

MAVERICK

"Pilot"



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ACT ONE

**INT. STATELY BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**

CLOSE ON: FIVE MILKSHAKES on trays, as they're set down on a bedside table by KATHERINE "KIT" PRICE (18, white, an inquisitive dreamer, but often overlooked).

She sits gently on the bed next to her very ill mother, CAROL (40s, the source of Kit's spirit, a fire still in her eyes).

KIT

Our deal was when I got into Georgetown we'd go to Paulie's and order every disgusting thing on the menu to celebrate, remember? Since you can't, I figured I'd bring you their full range of milkshakes.

Carol laughs, but her eyes are welling up.

KIT (CONT'D)

Mom, it's not a big deal. I am a legacy, so...

PULL OUT to see we're in an elegant room -- mahogany four-poster, oil paintings on the wall. Carol stares into her daughter's face, like she's memorizing it.

CAROL

Forget the legacy. You did that. You're better than all of them.

KIT

You might be biased.

Kit looks for a laugh, but Carol is pensive. Carol glances at the open door, makes a decision.

CAROL

I want you to have something.

She takes the delicate OPAL NECKLACE from around her neck and puts it on Kit's. Kit looks down at it, now fighting tears. This is a final bequeathment, and she knows it.

KIT

Mom. You love this necklace.

CAROL

It's yours now. Keep it close to your heart.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Now Kit's fully crying. There's so much more Carol wants to say, but all she can do is pull Kit in for a long, tight hug.

The door opens and Kit's father, CHARLES (60s, a quiet dignity, commands with charm) enters.

CHARLES

I see you've heard Kit's news.  
Never doubted her for a second.

Kit starts to pull out of the hug, but Carol holds her tighter, and surreptitiously whispers something in Kit's ear (which we don't hear). Kit furrows her brow, confused.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

But your mother needs her rest, Kit.

Charles reaches them, places a comforting hand on his wife's shoulder, and she lets Kit go. Her parents lock eyes, so much between them.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

I'll be back to check on you later.

He gives Carol a smile. Kit stands, as he escorts her into --

**INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS (FLASHBACK)**

Where her older half-siblings SEBASTIAN (late 20s, easygoing) and ADRIANA (30s, prim and proper) wait, somber.

Kit looks back, shares a teary, bittersweet smile with her mother, as Charles closes the door between them. Wraps a protective arm around Kit, and leads her down the hall.

And only now do we notice the two MEN in dark suits, standing silently just down the hall from them, each wearing earpieces. Secret Service. Because we're at --

**EXT. WHITE HOUSE - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

Rain pelts the White House, the flag at half-mast. The fountain out front has been replaced by an obelisk.

FEMALE NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.)

The sudden death of First Lady  
Carol Price was caused by a viral  
infection.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FEMALE NEWS ANCHOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 President Price, who came to power  
 in the wake of a national tragedy,  
 now faces his own personal one, and  
 has put all 2020 campaign events on  
 hold.

A plaque on the obelisk reads: "In memory of the victims of  
 the Flag Day Attacks." That's right - whatever version of  
 America this is, it isn't the one we're used to.

REVEAL: A blonde FEMALE NEWS REPORTER standing in front of  
 the White House gates.

FEMALE NEWS ANCHOR  
 The First Lady also leaves behind her  
 daughter Katherine, and stepchildren  
 Adriana and Sebastian. Our nation  
 mourns for the first family.

FADE TO BLACK.

**CHYRON: "Five Months Later."**

**EXT. GEORGETOWN CAMPUS - DAY (D1)**

FADE UP on Kit, standing in bright sunlight. She takes a deep  
 breath. Puts her hand to the opal necklace around her neck.  
 It's freshman move-in day at Georgetown. Excited students and  
 parents swarm the campus, several throwing looks Kit's way.

Hard to miss the only freshman with a SECRET SERVICE detail:  
 AGENT TRAN, 30s, Asian-American, male; and AGENT OLSON, 30s,  
 white, female. Both stoic.

And of course Sebastian, a celebrity in his own right.  
 There's an easy rapport between him and Kit.

KIT  
 You really didn't have to come.

SEBASTIAN  
 You're lucky I talked Dad out of  
 coming. He would have landed Marine  
 One on the quad just to show off.  
 (off her laugh)  
 You know, my freshman year here --

KIT  
 Oh my god, yes, I know.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)  
 -- I stole the clock hands from  
 the top of Healy and replaced  
 them with brooms...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

But he trails off as he notices Kit's looking wistfully at a fellow FRESHMAN fending off kisses from her mother.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

I know it's hard without her...

Kit tries not to grow emotional. Not here.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

But she really wanted this for you.  
And you're going to love it here.  
It's different being out of the  
White House and away from, y'know --

KIT

The constant scrutiny?

SEBASTIAN

Hey, at least it's only two Secret  
Service agents instead of a dozen --

KIT

Oh, I meant Adriana.

SEBASTIAN

(laughs)

Fair. She loves you, she just wants  
you to be, you know... her. But  
this is your chance to come into  
your own, make lifelong  
friendships, get into trouble for  
once. Just, not too much trouble.

KIT

Thank you. Seriously.  
(can't help herself)  
Though I'm never gonna make any  
friends if America's Most Eligible  
Bachelor is here outshining me.

She's light, but there's a hint of real anxiety there.

SEBASTIAN

Pretty sure Dad rigged that poll.  
But fine, I'll leave you to it.

He gives her a hug. Really means this --

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

If you need anything, day or  
night... just call.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As he heads off, we notice a few MILITARY-STYLE COPS with M-16s roaming the campus. But no one looks twice at them.

Kit stares up at her dormitory, excitement building. She spots a fellow freshman, SARAH, struggling to balance boxes and open the door. Kit rushes to open it.

KIT  
Here, let me --

SARAH  
Oh thank you! You in this dorm too?

As they enter --

**INT. DORM BUILDING - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS**

And head toward the elevator.

KIT  
Yep. Second floor.

SARAH  
Nice. Well look out for the RAs. One cornered me and made me promise to attend all of the "rah-rah go us" orientation events. I don't know how I'm gonna survive all the speeches about our bright futures.

This girl speaks her mind. And Kit likes it.

KIT  
I was thinking the same thing...  
But I wasn't gonna say it out loud.

SARAH  
(laughing)  
Oh good, finally someone cool.  
Honestly I was worried I would hate everyone here, or they'd hate me.  
It's stupid, I know.

KIT  
It's not stupid. I mean, honestly I was worried too.

Sarah sets her boxes down, gets her first good look at Kit... and that Secret Service detail.

SARAH  
Oh. I-- You're Katherine Price.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT

Just Kit. Nice to meet you.  
 (off her stunned silence)  
 So... maybe I was right to worry?

SARAH

Sorry. I'm Sarah. I heard you were coming, I just wasn't expecting...

KIT

Me to live in a dorm? Yeah my dad wasn't either, but what kind of power does he really have, anyway?

Sarah lets out a surprised laugh, not sure how to respond.

KIT (CONT'D)

Well, hope to see you around.

Sarah nods, still a bit stunned as Kit heads off, smiling to herself. Maybe this won't be so bad...

**INT. DORM HALLWAY - DAY (D1)**

Kit reaches room 212. Her new home. Takes a breath, enters --

**INT. KIT AND VANESSA'S DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS (D1)**

Kit takes in the cinder-block dorm room. A bit smaller than the White House. Kit's luggage is already piled by her bed. Her roommate's stuff is spread haphazardly on her side.

VANESSA (O.S.)

You're on the right. Windowsill is mine. Don't touch the record player.

VANESSA (Latina, tough shell masking her insecurities) stands on a desk, back to the door, disabling the smoke detector.

KIT

Hey. Uh... Vanessa?

Vanessa climbs down, gets a look at Kit. *Shit*.

VANESSA

You're not Emma Jackson from Erie.

KIT

No... Kit Price.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VANESSA

Yeah. Obviously.

KIT

Sorry about the alias. They kept it secret for security reasons. Since your parents work in government, everyone thought it would be best - someone pre-vetted.

(off Vanessa unmoved)

I know it's not ideal, but I promise my Secret Service will stay out of your way. They can be cool. I mean, Tran once wore a green tie...

VANESSA

My issue isn't with Tran. It's with you. Your family. Your dad, who is --

VANESSA'S DAD (O.S.)

A great man!

Vanessa's MOM and DAD (50s, white) have appeared in the doorway, nervously jumping into this conversation.

VANESSA'S MOM

Best president ever!

But Kit looks back to Vanessa, studying her. No one's ever spoken to her like that.

VANESSA'S MOM (CONT'D)

We can't believe our Nussy is rooming with... Well, we're just so happy to meet you.

VANESSA'S DAD

Thrilled! And she is too. She's just got a twisted sense of humor.

He gives Vanessa a pointed look - be good. She shrugs at him.

KIT

It's fine, actually I find it refreshing. Most people just suck up to me and my family.

She's clearly referring to them, but they don't get the hint. Vanessa, however... is that a tiny smile?

VANESSA'S MOM

Okay, we'll let you girls bond. Off to the Parents' Reception.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

Vanessa moves to hug them goodbye.

VANESSA

Please don't brag about me. It's really embarrassing.

VANESSA'S DAD

Yeah, not gonna happen. Love you.

They give Kit a nod and head out, sharing one last look of excitement --

KIT

So. Your parents seem --

VANESSA

Not biological. Clearly.

And she slips her headphones on. *Okay then.*

Kit starts unpacking. Opens a case of ART SUPPLIES, smiles... Her phone DINGS. Sarah has followed her on Instagram.

Kit scrolls through her profile - photos of teenage fun, many with the same BOY. (This is AJ. Remember his face.) Kit looks longingly at the kind of life she hasn't been able to lead...

She suddenly gets a DM from Sarah: *"Sorry if I was weird earlier. Wanna head to the welcome ceremony together, hear more speeches about our future?"* Off Kit, hope growing...

**INT. ARENA - NIGHT (N1)**

Kit sits with Sarah among 2000 freshmen for their welcome ceremony. Tran and Olson stand nearby. Kit's an object of spectacle --

SARAH

God, is it always like this?

KIT

Pretty much. Even high school. You'd think the private school kids of congressmen wouldn't care, but...

SARAH

Sounds like it set you up well to join the family business though.

Kit's face falls the slightest bit. Sarah picks up on it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT

That's the plan. Georgetown, Yale Law, then join the administration.

SARAH

You don't sound very enthusiastic.

KIT

What? No, I am. I am.

SARAH

Super convincing.

Kit looks away, cheeks coloring.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Sorry. I just... I'm sure there are a lot of expectations of you. I mean, my parents aren't ruling a country or anything, but they still want me to be perfect, never do anything stupid or reckless, but... that's not exactly who I am.

She smirks. Kit looks back at her, warming a bit.

SARAH (CONT'D)

So... what's your plan? Not your family's.

Kit's not used to being pressed like this. But it's not unwelcome. She takes a breath. Okay. Here goes.

KIT

Well... I'd start by secretly taking a bunch of art electives, where everyone's blown away and begs me to change my major from poli sci. And in this scenario, my dad's miraculously supportive and doesn't care that I have no desire to work for him. And even my sister is happy for me...

She realizes Sarah's staring at her, expression inscrutable. Kit's suddenly embarrassed. She's said too much.

KIT (CONT'D)

Sorry. That was a lot.

She looks away, hand instinctively going to her necklace.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SARAH

No, it's a cool plan. My little brother wanted to be an artist.

KIT

"Wanted to?"

SARAH

Yeah... we lost Ben a few years ago.

KIT

Oh. I'm so sorry.

Sarah shows Kit her phone -- a photo of her and a YOUNG BOY, 11, arms wrapped tightly around her. She watches Kit react.

KIT (CONT'D)

You seemed so close.

SARAH

Yeah. It feels weird being here, like I'm moving on without him.

KIT

I know exactly what you mean.

A moment of understanding between them --

DEAN (O.S.)

Welcome, Class of 2024 --

The crowd cheers as the DEAN (male, 50s, eager to inspire), in his ceremonial cap and gown stands at the podium.

DEAN (CONT'D)

-- To this hallowed university. Before you have come some of the best. Generals. Judges. Presidents.

Kit smiles perfunctorily, as all eyes turn to her.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Perhaps there are future generals and judges here tonight. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The arena stands and faces the flag. Hands over hearts, they begin reciting... with an unusual fervor:

EVERYONE

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic, for which it stands.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVERYONE (CONT'D)  
One nation under God, with liberty  
and justice for the righteous.

Wait, what? Alarmingly, they continue...

EVERYONE (CONT'D)  
**And to our President, in whom we  
trust... to keep us safe from all  
enemies, foreign and domestic --**

Yeah. In case it wasn't clear, this is so not our world.

EVERYONE (CONT'D)  
**And to guide us to great prosperity  
and true moral strength...**

Off Kit and the rest, reciting the words they've spoken a thousand times before, we CUT TO:

**EXT. QUAD - THE NEXT MORNING (D1)**

CLOSE ON: AN AMERICAN FLAG on campus. Find a contemplative Kit, under a tree, sketching - a striking pen and ink impression of the students rushing to class. Her hand again moves to her necklace as we FLASHBACK TO --

**EXT. QUAD - DAY (FLASHBACK)**

The same necklace, around her mother's neck, one year ago. She and Kit are on a private campus tour.

KIT  
I feel like them naming the poli  
sci building after dad was a little  
obvious.

CAROL  
And what's the art building named?  
(off Kit's look)  
Come on. I know you, Kit. Your  
heart's not in politics.

KIT  
Just because I like art doesn't  
mean it's a career.

CAROL  
And just because your father is  
stubborn doesn't mean you should do  
everything he says.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT  
(laughs)  
What's gotten into you?

CAROL  
College is where you figure out who you are. Promise me you'll at least take some art classes.

KIT  
Sure. And you can tell dad.

Carol puts her arm around Kit, smiles.

CAROL  
No, you will... But I'll be right by your side when you do.

Kit takes this in - the prospect thrilling, as we CUT TO:

**EXT. QUAD - BACK TO PRESENT - DAY (D2)**

On Kit, her grief palpable. She's pulled out of her reverie --

SARAH  
Ready for our first college class?

Kit smiles, feeling bolstered by her mother's memory.

KIT  
Let's do it.

**INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY (D2)**

Kit and Sarah stand at the back of the lecture hall, looking at a seating chart. PROPAGANDA POSTERS touting American Strength line the wall.

SARAH  
Ugh, assigned seats?

Kit turns to look at her seat -- sitting next to it is a very HOT GUY. This is CHASE (freshman, black, cool because he genuinely isn't trying to be).

KIT  
I think it might be okay.

Sarah follows her gaze. She snorts at Kit's obvious ogling.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kit settles into her seat. Chase is reading. Sarah, a few rows ahead, turns back as she sits, gesturing to Chase.

SARAH  
(mouthing)  
So. Hot.

KIT  
(whispering)  
Shut up!

CHASE  
Sorry?

Oh shit, she said that out loud. And now he's looking at her... with his really hot face. Kit blushes.

KIT  
Um, sorry, nothing, just... what are you reading?

CHASE  
Getting a jump on Econ.

KIT  
Oh, I'm in that too. Wednesdays before Political Theory.

CHASE  
Poli sci major?

KIT  
As of now.

CHASE  
I guess we'll be seeing a lot of each other then.

He gives her a small smile. Kit tries not to grin too much.

KIT  
I'm Kit.

He knows, obviously. But plays it cool.

CHASE  
Chase. Nice to meet you, Kit.

The overly-serious PROFESSOR (male, 40s) lands at the lectern.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PROFESSOR

This class covers modern American History, from the terrorist attacks that decimated the previous administration, leaving the country on the brink of social collapse, to the election of President Price 16 years ago.

He nods to Kit. Ugh. She looks over to Chase, who's already taking notes. He furrows his brow in concentration. So cute.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

Through the implementation of the Price Doctrine, the scourges of illegal immigration and immorality which had run rampant and led to those attacks were abated, finally returning us to our fundamental American values...

Off Kit, finding it hard to concentrate. CUT TO:

**INT. DINING HALL - NIGHT (N2)**

Dinner. Kit sits at an empty table with her tray, looking around for Sarah. Chase spots her and approaches, but --

LUCAS

Kit Price!

Beaten to the punch. LUCAS (sophomore, white; sweeter than his frat bro facade) sits across from Kit, who smiles - happy to see an old friend. Chase heads off, disappointed.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

What's up? All moved in? Sebastian tell the story about Healy?

KIT

Oh my god, Lucas, like six times.

LUCAS

(conspiratorial)

I've been doing some digging, and I gotta say, I don't think it's true.

A beat, then they both crack up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT

I'm so glad to have someone here who knows my brother for the ridiculous dork he really is. So how are you? How's Ava?

LUCAS

Yeah. Um... actually we broke up.

Well, Kit was not expecting *that*. Interesting...

KIT

Oh. Wow. I'm sorry.

LUCAS

It's for the best. Hard when you're at different schools, you know?

But Kit notes that he doesn't seem all that upset.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

But I'm glad you chose Georgetown at least. We'll finally be able to hang out more.

KIT

Yeah, outside of all the boring, stuffy campaign events...

LUCAS

Well if you want something a bit less stuffy, you should come to Delta Rho's party with me tomorrow.  
(off Kit's surprise)  
What?

KIT

Nothing. I've just... never been invited to a party I might actually enjoy going to.

Lucas grins at her. A moment of hope between them.

**EXT. DORM BUILDING - NIGHT (N2)**

Kit walks back to her dorm alone, passing more COPs and CCTV CAMERAS, when she spots Chase walking a few yards ahead, typing on his phone. She stares at him, internally debating --

VANESSA (O.S.)

Why are you staring at that guy?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

Kit startles as Vanessa falls into step beside her.

KIT

What? I'm not. Ok fine I'm just wondering if I should say something to him. He looks busy, but is it weird if I don't say anything? I mean, he's in all my classes --

VANESSA

Wait, I retract my question. I really don't care.

KIT

Ok you know what, I'll talk to him --

But before she can -- CLANG! -- a metal CANISTER lands at her feet. As it starts BILLOWING SMOKE, suddenly half a dozen MASKED PROTESTORS surround Kit, chanting.

PROTESTORS

Justice now! Justice now!

Kit clocks their masks - a caricature of President Price, with blood-red paint dripping from his eyes.

It's disorienting, the protestors shoving their protest signs in Kit's face. ("*End Price Regime.*" "*You Are Complicit!*") Vanessa is lost in the crowd.

Chase, hearing the commotion, sees a PROTESTER rushing at Kit with a smoke bomb. He jumps into the chaos, tackling the protestor to the ground! Kit stares, wide-eyed, as Tran and Olson suddenly pull her out of the melee.

TRAN

(into earpiece)  
We have Maverick!

Kit watches as POLICE descend on the protestors, batons swinging. One protestor is thrown to the ground hard. Their Price mask slips off...

REVEALING: *It's Sarah.* What the hell?! Kit and Sarah lock eyes. Then the cops pile onto Sarah, blocking her from view.

Off Kit's utter shock, as she's dragged away, we...

**END ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

**PATRIOT NEWS FOOTAGE:** Over images of Georgetown...

ANCHOR (V.O.)

The protest -- outlawed since the Anti-Terrorism and Insurgency Act of 2009 -- was perpetrated by a small group of defiant actors, who acted violently and, I'm told, were heard shouting "Death to America."

PULL OUT to reveal we're in --

**INT. KIT AND VANESSA'S DORM ROOM - DAY (D3)**

As Kit and Vanessa watch the TV, Kit frowns. ON THE TV: Five MUG SHOTS go up, including Sarah. All fellow students.

KIT

Wait, they didn't say that...

ANCHOR (V.O.)

All five agitators have been taken into custody. Katherine Price's Secret Service detail acted quickly to protect her --

VANESSA

And only her.

ANCHOR (V.O.)

-- in what is now believed to have been a failed assassination attempt on the First Daughter, meant to be carried out by one assailant who possessed an illegal handgun.

Sarah's mug shot fills the screen as the others disappear.

KIT

Oh my god.

ANCHOR (V.O.)

The incident occurred just days before the President's White House campaign event, where he's expected to make an announcement on national security.

As the broadcast moves on to that story --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT

It doesn't make sense. If Sarah was trying to hurt me... why pretend to be my friend? What did it get her?

VANESSA

Did you actually see a gun in Sarah's hand? Because I didn't.

KIT

But Patriot News just said --

VANESSA

They say a lot of things.

Kit reacts, but before she can refute that, her phone BUZZES with a text. Sebastian -- "*You sure you're ok?*" Kit sighs.

KIT

My family won't stop treating this like it's a national emergency. By the way, be prepared - my dad said he's gonna call your parents.

VANESSA

Wow. That'll make their year. They love him more than... anything.

Including her, clearly. Kit stares at her, considering. Then:

KIT

But you don't. Why not?

VANESSA

What I think doesn't matter.

KIT

It does to me.

(off Vanessa's skepticism)

I was attacked last night. And yes, I know some people disagree with my dad's policies, but no one's done that before. I mean why not just vote him out instead of committing a crime to make their point --

VANESSA

Maybe they thought that was the only way they could make their point. You have no idea what people outside of your bubble go through.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT

I know I'm privileged but I'm not ignorant --

VANESSA

Oh so you do know what it's like to -- I don't know -- have your birth parents deported.

It hangs there for a beat. Kit takes in her hurt...

KIT

I had no idea...

VANESSA

But, y'know, they committed the crime of trying to give their kid a better life, so totally justified sending them away from me forever.

KIT

I'm sorry --

VANESSA

It's okay, I was only three, so not like I really remember them anyway.

KIT

No, it's not okay.

Kit's almost as surprised by her response as Vanessa. Vanessa takes in her sincerity, nods. A thawing here.

**EXT. DORM BUILDING - DAY (D3)**

The Agents flank Kit closely as she heads to class. She stops at the sight of a mark from the smoke bomb on the ground.

*FLASH TO: The protest - the disorientation, the fear, then... Sarah being thrown to the ground.*

So many questions swirl in Kit's head... until a hand on her shoulder makes her jump.

CHASE

Ready to crush Political Theory?  
(off Kit, clearly shaken)  
Or... maybe we should play hooky?

Kit nods, grateful. CUT TO:

**EXT. CAMPUS - DAY (D3)**

CLOSE ON: TWO MILKSHAKES, set down before Kit.

CHASE

I know it's not even 10am, but they  
always make me feel better.

Kit smiles, takes one. How did he know the perfect thing?

CHASE (CONT'D)

They take me back to junior year of  
high school.

KIT

Let me guess, lots of dates at the  
diner? You know, two straws...

CHASE

(laughing)

I worked weekends at a Baskin  
Robbins. My scooping arm still  
aches sometimes.

KIT

I spent junior year shadowing the  
Treasury Department. Might've been  
more fun scooping ice cream.

CHASE

Yeah... My mom got sick that year,  
so I was kind of supporting her.

KIT

Is your mom okay?

CHASE

She is now. I'm sorry about yours.  
Seemed like a great woman.

KIT

She was. And she appreciated a good  
milkshake more than anyone.

Kit smiles, but clocks Chase glancing over at Agent Tran,  
standing close by, speaking quietly into his earpiece.

KIT (CONT'D)

You get used to them.

CHASE

Kinda glad they're around though.  
They saved you last night.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT

You were pretty heroic too.

CHASE

I was just acting on instinct. But I am glad you're okay.

KIT

Yeah... Did you hear that Sarah had a gun? Did you see it?

CHASE

No... But it was dark and I was kind of busy being heroic, so...

He smiles. She looks at him, his face so honest and open...

KIT

I just... feel like an idiot. I thought Georgetown would be a chance to finally make my own choices. And so of course, my first choice was to make friends with someone who wanted to kill me.

CHASE

Well, Mavericks aren't known for playing it safe.

KIT

You know why that's my code name? I was like the most obedient kid. At the inauguration, Sebastian tried to sneak me candy but I told him I could only have dessert after dinner. Even interrupted my dad talking to the Chief Justice to tattle. He thought it was hilarious. That's me. Always the joke of the family.

CHASE

Well you're not a joke to me.

Kit looks up to meet his kind eyes, her stomach doing a flip.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Hey. What are you doing tonight?

Kit's heart races - is he asking her out?

CHASE (CONT'D)

Wanna join my Econ study group? Okay, so far it's just me, but --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT  
I'd love that.

Their eyes meet. It's a moment - there's real chemistry here. But it's broken by some ROWDY FRAT BROS running past with a frisbee. Kit clocks their Delta Rho shirts and remembers --

KIT (CONT'D)  
Shoot, I actually promised Lucas  
I'd go to this party --

CHASE  
Ok. And Lucas is your... boyfriend?

KIT  
No, um, just an old family friend.

But she turns away, blushing. Looks closer at one of the Frat Bros... As she realizes she's seen him before --

*FLASH TO: Sarah's Instagram. He's the boy in her photos...*

And it hits her: this could be a chance for answers on Sarah. She stares at the boy, wheels turning --

KIT (CONT'D)  
I need to make an appearance, but...  
how about we meet after?

That works for Chase. Off his smile, we TIME CUT TO:

**INT. KIT'S DORM ROOM/DORM HALLWAY - NIGHT (N3)**

Kit, makeup on point, Econ textbook in hand, opens her door to find Agents Tran and Olson standing sentinel. She brushes past them toward the open room across the hall.

KIT  
Just going to study Econ. With...

She clocks a "Brittany & Leah <3" sign on the open door --

KIT (CONT'D)  
...Brittany. Lots to do, so we  
don't want to be disturbed, got it?

She sweeps into the room, closes the door behind her --

**INT. BRITTANY'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT (N3)**

-- Much to the shock of the GIRL sitting on the bed inside.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GIRL

Oh. Okay, yeah, I'd love to study with you! But I'm not taking Econ...

Kit strides past her to the window. Sets her book and cell phone down. Begins jimmying the screen open.

KIT

Yeah, sorry... I gotta go. Only about two minutes before the Secret Service is outside your window too.

GIRL

(disappointed)  
Oh. Yeah, sure.

KIT

(re: book and phone)  
Can I leave these here for now?  
Don't want to be tracked.

GIRL

Totally! And I can stay in here tonight if that helps?

KIT

It does. Thanks, Brittany.

As Kit jumps down, the girl quietly calls after her--

GIRL

It's Leah, actually!

But Kit's already gone... Leah smiles! That was so exciting!

**INT. FRAT HOUSE - NIGHT (N3)**

It's a rager. Sorority girls dance. Stoners pass around a joint. Lacrosse bros clink their beers and chug.

Kit takes in the debauchery and smiles in spite of her mission - this is what she wanted from college. Before she can search for the boy from Sarah's Instagram --

LUCAS

You came! I have to introduce you to my friends! Apologies in advance. They can be... a lot.

He gestures to a group of PREPPY KIDS in the corner, all staring at Kit, star-struck. Kit eyes them warily.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

LUCAS (CONT'D)

And they all really want you to  
join Students for Justice, but  
don't feel pressured...

KIT

Okay... but first can you introduce  
me to your frat brothers? Because I  
really want to meet... oh, him!

She's spotted Sarah's friend on the other side of the room.  
Lucas follows her gaze, suddenly jealous.

LUCAS

Who, AJ? Why?

But Kit clocks AJ slipping out the front door. Shit. She  
pushes through the crowd after him, leaving Lucas behind.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Wait, Kit!  
(nope, she's gone)  
Okay. We'll catch up later.

**EXT. CAMPUS - VARIOUS - NIGHT (N3)**

Kit rushes after AJ, about to call out, when he stops in  
front of a CHALK DRAWING on a wall. It's a small flower [See  
the image on the cover page], but he uses his hand to SMEAR  
it into a shapeless blob.

*Huh.* That's weird. She slows, follows him at a distance,  
wondering what he's up to. CUT TO:

A BENCH with another flower on it. AJ smears this one too.  
PULL OUT to see Kit watching. CUT TO:

A TREE with the same symbol. He does it again and moves off.  
*Huh.* They're clearly leading him somewhere...

Finally he rounds a building and Kit loses him. Shit.

**EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT (N3)**

Kit reaches the back of the building, finding herself in a  
dark alley. AJ's gone. What the hell?

But there... on the side of the dumpster -- another smear of  
chalk. A few feet above it is a UTILITY LADDER on the  
building, leading up to the roof. He must have climbed up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Okay, this is crazy. She should definitely go back... But curiosity wins out. She hoists herself onto the dumpster...

**EXT. LADDER/CAMPUS BUILDING ROOF - NIGHT (N3)**

Kit reaches the top, peers over the roofline at FOUR STUDENTS sitting on folding lawn chairs, drinking beers - some kind of secret hangout spot. AJ's there, showing the rest a MAGAZINE.

AJ

They had international students,  
activist groups, an LGBT club...

FINN (sophomore, lanky, always seems slightly high) takes it -

FINN

What the hell is hacky sack?

CARA (sophomore, South Asian, knows more of the cruelties of this world than she lets on) speaks up.

CARA

There's more pre-Doctrine stuff out there if you know where to look. I've gotten onto a few restricted websites, international ones even. You wouldn't believe what Canada thinks about us.

Kit's shocked by what she's hearing. This kind of talk is dangerous. AJ turns to the fourth kid, whose back is to Kit.

AJ

So, new girl, how'd you know to follow the cherry blossoms?

The new girl shifts forward to answer.

VANESSA

A friend showed me how to get pirated radio broadcasts and --

It's Vanessa! In her shock, Kit's grip SLIPS and she FALLS. BAM! Flat on her back on the landing a few feet below. Fuck.

As she gets her breath back, she looks up to see four faces peering down at her. Just as shocked as she is. TIME CUT TO:

**EXT. CAMPUS BUILDING ROOF - MOMENTS LATER (N3)**

Kit stands before the kids. Closes Finn hiding the magazine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AJ

(to Cara, sotto)

I did erase them. She must have followed me.

VANESSA

You shouldn't be here, Kit.

KIT

Neither should you. And I'm guessing you shouldn't have this.

Kit grabs the magazine from Finn -- it's a GEORGETOWN COURSE CATALOG from the 90s. Kit flips through it, wide-eyed. This is illicit, illegal... The others watch. Busted. But Kit hands it back to Finn. Huh. Not what they were expecting.

FINN

You're not gonna turn us in?

VANESSA

Her Secret Service might...

KIT

They won't. I ditched them.

Also not what they were expecting. Kit looks to Vanessa --

KIT (CONT'D)

Look, maybe you were right. I don't know what it's like outside my bubble. So tell me. Help me understand.

VANESSA

(to the others)

I think she really means it.

CARA

(to AJ)

You do always say you just want our voice to be heard. Now's our chance.

AJ

But it's Katherine Price.

KIT

You don't know me. I'm not the proper, perfect little patriot White House press bulletins want you to believe. I'm just... me.

Vanessa takes her in, believes her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VANESSA

I vote she stays.

AJ

You don't get a vote, freshman.

CARA

I'm with Vanessa.

Vanessa smiles at her, surprised and grateful for the alliance. AJ turns to Finn, who shrugs, and turns to Kit --

FINN

I'm Finn. That's Cara. And the Get Off My Lawn guy over there is AJ.

Kit settles into a folding chair, looks up at AJ.

KIT

I know. I actually followed you to ask you about Sarah Curtis.

The tension on the roof goes up. AJ won't meet Kit's eyes...

KIT (CONT'D)

So you do know her.

AJ

We went to high school together.

KIT

Do you know why she protested?

AJ

No idea... It was dumb. She was bound to get caught.

KIT

Do you know if she owned a gun?

AJ

No way. How would she even get one?

Kit takes this in. She *wants* to believe it...

KIT

But Patriot News --

CARA

Probably lied. Like they always do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VANESSA

You know they lied about them  
chanting "Death to America."

KIT

That could have been a mistake.

CARA

Which they haven't retracted? More  
likely it was deliberate.

KIT

Why would they lie about that?

AJ

To keep people scared. So they give  
up more freedoms to be kept "safe."

KIT

I know my father has asked people  
to sacrifice a lot. But it has kept  
us safe. There hasn't been a  
terrorist attack in 10 years.

CARA

But at what cost?  
(re: course catalog)  
Look how much we've lost. Now  
everyone has to follow your  
father's version of morality --

KIT

America's version. He's reflecting  
what his constituents believe.

FINN

Exactly. Galvanize enough supporters  
so he can enact all his laws.

AJ

Plus, you know, it's a hell of a lot  
easier to arrest people who don't  
agree with you if you criminalize  
everything they believe in.

CARA

And if you're different in any way --

VANESSA

-- You're always afraid.

Cara looks at her, surprised. They share a knowing glance.  
But Kit's spinning. Debating like this... it's all so new.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT

Okay... but most Americans agree with my dad. They're about to re-elect him --

AJ

Yeah and we already know that no matter what, he'll get 90% of the vote. Again.

KIT

Because his approval rating is sky high.

VANESSA

Which you heard on Patriot News...

Well. Fuck. Kit slumps back in her chair, musing.

AJ

Truth's a bitch, huh?

He smiles, grabs another beer, holds it out to her. Kit considers... then takes it, as we TIME CUT TO:

**INT. CHASE'S DORM HALLWAY/CHASE'S ROOM - NIGHT (N3)**

Kit KNOCKS on Chase's door, exhilarated and a little buzzed. He answers, surprised to see her.

CHASE

Kit?

KIT

I'm sooo sorry I forgot about our study date. Or, not date. Whatever.

She looks at him expectantly - is he gonna let her in? He opens the door and she moves to sit on the bed.

CHASE

It's okay --

KIT (CONT'D)

Ooh, you have a single.

KIT (CONT'D)

Anyway, I just... got caught up in something. College is crazy. But also kind of amazing. Even though nothing has been like I expected.

Chase sits next to her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHASE

Yeah... it's definitely been surprising for me too.

He smiles at her, with real affection. She smiles back. She leans a little closer... After a charged beat, he pulls back.

CHASE (CONT'D)

It's late. Maybe I should walk you home...

KIT

(disappointed)  
Right. Okay.

CHASE

And... maybe we can have that study date tomorrow?

Kit perks back up, hope returning.

**INT. DORM HALLWAY - NIGHT (N3)**

Chase escorts Kit, who doesn't even bother to act guilty as she spots an angry Olson putting her hand to her earpiece.

OLSON

I have eyes on Maverick.

KIT

Oh, don't be mad. I'm fine.

Olson pulls Chase aside to question him. Kit gives him one last smile before turning back to see FOUR MORE AGENTS stationed near her room. Shit... Kit passes them, enters --

**INT. KIT AND VANESSA'S DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS (N3)**

REVEAL: HER FATHER, sitting on her bed.

CHARLES

We need to talk.

He pats the bed. Off Kit, in deep shit...

**END ACT TWO**

ACT THREE**INT. KIT AND VANESSA'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT (N3)**

Kit sits next to her father, chastened. But he's calm --

CHARLES

So... do you have any excuse?

KIT

There was a party. It was stupid.  
I'm sorry. But you didn't need to --

CHARLES

I did need to come. My daughter,  
who was attacked last night, went  
missing.

KIT

I wasn't missing.

CHARLES

After last night, I wanted to pull  
you out of Georgetown. But Adriana  
and Sebastian convinced me you were  
smart enough to be here on your own.

KIT

Adriana said that?

CHARLES

But after this, I think it's clear  
you need to come home.

KIT

What? No. I'm fine! I know the news  
said Sarah had a gun, but I --

CHARLES

"Sarah"? You know this girl?

KIT

Yes... At least I thought I did.

CHARLES

Kit, she had a gun. I've been  
briefed. I know it's hard to  
believe someone would want to hurt  
you, but when you're a Price, there  
are very few people you can trust.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

CHARLES (CONT'D)

I know you always want to believe the best in people...

(spotting her necklace)

You get it from your mom. But now isn't the time. We can try next semester, when things calm down.

KIT

Dad, I've spent my whole life doing what other people want me to. Please. This is my chance to figure out who I am. Don't take it away.

CHARLES

I don't want to take anything away from you, I'm just worried. One of the protestors got away. They could still be here on campus.

KIT

But... why wasn't that on the news?

CHARLES

We can't let people think anyone can get away with that. But you're still in danger. So. I think you should start packing.

And she should. Kit from three days ago probably would have. But now... she's just not ready to give up her freedom --

KIT

You were willing to let me stay when you thought I'd keep my detail close, right? So what if I promised never to ditch them again.

CHARLES

You're going to have to do better than that, Kit.

Off Kit, an idea forming. CUT TO:

**INT. STUDENT CENTER - PRIVATE LOUNGE - DAY (D4)**

ON a STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE BANNER. Below it, Kit and Lucas prep PROPAGANDA POSTERS amidst the preppy kids from the party. They're in a special SWANKY LOUNGE all their own.

LUCAS

He came to campus? How'd you get out of it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT

Well, for one, I'm here. Two...

She gestures to her Secret Service. While Tran has his back to Kit, looking for threats, Olson stares RIGHT. AT. KIT.

LUCAS

(shuddering)

It's like she's looking through me.

Kit and Lucas share a laugh, as Kit checks out the poster she's prepping, promoting American Values. Then clocks the other kids stealing glances at her. She should be comfortable here, but it's starting to feel like a cage.

KIT

You really come to this every week?

LUCAS

I know, they can be pretty intense. But they mean well. Plus they have the best snacks on campus.

Kit laughs. Just then, Leah (the girl whose window Kit jumped out of), approaches with Kit's Econ book and cell phone.

LEAH

Hey, Dormie! Here's your stuff! And guess what? I'm taking Econ now too. We can be real study buddies!

KIT

Cool... Thanks again, Brittany.

Leah's smile freezes - should she correct her?

LEAH

You're so welcome.

As Leah moves off, Lucas takes a breath, turns to Kit --

LUCAS

Wow, you're really making a lot of friends here. Brittany... AJ.

Kit smiles, amused by his clearly jealous prodding.

KIT

Oh, AJ's not really... Sorry for running off last night. I'll make it up to you at the next party.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS

Sure. Or... I was thinking, there's that campaign dinner at the White House tomorrow night. My uncle's representing Homeland Strength and Security and asked me to come. Maybe we could go... together?

Kit's thrilled, but --

KIT

Honestly that's kinda the last place I want to be right now.  
(off his disappointment)  
But... maybe we could hang out here... together?

LUCAS

Yeah, okay, awesome. I'll think of the least White House-y places we can go. No porticos in sight.

Kit grins, but then looks to her next poster -- it's SARAH'S MUG SHOT, warning against defiance. Off Kit, face falling.

**INT. DINING HALL - DAY (D4)**

Kit sits alone in a booth, staring at her computer. At dozens of news stories about Sarah's arrest and the protest. Nothing else about her. Kit clicks on Sarah's Instagram, but gets an error - that page doesn't exist. WTF? And then --

CHASE

Econ study group, take two?  
(then, sensing her mood)  
Or not. You okay?

Kit nods, yeah, fine... But shit, she can't pretend with him.

KIT

Actually, I'm not.

She turns her computer to show him. He takes it in, confused.

KIT (CONT'D)

It's Sarah. It's like she never existed, except as a traitor. Everything else has been deleted.

She follows his gaze as he glances over at Agents Tran and Olson, watching. Always watching. Kit gets quieter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT (CONT'D)

I have one group telling me Sarah was one thing, and my family and the SFJ saying she was another...

CHASE

People can be more than one thing.

KIT

(in her own head)

She was so excited to be here, like me, like all of us. And now... If I could just find out if she really had a gun or not... If I could know that what was happening to her was justified...

CHASE

I don't think there's any way to know. Maybe it's best you move on.

But Kit's now looking past him, at a CCTV CAMERA in the distance, wheels turning. TIME CUT TO:

**INT. FRAT HOUSE - AJ'S ROOM - DAY (D4)**

Kit stands before Cara, Vanessa, AJ, and Finn. Finn glances out the window at Olson standing just outside the frat house.

KIT

If someone's getting the story wrong, we can fix it. We can go to Campus Security, get the footage from the protest, and get it to the authorities.

Kit looks at them expectantly, but they're all dubious.

VANESSA

We shouldn't dig into this. They clearly lied about it for a reason.

CARA

Or... maybe that's all the more reason to dig. Get that footage...

FINN

No, it's too risky.

CARA

I mean get it ourselves. I can hack in --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VANESSA

You can't put yourself in danger like that.

AJ

But it could help. No one's heard from Sarah since the arrest. She's not in the jail. What if they sent her to a re-education camp?

Kit clocks the others go cold at the prospect.

KIT

They're not as bad as you think. I toured one once with my dad --

AJ

Yeah, and I'm sure the one they showed you is the real thing. Look, I know of a kid. 11 years old. His neighbor saw him try on girl's clothes, reported it. Kid got taken from his parents, sent to a re-education camp in Georgia. His family hasn't seen him in two years. It's like he never existed.

KIT

That's a horrible story. And I've heard some of those stories too, but you have to understand people make things up. You have no way of knowing if that's really true.

AJ

Actually I do know.

KIT

How?

AJ

Because it was *Ben*. Sarah's little brother. That's why she was protesting.

This lands on Kit, hard.

KIT

What? I had no idea...

Cara's moved too. She pulls out her laptop, boots it up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VANESSA

What are you doing?

CARA

Helping Sarah. But it's gonna take time. And possibly the commission of a couple minor felonies. So if anyone wants out... now's the time.

A beat as they all look to Kit. But she's not going anywhere.

KIT

Let's do this.

TIME CUT TO:

**INT. FRAT HOUSE - AJ'S ROOM - LATER - NIGHT (N4)**

CLOSE ON: A half-eaten pizza. PULL OUT to see the kids in various states of anxiety, Cara still plugging away. She's been at it for hours. Vanessa sits close by.

KIT

So. How much longer do you think --

CARA

It's not like it's simple, I have to mask my IP with a VPN, brute force attack the server encryption, then the firewall...

VANESSA

So a while then...

CARA

Almost there, actually. Just wanted to explain it so you'd all realize how hard it was. The archive should be right...

(she stops, alarmed)

Whoa.

AJ

What is it?

On the computer is the world's most impressive surveillance system. Dozens of live views of D.C. As each person enters frame, a label with their name pops up.

KIT

That's not Georgetown.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CARA

The Georgetown cameras are linked into the D.C. system, feeding it info. But I've never seen anything this advanced.

Cara clicks on one person's label and it expands to show a huge profile of stats and data on the person.

AJ

It's tracking where they've been?

Cara scrolls through the profile, revealing more data, freaking out a little --

CARA

Who they've met, what they bought, their phone history...

She clicks on another person on screen. A new box pops up.

CARA (CONT'D)

(holy shit)

This one has a DNA profile.

VANESSA

Shut it down. It's too dangerous.

Vanessa moves to shut the laptop off, but Cara places her hand on top of Vanessa's, gives her a meaningful look.

CARA

I'll be okay. I'm already in. Let's make it worth something. Here, I think this is the archive.

While Cara works, Kit sees the worry in Vanessa's eyes. Closes the connection between them.

CARA (CONT'D)

Okay. I got it.

They lean in. ON THE SCREEN: Kit and Vanessa. The protestors. Police. Chase jumping the guy with the smoke bomb.

KIT

And there's the one who got away.

The footage shows one masked protestor fleeing in the chaos.

VANESSA

Could be anyone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And finally there's Sarah, getting thrown to the ground. It's brutal to watch. But one thing is clear...

KIT

There's no gun in her hand...

They watch a cop cuff Sarah, do a full pat-down. Nothing.

CARA

Or on her body.

It lands for them all -- Sarah didn't have a gun.

VANESSA

Okay, we got it, can you please  
shut it down now?

Cara nods, saves the footage to a FLASH DRIVE, and shuts it all down. Kit feels gut-punched.

KIT

They're wrong. The news, my father.  
I have to fix this. To help Sarah.

As her voice carries us to --

**INT. POLICE VAN - NIGHT (N4)**

CLOSE ON: A pair of shaking HANDS in CUFFS.

KIT (O.S.)

Wherever she is...

PAN UP to find Sarah alone and terrified, being loaded into the back of a police van. She looks awful - bruises on her face and neck, hair matted.

KIT (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Wherever they've taken her... She  
deserves real justice.

Sarah flinches as a GUARD roughly pulls a HOOD down over her head, plunging us into DARKNESS, as we --

**END ACT THREE**



ACT FOUR**INT. KIT AND VANESSA'S DORM ROOM - DAY (D5)**

It's morning, but Kit's been awake all night. Sitting at her desk, staring at the footage of the protest on her computer (still on Cara's flash drive), as Vanessa prepares for class.

VANESSA

You can't show this to your dad.

KIT

But it proves Sarah wasn't even trying to hurt me, let alone kill me --

VANESSA

You can't, Kit. That wasn't just Georgetown's surveillance. And if the hacking's traced back to Cara... I'm the one who vouched for you on the roof. You wouldn't even know her if it weren't for me. And I couldn't live with myself if she was caught. So find another way.

Okay. Kit studies Vanessa.

KIT

You like her, don't you?

VANESSA

Cara? Of course. She's my friend.

KIT

That's not exactly what I meant.

Vanessa looks away, feeling caught, vulnerable.

VANESSA

I mean... would it be bad if I did?

KIT

According to everything I've ever been taught... kind of, yeah.

(off Vanessa's look)

But... honestly, right now, I don't know what's right or wrong anymore.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VANESSA

Well, when you decide whether I'm morally reprehensible or not --

KIT

That's not what I'm saying. I just... You don't have to worry about me, okay?

She gives Vanessa an encouraging smile she doesn't return.

VANESSA

Because of your father I have to worry all the time.

And Vanessa heads out, leaving Kit alone, feeling like shit.

She glances back at the footage, winces as Sarah's dragged out of frame. But this time she lets the video keep playing, to the part she hasn't watched.

She sees Chase, as he expertly subdues his protestor. But then she sees something else - Chase puts his hand to his ear and says something.

Wait. *What?* She plays it again. Because she's seen that move before. Like, every day of her life. When her Secret Service agents talk into their earpieces...

No. Fucking. Way. Off Kit, rage building...

**INT. DORM HALLWAY/CHASE'S DORM ROOM - DAY (D5)**

Kit BANGS on Chase's door. Agents Tran and Olson standing down the hall, watching, apprehensive.

Chase opens the door in a towel (of course), just out of the shower. As Kit pushes past him without waiting.

CHASE

Uh, hey, come on in...

Kit rushes to his desk, begins rooting around.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Kit. What's happening here?

And there it is. On his shelf. A tiny, clear EARPIECE. She holds it up, radiating righteous fury. Chase reacts - fuck.

CHASE (CONT'D)

I can explain --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT

I should have figured it out so long ago. You just happened to be in all of my classes? You were right there to save me during the protest? And then there you were in the footage, talking into this.

She shoves the earpiece in his hand. He stares at it a beat.

CHASE

Look, it wasn't my idea. They wanted someone undercover, just as backup. Someone who could get closer than Tran and Olson.

(then)

Let me get dressed, we can talk --

KIT

Was anything you said true? Did they give you a dossier on me to study? Did you know milkshakes would remind me of my mom? Just a manipulation to get me to like you?

CHASE

No, I would never do that. I really did scoop ice cream --

KIT

Great. Everything else about you is a lie. You know what's most embarrassing? I actually thought you liked me. But you were getting paid to be close to me.

CHASE

No, that's not true. Look, Kit --

KIT

The deal I made with my dad was that agents would stay ten feet behind me on campus. You can too.

She turns and heads out, hiding that her anger has given way to tears now. Off Chase - remorseful, but he locks eyes with Tran as he heads off with Kit. *Shit.*

**EXT. CAMPUS - DAY (D5)**

Kit storms across campus, talking on the phone, pissed. (Tran and Olson stay a little further back, chastened.)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT

Did you know about this?

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING OFFICE - INTERCUT (D5)**

Sebastian sits behind a nicely-appointed desk in an elegant office. Framed photos show him with Administration VIPs.

SEBASTIAN

No... and I'm sorry. But Dad's just trying to keep you safe.

KIT

But he didn't do this to you when you were a student here, did he?

SEBASTIAN

In his defense, there wasn't an assassination attempt my first week.

KIT

Sebastian. I'm telling you. There wasn't a gun. I have proof!

Sebastian glances at his own Secret Service detail standing just outside his office doorway. His voice goes quiet, firm --

SEBASTIAN

Listen, Kit... whatever you think you have, please, just forget it.

KIT

You don't understand. Sarah wasn't trying to hurt me. We can't just leave her in a cell. I'll come to the dinner tonight and show you --

SEBASTIAN

Don't. Stay at school. And please, drop this. For your own good. I'm sorry, Kit. I have to go.

And we're with Kit as the line goes dead. WTF. TIME CUT TO:

**INT. KIT AND VANESSA'S DORM ROOM - DAY (D5)**

Kit, her mind swirling, sits on her bed, absentmindedly fiddling with her mother's necklace. Trying to decipher that conversation with Sebastian.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She moves to her laptop to watch the footage again... but wait, what the fuck?

The flash drive is gone.

She frantically searches her desk, the floor... It's gone. Someone was in here and took it. Off Kit, holy shit, PRELAP:

VANESSA (O.S.)  
I didn't take it.

**INT. FRAT HOUSE - AJ'S ROOM - DAY (D5)**

Kit's with Vanessa, AJ, Cara, and Finn. It's grave.

KIT  
Someone did. Which means they know what we found.

AJ  
And maybe how we got it.

All eyes go to Cara, who starts packing up her laptop.

CARA  
We're done. This is over.

VANESSA  
(guilty)  
You're right. It's gone too far.  
And it's my fault you're involved.

AJ  
No. All of this is my fault.

Finn gives him a hard look - don't. But AJ shakes him off.

AJ (CONT'D)  
What difference does it make? She's in it with us now.  
(to Kit)  
The protest was my idea.

KIT  
Oh my god. Were you were the protestor who got away?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AJ

(nods)

When we heard you were enrolling here, I convinced Sarah and the others that this was our chance to show your father we wouldn't stay quiet. That we had a voice. No one was supposed to get hurt.

He looks right at Kit, eyes pleading.

AJ (CONT'D)

But then Sarah happened to meet you. Tried to get to know you to see if we should even...

(then)

She thought you were different from your family. And she was right. But I didn't listen. I wish I did. I just... I didn't know you then.

Kit's takes in his genuine remorse. She sits beside him.

KIT

I didn't know you either. But I'm glad I do now.

(to the others)

And I'm not ready to give up on Sarah.

VANESSA

But what can we do? We have no proof.

CARA

And we have no power.

Kit takes in their defeated looks. Suddenly stands, a new determination on her face.

KIT

But I do.

She turns and heads out. Off the others, wondering what the hell Kit is going to do, we --

**END ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE****INT. WHITE HOUSE - ENTRANCE HALL - NIGHT (N5)**

The hall buzzes with beautiful people in white tie formal wear. America's elite has gathered for the campaign dinner.

Heads turn as Kit, all dolled up and in a gorgeous blue gown, descends the red-carpeted stairs. As she reaches the bottom, she's met by Lucas, handsome in his tux. Kit takes his arm.

LUCAS

I don't know what made you change your mind, but I'm glad you did because you look... wow.

KIT

Oh, you know, I just figured it'd be bearable with the right company.  
(off his grin)  
And I'm excited to see your uncle.  
It's been years.

But Lucas is suddenly distracted. Kit follows his gaze to see Chase in a black suit with other Secret Service agents.

LUCAS

Wait, isn't that guy a freshman?

KIT

No. He's just a liar.

Lucas is confused, as Kit turns and leads him into the main event, determination on her face. TIME CUT TO:

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST ROOM - NIGHT (N5)**

The cocktail hour is in full swing. Kit and Lucas mingle as waiters maneuver through the crowd with hors d'oeuvres (note they're wearing ankle monitors; this is prison labor).

Kit spots Sebastian coming her way in conversation with the female Patriot News anchor we've seen. Kit pivots to avoid him... and instead runs right into Adriana.

ADRIANA

Kit! Sebastian said you weren't coming.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT  
Sebastian was wrong...

Suddenly Sebastian is by her side, worried.

SEBASTIAN  
Wrong about what?

KIT  
About me coming tonight. I just  
wanted to be here to support Dad on  
his big night. That's it. I swear.

She gives Sebastian a meaningful look - she's not here to  
blow anything up. He gives a small nod. Kit turns to Adriana.

KIT (CONT'D)  
Thank you, by the way, for standing  
up for me. With Dad.

ADRIANA  
I always want to stand up for you,  
Kit, but you make it so hard. You  
had to go have your little adventure  
and make me look like a fool.  
(beat)  
But I'm glad you're okay. Be good  
tonight.

Kit watches her head off into the crowd with Sebastian.  
Yeah... being good isn't exactly on the agenda tonight. Kit  
spots Lucas with his uncle ASHER WELLS (50s), Deputy Director  
of the DHSS. She takes a breath, heads over to them.

LUCAS  
Uncle Asher, you remember --

WELLS  
Katherine! You've grown into a  
lovely woman since I last saw you.

He takes her hand, and kisses it. Kit smiles pleasantly.

KIT  
Thank you.  
(to Lucas, pointed)  
Would you mind getting us drinks?

Ummm, okay. Lucas heads off. As Kit turns back to Wells.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

KIT (CONT'D)

Director Wells, I was hoping to correct the record on something. That protest at Georgetown --

WELLS

Tonight's not a night for work. I'm here to support your father --

KIT

Of course. It's just... Sarah Curtis did not have a gun. Someone got it wrong, and if you could just tell me where she is --

WELLS

(sizing her up)

Don't worry, the DHSS is handling it. We'll ensure the right punishment is invoked.

That's ominous. But before Kit can press further, "Hail to the Chief" begins playing. Wells turns to see President Price making his grand entrance, shaking hands with his admirers.

Kit notices Wells' GOVERNMENT KEYCARD hanging from his jacket. Nervous, she surreptitiously swipes it. She's about to slip away when her father makes his way to them.

PRESIDENT PRICE

You look lovely. So much like your mother in that dress.

Kit has nowhere to put the card, so she keeps her hand at her side as she awkwardly hugs him. He leans in close --

PRESIDENT PRICE (CONT'D)

I heard you found out about Agent Evans. I hope you'll forgive your worried old dad.

But he doesn't give her a chance to respond. He's off to greet other guests. Kit watches, wondering if he's the caring man she knows, or the man her new friends think he is...

But she's on a mission. All eyes on her dad, she quietly slips away. But Chase sees her go. As does Lucas --

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - ENTRANCE HALL - NIGHT (N5)**

Kit's marching across the hall, then hears --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS (O.S.)

Kit!

She spins around. *Shit.*

LUCAS (CONT'D)

You're not leaving me in there with all the boring old bureaucrats, are you? Because I cannot take another lecture on budget supplementals from Director Hill...

KIT

No, I'm sorry, I just... need to get something from my room.

LUCAS

Okay. Sure.

(beat)

Look, If I've read this situation between us wrong --

KIT

No. It's not that --

LUCAS

-- But it kind of *feels* like that. You've barely talked to me tonight. It's fine if you're not interested. But I just need to be honest --

Kit shakes her head, panicking a little. This is incredibly sweet, but... really not the time.

KIT

Lucas --

LUCAS

I really like you, Kit. I have ever since that first White House Easter Egg Roll. I was so nervous to shake your dad's hand. But there you were, making silly faces to get me to laugh. I knew then that you were amazing and funny and... completely unattainable. Because you're Kit Price. So I dated other girls...

KIT

To be fair, you were unattainable because you were always with those other girls.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCAS

I'm not with anyone right now... I actually broke up with Ava because I thought we might finally have a chance.

And despite everything, she melts a little. But suddenly, over Lucas' shoulder, Kit spots Chase approaching fast. Shit. She does not want to deal with him right now.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

And maybe that's crazy, but --

She leans in and cuts him off with a kiss, pulling on his lapels. Lucas is shocked, but kisses back. And *shit*... He's a damn good kisser.

Chase stops at the sight, then turns away - not a good time. And wait... is that jealousy on his face? (Hell yeah it is.)

As Kit and Lucas break apart, still close together, staring into each others eyes. Lucas smiles.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Okay. Good answer.

KIT

I still need ten minutes. Go back and wait for me. I'm sure Director Hill has some thoughts on Federal Reserve funding he'd like to share.

Lucas nods, in a daze. Kit rushes off, smiling, but turns serious as she remembers where she's rushing off to...

**EXT. WASHINGTON D.C. STREET - NIGHT (N5)**

Cara walks fast, hoodie on and head down, on the Arlington Memorial Bridge. She stops, waits as a car passes.

Then quickly pulls her LAPTOP out of her bag, holds it over the edge, and DROPS IT, watching it *fall... fall... fall...*

It hits the water with a SPLASH so far below. Cara turns and heads in the other direction. As she does, she clocks, among the other graffiti, a spray-painted cherry blossom on the low concrete wall. Resistance is alive...

Cara pulls her hoodie tighter over her face, walks faster...

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - WEST WING - NIGHT (N5)**

Kit walks briskly down the hallway. She's been down it a million times, but never like this. She reaches Wells' office, glances both ways, then scans his ID and slips into --

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - WELLS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (N5)**

She heads to the desk and turns on Wells' computer, trying not to let her hands shake as the DHSS logo appears. PRELAP:

PRESIDENT PRICE (O.S.)  
America has never been safer.

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST ROOM - SAME TIME (N5)**

President Price gazes out over his rapt crowd. Projecting strength, confidence. A man in his element.

PRESIDENT PRICE  
I intend to keep it that way.  
Today, I am announcing a new  
National Security initiative: The  
Good American Program.

The crowd titters, excited.

PRESIDENT PRICE (CONT'D)  
All public surveillance cameras will  
now have facial recognition. And a  
cutting-edge A.I. app will be  
uploaded to every citizen's phone,  
monitoring threats and allowing  
individuals to report wrongdoing.  
Those who wish to do harm to America  
will be rooted out. Those who are  
most patriotic will be rewarded.

IN THE CROWD, Lucas looks to his uncle, intrigued.

PRESIDENT PRICE (CONT'D)  
We've been testing the program at  
select locations, and will be  
expanding to others soon, including  
Georgetown University.  
(then, casually charming)  
Bit of a personal interest there.

The audience chuckles. Wells leans in to whisper conspiratorially to Lucas --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WELLS

Been an upswing in defiance, even here in the White House. But this will snuff it out.

LUCAS

Wow. Okay. I'll keep an eye out.

Lucas glances at the door. Where is Kit?

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - WELLS' OFFICE - NIGHT (N5)**

Kit searches the computer, but isn't finding what she needs. And it's taking too long. She glances at the door, anxious.

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST ROOM - NIGHT (N5)**

The speech continues--

PRESIDENT PRICE

As I'm sure you're aware, defiant agitators recently targeted my daughter. One had a gun. But with this new software, an attack like this will never happen again.

(applause)

Of course, I'm happy to report that Katherine is fine. In fact, she's here with us tonight.

More clapping as the audience looks for her. A barely perceptible cloud crosses his face as he realizes she's not there, making him look bad. But he continues--

PRESIDENT PRICE (CONT'D)

This new technology has already allowed us to track down others undermining our national security.

Off him, MATCH TO:

**INT. FRAT HOUSE - AJ'S ROOM - NIGHT (N5)**

The speech plays live on Patriot News as Vanessa, AJ, and Finn watch, feeling uneasy. There's a loud banging at the door. Before anyone can answer, suddenly two COPS barge in.

AJ

What the hell?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

COP  
Anthony Joseph Rossi?

AJ looks to the others, then back at the cop. Nods.

COP (CONT'D)  
Under the Price Cybersecurity Act,  
we have a warrant for your arrest.

FINN  
What? How --

COP  
A computer that hacked into a  
government server was traced to the  
IP address of this room.

VANESSA  
Wait!

But AJ's pulled out into --

**INT. FRAT HOUSE - HALLWAY - SAME TIME (N5)**

And cuffed. AJ is roughly led away by the cops, as we see Cara suddenly turn a corner. She freezes at the sight, realizing AJ's being arrested for what she did.

She opens her mouth to object, but AJ meets her eyes, shakes his head - *Don't say anything*. Cara... only watches as he's pulled past her.

Vanessa and Finn join her in the hall, all watching helplessly as AJ disappears around the corner...

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - WELLS' OFFICE - NIGHT (N5)**

Kit clicks on something and a database pops up: Known Enemies of the State. This is it. Finally. She swallows and types in Sarah's name. Hits *enter*. After a tense moment...

Sarah's file pops up. Heart racing, Kit scans it quickly... until she stops abruptly --

The words, written in red, are clear: "Status: Deceased."

Holy shit, Sarah's dead. But how can this be? Sarah was JUST taken into custody. Off Kit, her heart in her throat, we...

**END ACT FIVE**

**ACT SIX****INT. WHITE HOUSE - WELLS' OFFICE - NIGHT (N5)**

Kit, still reeling, quickly takes photos of Sarah's file with her phone. She needs to get the hell out of there.

She pauses on a record from a couple days ago. "Approved for Purification." Kit stares at the word, mind racing, and we FLASHBACK TO:

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - STATELY BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)**

The same moment from the opening - Kit at her mother's bedside, as her father enters. Carol pulls Kit in close, whispers in her ear. Only this time, we hear it --

CAROL  
*I'm being purified.*

Off of Kit's confusion, CUT BACK TO:

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - WELLS' OFFICE - PRESENT - NIGHT (N5)**

Kit's shaken. Does this mean her mom was murdered like Sarah? But that can't be. She stares at the screen, processing, then hears a RUSTLING outside. Someone's coming!

She shuts down the computer, quickly slips out into --

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT (N5)**

-- and runs directly into Chase. She's caught! And he's pissed. Without a word, Chase grabs her arm firmly, starts leading her down the hallway.

KIT  
Look, Chase, please... it's not  
what you think.

But he doesn't stop.

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - ANOTHER HALLWAY - NIGHT (N5)**

They continue down another, more sparse, dimly lit hallway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIT  
(pleading)  
Patriot News lied, or someone did,  
and now Sarah... she's dead. I was  
trying to help her.

CHASE  
Be quiet.

He leads her on, but Kit's desperate now, and emotional.

KIT  
And... and... My mom, she told me  
that she was *purified* and I thought  
she meant like, by God, or --

Chase hisses at her.

CHASE  
Shut up.

He suddenly pulls her into--

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - SIDE ROOM - CONTINUOUS (N5)**

Slams and locks the door behind them. He rounds on her,  
intense, and she takes a step back -- what is he gonna do?

CHASE  
Now you can talk. This room's  
clean.

KIT  
You're not going to turn me in?

CHASE  
Why would I do that, when I've gone  
to so much trouble to protect you?

KIT  
(realizing)  
You stole the flash drive.

CHASE  
So you wouldn't risk everything for  
a girl who was already dead. Yes.

Kit is stunned... completely speechless.

CHASE (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry you found out about your  
mother the way you did.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

CHASE (CONT'D)

I wanted it to be different. I had a whole plan but... you are a hard one to predict.

KIT

What are you talking about?

CHASE

Do you trust me?

And she shouldn't. She shouldn't trust anybody right now. But she surprises even herself a little by saying:

KIT

Yes.

Chase moves closer, slowly reaches around her neck... what the hell? And then he... unclasps her necklace.

KIT (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

CHASE

I promised her I'd protect you.

This hits Kit right in the heart.

KIT

My mother...? You knew her?

CHASE

We crossed paths. Had similar interests. She asked me to get you this when it was safe. When no one was watching. And when I had earned your trust...

KIT

Her necklace?

He shakes his head, pries the opal off its setting, revealing a tiny electronic SD CARD underneath. Kit watches in astonishment as he inserts it into his phone. He holds it up, as a video begins playing...

And suddenly, Kit's staring into her mother's eyes. Kit gasps... As Carol speaks directly into the camera in urgent, hushed tones, looking ill, as in the opening.

CAROL (ON VIDEO)

*I don't have much time. They're always watching... But Kit, if you're seeing this message...*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAROL (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)  
*it means that Chase got it to you.  
 You can trust him. I do.*

Kit looks to Chase, then back at the video, tears forming in her eyes, overwhelmed with grief and emotion at seeing her mother one last time.

CAROL (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)  
*I... don't have an infection. It's  
 poison. If anyone learns you know,  
 you'll be in grave danger too. But  
 I need you to know the truth.*

Kit watches, stunned and confused. As her mother's words continue in V.O., we CUT TO:

**EXT. CAMPUS/INT. POLICE VAN - NIGHT (N5)**

CLOSE ON: Another pair of shaking HANDS in CUFFS.

CAROL (V.O.)  
*Sweetie... this world is so much  
 more dangerous than you know.*

PULL OUT to find AJ, just like Sarah before, terror in his eyes as he's loaded into a van. He looks out at the campus one last time -- eyes landing on a PROPAGANDA POSTER of smiling Americans and the slogan "Land of the Free."

It's the last thing he sees before the doors close.

**INT. FRAT HOUSE - AJ'S ROOM - NIGHT (N5)**

CAROL (V.O.)  
*You've always had such an open  
 heart. But not everyone is on our  
 side.*

A distraught Cara has her head in her hands. Vanessa puts a comforting hand on her shoulder, as Finn paces, angry.

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST ROOM - NIGHT (N5)**

As we float over the crowd--

CAROL (V.O.)  
*I don't know if you can trust your  
 brother.*

LAND ON: Sebastian, smiling beside that Patriot News anchor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAROL (V.O.)  
*Or your sister.*

ANGLE ON: Adriana, looking regal. Basking in the power of the admiring looks of the crowd around her.

CAROL (V.O.)  
*But one thing I do know: you can't  
trust your father. He's not what he  
seems...*

ANGLE ON: President Price, still addressing the crowd (MOS).

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - STATELY BEDROOM - NIGHT (N5)**

Back on Kit, tears streaming as she takes this in. Is her father the one who did this?

CAROL (ON VIDEO)  
*I'd always dreamed of watching you  
grow old... Now you'll have to get  
through this without me. I'm so  
sorry. It's going to be hard. But  
never forget this: you have more  
strength and courage and goodness  
inside of you than you even know.*

On the video, she looks off screen, growing alarmed. Someone's coming.

CAROL (ON VIDEO) (CONT'D)  
*I have to go.  
(then, smiling sadly)  
You're the one thing that I'm most  
proud of in my life. I love you,  
Kit Kat.*

The screen goes blank.

And the world stands still. Kit's face is a storm of emotions - everything she's ever known has been turned upside down in a single moment. Someone's calling to her, but her ears are ringing... until finally her head clears enough to hear --

CHASE  
Kit... Kit! We should get back to  
campus.

KIT  
(still reeling)  
Right. Okay. I have to tell AJ and  
Vanessa and --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHASE

You can't. You need to stay safe --

Kit looks at him, eyes steely.

KIT

No, I need to find a way to fight this. I can't let him do this to anyone else.

As we hear in PRELAP --

PRESIDENT PRICE (O.S.)

There are always new enemies to be defeated. Not everyone is with us.

**INT. WHITE HOUSE - EAST ROOM - NIGHT (N5)**

The President is still at the podium.

PRESIDENT PRICE

Not everyone believes in what we stand for. But in time I will ensure that all Americans are Good Americans. You can trust in me; in this great quest I will not be defied.

The crowd ERUPTS IN CHEERS! As we see that Kit has slipped back into the party, made her way up to the front. She meets her father's eyes. He smiles down at her. She forces one back, but behind her façade, there's anger and betrayal...

And something else. Off Kit, defiant, we --

**END THE PILOT**