

## **DIVING INTO THE WRECK – SYNOPSIS by Srdjan Smajic**

Hit-man FREITAG dreams of retiring to Croatia. He has finally bought his dream home there when he is offered one last assignment – three hits. The first job goes smoothly – he ties the man to a kitchen chair before embarking on the task of removing all his teeth... JULIAN, his employer, enjoys a bloody steak as he watches the slow torture over a videoconferencing laptop. The second hit also goes without a hitch – he takes his target to a quiet spot in the woods and goes through the slow procedure again. Julian watches from the laptop, eating a beef sandwich as the victim's teeth and bloody nerves amass in a bowl.

Freitag observes his final target, LUKE, and casually strikes up a conversation with him at a bar to gain his trust. It becomes clear, however, that each man genuinely enjoys the other's company. The men flirt and when it starts to rain they get into Freitag's car and he drives them to a secluded cabin. As they enter, Freitag attacks Luke with chloroform. When Luke comes to he finds himself bound to a chair. The minutes count down to the videoconference with Julian. Freitag gives Luke morphine to help with the pain. The appointed hour comes... and passes. Freitag can't bring himself to do it. He gets Luke back into the car and takes them to a hotel.

The next morning Freitag arranges a fake passport for Luke and they take a plane to Croatia, then a ferry to the small island of Hvar. Luke rents a room in the town, is befriended by neighbors IVO and MARINA, and gradually becomes used to his new life. Meanwhile, Freitag lives in his dream house and goes about his routine in solitary existence. One day he runs into the three friends and they start to hang out, becoming a close group of four. Freitag and Luke grow closer. Alone one night, Freitag opens up about his past as a killer. Luke in turn admits that he too has blood on his hands for getting mixed up with Julian. Ivo can see the attraction between the two men and takes them to a beautiful sea cave to be alone. Naked in the water, holding on to the boat, Freitag confides in Luke that he cannot swim and tells him his first name: Michael. Luke teaches him how to "let go" and float in the water. Later, Luke moves in with Freitag – and they finally share a kiss.

One day soon after, Freitag gets the feeling he is being followed around the marketplace and he rushes home to tell Luke they have to leave. The two people he spotted in the market arrive with guns and he kills them, but Luke is shaken up and says he doesn't want to keep running. Freitag accepts this and goes back to America to "deal with it." He breaks into Julian's mansion, slaughtering guards as he goes. Julian watches gleefully on CCTV, enjoying the show. Once inside, Freitag kicks down a door, rushes into a room and finds... a laptop. From a yacht, Julian cordially informs Freitag that he's called the police – but that he will happily leave him and Luke alone henceforth.

Arriving back in Croatia, Freitag suffers an identity crisis –is he still a cold-blooded killer? Eventually, he and Luke grow close again, falling in love and finding a "home" within each other. Some weeks later, Luke is tragically killed in a random mugging. Distraught and heartbroken, Freitag drowns himself in the sea cave where he told Luke his name.