

THE DIPLOMAT

Episode 103

"Lambs in the Dark"

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NETFLIX

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"Lambs in the Dark"

FADE IN:

301 **EXT. WINFIELD HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - DAY**

301

Direct pickup from Ep. 102. TWO MARINES open the door of MARINE ONE and PRESIDENT RAYBURN climbs out. KATE stares at him, shocked. HAL just told her she's being considered for Vice President. Rayburn strides toward her, grasps her hand.

RAYBURN
Ambassador Wyler. More time with me
than you ever wanted.

She nods. Didn't catch a word he said. He throws an arm on Hal as they walk.

RAYBURN (CONT'D)
And you. Like a bad fucking penny.

HAL
Welcome to Blighty, sir, you look
good.

RAYBURN
That's cause nobody lets me eat a
goddamn carbohydrate.

HAL
It's working.

RAYBURN
I'd rather be dead.

Kate's frozen. Watching them go.

STUART
Ma'am?

Kate follows. Then the rest of the entourage falls into step behind her (including BILLIE). Hal looks back at Kate. She figures he'll smile -- it was a joke. But he doesn't. He looks terribly serious.

302 **INT. WINFIELD - ENTRANCE HALL/DRAWING ROOM - DAY**

302*

The group files into Winfield, Rayburn looking for a member of his advance team.

(CONTINUED)

RAYBURN

Sharon? Where's the necessary?

Rayburn turns and discovers FRANCES standing slightly nearer than he expected.

FRANCES

May I show you the way, Mr. President?

RAYBURN

Sure.

He follows her out.

Kate, Hal, and Billie land together.

BILLIE

Are we your first guests?

Kate looks at her, blank.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

We're a real nightmare.

Nothing. Billie looks to Hal - *She okay?*

HAL

I just told her.

BILLIE

(beat)
Now?

HAL

Seemed like time.

BILLIE

Did it?

HAL

May have been a miscalculation.

Stuart joins them.

STUART

Welcome to Winfield!

BILLIE

You have a lot of time to think about it. You're on a short list, but that doesn't mean you're gonna be forced into anything.

(CONTINUED)

302 CONTINUED: (2)

302

HAL

(to Stu)
I told her.

BILLIE

Just now.

STUART

Really?

KATE

(moving on)
Cancel the press avail. He can have
lunch, no photos, and then...

She can't find the word, she's gesturing for "departure."

BILLIE

Does she need to lie down?

KATE

"Hellfire on Tehran" got Nicol
Trowbridge the bump of a lifetime.

(beat)

If he's standing next to the
President in front of a news camera,
he's gonna say it again.

RAYBURN

That's a nice powder room.

The President's entered.

BILLIE

The Ambassador wants to cancel the
press avail. She's concerned it'll
look like an endorsement.

KATE

Of a military strike on Tehran.

RAYBURN

I'm not sending him MiGs. His Navy
got hit, I show up and stand next to
the guy.

KATE

Sir, you're going to be pinned like
a butterfly while the PM's quoting
Leviticus.

(CONTINUED)

302 CONTINUED: (3)

302

STUART

Maybe we don't take questions. The visual's enough.

KATE

The visual is also not okay.

(beat)

The British government still thinks it's Iran.

STUART

Evidence to the contrary is having no impact.

RAYBURN

Why would it? We've got pictures of an Iranian boat, leaving a port in Iran. And what, on the other side. Some guy?

KATE

It's a compelling guy. And they're not saying we're still gathering facts, they're saying it's Iran. *It's not Iran.*

RAYBURN

Says you.

KATE

Yes.

RAYBURN

Because of the compelling guy.

KATE

Yes.

RAYBURN

I'm not sure you get out enough.

(to Billie)

Let's go.

HAL

Sir, it was me. I'm the guy.

Rayburn was leaving. He stops.

HAL (CONT'D)

They kidnapped me.

(CONTINUED)

302 CONTINUED: (4)

302

STUART

So, first of all, it was a pull-aside.

HAL

They kidnapped me so they could put me on the phone with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran.

RAYBURN

Fucking hell.

HAL

He risked his neck, and his wife's, and his kids', of which there are five. They didn't do it.

RAYBURN

Let me shake your damn hand.

HAL

It was fine. He's a friend.

RAYBURN

Not Iran. That's a fucking relief.

KATE

It hasn't moved the Brits.

RAYBURN

Tell 'em it was Hal Wyler.

STUART

She did. She told the Foreign Secretary.

BILLIE

She told Dennison?

STUART

Didn't move the needle.

KATE

We should be looking at Russia, and China, and Israel, and unexploded marine ordnance. Trowbridge won't get off Iran.

RAYBURN

(to Billie)

We should have cancelled the trip.

(CONTINUED)

302 CONTINUED: (5)

302

HAL

Kate asked the Secretary of State to cancel. He wouldn't do it.

(beat)

He knew it was me.

RAYBURN

I swear to god, that man can hold a grudge.

HAL

He thinks I'm the only reason there's no peace in the Middle East.

KATE

It's not about that.

HAL

I find it flattering.

KATE

The Secretary made a reasonable decision in the moment. State and CIA can't give unprocessed intelligence to a President at an inflection point. That's gone very badly for them in the past.

(beat)

There are forty cameras here, and the Prime Minister's off the rails. You can't stand next to the guy.

Rayburn looks to Billie, who reluctantly nods. She agrees with Kate.

FRANCES

Ambassador Wyler. The Prime Minister is here.

303 **EXT. WINFIELD - DRIVEWAY - DAY**

303

The Prime Minister's motorcade rolls up the long drive and stops in front of the house. The large welcome posse includes the President, Billie, Kate, Hal, Stuart, Frances, ALYSSE, RONNIE, PENSY.

Prime Minister TROWBRIDGE steps out of one car, Foreign Secretary DENNISON out of another. Their entourage of about twenty includes staff, dignitaries and security.

(CONTINUED)

303 CONTINUED:

303

RAYBURN

I don't know why we don't do this more often.

TROWBRIDGE

If I'd known we could have you in and dispense with you an hour later we'd have done it all the time.

That was accompanied by a warm hand-grasp.

KATE

(to Dennison)

If I could have a quick word...

DENNISON

Of course.

KATE

(quiet to Hal)

Will you...

Hal nods and catches up to the President and PM.

HAL

Gentlemen!

304 **OMITTED**

304 *

305 **INT. WINFIELD - STATE DINING ROOM - DAY**

305 *

Kate shows Dennison the elaborately set table.

KATE

Four courses. Light, but still... it's a lot. The press availability might be gilding the lily.

DENNISON

The press event is the lily.

KATE

The President's uncomfortable with the optics.

DENNISON

The Prime Minister's uncomfortable with the forty-one dead, perhaps we call it square.

(CONTINUED)

305 CONTINUED:

305

KATE

He's had two days to shade that comment.

DENNISON

Shading is not what brought Mr. Trowbridge to No. 10.

KATE

Anything. "I didn't mean hellfire on Tehran, I meant hellfire on whoever, and we don't know who whoever is, but we're trying to figure it out."

DENNISON

You're right. It has a ring.

KATE

They can take candid photos of the lunch.

DENNISON

Then it would look like a delegation of twelve, come to scold the Prime Minister.

KATE

How about a couch? After lunch. Conferring in the sitting room.

DENNISON

No.

KATE

They'd look like equals.

DENNISON

He has a short torso, he looks like a troll on a couch -- if they were to dine just the two of them...

KATE

Then it really looks like a scolding. It looks like everyone else was kicked out so my guy could whack him on the nose with a newspaper.

306 INT. WINFIELD - BLUE DRAWING ROOM - DAY

306

Trowbridge is growing impatient. And hungry. The doors to the State Dining Room are still closed.

(CONTINUED)

306 CONTINUED:

306

TROWBRIDGE

I think we should tuck in, you must
be starving.

RAYBURN

They're still horse trading.

TROWBRIDGE

(hand on belly)
I'm producing sound.

HAL

I had a sandwich before every state
dinner or I'd land at the table like
a rabid animal.

TROWBRIDGE

That's not a terrible idea.

HAL

Frances?

FRANCES is behind him.

307 **OMITTED**

307*

308 **INT. WINFIELD - STATE DINING ROOM - DAY**

308*

DENNISON

If it's just the two of them.

KATE

Yes.

DENNISON

If. And if the President is
convinced it was not Iran --

KATE

That's not an *if*. He's convinced.

DENNISON

I'd like to reach the end of my
thought.

KATE

Sorry.

(CONTINUED)

308 CONTINUED:

308

DENNISON

If the President is convinced it's not Iran, a lunch for two would provide him with an opportunity to persuade the Prime Minister.

KATE

Exactly.

DENNISON

Persuade him we're all served by a cooling.

KATE

Yes. Like I asked you to do yesterday.

DENNISON

I am not the President of the United States.

KATE

On that we agree.

DENNISON

He is persuasive in a way that I cannot be.

KATE

Especially if you don't try. This is good. I think it's good. Yes?

Dennison's silent. He finds her incredibly irritating. She takes that as a yes.

309 **INT. WINFIELD - BLUE DRAWING ROOM - DAY**

309

Kate finds Billie and Stuart.

KATE

What would you think if it was just the two of them?

BILLIE

And me.

KATE

Or just the two of them.

BILLIE

William Rayburn. Off script. No staff.

(CONTINUED)

309 CONTINUED:

309

KATE

I realize --

BILLIE

Shooting the shit with Nicol fucking Trickle.

KATE

The alternative is --

BILLIE

It's a terrible idea.

KATE

I've been floated for VP, there are a lot of bad ideas on the table today.

Beat.

STUART

Okay, so we're taking a breath.

BILLIE

You know what?

STUART

Maybe listening to the evolution of the thought.

KATE

It's an opportunity for Rayburn to explain to Trowbridge, slowly, why a human source on a well-established back-channel is more compelling than a fuzzy drone shot of an Iranian fast boat.

BILLIE

I understand the thinking. I just don't agree with it.

KATE

It was the least bad idea. So I said yes.

Billie is not at all pleased with this woman.

310 **OMITTED**

310*

311 **INT. WINFIELD - STATE DINING ROOM - DAY** 311*

A swarm of staff resets the table at dizzying speed, removing eighteen 16-piece place settings and chairs to create an event that looks intentionally designed for two.

312 **OMITTED** 312

313 **INT. WINFIELD - RED DRAWING ROOM - DAY** 313

Hal, Rayburn, and Trowbridge are comfortably settled with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. These three get along like a house on fire.

HAL

He loved idiom, he loved the poetry of it. So I taught him one phrase a day.

Kate enters.

HAL (CONT'D)

I'm telling them about Pasha.

(back to story)

The mission finally wraps, I'm leaving Zagreb, I say, "Pasha, we've been like brothers, now we'll barely see each other, just a glimpse now and then, like ships in the night." And he shakes his head, he's got tears in his eyes, he says --

(accented)

"Ships in the night, my brother. Ships in the night."

TROWBRIDGE

Beautiful.

HAL

Next day we're at the palace, he takes my hand and says to the President, "Hal Wyler is leaving us. He was my brother, now we are only lambs in the dark."

It takes a second.

RAYBURN

Sheeps.

HAL

In the night.

(CONTINUED)

313 CONTINUED:

313

Then they all get it. Laughing.

TROWBRIDGE
Lambs in the dark.

RAYBURN
I wish it wasn't true.

TROWBRIDGE
I wish it wasn't. On our best day,
disoriented livestock.

RAYBURN
It's right on the fucking nose.

Hal realizes:

HAL
Katherine.

She's been waiting.

TROWBRIDGE
Oh dear. Does he call you that when
you've deployed your schoolmarm
glower?

314 **INT. WINFIELD - BLUE DRAWING ROOM - DAY**

314

Kate and Hal walk Rayburn and Trowbridge as Frances and the staff invisibly herd them toward the State Dining Room.

RAYBURN
He's a motherfucker. Pardon me. He
is a motherfucker.

TROWBRIDGE
I'm beginning to get that
impression.

RAYBURN
He was a neo-con in '03, now he's an
isolationist. You don't like his
fundamental values, wait five
minutes.

DENNISON
Prime Minister --

TROWBRIDGE
Here we go, this is a message of
import.

(CONTINUED)

314 CONTINUED:

314

He leans in to Dennison, who quietly updates him.

Billie mutters last minute instructions to Rayburn.

BILLIE

He has to drop the Iran thing. He
can't even say the word again.

RAYBURN

Yeah.

BILLIE

They didn't do it.

RAYBURN

Yeah.

BILLIE

Don't yeah me, people are throwing
rocks at the Iranian Embassy.

RAYBURN

If we were at home they could sidle
up with an AR-15. You're right, it's
the perfect time for American
sanctimony.

BILLIE

I don't know why I bother.

TROWBRIDGE

I think I abandoned half a drink in
the salon.

FRANCES

Perhaps a fresh one, sir.

TROWBRIDGE

No no. For the good of the planet,
waste not.

FRANCES

Of course.

She nods to a STAFFER to fetch Trowbridge's drink.

TROWBRIDGE

Toss it out and I'll have radical
hausfrauen torching my home.

The President and the Prime Minister enter the State Dining
Room. The political staff falls back.

(CONTINUED)

314 CONTINUED: (2)

314

The waitstaff folds into the dining room, ceremoniously closing the doors behind them.

There is a moment of stillness. Against many odds, they managed to get the two principals into the room. Dennison gives Kate a curt nod.

Ronnie enters. To Stuart:

RONNIE
I'm so sorry, the Foreign
Secretary's Deputy is asking if he
can join her outside for a moment.

Dennison heard that. He exits. Ronnie stands for a moment, enjoying the august assembly. Then, off a glare from Stuart, Ronnie exits.

Now it's just Kate, Billie, Stuart, and Hal. Billie still can't believe she's not in the dining room.

BILLIE
You know the last time he was in a
room, alone, with anyone?

STUART
I don't.

BILLIE
I don't either. The Secretary of
Defense is gonna lose his shit.
(to her STAFFER)
Find Leiber.

The Staffer hurries out.

STUART
He'll be fine, they all will.

Silence.

HAL
If you wanted to talk to the
Ambassador about the vice
presidency... This isn't a terrible
time.

Billie makes a stab at containing her irritation. Where to begin?

(CONTINUED)

BILLIE

About a month ago, Grace Penn learned that her husband misplaced a 6.3 million dollar NIH grant. We tried to keep a lid on it. But some relentless ferret at the Wall Street Journal is putting it together and when he does, she's done.

(then)

The list of people who can replace her is... very short. It features four identical-on-paper female legislators who would kill for the job and will use it to launch their own presidential campaigns -- something that makes the President extremely ornery.

(then)

You're not cut out for campaigning, certainly, but governing is something you've managed to pull off under live artillery fire, which is not unlike a chat with the US Congress. It's entirely possible you'd be a reasonable lieutenant to help a lame-duck second-term legacy-build overseas. Which is the only way possible, given the polarized death-match that is today's Washington.

Silence. Kate has said very little recently, we may have noticed. Still gobsmacked. Billie's speech didn't help.

HAL

That was the worst marriage proposal I've ever heard.

Ronnie hurries in again. To Stuart:

RONNIE

Ms. Park's looking for you, can you step out?

STUART

I'd love to.

Stuart exits with Ronnie.

RONNIE

Going well?

(CONTINUED)

314 CONTINUED: (4)

314

STUART
It really isn't.

315 **INT. WINFIELD - STAIR HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS**

315

Eidra's waiting for Stuart in the hall.

EIDRA
Any idea why some CIA base in ass-
fuck Northern Iraq is making NSA
requests about cell calls in London?

*

STUART
I don't.

EIDRA
Did she ask you for an NSA search?

STUART
No. The Ambassador?

EIDRA
Yeah.

STUART
No.

EIDRA
Nothing about SIGINT? Or GCHQ?

STUART
Can you just talk about what you're
talking about?

EIDRA
A request was filed by Carole
Langetti, a CIA analyst in Iraq who
worked with Kate Wyler in Baghdad.
She put in an order for a signals
intelligence collection from GCHQ.

STUART
That's not normal?

EIDRA
No.
(beat)
Why was the ambassador fourteen
inches up my ass about vetting a tip
that came in through her husband?

(CONTINUED)

315 CONTINUED:

315

STUART

She just got here. She wants to be careful.

EIDRA

I thought she ambushed the Foreign Secretary yesterday. Is that careful?

STUART

It wasn't my favorite.

EIDRA

She's careful with my work. But not her own.

STUART

We do the same thing. All the time. We know people in other countries, we ask them for favors.

Off Eidra, completely unconvinced.

316 **EXT. WINFIELD - SERVICE ENTRANCE - DAY**

316

Stuart finds Kate outside, in a secluded spot back by the kitchen entrance. KITCHEN STAFF politely ignore her. She's seated on something like a MILK CRATE. She's got an INDUSTRIAL SIZE TUB OF PISTACHIOS beside her. She's eating, and tossing the shells into a nearby LARGE TRASH BIN.

STUART

Hi.

Shell toss.

STUART (CONT'D)

Quite a day, huh.

Silence. Aside from the shell toss.

STUART (CONT'D)

Eidra needs to speak to you, if...

KATE

Which one is that?

STUART

CIA. When you're done.

Kate nods. Beat.

(CONTINUED)

316 CONTINUED:

316

KATE

You knew.

STUART

About the VP?

(beat)

Yeah.

KATE

That she was leaving or that I was
on the shortlist to replace her?

STUART

(beat)

Both.

KATE

(beat)

Anyone else around here know more
about my life than I do?

STUART

I don't think so. Handful in
Washington. Five. Actual... hand.

KATE

(beat)

And you.

He nods. Looks at her for a moment, hoping she doesn't take
this as some kind of betrayal.

She definitely does. She exits.

317 **EXT. WINFIELD - GARDENS/GROUNDS - DAY**

317

Kate and Eidra.

EIDRA

It's been a busy few days since you
touched down.

(beat)

My introductory briefing on the
intelligence relationship between
the US and the UK hasn't made it
onto the schedule.

KATE

I'm sure we'll get there.

EIDRA

The relationship is unique. We share
almost everything. More than with
any other country.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

317 CONTINUED:

317

EIDRA (CONT'D)

We don't spy on them, they don't spy on us. MI6 and CIA share intelligence, we run ops together. NSA and GCHQ share hardware. Our collection cables run under the Atlantic to Cornwall, our signals intelligence from Europe, Russia, Asia, funnels through the United Kingdom -- physically. It's their machines, they see all of it.

KATE

Wow.

EIDRA

There's a traffic control system for information the NSA swaps with GCHQ, it's called Sorting Hat. Like from Harry Potter.

KATE

Cute.

EIDRA

When you request intelligence from your friend in Northern Iraq, and your friend orders a collection from GCHQ about a target in London, MI6 gets an alert. From the Sorting Hat.

Ah. Now Kate sees where this is going.

EIDRA (CONT'D)

And then MI6 is confused, because when CIA London makes a request of GCHQ, we tell them. So now MI6 wants to know why I'm keeping things from them. Which is tough to answer. Because of course there are, between ourselves, a number of things I'm keeping from them. And managing them isn't easy. It's even less easy when I don't know what they are.

Eidra's respectful, but not at all pleased. And Kate is genuinely contrite.

KATE

I'm sorry.

EIDRA

You should have come to me.

(CONTINUED)

317 CONTINUED: (2)

317

KATE

I did. You acted like I was the nosy neighbor.

EIDRA

If you don't trust me enough to tell me why you're involving yourself in the details of my investigation --

KATE

I trust you.

EIDRA

I'm sure you don't. We've both done this a long time, it takes a while to build the kind of --

KATE

I don't trust my spouse.

Beat.

KATE (CONT'D)

It's worse, right?

Much. Beat.

EIDRA

Want to give me some context?

KATE

I really don't.

Silence.

KATE (CONT'D)

Hal contacted Shahin first.

(beat)

Not the other way around.

(beat)

He started it.

Eidra's face tells us that's really bad.

KATE (CONT'D)

So maybe Shahin is the last good man. But maybe he was inspired to launch a disinformation campaign by the appearance of a useful idiot wagging his tail on the doorstep.

318 INT. WINFIELD - BLUE DRAWING ROOM - DAY

318

Alysse enters with Stuart.

ALYSSE
Is this a good time?

STUART
For what.

ALYSSE
You said you'd introduce me.

Alysse nods toward Billie.

STUART
Loiter. I'll see if I can make it
work.

Alysse hangs back as Stuart joins Billie and Hal who are
talking.

BILLIE
He hates all the ideas, he liked
Grace Penn. He doesn't want to fall
in love with somebody else.

A WAITER exits the Dining Room and crosses to Frances -- on
watch nearby. Says something quietly. Frances nods. The
Waiter exits toward the kitchen.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
What was that?

FRANCES
Salt.
(beat)
The President would like more of it.

BILLIE
(re: the Waiter)
If he hears anything... substantive.

Silence.

BILLIE (CONT'D)
I'm just saying sometimes the
President mutters something like,
"Find out what bric-a-brac means."
Because country to country... it can
mean very different things.

Beat. She turns to Stuart and Hal.

(CONTINUED)

318 CONTINUED:

318

BILLIE (CONT'D)
I'm wasting my breath.

STUART
You are.

HAL
(pivoting back to)
The Vice Presidency.

STUART
(to Billie)
I think you really sold it.

BILLIE
It's supposed to sell itself.

HAL
How about you try again. With
enthusiasm.

BILLIE
(re: the dining room)
After this debacle I think we put a
pin in it.

HAL
You said you wanted a doer.

BILLIE
I changed my mind.

PENSY
Sir?

Pensy just arrived. She waves Hal over.

PENSY (CONT'D)
The Ambassador was hoping you could
join her and Ms. Park.
(quietly)
In the library.

Hal and Pensy exit.

One of Billie's Staffers enters and hands her a note. It's
very bad. To Stuart:

BILLIE
Iran just moved an infantry
battalion from the Pakistan border
to the coast.

(CONTINUED)

318 CONTINUED: (2)

318

Alysse "casually wanders by." Catches Stuart's eye, hopeful.
Stuart shakes his head "absolutely not."

STUART

Not a good time.

319 **INT. WINFIELD - LIBRARY - DAY**

319

Eidra and Hal. Kate at a short distance. "Just observing."

HAL

It was one call to a contact in Italy. A nation that does have diplomatic relations with Iran. I asked the contact to let Shahin know I was in London. He could have gotten the same information from a newspaper.

EIDRA

But he didn't.

KATE

You offered yourself up, and then lied about it.

(re: Eidra)

She can't corroborate this with anyone else, she has one source. This has legs because of your reputation, and once you've established yourself as a liar, liar, pants on fire --

HAL

Okay.

KATE

-- You undermine a game-changing piece of intelligence.

HAL

I'm the first guy who ever made clandestine contact without reporting his sources and methods?

KATE

You aren't a member of the clandestine services. You don't work for the US Government.

(CONTINUED)

319 CONTINUED:

319

EIDRA

If all this falls on friendly ears,
it's fine, but--

KATE

But if someone wants to fuck with
you, like, I don't know, the
Secretary of State, because he hates
the fucking sight of you. In that
case it's a 951 violation and they
can put you away for ten years.

HAL

Even Ganon doesn't want to put me
away for ten years.

KATE

Yeah but I do.

EIDRA

(to Kate)
So you should go.

Beat.

KATE

I'll stop.

EIDRA

I think we're good without you.

HAL

(to Eidra)
She's having a rough day, let her
stay.

EIDRA

(snapping)
Okay, this is all new to me, this
both-of-you-at-the-same-time, I
could use less of it.

Kate nods. But doesn't leave. After a beat, Eidra gives in.
She turns back to Hal.

EIDRA (CONT'D)

The Ambassador is correct. You
making contact with Shahin first
changes the entire analysis. Your
story is the best tool we have to de-
escalate a situation that is quickly
spinning out of control. It would be
great if it held water.

(CONTINUED)

319 CONTINUED: (2)

319

HAL
Here to help.

She places a pad of paper and a pen in front of Hal.

EIDRA
I'd like you to write down every
word of your conversation with the
Deputy Minister and with his
interlocutor.

HAL
He was an assassin. The
interlocutor.

EIDRA
On the paper.

HAL
You don't want to talk it through,
record it on your phone?

EIDRA
I don't.

Hal reluctantly takes the pen and begins.

Eidra crosses to Kate. They watch him for a moment..

EIDRA (CONT'D)
You tried to tell me. Yesterday. A
bunch of times.

KATE
Yeah.

Eidra feels terrible.

EIDRA
I'm really sorry.

Another beat. There's a look between them that tells Kate...
Eidra kind of gets it now. In the world of better late than
never, it's reassuring. Kate exits.

320 **INT. WINFIELD - STAIR HALL - DAY**

320

Kate passes Frances.

FRANCES
Ma'am, coffee has been served to the
gentlemen.

(CONTINUED)

320 CONTINUED: 320

Kate nods, continues into --

321 **OMITTED** 321

322 **INT. WINFIELD - RED DRAWING ROOM - CONTINUOUS** 322

Billie's meeting with Dennison when Kate passes through.

KATE
They're wrapping up.

DENNISON
(to Billie)
I'll have the Defense Secretary give
you a call.

BILLIE
Thank you.

Dennison peels off to talk to his AIDE, and Billie continues
with Kate toward the Dining Room.

KATE
They're on coffee. Won't be long.

BILLIE
Tea. Right?

KATE
They serve coffee, it's not great,
but if you ask...

BILLIE
Did he?

KATE
Who.

BILLIE
Did the President ask for coffee?

KATE
I don't know, Mrs. Dursley said she
served coffee.

BILLIE
Motherfucker. ANDREW!!!

KATE
What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

322 CONTINUED:

322

BILLIE
(to Kate)
He can't have real coffee, it puts
his heart in A-fib, and he fucking
sneaks it.

ANDREW, head of the President's Secret Service Detail,
SPRINTS IN. Billie tells him --

BILLIE (CONT'D)
Coffee.

323 **INT. WINFIELD - STATE DINING ROOM - DAY**

323

Andrew busts in, Billie behind him.

ANDREW
Sir put it down!

Rayburn turns to Trowbridge, smiling.

RAYBURN
See?

TROWBRIDGE
That's extraordinary.

RAYBURN
Isn't it?!

Andrew smells the President's cup.

ANDREW
It's tea.

Billie looks at the President. Not amused.

BILLIE
Unbelievable.

Rayburn and Trowbridge are done with their meal, they rise
and head out.

RAYBURN
My cardiologist is sure I'm gonna
die on his watch. The list of things
I can't ingest...

BILLIE
This one is serious.

(CONTINUED)

323 CONTINUED:

323

RAYBURN

(to Trowbridge)

I ordered a cup of coffee in Madrid,
it came in some 400-year-old
porcelain thing they'd pilfered from
the Chinese in 1882 -- he batted it
out of my hand, it hit the ground
and turned to dust.

TROWBRIDGE

Incredible. I don't get a rise out
of my lot unless I strike a child
with my car.

They leave the Dining Room --

324 **INT. WINFIELD - BLUE DRAWING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

324

Rayburn throws an arm around Billie.

RAYBURN

I only do it cause I love you.

BILLIE

I don't want your love. Tehran sent
an infantry battalion to the coast.

RAYBURN

(re: Trowbridge)

He'll back off Iran as soon as his
guys are out of there. We're gonna
send a carrier group to the Gulf,
give them a ride to Bahrain. The
ship's sinking.

Before she can ask what the hell he means --

TROWBRIDGE

(at the window)

There it is. Do you see?

Trowbridge spotted something outside, and now he's waving the
President over.

RAYBURN

What am I looking at?

TROWBRIDGE

The hags tell the Scottish king,
You shall ne'er be vanquished til
Birnam Wood remove to Dunsinane.
Macbeth.

(CONTINUED)

324 CONTINUED:

324

RAYBURN

The play!

Rayburn follows Trowbridge who strides purposefully through the RED DRAWING ROOM to the TERRACE DOOR and outside.

TROWBRIDGE

Some sneaky Winfield groundskeeper
knew Barbara Hutton loved the
Scottish play, so he lopped a
cutting off the last remaining oak
in Birnam Wood and planted it in
this garden.

They're gone. A beat. Billie turns to Kate and the Staff.

BILLIE

Did he say *sinking*?

325 **EXT. WINFIELD - DAY**

325

Dennison's outside on the phone when Kate barrels toward him.

DENNISON

Let me call you back.

He hangs up.

KATE

It's sinking??

DENNISON

Sorry?

KATE

The President just said he's sending
a carrier group to the Gulf, to
rescue your crew before they drown.

Dennison closes his eyes for a second. For strength.

KATE (CONT'D)

How do you not tell me the ship is
sinking?

DENNISON

Because it isn't.

He looks livid. And trapped. He looks around and spots Rayburn and Trowbridge in the distance, admiring a particularly impressive oak tree.

(CONTINUED)

325 CONTINUED:

325

DENNISON (CONT'D)
Where can we speak privately?

KATE
We can go in the --

DENNISON
Not in the house.

KATE
Walls are pretty thick.

DENNISON
Not. In the house.

KATE
Is it bugged?

DENNISON
Can we choose an outdoor venue?

KATE
I moved in five minutes ago, I
haven't scouted the grounds.

Dennison scans the options.

DENNISON
What's that over there?

KATE
The garden?

DENNISON
Yes.

KATE
It looks like a garden.

DENNISON
We'll meet on the other side of it.

KATE
You go this way, I'll cut through
the house.

They split.

326 INT. WINFIELD - RED DRAWING ROOM - DAY

326

Kate hurries through the house. She passes Alysee and pauses to give her a quick message before continuing on.

(CONTINUED)

326 CONTINUED:

326

We follow Alysee to Billie, who is conferring in hushed urgent tones with the Secretary of Defense and two other imposing American delegates.

SEC DEF

It's a battalion from the 88th armored division in Zahedan. A couple M48 Patton Tanks outfitted with Russian smooth bore guns.

ALYSSE

I'm so sorry to interrupt, ma'am, could I... just for a moment?

They step aside.

ALYSSE (CONT'D)

Ambassador Wyler asked if you could possibly ask the Secretary of Defense for a *keel report*. From the aircraft carrier.

BILLIE

Keel report.

ALYSSE

Yes. Thank you. And it's an honor to meet you.

Billie stares at her for a moment, blank.

BILLIE

What the hell is a keel report?

327 **OMITTED**

327

328 **EXT. WINFIELD - GARDENS/GROUNDS - DAY**

328

Dennison's already there when Kate arrives at the far side of the garden. He's silent for a moment. He can't believe he's doing this.

DENNISON

The carrier is taking on water. This is not unexpected given the yawning gash in its hull. Though shockingly compromised by an unfortunate encounter with a lobster pot, HMS Courageous is designed to take fire, seal off a debilitated compartment, and remain afloat.

(CONTINUED)

328 CONTINUED:

328

KATE

Why does the President think it's sinking?

DENNISON

Presumably someone told him so.

KATE

Because...

DENNISON

What did the President pledge to send, for this rescue mission?

KATE

A carrier group.
(penny drops)
Warships.

DENNISON

Had the Prime Minister asked for an American show of force in the Persian Gulf, the President would have refused. He knows it could launch both of our countries into a catastrophic regional conflict. But a distress call...

KATE

He's luring a strike force into the Persian Gulf.

DENNISON

He is.

KATE

And you're okay with that?

DENNISON

What exactly suggests I am okay with this?

KATE

Tell him to fucking stop it!

DENNISON

What do you think I've been doing -- for the better part of three years??? Telling Nicol Trowbridge to fucking stop it!!

Beat.

(CONTINUED)

328 CONTINUED: (2)

328

KATE
You should sit down.

DENNISON
Thank you, no.

KATE
Seriously.

DENNISON
My colleague is waging war in the
Middle East, I do not wish to sit.

Beat.

DENNISON (CONT'D)
I *begged* you to have Rayburn
intervene.

KATE
You... When?

DENNISON
Today. And yesterday.

KATE
You didn't.

DENNISON
"If the President shares his
perspective, his wisdom with the PM,
perhaps a cooling will --"

KATE
That's what begging looks like to
you?

DENNISON
I didn't drop to my knees...

KATE
For fuck's sake, if the house is on
fire you have to say --

DENNISON
The house is on fire!

Silence.

DENNISON (CONT'D)
You use the word fuck quite a lot
for someone in your line of work.

(CONTINUED)

328 CONTINUED: (3)

328

KATE

This isn't my line of work. I'm supposed to be in the background, barking into telephones.

DENNISON

That's crap. You were the State Department's secret weapon in Baghdad.

KATE

Not in Baghdad. In Kabul, maybe, but they love it when women swear. The liberal Afghans find it inspiring, and the religious ones don't think I'm a woman.

DENNISON

(beat)

Iran's the best thing that's ever happened to Nicol Trowbridge.

KATE

Iran... *didn't* happen to him.

DENNISON

Does it matter? He said to me the other day, "They're not Arab are they, Iran, they're something else." And I confirm, they are in fact Persian, which is not at all the same. And he says, "Sure. Still Muslim though."

KATE

God. Did you tell him?

DENNISON

About your husband's tale? Of course I did.

KATE

If you call it a tale, it kind of undermines the intelligence.

DENNISON

He believes Mr. Wyler provided interesting evidence, but not incontrovertible and nowhere near actionable.

(CONTINUED)

328 CONTINUED: (4)

328

KATE

We have to stop trying to prove a negative. We need to figure out who it was, not who it wasn't.

DENNISON

What an insight. Like a bolt from the heavens.

KATE

You're a piece of work.

DENNISON

Something about your foul mouth makes me feel like you appreciate the unvarnished.

KATE

Are you saying you like me?

DENNISON

I'm saying I would like to trust you. I thought I could manage this and I can't.

They look at each other, really, for the first time.

And for the first time, Kate Wyler looks like she knows why she's in London.

328A INT. WINFIELD - STAIR HALL - DAY

328A

Eidra passes Stuart, shaking her head.

STUART

What.

She stops.

EIDRA

I drank the Kool-Aid. Like a fucking child.

(beat)

The husband.

STUART

Ah. Was it bullshit?

EIDRA

No. It was incomplete. And she tried to warn me.

(CONTINUED)

328A CONTINUED:

328A

STUART

Look, even you...

EIDRA

No, this is not a small mistake. By the way, I asked you to come to Cairo? It's a terrible idea. Being a tandem couple has fucked both of them. But mostly her.

STUART

How?

EIDRA

He lies to her, regularly enough that she expects it, it's fucked her career...

STUART

I think her career's going okay.

EIDRA

She doesn't want to be here. Why is she here? She's front-line material.

He knows why but he can't say that. Eidra takes his silence as concession.

EIDRA (CONT'D)

Yeah. Exactly.

Alysse appears. To Eidra:

ALYSSE

Ma'am? Can you join the Ambassador for a moment?

329 INT. WINFIELD - RED DRAWING ROOM - DAY

329

Billie's in a meeting with the Secretary of Defense and others when Kate enters and whispers to Billie's Staffer. Billie's Staffer whispers to Billie, who, after an irritated sigh, rises.

BILLIE

(to Sec Def)

Find me when the NSA's weighed in. We have to get some sort of agreement from the Saudis not to make this worse than it already is.

She crosses to Kate at the door.

(CONTINUED)

329 CONTINUED:

329

KATE

Was he able to get the report?

BILLIE

The sloop lock report?

KATE

Keel report.

BILLIE

Still working on it.

...It's not her highest priority.

KATE

Can we... for a minute...

Kate steps out of the room and Billie follows.

330 **EXT. WINFIELD - TERRACE - CONTINUOUS**

330

Eidra's waiting on the terrace when Kate and Billie come out.
Kate has news for both of them.

KATE

Rayburn can't send ships to the
Gulf. Trowbridge played him. He lied
to his face. He wants the visual of
American warships buzzing Iran.

(beat)

The aircraft carrier is not sinking.

BILLIE

How the fuck do you know that?

KATE

Well I'd know it for sure if I had a
keel report, but I have it on very
good authority.

BILLIE

Shit.

*

KATE

We're getting flares from the Brits.
They can't shut Trowbridge down. The
President needs to say our ships
can't get there in time to help.

BILLIE

He's not gonna renege on a rescue
mission.

(CONTINUED)

330 CONTINUED:

330

KATE

This is a distress call, coming from
a senior government official.

EIDRA

Named what?

Kate won't say.

BILLIE

Then we can't do anything.

KATE

When we had a dangerous head of
state, we relied on our allies to
respond when we made distress calls.

Billie's unmoved.

KATE (CONT'D)

You know why I didn't want this job?
I spent a decade building a
reputation in a community such that
when I say something, people believe
it. And I have none of that here.

EIDRA

Not none.
(beat; to Billie)
Not none.

Kate looks at Eidra for a minute. That was an unexpected vote
of confidence.

KATE

The Prime Minister's setting the
stage for an attack on American
hardware. And American troops. He
wants this to be our problem as much
as his.

Billie turns to Eidra, quiet:

BILLIE

We need to talk to the source again.
Can we do that?

KATE

Shahin?

EIDRA

If we have to.

(CONTINUED)

BILLIE

You talked to...

Eidra nods.

KATE

You want to go back to Shahin?

BILLIE

If you think the President should renege on his offer, we need more to bring to the Brits.

KATE

You can't. It's too dangerous.

The President and the Prime Minister are walking across the lawn from what presumably is a Birnam Oak, and toward Winfield's orchard. The President spots them and yells --

RAYBURN

THAT'S A BIRNAM OAK. FROM SHAKESPEARE. GO TAKE A LOOK.

BILLIE

WE WILL.

EIDRA

It's Iran's backyard. We want to know who did this, they'll have better intelligence than anyone else.

KATE

Shahin's own regime will go after him, he'll be killed.

EIDRA

If we go to war with Iran, a lot of people will be killed.

KATE

Shahin wants to modernize his country. He's one of the only people in the regime who gets along with the reformists and the military and the mullahs, because his father rode bikes with the Supreme Leader when they were ten. And, inexplicably, he doesn't believe we're the Great Satan.

(CONTINUED)

330 CONTINUED: (3)

330

BILLIE

I understand he's valuable.

KATE

You don't. An Iran Deal can be revoked. Clearly. What we're really doing when we negotiate with them -- with anyone -- is looking for one, maybe two friends we can call when the world is truly fucked. It's a flimsy... web of relationships. But sometimes it holds. Do not tear it. Do not be an infinitely ravenous American. Use what he already gave you.

Silence. Billie turns to one of her Staffers (Danny) who's making a call by the front door.

BILLIE

Danny? Find Stuart Hayford. And can we get the President out of the woods?

Danny hurries off to do so. Billie turns to Eidra.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

Tell Langley we have to go at it another way.

Eidra nods and heads off.

Billie marches toward the house. Without looking back, she says to Kate:

BILLIE (CONT'D)

I need a drink.

331 **INT. WINFIELD - LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER - DAY**

331

Kate pours scotch for Billie and then herself. Hands Billie the glass. Silence.

BILLIE

That was moving.

KATE

What.

BILLIE

The spider web.

(CONTINUED)

331 CONTINUED:

331

KATE

You gotta have a couple of those in your pocket when things get existential.

Beat.

BILLIE

We're waiting for somebody.

Stuart knocks and enters. That's who she was waiting for. He's surprised to see the two of them together. To Billie:

STUART

We doing this?

BILLIE

Maybe.

He does.

BILLIE (CONT'D)

(re: Stuart)

I sent you here to be with him. For a lot of reasons, but... he's checking you out.

KATE

That's... creepy.

STUART

Five US Presidents were formerly ambassadors to this country. It's the right place to learn.

KATE

Oh, well in that case.

STUART

You'd melt on a campaign trail. You'd call your donors corrupt to their faces. But there's no campaign. Imagine if your... frankness... were actually a plus? If your only goal was to keep the President relentlessly on track?

BILLIE

He needs someone to stop him from rambling about wheat tariffs when he needs an arms deal. The VP spends more time in the Oval than anyone who doesn't have a desk

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

331 CONTINUED: (2)

331

BILLIE (CONT'D)

there. First in, last out of every meeting.

KATE

Guys...

BILLIE

You want to know why you're on the list?

KATE

Cause I have a uterus.

BILLIE

That's not... the only reason.

KATE

You spent seven years building a ticket where an elderly guy could hand off the baton to an electable woman and guarantee us the first female president. Now you want someone with no voting record, no baggage, no opinions. Clean me up, put me in a dress, and hope I never speak.

STUART

That's half empty.

BILLIE

(beat)

Yes. I had a plan. And it turned to shit.

(beat)

But as rebounds go... You don't have to survive a campaign. We air drop you in to govern, and who knows. Maybe you catch fire.

STUART

She thinks you'd be good at the job.

BILLIE

I called nine people and said if it looked like the apocalypse was now, who's your first hire? Five said you. What you did in Lebanon. What I'm not supposed to know you did in Baghdad.

(CONTINUED)

331 CONTINUED: (3)

331

KATE

Makes a great poster. "Iraq. It could have been worse."

STUART

No campaign. No posters.

BILLIE

We'd put you in the lead on foreign policy. You get the Middle East. You can deal with the Russia piece without freaking out. You know that cobalt is all we're really gonna talk about for the next 25 years.

STUART

You'd be in it for the country, not the power.

BILLIE

God, if I'd thought of it, I'd have planned it this way.

KATE

Yeah.

BILLIE

Really. It's kind of embarrassing. Never even occurred to me.

STUART

Pick someone good at the job, not the interview?

BILLIE

Yeah.

(beat)

My sister cures cancer. For real. She runs a company that makes drugs that could end liver cancer. When she hires a bio-statistician, she doesn't for a second have to wonder what they're gonna look like when they eat a corn dog. You gotta worry about it with the guys, but women? Fuck me. Are they pretty but not too pretty. Appealing but not hot. Confident but not bitchy. Decisive but not bitchy.

STUART

Cute bitchy, but not bitchy bitchy.

(CONTINUED)

331 CONTINUED: (4)

331

BILLIE

We had to come to an agreement about how many days a week the Vice President would wear a thong. She doesn't like them. The team doesn't like panty lines. Weeks of my life. And then verbal confirmation that she will wear ass-floss, but no more than two days out of seven, and days cannot be banked week to week.

(beat)

Can you imagine hiring someone for a key governing position just because you think they'd be good at it?

Hal enters. It's quiet.

STUART

Don't say anything. She's actually thinking about it.

HAL

(beat)

Are you?

BILLIE

Shhh.

(beat)

Are you?

Kate does a side-to-side thing with her head that indicates total uncertainty, but... not no.

STUART

That's progress.

BILLIE

(beat)

Give it some time. When Hal and I first talked, it sounded ridiculous, but a month later... it seems kind of brilliant.

Kate was almost smiling. And then she heard the words, "a month later."

Billie doesn't clock any of that. Andrew just landed in the doorway.

ANDREW

Ma'am, the President's ready for you.

(CONTINUED)

331 CONTINUED: (5)

331

Billie exits. Silence.

KATE

A month?

HAL

Let me tell you how it --

She puts a hand up and he stops.

Kate hurtles toward the door. Hal follows.

332 **EXT. WINFIELD - DAY - CONTINUOUS**

332

Kate bolts out of the house. There's spinning, buzzing, in her head. Hal jogs to catch up.

HAL

Kate. Katie. Kate stop.

KATE

I'm going for a walk.

HAL

Can I come with you?

KATE

I don't think that's a good idea.

He follows anyway.

HAL

When Billie called me --

KATE

She called you a month ago.

HAL

Yes, and at that point it was talk, that's all, she wanted advice, the Grace Penn thing was just surfacing --

KATE

The Vice President.

HAL

Yeah.

KATE

I think you should call her the Vice President.

(CONTINUED)

332 CONTINUED:

332

HAL

The issue with the Vice President, and her husband, and a six million dollar NIH grant that went missing, had just surfaced.

KATE

So Billie called you.

HAL

As a friend of the court. At that point, she wanted the VP to stay, she was talking through ideas for damage control.

KATE

But the notion that the Vice President might be replaced didn't come up.

HAL

...We tossed around a couple names.

KATE

Including mine? Who else, your mom?

HAL

There aren't a lot of names, Katie. They need a woman, they need someone clean, Abby Shotkin's too old, Stella can't keep her mouth shut, he promised the First Lady he wouldn't pick Rachel Beer, because he fucked Rachel Beer in college, and at some point told his wife she wasn't the best lay of his life, Rachel Beer was, and if he picks Laurie Davis we lose the House.

Kate finally stops. A beat.

KATE

So at that point, someone says...

She can't even say it.

HAL

You.

KATE

Who says me?

(CONTINUED)

332 CONTINUED: (2)

332

HAL

Me, or Billie, I don't remember --
it wasn't a plan, we were
spitballing. And at that point, you
were going to Kabul. You weren't
ready for prime time. It wasn't
realistic.

KATE

Definitely not. But now...

HAL

Well, once the London thing
happened, it was like... okay. What
if she spent six months, in a more
public post? Get your sea legs, get
used to the spotlight.

KATE

So at that point... you call Billie.

HAL

Billie called me.

KATE

Like Shahin did?

HAL

Kate. Billie called me.

KATE

Was there some point at which you
thought I should come into the
conversation?

HAL

What would you have said? I'm
fucking serious. A month ago. On
your way to Kabul. Would I have
gotten to the end of the sentence,
pitching this idea?

KATE

(beat)

Fair. Fair point.

(beat)

But then the London thing happens.

HAL

It didn't matter -- this place was a
shit show, VP or no, it's good
you're here. We figured... you
know...

(CONTINUED)

332 CONTINUED: (3)

332

KATE

What did you figure?

HAL

I was looking for the right time. To tell you. And I didn't find it.

She nods.

KATE

Okay. Now. Two weeks ago...

HAL

I swear to fucking god.

KATE

Two weeks ago you said, "Call Rick."

Beat. He's kind of stuck here. He knows were this is going.

HAL

Yeah.

KATE

And then I...

HAL

You called Rick.

KATE

I did.

HAL

Kathrine. You know the chessboard, you are undaunted by complexity --

KATE

I called our attorney.

HAL

It is a once in a lifetime chance to bring someone into the White House with a preternatural ability to unfuck cluster-fucks.

KATE

I called Rick and said, "Find us a mediator. Because this is gonna be the cleanest, loveliest divorce anybody ever had."

(CONTINUED)

332 CONTINUED: (4)

332

HAL

You have an orchard. The President of the United States is in it. You need to have a conversation with him. You need to hear what he's thinking. You need to, in a chill way, get to know the man, before he leaves, which is in 10 minutes.

KATE

You didn't tell me a lot of things.

HAL

Katie --

KATE

It's okay. You had reasons. But when you said, "Yes, we can be done, we had ten good years, we're done," you were crying. There was snot.

HAL

Kate, it's the Vice Presidency!

KATE

You want me to think about it. Right?

HAL

Yes. I do. Can you?

KATE

Yes.

HAL

Really?

KATE

Yes.

HAL

Katie.

KATE

If you answer one question, truthfully. Really. Truthfully.

HAL

Anything. Okay, really, yes, anything.

KATE

When you said, "Call Rick."

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

332 CONTINUED: (5)

332

KATE (CONT'D)

(beat)

When you said, "We're done." Did you think we were done?

Beat.

HAL

No.

Kate punches Hal in the face.

HAL (CONT'D)

What. The fuck.

She does it again, but this time he swats her fist away, which throws her off balance, sends her wobbling backwards.

She regains her footing and runs, shoulder first, into him. Like football. She had brothers. She's snowplowing him right into a hedge.

HAL (CONT'D)

Ow. OWW. Get the fuck -- NO.

They're in the hedge now, both of them. Sticks scratching faces. Kate attempts to backstroke out. None of this is cool, or powerful, it's ungainly and awkward and horrible.

HAL (CONT'D)

I'm fucking bleeding, what the fuck.

KATE

You are killing me. And I can't get away from you.

As soon as she frees herself from the hedge, she looks around, spots a fallen limb, and picks it up, checking its heft.

333 **EXT. WINFIELD - SAME TIME - DAY**

333

BYRON, head of Kate's security detail, observes the garden cage-match through BINOCULARS. He hands them to MARTIN, another of her guards, who takes a look.

THROUGH THE BINOCULARS, we see Hal scramble to his feet, wary of the tree limb in Kate's hand.

She swings it like a baseball bat. Hal dodges.

(CONTINUED)

333 CONTINUED:

333

MARTIN

Hm. Thoughts?

BYRON

We're not his detail. We're hers.

MARTIN

Yeah. Not going well for him though,
is it.

Byron's PHONE BUZZES. He answers.

BYRON

This is Byron.

BACK TO:

334 **EXT. WINFIELD - GARDENS - SAME TIME - DAY**

334

Kate swings again. Hal ducks.

HAL

STOP IT. FUCK.

He runs at her now, lunging for the tree limb. He gets her
arm, twists it until she drops the limb.

KATE

This marriage is killing me. You are
killing me.

HAL

Yeah I'm trying, it's not working.

Hal grabs her around the waist and swings her off her feet so
her flailing arms and legs can't reach him.

She tries to drop her weight to the ground. *

He doesn't let go. She begins to drag him.

Doesn't get so far. She stops for a beat and then hurls her
weight to the side to shake him off, but it only accomplishes
landing both of them in a pile in the dirt. There's a lot of
dirt.

She mounts him and whacks at his head. He grabs her wrists.

BYRON (O.C.)

Ma'am?

Kate halts.

(CONTINUED)

334 CONTINUED:

334

Byron has arrived. He stands at a respectful distance. Calm. He does not acknowledge the fact that Kate and her husband are a filthy pile on the ground.

BYRON (CONT'D)

The Chief of Staff would like you to speak to the President.

335 **EXT. WINFIELD - TERRACE - DAY**

335

Billie, Stuart, and Ronnie are on the terrace when Kate and Hal approach, Byron behind them. Kate swats ineffectually at the dirt on her clothing. Hal wipes his bloody nose, but it already dripped on his white shirt.

STUART

What the fuck happened?

KATE

I tripped. Where's the President?

BILLIE

Forget it.

HAL

She can change.
(off Kate's glare)
Her clothes.

BILLIE

The President's not budging on the ships, it's a rescue mission. I thought maybe you could turn him around, but this isn't gonna...

KATE

No. This is perfect.

HAL

Kate.

She freezes him with a look. She smooths her hair (it helps not at all) and then marches into the house.

Billie looks to Hal to do something. But given what he and Kate have just been through... he's out of moves.

RONNIE

(quiet, to Stuart)
Is she gonna be okay?

(CONTINUED)

335 CONTINUED:

335

STUART

(beat)

I don't know.

336 **INT. WINFIELD - RED DRAWING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

336

The President's getting an earful from the Secretary of Defense when Kate enters. She's quite a sight.

SEC DEF

They could have rerouted to Diego Garcia. Everybody wants to know why I didn't warn them we were going after the tanker -- who could have imagined they were gonna hoof it through the Strait of Hormuz with a broken drive shaft?

RAYBURN

Give me a minute.

The Secretary exits.

KATE

Marla Dane has a lot of experience. She took a year off to take care of her dying mother who is now dead so...

RAYBURN

She's available.

KATE

She can be Ambassador. She'll love this... whatever this is on the walls. And she's the one you want for the other thing too.

RAYBURN

Where are you going?

Kate brushes an itch off her neck and discovers a clump of dead grass in the back of her hair. She tries to extract it during the following.

KATE

I'm not cut out for this. I'm stepping down. Good news is, that makes me the one person in the world who isn't trying to kiss your ass and still knows a lot about Iran.

(CONTINUED)

336 CONTINUED:

336

She got the grass out of her hair, but now isn't sure where to put it. She carefully places it on a nearby table.

KATE (CONT'D)

A man named Saman Karimi was removed from the command of a Quds Force unit in Syria when even Bashar al-Assad called him a guy who took things too far. But you can't fire a Saman Karimi.

RAYBURN

No.

KATE

So they gave him command of a Fishing Industry Safety Regiment. With 14 boats and a lot of RPGs.

RAYBURN

You think they're going to swarm the Fifth Fleet?

KATE

I think they're gonna load an RPG onto a fishing trawler and see what they can hit. A couple Americans die, and then we're in it. Not rescuers. Combatants.

RAYBURN

I already told Billie --

KATE

You told her Russia's watching? Everyone's watching? You told her it's a litmus test?

RAYBURN

Because it is. Of course it is. The minute Russia savaged Ukraine, every NATO state's been waiting to see if I meant it when I said "An attack on one is an attack on all." One just got attacked.

KATE

This is not the straw that'll break the alliance.

RAYBURN

Why not?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

336 CONTINUED: (2)

336

RAYBURN (CONT'D)

An alliance is nothing -- it's a pinkie promise. Like the one I made with Jason Slavick down the block when I was ten. You get hit, I show up.

KATE

You're here.

RAYBURN

Well in this case, I show up with a carrier group.

KATE

Or judgement.

RAYBURN

50,000 British soldiers marched on Baghdad cause we asked them to. And we chased that with an era defined by profound lack of interest in anybody but ourselves.

KATE

Sir, you're not doing this to restore our reputation in the world.

RAYBURN

This ought to be good. Why am I doing it?

KATE

You're scared your enemies think you're too old and frail to put Americans in the line of fire.

RAYBURN

Do people *like* you?

KATE

You're right to worry about it. That smug Brazilian guy offering you pee breaks every 15 minutes at the G20 revived all the rumors about incontinence your team spent six months trying to kill.

He really can't believe she's saying this shit out loud.

KATE (CONT'D)

And it's not nothing.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

336 CONTINUED: (3)

336

KATE (CONT'D)

Particularly when you're dealing with Russia and China. Any leader who looks at you and sees his own age... It makes them want to crush you. But that's like 49% disastrous. Potential for war with Iran is 51. Which means I win by two.

Silence. She can't figure out if she got him or not.

KATE (CONT'D)

A wise man once said, "Decisions don't get to the desk of the President unless they're 49-51. I spend my days splitting hairs, but that's the job I raised my hand for."

RAYBURN

(beat)

I said that.

KATE

Did you?

RAYBURN

I thought you're the only person in the world who isn't kissing my ass.

KATE

I got desperate.

Silence.

RAYBURN

BILLIE.

The door opens quickly, Andrew's right outside it.

ANDREW

(into comms)

President would like the Chief of Staff.

Billie enters.

BILLIE

I'm here, his voice carries. How are we doing?

RAYBURN

No ships.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

336 CONTINUED: (4)

336

RAYBURN (CONT'D)
(to Andrew)
Pull the car around.

ANDREW
(into comms)
We're wheels up in two.

Everyone's now headed toward the door to leave, Billie at the President's side.

BILLIE
Give me a little more on "no ships."

RAYBURN
She wins, I lose. Someone should wash her, she looks ridiculous.

BILLIE
(to her Staff)
Find the Secretary of Defense.

RAYBURN
Tell him no ships go to the Gulf, and make sure he doesn't ride back with me, he's gonna be a real turd about it.

ANDREW
(into comms)
I need a car to take the Secretary of Defense back to Heathrow.

RAYBURN
(quiet, re: Kate)
That one tried to quit. Tell her to sac up.

They push out the doors as MARINE ONE blazes to life.

337 **EXT. WINFIELD - FRONT LAWN - CONTINUOUS**

337

The President strides toward his helicopter. Billie turns to Kate, but Kate's still inside, watching from the doorway.

BILLIE
HEY.

That's not audible. The rotors have started, it's really loud. And windy. Billie waves Kate over.

(CONTINUED)

337 CONTINUED:

337

BILLIE (CONT'D)
CALL ME TUESDAY, WE'LL TALK ABOUT
THE OTHER THING.

KATE
MA'AM I'M SO SORRY, IT'S NOT GONNA
WORK OUT.

BILLIE
WHAT?

KATE
I HAVE TO SAY NO.

BILLIE
YEAH. I KNOW.

Billie's completely undeterred. They're at the helicopter now. Suddenly the President is beside Kate, grasping her hand with the kind of force you reflexively use when you shake a thousand hands a day.

RAYBURN
YOU'RE DOING GREAT. DON'T PULL ANY
MORE OF THAT "I RESIGN" SHIT THOUGH,
IT REALLY PISSES ME OFF. I DON'T
HAVE THAT KIND OF TIME.

He's already turned away, climbing into the helicopter. Billie looks at her and smiles. Follows the boss onboard.

Kate looks back, sees Hal at the house, standing in the doorway. He salutes. She takes the cue, faces the helicopter.

Marine One lifts off, banking east over the trees and across London's darkening sky.

Kate's surrounded by a sizable Winfield departure entourage. She still looks completely alone in the whipping wind.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF EPISODE