

# SANTANA

EXT. BAKARA MARKET - MOGADISHU, SOMALIA - DAY - ESTABLISHING

An exotic blend of locals haggle with vendors at the world's most infamous black market weapons bazaar.

INT. WARLORD'S DEN - SOMALIA - DAY

Open on ZAID (50s), a savage and genocidal warlord, sitting upon a makeshift throne inside his lair of sandbags and camo netting. He's shadowed by his deputy, an apex-predator named HERSI. Zaid lifts a freshly cut bouquet of *khat* (pronounced 'cat'; it's a leafy plant/stimulant) and takes a long whiff, then places a pinch between cheek and gum.

ZAID

This is good quality. Must be from the Congolese rebels.

Across the table find SANTANA (30s), a former Army Quartermaster with an acerbic wit and calculated bravado, wheeling and dealing in a region of the world where any sane Westerner would fear to tread --

SANTANA

Best *khat* Africa has to offer. And there's two more truckloads waiting outside.

ZAID

What's your price?

SANTANA

One Sledgehammer. Been on my Christmas list for a while.

Zaid makes eye-contact with Hersi, because Santana's not talking about a construction tool.

ZAID

What use do you have for an electronic jammer?

SANTANA

Not just any electronic jammer. A Donkey Kong Sledgehammer, developed by DARPA specifically for Joint Special Operations Command. It can put to sleep every electron within a 50 mile radius.

(beat)

But let's cut the B.S., Zaid, because we both know Black Hawk Down wasn't the last helo to go down in The Mog.

(MORE)

Scene 1  
Start

"TAKEN"

1/5

# SANTANA

2.

SANTANA (CONT'D)

Last week another one crashed and burned during a Top-Secret snatch and grab mission targeting Al Shabaab.

ZAID

I know nothing about that.

SANTANA

It crashed in your clan's territory.

Caught, then coming clean...

ZAID

Unfortunately, the avionics burned up in the crash.

SANTANA

(calling his bluff)

Well then, I guess I'll just take my toys and go.

Santana snatches the *khat* off the table and stands to leave--

ZAID

Wait.

He nods to Hersi, who lifts a tarp in the corner to unveil a perfectly preserved SLEDGEHAMMER AVIONICS UNIT. Santana sits back down and pulls out her cellphone.

SANTANA

Does it still work?

Zaid nods to Hersi, who throws a switch and-- ZZZRT.

**INSERT:** The reception on Santana's cellphone goes dead.

SANTANA (CONT'D)

Perfect. So, we have a deal?

CLICK. Reveal Zaid's pulled back the hammer on a sawed off shotgun he's pointing at Santana under the table.

ZAID

Rumor is you don't work for the U.S. military anymore. Some trouble in Syria about the transfer of weapons--

SANTANA

--My business.

ZAID

Yes.

(MORE)

"TAKEN"

2/5

# SANTANA

3.

ZAID (CONT'D)

But without the U.S. government backing you, what's to stop me from shooting you, taking your *khat*, and keeping my electronic jammer?

Santana exhales, exasperated. As if having to explain how the world works to a child --

SANTANA

I don't know... maybe the fact that I bribed your number two?

Zaid is puzzled, until a sixth-sense turns him to see...

HERSI'S 9MM BERETTA AIMED AT HIS HEAD.

Santana rises from the table, grabbing the *khat*.

SANTANA (CONT'D)

Think I'll just hold onto this sample.

She nods to Hersi as she turns to leave and as Zaid's eyes go wide... [BAM!]

"TAKEN"

anal scene 1

3/5

# SANTANA

4.

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - SYRIA/TURKEY BORDER - NIGHT

Two Bedouins leading camels by the reins cautiously approach each other under the stars. They lower their Keffiyehs to reveal...

Santana and a Kurdish Peshmerga Fighter, FATIMA (30s)-- she wears a mix of battle fatigues and traditional Muslim garb.

SANTANA

I brought the cash. Do you have the package?

FATIMA

Your money is no good here.

SANTANA

Why's that?

FATIMA

Because every man, woman, and child in my village owes you their life.

They drop their guards and embrace. Santana holds Fatima by the shoulders.

SANTANA

I wasn't sure if you'd survived.

FATIMA

Your Special Forces friends trained us well, but then left us unarmed when your government decided to pull out. We had no way to protect ourselves when ISIS came. But you.. You left behind the weapons they trained us with. You gave us an armory with rifles, ammunition, and...

Fatima releases a flap on her camel's sidesaddle to unveil...

A Javelin anti-tank missile system.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

I've been safekeeping this for you.

Santana admires the launcher, putting her hand on it.

SANTANA

I can neither confirm nor deny having left this. But it will come in use where I'm going.

She turns to Fatima, removing her boot knife.

Scene 2  
Start

"TAKEN"

4/5

# SANTANA

5.

SANTANA (CONT'D)  
If you won't accept my money, at  
least take my dagger.

Fatima accepts it.

FATIMA  
I'll christen it with ISIS blood.

SANTANA  
*Inshallah.*

Fatima hands Santana the reins to her horse. And as she  
turns and disappears with the latest addition to her army--

end  
scene 2

"TAKEN"

5/5