

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

"Pilot Episode"

Written by
Nikki Toscano

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EXT. VILLAGE - EASTERN UKRAINE - DAY

A small, quaint village - a postcard from the old country. HANGING LIGHTS draped from house to house. SMOKE BILLOWS from the chimneys. STREET VENDORS sell Ukrainian delights. THREE YOUNG GIRLS jump double dutch on the cobblestone street.

FIND A WOMAN, ANISKA (40s), SHOPPING BAGS in hand, passing a--

A CHURCH: WOODEN BEAMS, BAROQUE ARCHITECTURE, recalling a different time -- before the country was divided. A MINISTER (50s) stands outside, waving to her. **In Ukrainian; subtitled:**

MINISTER

Afternoon, Aniska. More shopping?

ANISKA

Gifts for the girls. It never ends.

Aniska gestures to the girls jumping rope, then trades smiles with the Minister... Until his face falls as he SEES SOMETHING in the distance. Terror fills his eyes, then:

MINISTER

Get down! Get down!

Minister DARTS from the door as we HEAR approaching GUNFIRE. Aniska CHARGES towards the girls jumping rope just as a BULLET RIPS through her. She stumbles to the ground.

Minister rushes to Aniska, shielding her from the gunfire. But she fights him, eyes desperately searching for her daughters until another WAVE OF BULLETS takes them both out.

CAMERA pans over BODIES on the ground to the JUMP ROPE, now covered in BLOOD, an ominous premonition for the three girls once playing with it. Off this chilling tableau, SLAM TO:

TITLE: BEHIND ENEMY LINES

EXT. U.S.S. TYSON AIRCRAFT CARRIER - MEDITERRANEAN - DAY

A 100,000 TON AIRCRAFT CARRIER RAGES through the wild waters, FLIGHT DECK pitching back and forth against the wind. A CHYRON: SOMEWHERE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

An F-18 whips past frame, silver steel LOOPING through the air, ROLLING into an INVERTED position and then steadying, moving toward the carrier.

ZIGGY (PRELAP)

You know what today is, Reg?

INT. F-18 - DAY

ZIGGY RODRIGUEZ (20s) mans the plane, helmet half-attached. Practical joker, blue collar on his sleeve. Instantly likeable, though trouble seems to find him wherever he goes.

REGGIE

No, Zig. Enlighten me.

Behind him is his Weapons Systems Officer (WSO) REGGIE MITCHELL (black, 30s), jaded former Marine.

ZIGGY

It's the day we make history. Well, I make history. But you get to be here.

(off Reggie's eye roll)

Clipping that third wire -- it's a perfect landing. A landing I've repeated 399 times. And you've got a front row seat for 400.

REGGIE

(rolls eyes)

Lucky me. Call the ball, Zig --

Ziggy eyes the GREEN LIGHTS on the flight deck, smiles huge.

ZIGGY

Three miles out, on glide slope. What's the pool up to now?

REGGIE

\$1200.

ZIGGY

Only \$1200? For history?

REGGIE

Maybe people just aren't as impressed by you as you think they are.

ZIGGY

Ha. Just when I'm leaving, you start to warm up to me.

Reggie smiles. Can't help but like Ziggy. INTERCUT:

INT. BRIDGE - U.S.S. TYSON - INTERCUT - DAY

A sweeping room with PANORAMIC VIEWS where flight operations are supervised. A GROUP OF SENIOR OFFICERS watch the landing deck, led by EXECUTIVE OFFICER MATEO RODRIGUEZ (mid 40s).

Mateo is a never-breaks-the-rules guy, life governed by the military, carries the weight of the world on his shoulders.

Next to him: SHIA IRIVANI (Arab-American, striking, 20s), female officer of deep faith. CNN plays in b.g., on low.

SHIA

400. Think he'll hit it?

In front of them, through the grand windows, MORE OFFICERS crowd the VULTURES ROW DECK, eyeing the action.

MATEO

He'll get it.

Shia smiles at Mateo, watching in anticipation--

IN THE F-18, as it approaches the waving deck of the carrier--

ZIGGY

(into mic)

4-0-2, Rhino Ball. Permission to approach.

LANDING SIGNAL OFFICER (ON RADIO)

Roger, Ball. You're clear to land.

The F-18 jets towards the carrier, coming in for landing.

POV - RODRIGUEZ - THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD - AS HE LANDS

The jet SLAMS DOWN on the deck, catches the wire, ARRESTS. But it's not the third wire; it's the fourth.

The onlookers DEFLATE, incredulous, no one more so than Mateo, looking down from the bridge, quiet...

MATEO

Damn.

Shia clocks the disappointment in his eyes before he exits.

IN THE F-18, Ziggy sits for a beat before opening the canopy.

REGGIE

So much for history.

Ziggy nods, shrugs.

EXT. FLIGHT DECK - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Ziggy climbs out of the jet. MEN IN COLORED JERSEYS shake their heads, feeling for Ziggy. A couple say "sorry."

One thing is clear: Ziggy is *beloved* - from the ENLISTED to the PILOTS in FLIGHT SUITS. His loss is *their* loss.

Ziggy pushes through the crowd to his best friend and pilot JACOB WINTERS (20s), an earnest, corn-fed Iowa boy who is collecting MONEY from the crew. Reggie follows.

Jacob slyly hands Ziggy a wad of cash. Ziggy winks at Reggie.

ZIGGY

I'll take two-to-one odds over
history any day.

JACOB

Hide that shit before I'm kicked
out for running a gambling pool.

Reggie shakes his head as Ziggy pockets the cash and breaks away from the crowd, walking with purpose to a parked F-18.

A mechanic, RICHIE GOMEZ (enlisted, late 30s, Latino) works on the wing. He spots Ziggy and climbs down. They bro hug.

RICHIE

Tough break on that landing, esé.

Ziggy hands Richie the wad of cash.

ZIGGY

I never planned on sticking it.
(off Richie's confusion)
Bet against myself to get more
dough. I know it won't pay for Ana
Maria's whole operation, but--

RICHIE

Zig, I can't take this. You could
get in real trouble for --

ZIGGY

I'm on my way out anyway. Might as
well do some good as I go.

Richie smiles, hugs Ziggy, tears filling his eyes.

EXT. FLIGHT DECK - U.S.S. TYSON - MOMENTS LATER

Ziggy heads toward the Tower to see Mateo waiting for him.

ZIGGY

(stiffens, re: landing)
I'm sorry, Pop.

As we realize the two are father and son--

MATEO

I'm not disappointed, Ziggy.
 (off Ziggy's surprise)
 Remember when I made you run for
 class president? And you didn't
 want to? I think you were nine.

Ziggy nods as Mateo leads him to the edge of the flight deck.

MATEO (CONT'D)

You had to give that speech in
 front of the whole school, kept
 begging me to let you quit. And
 then you got up on that stage,
 stuttered through the whole speech--

ZIGGY

One of the worst days of my life.

MATEO

And one of the best of mine.
 Because you were scared shitless,
 but you still showed up.

ZIGGY

(touched, but cautious)
 I don't know what that--

MATEO

Lemme finish. You may not have made
 history today, but that's ok. You
 showed up. And that's a start.

Ziggy smiles. Then, guilt flickers in his eyes.

ZIGGY

Yeah, Pop, about that--

Ziggy can't finish the sentence. He shakes it off.

MATEO

That 400th landing will be waiting
 for you tomorrow.

Ziggy nods, conflicted, though we don't yet know why.

EXT. CAMP DAVID - ESTABLISHING - DUSK

A REPORTER stands post outside the compound, PROTESTORS
 behind her hoisting SIGNS -- GORY IMAGES captioned "Russia's
 bloody hands!" and "Kennedy and Reagan would be ASHAMED!"

CNN REPORTER

President Andrew Tucker and Russian President Boris Zevnik met today to put final touches on a treaty that will unite the countries on a host of security issues, including Syria and the conflict in Ukraine.

OFF the Reporter speaking into the camera, we FADE TO:

INT. CAMP DAVID - ASPEN LODGE - DUSK

U.S. PRESIDENT ANDREW TUCKER (late 50s, regal) stands next to RUSSIAN PRESIDENT BORIS ZEVIK (60s, poor man's Putin).

CNN REPORTER (V.O.)

But as the U.S. and Russia move forward, a growing number on both sides are protesting the alliance. Many don't believe that the Cold War is, or should be, behind us...

The two Presidents shake hands, putting it on for the press.

INT. CAMP DAVID - SITUATION ROOM - DUSK

A DOZEN MILITARY and GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL huddle behind the scenes. All on edge. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PAUL WARNER (50s), lifetime military, leads the charge to dismantle this treaty.

SEC OF DEFENSE WARNER

Mr. Secretary, we have reason to believe the Russians are lying about the situation in Ukraine.

SECRETARY OF STATE BYRON JAMES (40s), career diplomat driven by the ideology that the pen is mightier than the sword.

SEC OF STATE JAMES

Is this hard intel, General? Or is this just the Defense Department's latest attempt to kill this deal?

SEC OF DEFENSE WARNER

It's hard intelligence from NSA. Suggests that the pro-Russian forces in Ukraine are still active.

UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE DAVID ALEXANDER steps in, a former Naval Officer working for Secretary of State James. New to the job, he's finding his footing as the middleman between State and Defense.

DAVID

Zevnik said he shut down military operations there a month ago.

SEC OF DEFENSE WARNER

Well, it looks like he didn't. And with the controversy around this treaty, we need to make sure the President's ass is covered.

(beat)

I think we should send a bird in to check it out, confirm one way or another if the Russian president's telling the truth.

James is shaking his head "no" before Warner even finishes.

SEC OF STATE JAMES

Russia finds out we sent a plane in, it could blow the whole deal.

SEC OF DEFENSE WARNER

Better than explaining to the American people and the entire fricking world that we got duped.

David bridges the gap between them:

DAVID

Sir, Admiral Decker's got a Strike Group in the Med. She could have a couple jets in and out of Ukraine by dinner and Russia'd never know.

SEC OF STATE JAMES

(considers, then)

OK, do it. But make sure she treads lightly. We've got a lot on the line with this deal.

David nods. The room breaks up. Sec of Defense Warner approaches David: military man to military man.

SEC OF DEFENSE WARNER

Thanks for the save, David. I know it's not easy being the military guy at State.

DAVID

I didn't do it for you. I just think it's in the best interest of the country not to have the Secretaries of State and Defense kill each other in broad daylight.

Warner smiles as David walks away, pulling out his phone.

EXT. FLIGHT DECK - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

A HELO lands on the flight deck. ADMIRAL BOBBIE DECKER steps out of the chopper with her aide, WILLIAM BYRNE (late 20s), as Mateo (X.O. and Ziggy's father) greets her.

MATEO

Thought you weren't supposed to be back on board until Thursday.

Decker is fierce but fair, the most powerful woman in the military. Also a real broad -- prefers whiskey over wine.

ADMIRAL DECKER

I'll fill you in inside.

She nods towards the helo as A WOMAN in civilian clothes, KAILEY ROGERS (30s), steps off. Mateo clocks her, alarmed.

MATEO

What's she doing here?

KAILEY

"She?" Seriously, Mateo?

(off his look)

I'm profiling Decker for the Times.

Relax, I'm gone on the 230 COD.

Mateo can't escape fast enough. Clearly there's history here.

MATEO

Great. Take care.

Mateo walks away. Decker and Byrne trade looks and follow.

INT. ADMIRAL DECKER'S OFFICE - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Decker stands opposite Mateo and Byrne, fidgeting with a NICOTINE PATCH on her arm.

ADMIRAL DECKER

DoD wants us to run a classified reconnaissance mission over Eastern Ukraine and requested I handle it personally: Two F-18s, SatCom only and flying low to stay under the radar. Which pilots are on deck?

BYRNE

Winters, Williams, Samuels.

Decker makes an uncomfortable face.

MATEO
Something wrong, ma'am?

ADMIRAL DECKER
Not sure these patches are working.

BYRNE
You want to try the gum?

ADMIRAL DECKER
Not unless it's wrapped around a
cigarette.

Mateo smiles. He likes Decker. Hard not to.

MATEO
What about Rodriguez for the op?

BYRNE
Rodriguez just dropped his letter.
All due respect, sir, I'm not sure
his head is in the right place.

MATEO
(stunned)
He's quitting?

Awkward beat. Byrne and Decker weren't aware he didn't know.

ADMIRAL DECKER
OK. Put the package together with
Winters and Williams.

Mateo nods, gut-punched, as we PRELAP:

MATEO (V.O.)
When the hell were you gonna tell
me?

INT. MATEO'S OFFICE - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Mateo faces off with Ziggy in his office.

ZIGGY
I tried, but --

MATEO
But you took the easy way out.
Again.

Ziggy's attention shifts to the NEWSPAPER ARTICLE on the wall behind Mateo: "*LATINO PILOT BECOMES WAR HERO -- TO SET EXAMPLE FOR HIS SON.*" Below the headline is a PHOTO OF MATEO AND ZIGGY, father and son in happier times.

ZIGGY

That's not it. This wasn't easy--

MATEO

I leveraged every favor I had to get you in the Navy and every other favor I had to keep you here. Now you're just gonna piss it all away. You tell me why.

Ziggy's eyes land on the article, almost haunted by it --

ZIGGY

I'm just not you, Pop.

MATEO

Yeah, that message I got. About the only thing you've ever worn like a badge of honor.

(beat)

But I guess you always were more like your damn grandfather.

ZIGGY

Makes sense. He was around a lot more than you were.

Mateo hardens and Ziggy knows he's gone too far.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

I didn't tell you cause I knew you'd try to stop me.

MATEO

Well, I'm done doing that. Go back to Boyle Heights, sling drugs and end up in an 8x10 next to your grandfather, I don't care.

ZIGGY

That's not fair.

MATEO

Neither was making me cover for you the last ten years. Guess now we're even.

A gutted Ziggy shakes his head and leaves. Mateo turns his back, eyes on the article on the wall as we FLASHBACK TO:

YOUNG ZIGGY (PRELAP)

No, Papa. Don't go.

INT. BOYLE HEIGHTS APARTMENT - FLASHBACK CIRCA 1996 - DAY

A YOUNG ZIGGY (6) clutches a YOUNG MATEO (26), with everything he's got. Mateo's dressed in a crisp white Naval uniform, a vast juxtaposition to the ghetto apartment.

YOUNG MATEO
I'll be back soon, I promise.

YOUNG ZIGGY
(crying)
Papa, please. Please don't leave!

Behind them stand Mateo's parents, ANTHONY and GLORIA RODRIGUEZ (late 40s), shaking their heads, feeling for both.

YOUNG MATEO
(crushed)
Zig, I gotta go.

Gloria and Anthony peel a crying Ziggy off Mateo. Mateo kisses him one last time, tears in his eyes. Then exits.

EXT. BOYLE HEIGHTS APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Young Mateo rushes into a taxi, then looks back to --

Young Ziggy, tear-streaked face, little hand up against the glass. Doesn't want to let his father go. CUT BACK TO:

INT. WARDROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Adult Ziggy enters, striding up to a LONG BUFFET with UNIFORMED OFFICERS when he HEARS:

ROXANNE (O.S.)
You freakin' threw it, didn't you?

Ziggy turns to ROXANNE DALY, 20s, pilot. Pageant queen looks with a truck driver's mouth. Ziggy's ex.

ZIGGY
Nope. Just missed it.

ROXANNE
Bullshit. You hit the fourth wire,
it means you were aiming for it.

Roxanne gives him a playful hug. Across the room, an OFFICER watches them. Jealousy betraying him. Ziggy pulls back, still upset from the conversation with his father.

ROXANNE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

(off his look)

You talked to your dad about the letter. How'd it go?

ZIGGY

Exactly how I said it would. He's a stubborn son-of-a-bitch.

ROXANNE

(trying to make light)

Least we know where you got it from.

ZIGGY

C'mon, stop busting my balls.

ROXANNE

I'll *stop* when you stay.

ZIGGY

(conflicted)

I can't.

ROXANNE

You're a pain in my ass, but I'm gonna miss the hell out of you.

She kisses his cheek, begins to exit. Ziggy stops her.

ZIGGY

Roxanne. I'm gonna miss you too.

Roxanne winks and exits as Ziggy walks over to Jacob in line.

JACOB

(re: Ziggy and Roxanne)

You sure you two aren't still...

Ziggy shakes his head no, grabs a tray, begins loading it--

ZIGGY

How's Jennie?

JACOB

She's gonna pop any second. Finally agreed to let me name the baby. How does "Blaine" sound to you?

ZIGGY

Like a kid who's gonna get his ass kicked at recess.

JACOB
 (seeing something)
 Incoming assbag alert.

They turn to see RAY WILLIAMS (20s, douchebag, entitled).
This is the same officer who was eyeing Ziggy and Roxanne.

RAY WILLIAMS
 Way to choke today, Rodriguez.

ZIGGY
 Yeah, guess it just wasn't my day.

RAY WILLIAMS
 Seems like you've been having a lot
 those lately: First I steal your
 girl, then you get your walking
 papers, now this?

JACOB
 He dropped his letter, Ray. Not the
 other way around.

RAY WILLIAMS
 Yeah, 'cause he can't hack it.

ZIGGY
 Remind me again how many times
 you've hit the third wire.
 (off Ray's silence)
 Hopefully you're hitting Roxy with
 a little more consistency.

Ray SHOVES Ziggy. Ziggy stands there for a beat, then:

JACOB
 Zig, don't do it, man.

Ziggy nods, gets back in line. But then Ray leans in closer:

RAY WILLIAMS
 Always a pussy when Daddy's not
 here to save your ass.

Ziggy walks over to Ray, staring him down. A giant "fuck you"
 stare. Then, turns back around.

RAY WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
 That's what I thought.

Ray doesn't even see it coming. Ziggy HITS him with an
 uppercut. Ray SPINS, drops to the floor. Ziggy gets on top of
 him, keeps swinging. As people gather around, PRELAP:

ADMIRAL DECKER (V.O.)
This is your third write-up in a month.

INT. ADMIRAL DECKER'S OFFICE - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Ziggy stands opposite Decker behind closed doors.

ADMIRAL DECKER
And now you've taken a pilot that I was *about to use* out of play. Are you *trying* to make my job harder or just hasten your departure?

ZIGGY
Neither, ma'am.

ADMIRAL DECKER
Don't bullshit me. You're trying to force me to take your wings, but it's not gonna happen. Not until you give me a damn good reason for leaving.

ZIGGY
I just want out.

ADMIRAL DECKER
The Navy spent 2 million dollars turning you into a pilot. If I'm gonna put my stamp on your exit, you gotta give me more than that.

Ziggy knows Decker won't let him off the hook--

ZIGGY
I just can't get his voice out of my head. My pops. It's just there - all day, every day. I gotta not hear that voice for a while.

It's a raw, honest answer that lands on Decker.

ADMIRAL DECKER
I'm not sure leaving the Navy is going to solve that problem.
(beat)
I don't have anyone better to fly this mission, Lieutenant. So I'm going to do something that it seems everyone else has stopped doing.

ZIGGY
What's that?

ADMIRAL DECKER
Believe in you.

OFF Ziggy, taking this in, we PRELAP:

ADMIRAL DECKER (V.O.)
Mitchell and Rodriguez'll fly lead.

INT. COMMAND ROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Decker and Mateo stand opposite Ziggy, Jacob, Reggie (Ziggy's WSO) and Shia (watched Ziggy's landing with Mateo) around an AERIAL TOPOGRAPHY MAP of Ukraine. Mateo avoids Ziggy's eyes.

ADMIRAL DECKER
Winters and Irivani will be on your wing. The objective is to fly into Eastern Ukraine, look for any evidence of Russian troops, then get back to the Tyson undetected.

Mateo runs a pen the length of the route.

MATEO
You'll enter here, 500 feet off the deck. Sweep waypoints alpha through echo, follow this line to Donetsk. Shia's an expert on the region; you have questions, she's your girl.

ADMIRAL DECKER
Suspected Russian Air Defense Sites are in red on the *Russian* side of the border. Avoid 'em at all costs.

Decker CIRCLES the map with a RED PEN in those locations.

ADMIRAL DECKER (CONT'D)
I don't have to remind anyone of the covert nature of this mission given the treaty negotiations. You get in and get out, you hear me?
(off their nods)
Good. Prepare to leave in 60.

As they break off, Ziggy stays behind with Mateo.

ZIGGY
Pop --

MATEO
You got what you wanted. You wanna go off the reservation, I'm done coming after you.

Mateo turns and exits, leaving Ziggy alone, reeling.

INT. ZIGGY'S ROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

A pissed Ziggy grabs his flight gear from his locker. The same article in Mateo's office hangs on the door. Ziggy RIPS it off, throwing it in the trash just as Jacob enters.

JACOB

Whoa, you OK? Because if you're not, we can do the thing where we talk about our "feelings."

ZIGGY

(forces a smile)
Nah, I'm good. See you upstairs.

Jacob nods and exits. Ziggy follows a moment later, then stops, eyeing the trash. Ziggy pulls the article out, tapes it back to the locker. Not quite ready to let it go.

INT. CHAPEL - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Makeshift chapel. Conflicting religious ideologies on the wall (a crucifix, the star of David, star and crescent).

Shia kneels on a mat on the floor of the alter in prayer. Eyes closed, forehead on the floor in front of her. Reggie enters, watching her. Shia finishes praying, then sees him.

SHIA

What are you doing in here?

REGGIE

30 minute alert...
(off prayer rug)
Don't forget your yoga mat.

Shia rolls up the prayer rug, exasperated.

SHIA

Jesus, what the hell do you have against Muslims?

REGGIE

I'm going to assume that's a rhetorical question.

Shia rolls her eyes and pushes past him. Off this, we PRELAP:

ZIGGY (V.O.)

Seems that Little Miss Shia here's been keeping something from us.

EXT. FLIGHT DECK - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Ziggy, Reggie, Jacob and Shia push out the door to the flight deck. Men in colored jerseys prepare the F-18s, HAWKEYES, HELICOPTERS for takeoff. They walk towards two F-18s--

ZIGGY

First female accepted into the SEAL Training program? Damn.

REGGIE

Isn't "female Navy SEAL" an oxymoron?

ZIGGY

Not as much as "black Racist" is. But here you are.

Reggie half-smiles; Jacob looks to Shia.

JACOB

When do you start BUDS?

SHIA

I'm not going. Anouk just turned three. I can't do two back to back deployments and *then* SEAL training.

JACOB

It's *SEAL training!* She's three! She won't even know you're gone.

SHIA

(unapologetic)
I'll know.

ZIGGY

Trust me, so will your daughter.

Shia smiles as she and Jacob climb into their F-18. Shia sets a sweet PHOTO of her daughter Anouk on the dash, kisses it. Ziggy and Reggie climb into the other F-18.

REGGIE

She's not cut out to be a SEAL. Did SERE training with her -- only trainee there who tried to talk down the target instead of blowing his head off. Felt like I was watching a damn therapy session.

ZIGGY

Reg, it doesn't make her weak to want to understand the enemy.

REGGIE

If it stops her from pulling the trigger it does.

As they close the canopy to the jet, we INTERCUT:

EXT. VULTURES ROW - U.S.S. TYSON - INTERCUT - DAY

Decker stands with Mateo, watching the F-18s below.

ADMIRAL DECKER

You were pretty thrown that Ziggy dropped his letter.

MATEO

I shouldn't have been. He doesn't have the character it takes to make it in this place. No matter how much I wanted to believe otherwise.

ADMIRAL DECKER

Character, huh? You know Ziggy threw the landing today? A junior officer told Byrne.

MATEO

I'm not surprised. Another con.

ADMIRAL DECKER

A con for a good reason: he bet against himself to give money to an enlisted man with a sick kid.

MATEO

He's run a dozen other cons that weren't for good reasons.

ADMIRAL DECKER

Maybe, but I've had enough officers under my command to know there's a difference between a kid who breaks the rules to get attention and one who breaks 'em to do what's right.

(beat)

The fact that you're his father shouldn't preclude you from seeing the difference.

As Mateo considers this, they shift their attention to --

THE FLIGHT DECK. QUICK FLASHES AS F-18s READY FOR TAKEOFF:

Flight crew lines up Ziggy's plane with the CATAPULT, then give Ziggy a signal. Ziggy signals back.

AFTERBURNERS fire up as the CATAPULT launches the F-18 into the air. A beat later, Jacob's plane is right behind him. As the F-18s take flight --

EXT. SKY OVER EASTERN UKRAINE - LATER THAT DAY

The TWO F-18s flying tandem, whipping through the clouds.

INT. ZIGGY/REGGIE F-18 - DAY

Ziggy looks out the window. Barren Ukrainian land below.

ZIGGY
Not seeing shit. You, Reg?

REGGIE
Negative. Russian Defense Sites
bares 0-0-5 at eleven. Steer clear.

INT. JACOB/SHIA F-18 - INTERCUT - DAY

As Jacob flies, Shia monitors the ground, but it's clear.

SHIA
Nothing on infrared.

JACOB
Let's turn her around and go home.

But then, Reggie spots something in the distance. Smoke.

REGGIE
Wait. Over there. Two o'clock.

Ziggy WHIPS his F-18 to the right, moves lower.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Careful. Defense sites are close.

ZIGGY
Just moving in for a closer look.

Jacob's F-18 follows. As they get closer to the smoke --

FROM SKY: Smoke. GUNFIRE ON GROUND. Hard to see much else.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)
You getting this?

REGGIE
Still too far out for good imagery.

Ziggy turns the plane to get closer.

ACT TWOINT. ADMIRAL DECKER'S OFFICE - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

CLOSE ON A SCREEN: David Alexander's face staring back at us.

ADMIRAL DECKER (O.S.)
You're doing that thing with your
lip again, hon. What's going on?

PULL BACK to REVEAL Decker talking to David over video. As we realize these two are husband and wife --

DAVID (ON SCREEN)
I'm fine. Things are just tense
here. Everyone wants to see this
treaty pushed over the goal line --

ADMIRAL DECKER
I'm not asking about everyone, I'm
asking about you.

DAVID
(beat, considers, then)
It's just -- no one at State wants
to hear what G.I. Joe has to say
right now. And it's been a while
since I've been in the game.

A look of guilt fills her face. He clocks it.

DAVID (CONT'D)
I don't regret the years I spent
raising the kids. None of 'em, but-

ADMIRAL DECKER
But now you want this assignment to
be a success for yourself. I get
it, David. Better than anyone else.

Before he can respond, Byrne enters, interrupting them-

BYRNE
Ma'am, sorry to interrupt, but I
need you for a moment.

Decker looks to the screen, back to Byrne...

INT. HANGAR - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Mateo is taking out his frustrations on a punching bag. In the b.g. VARIOUS PERSONNEL work on F-18s, Hawkeyes, etc. Behind them, an OCEAN VIEW out of the hangar -- the large expanse of sea goes on for miles. An AIDE approaches.

AIDE

Sir, you're wanted in the war room now. It's an emergency.

Mateo grabs his towel and follows the Aide out of the hangar.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE WAR ROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Decker, Byrne and Mateo meet up in the hallway. They walk and talk up the laddered stairs as Byrne downloads them.

BYRNE

At approximately 15:15, both F-18s dropped from LINK. Attempts to reach them on radio were unsuccessful.

Mateo looks gut-punched. Decker clocks it.

ADMIRAL DECKER

Both of them?
(off Byrne's nod)
Where was last contact?

BYRNE

SAT picked 'em up near Mariupol.

ADMIRAL DECKER

Have you reviewed the footage from the F-18?

BYRNE

Yes, ma'am. Too far away to get anything useful.

MATEO

Any indication they were in distress?

Byrne shakes his head ominously. Mateo tries to measure his worry. Decker stops, puts her hand on Mateo's arm.

ADMIRAL DECKER

Work the COMMs.
(then to Mateo)
We *will* find them.

Mateo nods, appreciating Decker's gesture, but not reassured--

EXT. UKRAINIAN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

THREE HUMVEES track through the countryside towards a CLOUD OF SMOKE in the distance, presumably where the F-18 crashed.

INT. SEPARATISTS HUMVEE - UKRAINE - DAY

ANTON RUZINSKY (Russian, late 40s) rides shotgun with A GROUP OF SEPARATISTS. He's their leader, cunning and brutal. **In Russian, subtitled:**

ANTON RUZINSKY

Gather the troops. We need to find the two who ejected and search the other plane for survivors.

SEPARATIST #1

There won't be any. No pilot on earth could have landed that jet.

ANTON RUZINSKY

We can't take any chances.

As Separatist #1 speaks into his radio, Anton looks out the window at the smoke in the distance -- a man on a mission.

EXT. CRASH SITE - UKRAINE - DAY

A HUGE CLOUD of SMOKE fills the air as the FUSELAGE of the F-18 SMOLDERS in the middle of a giant forest. In the distance, ANOTHER FIRE BURNS, presumably from the other F-18.

FIND Reggie, CRAWLING out of the wreckage. Dirtied, bloodied, but alive. He immediately starts searching for Ziggy among the debris, but he doesn't see him. Finally, he HEARS:

SHIA (O.S.)

REGGIE!

He turns, sees Shia TRAPPED between two trees, her parachute fanned out behind her. Reggie runs over, effortlessly climbs the tree, looking for a way to free her. He NOTICES BLOOD on her flight suit.

REGGIE

You OK?

Shia nods, but it's clear she's in pain.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

Where's Jake?

SHIA

I don't know.

Reggie pulls out a SWITCHBLADE. Cuts the cord on the shoot. Shia TUMBLES to the ground. Reggie helps her up as they SEE--

ACROSS THE FOREST

Ziggy kneeling over Jacob, who's been impaled by a piece of DEBRIS. Blood pours from his leg. Ziggy PULLS off his belt, ties off a tourniquet. Jacob CRIES OUT in pain.

JACOB

I think it hit the femoral.

Ziggy looks around, spots Reggie and Shia running toward him.

ZIGGY

I need help over here!

EXT. AREA NEAR THE CRASH SITE - UKRAINE - DAY

The Separatists' humvees circle the explosion of the other F-18. Anton SPOTS Shia's parachute through BINOCULARS.

ANTON

Over there. Come on!

As the Separatists pick up speed, moving towards our heroes--

EXT. CRASH SITE - UKRAINE - DAY

Ziggy CRADLES Jacob in his arms as Reggie and Shia approach--

REGGIE

We've got to get out of here!

ZIGGY

He can't move.

Reggie steps over, sees the bar STICKING OUT of Jacob's leg. The massive amount of blood. Dread fills his eyes.

JACOB

Leave me if you gotta.

ZIGGY

Shut up. No one's leaving you.

Jacob shakes his head, knows what's coming for him. He pulls a GOLD CHAIN with a CROSS from his neck. Hands it to Ziggy.

JACOB

Make sure Jennie gets this.

ZIGGY

NO. You give it to her yourself.

JACOB

And tell her not to name the baby after me. I don't want her to have to live with that.

Tears fall from Ziggy's eyes. Reggie and Shia trade looks.

ZIGGY
Come on. Stay with me, Jake.

Jacob takes his last breaths, fear on his face, then his body goes limp in Ziggy's arms.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)
No...

Ziggy pulls Jacob closer to him when -- GUNSHOTS ring out. It's the Separatists!

Reggie immediately starts collecting supplies from the plane. Weapons, the SAT PHONE. Shia follows suit. Reggie reaches into the cockpit, RIPPING the HARD DRIVE out from it.

REGGIE
Come on, we gotta move.

ZIGGY
I'm not leaving him.

Ziggy holds Jacob tighter.

REGGIE
Stop being stupid. You stay here and you die!

The Separatists close in. Reggie RIPS Ziggy away from Jacob's body as the GUNFIRE GETS CLOSER. As they take cover in the trees, they all reach for their weapons, firing back.

A HAIL OF GUNFIRE erupts as Reggie and Ziggy take out A FEW SEPARATISTS. But the Separatists are gaining on them.

Shia FIRES at a Separatist vehicle -- taking out one, two, three, four tires. The vehicle crashes into an embankment.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Don't shoot the truck! Shoot the men!

Ziggy and Reggie keep firing, but they're outnumbered. Reggie looks around, has to think of something and fast. The only thing between them and the Separatists' gunfire is the plane.

Reggie starts shooting at the fuel tank. Ziggy's eyes widen -- Jacob's dead body directly next to the wreckage.

ZIGGY
No!

BANG! BANG! BANG! A MASSIVE EXPLOSION is triggered, knocking the Separatists back.

SHIA

RUN!!!

Reggie, Ziggy and Shia FLEE as the Separatists try to get their vehicles around the fire, but to no avail.

INT. SHELLED BUILDING - UKRAINE - MOMENTS LATER

Ziggy, Reggie, and Shia run in, duck under windows. Reggie immediately starts working the SAT PHONE, but Ziggy and Shia just sit there, FUCKING ROCKED. Ziggy holds Jacob's necklace, can't believe he's gone. Shia looks over, equally haunted.

REGGIE

I don't know if you noticed, Shia,
but they were firing real bullets.
(off her silence)
What good is it being the best shot
in the Navy if you don't use it?

SHIA

I just can't do it, Reggie.

She's still shaking. And Reggie still can't get a signal.

REGGIE

This isn't going through. Damn!
(then to Shia)
You're Arab. Start acting like it.

ZIGGY

You're attacking *her*?

Ziggy charges Reggie, tackling him to the floor.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

You killed Jacob! Shot up that
plane with him still inside it.

Ziggy starts swinging. Reggie blocks his punches and pushes him away.

REGGIE

He was already dead! *You* did this.
You flew over an active defense
site, put us on their radar and got
Jacob killed. So when you wonder
who's to blame, it's you.

This lands on Ziggy, knowing Reggie is right. Reggie tries the SAT phone again. It picks up a SIGNAL as we INTERCUT:

INT. WAR ROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - INTERCUT - DAY

Decker, Mateo and Byrne answer the SAT phone. LIMITED PERSONNEL and Ray (the douchebag pilot) man the room.

RAY WILLIAMS

We picked up a signal from 4-0-2.
Radio's patching it through.

As Ray picks it up, Reggie's voice comes over the speaker --

REGGIE

Charlie Romeo, this is 4-0-2.

RAY WILLIAMS

Go for Charlie Romeo.

REGGIE

Black Devil and Arch Angel are
down. Repeat. We were shot down.

ADMIRAL DECKER

Byrne, track the SAT phone.
(then to Reggie)
We're picking up your location now.
Are you all OK?

REGGIE

We're minus one, ma'am. Winters
didn't make it.

The room reacts, gutted. A flicker of guilty relief registers on Ray's face -- he was supposed to fly that mission.

MATEO

And the rest of you?

ZIGGY

Shia's injured, but we're alright.

ADMIRAL DECKER

No names on COMMS.

Byrne hands Decker a map with a region circled in RED.

BYRNE

SSES picked up their location here.

ADMIRAL DECKER

That's just East of Mariupol. Near
the Russian Air Defense Sites.
(under her breath)
Exactly what I told them not to do.

Mateo and Decker trade looks. Fuck, Ziggy.

MATEO

Can you confirm military activity
in the area?

REGGIE

Russian Separatists were in
pursuit, but we lost them.

ADMIRAL DECKER

Get somewhere safe and check the
radio each hour. We'll call you
when a package is ready.

REGGIE

Copy that.
(hangs up)
Let's move.

Reggie leads Ziggy and Shia towards an exit.

INT. WAR ROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Decker looks to Mateo, then Byrne.

ADMIRAL DECKER

Set River City. No external comms
outside of senior staff. And escort
our journalist guest to a state
room so we keep this quiet.

As they splinter off, we PRELAP:

ADMIRAL DECKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

David, we've got a problem.

INT. ADMIRAL DECKER'S OFFICE - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Decker talks on a secure line to her husband, David.

ADMIRAL DECKER

(into phone)
The F-18s we sent into Eastern
Ukraine just got shot down.

INT. CAMP DAVID - PRIVATE OFFICE - INTERCUT - NIGHT

David is immediately on edge.

DAVID

(into phone)
By who? This was supposed to be a
clandestine mission.

ADMIRAL DECKER
The pilot may have flown over
Russian Defense Sites.

DAVID
(beat, stunned)
Jesus, Bobbie.

ADMIRAL DECKER
I know. David... I authorized this
mission; I chose the pilot. If he
disobeyed orders, the government
could use that as reason not to
rescue those officers.

DAVID
We won't let that happen. James
doesn't need to know; neither does
the DoD. We keep this between you
and me until we know more. Agreed?

Decker nods as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMP DAVID - SITUATION ROOM - NIGHT

David with Sec of State James and Sec of Defense Warner.

SEC OF STATE JAMES
Goddamnit, David. Your wife's
reconnaissance mission turning into
a political land-mine is exactly
what I was trying to avoid.

SEC OF DEFENSE WARNER
If what these officers are saying
is true, we've got bigger problems.
We need to call off this --

SEC OF STATE JAMES
--The President isn't calling off
his new global security initiative
based on what one pilot thought he
saw from 500 feet in the air.

DAVID
So what do you want to do, sir?

SEC OF STATE JAMES
Only thing we can. We have three
officers in Ukraine. They need to
finish the mission they started.

Off this, we PRELAP:

ADMIRAL DECKER (V.O.)
 Proof? That's what got them shot
 down in the first place.

INT. ADMIRAL DECKER'S OFFICE - U.S.S. TYSON - INTERCUT - DUSK

Decker on VIDEO CONFERENCE with David, James, and Warner.

ADMIRAL DECKER
 These kids aren't trained to track
 down evidence of Russian separatist
 activity. They're not Navy SEALs.

SEC OF DEFENSE WARNER
 I'm with Bobbie. We need to send in
 the real thing.

DAVID
 We don't have time. Nearest special
 ops are in Libya. At best, you're
 looking at 24-48 hours to get them
 in. The officers are our *only* play.

Decker's incredulous. He should be advocating *for* these kids.

ADMIRAL DECKER
 David, we already lost one officer--

But James cuts her off as he scans the officer's files.

SEC OF STATE JAMES
 Admiral Decker, what am I missing?
 Mitchell's an ex-Marine, Rodriguez
 is the son of a war hero, the girl
 just got into SEAL Training--

ADMIRAL DECKER
 Which she turned down because she
 didn't want to kill people. She's
 never hit a human target.
 (beat)
 There's also a race consideration.

SEC OF STATE JAMES
 Race consideration?

As they continue their conversation over:

EXT. UKRAINIAN CITY - DUSK

Ziggy, Shia and Reggie run through town as RESIDENTS turn and
 stare. Bloodied, dirtied, in American flight gear, they can't
 help but stand out. But that's not the only reason:

ADMIRAL DECKER (V.O.)
 The three officers are black,
 Latino and Arab in *all white*
 Eastern Ukraine. They're going to
 have a bull's-eye on their backs.

A GROUP OF ONLOOKERS point at them - all of them are WHITE.

INT. ADMIRAL DECKER'S OFFICE - U.S.S. TYSON - DUSK

Back with Decker talking to David, James, and Warner.

SEC OF STATE JAMES
 If they didn't see what they
 thought they saw, then they're not
 in danger; if they did, we need
 proof Russia's lying and they're
 our only hope of getting it.

STAY WITH Decker and Byrne as VIDEO CONFERENCE goes dark.

ADMIRAL DECKER
 Give the officers their new orders.
 (off Byrne's nod)
 And William, we need to keep Mateo
 in the dark on this.

BYRNE
 Ma'am... it's his kid.

ADMIRAL DECKER
 Exactly why we're keeping him out.

OFF Decker and Byrne, both in impossible positions --

INT. CAMP DAVID - SITUATION ROOM - NIGHT

James paces in front of David on the heels of the VOD.

SEC OF STATE JAMES
 Your wife's gonna be a pain in my
 ass 'til we go get those kids.

DAVID
 All due respect, sir, it's her job.

SEC OF STATE JAMES
 And *yours* is to protect this
 treaty. So make sure you know who
 the hell you're working for.

OFF David, caught between his wife and his boss --

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEEXT. UKRAINE - DESOLATE ROAD - DUSK

Ziggy and Shia track down the road as Reggie listens on the SAT phone. Behind them, the edge of the small town they just left. In the distance, a CLUSTER OF FARMHOUSES: WHITE WASHED STRUCTURES with THATCH ROOFS on a stretch of empty land.

REGGIE
 (into SAT phone)
 Yes, sir. Understood.

Reggie hangs up, incredulous.

ZIGGY
 Was that my father?

REGGIE
 Your father wasn't on the call.

As this registers on Ziggy -- *maybe his father meant what he said, about really not coming after him this time.*

SHIA
 So what'd they say?

REGGIE
 They want proof of the firefight.
 Evidence that Russian troops are
 still active in the region.
 (beat, thinks)
 We need to find a camera.

Shia scans the houses, all warm with light except for one.

SHIA
 The house in the middle. It's dark.
 Maybe no one's home. We can get
 food, find a camera, clean up...

ZIGGY
 Sorry, anyone else think this "find
 proof" plan is batshit crazy? I
 mean, maybe they should just put a
 footnote in the Navy brochure under
 "leave no man behind" that says
 "unless it interferes with the
 government's agenda."

REGGIE
 We want to get out of here, we find
 the goddamn proof. You bitching
 about it is not gonna change that.

ON Ziggy shaking his head as he catches up to them.

INT. SEPARATISTS' HUMVEE - UKRAINE - DUSK

Anton and his men move through the town our heroes just fled, eyes peeled. The Two Humvees stop. **In Russian, subtitled:**

SEPARATIST #1
Where the hell are they?

ANTON
They couldn't have gone far.

SEPARATIST #1
It's going to get dark soon.
We need to start prepping the
artillery for the next town.

ANTON
We're not "prepping" anything until
we find those Americans. They
escape, and we don't get to the
next town. Those are our orders.

Separatists nod. Humvees peel off in different directions.

INT. DISTINGUISHED VISITORS ROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - DUSK

Kailey watches a CNN feed on her computer when a MESSAGE POPS UP: NO INTERNET CONNECTION. She walks out into --

INT. SAILOR'S QUARTERS - U.S.S. TYSON - CONTINUOUS

Roxanne scrolls through her FACEBOOK feed when a PROMPT appears: UNABLE TO LOAD. OFFICERS behind her react to their computers too as Kailey enters.

KAILEY
Excuse me, is anyone else having
internet issues?

ROXANNE
Looks like the ship just went River
City. All communications cut off.

That registers on Kailey... Something's up. But before she can ask what, Ray walks into the room and stoically pulls Roxanne aside, out of earshot of the rest of the room.

RAY
Ziggy's plane was shot down. Looks
like maybe Russian Separatists.

Off Roxanne, stunned, knees buckling-

INT. COMMAND ROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - DUSK

Mateo stands with A GROUP OF OFFICERS over a map of EASTERN UKRAINE. Mateo points to a map marked with Xs--

MATEO

These spots could be operational
for a Strike/Rescue package.

Richie (mechanic Ziggy gave money to) enters, hands Mateo a note: "*We need to talk. State Room 1908. Kailey.*" Mateo throws the note away. Richie stands there for a beat, then:

RICHIE

Decker paused the rescue. Officers
have new orders to get proof of the
fighting. They said not to tell you.

MATEO

Then... why are you telling me?

RICHIE

Because Ziggy would have done it
for me. For any of us.

The other officers all nod in agreement to that. OFF Mateo, realizing the magnitude of his son's influence:

MATEO (PRELAP)

You had no right to cut me out!

INT. ADMIRAL DECKER'S OFFICE - U.S.S. TYSON - DUSK

Mateo faces off with Decker as officers in the room file out--

MATEO

I'm the XO on this ship.

ADMIRAL DECKER

Not anymore. Now you're a father.

MATEO

I've given you no reason to think I
can't handle this objectively.

ADMIRAL DECKER

Your child is behind enemy lines.
There is no objectivity. I'm
protecting you... and the lives of
the 5000 people on this carrier.

MATEO

You think I'd jeopardize the lives
of thousands to save three?

ADMIRAL DECKER
I think you'd do it to save one.

MATEO
You're the one who thought he could
handle it--

ADMIRAL DECKER
Which is why I didn't tell the
powers that be in Washington about
Ziggy disobeying orders.

Mateo reacts -- he didn't know Decker protected Ziggy.

ADMIRAL DECKER (CONT'D)
Because if and when the shit hits
the fan, that'll be the reason they
give not to rescue your kid. And
when they give me that order, I'll
have to follow it. Are you gonna
stand beside me when I do?

Mateo hates Decker in this moment, but knows she is right.

INT./EXT. FARMHOUSE - UKRAINE - DUSK

Reggie peers in windows as Ziggy and Shia try the door, but--

SHIA
It's locked.

Ziggy looks at Shia - hair pulled back, pins sticking out.

ZIGGY
Gimme one of your hairpins.

Shia pulls a BOBBIE PIN from her hair. Ziggy uses it to jimmy
the door. It comes open almost immediately. Shia's impressed.

SHIA
Where'd you learn how to do that?

ZIGGY
Guys in my neighborhood. Not all of
them went to Harvard.

Shia smiles as Ziggy pushes the door open. They enter--

INT. UKRAINIAN FARMHOUSE - DUSK

Reggie starts sweeping the house, making sure they're alone.

REGGIE
I'll check the house for supplies.

Ziggy SPOTS a CHILD'S TOY on the floor. He pulls out Jacob's chain, guilt betraying him. Then, he shakes it off, following Shia into the --

KITCHEN

Shia pulls off her survival vest to inspect her wound. Ziggy checks the fridge, pulling out a PLATE of LEFTOVERS.

ZIGGY
What the hell is that?

SHIA
Halodetz. Kinda like jellied meat.

ZIGGY
Ugh. I think I'd rather starve...
How do you know all this stuff
about Russia anyway?

SHIA
My husband's Russian.

In the next room, Reggie's listening to their conversation.

ZIGGY
I didn't know you were married.

SHIA
We don't really get along.

ZIGGY
If he's making you eat this crap,
it's not hard to understand why.

Shia smiles, cleaning her LARGE GASH at the sink. Ziggy reaches into his vest, removing a gauze pad and a bandage. As he dresses the wound, Shia STARES at RUSSIAN TEA DOLLS on the windowsill. She pulls one off, marveling at it.

SHIA
My daughter loves these.
(then, mostly to herself)
If I don't make it back to her--

ON Ziggy -- this is way out of his wheelhouse. For the first time in his life, he feels responsible for someone else.

ZIGGY
We'll make it back. I promise.

SHIA
Because your father will come
rescue us, right?

Ziggy doesn't have the heart to tell her Mateo's last words.

SHIA (CONT'D)

I'm all my daughter has. My
husband; he's not a good father.
(re: Mateo)
You probably don't understand that.

ZIGGY

I was raised by my grandparents. I
understand that.

SHIA

But *your* father... I read that
article. I mean he did all that
stuff for you.

ZIGGY

He's not gonna save us because he's
a great father, Shia. He'll save us
because he's a great officer.

Shia takes this in when they SUDDENLY hear the SOUND OF A
SHOTGUN COCKING. Ziggy and Shia slowly turn to see--

AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD BOY holding a gun on them. Ziggy and Shia
instinctively raise their hands in the air.

THE BOY

(in Russian)
Thieves!

SHIA

(in Russian)
We're not here to rob you. We just
need help. Help. You understand me?

The Boy trembles. Just as scared as they are.

Ziggy and Shia see Reggie appear in the hall behind the Boy.
Reggie slowly walks over, puts his gun to the Boy's head.

REGGIE

Drop it, kid.

The Boy tenses, fingers still clutching the trigger as he
turns. But the moment he sees Reggie, his eyes widen. He
drops the gun. Starts speaking animatedly in Russian.

REGGIE (CONT'D)

(to Shia)
What he's saying?

SHIA
Something... about you being black.

REGGIE
Figures.

SHIA
No, he's never seen a black person
before... ever and he thinks you're
-- a black bolt of electricity?

ZIGGY	REGGIE
Black Lightning.	The superhero?

ZIGGY
You know who Black Lightning is?

REGGIE
There's like *five* black
superheroes. I know *all* of 'em.

The Boy keeps staring, idolizing. A sweet, disarming smile.

THE BOY	SHIA
(in Russian)	(translating)
I knew you would come.	He knew you would come.

Reggie smiles. Shia and Ziggy react -- didn't know Reggie knew how to smile. He kneels down to the boy.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
"Justice, like lightning, should
ever appear, to some men, hope, to
other men, fear."

As Shia translates this saying from Black Lightning, the kid's eyes widen, more confirmation that Reggie is his hero.

THE BOY	SHIA
(in Russian)	(translating)
Are you here to stop the fighting?	He wants to know if you're here to stop the fighting.

REGGIE (CONT'D)
Yes. But I need your help.
I need a video camera.

Shia translates. The Boy furrows his brow, but reaches into his pocket, pulling out an old iPhone.

THE BOY
(in Russian)
Like this?

The Boy hands it to Reggie.

THE BOY (CONT'D)
(in Russian)
It can videotape, but it
can't transmit. Internet is
down.

SHIA
It doesn't have internet.
Russian troops kill the
internet so that their
actions can't be documented
while they're here.

REGGIE
(to the Boy)
You're giving this to me?

Shia translates. The Boy nods.

THE BOY
(in Russian)
Yes. You're my hero.

SHIA
He says of course. You're his
hero.

The Boy embraces Reggie. Reggie hugs him back -- a part of
him lost in the embrace, if only for a second. Ziggy and Shia
trade incredulous looks when they HEAR a voice in Russian --

THE BOY'S MOTHER (O.S.)
Nicolai! Where are you?

Our heroes stiffen. As they move towards the back door--

THE BOY
You're leaving?

REGGIE
Justice never sleeps, kid. But I'll
be back.

Shia translates, the Boy smiles as our heroes exit --

EXT. FARMHOUSE - UKRAINE - NIGHT

Ziggy, Shia and Reggie run from the house.

ZIGGY
The kid thought you were a
superhero, but I gotta say, you
acted almost human back there.

Shia stifles a laugh.

REGGIE
Kid reminded me of someone, is all.
Shia, you sure this is the way?

Shia nods as they continue to run from the house. Off this --

INT. ADMIRAL DECKER'S OFFICE - U.S.S. TYSON - NIGHT

Decker is on the phone with David, amped and frustrated.

ADMIRAL DECKER
(into phone)
What the hell happened in there,
David? We just sent these kids on a
suicide mission.

INT. CAMP DAVID - PRIVATE OFFICE - NIGHT

David talks to Decker on the other end of the line.

DAVID
(into phone)
Are you blaming me for this?

ADMIRAL DECKER
You're the military's voice at
State. If you don't speak up for
these kids, no one will --

DAVID
Bobbie. I'm in the middle of a tug-
of-war between State and Defense.
What do you want me to do?

ADMIRAL DECKER
I want you to do your job.

OFF David, the gauntlet now thrown down by both James and his wife-

EXT. UKRAINIAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

Reggie, Shia and Ziggy walk through the outskirts of town, guns trained at their side. It's eerily desolate.

REGGIE
It's too quiet. Something's wrong.

Shia stops suddenly. Points to a MAN lying face down on the ground. Ziggy kneels down to him, sees blood on his shirt.

ZIGGY
He's dead. He's been shot.

Shia turns a corner ahead of them --

SHIA
Oh my god.

Reggie and Ziggy follow her to see the UKRAINIAN TOWN from the opening, littered with DEAD BODIES. In the street. In doorways. Shia kneels down to a body, turning him over.

SHIA (CONT'D)

He's unarmed.

REGGIE

They all are.

Ziggy takes in the carnage, voicing what they're all thinking--

ZIGGY

This wasn't a firefight... It was a massacre.

OFF our heroes, never seen anything like this in their lives--

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**EXT. VULTURES ROW - U.S.S. TYSON - NIGHT**

Decker pulls on a cigarette like it's her last as she stares out at the ocean. Mateo approaches.

MATEO

I'm sorry for the way I spoke to you earlier. I was upset and --

ADMIRAL DECKER

No apologies, Mateo. Not today.

Decker puts her hand on Mateo's arm, comforting until--

MATEO

My fifth deployment, Afghanistan, we were on a humanitarian mission that turned into Search and Rescue, everything had gone to shit...

ADMIRAL DECKER

I know the story. You rescued that Afghan boy. Became a real hero.

MATEO

Yeah, a "hero"... I couldn't wait to tell Ziggy. I'd been gone and now I had something to show for it. So I get home and tell him how we rescued that kid, risked our lives. But all Ziggy wanted to know was why? Why go back for the kid if I could have been killed myself?

ADMIRAL DECKER

What did you say?

MATEO

I told him I just couldn't be the guy that didn't.

(beat)

But all Ziggy heard was another story about me not being there. I think that was the day he stopped believing I ever would be.

ADMIRAL DECKER

(beat, then)

Why are you telling me this?

MATEO

Because he's spent the better part of his life determined to be anyone but me, and it's gonna get him killed over there. I wanted you to know it's my fault, not yours.

ADMIRAL DECKER

I think you underestimate your kid.

MATEO

I hope you're right. And I'll support you no matter what you do. But don't cut me out.

Decker flicks her cigarette, puts her hand on Mateo's:

ADMIRAL DECKER

Don't make promises you can't keep. But I'll keep you in the loop.

Decker leaves Mateo alone, staring out at the sea.

EXT. UKRAINIAN VILLAGE - NIGHT

Reggie videos the morbid scene with the Boy's iphone as Ziggy and Shia take in the mass carnage. Shia kneels down to a DEAD WOMAN on the street. Says a quiet prayer to herself.

REGGIE

Prayer's not gonna bring her back.

Ziggy notices a DEAD CHILD in a doorway, the kid's eyes still open in horror. He shuts the child's eyes, then SEES --

Reggie inching towards something in the square. Ziggy can't see what it is, but Reggie begins snapping photos of it when--

SHIA (O.S.)

REGGIE!

Reggie WHIPS around to see ANTON and the SEPARATISTS speeding at him, FIRING! Reggie DIVES for cover behind a street bench.

Ziggy grabs his weapon, fires at them! BANG! BANG! BANG! Takes two Separatists out, but there's just too many of them.

Behind the bench, Reggie SLAMS a magazine into his SIG SAUER. FIRING! BANG! BANG! But behind the metal bench, he's firing blind. BANG! BANG! He runs out of ammo.

The Separatists close in on Reggie. One of them is almost on top of him. Ziggy can't get a clean shot. As Reggie's forced to reload, the Separatist AIMS -- about to take him out when--

BANG! The Separatist goes down! Shot right between the eyes.

Reggie's been saved. He turns to see Shia, standing behind the smoking gun. Fear in her eyes -- IN SHOCK from what she's done. The first person she's ever killed.

But there's no time for Reggie to register his surprise. He makes a run for it, joining up with Shia and Ziggy as they turn a corner, running down an alley. Looking for a way out.

A moment later, the Separatists turn down the corner, but there's no sign of the Americans.

INT. UKRAINIAN CHURCH - NIGHT

Our heroes push into the church (from the opening scene). BLOOD SPATTER everywhere. DEAD BODIES in the pews. Reggie tries to open a door, but it's locked. Then, Ziggy NOTICES:

A CRAWL SPACE UNDER THE ALTAR: A small wooden door ajar.

ZIGGY
OVER HERE!

Ziggy opens the door. As they crawl inside, they HEAR SEPARATISTS shouting in Russian outside. They all freeze. But then, they HEAR BREATHING. And it's not coming from them.

Ziggy turns to see the MINISTER from the opening scene. He's been shot, but he's alive. He begins to freak out, mumbling--

REGGIE
Get him to shut up!

Ziggy leans into the Minister, pulls out Jacob's necklace, showing it to him. Ziggy quietly begins praying.

ZIGGY
Our father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name...

The Minister leans into Ziggy, shutting his eyes. Ziggy's words calm him. His breathing becomes more measured just as --

Anton and his men BUST inside, SEARCHING the church. UNDER THE ALTAR, our heroes and the Minister remain silent.

Anton slowly walks down to the altar, standing directly above our heroes, then **in Russian, subtitled:**

ANTON
They're not here. Search the rest
of the town. Come back in the
morning with more men.

As the men exit, Ziggy, Reggie, Shia, and the Minister breathe a sigh of relief. Reggie pulls out the SAT phone.

REGGIE

We've got to get an extraction point. If they come back before we get one, we're dead.

INT. CAMP DAVID - JAMES' OFFICE - EARLY MORNING

James enters his office to find his ASSISTANT (late 20s, female) waiting for him, panic in her eyes.

SEC OF STATE JAMES

What's wrong?

Assistant gestures over to James' desk. A MAN sits across from it, waiting. This is RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR IRI YASHENKO (40s). James walks over to him, trying to hide his alarm.

SEC OF STATE JAMES (CONT'D)

Ambassador Yashenko. What can I do for you this morning?

AMBASSADOR YASHENKO

You can start by telling me why three American Naval Officers are on the ground in Eastern Ukraine.

On James -- RUSSIA KNOWS. They're fucked. Meanwhile --

INT. WAR ROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - NIGHT

Decker, Mateo, Byrne download David and Warner on VOD.

ADMIRAL DECKER

They massacred a goddamn village. Children, women. I'm not entirely sure how it could be any worse.

INT. CAMP DAVID - PRIVATE OFFICE - INTERCUT - EARLY MORNING

David and Warner address Decker on the VOD screen.

SEC OF DEFENSE WARNER

David, we've got to get in there and rescue those kids and recover any evidence they have--

James enters the room, shutting the door behind him.

SEC OF STATE JAMES

We can't. At least not yet.
(off their looks)
(MORE)

SEC OF STATE JAMES (CONT'D)

The Russians *know*. They picked up the crash on satellite. They're also saying the separatists are rogue, not under Kremlin orders.

Mateo knows this is bad news for Ziggy. So does Decker.

ADMIRAL DECKER

What's that mean for our officers?

SEC OF STATE JAMES

It means we can't authorize a rescue package for 24 hours, until the treaty is signed.

ADMIRAL DECKER

They don't have 24 hours!

SEC OF STATE JAMES

The Russians will look the other way on the recon mission--

SEC DEF WARNER

(sarcastic)
Well, that's awful nice of them--

SEC OF STATE JAMES

--but if we send in a rescue op now, it draws massive media attention, emboldens hardliners on *both* sides and makes it impossible to seal this deal.

SEC OF DEFENSE WARNER

The President should have never sat down to the table to begin with.

ADMIRAL DECKER

Gentleman! These officers' lives are on the line if we don't rescue them *now*!

SEC OF STATE JAMES

Millions of lives are on the line if we do.

ADMIRAL DECKER

That's a subjective political assessment --

SEC OF STATE JAMES

Which the President stands behind --

ADMIRAL DECKER

I'm dealing with hard facts on the ground here. And if you and David aren't going to stand up for these kids --

David recoils. Did Decker just lump him in with his boss?

DAVID

Wait a second, Bobbie. There are a lot of moving parts at play here.

Decker stares daggers at David.

SEC OF STATE JAMES

You think I don't care about those kids? Of course I do. But I've got a country and a world to consider. Your orders stand, Admiral.

ADMIRAL DECKER

(at David, pissed)

Fine. But when these kids get killed, you'll have to explain to their families why you wrote them off as collateral damage.

DAVID

No, we won't, Bobbie.

ADMIRAL DECKER

(re: James)

The hell you won't. Their blood will be on his hands. *And yours.*

DAVID

No, it's on yours. Because a pilot under *your command* disobeyed orders, killing one officer and jeopardizing the lives of millions--

James and Warner are as shocked by this reveal as Decker.

ADMIRAL DECKER

--David, I don't know what you think you're doing--

DAVID

I'm doing my *job*. Which means considering *all* of the facts. I'm sorry, Bobbie. You didn't give me a choice.

Decker, gut-punched, switches off the VOD. Mateo faces her.

MATEO

You told 'em Ziggy disobeyed orders?

ADMIRAL DECKER

I didn't tell *them*. I told David.

MATEO
There's a difference?

ADMIRAL DECKER
There was.

MATEO
Well, apparently not anymore. You just signed my son's death warrant.

ADMIRAL DECKER
No, your son signed it when he flew over those defense sites. I was trying to protect him.

MATEO
Some job you did. You're not gonna go rescue him, tell him yourself.

Mateo exits the room. On Decker, gobsmacked --

INT. MATEO'S OFFICE - U.S.S. TYSON - NIGHT

Mateo storms inside, eyes locked on the newspaper article, haunting him. OFF this, we FLASHBACK TO:

INT. BOYLE HEIGHTS APARTMENT - FLASHBACK CIRCA 2000 - NIGHT

Mateo sits at the table with his mother, Gloria, in silence.

GLORIA
Mateo, you can't quit. Not now.

MATEO
Ziggy needs me. The time that I have with him, it's just not enough.
(off her look)
I'll find another way out of here.

GLORIA
There is no other way. Trust me.
(beat)
Stay in the Navy. Someday he'll see you did it all for him.

MATEO
What if he doesn't?

GLORIA
It's your job to make him.

OFF Mateo, taking this in, we CUT BACK TO:

INT. MATEO'S OFFICE - U.S.S. TYSON - NIGHT

Mateo, remembering. He thinks for a beat... Then, pulls out a YELLOW LEGAL PAD and starts writing furiously.

INT. UKRAINIAN CHURCH - NIGHT

The officers wait for a return call from the carrier. Ziggy walks over to Shia, hands her a piece of paper.

ZIGGY

This is Decker's secure code. To call your daughter. Just in case.

SHIA

How did you get this?

ZIGGY

Lifted it off her computer when I rearranged all the furniture in her office.

SHIA

(laughs, then)

Thanks, Zig. But this number is traceable. She'll know I used it.

ZIGGY

We get to a place where you gotta play that card, it won't matter.

Shia nods, knowing what he means. Ziggy notices the Minister shivering, lying on a pew. Ziggy puts his coat over him.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Better?

The Minister nods. Shia begins applying a new bandage on her wound, but her hands are shaking. Reggie walks over to help her. They make eye contact. It's incredibly intimate.

REGGIE

I don't know anyone -- man or woman -- that coulda made that shot.

(beat)

I know you've never killed anyone before, but it'll get easier.

It's Reggie's way of saying thank you for saving his life. But Shia can't accept his gratitude. Her tone is accusatory.

SHIA

I don't want it to.

She pulls up her suit, turns her back to him.

REGGIE

That kid back there -- he reminded me of the baby brother I lost.

SHIA

He died?

REGGIE

He's in prison for life. For plotting a terrorist attack against America. *Right after* he converted to Islam.

Reggie's trying to defend his bigotry.

SHIA

I'm not your brother, Reggie. Most Muslims aren't. It's not that black and white.

Reggie kind of half laughs at the irony of the statement.

REGGIE

For me, it is.

Shia holds Reggie's stare until they're interrupted by the RINGING of the SAT phone. Reggie steps away to get a signal --

ANGLE ON ZIGGY AND MINISTER

ZIGGY

I like it here. It's kinda peaceful, ya know. If people weren't trying to kill us.
 (off the Minister's smile)
 You lived here your whole life?
 (off his nod)
 I'm from Los Angeles. You know LA?

MINISTER

(beat, thinks)
 Go Lakers.

ZIGGY

(pumps his fist)
 Yeah. Go Lakers.

Then, Ziggy's face turns serious.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Father, can I ask you something?
 (off his nod)
 (MORE)

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

If a person did something he didn't mean to do and someone dies 'cause of it, do you think God forgives you... Or does he just earmark a special place in hell for you?

The Minister gives Ziggy room to speak.

ZIGGY (CONT'D)

Wait. Don't answer that. I pro'lly deserve hell... But I never meant for this to happen. Do you think you could tell God that for me?

MINISTER

(beat, considers)
Go Lakers.

ZIGGY

You don't speak English, do you?
(off his confused look)
OK. Good talk.

Reggie comes up behind Ziggy and Minister, Shia next to him.

REGGIE

Spoke to Decker. They're not coming for us. Not for another 24 hours.

That LANDS. It's quiet. Everyone knows what it means: THEY'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.

ZIGGY

The last thing my father said to me before I left was that he was done coming after me. Guess he wasn't lying.

REGGIE

Stop spouting nonsense. None of this is gonna do any good.

ZIGGY

I know, but you were right. This is my fault. And I'm sorry.

SHIA

This isn't your fault. If God wanted us dead, he'd have killed us in that plane crash. But he didn't.

(beat)

He wanted us to survive so that we could bring back proof of what's really going on here.

Ziggy wants to believe her, but --

REGGIE

That's some crap. We didn't get shot down cause it was God's plan. But it wasn't because you flew over those damn defense sites either.

Ziggy and Shia trade confused looks.

ZIGGY

What are you talking about?

REGGIE

In that square, there was a surface to air weapon. I'm pretty sure God didn't put it there.

(off their looks)

If the Separatists were just gonna slaughter that village, what the hell did they need a weapon like that for?

As they all consider this --

SHIA

What are you saying?

REGGIE

I think they knew we were coming.

Off this sobering development --

INT. LIVING AREA - ANTON RUZINKY'S HOME - UKRAINE - NIGHT

A WOMAN, ELENA (30s), cooks as Anton enters. This is Anton's wife. He removes his jacket and kisses her on the cheek. In the b.g., the TV is on. **In Russian, subtitled:**

ELENA

You hungry?

ANTON

Starving. Is he still up?

Elena nods. Anton enters --

INT. BEDROOM - ANTON RUZINKY'S HOME - NIGHT

Anton moves through the dark as a YOUNG BOY sits up in bed.

YOUNG BOY

Papa, is that you?

ANTON
 Yes, my love. Did you say your
 prayers?

Anton flips the light as we REVEAL his child is the Boy who
 helped our heroes. Anton give him a kiss, love in his eyes.

YOUNG BOY
 Yes, Papa. I said my prayers.

The Boy hugs Anton. Anton sees an iPhone charger in the wall.

ANTON
 Nicolai -- where is your iPhone?

NICOLAI
 I gave it to Black Lightning.

ANTON
 Nicolai, please tell me the truth.

Then, they hear:

ELENA (O.S.)
 Anton. Come here!

Anton darts out of the room and into --

INT. LIVING AREA - ANTON RUZINKY'S HOME - NIGHT

Elena stands in front of the TV. ON THE SCREEN: a Russian
 news broadcast. We can't understand what they're saying, but
 they CUT to STILL PHOTOS of Reggie, Ziggy, Shia and Jacob.
 Nicolai appears in the doorway, sees the TV--

NICOLAI
 Papa, that's him! That's Black
 Lightning!!!

Anton turns to his son and picks him up --

NICOLAI (CONT'D)
 I told you I was telling the truth.

ANTON
 I believe you, love. Now, tell me
 everything you can about your
 superhero...

OFF Nicolai, about to spill the beans on our heroes.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**INT. WAR ROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - NIGHT**

Decker and Byrne watch the CNN Report with A GROUP OF OFFICERS on the large SCREEN behind the conference table.

CNN REPORTER

Four American Naval officers on a routine reconnaissance mission were shot down in Eastern Ukraine today.

INT. CAMP DAVID - JAMES' OFFICE - DAY

James and David watch the same report in horror --

CNN REPORTER

The U.S. government covered up the incident to preserve peace talks between the U.S. and Russia...

DAVID

Oh my god.

James' assistant peeks her head in.

ASSISTANT

Sir, the President would like to see you.

ON James, fuck --

INT. DISTINGUISHED VISITORS' STATEROOM - NIGHT

Kailey watches the feed, self-satisfied.

CNN REPORTER

The story was broken by CNN's own Kailey Rogers --

A picture of Kailey appears on screen. The CAMERA PANS over to the desk, where we FIND... Mateo's YELLOW LEGAL PAPER.

HE LEAKED IT.

INT. MATEO'S OFFICE - U.S.S. TYSON - NIGHT

Mateo sits in silence... A KNOCK on the door. It's Byrne.

BYRNE

Rescue op's in play. On orders from the President.

Mateo follows Byrne out of the room.

INT. UKRAINIAN CHURCH - EARLY MORNING

Shia looks out the window as the sun peeks over the horizon. Reggie and Ziggy pack up supplies as the Minister sleeps.

REGGIE
We've got to get going. Before the Separatists come back.

SHIA
(re: Minister)
I don't know if he's gonna make it.

REGGIE
Then we leave him behind.

Reggie hoists his survival pack over his shoulders.

SHIA
He'll die if we leave him here.

REGGIE
We'll die if we take him with us.

Ziggy steps in between them, waking the Minister.

ZIGGY
We're not leaving him. Come on, Father. Time to go.

Ziggy helps the Minister up. The Minister flinches in pain.

REGGIE
Suddenly, you've got a conscience?

ZIGGY
The government wrote us off as collateral damage. If we don't take him, we'll be doing the same to him.

Ziggy grabs the Minister's arm. Reggie shakes his head... then puts the Minister's other arm around his neck.

EXT. UKRAINIAN CHURCH - EARLY MORNING

Ziggy, Reggie and Shia exit, the Minister in tow when they HEAR a BUZZING SOUND. Reggie pulls the SAT phone, answers.

REGGIE
(into phone)
This is four zero two.

INTERCUT:

INT. WAR ROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - INTERCUT - EARLY MORNING

Decker, Mateo, and Byrne along with a GROUP OF OFFICERS.

MATEO
(into speaker)
This is Charlie Romeo. We're coming
to get you.

Relief lands on their incredulous faces.

BYRNE
Map reference 36-711. It's about
six miles from you.

ZIGGY
Make sure the Medic's prepared to
treat an abdominal gunshot wound.

MATEO
Did you get shot?

ZIGGY
We have a Ukrainian minister with
us - and he doesn't have long.

MATEO
Can he make it to the extraction?

ZIGGY
I don't know. But we're not leaving
him behind.

Ziggy hangs up the phone.

Mateo and Decker trade looks. Her face says it all: "*Maybe you underestimated your kid.*" She pulls him aside.

ADMIRAL DECKER
I know you leaked the story. Won't
be long til everyone else does too.
(beat, grins)
You know I wanted to rescue them...

MATEO
Yeah, but I knew you'd do your job.
And if I'd been in your shoes--

ADMIRAL DECKER
But you weren't in my shoes.

MATEO
No. I wasn't.

ADMIRAL DECKER

Some people break the rules in order to do what's right.

(smiles, then)

You better hope this rescue goes off without a hitch. You're still in a ton of steaming shit.

He smiles, nods. Decker pats him on the back.

MATEO

You and David going to be OK?

A long beat.

ADMIRAL DECKER

I don't know.

(then)

Let's go get your kid.

On Mateo, nodding, feeling for her --

EXT. FLIGHT DECK - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

A SEAL team pours inside a RESCUE HELO. As it takes off --

EXT. UKRAINIAN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Ziggy, Reggie, Shia and the Minister run through the countryside. Exhausted. Starving. Operating only on will power. But the Minister's barely hanging on.

SHIA

Come on. We're never gonna make it!

Ziggy throws the Minister over his shoulder. Off Reggie and Shia, surprised by this heroic Ziggy -

INT. WAR ROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Decker, Byrne and Mateo manning the operation. They eye the controls -- a RED DOT indicates the SEAL team en route. ON ANOTHER SCREEN - a camera inside the rescue helo.

MATEO

Ma'am, the Seal Team is closing in.

Decker and Mateo's eyes are locked on screen as we INTERCUT:

INT. RESCUE HELO - INTERCUT - DAY

The SEALs approach, eyeing the ground below. It's a large field with forest on both sides. Spot THE OFFICERS on the ground, running towards the extraction point. INTERCUT:

EXT. UKRAINIAN COUNTRYSIDE - INTERCUT - DAY

Ziggy, Shia, Reggie and the Minister spot the helicopter. They rush towards the rendezvous point... Until REGGIE PULLS THEM BACK VIOLENTLY, panicked as he SEES ---

ANTON AND THE SEPARATISTS

They're setting up A MISSILE LAUNCHER on a FLATBED TRUCK.

ZIGGY
What the hell?

REGGIE
Come on, we've gotta hide!

Our heroes and the minister retreat into the trees, diving into a ravine. Reggie pulls out the SAT phone, trying to get Decker, but:

REGGIE (CONT'D)
I can't get a signal!

A MISSILE is launched. The rescue helo doesn't even see it coming. It MISSES.

IN THE HELO, the Pilot whips in the other direction, but --

The Separatists LAUNCH again. The missile spirals in the sky toward the helo. This time, it's a DIRECT HIT!!!

The rescue helo EXPLODES in the sky. Our heroes watch as the debris rains down on the Ukrainian countryside.

MATEO (PRELAP)
What the hell just happened?

INT. WAR ROOM - U.S.S. TYSON - DAY

Decker, Mateo and Byrne frantically react.

ADMIRAL DECKER
They just downed the rescue helo!

MATEO
By who? And how the hell could they know we were going to be there?

OFF Decker, trading ominous looks with Mateo --

EXT. RAVINE - UKRAINIAN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Our heroes whisper as Anton barks at the others in Russian --

SHIA

He's giving orders to find us.

As the Separatists splinter off, combing the trees, one Separatist splits off from the rest. Pulls out a cell, dials.

SEPARATIST

(into phone, in English)

Rescue mission has been aborted.

The Separatist is speaking with a PERFECT AMERICAN ACCENT.

SEPARATIST (CONT'D)

No sign of the officers yet, but we'll find 'em and take 'em out.

ON OUR HEROES as their eyes go wide. What the fuck?

ZIGGY

Um, does someone want to tell me why there's an American working alongside Russian separatists?

REGGIE

I'm more concerned with who's on the other end of that phone.

OFF the three officers, monumentally fucked in Ukraine, trapped in a conspiracy they haven't even begun to comprehend-

END OF PILOT