

HITLER'S ESCAPE TO ARGENTINA

© 2015 David Meade (Pen name)

WGA Registered

Act I

FADE IN:

EXT. STREETS OF LOS ANGELES 1954 - JUST BEFORE DAWN -- NIGHT

A car careens down a Los Angeles boulevard. It is driven by a man with the look of terror on his face. He is being followed by another car with two men in it, and the headlights follow him at every turn.

Suddenly he decides on an evasive maneuver - he pulls a hard left between incoming traffic and navigates his car down an alley. The men behind him pass in the night.

He slowly inches ahead at the end of the alley and comes out on another street. There he continues his journey.

Only a few blocks away is his destination and rendezvous.

EXT. FIERRO'S RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

MARTIN, an ex-German national who has recently moved to America from Argentina, exits the car stealthily as he surveys the dark parking lot. He walks quickly to the entrance to the restaurant.

INT. FIERRO'S RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

A bright glow of lights hits him as enters. He is momentarily startled.

The entrance is bathed in light, but the deeper recesses of the restaurant are dimmer and more inviting. Scanning the corners of the restaurant, he sees a man motion to him. He approaches the table slowly, looking around as he goes to find his contact, agent GENE HAUSMANN.

MARTIN

I am Martin. And you are..

GENE

My name is Gene, sir. I'm with the Bureau.
The Federal Bureau of Investigation.

MARTIN

As I said on the phone, I have information at the highest level.

GENE

On Adolf Hitler?

MARTIN

Yes, on Adolf Hitler himself. He did not commit suicide - he escaped and I was with him the summer of his escape, in 1945 - in July.

GENE

We've been collecting information since the summer of 1945 from a variety of sources. I've been appointed as the 'point man' in the Bureau to collect these reports. Do you say he escaped?

MARTIN

It is a hauntingly powerful story. He did what he had to do. He knew what the Russians would do to him if he had been captured.

GENE

Where is he now?

MARTIN

His pilot flew him to Spain is my understanding. Franco gave him privacy there until arrangements could be made for U-Boat transport. I was one of the men who saw him exit a German U-Boat in the Valdez Peninsula.

GENE

Argentina?

MARTIN

Yes, Patagonia - in the south of Argentina. The Valdez Peninsula. I was paid \$15,000 to assist.

GENE

Who else was there?

MARTIN

It was the middle of the night. I had three men helping me. There was Hitler, a lady, a doctor and a General. There were a number of SS people. Two members of the Argentine Secret Police were there.

GENE

What was their purpose?

MARTIN

In case of any problems with the local constables. The whole operation was authorized at the top - Mr. Peron himself.

Martin studies Gene for a moment. He pauses.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I saw numerous cases of cargo that were shipped to the Lahusen ranch at San Clemente del Tuyu (on the coast NE of Mar del Plata). In my opinion the cargo was "the treasure of Germany" and I heard it was valued at one thousand million dollars.

GENE

They say you always follow the money. The crates were marked Lahusen?

MARTIN

They were definitely marked as Lahusen for the destination!

GENE

Have you seen Hitler since?

MARTIN

Only once. At the Hotel Eden in La Falda. Owned by a very wealthy German couple who financed him. The Eden Hotel entertained kings, diplomats and even Einstein. Hitler was there for 3 days - I saw him with my own eyes. His hair was white, and his moustache shaved, but it was absolutely him.

GENE

And his destination - in Argentina?

MARTIN

I only know it was an immense German estate - a safe house. In the foothills of the Andes, I was told.

GENE

We know that the Germans had a major infrastructure in place in Argentina. They own thousands of acres of farms, ranches, houses and even their own businesses.

MARTIN

I know Germans, as I am one. They are master planners - they leave little to error.

GENE

If I need you again, I will take out an ad in the LA Times as before. We will meet here exactly three nights after the ad appears.

MARTIN

I need permission to remain in the U.S. If I go back to Argentina, they will kill me. They killed his double in Berlin - they will think nothing of killing me.

GENE

Argentina is a dangerous country. We will take care of you.

EXT. - LOS ANGELES BUREAU OFFICE - MORNING

Gene Hausmann walks into the Federal Building in Los Angeles. As he enters, he sees a fellow agent, on his team, Marvin. Marvin is heavysset, jaded and currently between wives.

EXT. ELEVATOR -- MOMENTS LATER

MARVIN

How did the meeting go?

GENE

He's running and he's scared.

MARVIN

That usually works in our favor.

GENE

I'm putting the report together this morning.

MARVIN

At the Nuremberg Trials the Judge said back in 1946: "Hitler's body was never found." In 1948 he said: "We have no evidence that he died in his bunker or anywhere."

GENE

My concern is that only a few in Military Intelligence and a handful in this office know what happened.

MARVIN

What's your worry there?

GENE

If they ever want to shut it up entirely,
there's only a few of us to eliminate.

MARVIN

And who is they?

GENE

I'll leave that to your imagination.

EXT. WALKING INTO HIS PRIVATE OFFICE -- MORNING

A handful of reports are on Gene's desk. One is from a CIA
Interrogation, and another is from Military Intelligence.

GENE

Here's a report on the German U-Boat
surrender. U-977 in Mar del Plata,
Argentina. It's from the Secretariat of
Intelligence in Buenos Aires.

MARVIN

We've been waiting for that report for a year.
I requested it over a year ago!

GENE

I know. It says there was no Manifest found
on the ship. The ship's crew had no
identification papers. The ship had no
orders.

MARVIN

What's the date it landed and surrendered?

GENE

10 July 1945.

MARVIN

That's 2 months after the war ended! What
the hell were they doing?

Gene shuffles some more papers. He looks up.

GENE

*History books do not always tell the truth,
especially if they are written by the
victorious and the powerful.*

MARVIN

Last night I was reading my papers. The
Russians had a nice interrogation with the
head of the Gestapo, General Mueller. He
told them "I liked to talk to Hitler about

his doubles. He had four of them. He knew we would eliminate them when the time came."

GENE

The man's a real charmer.

MARVIN

They didn't leave anything to chance.

GENE

In all fairness, would you like to have ended up in the custody of "Uncle Joe" Stalin - the man hated Hitler!

MARVIN

Stalin told the American Secretary of State at Potsdam that he believed Hitler is alive, probably in Spain or Argentina. He wanted him found out.

GENE

(With a wry sense of humor.)

He had his positive points.

Gene looks up at Marvin. He's been reading some more reports that just arrived. His face shows his incredulity.

GENE (CONT'D)

Marv, look at this. More information from the CIA. Looks like Juan Peron received \$15,000,000 from someone in April of 1945, and then six months later his personal bank account at the private Vatican bank he used went up another \$15 Million!

MARVIN

That's the price of 10,000 false Passports for all of the Nazis he took in. A down payment and then the balance.

GENE

Holy Mother of God!

MARVIN

What are we into?

GENE

(picking up a ringing phone)

Hausmann here.

He pauses and listens.

GENE (CONT'D)

We'll be right in.

He looks up at Marvin and begins to collect some reports.

GENE (CONT'D)

That's the Chief. We're needed in conference.

Both men exit the office and proceed to a long conference room in a windowless area of the office.

EXT. - HALLWAY ENTRANCE TO CONFERENCE ROOM -- MORNING

Steve Smathers, Special Agent in Charge, is sitting at the end of a conference table. He looks up as they are entering. He has a report marked "Sensitive and Compartmentalized" in bold Red Letters on the desk before him.

STEVE

I've got an update from French Intelligence. The Lahusen Organization. Ever heard of it?

GENE

It wasn't on my radar until last evening. I just had a conversation with a top informant last night. He said he aided six top government officials in Argentina in hiding Hitler after his landing by submarine off the coast. I met him at Hollywood and Vine last night. His code name is Martin. I've checked him out. He has a clean record. He said they offloaded crates marked for the Lahusen ranch. He said the value of what was in those crates was one thousand million dollars!

STEVE

It's brand new Intel for me as well. The Lahusen organization is run by a family from Bremen. That's northwestern Germany. They've owned it since the turn of the century. It operates from seven floors of offices in Buenos Aires, owns 100,000 hectares of land in Patagonia. Has a store in nearly every village there. It employs tens of thousands. It may just be a cover.

MARVIN

Doesn't surprise me. I had a request in to the authorities, the local police, at San Carlos de Bariloche. That's right there in the foothills. Like a Bavarian village. Supposed to be a population of 700 Germans there - all sympathizers, most of them probably Nazi types. I asked them to follow

up on a report of meetings at a country retreat.

GENE

What happened?

MARVIN

Well, all went well until the police patrol entered the driveway of the estate. They drove for one kilometer, and were stopped by four Germans armed with sub machine guns. They went back to headquarters, and the Chief of Police ordered the officers to abandon any further investigation.

STEVE

Wherever he is down there, nothing short of a full-scale invasion can bring him out! I've also got a deep Intel report on General Mueller. It says General Mueller kept Hitler's double at the Kaiserhof Hotel, near the Chancellery and the Bunker.

MARVIN

I've got a file on Hitler's physician. According to Dr. Ernst Schenck, He met the new Hitler on the 29th. He said, "Definitely he (Hitler's double) was not the Fuehrer I knew. I was looking at a very different man. He did not have the Fuehrer's powerful eyes, powerful personality and captivating persona. That man was a mess."

Steve gets up from the table.

The phone in the conference room rings.

STEVE

Yes, this is he.

Steve listens. He looks at the men.

STEVE (CONT'D)

I'll see to it right away, sir.

He hangs up the phone.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Sometimes when you're really going somewhere you get stopped. That was headquarters. They want this investigation on hold. Classify the documents. Wrap up any investigation.

GENE

What's going on?

STEVE

The investigation can lead to some avenues they don't want opened up.

MARVIN

What are we supposed to do?

STEVE

Take no further action beyond recording and classification of documents. I was just about to send you two to Berlin. But it looks like that's been delayed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINS OF PATAGONIA THE YEAR IS 1960 -- MORNING

A SERIES OF ANGLES

The Patagonian and Tierra del Fuego Andes are a mountainous area, with a cold and humid climate, and are covered by exuberant forests. The extensive forests and snow-capped mountains share the space with lakes of crystal-clear waters. This region offers the possibility of carrying out the most diverse activities including keeping a person hidden from public view.

EXT. STREETS OF BARILOCHE, ARGENTINA -- AFTERNOON

On the street are a specialized team of Mossad Agents, who have slipped into Argentina under false identities. SHIMON BEN ARON leads the team. Under him are JOSHUA, ZVI, DAN AND MEIR.

They are meeting with a contact, ALBERTO, who has information on the whereabouts of Adolf Hitler. They approach him, sitting at an outdoor cafe.

EXT. CAFE PAMPAS -- AFTERNOON

The group approaches his table and seats themselves around him.

SHIMON

We are from Israel. We know about you. And from your description, you are Alberto?

ALBERTO

Yes, I am.

SHIMON

We are pleased to meet you. We understand you have information on a friend of ours that we would like to meet.

ALBERTO

He is highly protected.

SHIMON

That is usually not a problem. How highly protected?

ALBERTO

He has over twenty guards. He is in a remote area more than 40 miles from here. He is in a ranch surrounded by a national forest and then his estate. He is not there all the time - I believe they move him around. I cannot guarantee anything.

SHIMON

And how did you come by this information?

ALBERTO

I own a market, and some of his people buy from me. I have overheard things.

SHIMON

What is the name of his ranch?

ALBERTO

It is called Inalco. It is over 450 acres. Surrounded by Lake Nahuel Haupi.

SHIMON

Thank you for this information. We will treat it as entirely confidential.

ALBERTO

See that you do or they will kill me!

EXT. FOREST AROUND INALCO -- MORNING

MOVING SHOT

INALCO is a heavily-guarded 450-acre estate accessible only by seaplanes. It is protected by a natural forest. The terrain in which the house was erected, on Bajia Istana near the little town of Villa La Angostura, is quite remote and hardly accessible, as a team on the ground is about to find out. They encounter an electric fence covering the perimeter of the estate.

ZVI

We have been going through this forest for many miles.

Finally they approach a barrier.

SHIMON

(waving to the other members
behind him)

This is as far as we can go. The fence is electric. It is too high to cross, and in the distance I see watch towers. We are too far from our target to even use binoculars. This is not possible. It is too high risk to proceed any further.

DAN

What will happen to Alberto?

SHIMON

That is Alberto's problem.

EXT. CAFE PAMPAS -- EVENING

Alberto is having a late dinner. Two men are watching him as he finishes dinner. As he gets up to go, they get up.

ALBERTO'S POV -- MOMENTS LATER

Both men stare at him with faces of stone as he exits the restaurant.

EXT. STREETS OF BARILOCHE, ARGENTINA -- CONTINUOUS

Alberto picks up his pace. He looks behind him and sees the men in pursuit. He ducks into an alley and thinks he has lost them.

WIDER ANGLE OF THE MEN, THE STREET AND THE ALLEY

The men find and enter the alley. SHOTS are heard.

FLASHES OF LIGHT appear from the alley. Then silence.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MOSSAD HEADQUARTERS -- MORNING

At a sub-basement facility of the Israeli Mossad two agents are talking, Moshe and Daniel.

MOSHE

We know it is fact that Hitler is in Argentina, probably near San Carlos de Bariloche.

DANIEL

But he is protected. I have information from French Intelligence. Charles de Gaulle knows Hitler is alive. But they, too, have been unable to trace him.

MOSHE

When our last agents were in Argentina, they found a jungle area that held piles of German coins from the late 1930s, bearing the 'Made in Germany' stamp, and Nazi insignia scrawled across the walls. It is in the Teyu Cuara provincial park in northern Argentina.

DANIEL

I've read files from German prosecutors - secret files in Brazil and Chile - that confirm the true numbers of the immigrants from the Third Reich. 9,000 war criminals fled to South America. Most went to Argentina, and the rest to Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

MOSHE

(holding a document)

Here is a document from ODESSA, the German Organization of Former SS Members. It shows that General Juan Peron sold 10,000 blank Argentine passports to ODESSA.

DANIEL

ODESSA - they facilitated secret escape routes to allow SS members to avoid capture and prosecution. It's all in the open now.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LOS ANGELES BUREAU OFFICE -YEAR 2014 MORNING

FRANK HAUSMANN, the son of Gene Hausmann, has been with the Bureau over twenty years and is considering retirement when he gets an offer he cannot refuse. He has a chance to take over the investigation into Hitler's disappearance. It is 2014, and over 700 pages of information have been declassified and made available to the public by Executive Order.

An attractive secretary, MARSHA, enters the room. Frank has been recently transferred to the LA office and is sitting at his desk.

MARSHA

Good morning, Frank.

FRANK

Well, good morning to you.

MARSHA

You know I just got transferred here a week ago. I hear your father - Gene - was at the Bureau years ago.

FRANK

I'm working on the same case he did all those years ago.

MARSHA

I'll see you around.

She demurely exits.

Frank's job is to prepare a summary briefing report after running down all available data points, interviews and forensic evidence. He is in the office when his assistant, PAUL MATTHEWS, a career FBI man, walks in.

FRANK

Look at this! I was reading in the Wall Street Journal the other day where the Vatican Bank profited from looting and funding Nazi escape routes to South America. The U.S. Supreme Court allowed Holocaust survivors to proceed with a lawsuit that claimed the Vatican Bank and a Franciscan religious order profited from property stolen by Croatia's pro-Nazi World War II government. Gold and other looted assets from 1941 to 1945 were used after the war to help Nazi war criminals escape to South America.

PAUL

At the lower levels no doubt that happened - but Pope Pius loathed Hitler and the feeling was mutual. I've got Intel that in 1939, realizing what was at stake, the Pope had joined in a conspiracy by certain German generals to overthrow and if possible kill Hitler. But the risk was too high and in the end it fell through.

FRANK

I'm doing a synopsis this morning of past forensic evidence. I've got a 2009 report from an archaeologist at the University of Connecticut who was granted one hour of access to the Russian State Archives in Moscow.

PAUL

Hitler's skull, they say.

FRANK

Right - they say. But they ran a conclusive DNA sample on it and the finding is that it belonged to a woman between 20 and 40 years

of age. The archaeologist had harbored doubts about its authenticity even before the DNA tests. He said the piece of skull was much thinner than a male's normally is. It didn't make sense - didn't gel.

PAUL

If it doesn't gel, it's not jello.

FRANK

That's the silver bullet. That confirms what my father told me - he was involved in all of the original interviews. He said I should always pursue the truth, no matter where it leads.

PAUL

Hitler had four doubles. Those bodies could have been anyone. And Eva Braun had at least one double.

Frank's supervisor enters the room. His name is VINNIE. His orders come from the top of the organization.

VINNIE

(walking in and closing the door)

What are you two up to this morning?

PAUL

We're wrapping up some reports.

VINNIE

Well, you had better wrap them up by next week. I've got orders from the top. We're closing the investigation.

FRANK

Closing the investigation? We should be going to Berlin, to Spain and then to Bariloche in Argentina. This investigation isn't ready to be wrapped up.

VINNIE

Orders. Wrap it up by next week.

FRANK

By all evidence I have so far Hitler and Eva Braun did not commit suicide. They fled to Argentina. Probably San Carlos de Bariloche. The truth is hidden in plain sight!

VINNIE

(as he's leaving)

Be that as it may, we're under orders. Wrap it up.

Vinnie leaves and shuts the door.

FRANK

The Official Legend is created and the media takes it from there. The glitter of official lies and the epic splendor of the thought that Hitler is gone, supposedly by his own hand. Hitler always said, "the bigger the lie, the more people will believe it."

Frank gazes out the window.

FLASHBACK TO HITLER'S BUNKER IN 1945 - MONTAGE

A series of historical photos of the fall of the Third Reich as the Red Army approaches.

Piles of documents stuffed into large boxes and enormous books high atop a broken safe are seen.

A burnt and blood-stained sofa surrounds a desk, littered by pieces of paper, empty bottles and dirty teaspoons.

A 16th-century painting of a woman, probably taken from a Milan museum, is discovered.

A mold covered Nazi SS officers cap complete with Death Skull insignia is left on the floor next to a cupboard.

Every building in Berlin is in shambles. There's no living thing except the stillness of death.

BACK TO SCENE

PAUL

What are you going to do?

FRANK

I've got 20 years in the Bureau. I can ask for a leave of absence or I can just quit - I've got options.

PAUL

Leave of absence - to do what?

FRANK

To find the truth.

PAUL
I'll make you an offer.

FRANK
What's that?

PAUL
If you go off on this adventure, count on me to supply you with the contacts you'll need - I've got a lot of deep contacts in Argentina and Spain.

FRANK
I just may need those. But be careful - this is a history-changer. We don't know what rabbit holes it may lead to. I'm going to request time off.

PAUL
Where are you headed?

FRANK
First Berlin.

PAUL
As soon as you're finished there, give me a call on my private line. I've got some major ideas.

FRANK
That's a deal!

The two shake hands.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRANK'S HOUSE -- LATER

Frank is carrying not only his briefcase but a stack of files into the house. His wife, LISA, opens the door for him.

LISA
You're home pretty early!

FRANK
I'm home for good for a while. We're on paid leave.

LISA
(helping him with the files)
Is it because you know I'd like to travel more?

FRANK

Funny you should mention travel. I've already booked us on flights to Berlin and Barcelona.

LISA

I was thinking more of the Caribbean.

FRANK

I'm going to write a book.

LISA

A book on what?

FRANK

A book about what I've been investigating.

LISA

You mean the disappearance of Hitler?

FRANK

That's the one. I've got over 700 pages of declassified materials and notes. I've got contacts.

LISA

What will I tell the family?

FRANK

Tell your parents we'll be gone for a while. Europe and South America. I wouldn't be any more specific.

LISA

I hope you know what you're doing.

FRANK

I've got to follow my instinct on this. We'll just follow the example of the NAVY Seals.

LISA

What's that?

FRANK

Every mission they start with a prayer: God don't let me screw up.

LISA

What happens if you do?

FRANK

It's not an option.

INT. KITCHEN -- MOMENTS LATER

Frank and Lisa sit down at the kitchen table. The papers are spread across the table.

Frank pages through them, looking for a number.

FRANK

There it is - Richie Landau.

LISA

Who is that?

FRANK

Just the most well-connected researcher in Berlin.

Frank reaches for the phone.

FRANK (CONT'D)

(looking at his wife)

Get packed up - we're on our way!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BERLIN'S TEGEL AIRPORT -- MORNING

A Boeing 777 taxis into the airport's terminal.

INT. BERLIN'S TEGEL AIRPORT -- LATER

Frank and Lisa pass through Customs, presenting identification.

FRANK

(exiting the Customs area)

You see, Lisa, no problem.

LISA

I have a feeling our problems are just beginning.

EXT. BERLIN'S TEGEL AIRPORT -- MOMENTS LATER

They exit Customs and walk to airport transportation.

Hailing a taxi, they enter the car.

INT. TAXI -- CONTINUOUS

FRANK

The hotel Radisson Blu.

DRIVER

Very good.

FRANK

(to Lisa)

To find the real Berlin, Richie says you have to go underground. Richie is a freelance architect, and a member of a group called Berlin Underworlds. He's been leading expeditions into the bunkers and tunnels of the Berlin underground for 10 years.

LISA

How deep down do they go?

FRANK

We'll ask him but I recall at least 50 feet deep. They accommodate roads and railway lines. Over 1,000 bunkers existed, including Hitlers.

LISA

What's the story on the bunkers today?

FRANK

That's what we're here to find out.

EXT. VIEWS OF BERLIN -- MORNING

Skyscrapers and luxury hotels flow through the streets. The taxi approaches the Radisson.

INT. TAXI -- MOMENTS LATER

Frank hands the driver money and the driver acknowledges with a tip of the head. The driver pops the trunk.

EXT. RADISSON HOTEL BERLIN -- MORNING

Front door attendants take the luggage. Frank and Lisa enter the hotel.

INT. RADISSON HOTEL BERLIN -- MOMENTS LATER

A magnificent cylindrical aquarium welcomes the guests. The AguaDom, the world's largest cylindrical aquarium, serves as a unique centerpiece to the hotel. The elevator is built-in and transparent.

Among a crowd of people, Frank spots Richie sitting on a sofa with a glass in his hand.

RICHIE

(getting up)

My friends, you've come a long way!

FRANK

I'd like you to meet Lisa.

LISA

How do you do, Richie?

RICHIE

A lovely choice for a wife, Frank. Let's sit over here.

The three congregate on the sofa.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

You've come a long way. What would you like to know?

FRANK

We'd like to know about the underground bunker systems, especially Hitler's Bunker.

RICHIE

As a teenager in Berlin during the 1980s, I have traveled all around the city - East Germany. I've photographed buildings slated for destruction. As a form of protest, I even lived in some of them, until I was forcibly removed by the East German police!

LISA

Are the bunkers still there?

RICHIE

Many of them are. An entire underground network exists. But you asked about Hitler's Bunker. Here's what happened - in 1986 the East German government made some plans to erect a large apartment complex on the corner of Wilhelmstrasse. In order for the buildings to go up, the concrete from the past had to be demolished.

FRANK

Then they're gone.

RICHIE

Yes, now they are no longer in existence. But I have at least two dozen photographs. I was there. You see, when this happened, I knew the construction site was Adolf Hitler's former bunker. It was under that New Reich Chancellery.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

(pausing to take a drink)

Here is what happened, going all the way back. The Soviets in 1947 attempted to blow up the bunker, but what they did was destroy the ventilation shafts and collapse some interior walls. The rest held up. I was there.

FRANK

How did you get in?

RICHIE

I disguised myself. I looked like a construction worker, but I had an expensive camera. I was scared, as I had heard that the labyrinth of bunkers ran under the Wall and I might be caught. They might have thought I was trying to escape.

LISA

How many times did you go in?

RICHIE

At least 30. It was a race against the clock. The excavators were removing reinforced steel. I had a feeling of going back in time. It was magnificent!

FRANK

Can you get us in any of the existing underground?

RICHIE

Oh, yes. That is not a problem.

LISA

And you have photos of Hitler's Bunker?

RICHIE

I most certainly do. At least two dozen in high definition color. After two visits in, I found the entrance to the infamous Hitler Bunker, where he was barricaded when the Red Army reached Berlin.

FRANK

What did you find down there?

RICHIE

Many Allied soldiers had looted the place. I found furniture, projectiles, epaulets, gas masks and wine bottles. Hitler's Bunker was flooded with much water. It was standing in groundwater. By 1989 I could

no longer go there. It was filled in. But here are the photos.

Richie reaches into a Portfolio case and shows them dazzling color photos of the bunkers.

FRANK

I know Albert Speer designed them.

RICHIE

Yes. And to my understanding of history of course they had escape tunnels into the boulevard above, and probably one that connected with the underground rail system - the U-Bahn.

FRANK

No one saw Adolf Hitler pull the trigger on April 30th. No photographs were taken, and no body was ever produced. On May 1st, 1945 Russian soldiers took the Bunker. Even more mysteriously, Stalin believed until his own death that Hitler got away.

RICHIE

He could have done some simple makeover changes to alter his appearance.

FRANK

In 1968 the Russians claimed they had found charred corpses, and they had buried the bodies. In 1970 they were dug up again according to the orders of the KGB.

LISA

And then what?

FRANK

The bodies were reduced to ashes and thrown in the Elba River. Until 1993.

RICHIE

1993?

FRANK

That's when the Russians said they had remaining physical evidence - the skull.

RICHIE

I heard the tests failed.

FRANK

The tests were successful, but they failed in identification of Hitler. The result

was that the skull belonged to a young woman under 40 years of age. The DNA test was conclusive.

RICHIE

The story on the day of the killing was that Hitler's driver said he heard a shot and they went in to investigate.

FRANK

That's the Nazi cover story. The execution of Hitler couldn't have been heard through the steel reinforced doors and inside the concrete bunkers.

RICHIE

The Hitler photo was a double.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

When they took his measurements, they found he was 2 inches short and his ears were different.

FRANK

Of course. Hitler was like a lot of political leaders. Hitler's practice of using doubles increased after his attempted assassination on July 20, 1944.

RICHIE

200 people connected to that attempt were executed.

FRANK

After that incident the doubles were used extensively.

RICHIE

When was the case closed?

FRANK

In 1956 the FBI first closed the investigation and classified all of the files.

RICHIE

Hitler's Bunker was located right under the Chancellery. An office level and a lower level with his living quarters.

FRANK

We had conflicting investigative reports on how Hitler escaped the bunker. There were several possible exit points.

RICHIE

I heard that pilot Hanna Reitsch was stationed in a German military base on April 28th, in the Baltic Sea, and awaiting the arrival of Adolf Hitler. Her orders were to take Hitler when he arrived to Spain.

FRANK

That's what a military interrogation produced. And then we have the testimony of Peter Baumgart, who said he flew them out. General Mueller gave an even more detailed description of their exit. He said on April 22, Hitler and Eva Braun left the Chancellery from the rear door, and flew aboard a helicopter, a Focke Achgelis AF 223.

LISA

How do you explain the different versions?

FRANK

Well, obviously he got out. But you have to remember that the Germans worshipped him. They were told to tell variations of the truth.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Then on the 29th Baumgart's plane landed in Denmark. An SS Lieutenant said he saw Hitler at Tonder Airfield there on that date. That's from a March 15, 1948 interrogation by Americans. From there to Rues, Spain. A military base near Barcelona was his destination.

RICHIE

It would provide a safe haven until he could board a U-Boat.

FRANK

The bottom line is that Hitler's double was assassinated in that bunker. General Rattenhuber, or Martin Bormann could have shot him.

RICHIE

He was probably heavily drugged.

LISA

They didn't leave much to chance, did they?

LISA (CONT'D)

Wasn't there a dispute about the dental records?

RICHIE

The dental records used to identify Hitler's body were drawn from MEMORY by a dental assistant, WHO disappeared and was never found.

FRANK

The Russians knew. Their newspaper, Pravda, on June 10th of that year published an article that had a statement by Marshall Zhukov. In it he said that nothing for sure could be said about Hitler's fate and disappearance.

RICHIE

Tempelhof Airport is now a major park. It was closed years ago. The bunker location is covered now with the grass of an apartment complex. But there are extensive tunnels underground even now.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

The tunnels were part of Speer's grand plans. The Berlin Underground Association provides tours for select visitors. The tunnels are closed to the public most of the time due to safety concerns. The British closed the tunnels after the war, but in 1969 they were opened on a limited basis.

Richie opens a briefcase and removes an old parchment.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

You'll find this interesting. The "Diario Ilustrado" of Santiago, Chile, January 18, 1948 issue, says: "On 30th of April, 1945, Berlin was in dissolution but little of that dissolution was evident at Tempelhof Airfield. At 4:15 p.m. a JU52 landed and S.S. troops directly from Rechlin for the defense of Berlin disembarked, all of them young, not older than 18 years. "The gunner in the particular plane was an engineer by the name of B... whom I had known for a number of years and for whom I had endeavored to get exemption from military service. He sought to tank up and leave Berlin as quickly as possible. During this re-fueling interval Mr. B... was suddenly elbowed in the ribs by his radio operator with a nod to look in a certain direction. "At about 100-120 meters he saw a sleek Messerschmitt Jet Model 332. Mr. B. and the radio operator saw, and WITHOUT ANY DOUBT WHATSOEVER,

standing in front of the jet, their Commander in Chief, Adolf Hitler, dressed in field-grey uniform and gesticulating animatedly with some Party functionaries, who were obviously seeing him off.

FRANK

I'd like to step into Hitler's mind.

RICHIE

You mean Germania!

LISA

Clue me in.

RICHIE

In 1937 Hitler's architect Albert Speer was given the task of transforming Berlin from the sprawling metropolis that it was into Germania, the gleaming new capital of the world. Meet me here at 8AM tomorrow and I'll arrange a tour you'll never forget!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RADISSON HOTEL BERLIN -- EVENING

Frank and Lisa are seated at a table and drinking wine. A band plays in the distance.

LISA

What do you expect to see tomorrow?

FRANK

Germania was to be Hitler's new Berlin - the boldest city on earth! His plan was to build a Victory Arch twice the size of the structure in Paris. A Great Hall he planned to build was going to be larger than St. Peters in Rome.

LISA

What happened?

FRANK

It didn't work. With Allied bombing, 90% of Berlin's buildings were destroyed in less than 100 days. Then the Russians moved in and sent almost 2 million shells into the center of the city.

FRANK (CONT'D)

But just below the surface today is a clandestine world of tunnels and bunkers - the remains of Germania.

LISA
What a dreamer!

Frank nods and sips his wine.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ENTRANCE TO UNDERGROUND TUNNELS OUTSIDE BERLIN -- MORNING

Frank, Lisa and Richie don head gear and gloves and prepare for a descent into the labyrinth of the Berlin underground.

RICHIE
I'll go down first, and you rappel after me.

LISA
How far down are we going?

RICHIE
60 feet.

The groups descends one by one. They land and survey the surroundings, a dank large subterranean world. LIGHTS ARE FOCUSED ON THE WALLS.

RICHIE (CONT'D)
These tunnels were built to be the transport hub for Germania. Completely underground. Construction started here in 1938. The idea was a two-way train tunnel.

LISA
How long did they build for?

RICHIE
When war broke out in 1939, the project ended.

The three walk down an eerily illuminated cavernous tunnel.

FRANK
How far does this extend?

RICHIE
Over three hundred meters in that direction.

LISA
It's a very creepy history!

FRANK

If Hitler had won the war, these tunnels would have been finished.

FRANK (CONT'D)

I've heard there are above-ground bunkers, too.

RICHIE

After Hitler bombed London, Britain retaliated by sending 50 bombers to Berlin. In 1940. Hitler, furious, ordered three above-ground bunkers to be built. He called them Flag Towers.

FRANK

Anti-aircraft towers.

RICHIE

Precisely. The concrete roofs were 10 feet thick. It was a race against time for him. Close by he built radar to detect enemy planes. These were gun positions. They were very effective. They could fire up to 8,000 rounds a minute.

LISA

What happened to the towers?

RICHIE

The Allies destroyed them. Except one that survived.

FRANK

Look at this!

On the ground a German helmet and several gas masks lie in ruins.

RICHIE

After the war started, they stored munitions and supplies down here. Look further - you'll see empty shells. They had a range of 12 kilometers.

CLOSE UP of a large group of German shells.

LISA

What's that room ahead?

RICHIE

The magazine room. You'll see even more in there. They had immense firepower.

Richie points to large racks on the walls.

RICHIE (CONT'D)

They held tens of thousands of artillery shells. In the corner there is a mechanized lift to carry these above ground.

As Frank looks upon the walls, he thinks back in time.

FLASHBACK TO APRIL 21, 1945 - MONTAGE

The last days of the war. The bombs fell day and night. 6,000 tanks and 2 1/2 million men surround Berlin.

Hitler's birthday - April 20 experienced one final air raid followed by a terrifying silence.

The next day all hell was loosed - the greatest artillery bombardment of a city in history occurs.

The barrage creates shock waves.

1.8 million shells are fired into Berlin.

People crowd any shelter that is available.

BACK TO SCENE

RICHIE (CONT'D)

These tunnels were everywhere throughout the city. And under Tempelhof Airport - they made and repaired planes day and night, right up until the end.

Richie points in the direction of the exit, and the group walks away towards where they entered.

One by one they rappel up the ropes into the bright sunshine.

EXT. ENTRANCE TO UNDERGROUND TUNNELS OUTSIDE BERLIN -- LATER

Frank receives a telephone message and looks at his phone.

FRANK

It's a text from Paul's wife.

Frank appears startled.

LISA

What's wrong?

FRANK

Paul is dead. Killed in a one-car crash. A remote road.

LISA

What was he doing there?

FRANK

She said he was meeting someone. About the case.

Lisa looks startled.

RICHIE

There is someone who doesn't want you to go on.

LISA

What are you going to do?

FRANK

Find the truth - no matter where it leads.

DISSOLVE: