

# Conundrum

A world, once shared

A fictional story about a non-fictional future:  
Corporations and nations wage war over the  
world's resources



- **Excellent story for a “tent-pole picture”**

- **Great vehicle for talent and a director with an environmental cause**



## **Synopsis**

2012. Tom, an aggressive reporter, meets Maria, a spunky doctor, in a camp for refugees fleeing years of war over water, land and oil in Chad. A dirty bomb destroys the camp.

Five years later they meet in Venezuela. Tom is reporting on a US naval blockade of oil shipments to China. Maria is researching the migration of viruses from dying rainforests.

Tom leaves for The Hague, where the dispute over oil is being arbitrated at the International Court of Economic Justice.

After attending a meeting and calling the Chief Justice, a Russian businessman is killed.

Sam, the son of the Chief Justice, manages an exclusive Caribbean resort. In an email to his father he makes an offhand reference to business leaders who are secretly meeting there. The Judge asks Tom, a life-long friend of Sam's, to quietly find out if the meetings and the death of the Russian have a bearing on the court case.

Sensing a story, Tom follows up on a vague reference to a secret weapon that takes him to research labs in Mumbai and then Shanghai where his contact, an accountant, 'commits suicide.' A mysterious "plague" brings him to an isolated company town in the Andes where he barely escapes with his life, and with Maria, a witness to the "plague" who says it was mass murder.

Tom and Maria are being hunted. They elude electronic tracking systems when Sam reluctantly smuggles them onto the resort island as the business leaders are holding their final meeting.

After cracking the meeting's tight security, Tom discovers that the business leaders believe the erosion of Earth's ecosystems will soon lead to resource wars, nuclear Armageddon and the loss of everything created over the millennia by human ingenuity. To preempt this they are planning to reduce ecological stress and the pressures for war by thinning the human population. He learns of the scale and timing of the impending assault on the human population, but not the means. Further clues may be contained in an indistinct sound file he sends to New York for interpretation.

Their presence on the island is discovered. Sam is killed. The rush to global war is building: nuclear threats and deadlines are issued. The business cabal advances the timing of their attacks. The fate of billions of people will be decided within two days.

Tom's ideas and Maria's medical skills enable their escape from the island, but corporate assassins catch up to them in New York and destroy their computer records. A chase by car and foot brings them to a climactic shoot-out in front of the United Nations building.

The plot is revealed but too late to stop it. Millions are killed but all-out nuclear war is averted. We are left to wonder if an inhuman act may have saved humanity.

## **The Filmmakers**

Zoltán Barabás - Producer/Story

Zoltán is an accomplished film producer (five to date), and television producer (Executive Producer of the Hungarian version of The Tonight Show) with interests in acting and directing as well. For more details, please see his IMDB entry, ([www.imdb.com/name/nm0052793](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0052793)). A former Naval Officer, Zoltán also has experience in the high-tech and Internet sectors as senior management in several European start-ups.

Roy Woodbridge - Writer

Roy Woodbridge is a writer. The ideas for Conundrum are drawn from his book The Next World War: Tribes, Cities, Nations and Ecological Decline (University of Toronto Press. 2004). He has run an international business development consulting practice in the environmental field, been a national spokesperson for Canada's mining and advanced technology industries and managed Canada's development assistance programs in East Africa.

## **Contact**

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