembling the BOLT-ACTION RIFLE. *

He studies it... aims at an invisible target with a series of quick moves. He picks up TWO BULLETS from the table and squeezes them into his palm. He pockets the bullets. *

Ivan leaves the studio and takes the rifle with him. We STAY INSIDE for a few beats... *

BANG! We HEAR A GUNSHOT coming from the outside. *

MOMENTS LATER / TIME JUMP *

We explore little details of his work environment: *

-- Various MACHINE GUNS, VINTAGE WEAPON POSTERS, and FIREARMS hang on the wall. HANDWRITTEN NOTES with random letters and numbers are attached to them.

-- A pistol wrapped in cloth with its muzzle sticking out.

-- Sketches of the gun's inner mechanics.

-- Makeshift gun grips.

-- Magazine holder and an OPEN AMMO PACK.

-- Empty SHOEBOXES are stacked on the table. *

Ivan walks back inside the studio, still with his rifle. He place it on the table and prepares a few packages. *

He unwraps a .38 SMITH AND WESSON REVOLVER -- double-check the weapon, then meticulously pack the handgun with a newspaper into an empty shoebox -- *

We hear the SOUND of a CAR HORN outside. Ivan turns. *

He stamps it the box with a SKULL WAX SEAL and takes the remaining packages. He walks out with the delivery. *

- 5 **EXT. WORKSHOP - DAY** *
- A busted VAN is parked in front of Ivan's garage. We can't see the DRIVER, only the car's OPEN TRUNK. *
- Ivan walks towards the car, carrying the three shoeboxes we just saw earlier.
- He places the packages on the ground, then examines the interior of the car's trunk. Ivan finds similar shoeboxes and a food crate inside, then starts to exchange the boxes. *
*
- MOMENTS LATER --
- Ivan closes the trunk, picks up the crates and knocks on the car's roof two times. *
- Swirling dust on the road as Ivan strolls back to the workshop with the new boxes, and the Renault drives away.
- 6 **EXT. TRAILER - AFTERNOON** *
- Ivan observes the van driving away on the narrow road ahead and vanishing in the distance. *
*
- 7 **I/E. VOLVO BREAK - DAY**
- We find the Volvo parked between the bushes a few meters from Ivan's garage.
- ASSASSIN'S POV: he observes the van driving by the narrow road ahead and disappearing in the distance. *
*
- The Driver cocks his silencer-equipped pistol. TAK! TAK!
- 8 **INT. TRAILER - AFTERNOON** *
- Ivan bites a small piece of cake. He places the rest inside the open box, on top of the piano. *
- He sits and plays an out-of-tune version of Aria by BACH from the Goldberg Variations. He increases the pace, and a song starts to emerge. Faster and more confident. *
- BANG! GUNFIRE! The SOUND OF A SINGLE SUPPRESSED SHOT. *
- A bullet whizzes and hits the wall behind Ivan. He panics, crouches down. Ivan scans for a safety area and sees the trailer's half-open door. That's his only way out. *
*

His breathing trembles as he tries to avoid making noises.

He scans for any suspicious threat around him. Ivan's brain churning. Thinking and working things out in his head.

He stops. Panting. Sweats the fear out of his body.

12

EXT. YARD - AFTERNOON

Ivan emerges from the other side of the hut. He turns around and spots the ASSASSIN'S BACK.

Ivan points his rifle at the enemy. His hands shake as he holds his breath and aims at the Assassin's head.

A moment of hesitation before Ivan drops his arms. He doesn't pull the trigger.

Ivan looks down, rapid breathing. He tries to regain focus and scans for an exit. He notices a breach facing the neighbor's land and escapes unnoticed.

13

EXT. DIRT-ROAD - AFTERNOON

Ivan hurries ahead. He looks back from time to time, still holding on to his one-bullet rifle. A Volvo Break parked between the bushes catches Ivan's attention. He discreetly approaches the vehicle. *

14

EXT. VOLVO BREAK - AFTERNOON

Ivan stays low and leans against the driver's door. He puts his arm inside through the half-open window in the front. We hear a SUBTLE CREAK SOUND. The driver's door is now unlocked.

15

INT. VOLVO BREAK - AFTERNOON

Ivan kneels on the ground half way inside, looks down to his side, and finds a pack of ammunition. The Assassin's ammo. *

Ivan pulls a MULTI-TOOL KNIFE from his pocket. He uses it to force the dashboard open, then --

Loses the wires, cuts them, and strips its ends. He connects the wires together --

THE ENGINE ROARS. At the same time, the RADIO PLAYS automatically: PUNK ROCK full blast when --

BANG! A BULLET HITS THE DRIVER'S WINDOW!

Ivan panics. Confusion and chaos inside his head.

A LOUD shimmering TINNITUS sound RINGS in Ivan's ears.

He shifts through the gear and floors it --

The FRONT WHEEL SPINS, getting lost in a cloud of dust --

Driving as fast as it will go, cornering onto the main road.

16 **EXT. DIRTY ROAD - CONTINUOUS**

The Assassin stands in the middle of the street. We only see his back as he lowers his weapon and watches the Volvo disappear in the distance. *

17 **INT. VOLVO BREAK - DRIVING - SUNSET**

Ivan's top speed is 100 Km on the road. His adrenaline at its highest --

The loud ringing in Ivan's ears turns into a MUFFLED SOUND, making him increasingly uncomfortable as he races.

On the passenger seat the homemade action-bolt rifle. Ivan looks at it, then shifts his attention to the radio -- he can't hear anything.

He glares in the side mirror. Gasps, relieved. No one is following him. *

Ivan makes a right and slowly pulls over.

18 **INT. VOLVO BREAK - PARKED - CONTINUOUS**

Ivan stares at us blankly. No expression on his face. He rocks back and forth, back and forth behind the wheel.

His nerve-heightened senses start to take in the environment, and slowly, the muffle sounds dissipate into:

-- The hum of traffic.

-- The chirping of birds.

-- The sound of the wind.

-- Aria by BACH from the Goldberg Variations on the radio.

Ivan stops swaying in his seat. He leans back and sits straight, feeling a bit better.

He notices the radio plays the same song we saw him practicing on the piano earlier in his trailer.

He chuckles...

A FAST RATE BREATHING emerges from the back of the car. WTF?

Ivan adjusts the REARVIEW MIRROR --

And finds A PAIR OF FURY EARS sticking out from the back seat.

Black. Fluffy. DOG'S EARS and a SWINGING TAIL.

19

EXT. VOLVO BREAK - PARKED - LATER

Ivan paces impatiently, rifle in hand. He kicks the dusty floor and gazes around. A deserted landscape.

He holds his head, then turns -- sees the car's open trunk in the distance.

And like a cowboy duel scene. *

On opposites corners of the frame: *

Ivan and the Dog stare at each other... *

For a long, long, tense beat...

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END