

"Nine Dragons"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1. EXT. SEA - NEAR COAST OF HONG KONG - DAY

1.

SLOW MOTION CLOSE PANNING of waves and spume of the sea. This is the kind of SLOW MOTION that leaves faint after-images from frame to frame, creating a weird dream-like effect.

McGARRETT'S VOICE (V.O.)

Memo to staff, Hawaii Five-O --
from Steve McGarrett, Bureau Chief.
The events reported by me herein...
are to be considered unreliable.

(beat)

Although they reflect the best of
my memory, I have no way of knowing
how much is true...and how much
imagined, dreamt, or distorted by
factors beyond my control.

CAMERA CONTINUES PANNING TO CLOSEUP of McGARRETT perched on the deck of a hydrofoil boat, and commencing to dive into the sea (still in SLOW MOTION). It is a McGarrett such as we have never seen before. His clothes are rumpled. He is unshaven. His face is distorted by agony and desperation. A frightened-animal stare glints fiercely from within dark hollow eye sockets. TWO CHINESE THUGS who were flanking him on the boat seem surprised by his sudden move. They reach for guns in the continuing SLOW MOTION ballet.

2. CLOSE ANGLE - McGARRETT - SLOW MOTION

2.

hitting the water and swimming, for life itself. The bullets form strange sculptured pockmarks in the water all around him.

3. ON THE CHINESE THUGS - DECK OF SHIP - SLOW MOTION

3.

firing their guns.

4. BACK TO McGARRETT - SLOW MOTION

4.

He dives into the water, disappears from view.

5. UNDERWATER SHOT - McGARRETT - SLOW MOTION

5.

as he swims into CLOSE CAMERA RANGE, his face now even more distorted by the swirling currents. McGarrett's face BLACKS OUT CAMERA.

6. EXT. ABERDEEN HARBOR - DAY (SHOOTING NORMAL SPEED) 6.

CLOSEUP - SUZIE (17) standing in a sampan and SCREAMING at something she sees in the water. She is a poor, simple fishing girl.

7. ANGLE TO INCLUDE OLD MAN 7.

who is standing in another part of the sampan. He approaches Suzie.

OLD MAN
(in Chinese)
What is it?

SUZIE
(in Chinese, as
she points)
Look!

8. THEIR POV - MCGARRETT 8.

in the water, just barely alive. His hands hold tightly to the side of the boat, as his head bobs on the water.

9. BACK TO SUZIE AND OLD MAN 9.

OLD MAN
(in Chinese)
Take one hand, we'll pull him out!

With great effort they pull McGarrett from the water.
(Note to director: If necessary, they can call another fisherman from a nearby sampan to help)

10. TIGHT ON MCGARRETT 10.

rolling over on the sampan deck, drenched and exhausted. He passes out.

JUMP CUT:

11. WIDE PANNING SHOT - ABERDEEN HARBOR - HONG KONG 11.
X

For the first time, we are aware of the vast number of small fishing boats tied up side-by-side. Here is the noise and texture of humanity. Crying babies tied to boats to keep them from falling off. Chickens in cages suspended from bamboo poles. (If sequence is shot in April, boats will be colorfully decorated for birthday of Tin Hau, and the music of gongs and cymbals is heard everywhere.)

12. CLOSEUP - McGARRETT

12.

watching the scene from deck of sampan. He is now rested and shaved, though oddly dressed in the clothes of a Chinese fisherman. There is a look of deep puzzlement in his face. SOUNDS of the waterfront life continue O.C.... Then -

SUZIE (O.C.)

You like some tea?

McGarrett looks up.

13. WIDEN

13.

to include Suzie who stands over him with a bowl-cup of steaming tea. (There is a small stove on the sampan). McGarrett nods.

McGARRETT

Thank you.

She hands him the bowl-cup, and he takes some long satisfying swallows of the hot tea.

McGARRETT (CONT'D)

That's very good.

Suzie smiles. She is pleased. McGarrett looks around.

McGARRETT (CONT'D)

Where are we?

SUZIE

Aberdeen - South coast of Hong Kong.

McGARRETT

(tries to make
it sink into
his brain)

Hong Kong...

(a pause)

...Would you happen to know how
I got here?

SUZIE

We found you in the water - my uncle
and I. That was yesterday. You
slept through the night.

McGarrett nods, then sees his suit hanging to dry between two bamboo poles.

CONTINUED

13. CONTINUED

13.

McGARRETT

(pointing)

My clothes?

Suzie nods, then shows him a basin with some leftover soapy water, and a large old safety razor.

SUZIE

Your beard.

McGarrett feels his cheeks. They are smooth.

McGARRETT

Nice job.

Suzie giggles.

McGARRETT (CONT'D)

Your boat?

SUZIE

My uncle's boat. We fish for squid and oysters. But some day we will have a great big junk, and go out deep for mackerel and parrot fish!

McGarrett smiles at her enthusiasm.

McGARRETT

What's your name?

SUZIE

Suzie. What's yours.

McGarrett starts to say something, then realizes that his mind is blank. A troubled look comes into his face.

McGARRETT

I don't know.

(Suzie too reacts
with worry)

Let's see if we can find out.

He rises to the hanging clothes. Searches the pockets - looks for labels. He finds nothing.

McGARRETT (CONT'D)

Someone did a pretty good job.

(beat)

You'd better take me to the police.

CONTINUED

13. CONTINUED

13.

SUZIE

All right.

(calling to an
OLD MAN nearby,
in Chinese)

I'm taking him to the police.

OLD MAN

(in Chinese)

Yes! Good idea! Good idea!

14. WIDE ANGLE

14.

as Suzie leads McGarrett by the hand. They hop from deck to deck of the closely tied boats which act as a bridge to shore.

15. EXT. WATERFRONT STREET - ABERDEEN - DAY

15.

A NEWS HAWKER stands in foreground as McGarrett and Suzie approach from direction of the boats. Chinese and English-language papers are displayed side-by-side. X
McGarrett pauses to look at pile of papers, which are almost lost in the multi-language display.

16. HIS POV - ZOOM SHOT - THE "HONG KONG STANDARD"

16.

A British paper. The headline reads:

POLICE COMB TERRITORY
FOR MISSING AMERICAN

and underneath this headline there is a captioned picture of McGarrett with his name just below.

17. BACK TO MCGARRETT

17.

He is overcome by the shock of realization. He puts his hand to his eyes to recover. ZOOM SHOT to his face.

18. SUBLIM - BRIGHT LIGHTS

18.

shining directly at us, as if to blind us, FLARING FRAME.

19. SUBLIM - McGARRETT 19.

squinting in those lights, as if in torture, beads of sweat on his face.

20. SUBLIM - WO FAT 20.

on periphery of the bright lights, smiling down at his torture victim.

21. BACK TO SCENE - McGARRETT & SUZIE ON WATERFRONT STREET 21.

She comes up to him worriedly.

SUZIE
Are you all right?

He removes his hand from his eyes.

McGARRETT
Yes... thank you.

She follows his gaze to the headline.

SUZIE
That's you!
(excitedly)
You're American?

McGARRETT
Yes...I live in Hawaii.
(beat)
I've got to get to Police
Headquarters.

SUZIE
In Central?

X

McGARRETT
Yes.

SUZIE
Come!

She starts to lead him down the street.

22. TIGHT ANGLE - PARKED CAR - ANOTHER PART OF THE STREET 22.

The two Chinese Thugs - now in car driven by a third X
thug - spot McGarrett and the girl.

1ST CHINESE THUG
(in Chinese)
That's him!

The car is started, and takes off with SCREECHING TIRES.

23. TRUCKING FROM FRONT - MCGARRETT & SUZIE 23.

as they walk. McGarrett becomes aware of car approaching rapidly from b.g., intending to run them down. He grabs Suzie, and leaps into a narrow alley with her, thus avoiding the car.

24. EXT. ALLEY - DAY 24.

as McGarrett and Suzie dive in from the street, and roll on the ground. O.C. we hear the sound of car SCREECHING to a halt.

SUZIE
(rising nimbly)
Come! This way!

McGarrett follows her. They run.

25. EXT. WATERFRONT STREET NEAR ALLEY - DAY 25.

The two Thugs jump out of their car, and head for the alley drawing guns.

26. EXT. ALLEY - DAY 26.

as the Thugs enter from the street, just in time to see McGarrett and Suzie turn a corner. They follow on the run.

27. EXT. SECOND ALLEY - DAY 27.

TRUCKING McGarrett and Suzie FROM FRONT as they run. The two Thugs appear in b.g. behind them, and start to fire their guns. Suzie pulls McGarrett around another corner, as WHISTLING BULLETS tear at the edges of stone.

28. EXT. THIRD ALLEY - DAY 28.

LONG SHOT - McGarrett and Suzie rounding a corner and running TOWARD CAMERA. SHOT GOES TO SLOW MOTION as CAMERA ZOOMS in for EXTREME CLOSEUP of McGarrett running. With SLOWING OF MOTION, all SOUND SLOWS TO A BLUR like a record played at a slower speed. At completion of ZOOM, all we see are McGarrett's eyes.

MCGARRETT'S VOICE (V.O.)
Steve McGarrett...Hawaii Five-0...
how did I get here, and why?...
What is it I've got to stop by 4
o'clock?...Got to clear my head...
got to think...got to think...

CAMERA GOES OUT OF FOCUS

BRING INTO FOCUS:

29. EXT. STATE OFFICE BUILDING - HONOLULU - DAY

29.

PANNING McGarrett and DANNY as they walk briskly toward the building entrance.

SUPERIMPOSE: "HONOLULU, HAWAII - TWO WEEKS EARLIER"

30. INT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - DAY

30.

We find the GOVERNOR with COLONEL DePAUL (U.S. Army Intelligence), McGarrett and Danny. Colonel DePaul is speaking. We can feel the weight of the moment.

COLONEL DePAUL

Toxin, gentlemen - more deadly than an atom bomb. Two teaspoonfuls in the water supply could wipe out the population of a city.

McGARRETT

I gather you're talking about saxitoxin that comes from the "red tide" bacteria found in shellfish.

COLONEL DePAUL

That and cobra venom. The most lethal chemical agents ever developed. No nation has ever dared use them.

X

McGARRETT

I thought the President ordered our stockpile of those toxins destroyed.

COLONEL DePAUL

He did. Even though our stockpile could fit in a whiskey glass.

DANNY

Wasn't the plan to deep six them?

COLONEL DePAUL

That was our first idea. Then there were protests from universities all over the country. They want the toxins for medical research. The scientists claim they could help find a cure for diseases of the central nervous system - such as multiple sclerosis.

X

CONTINUED

30. CONTINUED

30.

GOVERNOR

Steve, our own university was one of the first to make a request. Colonel DePaul says the government will grant it -- with one qualification.

McGARRETT

We provide the security.

X

GOVERNOR

Right. Five-0 would be asked to set up procedures that would guarantee the safety of the toxins while they're in the islands.

McGARRETT

There are two kinds of safety, Governor. Reasonable safety, and total safety. And that second kind doesn't exist.

DANNY

Thing like this is a question of calculated risk - and how much the results are worth it.

GOVERNOR

Steve, this is a political time bomb for me. If I say yes, I'll be damned for disregarding the public safety. If I say no, I'll be called indifferent to the plight of crippled children who might walk again if the cures are found.

(beat)

But I've made up my mind to take the risk. And I'm relying on you to keep it to a minimum.

31. EXT. AIRPORT - DAY (STOCK)

31.

Army transport comes in for landing.

32. EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

32.

ANGLE McGarrett, CHIN HO, and Colonel DePaul standing near McGarrett's car on airfield. A couple of blue-and-whites with UNIFORMED HPD MEN are visible nearby.

33. ANGLE - PORTAL OF ARMY TRANSPORT (LANDED) 33.
 A CAPTAIN and TWO SOLDIERS wearing pistol belts come down the boarding ladder. The Captain carries a small metal box with a handle (about the size of a lunch box). They walk across field toward McGarrett.
34. INSERT - CLOSEUP THE METAL BOX 34.
 as they walk.
35. ANGLE WITH MCGARRETT & OTHERS 35.
 as the Captain and Two Soldiers approach. The Captain salutes Colonel DePaul who returns the salute.

CAPTAIN
 Sir, Captain Towers delivering
 chemical agents Naomi 1 and 2,
 by authority of Defense Department
 Order MK-7319.

COLONEL DePAUL
 Key?

One of the Armed Soldiers hands him a key. The Colonel opens the metal box, and examines two slender vials of fluid, each labeled. He puts them back, and closes box.

COLONEL DePAUL (CONT'D)
 Acknowledged.

CAPTAIN
 If you'll sign right here, sir.
 Both copies.

The Colonel signs. The Captain salutes again, and the Colonel returns it. The Captain and Soldiers about-face, and head back toward the plane.

COLONEL DePAUL
 (offering box
 to McGarrett)
 Your show, McGarrett.

MCGARRETT
 (beat; then
 taking box)
 Let's go.

McGarrett and Chin Ho get into McGarrett's car and the entourage takes off. Blue-and-whites precede and follow McGarrett's car. So do motorcycles. The effect should be that of guarding the Crown Jewels.

36. INT. MCGARRETT'S CAR IN MOTION - DAY

36.

McGarrett picks up radiophone. (Note: the metal box lies on the seat between McGarrett and Chin Ho.)

McGARRETT
(into radiophone)
Central, this is McGarrett. I
want a patch to telephone number

37. INT. CHEMICAL STORAGE ROOM - UNIV. OF HAWAII - DAY

37.

We discover Danny and TWO HPD GUARDS in this room. A large, heavy combination safe is nearby; its door stands open. Telephone RINGS. Danny picks it up.

DANNY
(into phone)
Williams.

INTERCUT McGarrett & Danny

McGARRETT
Danno, it's Steve. Cousin Naomi has just arrived. We're heading in on the freeway. All secure at your end?

DANNY
All secure, Steve.
(glancing at safe)
The safe just got here on loan from Navy Intelligence. I think it would stand up to a low-yield nuclear blast.

McGARRETT
Let's hope no one puts that to a test. On our way.

McGarrett hangs up.

X

38. EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

38.

PANNING THE POLICE ENTOURAGE as it speeds toward the University. McGarrett's car is prominent.

39. EXT. UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII - DAY

39.

ANGLE ON SIGN identifying the college. Then PAN TO POLICE ENTOURAGE entering the campus. Some STUDENTS standing near the gate react curiously.

40. EXT. FRONT OF SCIENCE BUILDING - UNIVERSITY - DAY

40.

The Police Entourage pulls up. McGarrett and Chin Ho get out of car (Chin Ho holding the metal box) and find three people waiting for them in front of the building: DR. ARNOLD KIAMALU (President of the University, DR. BARBARA DALTON (Dean of Students), and PROFESSOR TAKEO SHIMOTO (Chairman of the Biochemistry Department). Dr. Dalton is cool, attractive, 40ish.

DR. KIAMALU
(extending his hand
to McGarrett)
Mr. McGarrett...a pleasure to
see you.

McGARRETT
Dr. Kiamalu...

DR. KIAMALU
May I present my associates...
Dr. Dalton, our Dean of Students...
and Professor Shimoto who'll be
conducting these experiments.

They exchange "How do you do's." Dr. Dalton is wary and cool toward McGarrett. Prof. Shimoto is a smiling, jolly man.

PROF. SHIMOTO
You've no idea how I've looked
forward to this.
(indicating metal box
in Chin Ho's hand)
The toxins?

McGARRETT
In due time, Professor. First, I
want to brief you on the security
system that we've set up during
the last few days...with Dr. Kiamalu's
cooperation.

DR. DALTON
(to Dr. Kiamalu,
with surprise)
You didn't tell me, Arnold.

CONTINUED

40. CONTINUED

40.

DR. KIAMALU
I thought it best to let Mr.
McGarrett explain.

McGARRETT
If you'll all come with me,
please...?

They enter the building. McGarrett's police entourage,
plus the three college luminaries.

41. INT. CORRIDOR - SCIENCE BUILDING - DAY

41.

The procession moves briskly through corridor, to the
Chemical Storage Room.

42. INT. CHEMICAL STORAGE ROOM - DAY

42.

as McGarrett and procession enter. Danny and Two HPD
Guards are waiting there, near the safe. When all are
assembled in the room -

McGARRETT
(to all)
This is where the toxins will
be kept when not in use.
(opening safe
door wide)
Chin...

Chin Ho puts the metal box in the safe. McGarrett slams
the safe door shut, and spins the combination dial.

McGARRETT (CONT'D)
Armed guards on duty 24 hours a
day, serving in rotating shifts of
4 hours.

X

He takes a moment to survey the group.

43. ANGLE - DR. DALTON

43.

skeptical about these procedures, but keeping her
emotions cool.

44. BACK TO MCGARRETT

44.

MCGARRETT

Professor Shimoto, you will be the only one authorized to remove the toxins from this room.

(hands Prof. a plastic IBM-punched card)

You will do so by presenting this coded ID card to the officers on duty.

(indicating a "black box" where the card can be inserted)

They will check the card on a special circuit to the HPD Computer Room. I assure you no forgeries are possible.

(beat)

After identification is made, the toxins will be removed from the safe, and the officers will accompany the Professor to the site of the experiment itself.

This way, please...

McGarrett and the entourage leave the room. The Two Guards remain in the Chemical Storage Room with the locked safe.

45. INT. CORRIDOR - SCIENCE BUILDING - DAY

45.

McGarrett leads the procession to a door marked "Laboratory 2" where he stops.

MCGARRETT

(to Dr. Kiamalu)

The key please?

Dr. Kiamalu hands him a key. McGarrett opens lab door.

46. INT. UNIVERSITY LAB - DAY

46.

as McGarrett enters, followed by the entourage.

MCGARRETT

This is where the experiments will be conducted. The Guards will enter this room with Professor Shimoto, and remain here with him until the experiment ends.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

46. CONTINUED

46.

McGARRETT (CONT'D)

Any students or professional colleagues assisting in the experiments will be admitted by showing proper credentials after visual recognition by the Professor. This lab will be used for nothing else during the period of the experiments. When not in use...

(hands key back to

Dr. Kiamalu)

...I prefer that the door be kept locked. Are there any questions?

Dr. Dalton smiles slightly. Her talons wear a velvet glove.

DR. DALTON

All very efficient, Mr. McGarrett. General Patton would have been proud of you.

McGARRETT

(beat; takes her measure)

General Patton's main tactic was a sudden lightning blow, designed to throw his opponent off balance. My position here is one of defense.

DR. DALTON

Against Attila the Hun, Mata Hari, and the German Fifth Panzer Division all rolled into one?

McGARRETT

I think we agree in principle, Doctor. I don't like uniforms or guns on the campus any more than you do.

DR. DALTON

You have a strange way of showing it, Mr. McGarrett.

McGARRETT

Not when you consider my mandate -- which is to protect the people of this state.

CONTINUED

46. CONTINUED

46.

DR. DALTON
(with irony)
From the "enemies all around us?"

McGARRETT
Let's hope for all our sakes that
they remain imaginary.

47. EXT. HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY (STOCK)

47.

48. INT. AIRPORT - U.S. IMMIGRATION COUNTER - DAY

48.

SHOOTING OVER BACKS OF HEADS OF FOREIGN ARRIVALS as
they pass through Immigration, getting passports stamped,
etc. CAMERA IN on one MALE ARRIVAL, a heavy-set man with
a Panama hat and a white linen suit.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER
(reading from passport)
Professor T.L. Soong...24 Victoria
Street...Hong Kong?

MALE ARRIVAL
That is correct.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER
Are you here for business or
pleasure, sir?

MALE ARRIVAL
It is bound to be both. Your
University was kind enough to
invite me to give a series of
lectures.

The Immigration Officer stamps the passport, and returns
it.

IMMIGRATION OFFICER
Have a pleasant stay in Hawaii,
sir.

MALE ARRIVAL
I am sure that I will.

As he puts the passport in his pocket, he turns to exit.
We see that it is WO FAT -- just slightly disguised with
a small goatee. There is a confident smile on his face.

FREEZE FRAME:

END OF ACT ONE